

Our Family News Letter

Issue 16

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 1997

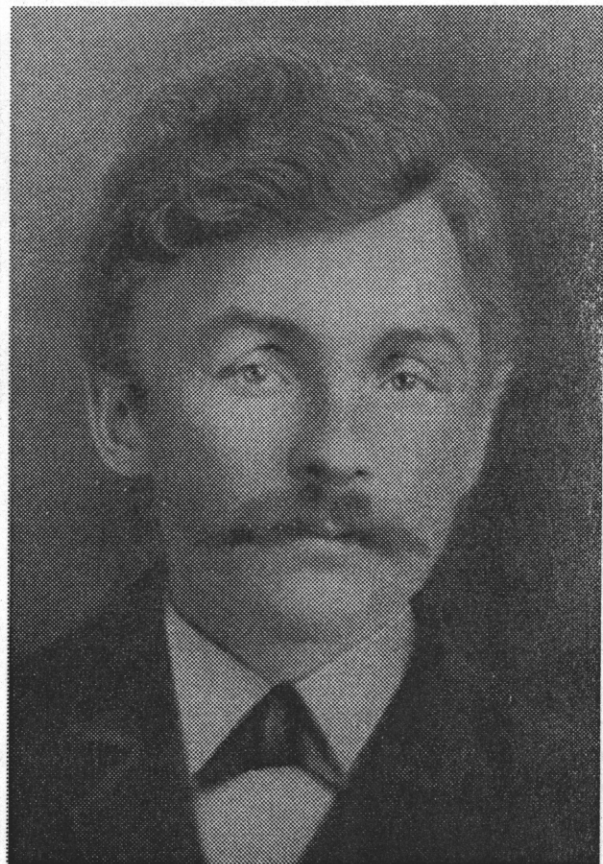
Peter Heck (1834 - 1900) and Margaret Zeren (1850 - 1933)

as written by Howard W. Heck in his book "**The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany**", published March, 1991. Library of Congress number 91-91844.

"Peter Heck was the son of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer. He was born on October 5, 1834, in Alendorf, Prussia, (now part of Germany) and came to America with his parents in 1852. He moved to Minnesota with his parents in 1857 and helped them establish their homestead. He and his brother Henry (ancestor of most of the Hecks from Wisconsin), went back to Paris township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, in the summer of 1860 and worked as farm laborers. Peter worked on a Mr. P. Frank's farm and Henry worked on the Seymour Datton farm. In 1862 the Civil War had been raging for well over a year and the recruiting was intense. Each state was asked to form more volunteer units. New recruits were paid a bounty of \$500 if they would enlist for three years.

For whatever reason, Peter enlisted on August 21, 1862, with the 26th Regiment of the Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to Company D as a Private. His volunteer enlistment certificate stated he had grey eyes, light hair, fair complexion, height five feet-five inches tall, was twenty three years old and had a stout build. He saw action in some of the most famous and bloodiest battles of the Civil War, notably in the Battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863. This was the best known of all battles and was the high tide of the Confederate effort. General Robert E. Lee was defeated there and the fate of the Confederacy was sealed.

Peter's regiment was sent west after Gettysburg and was attached to the Army of the Cumberland,



Peter Heck

encamped around Chattanooga, Tennessee. His regiment took part in the Battle of Missionary Ridge outside Chattanooga. The Union forces charged up the ridge which was heavily fortified by the Confederates. Through a rain of fire and cannon shot they attacked, and in a bloody onslaught, drove the Confederates from the top of the ridge. This spectacular battle earned General Ulysses Grant the command of the entire Union Armies. General Sherman took over the Army in the west and the stage was set for Sherman's famous "March To The Sea" the following Spring. Peter and his regiment were to be part of this much heralded action.

In the Spring of 1864 Peter's regiment was involved in a series of battles leading up to the Battle of Atlanta, portrayed in the book, "Gone With The Wind." They were Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and Atlanta. After the capture of Atlanta, Peter and the 26th Regiment took part in Sherman's well-known "March To The Sea," which culminated in the capture of Savannah, Georgia.

The Army turned north from Savannah and the sea. Peter saw action in the battle of Averasboro and Bentonville, North Carolina. On March 19, 1864, the war ended for Peter and his exhausted fellow soldiers.

The march through Georgia and the Carolinas was a terrible hardship for the soldiers on both sides. Bell Wiley states in an article, *Billy Yank and Johnny Reb in the Campaign for Atlanta*, "Early in June rain began to fall in North Georgia and for three weeks Rebs and Yanks were soaked almost every day.... When night came, they piled wood poles and brush on the ground to provide a solid base on which to spread their blankets; but when they waked in the morning they often were partially submerged in muddy water." A little later a Hoosier Lieutenant complained, "It has rained torrents every day until the roads were grown frightful. For three days and nights we were wet to the skin, not a dry article of clothing on us, each night our beds were the wet and muddy ground, without even fires, lest we should discover our position to the enemy. I never knew what hardship was before."

Bell Wiley goes on to state that the men had little opportunity to bathe or change clothes. They were infested with body lice, fleas, or chiggers and ants. One Illinois Yank wrote in June, "I am satisfied of one thing.... if my finger nails don't wear out, there'll be no flesh on my bones by Autumn."

In February, 1865, after the capture of Savannah, Peter and his comrades marched through the swampy lowlands of the Carolinas, cut by many

rivers. In rainy weather the roads were almost impassable, and the streams they had to ford were swollen. Peter's health was affected by these harsh conditions and his body eventually was wracked with rheumatism.

Howard Heck had a great grandfather on his mother's side, Nicholas Kardong, who was in a Minnesota regiment that also took part in the "March To The Sea." He cannot help but wonder if their paths crossed during the campaign. They could not have known that their offspring, Joseph Heck and Frances Kardong, fifty-five years later, would marry.

With the War now over, Peter's regiment marched on to Washington, D.C. According to Henry Elsner, Peter's company commander, "Peter was sent to the regimental hospital after the Battle of Bentonville because of pains in his joints and chest, and stayed at said hospital until our arrival at Washington in June, 1865, where he was discharged. At the time of his discharge, he was broken down in his constitution and also disabled to do any manual labor." Henry Elsner wrote this in an affidavit on behalf of Peter's application for an invalid veteran's pension in 1889.

President Andrew Johnson ordered the Union Armies to stage a grand review through the heart of Washington, D.C. It took two full days for the estimated 150,000 troops to march past the cheering crowds that lined the parade route. For the tired veterans it was an experience they would never forget. It is entirely possible that Peter and his brother, Henry, had a joyous reunion in Washington, D.C. and looked forward to going home again, this time to stay.

Peter's regiment was mustered out of the service on June 13, 1865, the day it left Washington, D.C. The men were paid a bounty of twenty-five dollars. They arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 17. The returning heroes marched through town past enthusiastic crowds and proceeded to the Turner Hall where a splendid banquet was prepared for them. Peter received seventy dollars, his last military pay, on June 29.

Peter did not have to search too far for a bride after his return home. He married Margaret Zeren, his step-sister. The marriage took place in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brighton, Wisconsin, on December 26, 1865. The new couple farmed in Brighton Township. Two children, Peter and John, were born to them while in Wisconsin.

The family moved to Minnesota in 1869 and took a homestead in West Newton Township, in Nicollet County, near St. George. The 1870 Census indicated that Margaret Baron, listed as a domestic servant, was living in the Heck household. Peter and Margaret must have had the means to hire help. They lived there for a number of years and also in New Ulm, Ridgley Township, and Renville County. They were living in the Village of Morgan, in Redwood County, at the time of Peter's death. Peter's rheumatism must have become more painful through the years. He applied for a Veteran's disability pension in 1882. His application stated that, "because of constant exposure during Sherman's march through Georgia he contracted rheumatism, which settled in his chest and caused him great pain in his left chest, and very frequently rendered him incapable to work." Peter's brother-in-law, William Dorn, signed an Affidavit in 1883 in support of Peter's application for a disability pension.

The family was living in a rented house in Morgan. Peter probably could no longer farm. Their sons, Vincent and Joseph, were still living at home and helped to support their parents. Vincent was a farm laborer and Joseph was a saloon keeper. Peter was still trying to receive a pension as late as 1889, and probably began to receive one shortly after that. He entered the Alexander Hospital in New Ulm, MN in January, 1900, and passed away April 6, 1900. The cause of death was "peritonic tuberculosis." He is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Fairfax, Minnesota.

Margaret was left with a few household items, no property, and no means of support. She did receive \$1,000 from an insurance policy but that was spent on Peter's hospital and doctor bills. She

moved to New Ulm and lived in an apartment house where a number of other widows lived. She subsisted on a veteran's widow's pension that paid only eight dollars a month. The pension had been increased to \$40 a month by the time of her death. She was a very generous person and tried to help others in need with whatever she could afford. She moved into the "Old Peoples Home" in the Loretto Hospital in New Ulm in May of 1931, and passed away there on February 12, 1933.

Howard Heck remembers he and his parents visiting his great grandmother about 1931. His parents wanted to show her their twins. She was happy to see all of the children, especially the twins.

The children of Peter Heck and Margaret Zeren were:

John, born December 25, 1866, Death record not found. Probably died as an infant.

Peter, born April 19, 1868, died October 16, 1896.

Philip, born July 30, 1869, died July 7, 1945. (This was the grandfather of Howard Heck.)

Vincent, born April 13, 1871, died February 21, 1946.

Joseph, born September 2, 1874, died May 26, 1946.

Lucy, born February 10, 1876, died February 1, 1895."

The editor of "Our Family News Letter" would like to thank Howard Heck for sharing this story about his great grandparents, and for allowing me to copy it from his excellent book on our family history.

"Our Family News Letter" is written and published by: **Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129,**
Phone (414) 421-7143. E-Mail address:
bheck@execpc.com and rjheck@aol.com

Special Thanks To The Recent Contributors To "Our Family News Letter"

I would like to say a special thank you to all of our contributors who have sent money during the Christmas season to help keep this news letter going. **Your kind words were especially appreciated.** As you probably know I have never charged anything for this news letter which I write and publish every quarter. I have always stated that I would continue to publish it as long as there was an interest and as long as you were willing to help out a little with the costs every now and then. I'm happy to say that with the generous contributions during the holidays we will be able to continue to provide the news letter for another year.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

to

**Bob & Lorraine Heck
Al & Bernice Heck
Marv & Joanne Pfeiffer
Jeff & Susan (Bark) Miller
Gary & Carol Heck
Clarence & Mary Heck
Dale & Corinne Wise
Cheryl A. Heck**

From the Photo Album...

The original picture on the upper right is badly faded and creased. It was found in a photo album from my dad, Robert G. Heck, tucked between the pages. I used computer enhancing to bring out the features of the figures. Shown are two brothers, Robert G. Heck and Clarence H. Heck. The picture taken during a baseball game and was probably taken in 1922 when Robert was 13 and Clarence was 17. The uniforms look different, so the brothers may have been on opposing teams. Both Robert and Clarence were excellent ball players. My dad often told me that his brother Clarence was asked to try out for a Major League team.



The picture above was taken in 1967 and shows the children of the John and Dolores Gibson family. Shown from left to right are John, Jamie, Rebecca, and Kathleen.

On the Internet?

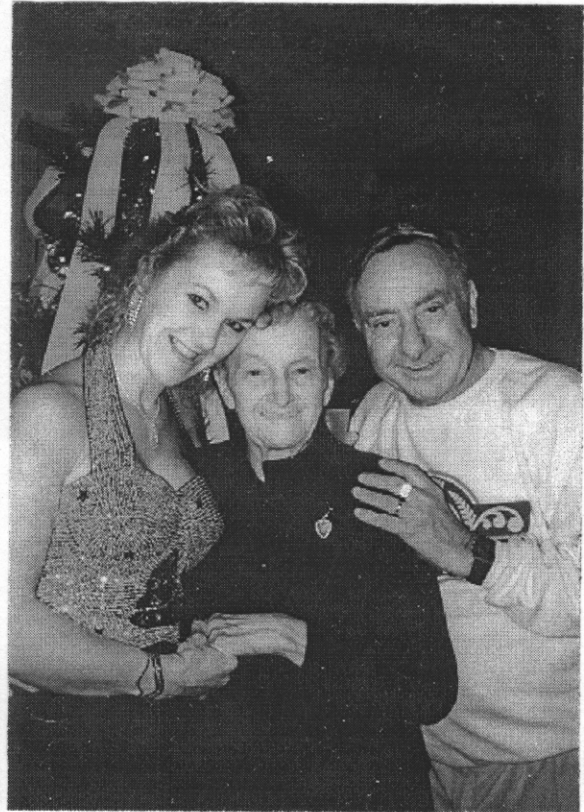
Check out my home page for a look at our family history. The address is:

<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>

More From The Photo Album....

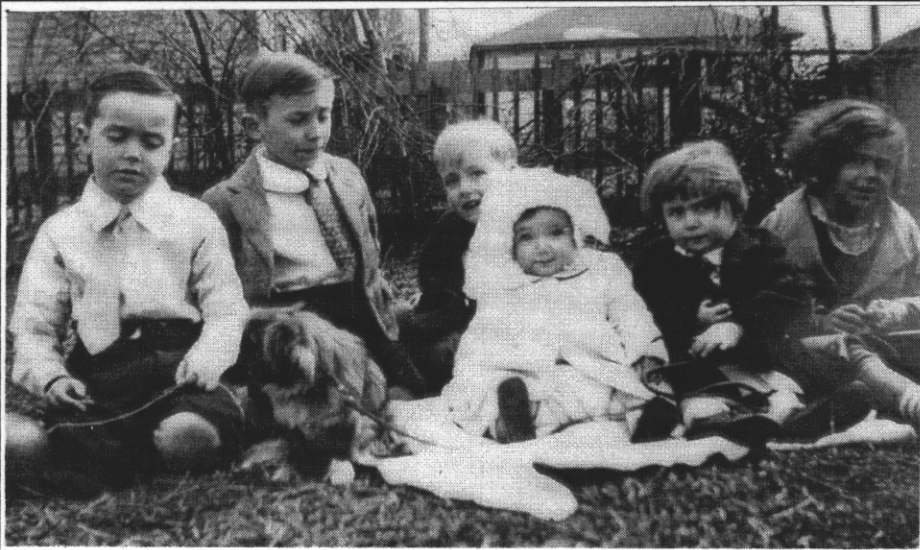


L-R: Robert, Clarence, and Alvin Heck about 1913 at Racine, Wisconsin.



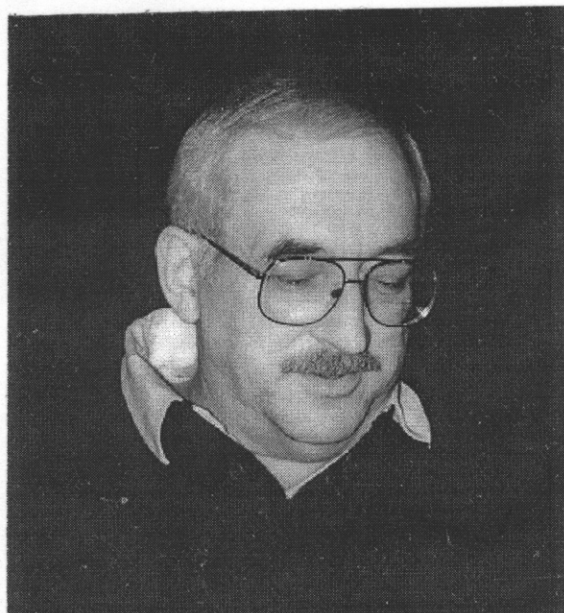
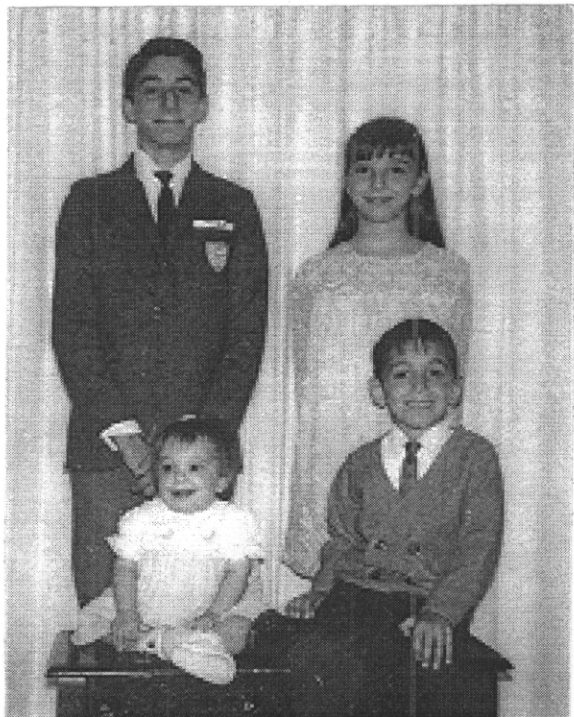
Surprise!!!

Marjorie Heck McGhee, daughter of Bob and Lorraine Heck and wife of Harlan McGhee surprised her parents this past Christmas when she popped out of a big decorated box next to the Christmas tree. Marjorie, who lives in California, had herself delivered in a large appliance box. Her sisters were in on the surprise and helped with the arrangements. Marjorie wasn't sure of how long she would be stuck in the box so she brought along an ample supply of Christmas cookies. She told us that she was in the box for about a half an hour. Above is a picture of Marjorie, her grandmother, Fanny and her father, Bob Heck from Florida. The photograph were sent in by Cheryl A. Heck.




Larry, Dick, Bob, Mary, Shirley, & Dolores Heck in 1942.

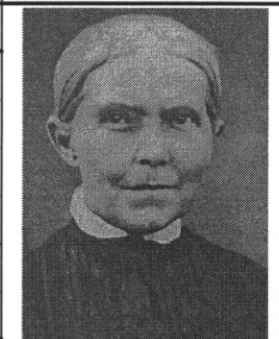
More From The Photo Album...




Clockwise from lower left: (1) PJ (Pamela Joan), & John, children of Cindy (Heck) and Dennis Landrum in 1989. (2) Jeanie, Steve, Lori, Danny, Ann & David Pfeiffer, children of Joanne (Heck) & Marv Pfeiffer, in 1965. (3) Rick, Barbara, Sherry, & Jim Heck, children of Cel & Dick Heck, in 1968. (4) Bill & Tracy Heck at Mercer Lake, WI in 1996. (5) Bob Heck, your editor, singing Christmas carols at the Heck Christmas party in December, 1996.


Family Group Record - 4


Husband Henry HECK-5			
Born	10 Feb 1839	Place Alendorf, Prussia	
Christened		Place	
Died	20 Feb 1920	Place Waterford, Racine Co., WI	
Buried		Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	
Married	16 Jan 1869	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI	
Husband's father	Johann HECK-1	MRIN: 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Husband's mother	Anna Barbara SCHAEFER-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deceased	

Wife Mary Ann MCNULTY-10			
Born	11 Mar 1844	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI	
Christened		Place	
Died	7 Apr 1912	Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	
Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem., Burlington, Racine Co., WI	
Wife's father	Peter MCNULTY-431	MRIN: 124 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deceased	
Wife's mother	Patience BURGESS-432	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deceased	

Children List each child in order of birth.






1	Sex M	James Henry HECK-13		
	Born	1 Nov 1869	Place Dover, Racine Co., WI	
	Christened		Place	
	Died	29 Sep 1943	Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	
	Buried		Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	
	Spouse	Wilhelmina C. HOERNEMANN-14	MRIN: 5	
	Married	2 Sep 1903	Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	

2	Sex F	Mary Ann HECK-33		
	Born	26 Feb 1871	Place Dover, Racine Co., WI	
	Christened		Place	
	Died	21 Jul 1943	Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI	
	Buried		Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	
	Spouse	Gustav GROSTUCK-32	MRIN: 12	
	Married		Place	

3	Sex M	John Peter HECK-34		
	Born	31 May 1874	Place Dover, Racine Co., WI	
	Christened		Place	
	Died	29 Nov 1936	Place Waterford, Racine Co., WI	
	Buried		Place Waterford, Racine Co., WI	
	Spouse	Anna KETTERHAGEN-35	MRIN: 13	
	Married	19 Oct 1897	Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI	

Prepared by Robert J. Heck	Address 4910 Steeple Drive
Phone (414) 421-7143	Greendale, WI
Date prepared 15 Feb 1997	53129

Family Group Record - 4

Husband Henry HECK-5																				
Wife Mary Ann MCNULTY-10																				
Children List each child in order of birth.																				
4	Sex M Mathias HECK-36	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Born</td> <td style="width: 20%;">9 Sep 1875</td> <td style="width: 65%;">Place Dover, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christened</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died</td> <td>21 Jan 1923</td> <td>Place Thompsonville, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buried</td> <td></td> <td>Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spouse</td> <td>Elizabeth GROSS-37</td> <td>MRIN: 14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> </table>	Born	9 Sep 1875	Place Dover, Racine Co., WI	Christened		Place	Died	21 Jan 1923	Place Thompsonville, Racine Co., WI	Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI	Spouse	Elizabeth GROSS-37	MRIN: 14	Married		Place
Born	9 Sep 1875	Place Dover, Racine Co., WI																		
Christened		Place																		
Died	21 Jan 1923	Place Thompsonville, Racine Co., WI																		
Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI																		
Spouse	Elizabeth GROSS-37	MRIN: 14																		
Married		Place																		
																				
5	Sex F Elizabeth A. HECK-39	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Born</td> <td style="width: 20%;">9 Dec 1877</td> <td style="width: 65%;">Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christened</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died</td> <td>7 Jan 1965</td> <td>Place Waterford, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buried</td> <td></td> <td>Place St. Thomas Cem, Waterford, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spouse</td> <td>Alfred PLUCKER-38</td> <td>MRIN: 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td>19 Nov 1907</td> <td>Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> </table>	Born	9 Dec 1877	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI	Christened		Place	Died	7 Jan 1965	Place Waterford, Racine Co., WI	Buried		Place St. Thomas Cem, Waterford, Racine Co., WI	Spouse	Alfred PLUCKER-38	MRIN: 15	Married	19 Nov 1907	Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI
Born	9 Dec 1877	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI																		
Christened		Place																		
Died	7 Jan 1965	Place Waterford, Racine Co., WI																		
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Spouse	Alfred PLUCKER-38	MRIN: 15																		
Married	19 Nov 1907	Place Burlington, Racine Co., WI																		
																				
6	Sex M Robert Steven HECK-40	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Born</td> <td style="width: 20%;">14 Dec 1879</td> <td style="width: 65%;">Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christened</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died</td> <td>16 May 1923</td> <td>Place Racine, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buried</td> <td></td> <td>Place Calvary Cem, Racine, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spouse</td> <td>Margaret Frederica HENNINGFELD-41</td> <td>MRIN: 16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td>15 Oct 1903</td> <td>Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI</td> </tr> </table>	Born	14 Dec 1879	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI	Christened		Place	Died	16 May 1923	Place Racine, Racine Co., WI	Buried		Place Calvary Cem, Racine, Racine Co., WI	Spouse	Margaret Frederica HENNINGFELD-41	MRIN: 16	Married	15 Oct 1903	Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI
Born	14 Dec 1879	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI																		
Christened		Place																		
Died	16 May 1923	Place Racine, Racine Co., WI																		
Buried		Place Calvary Cem, Racine, Racine Co., WI																		
Spouse	Margaret Frederica HENNINGFELD-41	MRIN: 16																		
Married	15 Oct 1903	Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI																		
																				
7	Sex F Eva Clara HECK-42	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Born</td> <td style="width: 20%;">19 Jan 1883</td> <td style="width: 65%;">Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christened</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died</td> <td>20 Jan 1948</td> <td>Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buried</td> <td></td> <td>Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spouse</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> </table>	Born	19 Jan 1883	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI	Christened		Place	Died	20 Jan 1948	Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI	Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI	Spouse			Married		Place
Born	19 Jan 1883	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI																		
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Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI																		
Spouse																				
Married		Place																		
																				
8	Sex M Laurence HECK-43	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Born</td> <td style="width: 20%;">3 Nov 1886</td> <td style="width: 65%;">Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christened</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Died</td> <td>12 Jul 1960</td> <td>Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buried</td> <td></td> <td>Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spouse</td> <td>Elvia UNKNOWN-44</td> <td>MRIN: 17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td></td> <td>Place</td> </tr> </table>	Born	3 Nov 1886	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI	Christened		Place	Died	12 Jul 1960	Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI	Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI	Spouse	Elvia UNKNOWN-44	MRIN: 17	Married		Place
Born	3 Nov 1886	Place Brighton, Kenosha Co., WI																		
Christened		Place																		
Died	12 Jul 1960	Place Milwaukee, Milwaukee Co., WI																		
Buried		Place St. Mary's Cem, Burlington, Racine Co., WI																		
Spouse	Elvia UNKNOWN-44	MRIN: 17																		
Married		Place																		
																				

This family group sheet of the Mary Ann McNulty and Henry Heck family was produced using a program called Ancestral Quest. The program is a Windows based program and works directly with PAF (Personal Ancestral File) data. The program has the capability of writing a book directly from your PAF data. The program is a commercial program and it can be found in larger computer software stores. The program allows scanned or digital photographs to be placed directly into the reports and charts. The program costs about \$39.00.