

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 19

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 1997

## Burial site of John Burgess and Hannah James discovered....

Thanks to some Internet research and with the help of some Connecticut genealogists, I was able to finally find the burial site of my great great great great grandparents, John Burgess and Hannah James. From past issues of Our Family News Letter you will recall that my brother and sister-in-law Don and Sharon Heck discovered a land sale record between John Burgess and his son Benajah Burgess on December 28, 1787. Don and Sharon were visiting their son Steven at Groton, Connecticut, and took some time to do a little research for me. Their trip took place in the Fall of 1994.

In October, 1996, I was on a business trip to Connecticut and was able to spend the weekend with Steve. We trudged through the cemeteries of Voluntown, Connecticut in a pouring rain looking for the graves of John Burgess and Hannah James. While we were unable to locate the graves we did have a lot of fun trying to read 200 year old tombstones. We were only eight miles away from the town of Sterling.

During the past month I was doing some research on the Internet and contacted the Connecticut Historical Society. I had asked them if they could help me locate the exact location of the John Burgess home in 1787 based on information given on the land record discovered by Don and Sharon. My hope was that if I could find the land I might then be able to find a nearby cemetery where they were buried. Following is the response that I got:

**Subj:** John Burgess burying place  
**Date:** 97-11-04 05:40:24 EST  
**From:** cthist@ix.netcom.com (CT Historical Society)

**To:** rjheck@aol.com

November 3, 1997

**To:** Robert Heck

**Dear Mr. Heck:**

*Thank you for letting us know of your interest in the place where John Burgess, who lived in Voluntown in the late 18th Century, is buried.*

*According to the Hale Index to Headstones in the State of Connecticut, John and Hannah Burgess are buried in Riverside Cemetery, which is located in the town center in Sterling, Ct. The inscriptions read "Hannah Burgess wife of John, died Aug. 1, 1786 aged 67 years," for John, there is the inscription "John Burgess, died April 4, 1796 age 8[last number is chipped off] years."*

*Sterling was incorporated from Voluntown in 1794, and both Benajah Burgess (sic) and Thomas Burgis are on a list of those admitted as freemen (citizens) of the new town at the first town meeting for Sterling June 9, 1794.*

*As to your land description, perhaps someone at the Sterling Historical Society could help you. I have no e-mail address for them, but the address is just Sterling, CT. 06373. The Voluntown town clerk's office should have those land records, but I do not know how much searching someone there will do.*

*The question is: are those lands now in the town of Sterling, which seems likely, given the information above. However, our earliest map of Sterling is 1869 and the names you gave are of no help there. There is, however, an old mill site listed on the Quadduck Brook.*

*I hope what information I could find will be of help. Good luck with those land descriptions.*

*Sincerely,*

*Martha H. Smart  
Reference Assistant Library  
The Connecticut Historical Society*

Just so you know how the Burgess line goes I'll repeat it here.

Thomas Burgess (1628-1717)  
Thomas Burgess (1668-1743)  
John Burgess (1711-1796) - Hannah James  
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- )

This information shed some new light on the Burgess family history. It establishes the date of death for both John Burgess and Hannah James Burgess. In addition it establishes a specific area where the family lived. This information also establishes that Benajah Burgess much later than our original estimates. It places Benajah in Connecticut in 1794. This may lead to the place of marriage for Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson.

We know that Benajah and Zilpha had three children born to them in Connecticut and that eight other children were born at Hoosick, New York. Benajah and Zilpha both died at Hoosick and are buried at the Walloomsac cemetery on Ed Cottrell's farm at North Hoosick, New York.

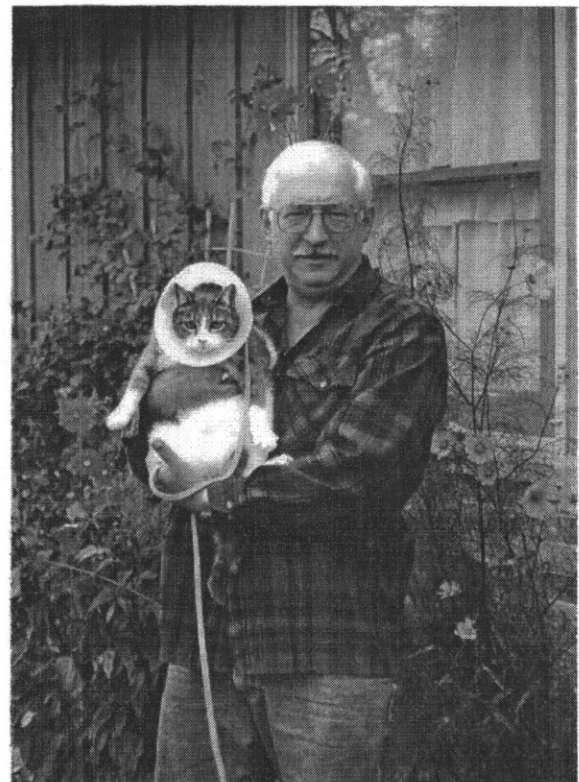
Benajah and Zilpha's son Benjamin Burgess was the first of the Burgess family to settle in Wisconsin in 1836.

I have asked Steve Heck if he could take some pictures of the tombstones at Sterling and of the town itself. I hope to publish them in the next issue of

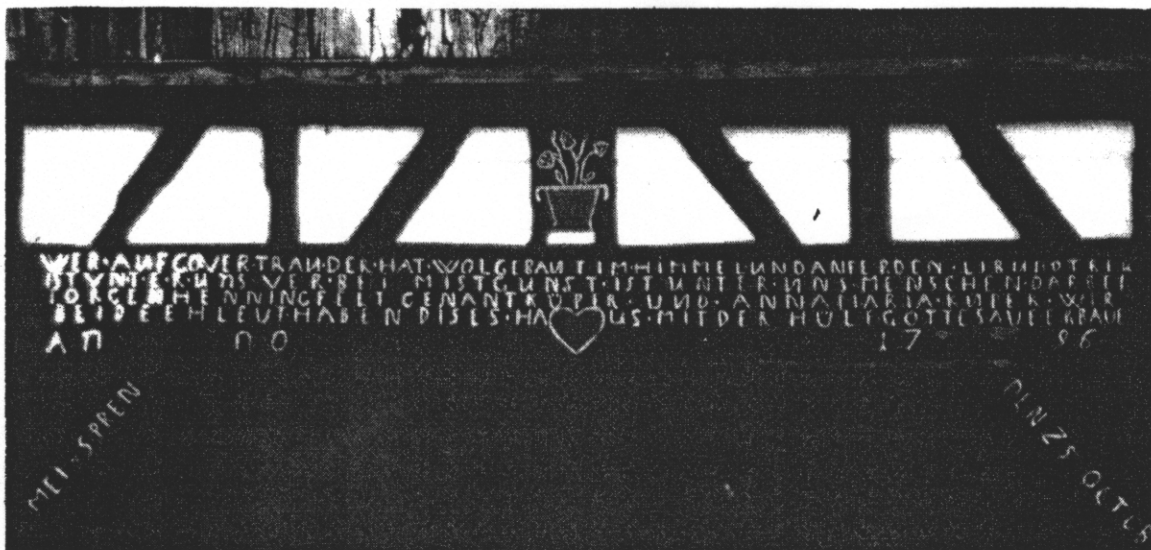
Our Family News Letter. I will also send a letter to the Sterling Historical Society to see if they can help us locate the actual location of the land owned by John Burgess over 200 years ago.

## Nikki Stung By Wasp...

This hardly seems like an appropriate topic for a news letter but many of our family members heard about our cat getting stung in the butt by a wasp so I thought I would enclose the following picture. The sting infected and Nikki ended up with \$370 worth of surgery to remove the infection that set in. She had to wear a collar for a week and the picture shows me holding a very frustrated cat. Her recovery went well especially when Gloria kept feeding her tuna. At the end of her ordeal Nikki ended up adding half a pound to her 11 pound plump and overfed figure. She received 15 stitches and now has a bald butt.



"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](mailto:bheck@execpc.com)  
<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>



## More Henningfeld Research...

I have created two new home pages for Henningfeld and Henningfield research on the Internet that you might find of interest. The URL addresses are as follows:

<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/hfeld97.html>

<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/hfeld97.htm>

The home page for the Heck family is located at

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

These pages list all of the descendants known to me of Johann Henrich Henningfeld. His children immigrated to America in 1845 and settled in the Racine County, Wisconsin area. One branch of the family took on the spelling of the name with a "field" at the end and the other branches retained the "feld" spelling.

My purpose in creating the home pages is so that we may share our research with that of other Henningfeld researchers around the world. I'm in contact by e-mail on the Internet with researchers from Washington State, Iowa, Berlin Germany, Munich, Germany, Henrichenburg, Germany, and a German research engineer from Venezuela.

The German engineer is Henning Henningfeld and he sent me some pictures of the Henningfeld home in Hattingen, Germany which is located near

Bochum. Hattingen is just a short distance from Henrichenburg. and not too far from Vinnum and Olfen.

Confused? Just remember that the Henningfeld family was found to be living in Henrichenburg in the late 1600's and through most of the 1700's. Our branch lived in Olfen and Vinnum in the later 1700's up until 1845 when the family moved to America. Franz Henningfeld, my great great grandfather, was the shoemaker at Vinnum in 1845, and in Waterford, Wisconsin that same year.

The wooden beam above the door on the Henningfeld home at Hattingen read "If you trust in God you will be well off in heaven and on earth. Love and faith is amongst us, over is envy amongst the people. Jorgen Henningfelt called Kuper and Anna Maria Kuper the two of us married have built this house with the help of God. 25 October 1796."

You will note that the third line on the photograph above contains the names Jorgen Henningfelt and Anna Maria Kuper. Henning Henningfeld photographed the beam when he was on vacation in Germany and sent it to me by e-mail on the Internet from Venezuela. Henning and I communicate with each other at least once a week on the Internet, and have been sharing information with each other for several years. We actually set up a mini net with the other Henningfeld researchers from around the world.

## Found Jacket....

A blue and green checkered jacket with a hood was found at Cel's home following a shower. If you own the jacket or know who does own the jacket, please contact Cel to claim it. (The \$250 in cash found in the left hand pocket will also need to be identified by serial numbers.)

## Christmas Party at the Leisure Center....

Dick and Cel Heck have asked that I include an announcement in Our Family News Letter that they will be hosting the annual Heck family Christmas party again at the Leisure Center in Racine on December 20, 1997, at 5:00 PM. Contact Cel for details.

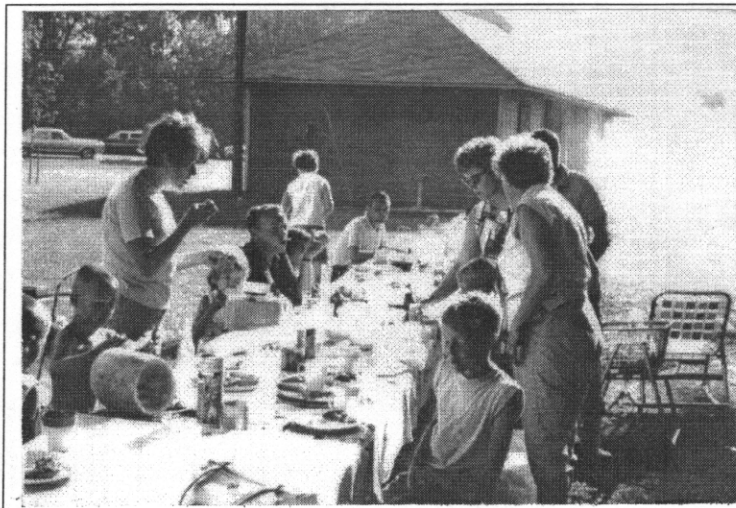
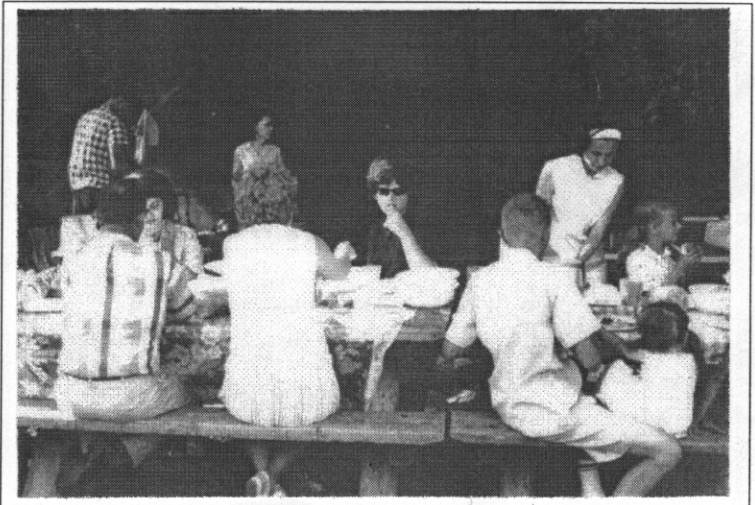
## 30 Year T-shirts Are A Fraud....

Remember the last Heck family picnic at Wind Point on July 20, 1997? Remember that we touted that picnic as the 30th consecutive family picnic and reunion? Remember that each branch of the family had a T-shirt of a different color with the words "30th Heck Picnic July 20, 1997"? Well friends, get out those magic markers and change the 30 to 31.

While Gloria was going through some old pictures in one of our albums, she discovered that we had attended a Heck family picnic at Lincoln Field on



July 17, 1966. Here are some of the pictures from that picnic.



Do any of you have any pictures of other Heck picnics? I have pictures from 1966, 1982, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997. I believe that I have movies from the 1970's, but no pictures of that era. If you have some pictures that you would be willing to share, please send them to me. I'll return the originals to you if you wish.

Send pictures to: Robert J. Heck  
4910 Steeple Dr.  
Greendale, WI 53129

## E-Mail from a "cousin"...

Following is an e-mail message from Todd and Linda Niepke from California.

Subject: Hi, Uncle Bob!  
Date: Tue, 11 Nov 1997 17:50:24 -0800  
From: "Todd M. Niepke"  
To: bheck@execpc.com

Just a short note to say "hi" via email. Hope this finds you well.

By way of introduction, here's my place in the "family tree": Todd Niepke, married to Linda Johnson, daughter of Marjorie Heck, daughter of Clarence Heck, etc., ....

I've been meaning to email you for quite some time. Marj lets us read each of the family newsletters you produce (great stuff!), and as I can I add information to the family archive I have on my computer at work.

I'm using Family Tree Maker version 4. Thanks to all your effort, Linda's side of the family tree is much more developed than mine! (Actually, between being a husband and dad I get very little time to devote to genealogy, but figure slow progress is better than none.)

I just created a single homepage on the Family Tree Maker website, at:  
<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/n/i/e/Todd-M-Niepke/>  
(it's not much, but I figure I can revise it later). I have a website on my computer at work, but it's on a company intranet that can't be accessed from outside. Maybe one day if we get a computer at home, I can move my website to an internet service provider.

As someone new to genealogical research, would you mind if I asked you for advice from time to time? For example, the only thing I know for sure about my great-grandfather, Gustave William Niepke, is that he died in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1969. Would the Social Security index,

then, be the place to start? Also, rather than typing in information from your newsletters, do you use an application/database that can export a GEDCOM file?

Well, this is rather long for an introduction! We're having dinner tonight with Marj and Don (Marj is a great cook :-), and I'd hate to be late! Please drop a note to the email address below when you have a chance.

God Bless,

--  
Todd M. Niepke  
todd.m.niepke@cpmx.saic.com  
Senior Scientist (310) 781-8683 (desk)  
SAIC/Torrance (310) 781-8501 (fax)

I was able to help Todd out on his quest for information on his great grandfather Gustave. I looked up the Social Security Death Index for him and found him, his wife and two of his children in New York state. I also sent Todd and Linda a GEDCOM copy of my entire data base by internet. That should keep them busy for a while since there are about 4,000 names in the base. I look forward to hearing from Todd and Linda as they fill me in on all of the dates and names of our California Cousins.

## John Burgess' grandfather...

Following is some new and somewhat unproven information on Thomas Burgess found on a Burgess home page on the Internet. The new items include Ellice Burgess (1), as the ancestor of Thomas Burgess (2). Also new is the listing of Thomas Burgess (4) as having served in the **Naraganset War of 1645**. I'll have to check and see if I can find a listing of his military service.

1. **THOMAS(4) BURGESS** [THOMAS(3) BURGESS, THOMAS(2), ELLICE(1)] was born Abt 1603 in , England, and died February 13, 1684/85 in Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts. He married **DOROTHY WAYNES** 1628 in Tansfield, England.

INFORMATION:

He is believed to have arrived in Salem, MA around 1630 and settled initially in Lynn. On 3 Jul 1637 he received land in Duxbury in the Plymouth Colony, but forfeited that land to move to Sandwich on Cape Cod.

In Sandwich he was one of the leading citizens--an original church member in 1638, a large landholder, and a holder of a number of offices in the community.

Possibly another child Ruth who married Richard Taylor of the Rock (He built his house near a large rock near the boundary between Hockanom and Nobscussetin the northeastern part of town, and called that to distinguish him from the Richard Taylor who was a tailor) This possible child of Thomas and Dorothy is not mentioned in his will or codicil.

#### **Military Service: Narraganset War 1645**

Marriage: Parish of Chester-le-Street, Tanfield, England 1628 to Dorothy (Waynes? - this is a question)

#### **Buried in Old Town Cemetery, Sandwich, Mass**

Children of Thomas Burgess and Dorothy Waynes are:

- i. **THOMAS BURGESS**, b. 1627, England; d. February 26, 1716/17, Newport, Newport, Rhode Island.
- ii. **JOHN BURGESS**, b. Abt 1629, , England; d. 1701, Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts.
- iii. **ELIZABETH BURGESS**, b. Abt 1631, Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts; d. September 26, 1717; m. EZRA PERRY, February 12, 1651/52, Barnstable, Sandwich, Massachusetts.
- iv. **JACOB BURGESS**, b. Abt 1633, Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts; d. March 17, 1718/19; m. MARY NYE, June 01, 1670, Barnstable, Sandwich, Massachusetts.
- v. **JOSEPH BURGESS**, b. 1638, Sandwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts; d. August 1695, Rochester, Plymouth, Massachusetts; m. PATIENCE, September 1665, Barnstable, Sandwich, Massachusetts.
- vi. **RUTH BURGESS**, b. Abt 1645; d. June 22, 1693.

## **Meet some new cousins...**

Welcome to Carolyn Biehn Caflisch and her brother Donald R. Biehn from Galveston, Texas. Carolyn, wife of Dr. Carlton R. Caflisch, is an avid genealogist who is a descendant of Benjamin Burgess. The line of descendency for Carolyn and Donald is as follows:

### **Benjamin Burgess - Rebecca Chase**

**Alonzo Burgess**

**Carrie Burgess**

**Alma Cook**

**Roy F. Biehn**

**Carolyn and Donald Biehn**

Below is a picture of Carolyn and Donald at the Old Town Cemetery at Sandwich, Massachusetts, standing behind the tombstones of Thomas Burgess and Dorothy Waynes. Part of the inscriptions on the tombstones follows:

*"Thomas Burgess Born in England, settled in 1637 in that part of Sandwich now called Sagamore, dyed Feb Ye 13, 1685 aged 82 years."*

*"Dorothy, widow of Thomas Burgess dyed Feb Ye 27, 1687."*

*"This stone erected in 1917 by Burgess descendants from broken original."*



## The History Of "Taps"...

It began in 1862, during the Civil War, when a Union Army officer, Robert Ellicombe, was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of this strip of land.

During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. The captain decided to bring back the man for medical attention.

Crawling through the gunfire, he reached the soldier and pulled him back toward his encampment. When the captain reached his own lines, he discovered it was a dead Confederate soldier.

The captain lit a lantern, and went numb with shock. It was his son. The young man had been studying music in the South when the war broke out, and without telling his father, he had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The next morning, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a military burial, despite the young man's enemy status. The captain's request was partially granted.

He asked if he could have a group of army band members play a dirge for his son at the funeral. His request was refused since the soldier was a Confederate. Out of respect for the captain, they said they could loan him one musician. He chose the bugler. The captain asked him to play a series of musical notes found in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted. That music was the bugle melody we now know as "Taps."

### Bob & Lorraine Heck launch new boat...

As a result of too many parties, Bob and Lorraine wore out their old boat down in Ft. Myers, FL. The good news is that they got a new one and are now ready for the flood of "snow birds" from Wisconsin. The new craft was christened, "The Sweet Lorraine." Reservations can be made by calling Bob at (@!#) \$%^ - &\*@%.....

### Bill Heck scores a rare Double-Eagle...

The following article appeared in "The Journal Times" on September 10, 1997. Bill is the son of Bob and Gloria Heck.

## LOCALLY

### GOLF

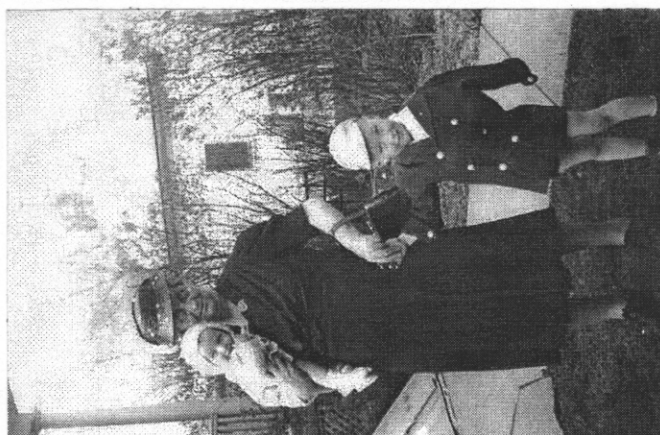
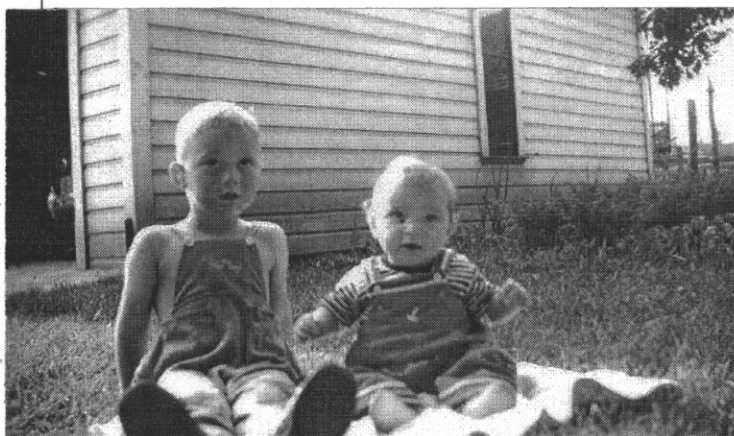
*William Heck of Franklin recorded a rare double-eagle last Wednesday, Sept. 3, at H. F. Johnson Park Golf Course. Heck used a driver and a 5-iron for the two on the par-5, 514-yard eighth hole. The ground was dry and there was a strong tail wind, said his playing partner, George Organ of Racine.*

### From the photo album....



Entering the Village of Vinnum, Germany, the ancestral home of the Henningfeld family in 1845. Franz Henningfeld was the shoemaker in the village located south of Olfen, county of Coesfeld.

**More from the photo album....**



Starting clockwise from lower left: (1) Margaret Henningfeld Heck and son Robert G. Heck. (2) Mary Mikel Heck about 1937. (3) Robert G. Heck and son Bob (me) in March, 1941. (4) Gary & Bob Heck in June, 1941 (Bob is the good looking one at right). (5) Mary and Bob Heck with Don, Gary and Bob in 1950. (6) Margaret Henningfeld Heck with Bob and Gary Heck. (Gary had his arm in a sling because of a broken collar bone.)