

Our Family News Letter

Issue 28

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 2000

In Search Of Clara Stratman

For the past 20 years or so I have been looking for the birth place and christening records of Clara Stratman. Clara was the wife of Henry Henningfeld and mother of Margaret Henningfeld Heck. Two issues ago I reported that I was tracing down some leads that indicate that Clara came from the village or city of Hamm, Germany.



I'm sorry to say that after ordering six microfilms from the Family History Center for three different villages of Hamm, we still don't know where Clara came from. None of the microfilms of Catholic church records had any Stratman names listed.

My friends, Heinz and Marianne Kleckers from Wuppertal, Germany did some searching in the civil records as well as in some church records but came up empty handed.

It looks like I'll have to go back to the drawing board on this one. If any of you have any idea of where she came from, please let me know. If there was a family bible, it might have information on birth places. I'm not aware of one however, so the search continues.

Meet Some Of Your Cousins...

The picture on this page was taken in 1925 in Phillips, Wisconsin. Back L-R: Theresa (1), Kate (2), Albert (3), Clara Stratman Henningfeld (4), Mary Halbach Heitkemper (5). Front L-R: Irene (6), Barbara (7), Martha (8), Verona (9), Lorraine (10) and Jerome (11).

Now to try and explain who all of those people are. Clara Stratman's mother was Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthof Stratman Heitkemper. Clara (4) was a product of the Stratman marriage while Henry Friedrich Heitkemper was a product of the Heitkemper marriage. He married Mary Halbach (5) in 1882 at Burlington, Wisconsin. Henry and Mary had ten children. One of their children was William Heitkemper who married Theresa Langer (1). William and Theresa had four children, the oldest being Martha (8).

Another of Mary and Henry's ten children was Mary Gertrude Heitkemper who married Michael Mueller in 1913 at New Munster, Wisconsin. Mary and Michael had six children, three of whom are on the picture. They are Irene (6), Barbara (7) and

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<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>
My e-Mail Address is: bheck@execpc.com

Verona (9). Now be sure to pay attention as there will be a test at the end of this newsletter.

Another of Mary and Henry's ten children was Alphonse Heitkemper who married Kate Folgert (2) in 1920 at Phillips, Wisconsin. Kate and Alphonse had five children, three of whom are on the picture. They are Albert (3), Lorraine (10) and Jerome (11).

Lorraine (10) Heitkemper married Benjamin Bruno and had done extensive genealogical research on the Heitkemper family. Lorraine's sister, Edith Heitkemper, married Fred Mehre and lives in Wausau, Wisconsin. Edith has sent in pictures of the family and was featured in our issue # 23 from December, 1998.

The picture was very badly faded but I used my computer to enhance the original which was just 3" by 2" in size.

MEMORIAL

My first cousins Sue (Bark) and Jeff Miller from Minneapolis, sent us a letter telling us about the birth and death of their first child, Alex Paul Miller. I wanted to write an article about Alex in this newsletter but could find no words better than those from Sue and Jeff. I'm sure that I speak for all of the readers and family members when I express our sincere sympathy to Sue and Jeff. Here is their letter:

"December 3, 1999

Dear Bob and Gloria,

We were hoping to share some very good news with you this Christmas. We were expecting our first child November 4th.

Sadly, Alex Paul was diagnosed as stillborn on September 20th and was born on September 21st. Alex was a beautiful baby. He had a full head of curly hair like his dad, deep blue eyes and a cute little nose. He weighed 3 pounds 9 ounces and was 18 inches long - perfect for his age of 33 weeks.

His aunts, uncles and cousins were all present at his birth and were able to hold him. His Grandparents on earth held him a long while - his Grandparents in heaven hold him now and we will hold him in our hearts forever.

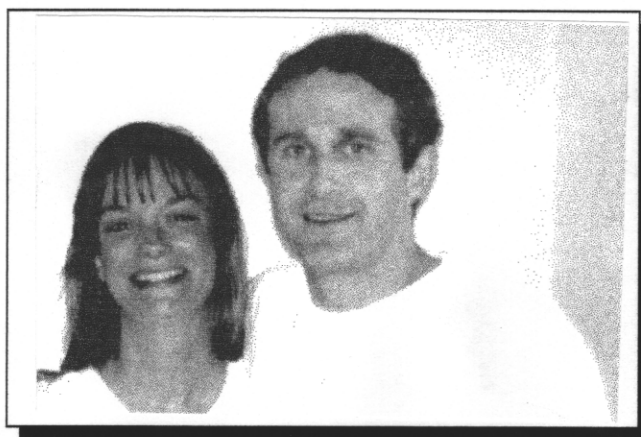
Alex brought us much joy and happiness in the short time he was here. We may never know what happened to our son---we do know that he touched the hearts of many and was truly loved. We know he would have grown to be a wonderful man; he had accomplished so much as an infant.

Five trees were planted in his honor, countless donations were and continue to be made to various children's organizations and charities in his memory. The impact Alex Paul had on so many brings us comfort. We know good things will come to others in his memory.

Bob, we ask that you add his name to the family tree. Alex Paul Miller born 9/21/99, died 9/21/99. Also please accept this years donation to the family newsletter in Alex Paul's memory.

We hope that all is well with the two of you and your family. We keep Aunt Mary in our thoughts and prayers. Take care! Love, Sue and Jeff

P.S. Feel free to share this letter with other family members."



Sue and Jeff Miller at a family picnic in Racine.

Who's Keeping Score?

The following is a true story from one of the genealogy newsletters I subscribe to. Bob Heck

"Thought I would share a little humor with other frustrated searchers.

My grandmother (born a Burgess), now age 91, has been very helpful and patient with all my family history questions. However, doing census searches in between asking her questions sheds some light on why we have trouble finding those elusive ancestors:

Armed with a list of her daddy's siblings in random order, I began my search. Very few of the names matched those on the census, so I went back to ask her more questions:

"Do you think 'Mary J' in the census could be your Aunt Mae?" "I don't know -- her name was Mary, but we always called her Mae." **Score 1**

"Do you think 'Nancy M' could be your Aunt Minnie?" "Could be. I was named after her." **Score 2**

"Was Uncle Lee's first name Walter? There is a Walter L in the census." "I don't know. I never saw him but once or twice. He lived in McKinney, TX." (Info from another researcher showed a Walter L in McKinney, TX) **Score 3**

"I haven't been able to find Sam, Arlene, and John Haley in any of the censuses." "Oh! They were my daddy's half-siblings! His second wife was named Ella, Pappy called her Miss Ella, and she outlived Pa Burgess." (They apparently married in late 1890's and were never in a census together; Pa Burgess died in Jan. of 1900, before Ella & the 3 children were counted in the census in April; she was 37 years younger than him, so I never would have guessed her to be his wife!) **Score 4**

"I can't find your Uncle Jack in any census, but there is a Millard living with your daddy who is listed as his brother." "Uncle Jack didn't like his

name, so he changed it. He moved to Amarillo, TX." **Score 5**

"In the 1910 census, there is a 5-month-old named Margrette, but that's how old your sister Ellen should have been." "Pappy wanted to name her Margrette, but Mama wanted to name her Ellen Rose. Her name really is Ellen Rose, but Pappy called her Margrette most of the time, and we all just called her Baby." (Guess who answered the census-taker's questions?) **Score 6**

These are just a few of the examples. Is it any wonder we can't find our ancestors? Be sure to ask questions of your living relatives -- when they're gone, so much information is gone with them."

Live Voice Communication Now Available At MyFamily.com

Many of you are aware that I have created a family web site for the Heck, Henningfeld and Mikel family at MyFamily.com. The site is available by invitation only and it requires a password to get in. If you are interested in becoming a member of our web site, just send me an e-mail message with your name and e-mail address. I'll then add your name to the member list and you will get an invitation along with a password by return e-mail. There is no charge to become a member.

My e-mail address is: **bheck@execpc.com**

Once you have access to MyFamily web site, you can add photos, view over 50 family photos, download our family history, enter news items, and enter a chat room exclusively for members of our site. Following are details from MyFamily's announcement of this new free service.

""Live voice chat on MyFamily.com requires no more hardware than is commonly included in computer packages purchased by consumers. A user must have speakers, a computer microphone, and at least a 28.8 K speed Internet connection.

The live voice chat capability has been added to the list of MyFamily.com features including on-line photo albums, news postings, and a family calendar. While live voice chat is a new feature, instant text chat has long been available on the site and will remain an option for users.

The new live voice feature allows family members to speak with each other free of charge through MyFamily.com. In an era when families are spread throughout the world, on-line voice chat will allow people to stay in touch with their family while saving money previously spent on phone bills."

I would suggest that if you want to give this a try, you should prearrange a "meeting time" and give it a shot. I would like to hear your success stories so we can publish it here in this newsletter.

CIVIL WAR RELATIVES?

Did you know that Wisconsin has a web site on the Internet that lists all of the Wisconsin servicemen from the Civil War? The site lists which Company the soldier served in and some vital information on transfers, desertions, wounds suffered and deaths while in service.

You can do a search on just a surname by entering the first two letters of the name. You can then page forward one page at a time or five pages at a time. You'll find Henry Heck listed in Company F of the 19 Infantry. The web address is:

<http://www.shsw.wisc.edu/roster/index.html>

A second address is great for looking at Regimental Histories for Wisconsin Units. The address is:

<http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/cwregts/reglist.html>

That whole address should be on one line without any spaces.

A Letter Found in the Pension Claim of Henry Heck

2 July 1880
State of Wisconsin
County of Racine

In the pension claim no. 281940 of Henry Heck, Private, late of Company F, 19th Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers.

Personally came before me a Justice of the Peace in and for the aforesaid county and state, Gilbert Taber a citizen of the Town of Dover in the County of Racine and State of Wisconsin, well known to me to be reputable and entitled to credit, and being duly sworn declares in relation to the aforesaid case as follows:

That he is seventy-four years of age and was born in the United States and that he has resided in the said Town of Dover during the last thirty years past and does now reside therein, and that he has been personally and intimately acquainted with said Henry Heck ever since the year 1860, being about two years before the said Henry Heck enlisted and was enrolled into the service of the United States in 1862, and that he has been intimately and personally acquainted with the said Henry Heck from the time that he came back from the said service of the United States in the spring of 1865. That the said Henry Heck continually and personally resided in the Town of Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin and which said Town of Brighton joins said Town of Dover, from the time of his return from said service in the spring of 1865 to the fall of 1872, and from that time continually up to the present time in the said Town of Dover, and that the said Henry Heck worked for him in the year 1861, for sixteen dollars per month which was then about the highest wages paid for a farm laborer in the neighborhood, and as a matter of fact the said Henry Heck served as a volunteer in the service of the United States, and that the said Henry Heck was a good strong sound robust and healthy young man before and at the time he was enrolled into the service of the United States, and having no wound or rheumatism

at that time, and that when he seen said Henry Heck after his return from the service of the United States in the spring of 1865, he was all broken down in health from rheumatism and the wound in the left leg and lame and has continued so each and every year from 1865 to the present time. I have seen him off and on at different times during each year since 1865, up to the present time seen him every two months or so and some times it might be longer. I seen him also while in Brighton. He could not get along with the work on account of the wound and rheumatism. I always considered him and do now consider him not an baled bodied man ever since he came back from the war. I should not give him one half the wages to work for me since the war than what I paid him for work for me before the war and before he was disabled. I always believed that he ought to have a pension since he came back from the war so crippled and disabled and that he was really and lawfully entitled to a pension.

I consider his rheumatism as bad as his wound from what I have seen and noted of him during said number of years. I think that the rheumatism and wound together render him incapable of performing manual labor during each year from the spring of 1865 up to the present time fully one half and more. I think and believe that he has been disabled by the wound and rheumatism from performing manual labor more than one half each year.

He further declares that the deponent has no interest whatever either direct or indirect in the said case and that he is not concerned in the prosecution of this claim and that he made this affidavit freely and voluntarily and that all it contains he believes to be the fact and entirely true.

Signed by Gilbert Taber

Sworn to and subscribed before me the 2nd day of July AD 1880 and I hereby certify that the contents of the above and foregoing declaration were fully made known and explained to the said Gilbert Taber.

Signed by William G. Towles JP."

The Obituary of Henry Heck

From the Burlington Free Press, Thursday, February 26, 1920, Vol. 41, #15, Page 1:

"Henry Heck, a veteran of the Civil War and well known in this vicinity, passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Alfred Plucker, at Waterford, last Friday afternoon, aged 81 years. Mr. Heck had been poorly for several years and had failed gradually all winter. His body was brought to this city on the Interurban Funeral Car Monday morning and services were held at St. Charles Catholic Church at 10 o'clock; Rev. P. Dreis conducting the same, and interment was held in the Catholic Cemetery.

Henry Heck was born in Germany, February 10, 1839, and came to this country when a young man, settling in the Town of Brighton. At the outbreak of the Civil War he entered the service as a Private in the 19th Wis. serving 3 years - 3 months when he was discharged. He then returned to farming at Brighton and was married there to Miss Mary McNulty in 1868. They resided in Brighton until they removed to this city some 23 years ago. His wife died here about 10 years ago.

Mr. Heck is survived by the following 8 children. James Heck of this city; Mrs. Mary Grosstueck of Milwaukee; Matt Heck of Thompsonville; John Heck and Mrs. Lizzie Plucker of Waterford; Robert Heck of Racine; and Miss Eva and Lawrence Heck of Milwaukee."



L-R: Henry Heck, Lizzie Plucker, Mary Grosstueck, Mary Ann McNulty Heck, Gwen Plucker, Rose Aspland, Eva & Lawrence Heck in 1911.

From the scrap book....

1. Full name of deceased.....	Elizabetha Heitkamper
2. Color	W
3. Sex.....	F
4. Age.....	74 yrs 6 mo 22 days
5. Name of the father of deceased.....	Henry Guethof
6. Name of the mother of deceased.....	Elizabetha "
7. Occupation.....	
8. Place of birth.....	Germany.
9. Name of the wife of deceased.....	
10. Name of the husband of deceased.....	Fred Heitkamper may 8-1819
11. Date of birth and date of death.....	nov 30 1893
12. Cause of death.....	Pneumonia catarrhalis
13. Name of the place, town or township, and county in which the person died.....	Waterford Wis
14. Name and location of burial ground in which interred.....	St Thomas Cath Cem
15. Name of person returning certificate.....	Adelbert Koehler
16. Residence of such person.....	Waterford Wis
17. Date of certificate.....	nov 9- 1895
18. Date of registration.....	nov 12. 1895

Death record of Anna Maria Elizabeth Guethof Stratman Heitkamper, mother of Clara Stratman Henningfeld.

Waterford Post: November 30, 1893---Mrs. Fred Heitkemper, Sr., died on Thursday night, after a short illness, aged 74 years, 6 months and 22 days. Deceased has been a resident of Waterford the past twenty-five years and has many friends. She leaves to mourn her loss a husband and three grown-up children, viz: H. F. Heitkemper and Charles Stratman, of Waterford, and Mrs. Clara Henningfield, of Burlington. The funeral services will be held in the St. Thomas Catholic Church next Monday morning. The Post extends sympathy to the bereaved family.

This document from 10 November 1859, is a record of the purchase of Federal land by Johann Heck, shown here as John Haack. The land was located at Swan Lake, Nicollet County, Minnesota. James Buchanan was the President of the United States at that time.

2121

Presumptive THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CERTIFICATE }
No. 3201 }

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas John Haack, of Nicollet County, Minnesota,

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of THE REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at Henderson whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

John Haack

according to the provisions of the

Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the South East quarter of the South East quarter of Section Twenty seven, in Township one hundred and eleven North of Range twenty seven West, in the District of Lands subject to sale at Henderson, Minnesota, containing forty acres

according to the official plat of the Survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said

John Haack

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said

John Haack

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: To have and to hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said

John Haack

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof James Buchanan

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the Tenth day of November
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and Fifty nine and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Fifty fourth

BY THE PRESIDENT

James Buchanan

By J. A. D. Leonard

Secretary.

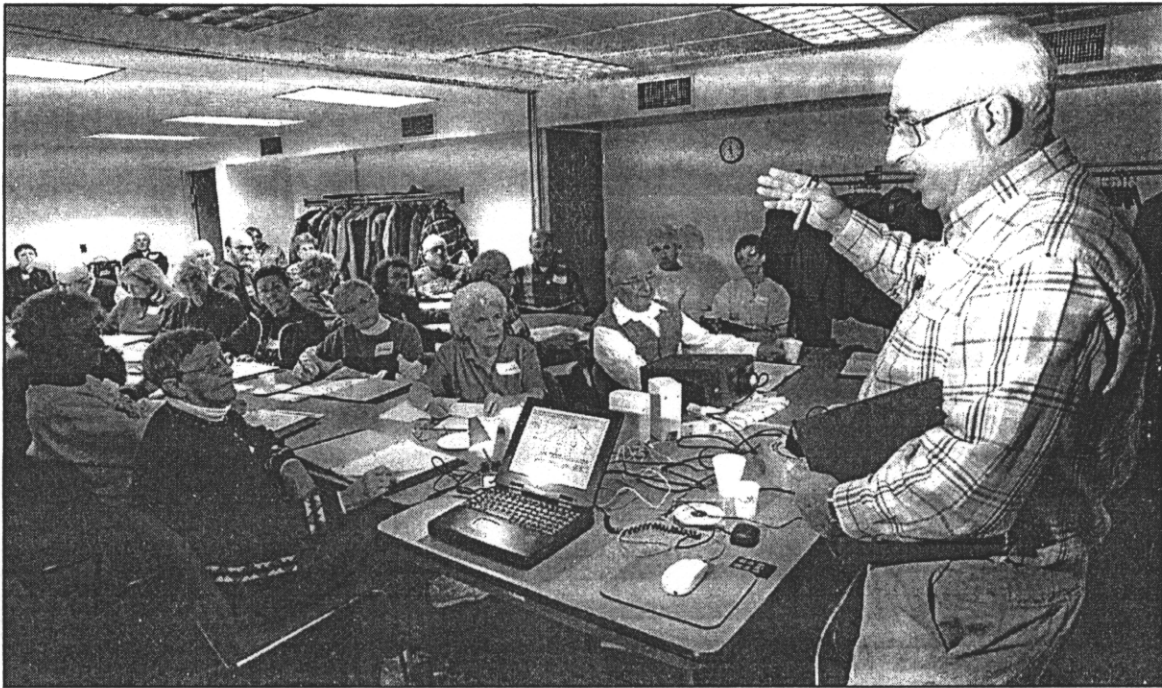
J. N. Ganges

Recorder of the General Land Office.



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From the photo album....



CNI PHOTO BY C.T. KRUGER

Bob Heck walks 38 participants at the Greendale Public Library through a beginners computer course designed to help residents learn research techniques for finding their family roots. The computer genealogy course is offered by the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group.



Top: An article from the Greendale Village Life, December, 1999.

Middle: The John Mikel Family: L-R: Lydia, Bohumil, Tillie, Anna, James, Mary and John in 1937 at Racine, WI.

At Right: A Confirmation certificate for Mathias Heck, brother of Robert S. Heck from 1891 at Brighton, Kenosha County, WI.



Obener print.

Ausführung u. Stich d. Hans' Ernst Tölgel

Andenken an die heilige Firmung
in der St. Fr. Lau. Kirche zu Brighton, Wis.
den 29. des Monats October im Jahre 1891
für Mathias Heck