

Our Family News Letter

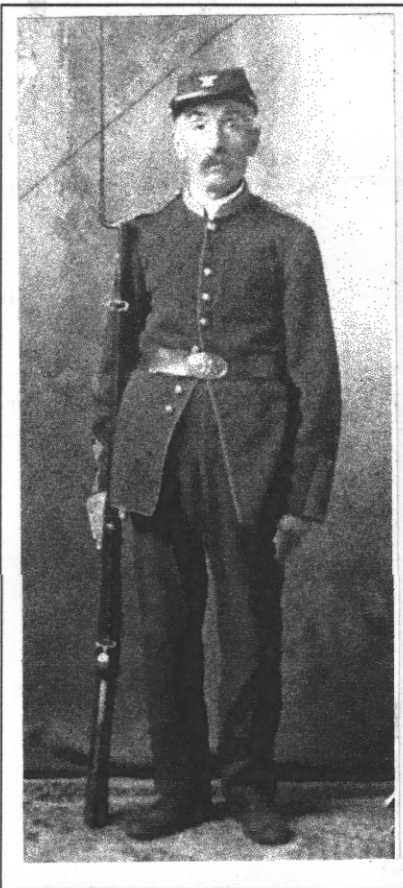
Issue 27

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 1999

The 19th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers

Henry Heck served in Company F of the 19th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers during the Civil War. Henry was wounded at the battle of Drewery's Bluff in 1864. The following regimental history is about the 19th Wisconsin.



Henry Heck, Company F,
19th Wisconsin Infantry

In November, 1861, Colonel Horace T. Sanders, of Racine, received from the War Department authority to organize an infantry regiment, to rendezvous at Racine. He commenced recruiting, but before his regiment was filled, a general order of February 21, 1862, abolished all "independent organizations", and the Nineteenth was placed on the footing of other volunteer regiments. It therefore moved to Camp Randall, Madison, where

its organization and muster into United States service was completed by the 30th of April, and it left the State on the 2d of June, 1862.

The organization of the regiment was commenced at Racine, but the War Department, having designated Camp Randall as a place of confinement of several hundred rebel prisoners captured at Fort Donaldson and Island No. 10, the Nineteenth being the only military organization in the State, was transferred from Racine to Madison, and employed as guards over these prisoners. This duty they continued to perform until the prisoners were sent to Chicago in May.

Leaving the State on the 2d of June, the Nineteenth reported at Washington on the 5th, when Colonel Sanders was ordered to move his regiment to Alexandria, and from thence to Fortress Monroe, where they arrived on the 8th, and went into camp at Hampton, Va. On the 17th, eight companies proceeded to Yorktown, on special service, from which they returned to Fortress Monroe, where they found orders to proceed immediately to Norfolk, and arrived there on the 29th of June. Here Colonel Sanders was appointed Provost Judge, and the Nineteenth was employed as Provost Guard, and as patrol for the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth. They remained at Norfolk until the 11th of April, 1863, when a detachment under Captain Sherff, marched out to the head of tide water on the

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west branch of Elizabeth River, and built some fortifications and about one and a half miles of rifle pits, working incessantly until the 14th, when orders came for them to move to Suffolk, which was then the extreme advance of the Union lines.

The regiment arrived there the next morning, and in the afternoon marched to Jerico Creek and encamped. About midnight four companies were ordered out and marched seven miles where they were put on picket and fatigue duty. Until the 21st, the regiment was employed at different points in constructing rifle pits, and corduroy roads, and other duties equally severe. For much of the time the men were without shelter at night, after working all day in the rain and mud. The men were kept incessantly at work for two weeks, at the hardest kind of fatigue duty, which, with the inclement weather, made sad havoc of the health of the regiment. On the 26th of April, the regiment was relieved from duty on the line of the river defenses and returned to Suffolk.

They remained at Suffolk until the 17th of June, when they marched to Norfolk, and the next day embarked for Yorktown and encamped near the fortifications. On the 25th, they proceeded up the river to West Point, remained there until the 8th of July, when they returned to Yorktown and engaged in garrison duty until the middle of August. Then they moved to Newport News, where they remained until the 8th of October, when they embarked for Newbern, N.C., then in position of our forces, where they arrived on the 11th of October. Here the regiment was assigned to outpost and picket duty, Company A, being stationed at Evan's Mills, eight miles from Newbern, a fortified position consisting of an earthwork and blockhouse, with one piece of artillery. Company B, was placed on duty two miles from Newbern, with two pieces of artillery. The other companies were quartered in barracks on the south side of the Trent River, half a mile from the town. Lieutenant Colonel Strong was placed in command of the defenses on that side of the river.

The enemy made an attack on Newbern about the 1st of February, 1864. The assault on the defenses

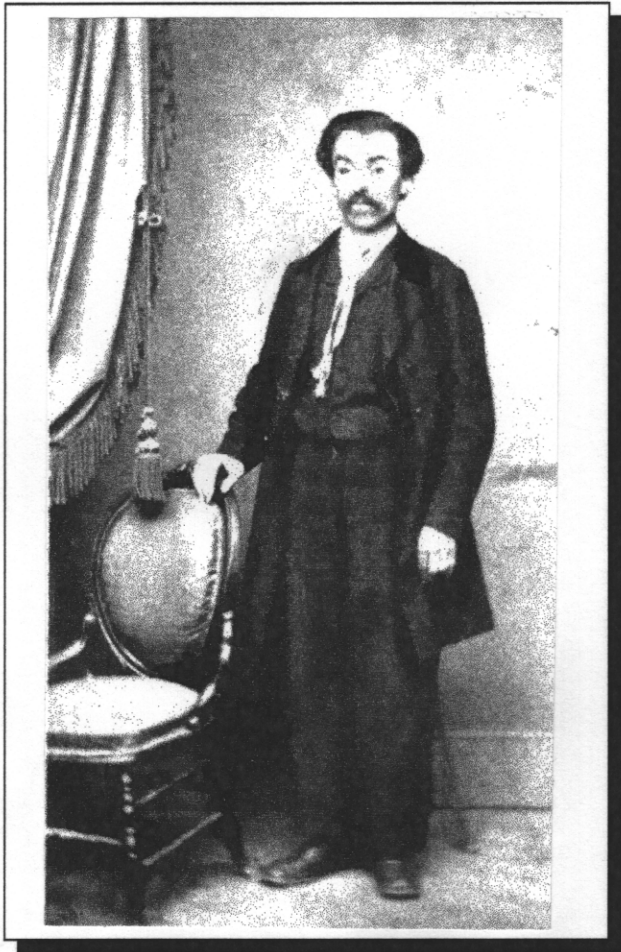
south of the Trent was successfully repulsed by the portion of the Nineteenth Regiment stationed there under Lieutenant Colonel Strong, assisted by a battery of artillery, and Captain York's command at Briar Creek. Company A, at Evan's Mills, was attacked by superior numbers, but they held their position until reinforcements arrived when the rebels abandoned their attack. The post at Havelock was abandoned, it being outflanked by the enemy and Company F was ordered to garrison Fort Spinola, and on the 20th, Company E was ordered to Fort Gaston on similar duty remaining until relieved by Company H, on the 28th of March.

On the 19th of April, a detachment of six companies was sent to reinforce the garrison at Plymouth, N.C., but that post was surrendered before reinforcements could reach them and the detachment returned on the 24th.

On the 26th of April, the regiment left Newbern, being ordered to report at Yorktown, VA. Landing at that point on the 28th, they were assigned to the third brigade, First Division, Eighteenth Army Corps. Colonel Sanders was placed in command of the brigade, Lieutenant Colonel Strong taking charge of the regiment. Leaving Yorktown on the 4th of May, they proceeded with the Eighteenth Army Corps, up the James River, and joined the army of the James, commanded by General Butler, and on the 6th, marched to Point of Rocks where they engaged in building fortifications until the 9th, when they took part in the movement to Walthall Junction, where our forces obtained possession of the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, and destroyed three miles of the track, returning to camp the next day.

On the 12th, taking part in the movement against Fort Darling, the right wing of the regiment, Companies A, C, D, E and F, were sent forward as skirmishers, covering the Third Brigade, where they remained all night. The left wing was engaged in picket duty. The lines were advanced next morning, and the right wing had six men wounded in a charge in a position in the front line. A general advance was made on the 14th, and the enemy's first line of works were successfully carried, the

detachment having five men wounded. The right wing was sent to occupy a road in the rear of Fort Jackson, where they were joined by the left wing of the regiment on the 15th.



Henry Heck at the time of the Civil War

Taking advantage of a dense fog on the morning of the 16th of May, the enemy massed his forces and made a furious assault upon the right of our advance line. Burnham and Hickman's brigades were compelled to yield to the overwhelming numbers, but not until they had poured in a deadly and withering fire. The right wing was broken and driven back. Colonel Sanders in command of the center took command of a regiment of his brigade and attempted the support of Ashby's battery on the Pike. Every horse in the battery was soon killed, and the enemy succeeded at last in capturing it. The balance of Sander's brigade retired to a strip of woods a half or three quarters of a mile to the rear and formed a new line, with it's right resting on the pike

near the Halfway House. This it did under a severe fire from the enemy, and with the assistance of Burnham's brigade, which had partially rallied, they succeeded in staying the enemy's progress on the right. This was done after a severe engagement in which the Nineteenth lost four killed and thirty-two wounded.

(Note: Henry Heck was one of the 32 men wounded during the battle on May 16, 1864. His military records stated that Henry "...was shot and severely wounded, the ball or bullet entering about in the center of his left leg below the knee and their passed down through his leg and came out below his ankle on the interior side, cutting some of the cords in the leg and injuring the ankle and the joint.)

In the evening they returned to the entrenched camp at Point of Rocks, where Companies B, C and I were detached for duty at General Butler's headquarters, the balance of the regiment engaging in picket duty until the 17th of June, when they accompanied an expedition to the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, where they destroyed three miles of track.

On the 20th of June the regiment was transferred to the Second Brigade of the Second Division, and subsequently accompanied the advance of General Grant's army upon Petersburg, occupying a position in the trenches before that place until the 30th, when they acted as part of the support of the Ninth Corps in the celebrated assault upon the enemy's works. After this they engaged in siege and fatigue duty in the trenches near New Market Race Course.

On the 13th of August, the reenlisted men of the regiment, 250 in number, were relieved from duty at the front, and left for Wisconsin, arriving at Madison on the 22d, where they received a furlough for thirty days. Reassembling, they again left the State on the 3d of October, for the front, and proceeded up the James River to Aiken's Landing, where they were assigned to the Third Brigade, First Division, Eighteenth Army Corps, and resumed their duties in the lines fronting Richmond.

(On October 12, 1864, Henry Heck returned to duty with the 19th Wisconsin, Company F, but was again transferred back to the base hospital on October 27, 1864, because of problems with his left leg. It appears that his Regiment was prepared to engage in another battle and Henry was in no condition to participate. Henry was granted a furlough to Racine, Wisconsin on October 28, 1864, in order to recover from his wounds. A Dr. Charles Muller from Racine wrote a deferment for Henry on January 7, 1865, and again on February 3, 1865. In the deferment he stated that Henry Heck was unable to travel or to return to his unit because of swelling of the ankle joint.)

On the 27th of October, 1864, with the division and a large portion of the Eighteenth Army Corps, the Nineteenth joined a reconnaissance in force. Leaving Camp at 5, A.M., with three days' rations, they took a northerly course, through a portion of White Oak Swamp and reached the old battlefield of Fair Oaks about 2 o'clock. The brigade in which the Nineteenth was located, was at once sent forward to charge a six gun fort, and in doing so, had to pass over an open plain three-fourths of a mile in width subject to withering cross fire as well as a direct one from the works they were charging. In crossing this open field or plain, one half of the brigade fell. The advance succeeded in reaching within one hundred yards of the fort but could get no further and as a protection, laid down in this position, and remained some two hours, vainly expecting supports to come to their assistance. About 5, A.M., the rebels charged out of their works and captured nearly the whole regiment. It went into the battle with 180 men and nine officers and lost 136 men and eight officers. The Adjutant General's records show 28 killed or died of wounds, 23 wounded, 3 officers captured. Ninety-one enlisted men were reported as missing, of which seventeen were killed or died of wounds and most of the others taken prisoner.

After the Battle of Fair Oaks, the remnant of the regiment, consisting of about eighty men, returned to camp at Chapin's farm, where they were joined by the non-veterans of the regiment, who had been

some time engaged in provost guard duty at Norfolk. From this time until the 2d of April, 1865, the regiment was engaged in picket duty on the lines in front of Richmond.

On the consolidation of the Tenth and Eighteenth Corps, the regiment was assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division of the Twenty-fourth Army Corps commanded by General Devens.

On the morning of the 3d of April, the Third Division was ordered to assault the enemy's works in front of Richmond about 8 o'clock A.M., Lieutenant Colonel Vaughn immediately planted the colors of the Regiment upon the City Hall, being the first regimental colors raised in the city by the conquering forces of the Union. The regiment was immediately placed on provost duty in the city and continued until the 28th of April, when it moved to Fredericksburg, Va., where it was on duty until the 24th of July, when it was ordered to Warrenton on provost duty, and remained until the 4th of August. It was then sent to Richmond where it was mustered out of service on the 9th, and on the same day, was ordered to report to the Chief Mustering Officer at Madison, Wis. The regiment arrived at Madison on the 15th, and was paid and received final discharge on the 27th of August, 1865.

Col. Sanders was brevetted Brigadier General for meritorious services. Regimental Statistics: Original Strength, 973. Gain: by recruitment in 1863, 26; 1864, 156; 1865, 5; by substitutes, 54; by draft, none; veteran reenlistments, 270; total 1,484. Loss: by death, 136; deserted, 46; transferred, 152; discharged, 345; mustered out, 805.

Quiner, Military History of Wisconsin, 1866

(On April 29, 1865, Henry Heck was honorably discharged from the service at Madison, Wisconsin. Henry was 22 years old when he enlisted and 25 when he was discharged. On January 16, 1869, at the age of 28, he was married to Mary Ann McNulty at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.)

From the Photo Album.....

Starting at right:

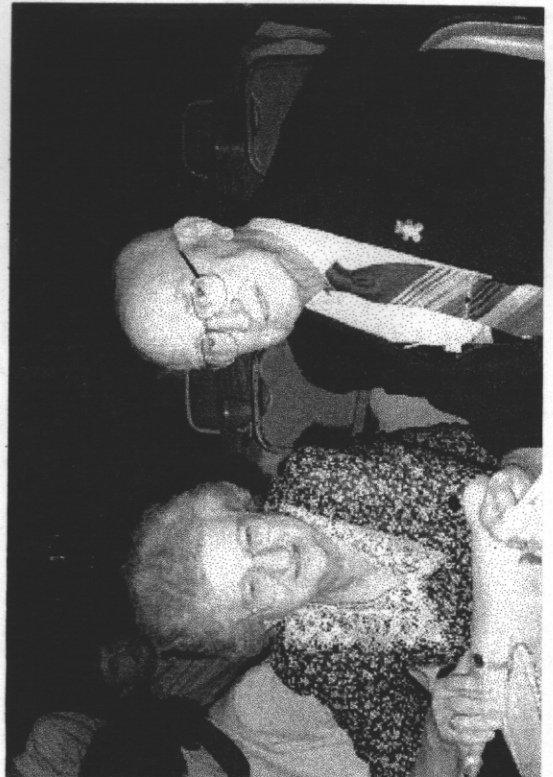
From left to right is Henry Heck, his sister Clara Heck Brunner, and Clara's husband, Vincent Brunner. The picture was taken in Minnesota in 1919 several months before Clara died. Henry died four months after Clara. This was probably the last picture taken of them.

Mary and Bob Heck. This picture was taken by Mary Kay Heck Hansen and was sent to me by e-mail.

A newspaper article from the Shoreline Leader from July 5, 1973, at Racine, Wisconsin



RETIRING --- Postman Ardell Johnson, right, retired last week but some of the people on his route (in the Jones Avenue area) did not let him go without giving him a farewell gift of \$70. Pictured with him on his last day are, front (left to right), Nancy Poisle, Nole Oertel; in back, Mrs. Robert Heck, Ida Schrader, Alderman Bob Heck; behind everyone are Gloria Heck, Bill Sieger, Herb Kruse and Bob Heck, Jr. Mrs. Schrader organized the gathering and the collection of money for the postman who made many friends during his many years (29) as a mailman. Johnson, 61, of 2126 Shoop St., said he and his wife plan to retire "out west somewhere in about a year." Heck described Johnson as "a fine man . . . everybody loves him, including the kids." (Tom Mainland Photo)



A Distant Cousin's Obituary

Arthur J. Brunner, 96, of Sauk Rapids, Minnesota died Friday, September 17, 1999 at the Good Shepherd Nursing Home in Sauk Rapids.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at St. Wendelin's Catholic Church, Luxemburg with burial in the church cemetery. A Parish prayers will be 7 p.m. Sunday.

He is survived by his daughters, Aieleen Paluch of Ivanhoe, Arleen Paluch of Lake Benton, LaVonne Lommel of Red Wing, son DuWayne of Luxemburg; 16 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren; brother Al Brunner of Cold Spring.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta in 1978; brothers Benedict, Norbert, Hilary and William; sisters Lucy Klingler, Leona Brunner, and Clara Brunner.

He was born Feb. 21, 1903 in New Ulm to Joseph and Apollonia (Schweiss) Brunner. He married Loretta Causin on Oct. 16, 1928 in Rhoda. He was employed for many years by the John Deere Company, working in Regal, Paynesville, St. Cloud and Little Falls facilities until retiring in 1965. He then moved to Luxemburg, where he was employed by St. Wendelin's Catholic Church and School as a Custodial Engineer. He lived in Regal from 1928-1943. He then moved to Luxemburg in 1965 and lived there until 1979. He returned to St. Cloud in 1979, and became a resident of Good Shepherd Nursing Home in 1993.

Editor's note: Joseph Brunner, father of Arthur Brunner, was the son of Clara Heck and Vincent Brunner. Clara Heck was the sister of Henry Heck.

*Johann Heck & Anna Barbara Schaefer
Clara Heck & Vincent Brunner
Joseph Brunner & Apollonia Schwiess
Arthur Brunner & Loretta Causin*

Howard W. Heck, from Minneapolis, wrote a book about "**The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany**" in 1991. Chapter 49, page 183 was about Arthur Brunner and Loretta Causin. and is quoted here:

"Arthur (Brunner) is the son of Joseph Brunner and Apollonia Schweiss. He was born on February 21, 1903, in Fairfax where he went to grade school. After school he worked on his Uncle Frank Altmann's farm. His family moved to Georgeville where he was employed by a farm implement dealer in the neighboring town of Regal. Art worked there for eleven years. He married Loretta Bernadine Causin on October 14, 1928, in Regal. Loretta was born on June 6, 1906, to William Causin and Alice O'Brian. Art and Loretta moved to Paynesville after their marriage and then to St. Cloud. They moved again to Little Falls, Minnesota, where he was employed as a farm implement salesman. Art retired in 1965, and they moved to Luxemburg, Minnesota. Loretta passed away on July 4, 1978, in Luxemburg. Art moved to St. Cloud in 1979, into a senior citizen's apartment, where he presently resides."

The children and grandchildren from this union were as follows:

1. DuWayne Francis Brunner
 - 1a. Steven Arthur Brunner
 - 1b. Mari Lee Brunner Freiberg
 - 1c. Patti Ann Brunner
 - 1d. Kim Marie Brunner
 - 1e. Michael Peter Brunner
 - 1f. Jeffery Brunner
2. Aileen Magdalene Brunner Paluch
 - 2a. Mark Eugene Paluch
 - 2b. Carol Ann Paluch Byer
 - 2c. Lauri Lee Paluch
 - 2d. Mary Beth Paluch
 - 2e. Janice Luella Paluch
3. Arleen Marie Brunner Paluch
 - 3a. Timothy Gerard Paluch
 - 3b. Dale Robert Paluch
 - 3c. Roger Paul Paluch
4. LaVonne Brunner Lommel
 - 4a. Thomas W. Lommel
 - 4b. Paul James Lommel

Welcome to a new long lost "cousin"...

Through the internet I met a new "cousin" named David Huston, from Rancho Cordova, California. David is a descendant from our BURGESS line as follows:

Benjamin Burgess & Rebecca Chase
Nehemiah Burgess & Sophia Woodman
Julia F. Burgess & Henry Richardson
Lewis Richardson & Hattie Mead
Sylvia Richardson & Elzy Huston
David Huston & Paula Eason

David was kind enough to share his family history with me. I'll be entering his data into the computer. If any other descendants of this branch of the family are interested in exchanging data with David, please write to him at:

David Huston
2360 Pinturo Way
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-5247

David Huston sent the following e-mail message:
His address is huston99@gateway.net

Hi Bob,
Received your newsletter. I was blown away by the photo's that were in it. I have only been researching our family tree for about a year and a half and checking with all my relatives have only been able to get the pictures that I sent to you. No one in the family had a photo of Henry and Julia Richardson. When I saw the family picture with all the children I was moved. My mother, who is 90, when I showed her the photo was so excited. She was 4 when Henry died so if she saw him she didn't remember. She knew Julia well and loved her a lot, she was aquatinted with most of Henry's children so this picture was real nice for her.

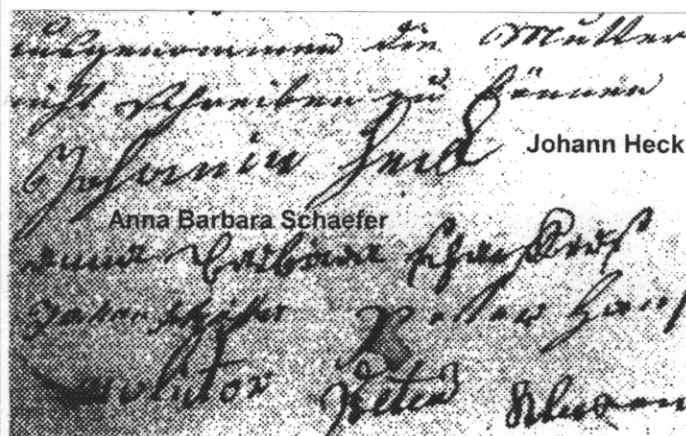
Thanks very much, this makes me want to work harder to find out all I can on our family. Please let me know if I can help you in any way.

I would be glad to contribute to the newsletter please put me on the mailing list.
Thanks again, Dave.

Our ancestor's signatures:

Following is a scanned section of the civil marriage document for Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer. In Germany, both a civil and a church marriage were performed. This is required even to this day.

The typed text was added by me so that you could recognize the signatures of Johann and Anna. While Johann's first name is clear, you need to understand early German script to be able to decipher the name Heck. Anna's name is much more difficult to make out. The two b's in Barbara are clear, but the name Schaefer is not. Just below Anna's name is a large letter X which is smeared on the right side. This is the mark of Johann's mother, Anna Lucia Heck Schmidt. She was unable to write so her mark was placed on the document. Anna Lucia Heck was born at Alendorf on 13 December 1778. This document was written on 28 November 1833, at Alendorf, Germany.



Above: Cel and Don Heck at the 1999 Heck family picnic at Wind Point, Wisconsin. That was Cel's first ride in a Miata, and did she ever love it!

More from the photo album....



Top: The 1999 Heck Family group photo taken during the annual family picnic at Wind Point, (Racine) Wisconsin. **At left:** The kids had a ball trying to retrieve the candy from the watermelon. **At right:** Bob Heck presents the golf trophy and coveted red jacket to golf winner, Don Heck.

At lower left: Meet "Fargo" the wonder dog. Fargo is the master of Bill and Tracy Heck. (Honest folks, just ask them.) He's saying, "Just wait until the year 2000 Heck Family Picnic, I'm going to have one HECK of a good time. I hope I can chew on your leg there and show you how smart I am."