

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 6

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 1994

## 1994 Heck Family Picnic Well Attended

The 1994 Heck family picnic was a smashing success with attendance figures that were fast approaching that of German Fest, Italian Fest and a few other festas combined.

The picnic celebration began with breakfast at 7:00 AM, followed by a casual round of golf at Shoops Park. The highlight of the golf outing was watching all of the cousins gang up on Gary Heck when he tried to impose a ridiculous rule on how the teams were to play.

Gary was just lucky that we couldn't find a rope long enough to lynch him with.

Another highlight was watching Bill Heck sink a difficult 30 foot putt. The ball rolled right up to the edge of the cup and V-E-R-Y S-L-O-W-L-Y teetered on the edge for a full eight seconds before it fell in. (Gary Heck was watching with a stop watch in his left hand and a police whistle in his right. He told us that if the ball didn't fall within ten seconds, according to his set of rules, the shot would not count.)

After the round of golf, about 90 members of the family and friends gathered at the Light House at Wind Point for a good old fashioned family picnic. This was the 27th consecutive year that we



have had such a family gathering, and each year seems to be better than the previous year.

There were games for the little kids and even the bigger ones. After a while some of the adults took the power blaster squirt guns away from the kids and started an adult war.

Books and photo albums were available which outlined our family history over hundreds of years. Free handouts of family history charts were also available.

If you haven't attended one of the Heck Family picnics in the past, you might want to think about attending the next one in July, 1995.

# Benjamin Burgess - The First Of Our Ancestors To Arrive In Wisconsin

**Benjamin Burgess - The First Of Our Ancestors To Arrive In Wisconsin**

Several historical records from the late 1800's indicated that the Burgess family had arrived in southeastern Wisconsin in 1836. Wisconsin was a territory at that time and was known as the western frontier.

According to biographical sketches of Alonzo Burgess and others, his father Benjamin settled in the area known as Southport, now known as Kenosha, in 1836.

Benjamin started a saw mill on the Pike river that same year and died of pneumonia in 1838. I have been searching for the site of the saw mill and homestead for the past 12 years without success..... until this year, that is.

In January, 1994, I received a letter from a



Site of the Benjamin Burgess saw mill in 1836 at Somers, WI

George Burgess from Chicago. George got my

name from the editor of "The Burgess Bulletin", a news letter to which I subscribe and to which I contribute articles on the Wisconsin Burgess line. George was a descendant of William E. Burgess, son of Benjamin Burgess.

George Burgess included a copy of a hand written speech given by William E. Burgess Jr. at Petrified Springs Park in 1936. A copy of the

speech was published in volume 5 of this news letter issued in June, 1994. In the speech William E. Burgess Jr. stated that, "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 (Benjamin Burgess) 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."

Armed with that information I took a map of the Kenosha County area which included Petrified Springs Park. I marked all of the east-west roads and highways and highlighted the Pike river.

On July 4, 1994, I drove out to

Petrified Springs Park and tried to

figure out the most logical spot from which William might have given his speech. The spot had to be near the Pike river and within sight of the east-west road. I figured out that the east-west road was County Highway "A".

The next step was to get on Highway "A" and to drive one mile east. Exactly one mile from the park entrance the Pike river crossed the road at the intersection of Highway "A" and "G".



## Meet Uncle George.....

There were four houses on the north-west side of the intersection and a family was having a small picnic in the yard of the second house. The river ran through the back yard of all four properties. I pulled into their driveway and asked if they might be able to help me locate the site of an old saw mill that had been located on the river 158 years ago.

The oldest man , Mr. Robert Thomas, said that he used to play at the old saw mill dam when he was a little boy over seventy years ago. He and his son Wayne showed me exactly where the saw mill and dam were located. Today there are a few stones and an oak log imbedded in the river bank to mark the location. The picture on the previous page shows the homestead site of the saw mill built by Benjamin Burgess.

Mr. Thomas went on to say that his family has owned that land since 1867. He said that he had an original abstract of title for the land and that he recalled the name Burgess in the earliest records. Mr. Thomas copied the entire abstract and mailed it to me the following week.

The land was originally settled by Benjamin Burgess in 1836 and had to be lived on for two years before it could be granted to them by the United States. Benjamin died in 1838 but his second wife Amanda Foster Burgess processed the claim for the land that same year.

On November 15, 1838, the land was officially transferred by President of the United States John Tyler to Amanda Burgess. The land consisted of 160 acres and was described as "The South West quarter of Section One (1) Town Two (2) North, of Range Twenty-two (22) East." The land is in the Township of Somers, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

If you walk along the river bank you can almost hear my great-great-great grandfather, Benjamin Burgess, calling out to the kids and asking them to help pile the cut wood.



George J. Henningfeld  
1884 -- 1961

George J. Henningfeld was the brother of Margaret F. Henningfeld Heck. He was born in Burlington in 1884 but lived most of his life in Racine, Wisconsin.

Uncle George was a fireman for the City of Racine for many years until he had to retire due to an accident in 1945. He was riding on the back of a ladder truck on the way to a fire when suddenly the ladder broke loose and struck him in the side. He was thrown off of the truck and knocked unconscious. After the truck arrived at the fire the crew realized that he was missing. He was later found lying in the gutter with serious injuries.

In 1910 he married Martha Stutz and later had two children, George Royce Henningfeld and Jeanne Henningfeld Jacobs.

George Royce Henningfeld was killed in action several weeks after landing at Normandy, France during World War II.

The Henningfeld family lived at 2054 Carter St. in Racine.

**Did you know that the Heck family owned most of the taverns in Waterford, Wisconsin at one time? Three of the four taverns were owned by John Heck, "Red" Heck, and Emil Heck.**

The following article was found in a 1923 publication called "Stories Of Waterford And Its Busy Life."

"The John Heck business block occupies one of the very best locations in the village of Waterford from a business viewpoint. It stands on the corner of First and Main Streets, where Main Street angles in such a way as to make the Heck building seen distinctly from nearly every point in the business district."

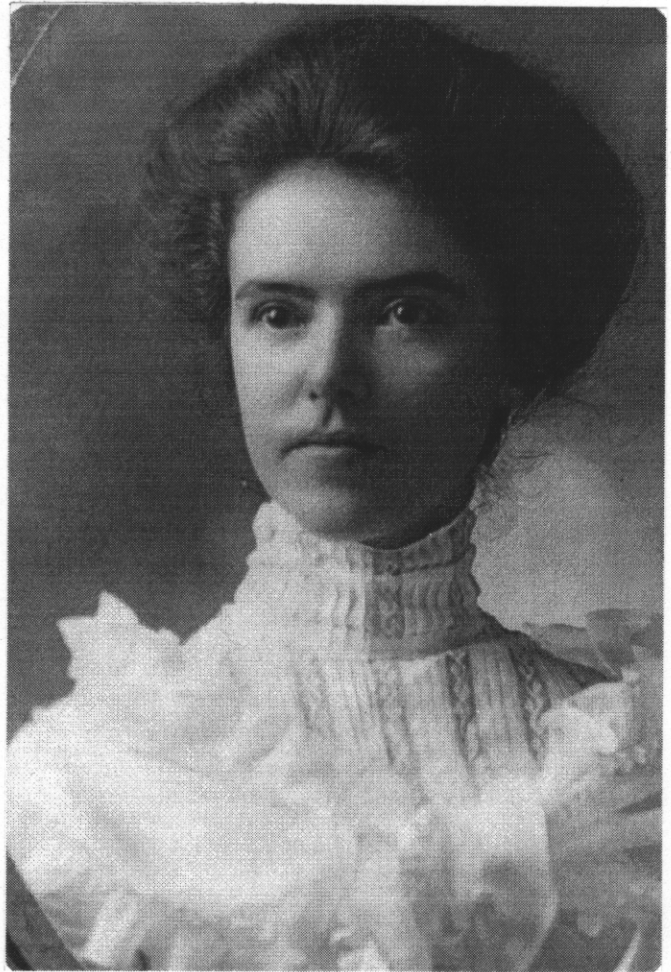
"The Heck building was erected in 1890 by Henry J. Kortendick. It was purchased by John Heck, the present owner, on October 20, 1903. This building still bears on its top stone the name of H. J. Kortendick."

"The building is a solid white brick, two story 44 X 46 structure. The lower floor has a large room for business purposes, used for a number of years as a sample room, (Editors note: a fancy name for a tavern) a parlor, dining room, kitchen and two bed rooms. There are eight sleeping rooms on the second floor. There is a large ice house under the same roof."

"Mr. Heck was born and reared in Dover, and Mrs. Heck, whose maiden name was Miss Annie Ketterhagen, grew up to womanhood at Brown's Lake. For a while after their marriage they lived at Brighton, moving to Waterford from that place. Their oldest child, Miss Leona, was born at Brighton, the four younger children -- Francis, Florence, Abel (Emil) and Walter -- were born here."

During prohibition, John Heck operated an ice cream parlor at the site. Immediately after prohibition he reverted back to being a tavern owner. John Heck was a brother of Robert Steven Heck and a son of Henry Heck.

## Meet Aunt Lizzie.....



Elizabeth A. Heck Plucker  
1877 -- 1965

Elizabeth Ann Heck was the daughter of Henry Heck and a sister of Robert Steven Heck. Lizzie married Alfred Plucker in 1907 at St. Mary's Catholic church in Burlington. Their wedding reception and dinner was held at the home of her parents in Burlington. Following a honeymoon at Beloit, Wisconsin, Lizzie and Al lived on the farm of his parents at Rochester, Wisconsin. Her hair turned pure white a few years after her marriage.

She had three children; Larry, Gwendolyn, and Virginia, all of whom survived her death in 1965.



# Certificate of Service



## Henry Heck

The Official Record: ENTERED SERVICE FEBRUARY 11, 1862. ENLISTED INTO COMPANY K NINETEENTH VETERAN INFANTRY FROM BRIGHTON, WISCONSIN. TRANSFERRED TO COMPANY F, MAY 1, 1862. FROM COMPANY K; WOUNDED MAY 13, 1864; MUSTERED OUT OF SERVICE APRIL 29, 1865, TERM EXPIRED

### ENGAGEMENTS

SUFFOLK, VA  
NEWBERNE, NC  
DRUY'S BLUFF, VA  
PORT WALTHALL, VA  
PETERSBURG, SIEGE OF, VA  
FAIR OAKS, VA  
RICHMOND, VA

Nineteenth Infantry. The organization of the Nineteenth regiment of Infantry was commenced at Racine, Wisconsin, in December 1861, and continued until the 20 of April, 1862, when the regiment was transferred to Camp Randall to guard rebel prisoners, and the organization perfected and the Nineteenth mustered into the service of the United States at that place on the 30 of April 1862. The rebel prisoners having been transferred to Chicago, the Nineteenth left the State June 2, going directly to Washington, D.C., and from there proceeding to Norfolk, Va., where the regiment went into camp on the 6 of June. The next day it commenced service in earnest and from time to time participated in a large number of movements in southeastern Virginia until October 1862, when its field of operation was transferred to Newburn, N.C., in the vicinity of which the regiment remained until April 1864, when it was recalled to Virginia and assigned to the Eighteenth Army Corps as a part of the army of the James, which it joined on April 28 at Yorktown. The Nineteenth participated in the movements of the Army of the James against Richmond in 1864-5. The principal engagements were the Assault on Petersburg, June 30, 1864; battle of Fair Oaks, October 27-28, 1864. In December the Eighteenth was transferred to the Twentyfourth corps, participating in the final assault on Petersburg April 3, 1865. On that day the regiment entered Richmond, Va., and was assigned to duty as Provost Guard, remaining there most of that month. Was transferred during the summer to several points in the State like service until August 9, when the Nineteenth was mustered out of the service of the United States. Returned to Madison on the 15, and was disbanded on the 27 of August, 1865. 0

## Memorial

We were all saddened by the sudden and unexpected passing of Nancy M. Petersen Heck on June 25, 1994. Nancy, wife of Larry Heck, will always be remembered for her friendliness and constant smile.

We captured that smile on film at the Heck family picnic in 1993 and thought that we would share it with all of our readers.

Nancy was the mother of Joan Marie, Catherine Ann, Steven Laurence, Susan Lynn, Lynda Jean, and Laura Jo.

We all will miss her very much.



Nancy M. Petersen Heck with Larry and Cel Heck in July, 1993 at Wind Point, Wisconsin.

This news letter is written and published by:

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Feel free to copy it and share it with your relatives. Donations to defray costs appreciated.

## Meet more of your cousins.....



Children of John Heck and Anna Ketterhagen from Waterford, Wisconsin. Left to right: Leona, Emil, Florence, Walter, and Francis Heck. in 1928.

**How old was Patience Burgess when she married Peter McNulty?** The only clues that we have to her age are from the US census records and from her death record.

The 1830 census does not name the children by name but it does show a range of ages and sex for the children. Benjamin Burgess, father of Patience, is listed with two daughters less than age five. The two daughters had to be Patience and Julia. That places the birth of Patience between 1825 and 1830.

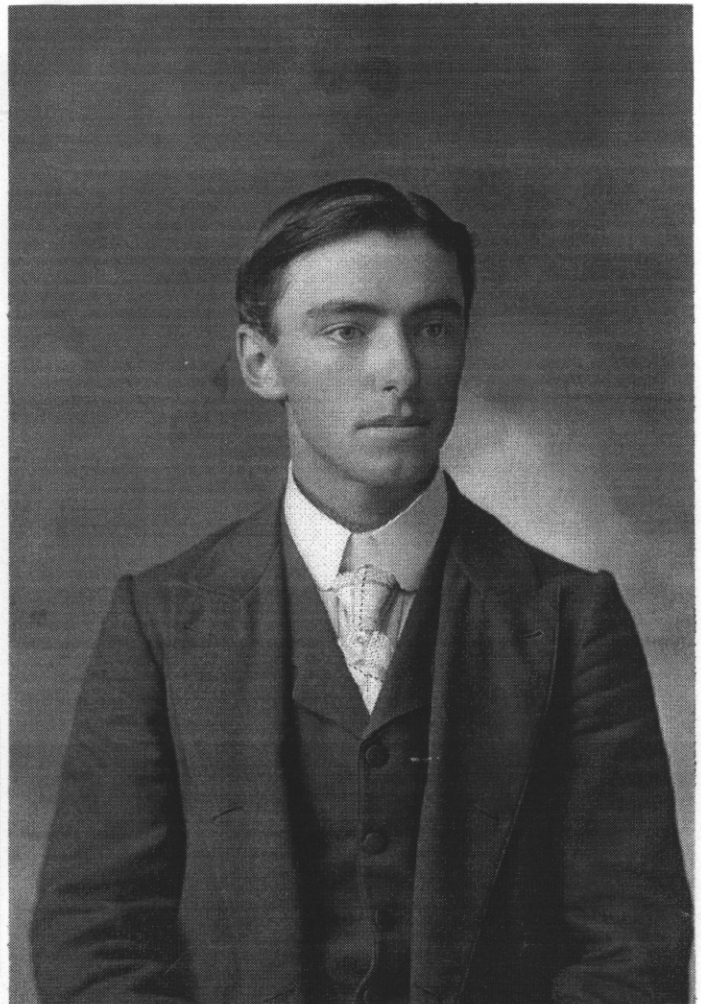
In 1850 her age was shown as 21 so her year of birth would have been 1829. The 1860 census shows her as being 33 and the 1870 census shows her at 43. This would mean that she was born in 1827. Since her oldest son, Henry, was born in 1841, Patience would have been 14 when he was born and 13 when she married Peter. Peter was 33 in 1840 when he married Patience. WOW!



## From The Photo Album.....



Tracy O'Gorman and Bill Heck were married on May 14, 1994. Tracy is a registered child care teacher and Bill is the service manager at TRC, a computer manufacturer in Milwaukee County. The young couple live at 1808 W. Meyer Lane #5209, Oak Creek, WI, 53154.



Robert Steven Heck born 14 December 1879 at Brighton, WI, married Margaret Henningfeld 15 October 1903, and died 16 May 1923 at Racine, WI. The picture was taken in about 1898 and was found in a suitcase at Waterford, WI. The picture originally belonged to Lizzie Heck Plucker, sister of Robert.



Meet the Bob Heck family. From left: Dave Heck and his friend Judy, Gloria, Bob, Tracy and Bill Heck at the family picnic in July, 1994.

If you would like to see your family picture in the pages of "Our Family News Letter", send a copy to the editor with a listing of names from left to right and an approximate date that the picture was taken.

If you want the pictures returned, please indicate so. Any pictures that you donate will be added to our family photo album. If there is a story behind the picture, jot it down and I'll try to include it in the news letter.

**SEPTEMBER 1994**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 * see below Raymond William Dorn Alphonse Heitkemper Herman G. Heitkemper Mary L. Henningfeld Joseph &amp; Abigail Pathbun</p>	<p>5 Michele M. Wallerius Jeanne Frenz Mary Ann Heck Charlotte Mary Fields</p>	<p>6 Joseph Timothy Bark Reiner Heck Dennis Heck Todd Martin Johnson Frank W. Henningfeld Benjamin Burgess</p>	<p>7 Alan &amp; Joan Thompson James &amp; Bernice Pier Lawrence E. Weidman Roy &amp; Marie Zarnke Dorothy Ann Johnson Frank Heinrichs</p>	<p>1 Catherine Dombroski Shari Ann Tickus Frank H. Henningfeld</p>	<p>2 Clarence Joseph Heck Joseph Herman Heck Carrie Amelia Cook</p>	<p>3 Marvin Pfeiffer Sarah Matteson</p>
<p>11 Derek S. Heinrichs Amy Marlene Heck Susan Lyn Spiedel Matthias Heck</p>	<p>12 Mark &amp; Theresa Wallerius Robert Merritt Margaret Heinrichs</p>	<p>13 Leslie B. Heinrichs Kathleen Anne Martin Raymond &amp; Gladys Heck Gladys Julia Heck E. Roy Burgess</p>	<p>14 * see below Conrad &amp; Patricia Johnson Herbert Alfred Heck Sylvester &amp; Alice Henningfeld Eva Schmitz</p>	<p>15 Christopher &amp; Susan Tessman Joseph &amp; Joan Woolley</p>	<p>16 Carol Heck John Heck</p>	<p>17 Lawrence &amp; Mary Krause Donald &amp; Sharon Heck Eugene &amp; Carol Heck</p>
<p>18 Eugene Bernard Heck Loan Burgess Mary Wood</p>	<p>19 * see below Allen Frederick Bark Robert Jerome Heck Stella Elizabeth Heck Loretta Mary Dibble Anna Catharina Heck William &amp; Mary Eldred</p>	<p>20 * see below Rocheleau Frank Vincent Heck Henry Fred Heitkemper Frederick A. Burgess Ruth Burgess Gerard Hutsch</p>	<p>21 Kenneth &amp; Bonnie Heck Robert P. Hefty Beatildis Clara Dorn Peter Frank Dorn Maria Elisabeth Jenner Dianna Hodgson</p>	<p>22 Ermlinda Dorn</p>	<p>23 Gary &amp; Sandra Rocheleau Brian Happli Violet Susan Heck</p>	<p>24 Scott Zarnke Katherine Ann Starr</p>
<p>25 Grace P. Luckner</p>	<p>26 Michael DeGrave Cindy Lago Thomas Heck</p>	<p>27 Judy Ann Norman</p>	<p>28 Theo Heck Edward Patneaud II Anna Pastyrik</p>	<p>29 David Alan Schneider</p>	<p>30 Christie Dombroski Lauren Aleta Patneaud Henry A. Henningfeld</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary To all of our "Cousins" celebrating in September! This list includes those from the past as well as the present.</b></p>						
<p>4 Paulette Helene Bark 4 Laura Ann Wallerius 14 Mark &amp; Mary Johnson 19 Kevin Starr 19 James Alvin Pfeiffer 19 Michael &amp; Sandra Heck 20 Kory Allen Heck</p>						