

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 5

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 1994

## Who Gets This News Letter?

When I started this news letter in June, 1993, I put together a list of "cousins" whom I thought would have an interest in reading about our ancestors. Since then the list has grown considerably. If you know of others in our family who would like to get a copy, please send me their name and address. Likewise if you could care less about receiving this publication, let me know and I'll take your name off of the list. Since this news letter is free, I may have to limit the circulation.

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## Heck Picnic - July 24th

Twenty-seven years ago we started a tradition of family picnics at Lincoln Field in Racine, Wisconsin. Today that tradition continues at the light house at Wind Point, Wisconsin. The date for this years picnic is July 24, 1994. Festivities start with breakfast for the early risers at Hamzies on Douglas Avenue. Breakfast is served at 7:00 AM.

Following breakfast we begin a golf tournament at Shoops Park golf course located next to the light house at Wind Point. The tournament is a HECK of a lot of fun and none of us really take it all that seriously. There are a few exceptions however.

Gary Heck has been practicing for about six months in South Carolina. Word has it that Gary is going to try to confuse the competition by speaking with a newly acquired Southern drawl. Don Heck, on the other hand, has been keeping in shape by arguing with any priest that he can find about the proper location for displaying the American flag in a church. Marv Pfeiffer has been practicing counting his strokes by counting his grandchildren. Dick Heck thought that he would try to sell some of Cels pizza on the course to help cover the cost of lost golf balls.

If you get the idea that we have a lot of fun at the picnic, you're right.

Robert G. Heck, who just turned 85 in May, was overheard stating, "Golf is an old man's sport, so maybe one of these days I might just try it."



*Meet Your Cousins: Standing left to right: Bob, Larry, Clarence, Dick, Gene. Seated Left to right: Shirley, Fanny, Marge, Mary Kay. Up front left to right: Donna, Dolores.*

### **A Speech Given By William E. Burgess Jr. At Petrified Springs Park, Somers, Kenosha County, Wisconsin In 1936**

"As this is a little gathering of the Burgess relations, I thought it fitting that you all know something about them. I am going to give you a little biographical sketch of the Burgess' as some of you may not know who you are and where your ancestors came from."

"As near as I can learn they go back about 200 years ago. They were of English decent, coming from Vermont in a very early date, then moving to Oswego County, New York in 1820. Our great grandfather (Benajah Burgess) was a soldier in the Revolution of 1775, so you see that any of you ladies that have any Burgess blood in your veins are

eligible to join that very honored order called The Daughters Of The Revolution."

"(Benjamin Burgess), our grandfather, with his family moved west to what was to be the state of Wisconsin, then a territory, and settled at the mouth of the Pike River, that famous stream that you see right over there. This was March 5th in 1835 when they arrived making the journey with wagons from New York. On their way they came through that now famous city of Chicago, with a population of nearly 4,000,000 people (1936), which was only a swamp at that time with just a few little shacks built there. They did not think it worth while to get any land anywhere near there

then so they went on to what was called Southport, a little village of a dozen families or so, situated at the mouth of the Pike River. This is now the city of Kenosha."

"Grandfather (Benjamin Burgess), after getting settled at Southport, looked the wood over as this part just east of here was all heavy timber. The country being very new, and a great number of people just coming here from the east, and no homes or anything to live in, he decided to start a saw mill which he did on this same Pike River that runs by over there. It was located on that road about a mile east of here where the river crosses that road. This of course was a water power mill (requiring) having to build a dam across the river. This work around the mill was a wet job of course and soon after getting the mill built, he got very wet one day and took pneumonia and died shortly after, at the age of 39 years. The mill was then run by father, (William E. Burgess Sr.) then seven years old and uncle William Foster for a number of years. Father, (William E. Burgess Sr.) then only a young man, and he in those days as boys now do, fell in love to one very pretty young girl by the name of Jane Leet and in course of time were married in 1850. The girl being a native of New York and one of the oldest settlers in Kenosha County, came from ? in New York."

"The Leets at that time were living at the same place as now, building that house and kept a tavern or hotel as we would call it now."

"This beautiful natural park where we are today gathered to renew our acquaintances, was a wild forest where the Indians roamed. I have heard mother (Jane Leet Burgess) tell of the Indians coming to their house for something to eat many times. Most of them, of course, were primitive at that time. Also many wild deer were in these woods at that time."

"We are also here in celebration of a little event that took place in the life of one of the family 50 years ago (on the) 14th day of June, 1882 when Charlie (L. Burgess), then a young man, having previously fell in love with one of Somers

pretty young girls, was joined in Holy Matrimony to Miss Lizzie Van Alstine at that time. And in honor of this event after 50 years of married life to one woman, I am sure they deserve a celebration of some kind. And with that thought in mind, lead me to invite you all here that we might renew old acquaintances once more all together in a sort of reunion of the family of Burgesses."

"Although there are quite a number of the family that for various reasons could not attend. But just to give you some idea of them all, and those invited, I am going to read you the list of names and I want all of those here to answer; Present."

William E. Burgess family 11 children, 6 boys, 5 girls.

Mrs. Mary Burgess Cogswell & husband, both dead, 4 children, 2 boys, 2 girls all living.

Mr. Dan Cogswell, ought to be here

Mr. Rob Cogswell

Mrs. Carrie Cogswell, married

Mrs. Nellie Cogswell, married

Mrs. Emma Burgess Buswell, Winona, Minnesota, 4 children, 2 living

Herd Buswell, deceased

Roy Buswell, deceased

Frank Buswell, living, married, at Winona

Mrs. Cora Buswell, living, married

Mrs. Virginia Burgess, Racine, not married

Charlie Burgess & wife, Kenosha, 1 child married

Willie Burgess & wife

Edward C. Burgess & wife, Plymouth, 3 children, 2 living

Harold Burgess

Alfiel Burgess, in Cael

George F. Burgess & wife, Milwaukee, 2 children

Sinclair Burgess & wife

Dela Burgess & husband

William E. Burgess & wife, Chicago, children too numerous to mention

Dela Burgess, died when a baby

Hattie Burgess Rease, no children, in Cael

Burdett Burgess & wife, Chicago, Burdett is dead, 6 children, all living



Everett Burgess  
Dorothy Burgess  
Edith Burgess  
Henry Burgess  
George Burgess  
Uellie Burgess

Robert C. Burgess & wife, Chicago, 2 children dead, Virginia living

"These are all of the grand and great grand children on our fathers side of the house. There are a number of cousins on mothers side. Those here please also answer when their names are called if here."

Mr. Fred Leet  
Mr. Geo. Leet & wife & family  
Mr. Edward Leet & wife & family  
Mrs. Nellie Leet Henning & family

"There were as most of you know only 5 married children of our grandfathers family, 4 boys and 2 girls, one boy dying when young. Of these 5 families were born 28 children in all, of which there are only 14 living. Of these 14, more than one half of them all are in the William Burgess family; 8 of us still living out of a family of 11 children."

"The youngest now - well I guess maybe I hadn't better give his age - but well upwards to 60. Just think, Charlie, at the age of 77 years and never had a ? is a record. This shows what a tuff bunch they all are."

"I have tried to count up how many great grandchildren there are, but maybe I have overlooked or missed some of them, but to the best of my knowledge there are in the neighborhood of 52 , not quite as many as Brigham Young had however."

"Now it may be a little interesting to some of you present to know that we are gathered here today in this beautiful natural Petrified Springs Park on the ground which was once first bought from the U. S. Government by our grandfather Charles Leet. He homesteaded it before it was put

on the market for sale by the government in 1836. And that my own father at one time owned a part of this park and that your humble servant was born in a little loghouse that stood over there just west of the entrance to the park."

"Now I do not remember very distinctly the exact day but have been told by persons that lived in those days that it was in war times and that the times were very hard and that everyone was hard up and poor just like now. So you see I have been usta hard times all my life. I think I was the only member of our family to be born in this loghouse as father did not live there many years before he sold and moved out on the prairie as they call it at that time. I can just remember the day we moved with oxen and one team of horses on to the 247 acres of ground just the other side of the railroad. But there was no railroad there those days. The C, M, & St. P. Ry was built some years after."

"In those days most of you can remember when we usta go to the old cheese factory and to the blacksmith shop over by the bridge across the river; and to the spring by the road that we usta water our horses. The Post Office was then in the blacksmith shop and the mail was brought out there from Kenosha twice a week on horse back; then later on it was moved to the grocery store of Abram Bishof a little farther west on this road, and there remained some time until the railroad came through. A depot was built and called Buroak station which is now Somers. Then the family of Cooks started a grocery store there and the Post Office again moved in their store."

"Just after the depot was built there came a young man from the west, sort of a cowboy by the name of Thompson, to look after the affairs of the railroad at this town. And I understand that this same faithful servant is still on the job although this must be nearly 60 years ago. He fell in love also with Edith, one of Somers pretty young ladies and became married and still lives in Somers."

"I do not know much about Somers these days but when I was home on the farm there were many good looking young ladies I usta think and many



times I usta bring one of my old sweethearts here and sit in the shade of the old fruit trees that usta stand along this bank where the spring is and drink of the cold refreshing water. There was plenty of the white foaming drink those days at Kenosha and Racine, but it did not touch us as young people seem to drink these days they can't get along without it. There are a few of our old friends and neighbors here to which I am very pleased to meet once more, and I hope you may enjoy this day here, and that it may be a day to look back on with pleasant memories."

These notes were transcribed from a copy of the original hand written notes of William E. Burgess Jr. Items shown in ( ) were added for clarity. Bob Heck, Greendale, WI.

## **Did You Know....**

.... that Benajah Burgess served in the Revolutionary War in the 23rd Regiment of the Continental Army? I sent for a microfilm of his war record and pension record. More to follow in a future news letter.

.... that the original spelling of the name Henningfeld was actually Henningfeldt in the early 1700's?

.... that if our great, great, great grandfather Johann Schmitz, been more patient we would all be named Schmitz today? Thank you Johann! Johann Schmitz was the father of Johann Heck but he didn't marry Anna Lucia Heck until after Johann Heck was born. Tesk ! Tesk!

## **Dick and Cel Heck wed 40 years!**

On April 23, 1994 a lot of friends and relatives gathered at the Heck home to help celebrate 40 years of married life. There was so much to eat at the party that the guests moaned and groaned a little every time Dick came by with another tray of goodies.

As some of you know, Dick and Cel have been the main persons responsible for keeping the Heck picnic an annual event. We all owe them a debt of gratitude and a great big **THANK YOU!**

## **Carlos Henningfeld turns 90!**

The following article was published in the Racine Journal Times:

"Carlos S. Henningfeld of 3900 N. Main St. will celebrate his 90th birthday Sunday at a family gathering at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Carlos and Virginia Henningfeld of Racine. "

"Henningfeld was born on April 8, 1904 in Milwaukee. He lived in Racine from 1913 to 1914 and then moved back to Milwaukee. He returned to Racine on March 24."

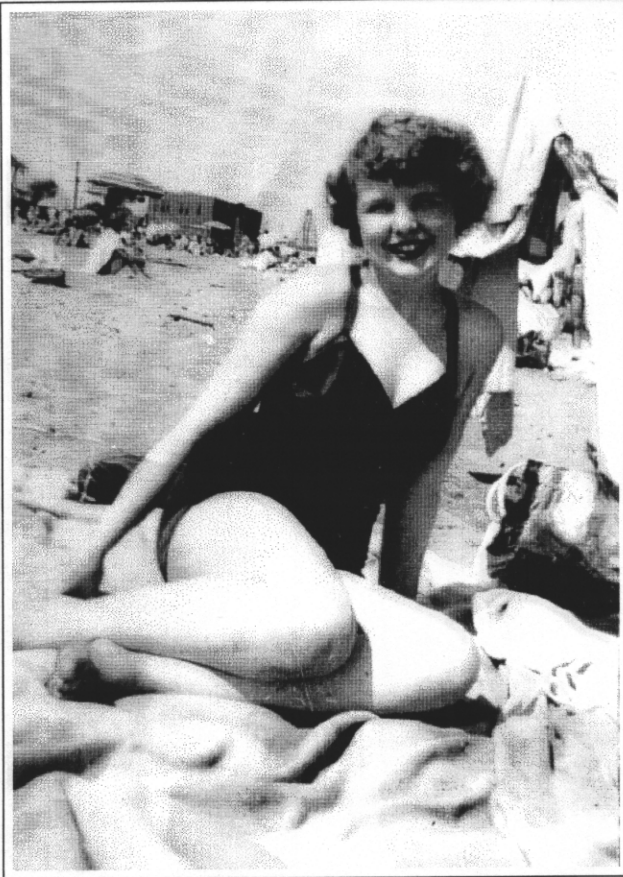
"Henningfeld and the former Marie Lutz were married on June 10, 1931 in Milwaukee. The couple will celebrate their 63rd wedding anniversary in June."

"Henningfeld was the founder and co-owner of Worth-Harmes Gear and Machine in Milwaukee from 1930 to 1967 when he sold the business and retired."

"Henningfeld is a member of Milwaukee Elks Lodge No. 46. He is lodge trustee and was exalted ruler in 1956-57. Henningfeld has been a member of the Elks Ritualistic Committee for 35 years and has been a member of the Milwaukee Moose Lodge No. 49 for 16 years. He is a member of the Older Baseball Players Association and former member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Optimist Club, YMCA and Eagles Club, all in Milwaukee."

"The Henningfelds also have a daughter, Joyce Wilson of Huston, Texas, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren."

Carlos Henningfeld is the nephew of Margaret Henningfeld Heck.



## Meet your cousin.....?

Can you guess who this is? We'll give you a few hints.

1. She is married to "Heap BIG Chief."
2. She is a nurse.
3. She will soon be living in the land of oranges and grapefruit.
4. She has five daughters and a son.
5. Her husband has the initials RJH.

Give up? Well folks meet Lorraine Simmons Heck, wife of the New Berlin Fire Chief Robert J. Heck. Bob and Lorraine will be moving to Florida soon, and all of us here in the frigid north will miss them.

I have it on good word that Bob and Lorraine will extend an open invitation to any of their relatives to drop in on them at any time. Bob does require that if you do drop in for a visit, you should bring along plenty of cigars.

This News Letter is written and published by Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129. Phone (414) 421-7143

Feel free to copy it and send it to others who might have an interest in our family history.

## 7 Generation Pedigree Chart

The last page of this news letter contains a seven generation pedigree chart which lists all of the known brothers and sisters in each particular generation. The chart is printed in very small print so you may need optical help in order to read it.

(A special note for my brother, Gary Heck: No matter how hard you try Gary, you WILL need your glasses to read this one!)

## Church records from Brighton...

The church records from St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin have finally been microfilmed.

Peter McNulty and his family lived about a half a mile south of the church and the Johann Heck family lived about a mile west of the church.

James Henry Heck, son of Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty, made his first communion and was confirmed at St. Francis. James later moved to Burlington and is the patriarch of all of the Heck family members from that city.

Way back in the early 1980's I went to St. Francis Xavier parish with the hope of viewing and copying the church records for the period from 1840 through 1894. This was the time period when our family members lived in the parish.

The old parish priest refused to let me even look at the records. He said that it was none of my business and that those records were for church

use only. I went away disappointed but determined that I would eventually get to see the records.

I sent the pastor some money along with a request for information on Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, first wife of Johann Heck. He kept the money but he never answered my letter. I probably sent three or four letters over the next few years but to no avail. None of my letters were answered. I even asked my brother, Gary, if he could help out since he went to church there every now and then. Again, no luck.

One day several years later Gary called me and said, "Guess What! The old priest at St. Francis had a heart attack." Now I'll probably go to hell for this but I let out a loud "Yahew!" when I heard the news.

A new priest was assigned to the parish and he was more than happy to show me the records at any time.

Some of those records are reproduced here on this page just to give you an idea of what they look like. The records are written in Latin but are fairly easy to figure out.

Anno Domini 1869. Jan. Christi. 1869

1. Die 19. mensis Januarii 1869 in matrimonium benediximus Henricum Hecks, fil. leg. Joannis A. Annae Barbarae et Henrici et Mariam Mc Nulty, fil. leg. Petri et Patriciae Mc Nulty et Thomae Dwyer, Pater: Peter et Anne Mary Hecks.  
Pro. Mich. Hecks

Above is the record of the marriage of Henry Heck to Mary Ann McNulty on January 19, 1869.

X 29 Augusti mortua est Patience Mc Nulty omni sacro provisae et sepulta est die 31. Aug. A. D. 1894  
F. H. Etschmann

Below is the first communion record of James Heck and his sister Mary Heck. She later became Mary Ann Grostuck. The communion took place on May 3, 1883. St. Francis Xavier church was known as St. Patrick's church in 1883.

On the 3. of May 1883 (Feast Ascension's D.N.C.) the following children received 1. Communion in St. Patrick's Church p. Rev. F. E. Etschmann Pastor

1. Martin Daniels	12. Edward Seitz
2. John Even	13. William Shanley
3X James Heck	14. James Walsh
4. Joseph Hoffmann	<u>Girls</u>
5. Anton Jackley	15. Elisabetha Briggs
6. Mathias Kernen	16. Maria Fettes
7. Henry Mich	17. Anna Gahr
8. Frank Murphy	X 18. Maria Heck
9. Edward Newman	19. Maria Kerber
10. Charles O'Brien	20. Anna Muhlback
11. Friedrich Scholzen	21. Theresa Murphy

Below is the baptismal record of James Henry Heck on November 5, 1869.

1869. Mensis Novembris 5. die hujus diebus Henricus Heck fil. Henrici et Mariam (natae Mc Nulty) Heck sponsi Petri et Patriciae et Mariae Mc Nulty  
K. Reinhart, Sacerdos

The entry at the bottom of this page is the death record of Patience Burgess McNulty. She died on August 29, 1894 and was buried on August 31, 1894 at St. Francis Xavier in Brighton. Patience was the mother of Mary Ann McNulty.



