

Our Family News Letter

Issue 3

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 1993

The Burgess family arrives in the Wisconsin Territory in 1836

The Journey to Wisconsin 1835 -- 1836

The Burgess family connection to the Heck family is as follows:

Benjamin Burgess - Rebecca Chase
Patience Burgess - Peter McNulty
Mary Ann McNulty - Henry Heck

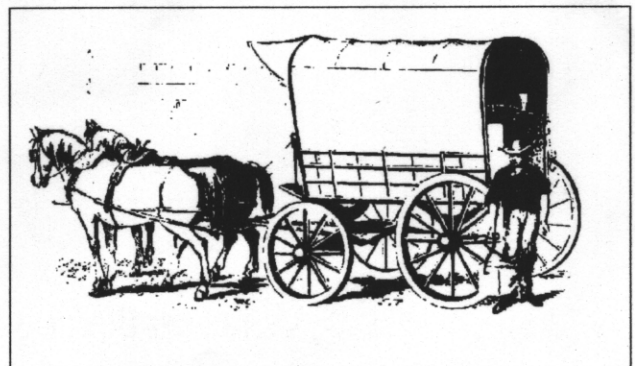
In the early 1830's, many families from the eastern states were moving into what is now known as Wisconsin, at that time a part of the Michigan Territory. Some came through the influence of men who hoped to become rich by purchase of land cheaply from the United States government, it to be resold to settlers at a profit. Others came to take up government land directly, because they wished to make better homes for themselves and their children. However, a land company had as its members the first settlers in what is now known as Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In the small New York town of Hannibal, John Bullen entertained some friends at supper in December, 1834. During the afternoon and evening they began to tell and retell the stories they had heard from travelers about the great land west of Lake Michigan. These stories pictured the country as very desirable, both because of its beauty and for the richness of its soil. The enthusiastic group went on to form a land company and through it obtain land along the western lake shore on which to build a city. They dreamed that this city might bring them riches when its growth and increased trade had made it a great lake port.

Later the group met and drew up a constitution and by-laws and organized the Western Emigration Company. Shares in the company were sold to those eager to find a new and better life in the new country of Wisconsin.

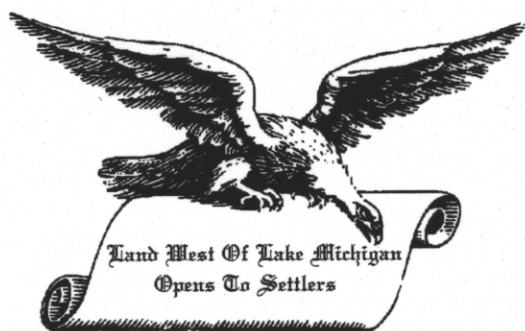
In the early spring of 1835, men were sent out with instructions to find a place suitable for a city site. They were allowed \$1.00 per day expense money. They were told to look for a good harbor and good farming country back of the city, whence produce would come, to be shipped back east via the lakes. In those years, traffic and travel were always by water if at all possible; roads were poor, when there were roads, and railroads were still very experimental, with only a few short lines anywhere in the country.

Word reached the east that a place had been selected and the migration of settlers began. Some traveled by ship if they were well-to-do and could afford passage. Most traveled by horse and oxen drawn wagons. A few walked or pushed a hand cart with their meager possessions.



The following excerpts were taken from the Telegraph Courier, an early Kenosha newspaper, and describes the journey of Benjamin Burgess and his family.

"In the winter of 1835 - 1836, the main colony, including the families of some already on the ground, were ready to start on their long and perilous winter journey. It was a severe winter; four to six feet of snow covered the ground; comfortable covered spring wagons with sleeping accommodations and each with a stove, were provided for the women and children. All the wagons were mounted on sleds. (These were possibly runners that could be attached to a wagon to replace wheels when snow so required, and vice versa.)



The men, roughing it, in turn drove the wagons or tramped with rifle on shoulder, and stood guard at night. Not only were there bad roads that often had to be cut through snow banks in advance of the teams, but there were wolves and other wild animals in the woods and prowling gangs of Indians or evil white men bound on pillage. Snow storms and cold weather impeded their progress.

Crossing the Niagara River into Canada at Lewiston, on through Canada to Detroit and thence through the Michigan wilderness, loading the sleds onto wagons when snow was gone, they arrived here about June 1, 1836, a journey almost unparalleled for suffering and privation. Their supplies held out and their rifles provided meat from abundant game.

In this company were Alfred Foster, his wife, two sons and five daughters with their families. The hardships and perils of that journey can hardly be described. It was almost a constant warfare from start to finish."

Benjamin Burgess traveled with his father-in-law, Alfred Foster, his second wife Amanda Foster, and his children Nehemiah, Benjamin Jr., Alonzo, Patience, Julia, William, Martha, Belinda, and Cyrus.

The journey from Hannibal, New York to Kenosha, Wisconsin was 675 miles of wilderness roads and Indian foot paths. The journey took approximately 150 days with an average travel time of 4.5 miles per day.

Did You Know....

... that the Battle of Bennington was fought on land owned by Benajah Burgess, father of Benjamin Burgess, in the year 1777?

... that the Battle of Bennington was actually fought at Walloomsac, New York rather than at Bennington, Vermont? Walloomsac is located approximately five miles northwest of Bennington.

... that there is a pickle located at the Burlington, Wisconsin historical museum that was pickled during the Civil War? It was donated to the museum by one of our Henningfeld relatives.

... that there is a portrait of Henry Heck in his Civil War uniform on display at the Burlington museum?

... that Peter McNulty is buried in an unmarked grave at St. Mary's at Dover, in western Racine County? He is buried in a paupers grave in block 2, lot 10, grave 4 in the Tom Morrow lot.

This News Letter is written and published by:

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Do you remember when...



... parents actually dressed their kids like this? Shown are Gary and Bob Heck in about 1944. Bob is the good looking young lad at left.

MOTHERS TAKE NOTE....

Mary Heck recently told a story about her sons Gary and Bob. In the early 1940's, she sent the two boys to the local A&P grocery store for milk and bread. After a while the boys came back carrying half of a pie but without the milk or bread. When Mary asked what happened, Gary explained that Bob ate half of a pie in the store and they made him buy the whole thing. The lesson to all mothers is to feed your children before you send them to the grocery store.

On another occasion she sent Gary to the store for a loaf of bread. Gary held the loaf under his arm much like a football player would carry a

football. One end of the loaf opened up and pieces of bread started dropping out one by one. A neighbor lady was walking some distance behind him picking up the pieces. They both arrived home with half a loaf of bread.

When Bob was about five he was sent to Morgenson's Grocery store just down the street to buy bread and milk. Mr. Morgenson asked Bob if he wanted to charge it. Bob didn't know what that meant. When Mr. Morgenson explained that you didn't have to pay for it, Bob said, "Sure. Charge it!" He then left the store and dropped all of the money into an open sewer. This went on for a week or so until the bill was sent. As the story goes, Gary had to climb down into the sewer to recover the cash, and Bob's great secret of free food was shattered. (Editor's note: It was tough being a kid back then.)

We Need Your Group Picture!

"Our Family News Letter" is still seeking family group pictures from all of our cousins. Won't you please help?

Have a story to tell?

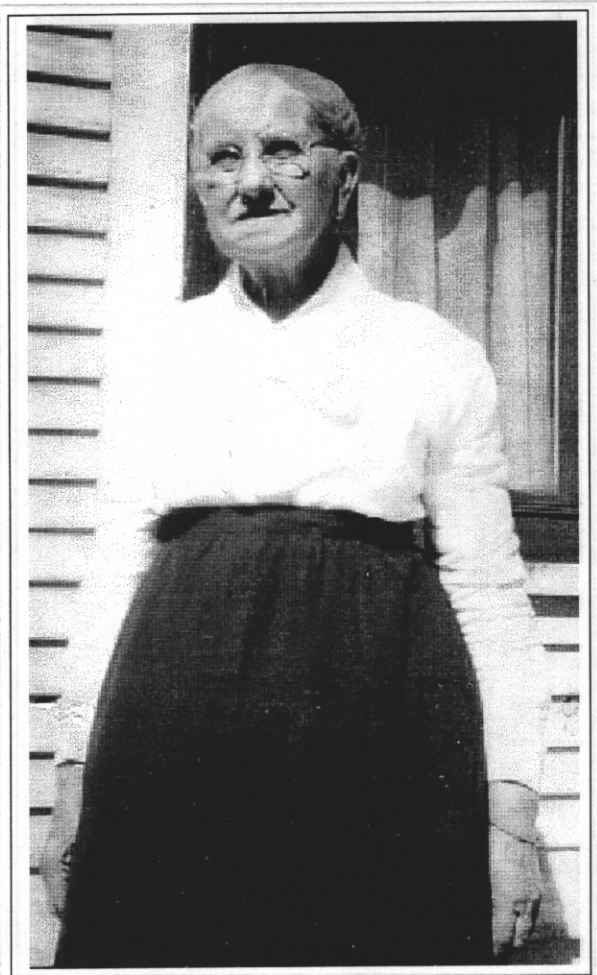
If you have any interesting stories or memories that you would like to share with your cousins, just jot me a line and I'll see if I can add it to the next edition of this news letter. Please don't be shy. If I can tell you how I dropped money down a sewer or ate half a pie, you should be able to tell me something about yourself.

About this news letter...

This news letter is published each quarter and is sent to you free of charge. I will continue to publish the news letter as long as there is interest and support. If you wish to contribute a few bucks every now and then to help defray the costs, please feel free to do so. Please feel free to copy this publication and share it with other family members. I'm still looking for family group pictures.....

Grandma, did you know I

Loved You? A story written by Lolita Henningfeld Manske about her grandmother, Clara Stratman Henningfeld.



Clara Stratman Henningfeld

"I didn't know my grandma all that well, but I loved her a lot. My grandma had three daughters and four sons, my dad being the eldest of her sons.

My grandma was born Clara Stratman in Westphalia, Germany in 1847. She immigrated to this country following her sweetheart to whom she was engaged. Within a year of her arrival her betrothed died of pneumonia. She later married my grandfather.

Recollection of her in my early years didn't start until at age seven (1918) my parents moved to Racine, Wisconsin - just a few blocks from my

dad's sister with whom grandma then lived. All of my early memories of her were of her being in my aunt's large airy kitchen. I remember her breaking a little red bead of coloring into the white Oleo (margarine) and blending it to it's final color of butter.

My aunt and uncle had six children. Carl and Rosemary, the two oldest, were victims of polio (infantile paralysis). Neither one could walk, and it was decided that I would pull them to school in a sled in winter and in a wagon in warmer months. I didn't mind the task and felt rather proud to be trusted by my aunt and uncle.

One of my favorite memories of grandma was coming into my aunt's clean, bright kitchen after school on a cold winter day. It smelled of home made bread that grandma baked three times a week. She always managed to give me the "heal" of the warm bread. That made me feel so special and loved. I think she felt sorry for me because I was a very small child.

I don't recall any hugs or kisses from grandma over the years. She wasn't a smiling grandma but she never frowned either. She was short and round and her beautiful blue eyes had a semi-surprised expression. Her snow white hair was always coiled tightly and neatly on top of her head. I can still see her in her shirtwaist top and long black full skirt with a crisp white apron that was tied into a large bow in her back.

Although grandma never told me she loved me, I could tell because of things like the time Carl asked me to spell "tribune." I left off the 'e'. I felt dumb and miserable when all the siblings laughed at me. Grandma scolded them and pointed out that the only reason they knew how to spell tribune was because of the daily paper, "The Chicago Tribune" they received. Oh, yes, I sure did love her then.

Grandma was never idle. She was always darning socks, ironing, or mending clothes in her unobtrusive way.

When I was twelve grandma moved a hundred and fifty miles away. My association with her then consisted of a weeks yearly vacation to my aunt and uncles home with whom grandma still resided. Grandma was eighty years old when she died in 1927, the age that I am now. Just as grandma was in life so was a simple sheaf of golden wheat on her coffin.

All the years that I knew my grandma I don't remember giving her a kiss or a hug. I don't recall seeing anyone else doing that either. As the years passed and I became a mother I always had that warm feeling of love for her.

When my son was born he received my grandmother's maiden name "Stratman" for his second name. That son in turn gave his son her name for his second name. As that boy grew to manhood he loved using Stratman in his signature. In May of 1993, the name Stratman will appear on the diploma of grandma's great, great grandson, Eric, when he graduates from Vanderbilt Medical School. Do you think grandma will know? If she does, she will know how much I've loved her. I never said that to her when she was alive and I am sorry."

Our thanks to Lolita Manske who wrote the above story about Clara Stratman Henningfeld in 1991. It was kind of her to share her thoughts with all of us. Some of the people mentioned in her story include her father Fred Henningfeld, Her mother Adel Wald, her grandfather Henry Henningfeld, her aunt Mollie Henningfeld Heinrichs, her uncle Frank Heinrichs, and cousins Carl Heinrichs and Rosemary Heinrichs Damon.

Henry McNulty and Peter McNulty Jr.

A Tragic Story from 1867 of two brothers

The following information was found in the Kenosha County Probate Court records from the year 1867. While the story is tragic it unravels the

mystery of three of the children of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess McNulty.

"In Probate Kenosha County Court. In the matter of the application of the Board of Supervisors, or a majority of them of the town of Brighton, to confine Henry McNulty and Peter McNulty Jr., insane persons.

At a Court held before the Hon. Anthony Van Wyck, County Judge of said court, at his office in the city of Kenosha on the 22nd day of May A.D. 1867 appeared Peter Rafferty and presented and filed his petition as follows:

To the Hon. Anthony Van Wyck, County Judge of Kenosha County and State of Wisconsin.

The petition of Peter Rafferty and Peter Leuz respectfully state and show unto your Hon. that they are two of Supervisors of the town of Brighton in the County of Kenosha and State of Wisconsin, and a majority of such Supervisors in said town, and that they make this petition as such Supervisors.

That Henry McNulty and Peter McNulty Jr. are residents of said town of Brighton and have legal settlement therein. That said Henry is about the age of twenty-four years, and said Peter Jr. is of about the age of nineteen years. That the parents of said Henry and Peter Jr. are poor and indigent persons and have no means of supporting said Henry and Peter Jr. That the said Henry and Peter Jr. are both poor and indigent, and have no means of supporting themselves. That both said Henry and Peter Jr. are insane and have been so for many years last past and that it is unsafe that they should be at large and that the public safety requires and demands the close confinement of said Henry and Peter Jr. because of their insanity and the facts herein after stated.

That about four years ago, (1863) as these affiants are informed and believe, the said Peter McNulty Jr. struck his sister, aged about four years, a blow upon the head which caused her death in about a week thereafter.

That said Henry about one year ago, held a knife in his hand and approached near to one Hugh Cremsky and there and then threatened to kill him, the said Cremsky.

That in the Fall of 1865 the said Henry or Peter, but which these affiants are unable to state, struck one Joseph Sholey on the head with a stake.

That Joseph Hoffman, a resident of said town of Brighton had last year personal property of much value near where the said Peter and Henry lived, and that he was justly apprehensive that the said Henry and Peter would unlawfully burn up and destroy said personal property.

That said Henry and Peter have frequently during the last year, and in fact for years last past, run after school children with clubs in their hands when such children were on their way to school and put said children in fear of bodily harm.

That the said Henry and Peter have for years past, and up to nearly the present time, been in the habit, with clubs and sticks in their hands, of interrupting upon the public highway and of throwing clubs and sticks at people as they passed along the highway.

That they have frequently threatened to beat and wound, persons lawfully passing along the public highway, all to the great terror of the community in which they lived.

That they are lecherous in their dispositions, and have been in the habit of indecently exposing their persons to females upon the public highway, and have at other times and in other ways have been dangerous to the family and the community in which they live.

Your petitioners therefore request that an order be made by your honor directed to the Sheriff of Kenosha County for the close confinement of the said Henry McNulty and Peter McNulty Jr., insane, dangerous and indigent persons as above, in

pursuance of the laws of the State of Wisconsin, and your petitioners will ever pray.

Dated May 22, 1867. Signed Peter Rafferty, Chairman; Peter Leuz, Supervisor.

Based on the facts presented in the court records it appears that the sister that was killed was Julia McNulty. Julia was born in the year 1859 and was five years old when killed by Peter McNulty Jr. in 1864. A record of her death was found in the church records at Brighton. No other information has ever been found on Julia McNulty. She is buried at St. Francis Xavier Catholic church at Brighton which was just a short distance north of the McNulty farm. No grave marker was ever found for her.

On the day following the presentation of the petition by the Board of Supervisors, the court issued the following order to the Sheriff of Kenosha County which states in part:

Now therefore, you are hereby required and commanded to take the said Henry McNulty and Peter McNulty Jr., if they are to be found within your County, and confine them in the jail of said County in the room or rooms usually occupied by insane persons when there confined, and safely to keep them with proper care, attention and treatment subject to the further direction of the County Judge of said County, as he may deem necessary and proper."

Five months later Henry McNulty was released from jail by the following order issued by the Court of Kenosha County:

"On reading and filing the petition of J. V. Quarles, County Agent and of F. W. Lymun and Selvey Kidder two of the County Supervisors of said county representing that Henry McNulty was some months since, committed to the county jail by order of this Court, as an insane or idiotic person, who was dangerous. That said McNulty is still held in custody but has ceased to be dangerous, and may safely be released from imprisonment.

That he is now capable of performing several kinds of manual labor and, may he be made competent, thereby obtain a livelihood.

That he is mild tractable and docile, and if opportunity were afforded, might be taught to be industrious and useful.

And it appearing to the County Judge of said county, now here due proofs being taken that said McNulty has been mild and inoffensive and docile while under the charge of the Sheriff of said county. And for a period of several months, that he has been in fact placed for several hours at liberty in the yards and streets of the City of Kenosha. Within the period of a few days, that while so placed at liberty he has continued mild and inoffensive and that the public safety no longer requires his close custody.

It is ordered that so much of the order of this court made May 23, 1867 as relates to the said Henry McNulty be and is hereby revoked, and that an order be made and directed to the Sheriff of said county, requiring him to discharge the said Henry McNulty from custody, by taking him from the county jail and delivering him to Peter Rafferty, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the town of Brighton in said county or to any other of the Supervisors of said town and that upon his return of having made such delivery, the County of Kenosha be discharged from all further care and charge of the said Henry McNulty."

Signed October 22, 1867 by Anthony Van Wyck, County Judge

When the 1870 census was taken, Peter and Patience McNulty were living in the town of Dover, in Racine County. Peter McNulty Jr. and Henry McNulty were not listed as living with the family. In the 1880 census however, Henry McNulty was listed as living with his parents, while Peter McNulty Jr. was shown as residing as a patient at the Racine County Asylum.

Henry McNulty died on July 31, 1899 at the Racine County Asylum and is buried there. His brother, Peter McNulty Jr., apparently was never released from the Asylum and died there on March 8, 1915. He is also buried at the Racine County Asylum.

Henry and Peter McNulty Jr. were the brothers of Mary Ann McNulty, wife of Henry Heck.

The land that the McNulty family lived on in 1867 is located 3/4 mile south of the St. Frances Xavier Catholic church at Brighton in Kenosha County, on the north west side of the intersection of highway X and JB. Today all that remains of their home is a crumbled stone foundation of a small farm house.

Thomas Burgess III 1603 -- 1685 **And** **Dorothy Waynes 1603 -- 1687**

Thomas Burgess III was born in England in the year 1603, the son of Thomas Burgess II and Elizabeth Pye. Thomas married Dorothy Waynes in Tanfield, Yorkshire County, England in 1628 and after starting a family departed for America. He was the first settler by the name of Burgess in New England.

Thomas arrived at Salem, Massachusetts in about 1630 with his young family and lodged for a period of time at Lynn, Massachusetts. A section of land was assigned to him in that part of Plymouth known as Duxbury on July 3, 1637.

The family moved to Sandwich, Massachusetts later that same year or early the following year. The land was then reassigned to Nicholas Robbins on November 5, 1638.

Thomas was one of the first settlers of Sandwich and the historian Dr. Savage called him "A chief man of them." He was an original member of the church in 1638 and became a large land holder. He served the town in nearly every office, and was deputy to the general court at Plymouth for

several years. The estate which he occupied remained in the family for many generations, and in 1863 the cellar of his house could still be seen.

Thomas and Dorothy had five children as follows: Thomas IV who married Elizabeth Bassett and later Lydia Gaunt, John who married Mary Worden, Elizabeth who married Ezra Perry, Jacob who married Mary Nye, and Joseph who married Patience.

Thomas died on February 13, 1685, aged 82 years, and his grave was marked by a stone imported from England. His wife Dorothy died on February 27, 1687 and she is buried next to him.

WILL OF THOMAS BURGESS III

"I Thomas Burgess, Senior, of Sandwich, being through God's goodness full of years, and waiting for my change, and yet having my understanding remaining with me, blessed be God, and also through God's great goodness being possessed of a competent outward estate, do now on serious consideration make this my last Will and Testament, touching the disposal of my estate after my dear wife and myself be decently buried, and all necessary charges defrayed, and all debts paid, the remaining part I give as followeth:

ITEM. I give unto my eldest son, Thomas Burgess, of Rhode Island, five pounds out of my movable estate, to be paid by my executors after our decease.

ITEM. I give unto my son, Jacob Burgess, upon good consideration, all my house-lot, dwelling-house, barn and out-houses, all my upland on both sides of the cartway, all that belongs to my homestead dwelling. I also give him all my meadow that I have lying below Michael Blackwell's dwelling-house on both sides of Scussett river, for him my said son Jacob Burgess to enjoy, use and possess during his natural life; and after his decease I give the said dwelling-house, barn and all the forementioned lands, both upland and meadow, to his son Thomas Burgess, my grandson, to him and his heirs forever. But if my

said grandson die without heirs, then my will is that the said house and lands above mentioned shall return to the next heir of my son, Jacob Burgess.

I give also to my said son, Jacob Burgess, all my land lying near and adjacent to Thomas Tupper's lands below the cartway, having Mr. Freeman's land on the western side. These I give to him upon this condition, that he, my said son Jacob Burgess, pay or cause to be paid unto my grandson Thomas Burgess, son of my son John Burgess, ten pounds in good pay, to be made to him my grandson, at twenty-three years of age.

ITEM. I give unto my son, Joseph Burgess, the first and second lots that adjoin his other lands near his house, if my said son accept of them so as to pay unto my son, John Burgess, five pounds; But if my son Joseph refuse said lands upon such terms, as to pay said five pounds as aforesaid, then my will is that said land return to my son, Ezra Perry, and that he perform the condition, I mean by two lots, those lots that were once ...; then I give them: I give to my said son, Ezra Perry, all my other lands that lie above the said two lots, for him to enjoy forever, the which lands I bought of Mr. Edward Freeman, Jr.

ITEM. I give to my dear wife all my movable estate, to be at her own disposing at her decease. I mean chattels of all sorts that I may have.

And I do appoint and ordain my son, Ezra Perry, and my son, Jacob Burgess, to be my Executors to see this my last Will performed, as I witness under my hand and seal, this fourth day of April, 1684."

Signed Thomas Burgess

The Burgess connection :

Thomas Burgess III 1603 - 1685

Thomas Burgess IV 1628 - aft 1684

Thomas Burgess V 1668 - 1743

John Burgess 1711 - 1795

Benajah Burgess 1761 - 1830

Benjamin Burgess 1799 - 1838