

Our Family News Letter

Issue 21

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 1998

Bob Heck Retires!!!

Family Historian states that work is starting to interfere with his family history research.

Yep, the time has finally come for me to retire. On May 22, 1998, I retired from Cooper Power Systems Company where I have been employed for the past 31 years. For the last 15 years I have been the Manager of Quality Assurance for the company. Prior to that I was the Manager of Manufacturing Engineering, Chief Test Engineer, and Senior Product Development Engineer.

Gloria and I will be having a lot of fun since she agreed to take up golf and I agreed to try my hand at gardening. Gloria has been watching Tiger Woods on TV for the past several months and since golf looked so easy has decided to take it up herself. Watch out Don, here she comes.

I bought a new set of golf clubs for her and on her first swing in our back yard, she cut a divot that measured 10 inches long by 4 inches wide. After she replaced the divot she stated that maybe we should try this at the park. I told her just to make sure that the practice ball was placed on top of a dandelion.

As I was cleaning out my desk at work I found a few old pictures taken in 1967 when I started working for Cooper. Back then the company was known as McGraw-Edison Power Systems. I still recall telling Gloria that I would only stay at McGraw-Edison for three years. I guess I missed my estimate by a few years or so.

My fishing rods are fitted with new line and I'm ready to start teaching worms how to swim.

Dollendorf during the 1st World War

After the trouble of the 19th century, the beginning of the 20th century brought a change for the better. The economic situation improved due to higher agricultural yields from using fertilizer and increasing use of machinery. Also the long awaited building of the Ahr Valley railroad helped this change.

Soon came a set setback however, with the outburst of the 1st world war. Pastor Bartels reports on the beginning of the war in the Parish chronicle. "At the beginning of the big war in the year 1914, men and adolescents ardently took up arms. The parish members remaining at home provided the combat soldiers willingly with provisions and delivered to the treasury gold coins in the value of 10,000 Marks and accumulated a considerable amount for the care of the wounded. They stood by their fatherland in its highest distress"

After the original enthusiasm, the people soon learned the full severity of the war. More and more death notices came from the fronts in the East and West. Also life on the home front was harder.

Pastor Holter, who came to Dollendorf in Feb. 1916, recorded in the parish chronicle "During the celebration of my installation, the muffled boom of the canons could be heard from the terrible struggle at Verdun. The war was depressing for all in the Eifel. Women, girls, children and elderly had to do the hard field work. The government only allowed a farmer to keep a part of the grain and other produce, all the rest went to the general war effort, at a price set very low by the government. This was recorded and kept track of by the police. For offenses, serious penalties were the result. No wonder, that a mood of discouragement and resentment took hold, and all

wished that the war would come to an end. At the end of the war, all felt a sigh of relief, despite the connected humiliation and shame. Foreign troops entered the region. The Americans moved through Dollendorf.

Many Dollendorfers were killed in the war from 1914-1918 or remained missing. After the end of the war, as was recorded in the Parish Chronicle, "the residents of Dollendorf wished to erect a war memorial". Among the possible sites to erect it were on Lindenkreuz and near the church. The agreed on site was at the church. The memorial was designed by architect Mittler from Obermendig and in 1925 dedicated. Under the picture of soldiers, the names of the 28 dead or missing from the 1st world war:

Krebs, Fr. Georg,	†23. 8.1914
Jehnen Ludwig,	†17. 9.1916
Bonzelet Heinr,	†30. 8.1914
Langen Michael,	†20. 9.1916
Pick Wilhelm,	† 8. 9.1914
Krämer Johann,	†26. 9.1916
Kettges Wilhelm,	†10. 9.1914
Gierden Joh Peter,	†30. 3.1917
Schumacher Peter,	†14. 9.1914
Klinkhammer Franz,	†30. 5.1917
Krebs Hubert,	†23. 9.1914
Pick Franz,	† 9. 6.1917
Mies Johann,	†14. 5.1915
Bonzelet Peter,	† 4.10.1917
Pick Josef,	†16. 6.1915
Bürling Josef,	†30.11.1917
Krebs Josef,	†15. 9.1915
Oeliger Heinrich,	†16. 5.1918
Peetz Kornelius,	† 3.11.1915
Reetz Johann,	†29. 5.1918
Oeliger Peter Fr.,	†15. 2.1916
Schomers Hubert,	† 2. 6.1918
Rheintges Franz,	†25. 2.1916
Caspers Johann,	†12.10.1918
Hutsch Jakob,	† 6. 6.1916
Koch Franz,	†14.10.1918
Krebs Matth,	†16. 9.1916
Mahlberg Wilhelm,	† 6.11.1918

Shortly after the end of the 1st World War, the ge-meinde Dollendorf was lit with electrical lights,

and got water mains and sewers. The connection to electricity was completed in 1921-22, water and sewer from 1923-1925. The installation was financed to a large part by a special grant from the gemeindewald.

In the year 1934, by the ordinance 4287/34, the Prussian Ministers of the Interior split of the municipality of Dollendorf, which had included Dollendorf, Schloßtal, Ahrhütte rechts der Ahr, Dollendorfer Mühle, Ripsdorf, **Alendorf, Waldorf,** Nonnenback, Hüngersdorf, Vellerhof, Ahrmühle and Ripsdorfer Mühle, and added them to the Bürgermeisterei Blankenheim & Lommersdorf, become the Amt Blankenheim.

The names listed in **bold** print are names that can be found in our Heck family history. Alendorf, Germany is very close to Dollendorf. Dollendorf is the site of civil registration of vital records for Alendorf.

The above history of The Eifel area of Germany can be found on the following web page on the Internet:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cotter>

Photographs of Alendorf and of Johann Heck, my great great grandfather, can be found on the following home page:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cotter/eifel/photos.htm>

I have contributed some of the photographs on the home page along with most of my research on the **Heck, Hutsch, Caspers, and Schaefer** families. If you have Internet access, be sure to visit this world wide collection of information on our family roots from the Eifel Mountain area of Germany. Visit the home page often and look for updates.

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Emigration from Dollendorf

The significance of the following article from the Hoffmann book is that it indicates that the port of Antwerp, Belgium was the usual port of debarkation for America for those who lived in the Dollendorf area. We have not been able to locate the ships passenger list for May, 1852, which listed the Johann Heck family. We may have been looking in the wrong port. Additional research will now concentrate on the port of Antwerp. (Editor)

(From Wilfred Hoffmann's book, "Hoffman Family Line")

"Permit me to quote a paragraph in a letter I received from Germany from a citizen who lives where our ancestors, the Hoffmann's and Klinkhammers, had lived when they emigrated to the New World - Dollendorf."

Mr. Bernd Michels writes:

"During the middle of the nineteenth century (1830-1880) many of the citizens of Dollendorf elected to emigrate. The count of all emigrants leaving Dollendorf from 1830-1880 was at least 200 persons. The reason was the poor living conditions of the citizens which had not improved from the last century.

The population of the town could not be supported, due in part to the fact that no industry had been established because materials to support industry were not available.

Those who chose to emigrate had to sell their possessions to obtain money to pay their expensive passage fares to America. Many times they were betrayed or cheated by unscrupulous agents in the prices they received for these possessions and in the fares charged for their passage. Because of this, some arrived in America almost penniless.

A Father Nicholai arranged at that time for many families, who had already sold everything, **to make their way to Antwerp in Belgium in order to**

board ship to America. When they arrived in Antwerp many had to come back to Dollendorf because the ship had already left port and they heard nothing from the ship's agent. Of those that returned, only a very few were assured or were able to eke out an existence. Many became sick and died.

Because of the immigration laws in Germany, they were not permitted to remain in the country and therefore migrated from place to place; not only single persons but entire families with up to five and six members were migrating around. To very many, their single thought was to get to America.

There are locations in Dollendorf that have been renamed after residents who lived in those neighborhoods or on those streets, who had emigrated to America."

Bad times on the Upper Ahr

(From the Chronicle of the Burgermeister of Dollendorf, written in 1845.)

Potato disease was the cause

by Dr. Hermann Bungartz, translated by Pat Cotter

"In Ireland one thinks of the years in the middle of the century, of the suffering of the famine that the residents of the Island endured for over a decade. The cause was first observed in early summer 1845, first in Flanders and Normandy when the blight of the potatoes spread through the ground and the potatoes became inedible.

The disease spread swiftly to other countries. The worst was felt in Ireland. Here the result was disastrous: countless died in the famine, millions were forced to emigrate in order to escape the poverty. It is today clearer that the loss of a single food item can have such a bad effect on an entire population. But in the past times most people still got most of their nourishment from that one crop. In many Irish families they were on the table morning, noon and night.

Also in the district of the upper Ahr and in adjoining parts of the Eifel the potatoe blight appeared in

the late summer of 1845. The results here were not so catastrophic as in Ireland, but also to us the potato-sickness brought unending harm to many families, who were already lacking nourishment after suffering through a bad corn (grain) harvest."

The above article gives us some insight into what things were like when our ancestor, Johann Heck, lived near Dollendorf, Germany in the mid 1800's. (Editor)

The Descendants Of Theodor Hutsch

First Generation

1. **Theodor Hutsch(1)** was born at Alendorf, Germany in 1639. Theodor died Dec 13, 1718 Alendorf, Germany, at 79 years of age.

He married Magdalena about 1664. Magdalena was born about 1647. She died Apr 10, 1745 at Alendorf, Germany, at 97 years of age.

Theodor Hutsch and Magdalena had the following child:

+ 2 i. Stephan(2) Hutsch was born 1685.

Second Generation

2. **Stephan(2) Hutsch** [Theodor(1)] was born at Alendorf, Germany in 1685.

He married Anna Margareta Molitors at Alendorf, Germany, Jan 28, 1708. Anna was born in 1685/1688. Anna was the daughter of Johannes Molitors and Anna Schomers. Anna died in 1726 at 40 years of age.

Stephan Hutsch and Anna Margareta Molitors had the following children:

+ 3 i. Agidu(3) Hutsch was born Dec 15, 1713.

+ 4 ii. Arnulf Hutsch was born 1716.

Third Generation

3. **Agidu(3) Hutsch** [Stephan(2), Theodor(1)] was born at Alendorf, Germany on Dec 15, 1713.

He married Gertrud Haenen at Alendorf, Germany, on Jan 13, 1747. Gertrud was born about 1730. She was the daughter of Johann Joseph Haenen and Anna. Gertrud died Mar 18, 1751 at Alendorf, Germany, at 20 years of age.

Agidu Hutsch and Gertrud Haenen had the following child:

5 i. **Anna Maria(4) Hutsch** was born at Alendorf, Germany on Jan 3, 1748. Anna died Nov 8, 1820 at Alendorf, Germany, at 72 years of age. She married Theodor Hecken at Alendorf, Germany, on Feb 20, 1772. (See Theodor Hecken for the continuation of this line.)

This line of descent continues as follows:

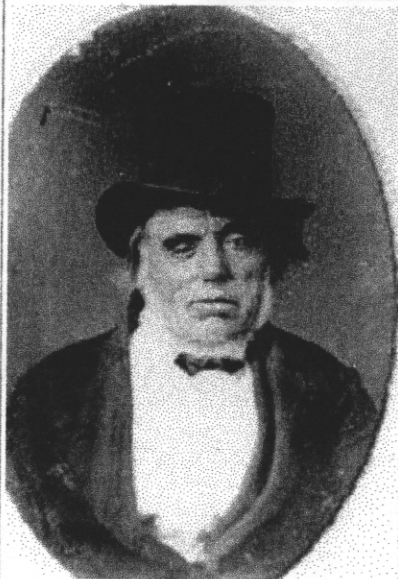
- 4 Theodor Hecken - **Anna Maria Hutsch**
- 5 Anna Lucia Heck - Johann Peter Schmitz
- 6 Johann Heck - Anna Barbara Schaefer
- 7 Henry Heck - Mary Ann McNulty
- 8 Robert S.Heck - Margaret Henningfeld
- 9 Robert G. Heck - Mary Ann Mikel
- 10 Robert J. Heck - Gloria J. LaBerge

The Hutschen House

The Hutschen House was built in the second half of the 1800's by Arnulf Hutsch from Alendorf, whose ancestors emigrated from the Pfalz to Dollendorf. Arnulf, brother of Agidu Hutsch, married into the Mullen house. His wife was Anna Mullen. Their son, Johann Bernard Hutsch, who was married to Maria Katharina Pick, built the Hutschen house on Weilerstrasse. He is also in the Katasterkarte of 1822 listed as it's owner. The year on the door of the Hutschen House is 1843.

The article on the Hutschen House was found on the Internet on the Dollendorf, Germany home page in the Eifel Mountain area of Germany. (Editor)

Photos From The Internet....



Joseph Klinkhammer

b. Feb 20, 1805 Dollendorf
emigrated 1854 to Brighton, Kenosha Co, WI
and then to Scott County MN.

The photographs on this page were found on the Internet on the home page of Dollendorf, Germany. The captions state: Above left - Alendorf, Germany, Above right - Heck home in Alendorf, where Johann Heck was born. Left - Johann Heck and 2nd wife, Susannah Sebenbrunner. These three photos were from Bob Heck, gr gr grandson of Johann Heck.

Photo at right is a picture of Alendorf.

Beer and ale drought hits England. Lee Heck not invited back.....

My niece, Lee Heck, just returned from a two week vacation in England. It was great to listen to her stories and to see all of her photographs. I just couldn't talk her into watching my eight hour movie of our trip to Europe. Oh well...

Lee and her friend Shelly tried to drink the country dry. Every type of ale under the British crown was given their taste test, and many had to be tasted a second and third time.

The picture below shows Lee with the Tower Bridge in the background. That bridge is located next to the Tower Of London which was built in the year 1066.



Now that you know where Lee went on her vacation, let me tell you a few things about her. Lee is the daughter of Gary Heck and Joan Auterman. She was born in Racine, Wisconsin in 19XX...
(Never tell the true age of a young lady.)

Lee and her older sister Cindy, were very active in sports in the Racine County area for many years. After Cindy moved to South Carolina, Lee

remained active in softball. To this day she still plays softball and can be seen on TV every once and awhile if her team does well.

Lee lives in Milwaukee and frequently calls on her Aunt Gloria to fill her in on all the latest gossip. I can usually hear Gloria cracking up at some of her stories.

Lee told us a story about her painting experience at her great grandparents home in Racine, Wisconsin, that I thought I would pass on to our readers.

About every two years our entire family would gather at Grandma and Grandpa Mikel's house on Hagerer Street to help paint the inside of their house. Everyone was busy painting inside and Lee, then age five, was told to stay outside and keep out of the way. Like any five year old, she wanted to help with the painting.

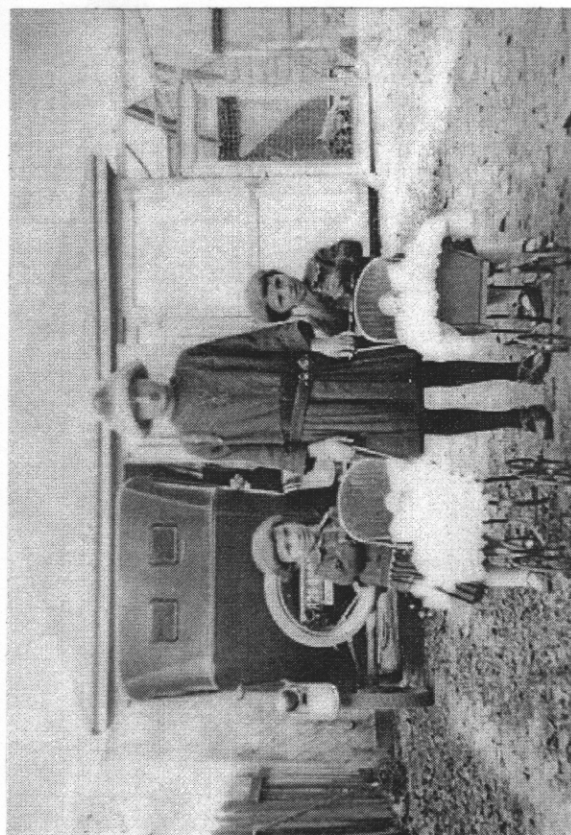
When the family finished with a bucket of paint, they would take the empty cans and old brushes outside, into the back yard. Lee seized the opportunity and took one of the buckets and brush and went to the front of the house and painted the no-parking sign at the street.

She was so proud of her work that she decided to paint the

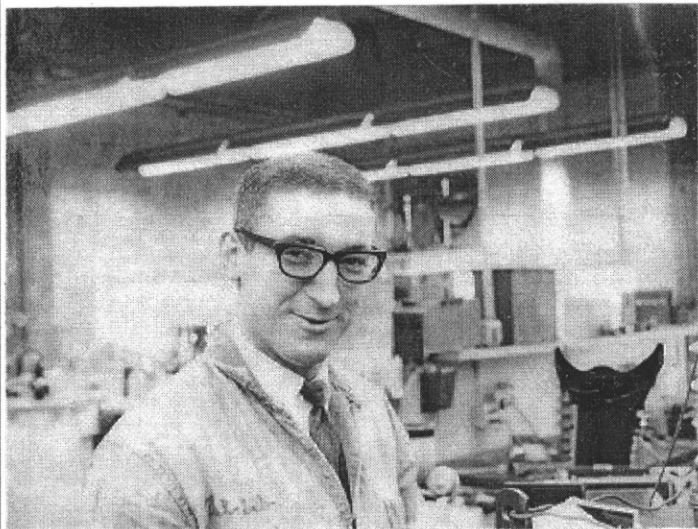
front door of the house also. She could only reach up a few feet so soon her great grandparents had the only two tone door on the block.

Her painting career ended abruptly when her dad, Gary Heck, found her putting the final touches on her work of art. I can't repeat his comments here but the King's English took on a new meaning.

From The Photo Album....



More From The Photo Album....



Previous page: Starting upper left, clockwise:

(1) Anna Pastrikova and her granddaughter, Mary Ann Mikel (Heck) in 1913 at Uhersky Brod, Czechoslovakia. (2) Mary Ann Mikel (Heck) with her twin sisters, Lydia and Tillie in 1923 at Racine, WI. (3) Second from left is Anna Pastrikova from Uhersky Brod. (4) L-R Erma Kristof, Mike Mikel and Mary Ann Mikel (Heck) about 1918.

This Page: (1) Bob Heck (me) in 1967 in the Kyle Test Laboratory. (2) Rudimov, Czechoslovakia, home of Anna Pastrikova. (3) Barney Stanitis, John Mikel, Robert G. Heck about 1944. (4) Gloria and Bob Heck with John and Anna Mikel on Mother's Day, 1968.

