

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 15


Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 1996

## The Search For The Ancestral Home Of Peter McNulty 1807 - 1880

Peter McNulty was born in Ireland in 1807 according to the naturalization declaration submitted by him on November 22, 1842. In that declaration he stated that he migrated from the Port of Warring Point, Ireland on April 10, 1834. He reported that he landed at the city of St. John's, New Brunswick, Canada, and from there traveled to Boston, MA, arriving on June 8, 1834.

NOW AT WARRENPOINT,  
FOR  
**ST. JOHN'S, New Brunswick,**

 16

500 TONS BURTHEN.  
The Fast-sailing and substantial-built Brig  
**CUPID,**  
SAMUEL STEPHENSON, COMMANDER,  
To Sail on the First of April.

THE CUPID is a fine New Vessel, Copper-fastened, and well calculated for the Passenger Trade, being high and roomy between Decks; and the Owners pledge themselves to fit her up in the most comfortable manner, for the accommodation of Passengers.  
For Freight or Passage, apply to the MASTER, on Board; or to  
JAMES G. QUIN, Merchants' Quay;  
FRANCIS CARYILL, Sugar-Island;  
HENRY BLACKHAM, Merchants' Quay.  
Newry, March 15, 1834. 69

Through extensive research I found that the Irish port was actually Warrenpoint, located in Northern Ireland. Part of my research was done on the Internet which is a system which links computers from all over the world together into a common communication base.

I had asked for some help in locating the ancestral home of Peter McNulty and a gentleman from Northern Ireland responded. I had sent him what little information we had on Peter. We knew that

he was born in Ireland in 1807; we suspected that he may have had a brother named Lawrence McNulty; we suspected that his parents may have been John McNulty and Anna.

Brian McAnulty (That is the way that McNulty was spelled in the early records.) from Rostreuer, County Down, Northern Ireland responded by making a copy of each weekly newspaper from Newry, Ireland for a period of four weeks in March and April, 1834. The reason that he selected Newry is that it is the nearest large city to Warrenpoint.

The only advertisement that fit is shown at left. Since it is difficult to read I'll restate it here.

"Now at Warrenpoint, for St. John's, New Brunswick, 500 tons burthen, The fast sailing and substantial built brig CUPID, Samuel Stephenson, Commander, To sail on the First of April."

"The Cupid is a fine new vessel, copper fastened, and well calculated for the Passenger Trade, being high and roomy between decks; and the owners pledge themselves to fit her up in the most comfortable manner for the accommodations of Passengers."

"For Freight or Passage, apply to the MASTER, on Board; or to James G. Quin, Merchants' Quay; Francis Caryill, Sugar-Island; Henry Blackham, Merchants' Quay. Newry, March 15, 1834".

Most of the advertisements stated that they would set sail on or about a particular date or first fair wind after a particular date.

Brian McAnulty wrote in his letter to me: "I am also waiting on conformation from parish records in Newry that John McNulty, the only one of that

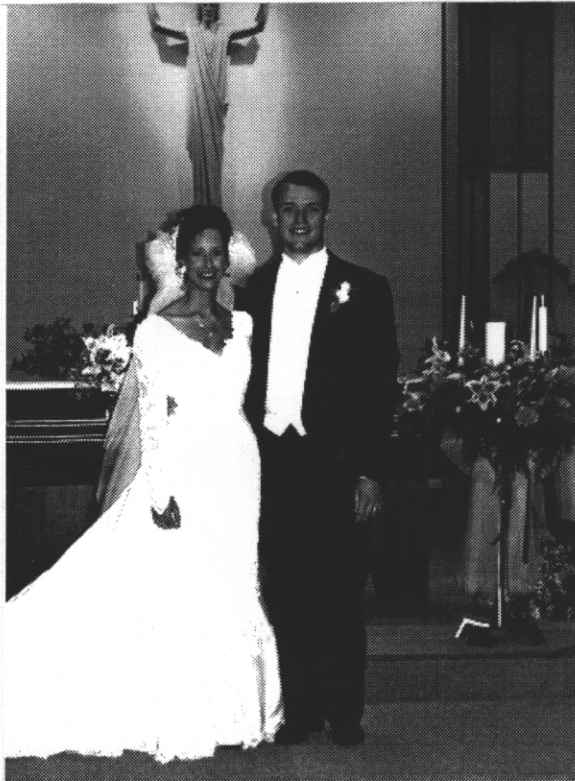
name in the area, who lived at 87 Chapel St., Newry in 1830 had a son Peter and a Lawrence. If this is the case, their house is still standing and it should be easy to get original photographs from around your great great grandfathers time."

"The church from which Chapel Street gets its name was not long built when John McNulty would have died and therefore he would have been buried near the church itself. I have checked out headstones around the church and there is indeed a family plot for McNulty right beside the church. So if we get proof that John McNulty and Anna had sons of this name then we're on a winner. If not there are one or two other leads I can follow."

I sent a letter to New Brunswick seeking information on the ships record for the CUPID. I still haven't figured out how Peter McNulty traveled from St. John's to Boston, or what Peter did from 1834 until we find him in Wisconsin in 1838.

I'm working with Brian to zero in on details of our Irish roots, so stay tuned to this news letter for more information.

### **Amy Heck and Adam Tappen united...**



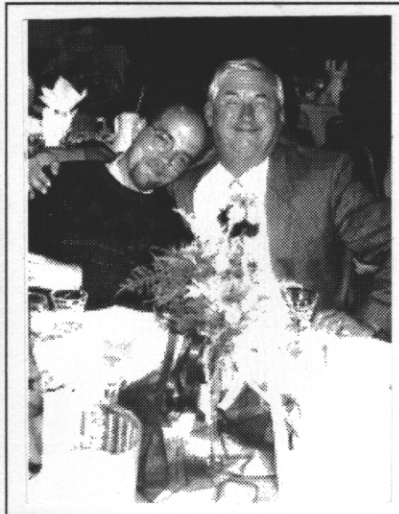
Amy Marlene Heck, daughter of Don and Sharon Heck was married on October 19, 1996, to Adam Robert Tappen, son of Bob and Joan Tappen. The wedding took place at Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church at Racine, Wisconsin.

Following the Liturgy the wedding party was seen clanging their way around Racine in a trolley car while many of the guests made their way to Roma Lodge for snacks and liquid refreshment.

The reception was held at Roma Lodge starting at 6:00 in the evening. After a great meal and some spectacular cake, many of the guests danced the night away. Pizza was served late in the evening which really hit the spot.

I don't have an address yet for Adam and Amy but I will list it in the next issue of this news letter.

During the reception, Gary Heck found a new friend as is shown in the photo below. Hans, a



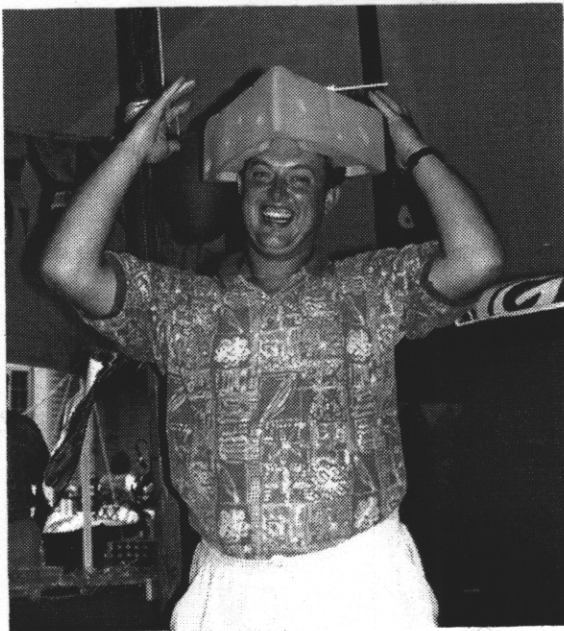
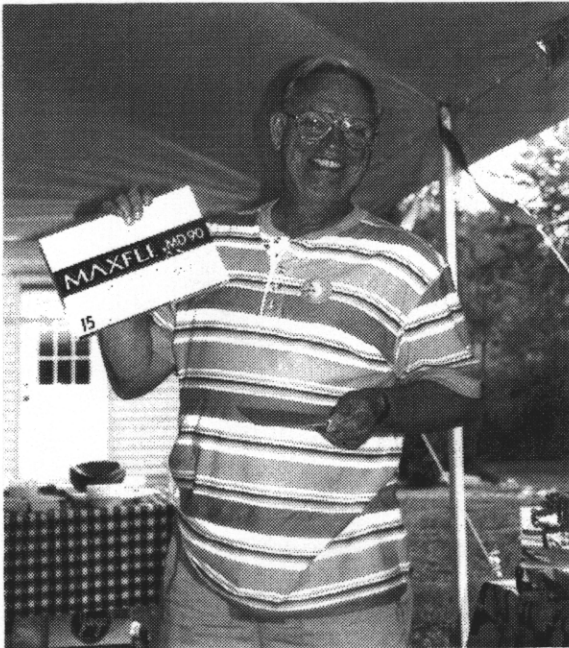
friend of Lee Heck, seemed to hit it off with Gary in a big way. Actually this picture was taken right after Hans found out that he had missed out on the pizza. (Gary had two pieces of pizza which explains the satisfied look on his face.)

**This news letter is written and published by Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129. This is the 15th issue since we started in June, 1993. We have not had to charge for the news letter up to this point since contributions from our readers have helped keep the costs to me down to a reasonable level. There are 48 copies of this letter sent out four times per year. The cost for me to issue this news letter is about \$125.00 per year. Please Help in any way that you can.**

## September 3rd Marvin Pfeiffer hit the big 60!

On September 3rd a surprise party was thrown for Marvin Pfeiffer as he reached what he called middle age. I guess that means that Joanne is stuck with him until he turns 120 years old.

The party was thrown by Marvin's family at the home of Steve and Cara Pfeiffer. The party turned out to be a double one as Steve and Cara were celebrating an open house at their new home.



The photographs show Marvin holding a one day supply of golf balls at upper left. Some guests were overheard saying that a dozen golf balls is only enough for Marv to play twelve holes on a par three course.

At lower left is a picture of Steve Pfeiffer proudly sporting his new cheese head hat. I can honestly say that we haven't seen Steve that excited since he got a new red two wheeler when he was five years old. It took at least an hour for Cara to settle Steve down. We understand that he wore it to bed for the first week.

At upper right is a picture of Steve and Cara Pfeiffer on the front porch of their new home. This picture was taken before he got the cheese head hat.

Steve and Cara have three children: Rebecca Lee, Thomas James, and Jamie Marie.

**On the following page is a collection of pictures of Marvin Pfeiffer covering the past 60 years. If you look closely at the pictures when Marvin was in the Army, you would swear that he was only 14 years old.**







## New discovery on the Burgess side of our family...

At the end of October of this year I was on a four day business trip to Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Since I was so close to where my nephew, Steve Heck, lived I decided to take a day of vacation and spend a three day weekend with him at Norwich, Connecticut. I had a great time thanks to a super host.

On Friday, Steve took me on a tour of the Pfizer plant where he is a chemist in a research laboratory. I had a chance to meet with many of his coworkers and an opportunity to see some really sophisticated research facilities.

Following the tour we did some "island hopping" to Rhode Island. Our goal was to do some research into our Burgess family who lived in Little Compton, Rhode Island in 1668 through 1765.

At this point I'll show you the Burgess connection to me so you can figure out the connection to yourself.

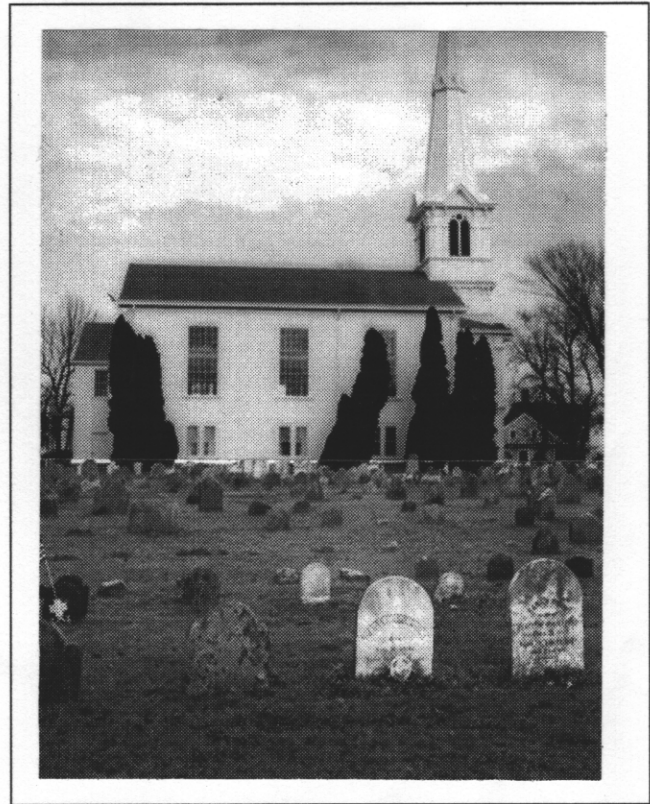
Thomas Burgess (1628-1717)  
    Thomas Burgess (1668-1743)  
        John Burgess (1711-1795)  
            Benajah Burgess (1761-1830)  
                Benjamin Burgess (1794-1838)  
                    Patience Burgess (1823-1894)  
                        Mary Ann McNulty (1844-1912)  
                            Robert S. Heck (1879-1923)  
                                Robert G. Heck (1909-1995)  
                                    Robert J. Heck (1940- )

Thomas Burgess (1668-1743) was born and died at Little Compton. His son John and grandson Benajah were also born at Little Compton. Our goal was to find the burial place of Thomas Burgess.

Steve and I found Little Compton to be a beautiful place laid out very much the way it was back in the 1600's. There was a Common which is where the local population fed their livestock and where the militia practiced marching. Today the Common

is occupied by a church and a cemetery with tombstones dating back to the late 1600's.

Many of the tombstones were made from a black slate stone which had delaminated over the past three hundred years. Reading the stones was very difficult and many of the inscriptions have been lost forever.



*The church yard at Little Compton, RI*

We found a section of the cemetery where there were a large group of people buried with the name Burgess. We tried to find a stone for Thomas Burgess (1668-1743) but didn't have much luck. We then went across the street to the local village clerk's office and were shown a card catalog for the cemetery. Steve found that Thomas Burgess was buried in 1743 in the 27th row of the cemetery.

We went back to the cemetery and started counting rows. It wasn't as easy as you would think because it seemed that they had a few half rows thrown in there. After counting and searching for quite a while we finally found the area where Thomas had to be buried. It was in the same area

# Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1

## 1 Benajah BURGESS-496

**B** : 1761  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**M** : Abt 1783 - 126  
**P** :  
**D** : 15 Aug 1830  
**P** : Hoosick,Rensselaer,NY

Zilpha MATTESON-497  
 (Spouse of no. 1)

## 3 Hannah JAMES-499

**B** : Abt 1713  
**P** :  
**D** :  
**P** :

## 4 Thomas BURGESS 5th-502

**B** : 1668  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**M** : 24 Oct 1707 - 131  
**P** :  
**D** : 1 Jul 1743  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI

## 5 Martha WILBOUR-503

**B** : 20 Aug 1684  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**D** : Dec 1746  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI

## 6 John JAMES-504

**B** : 1688  
**P** :  
**M** : 21 Oct 1713 - 132  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**D** : 1766  
**P** :

## 7 Ann TAYLOR-505

**B** : Sep 1686  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**D** : 4 Nov 1727  
**P** : Newport,,RI

## 8 Thomas BURGESS 4th-508

**B** : 1628  
**P** : Sandwich,,MA  
**M** : 1667 - 133  
**P** :  
**D** : 26 Feb 1717  
**P** : Newport,,RI

## 9 Lydia GAUNT-509

**B** : Abt 1630  
**P** : Scituate,Plymouth,MA  
**D** : 1684  
**P** : Newport,,RI

## 10 Joseph WILBOUR-519

**B** : 1656  
**P** : Little Compton,Newport Co.,RI  
**M** : 4 May 1683 - 134  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**D** : 4 May 1729  
**P** : Little Compton,Newport Co.,RI

## 11 Ann BROWNELL-520

**B** : 1654  
**P** : Portsmouth,Newport Co.,RI  
**D** : 2 Apr 1747  
**P** : Little Compton,Newport Co.,RI

## 12 William JAMES Jr.-539

**B** : Abt 1650  
**P** :  
**M** : 10 Dec 1677 - 135  
**P** : Newport,,RI  
**D** : Oct 1697  
**P** :

## 13 Susannah MARTIN-540

**B** : Abt 1650  
**P** :  
**D** : 4 Mar 1726  
**P** : Newport,,RI

## 14 John TAYLOR-543

**B** : Jun 1657  
**P** : Newport,,RI  
**M** : 1681 - 136  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI  
**D** : 9 Jun 1747  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI

## 15 Abigail HODGES-544

**B** : 1660  
**P** :  
**D** : 16 Sep 1720  
**P** : Little Compton,,RI

Prepared by

**Robert J. Heck**  
**4910 Steeple Drive**  
**Greendale, WI**  
**53129**

Telephone number  
**(414) 421-7143**

Date prepared  
**24 Oct 1996**



where all of the other Burgess family members were buried. We found several stubs of stones that we figured had to be those of Thomas and his wife Martha Wilbour.

short stories of the people of Little Compton from the early 1600's up to the early 1900's. One can get a good feel for the life that our ancestors lived in that colonial town.



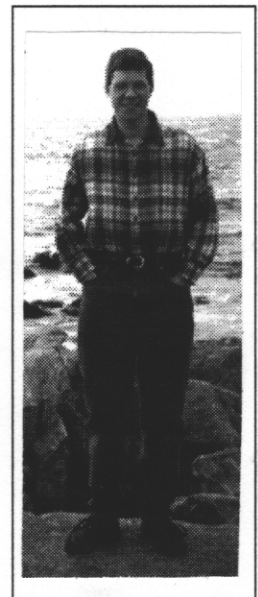
*The location of the Thomas Burgess grave*

After a lunch break in the local restaurant on the Commons we visited the Wilbour general store and found a book on the history of Little Compton written by Benjamin Wilbour of Little Compton. It was a steal at only \$12.00. The book is filled with

Thomas Burgess is mentioned in several passages in the book. as are the Wilbour, Brownell, James, and Taylor families. If you check out the pedigree chart in this news letter you will find that ten of the fifteen ancestors listed were born, married or died at Little Compton. Our roots indeed are in that small village in Rhode Island.

We drove back through Tiverton and Newport, RI and saw some fantastic mansions including the Kennedy estate. Steve and I figured that since our ancestors owned some of the land in

Newport in the 1600's and 1700's, we were probably entitled to reclaim some of the estates for our family. I figured that our chances of getting someone to agree with us was about as good as my claim to the British throne.



*Steve Heck*

That evening we went to Mystic, CT for an enjoyable pizza made in brick ovens.

The following morning we drove to Boston but first we spent the morning in a pouring rain walking through cemeteries at Voluntown, CT. Don and Sharon Heck had found a land record for John Burgess from 1787 indicating that he owned land at Voluntown. (A transcript of that record was published in Issue 7, December 1994, of Our Family News Letter.) The record identified the location of



*The Burgess family section at Little Compton*

the land as being next to Smith's Mill in Voluntown. We checked at the Voluntown library and found out that Smith's Mill was located in the village of Oneco, CT, several miles north of the library. In 1787, Oneco was a part of Voluntown. A

area indicating where five of the cemeteries were located.

We were pressed for time and it was raining cats and dogs so we decided to head for Boston. Steve will have to go back to Oneco and continue the search for John Burgess.



We had a great time in Boston eating, taking tours, eating, having desert, eating, walking, walking, walking and finally drinking a beer at Cheers Bar. By the time we got back to Norwich, CT we were tired and totally awed by all that we had done in two days.

I look forward to taking Gloria on a vacation in the same area especially since my nephew offered to host us again.

Thanks Steve, I had a great time.

*Steve Heck at Oneco, Connecticut*

local historian told us that people usually stayed within a few miles of their home in 1787, so we would probably find John Burgess, who died in

## Status report on Mary Heck...

As I mentioned in the last news letter, my mother Mary Heck, suffered a very serious debilitating stroke a few days after the Heck family picnic. I'm happy to report that she has been making good progress in her recovery. While she's not back to 100% yet, she can walk with the aid of a walker and can hold her own in any conversation.

At the present time she is staying at a Loving Care home on Highway 20 in Racine. We bring her home during the day on Saturdays which she seems to enjoy a great deal. She attended Amy and Adam's wedding and she will be "supervising" Thanksgiving dinner at Gloria and Bob's. Please take a few minutes to send her a note or Christmas card.

mas card.

**Mary Heck % Loving Care  
10912 Washington Ave.  
Sturtevant, WI 53177**



*The main cemetery at Voluntown, Connecticut*

1795, buried in a family cemetery in or near Oneco. People at the library marked up our map of the