

Our Family News Letter

Issue 4

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 1994



Recognize this house?

This house is located at 1335 North Main Street in Racine, Wisconsin on the South East corner of the street. The house was built by a Lake Michigan Sea Captain named Woolnough in 1858. The Captain and his family lived in the house until 1918. After that the house was rented through 1946 to various families. It was then purchased by Bob and Mary Ellen Johnson, the present owners. This is the house where Margaret Henningfeld Heck lived in 1931 with her children Clarence, Robert, Alvin, Edward and Bernice. Edward Heck died in this house that same year. We were given a tour of the house a few years back and it brought back many memories to Robert Heck Sr. who had not been in the old house for nearly 60 years.

About this news letter ...

This news letter is published each quarter and is sent to you free of charge. It is written in the hopes that you might better understand your own heritage and in turn share that heritage with others in our family.

I will continue to publish the news letter as long as there is interest and support. However, I would really like to see a few stories from our readers. Hand written short stories are perfectly acceptable. PLEASE help me make this news letter worth while. It only takes a few minutes.

The Burgess Connection

Benajah Burgess

Benjamin Burgess

Patience Burgess

Mary Ann McNulty

Robert Steven Heck

Robert Gerald Heck

Robert John Heck

The Story Of Benajah Burgess

Born 1761 -- Died 1830

Benajah Burgess was born in 1761 at Little Compton, Rhode Island at the home of his parents John Burgess and Hannah James. Benajah also lived at Foster, Rhode Island with his parents prior to 1776.

Biographical sketches of the Burgess family of Wisconsin written in 1892 indicate that Benajah Burgess served in the Revolutionary War. This is what probably brought him from Foster, Rhode Island to the Bennington, Vermont and Hoosick, New York area.

About 1783 Benajah Burgess married Zilpha Matteson, the daughter of George Matteson and Luranah Matteson. Zilpha's parents were second cousins to each other. Henry Matteson and Hannah Parsons were the great grandparents of both George and Luranah Matteson. The paternal grandparents of Luranah were Joseph Matteson and Rachel Weaver while the paternal grandparents of George were Henry Matteson Jr. and Judith Weaver. Judith and Rachel Weaver were sisters.

Benajah and Zilpha lived for several years at Voluntown, Connecticut probably from 1783 through 1795.

The first firm record that we find of Benajah Burgess in the federal census is in 1820. The census of Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York listed 10 persons in the family but only gave the name of the head of the household.

Benajah and Zilpha had 11 children and are named here but not necessarily in the proper order of birth. The year of birth is given if known as is the place of birth. The children were Cynthia 1784 at Voluntown, Archibald 1791 at Voluntown, Nancy 1794 at Voluntown, Benjamin about 1795 at Hoosick, John 1800, Nairn 1804, George, Harvey, Luranna, Hannah, and Zilpha 1808/1809.



Tomb stones of Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson at Walloomsac Cemetery near Hoosick, NY

At the time of the 1820 census Benjamin Burgess, son of Benajah and Zilpha, was living in Bennington, Vermont with his wife Rebecca Chase and six children. Archibald Burgess was also living away from home with his wife and children in Hoosick.

Land records and a last will indicates that Benajah and Zilpha owned land in Shaftsbury, Vermont, Hoosick, New York, and White Creek, New York. This information is important because it helps tie the Mordecai Chase family of White Creek, New York to the Burgess family of Hoosick, New York through the marriage of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase.

Less than a month before his death, Benajah Burgess wrote his last Will and Testament which follows.

"In the name of God, Amen. I Benajah Burgess of Hoosick in the county of Rensselaer and the State of New York, being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and ordain, this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to say: 1st I will that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged by my executors hereinafter named."

"(Item) I give to my wife Zilpha Burgess all my household furniture, as her own property."

"(Item) I give to my son, George Burgess, to my son Archibald Burgess, and to my son Benjamin Burgess, five dollars each, to be paid out of my estate by my executors within three months after my decease."

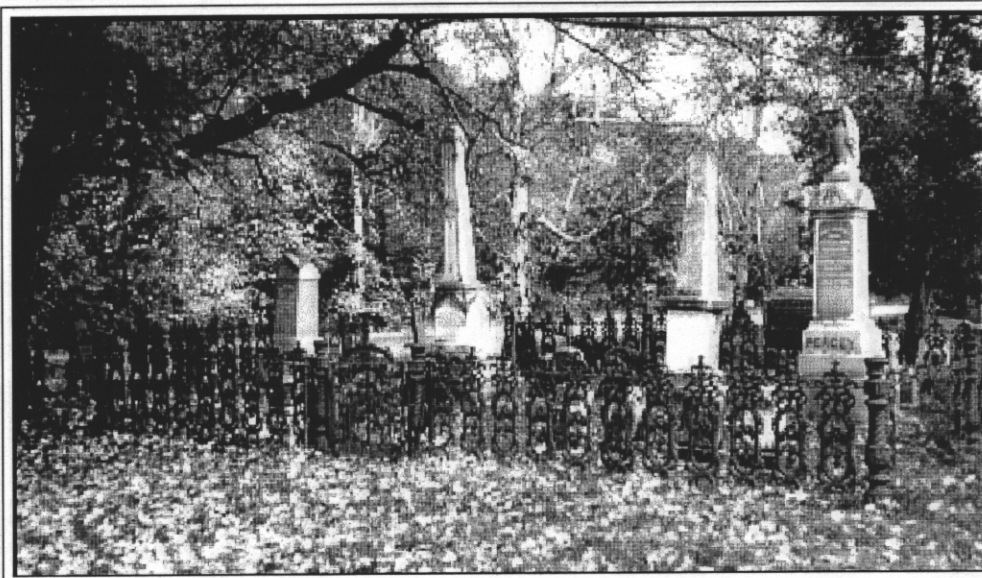
"(Item) I give to my son John Burgess, to my son Harvey Burgess, and to my son Narron Burgess each one equal undivided third part of a certain piece of mead land owned by me and lying in the South Easterly part of Shaftsbury in the State of Vermont and in like manner I give to my sons John, Harvey and Narron, each one equal undivided third part of all my personal property not otherwise disposed of."

"(Item) I give to my five daughters namely Cynthia Potter, Susanna Potter, Nancy Potter, Hannah Matteson, and Zilpha Bacon five dollars each over and above what they heretofore have had to be paid by my executors within three months after my decease."

"And lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my three sons John Burgess, Harvey Burgess and Narron Burgess to be executors to this my last Will and Testament. In testimony whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal and publish and declare this to be my last Will and Testament this

seventeenth day of July A.D. one thousand eight hundred and thirty."

Benajah Burgess died on August 15, 1830 at Hoosick, New York. He was buried at the Upper Walloomsac cemetery on the Ed Cottrell farm at North Hoosick, New York. His tombstone states



The Burgess family plot near the Bennington battlefield at Walloomsac, NY

Benajah Burgess died August 15, 1830 in his 69th year. Next to him is the grave of Zilpha Burgess who died on March 2, 1836 in her 69th year. In the same plot are buried John Burgess who died January 13, 1849 at the age of 48 years and 10 months, and Nancy, wife of H. Potter who died on March 6, 1862 at the age of 68 years.

Other graves at the Walloomsac cemetery include Nairn Burgess born December 23, 1804 and died April 19, 1877; Ruth Jewett, his wife, born September 20, 1807 and died February 18, 1874; their son Loren J. Burgess 1836 - 1906; Elizabeth W. Randall, his wife, 1842 - 1898; and three of their children Frankie R. Burgess 1862 - 1881, Estella Burgess 1878 - 1878, and Nairn Burgess Jr. died 1888 at the age of 50 years.

John Burgess, son of Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson died in 1849 and a notice of the probate of his will was published in the official State paper the Albany Argus. The notice was the final

proof of the relationship between the Wisconsin Burgess family and the Benajah Burgess family of New York. The notice is reproduced here.

"State of New York, City and County of Albany,"

"The people of the State of New York, by the grace of God, free and independent, to George Burgess, Myer Burgess, Benjamin Burgess, Alonzo Burgess and Patience Burgess, of Wisconsin, Smith Matteson and Hannah, his wife, of Otsego county, Harvey Burgess, of White Creek, Washington county, N.Y., _____ Wilcox and Nancy, his wife, of Pownal, Vt., George Bacon and Zilpha, his wife, of Sunderland, Vt., Loan Potter, Benajah Potter, Elsie Potter, Zilpha Potter, Richmond Burgess, Jane Burgess and Mary Ann Burgess, of Bennington, Vt., and Ambrose H. Sheldon, of the city of Troy, special guardian of Washington Potter, Sarah Burgess, Ruth Burgess and _____ Burgess, minors, heirs at law and next of kin of John Burgess, late of the town of Hoosick in the county of Rensselaer, deceased, greetings:

"You and each of you are hereby cited and required personally to be and appear before our surrogate of our county of Rensselaer, at the surrogate's office, in the city of Troy, in said county, on Monday the 19th day of March, 1849, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, to attend to the probate of the last will and testament of the said John Burgess, deceased, which will then and there be offered for that purpose by Nairn Burgess, the executor named in said will, who has applied to said surrogate for the proof of said will, and which relates to real and personal estate."

"In testimony whereof, we have caused the seal of office of our said surrogate to be hereunto affixed. Witness George T. Blair, esquire, surrogate of the said county, at the city of Troy, the 22nd day of January, 1849."

Benjamin Jr., Alonzo and Patience Burgess of Wisconsin were children of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase. Myer Burgess was probably

Nehemiah Burgess and George Burgess was probably Joel Burgess also children of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase. George Burgess however, could have been the brother of John Burgess as he also is reported to have migrated to Wisconsin. By 1849 both Benjamin and Rebecca were deceased and their children would have been heirs to the estate of their uncle John Burgess of Hoosick, New York.

GARY HECK HANGS UP GUNS AND HEADS SOUTH FOR THE WINTER!



Gary Heck experimenting with double headed club

Late breaking news flash..... Gary Heck announced his retirement from the Racine County Sheriff's department. The third highest ranking officer in the department stated that "...come hell or high water I intend to win the longest drive at the next Heck Family Picnic to be held in July, 1994." Secret Service agents have observed him testing his newest driver in South Carolina. They report that Heck is experimenting with a double headed driver with Bunji cords used to connect two heads to a single shaft. The agents recorded Heck in a local pub bragging that he intends to beat Mighty Marv Pfeiffer with his new invention. He stated that if he misses with the first head, the second

head is designed to knock the ?!@\$# out of the ball. Gary Heck has been well known around the golf circles as an innovative golfer who frequently is inspired to invent new golf rules as the game progresses. Very few golfers have the stability of mind to be able to think that quickly while in the midst of mortal combat on the links. Few will ever forget the day that Heck declared Lake Michigan as "Casual Water." Likewise, few will ever forget the all time ruling by Heck that there is no such thing as a lost golf ball. He stated with utmost confidence that "...eventually someone will find the so called lost ball. That individual will likely keep the ball which clearly does not belong to him or her. The ball therefore is illegally possessed and must be declared as a stolen ball hence no penalty should be had by the unfortunate victim who had his or her ball stolen."

The Secret Service has long given up on trying to make an honest golfer out of Heck, and they have declared this a Good Luck Gary Heck month. Unfortunately the President of The United States, Hillary Clinton, refused to sign the appropriate proclamation stating that she leaves such trivial things to Bill.

Did you know....

.... that in 1880, Henry Heck was granted a pension of \$4.00 per month for being wounded during the Civil War?

.... that Gary Heck has invited all of his relatives to drop in on him at any time in South Carolina? The only problem is that he didn't tell any of us where he lives.

.... that Steve Heck has volunteered to do all of our genealogy research at Voluntown, CT?

.... that the Pfeiffers are planning to continue their tradition of sending a family group photograph each Christmas? Word has it that by the year 2000 the size of their card will be 24" X 36". Some of us remember when it was 1" X 1".

Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthof

May 8, 1819 - November 30, 1893

The Guthof Connection

Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthof
Clara Stratman
Margaret Henningfeld
Robert Gerald Heck
Robert John Heck

Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthof was born on May 8, 1819 probably in the Westfalan district of Germany near the cities of Coesfeld or Bork. She was the daughter of Henrich Guthof and Elizabeth according to her death certificate. Very little is known about her early years.



This picture of Anna Maria was found on a pin that was made during the Civil War. The pin is owned by Rosemary Reynolds of Wausau, WI

In about 1846, at the age of 27, she married Anton Stratman. The marriage probably took place at the Catholic church at Coesfeld, Germany. A record of the marriage has not been found. Many of the church records of Coesfeld were destroyed during the second world war.

On November 14, 1847 Clara Stratman was born at Coesfeld, Germany. Two years later, on November 5, 1849, Carl Stratman was born at Coesfeld. Carl was later known as Charles Stratman. These are the only known children of Anton and Anna Maria.

Anton Stratman probably died sometime between 1847 and 1860. No record of his death has been found.

Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthof Stratman remarried in about 1861 to Fredrich D. Heitkemper. The marriage probably took place in the city of Bork, Germany. Bork is located a short distance from Selm and Olfen where the Henningfeld family came from.

On September 20, 1862 Henrich Fredrich Heitkemper was born at the city of Bork. He was the only child of the union.

On June 19, 1869, at the age of 50, Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthof Stratman Heitkemper arrived at the port of New York on board the ship the S. S. Hermann with 847 passengers on board. Traveling with her were her son Carl Stratman, aged 20 years, and Henrich Fredrich Heitkemper aged seven years. It is presumed that her husband, Fredrich D. Heitkemper, had arrived earlier and was waiting for the family in Wisconsin.

Anna Maria and Fredrich D. Heitkemper lived in the city of Waterford, Wisconsin for twenty-five years and were well known in the community.

On November 30, 1893, Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthof Stratman Heitkemper died at Waterford at the age of 74 years, six months, and 22 days. Her obituary appeared in the Waterford Post on December 2, 1893 and read as follows:

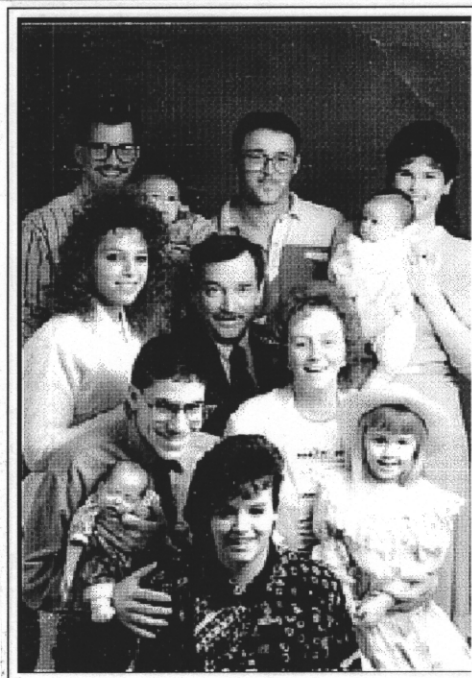
"Mrs. Fred Heitkemper Sr., died on Thursday night, after a short illness, aged 74 years, 6 months and 22 days. Deceased has been a resident of Waterford the past twenty-five years and has many friends. She leaves to mourn her loss a husband and three grown-up children, viz.: H. F. Heitkemper and Charles Stratman, of Waterford, and Mrs. Clara Henningfeld, of Burlington. The funeral services will be held in the St. Thomas Catholic Church next Monday morning. The Post extends sympathy to the bereaved family."

Fredrich D. Heitkemper married again, but was listed as divorced at the time of his death on April 7, 1911. He lived with his son in Phillips, Wisconsin for a period of time around 1908. By 1910 he was shown on the census as living with his stepdaughter, Clara Stratman Henningfeld, at Burlington, Wisconsin.

Fredrich D. Heitkemper died from chronic nephritis and was buried at Waterford. His obituary follows:

"Waterford Post: April 7, 1911 -- Fred D. Heitkemper, a resident of Waterford some twenty-nine years, died on Friday at Burlington in which city he has made his home since moving from Waterford in 1898. He is survived by one son, H. F. Heitkemper, of Phillips, Wisconsin, and two stepchildren, Charles Stratman, of Waterford, and Mrs. Henry Henningfeld, of Burlington. He died at the home of the latter. The remains were taken to Waterford by a special on the Electric Line on Monday. Interment in the Catholic cemetery. The old gentleman had many friends at his home here. He was an industrious, good citizen and a kind neighbor."

Meet Your Cousins....



G
U
E
S
S
W
H
O

Meet Your Cousins... Guess Who

(From the previous page)

The Robert W. Merritt Family

L-R Back: James Speidel, Robert John Speidel, William Robert Merritt, Christina L. Merritt, Sharon Merritt.

L-R Center: Susan Lynn Speidel, Robert W. Merritt, Patricia J. Merritt nee Heck, Tasha M. Merritt.

L-R Front: Keegan Starr, Kevin Starr, Katherine A. Starr.

Meet More Of Your Relatives



**Standing L - R: Joseph, Ray, and Lorraine Heck
Seated L - R: Herb and Alice Heck**

These are all children of James Heck and Wilhelmina Hoerneman of Burlington, WI. Lorraine is married to Nick Pier. The picture was taken about 1917 at Burlington.



Nehemiah Burgess and wife Sophia Woodman

Nehemiah Burgess was born 12 Feb. 1819. He married Sophia Woodman on 17 May 1843 at Southport (now Kenosha), Wisconsin. Nehemiah was the brother of Patience Burgess McNulty. He died in Nebraska where he and his family established a homestead. The picture above was taken during the time of the Civil War in about 1863.



**Clarence Henry Heck
1905 - 1955**

We Need Your Group Pictures!

The Family News Letter would like to include your family group picture in future publications or in our family album. Please send a copy to me at the address shown below. I will scan the photograph and will add the original to our family photo album. Please include the identification of each person by using a left to right designation.

If you have older photographs that you would like to share with your relatives via this news letter, please send them to me or call me at (414) 421-7143. I can copy the photographs and return the originals to you if you wish.

Interested In Computer Genealogy?

If you have an interest in getting into computer genealogy, I would recommend the program called PAF (Personal Ancestral File) which is available for IBM compatible computer systems for \$35. The program is also available for the MAC computer systems but only in an older version.

I have over 3,000 names in my file using this program on my IBM Compatible computer. Files can be exchanged with others using a feature called GEDCOM. I have exchanged a lot of information with Jeff Henningfield from Iowa using this system.

In the Milwaukee area we have a PAF Users Group that meets at the Hales Corners Public Library, 5885 South 116th Street. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month in the lower level conference room. The meetings start at 7:00 PM and we generally have classes for beginner computer users starting at 6:30 PM. The cost of membership is \$10 per year for an entire family. Feel free to sit in on a meeting before you join.

If you would like to have more information on the Milwaukee Area PAF Users Group, please call me at:

Bob Heck (414) 421-7143

If you wish to purchase the software, call or write to:

Salt Lake Distribution Center
1999 West 1700 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104
(801) 531-2504

You can order the software over the phone using most credit cards. The \$35 fee includes postage and handling. Again if you have any questions, please give me a call.

A Note For Genealogists...

The LDS research library has just purchased microfilms of the entire Milwaukee Archdiocese Catholic Church records. There are over 150 rolls of microfilm of the early church records. The period covered is approximately 1830 through 1920. This includes all of Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Counties as well as all other counties in the Archdiocese. The Library is located at 95th and Grange in Hales Corners. You can call for more information at (414) 425-4182. The library is open from 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM and 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Tuesday through Friday and from 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Saturdays.

This news letter is written and published by:

Robert J. Heck Feel free to copy
4910 Steeple Drive it and send it to
Greendale, WI others.
53129
(414) 421-7143

If you enjoy this news letter or would like to suggest how to make it better, please drop me a line. If you have stories to contribute feel free to jot them down and I will consider them for inclusion in the news letter. If you wish to contribute to help defray the cost of printing and mailing, you should feel free to do so. The cost per printing and mailing for 35 copies is about \$28.00 or \$112.00 per year. The news letter will remain free during 1994.