

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 25

Greendale, Wisconsin

June, 1999

## **ATTENTION: Family members with e-mail addresses.**

If you have an e-mail address and would like to have your name added to "MyFamily" home page, just send me an e-mail message and I'll add you to our list.

The "MyFamily" home page is a new site that I set up which allows us to put pictures and genealogy information on line. At the present time it contains about 12 pictures of our family and my entire genealogy database. It also has a chat room so that you can chat with other members of our family.

Some of the pictures presently on the system include: The Clarence Heck children in 1942, The Robert G. Heck family in 1946, The Don Heck Family, Amy's Ultrasound, My 1957 Chevrolet in Pasadena in 1962, and the Heck & Henningfeld Family birthday party for Margaret Heck. If you want a copy of any of the pictures, you can simply right click your mouse and it will be saved on your computer.

In order to get on to "MyFamily" you have to be invited on by me. The system will automatically send you a user name and password. Only members of our family who have a password are allowed to enter the home page. This is a secure system, and outsiders are not allowed in. There is no charge for this service.

Once you are on "MyFamily" you can add your own pictures to the site or your own genealogy.

Several members of my genealogy group have tried this system and think it is great.

Send your e-mail address to:  
**bheck@execpc.com**

## **The Ancestry Of Thomas Burgess** **1602 - 1685**

*The following articles were found on the Internet on the Burgess Home Page, and are a discussion on the ancestry of Thomas Burgess. The articles indicate that some liberties may have been taken in establishing the place of birth and the ancestry of Thomas. The articles were written by Joseph Burgess and others.*

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"Thomas and Dorothy Burgess and their young family came from Cornwall, England in **about** 1630 and settled in Lynn or Salem, Massachusetts Bay Colony."

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The News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are appreciated. Our home page address is:

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All Burgess researchers have seen similar statements - and some have accepted part or all as fact. Our purpose in this article is to question the Cornwall origin, but first let us look briefly at the supposed arrival date of the Burgess family in New England."

"I do not know who was the first one responsible for the assertion that Thomas came to these shores about 1630, lived in Lynn or Salem, within Essex County, Mass., thence to Plymouth Colony with the Saugus (then part of Lynn) group. But there seems not an iota of documentary proof for the idea. My careful study shows no evidence that Thomas was ever of the Bay Colony, it is apparently just an example of those myths oft repeated, sans checking, by the copiests."

"These words are found in **Burgess Lineage**, a typescript prepared for a client in 1957-1958 by Winifred Lovering Holman Dodge, S.B., F.A.S.G., whose manuscript collection is now in the NEHGS Library in Boston. We consider her discussion of the early Burgess generations in this country to be the most authoritative and best documented we have seen."

"For the first chapter alone, devoted to the progenitor, Thomas Burgess or Burge, she reviewed nearly ninety references and cited many of them. The first official record for Thomas Burgess places him in Duxbury on 3 July 1637 and shortly thereafter he is found in Sandwich. Until we see an iota or two of documentary proof, we must consider any statement of Thomas' presence in New England much prior to this date as conjecture."

"For a time we too believed it very likely that Thomas was from Cornwall; we now consider it only a possibility."

"In the book, '**Ezra Perry of Sandwich, Mass.**' by Lydia B. (Phinney) Brownson and Maclean W. McLean, we found Elizabeth (Burges) Perry, born **probably** in or near Truro, Cornwall, England, about 1629, was the only daughter of Thomas and Dorothy Burges of Sandwich."

Benjamin F. Wilbour (also a descendant of Thomas and Dorothy Burgess), told Mrs. Dodge of his discovery of the Thomas Burgess and Dorothy Waynes marriage record and added, "In the Hartford Times someone tied him up to the Burgess family of Truro in Cornwall who had a Thos. bap. 1601... I think this very wrong, as people did not marry out of their class then, and "Goodman" Burgess who could not sign his name would hardly come from the gentry."

"Mr. Wilbour feels, as we do, that it is much more likely that our Thomas was the one who married Dorothy Waynes in York in 1628. However, there is no proof either way."

"Other cousins, in more recent correspondence, have observed that certainly our Thomas, who served the town in every office, humble or honorable, from road-surveyor to deputy to the Court at Plymouth and who was called a chief man of the town, must have been literate. They point out that because of age and other infirmities, many literate persons have signed their wills with a mark.

"Mrs. Dodge, in **Burgess Lineage**, gives us a copy of the will with unaltered orthography, with this caveat: 'This seems to be an imperfect COPY; it is from the official COPIES of the Plymouth Colony Wills, Mass. Archives, made from the volumes on file at Plymouth, Mass. In addition to the unaltered orthography, the version given us by Mrs. Dodge contains a significant difference: "Thomas Burg his T mark (seal)." We thus establish that not only did Thomas sign his will with his mark, but that his mark was not an "X" but a "T." At the time he "signed" his will, Thomas was over 80 years of age and his inability to then write his full name is not proof of illiteracy. To establish that fact, we must look at earlier documents bearing his mark."

Mrs. Dodge states, "It is entirely clear that neither Thomas or his son, Jacob[2] Burgess, were able to write, few could sign their names in that epoch." In her chapter on Thomas, she cites documents spanning a full thirty years before the date of Thomas' will. It will be noted that in each instance

where his mark is described, it is a "T."

\* 5 April 1654 - Thomas Burgis of Sandwidge sold land to Francis Allen of Sandwidge, acknowledged by Thomas Burgess seni[r] and Dorothy his wife before Myles Standish: "The marke of Tho T Burgis."

\* 27 Dec 1654 - Thomas Burgis of Sandwidge sold land to John Jenkens of Sandwidge: "Thomas Burgis mark."

\* 11 July 1667 - Thomas Burge witnessed, by mark, an Indian deed.

\* 28 May 1668 - An indenture between Thomas Burg and Edmond Freeman senr: "The mark of Thomas T Burg senior." Mrs. Dodge included a photocopy of a reduced photograph of this indenture, clearly showing Thomas' mark as a "T."

\* 4 Oct 1682 - Inventory of the estate of Mr. Edmond Freeman, late of Sandwich deceased: witnessed by the "Mark of Thomas Burge seni[r]."

\* 4 April 1684 - Will of Thomas Burg Sen[r]: "Thomas Burg his T mark."

"A genealogist at the Society of Genealogists pointed out the improbability of our Thomas being the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Pye) Burgess, noting that in the will of the latter Thomas, written 22 April 1626, his son Thomas was listed last of six sons who had not yet "accomplished the age of one and twenty," suggesting that he was the youngest, born probably not much before 1613 and quite likely several years later. This conclusion was supported by the 1620 Visitation of Truro, listing no Thomas among the children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Pye) Burgess.

Thomas died February 13, 1685 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., USA, at 82 years of age. His body was interred 1685 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., USA, Old Town Cemetery.

He married Dorothy Waynes in Tanfield, parish of Chester-le-Street, co. Durham, England,

1628. Dorothy was born circa 1608 in England. (Additional notes for Dorothy Waynes) She died 27 February 1686/87 in Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. She was buried in Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. She was named in Thomas Burgess's will dated 4 April 1684 in Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts.

In April 1964 Benjamin F. Wilbour wrote to Mrs. Frank R. Dodge (Winifred Lovering Holman): "I think I have discovered the marriage of Thomas Burgess, Goodman Burgess. From Paver's Marriage licenses in Yorkshire Archaeological Journal #20 Page 74 [1909]. 'Thomas Burges and Dorothy Waynes at Tanfield -There 1628.'" (His finding was published later that year in the "Register" (Oct. 1964)).

Dorothy was born 1603/05. Dorothy died February 27, 1687 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., USA, at 82 years of age. Her body was interred March 1687 in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., USA, Old Town Cemetery.

#### " BURGESS GENEALOGY

The origin of the name of Burgess will not admit of controversy. It is a title, civil or official. The inhabitant or representative of a Burgh or Borough is a Burgess. In England, the orthography of the name is well preserved, both in Church and State, and may easily be traced back for three or four centuries; but in this county (USA) it has been corrupted into Burghess, Burges, Burgis, Borgis, Burge, Burg. The ancestral line of Thomas in England and the date of his migration to this country (USA), cannot yet be ascertained with full confidence. It appears that he arrived in Salem with a young family not far from 1630, and lodged for a time at Lynn. A section of land was assigned to him, in that part of Plymouth called Duxbury, July 3, 1637. This section of land, being forfeited by his removal to Sandwich in the same year, was assigned to Nicholas Robbins, November 5, 1638, who made to the former occupant some remuneration for fences and culture. In the settlement of Sandwich, Thomas Burgess became associated with Edmund Freeman, Henry Feake,

Richard Chadwell, William Almy, Thomas Tupper, William Wood, Edward Dillingham, John Carman, George Knott, and Thomas Dexter. He was, a chief man of them. In the Church, instituted in 1638, under the pastoral care of William Leverich, he was an original member. In process of time he became a large landholder, and with advancing age he was called Goodman Burgess. He served the town in every office, humble or honorable, from road-surveyor to deputy to the Court at Plymouth, for several successive years. There is a charm in the fact that the patriarchal estate has never been alienated from the family."

"Benjamin, --the founder of the commercial house of Benjamin Burgess & Sons, Boston, --a lineal descendant of the sixth generation, held it in his possession, and in 1863, could point out the old cellar in which Thomas stored his fruits, and the bubbling fountain from which he drank for forty-eight years, --dying, February 13, 1685, aged eighty-two years. His grave was honored with a monumental slab, imported from England. This was the only monument, says Amos Otis, Esq., set up for any pilgrim of the first generation. Dorothy, his wife, died Feb. 27, 1687."

Thomas Burgess and Dorothy Waynes had the following children:

1. Thomas Burgess was born CIRCA 1628. *(This Thomas married Lydia Gaunt and was the line from which the Wisconsin Burgess family is descended. The line being Thomas and Dorothy, Thomas, Thomas, John, Benajah, Benjamin.)*

2. Elizabeth Burgess was born in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., about 1629. Elizabeth died September 26, 1717 at 88 years of age. Her body was interred in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., Old Town Cemetery.

3. John Burgess was born CIRCA 1631.

4. Jacob Burgess was born 1631/36.

5. Joseph Burgess was born in Sandwich, Barnstable Co., MA., 1637. Joseph was fined for selling

liquor to the Indians in 1659 and was employed to drill the Cavalry Company in 1660. He was a landholder in Sandwich in 1658 but was authorized to look abroad for land in 1667. Joseph sold his property in Sandwich to Richard Bourne in 1667 and removed to Rochester, Plymouth County, Massachusetts. Joseph was willed two lots by his father, Thomas, with the condition that he pay John (his brother) five pounds and on nonacceptance of these terms the lots were to go to Ezra Perry (his brother-in-law). Joseph died in Rochester.

*The conclusion from all of this is that the ancestry of Thomas Burgess 1602 - 1685, is not proven. Additional research is being done to determine the correct ancestry of Thomas.*

## The Henrichenburg Castle

*The following article was found on a German Internet site. Henrichenburg, Germany, was the ancestral home of our Henningfeld family in the late 1600's and early 1700's. Our branch of the Henningfeld family lived in Vinnum, near Olfen up until 1845, when the family emigrated to America. Henrichenburg is not far from Vinnum.*

"The Henrichenburg Castle was first mentioned in the year 1263. There was a knight called Arnold von Henrichenburg, who lived in the Henrichenburg Castle at this time. The castle was moated to be protected against sudden attacks from other knights. Henrichenburg played an important strategic role in this region, especially against the adjoining County of Mark which was well known for their warlike knights."



"During the following centuries the owners of the castle changed very often. The last owner was the princess Franziska Christine von Pfalz-Sulzbach."

"After the death of the Princess in the year 1776, the castle was left to the orphanage at Essen-Steele. Only one decade later, the castle was pulled down. The building was out of repair. Some material from the castle was used to build the farmhouse "Haus Henrichenburg" which was built adjacent to the old castle. The time passed by and the Henrichenburg Castle fell into oblivion."



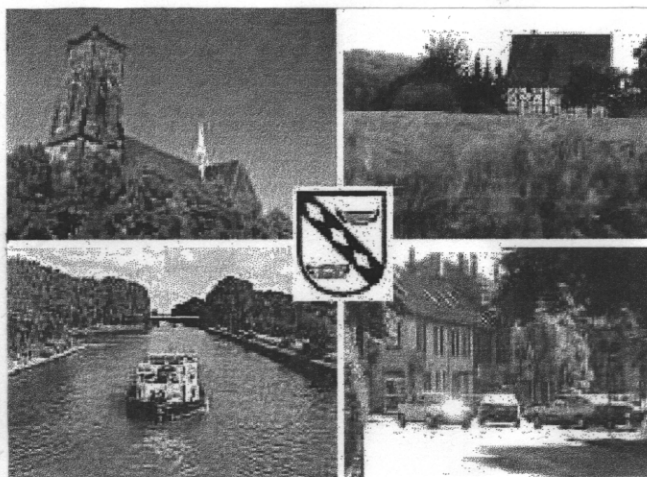
*Excavation of the Henrichenburg Castle*

"In 1994, some parts of an old foundation were discovered during construction work. Archaeologists investigated the find and they were sure: This is the old Henrichenburg Castle. The archaeologists examined the whole area and they made a lot of interesting finds."



*Old china found at Henrichenburg Castle*

They found old china from the 17th century, glass from Venice and even an iron glove from a knight. It was possible to reconstruct almost the complete water providing system of the medieval castle. Due to the very moist ground, all finds were very well preserved so that they are in an excellent condition today."



*Pictures from Henrichenburg today*

## HELP WANTED

If you would like to contribute stories, news articles, Internet findings, or family photographs to Our Family News Letter, please send them to me at the address shown on the front page of this newsletter.

Remember that this newsletter is free to any family member but also remember that it costs me \$150 per year to write it and send it out to you. I rely strictly on contributions from our readers to keep this newsletter going. Unfortunately, only a few of our readers are regular contributors. To them I am very thankful. The majority of our readers have never contributed, and some only once or twice in the past six years. If you are not interested in our family history, just drop me a line or send me an e-mail requesting that I remove your name from the distribution list. I presently send out about 55 copies every three months.

Your help in maintaining Our Family News Letter is **GREATLY** appreciated.



## **33rd annual** **Heck Family Picnic** **July 18, 1999**

On Sunday, July 18, 1999, we will again gather as a family to celebrate our heritage and to enjoy each other's company for the 33rd consecutive year. The picnic will be held at the Light House at Wind Point, near Racine, Wisconsin.

The events begin at 7:00 AM with breakfast at the Hammez restaurant located at the corner of High Street and Douglas Ave. in Racine. Golfers and non-golfers alike are invited to attend the breakfast which is a great way to start off the day.

Following breakfast, we will meet at Shoop's Park, overlooking beautiful Lake Michigan, to begin our annual golf tournament. You don't have to be good to golf in the tournament, and everyone is invited. Many of our golfers only golf once a year at our tournament but sure have a lot of fun. Everyone who golfs wins a prize. We also have special prizes for the longest drive, the longest putt, and closest to the hole. We throw in a few gimmick holes just to keep things fair.

The cost for golfing is \$5.00 plus green fees for 9 holes. The \$5.00 is used to pay for the fabulous gifts. You have heard of the coveted Green Jacket from the Masters, but have you ever seen the Blistering Red Jacket awarded to the top golfer at the

Heck picnic? Well there is one and it hangs in my closet today, just waiting to be awarded to the next winner. Will it be you?

If you're interested in golfing, please call Bob Heck at (414) 421-7143 in Greendale, or Don Heck at (414) 639-2124 in Racine.

We finish golfing by 11:30 AM, and then the fun begins at the Lighthouse at noon. Each family brings their own meat, soda, beer, lawn chairs, and a dish for the house. All of the extras are provided. Grills are set up, but if you have a portable gas grill, you might want to bring it along because there could be up to 100 steaks or brats going at the same time.

A whole series of games are planned for the kids and for the adults.

Family history books and photo albums are displayed so that you can look through them to see your ancestors or what you looked like at last years picnic. Don't worry, the weight will come off.

The cost of the picnic is \$5.00 per family which goes toward the rental fee for the lighthouse.

If you need more information about the picnic, call Cel Heck at (414) 639-5370 or 639-6064.

### **Did You Know....**

That Henry Heck was only 13 years old when he came to America in 1852?

## Here is a list of our subscribers...

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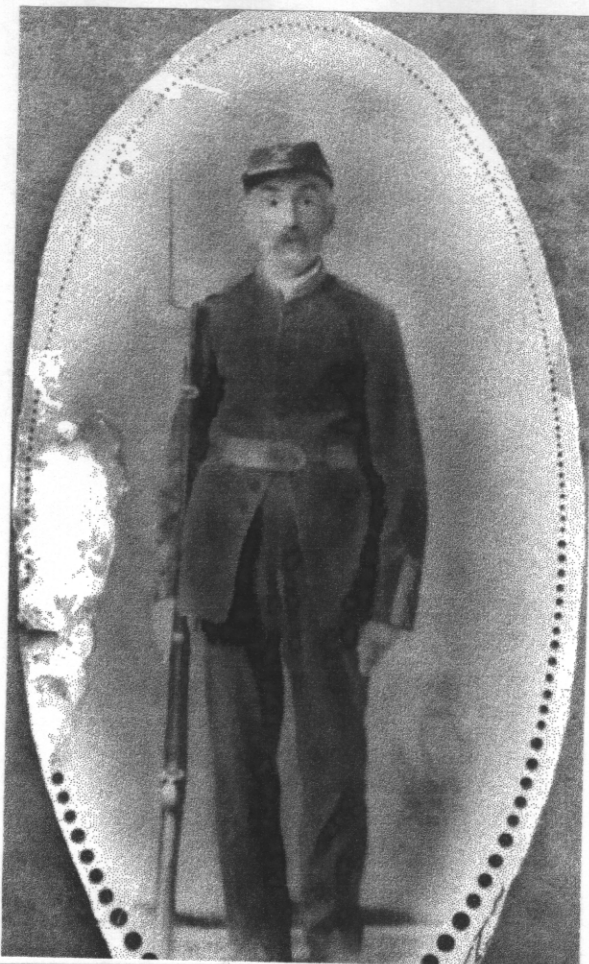
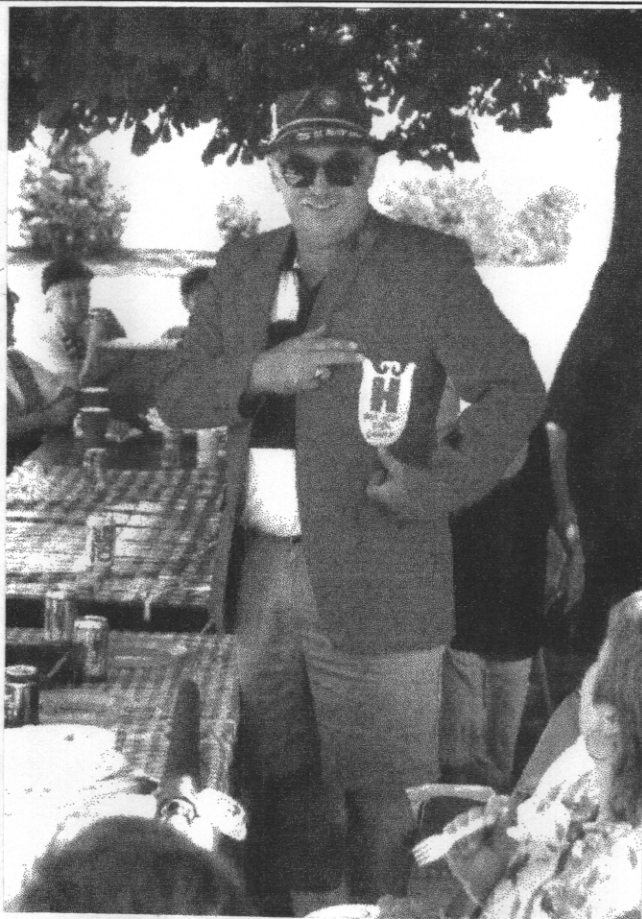
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## From the photo album....



Top: Don Heck in 1952, praying that someday he might own a red Miata. Bottom: June 29, 1935, Mary & Bob Heck with parents, John and Anna Mikel and Margaret Heck.

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



**Clockwise from upper left:** (1) Tillie Kriva, Mike, Lydia, Mary, Otilia, and Anna Mikel. Mary Mikel is Mary A. Heck. Taken in 1924. (2) Bob Heck wearing the coveted Red Jacket in 1998. (3) Henry Heck, taken sometime after 1865. (4) Gloria & Bob Heck with Aunt Eloise Mikel after a day of fishing at Walker, MN about 1972.