

Our Family News Letter

Issue 30

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 2000

The following article was written by Allard Heitkemper about the Heitkemper name. It is reprinted here because it does a nice job of explaining how surnames changed from one generation to the next. My great great grandmother, Elisabeth Anna Maria Guthof Stratman Heitkemper came from the Westphalian area of Germany. She was first married to Anton Stratman and later to Fred D. Heitkemper. Her children by the first marriage were Clara and Charles Stratman. By the second marriage, she had a son named Henry Fred Heitkemper who lived in the Phillips, Wisconsin area.

Bob Heck

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Westphalian peasants used only Christian names before medieval times (i.e. prior to 1200 AD). But as populations grew, it became necessary to distinguish one "Johann" from another, and so surnames were developed. The surnames usually described something about the location of the individual's residence or about his occupation. Our family surname, Heitkemper, is derived from 2 words:

"Heide" or "Heit": The German word for heath. A heath is a barren, marshy area with poor soil; and...
"Kemp" or "Kamp": meaning land or field, like the English "camp", from the Latin "campus".

So, a Heitkemper/Heitkamper is literally a "heathfielder" or, put another way, "one who lives in a heath field".

In the course of researching our family history, I have come across several variations of the Heitkemper name: Heitkemper, Heitkamper, Heitkaemper; and... Heidkemper, Heidkamper; and... Ten Heitkamp.

The earliest church record where our family's name appears is a marriage record for: Anna Tenheitkamp. The "Ten" is a preposition from the Low German dialect meaning: at, on or nearby. So, Ten Heitkamp means literally: at, on or nearby the heath field. In subsequent church records, the "Ten" is dropped, the "t" is replaced with a "d" and the "er" is added to form the name "Heidkemper". The name is spelled this way in all the subsequent Legden church records. However, when our ancestors emigrated to the United States, the spelling was changed to: Heitkemper.

It is interesting to note that the above mentioned Ann Tenheitkamp, not her husband, is actually the earliest blood relative we have a record of. Anna married Heinrich Tenkuhlkamp in 1704, but due to the inheritance system in Westphalia at this time, Anna kept her maiden name. Before moving on, I should explain about the inheritance customs of the Westphalians and how these customs affected the surnames of families in this time period - otherwise you might wonder why we are not called Kuhl-kempers instead of Heitkempers.

The inheritance system in effect during this era is referred to as "impartible inheritance". Under this system, the family estate is inherited by only one of

This News Letter is written and published by
**Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive,
Greendale, WI 53129**

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

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

the children, usually the eldest son. The inheritance could take effect prior to the death of the head of the family; for instance, when that person was ready to retire. The son who inherited the property had the obligation to let his parents and all siblings remain in the family home until they became of age or married. When the siblings left the house, they received some money as their share of the inheritance. If there were no sons, then the property could be inherited by a daughter. Should the daughter marry, her spouse would change his surname because the family farm names had been kept constant for hundreds of years. So, Anna Tenheitkamp inherited the family farm and her husband changed his name from Tenkuhlkamp to Tenheitkamp. This same phenomenon happened in the very next generation. Anna and Heinrich produced two daughters: Aleidis and Margaretha, but no sons. Margaretha marries Johann Heinrich Hesterbrink and inherits the family farm and Johann changed his name to Heidkemper.

Is the Heitkemper surname unique to our family? Probably not, because the name describes the location of the family and heath fields were not unique to the town of Legden. So, it is reasonable to conclude that other people in other parts of Germany could have the same name without being related to our family. I have come across many Heitkempers (with various spellings as mentioned above) in other towns, but I have not been able to find any connections between these Heitkempers and our family. On the other hand, it is interesting to note that while there are other Heitkemper families in other towns, all of the families come from towns in the Westphalia region. So, perhaps there is a connection. It is possible that Heitkempers migrated from one town to another for various reasons.

From: Allard_Heitkemper@tiginsurance.com

Many Thanks:

I would like to thank the many readers who contributed recently to keep this newsletter going. Their kind contributions are what keep this newsletter free for the 30th consecutive issue. As you

are aware, it takes a lot of hard work and time to put this newsletter together. The worst part of it used to be licking the stamps and envelopes. (Really bad taste!!!) Thanks to self-stick stamps and a water applicator for the envelopes, the unpleasant tasks have been eliminated.

My special thanks go to Ann & Dan Kelley, Marv & Joanne Pfeiffer, Steve & Cara Pfeiffer, Gary & Carol Heck, Dick & Cel Heck, Jim & Karen Heck, Rick Heck, Barb and Dave Schneider, Don & Sharon Heck and Norma Collins.

News from Bob & Lorraine Heck

Paula Heck Dole of Union Grove, married James Robaka formerly of Racine, on May 20, 2000, at the Union Grove Methodist Church officiated by Pastor June Nettles and Rev. David Spong, Chaplain at Ellsworth Correctional Center. Paula and Jim met at the center where they are both Correctional Officers. They enjoyed a fabulous honeymoon at the Sandal's Resort on Saint Lucia Island.

Jenny and Kenny Kyburz graduated from Union Grove High in June. Jenny is enrolled at Whitewater and Kenny is with the Racine International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, awaiting an apprenticeship. Parents of Kenny and Jenny are Roger and Mary Beth (Heck) Kyburz.

Christina Hawkins graduated from MATC from the Fashion Marketing and Design program and is employed by Kohls in Waukesha. June Rose Hawkins transferred from UW Eau Claire to Milwaukee and has been an honor student. She is pursuing a degree in Social Work.

Lorraine and Bob Heck, who reside in North Fort Myers, Florida, enjoyed the relatives who came to visit. Please stop in if you come to South West Florida.

Bob & Lorraine Heck

Editor's Note: There you have it folks....an open invitation to winter in Florida.

The Meaning of IT...

The following e-mail message was from Henning Henningfeld, a retired Petroleum Engineer that I met on the Internet. Henning is a German citizen who was working in South America and is now retired in France. He has done extensive research into the German Henningfeld family. Our family connects with his in the 1700's at Heinrichsburg, Germany.

Subject: Heck Surname Meaning
Date: Tue, 01 Aug 2000 15:05:06 -0400
From: "Henning Henningfeld"
henningf@club-internet.fr
To: Heck <bheck@execpc.com>

Hi Bob,

Last week I spent a couple of days in various libraries in Bochum, Dortmund and Recklinghausen, Germany, looking into old books. By coincident I came across the meaning of your family name. The explanation goes like this: In the 15th and 16th century, towns were fortified by mounds and on top, trees and bushes were planted and cut regularly at a height of about 1.5 m (about 4-1/2 feet) to create an extra obstacle.

Wherever roads had to pass these mounds a turnpike was built and guarded by a man who was called Heck or even Heckmann. Maybe you knew this already but for me it was new since I always thought it had something to do with a hedge.

Cheers,
Henning Henningfeld

Frances Heck celebrates 95th Birthday

Mrs. Frances Elizabeth Heck of 242 Merriburr Lane in Racine, Wisconsin, celebrated her 95th birthday on Sunday, May 21, 2000, during a celebration with her 10 children and their families and

friends. The menu included favorite early childhood recipes.

The former Frances Elizabeth Pier was born May 28, 1905, in Racine. She was married to Clarence Henry Heck on June 21, 1927, in St. Joseph's Catholic Church. He died February 24, 1955.

Mrs. Heck, a graduate of St. Catherine's Academy, was a secretary at J. I. Case Company before her marriage. She is a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and a longtime mission volunteer there.

Mrs. Heck's 10 children are: Marjorie (Don) Johnson of Torrance, California; Mary Kay (David) Hansen of Dublin, California; Donna Jean (Albert) Benedict of Whitewater, WI; Robert (Lorraine) of Fort Meyers, Florida; Dolores (Bernie) Kunka, Shirley Heck, Richard (Cel) Heck, Clarence (Mary) Heck, Lawrence (the late Nancy) Heck, and Gene (Carol), all of Racine, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Heck also has one late son-in-law, Jack Gibson. She has 39 grandchildren, 52 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

The above article appeared in the Racine Journal Times.



Henry Heck was a used buggy salesman

The following ad appeared in the Burlington Free Press on Wednesday, January 4, 1911.

"For Sale - Four good building lots in Burlington in first class location, or will trade for house and lot in Waterford. Will also sell a horse, can be driven either single or double; stack of good corn stalks; a one-horse wagon, nearly as good as new; walking plow, either for stubble or sod; one double harrow; one good buggy; five dozen spring chickens. Apply to Henry Heck, Burlington."

An 1891 Marriage....

The following article was from the "Kenosha Union" newspaper published 10 Dec 1891. William E. Burgess Jr. was the grandson of Benjamin Burgess and Amanda Foster. He is also the same William E. Burgess who delivered a speech in 1936 at Petrified Springs, Kenosha County, Wisconsin which led me to the discovery of the Benjamin Burgess homestead and remains of the saw mill that Benjamin operated in 1836. For reference, see the September, 1994, issue of "Our Family News Letter."

"The marriage of Miss Carrie DeLong to Mr. Wm. E. Burgess was solemnized Thursday afternoon, Dec. 3, in the presence of about seventy-five friends of the contracting parties, at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. DeLong. During the playing of Wagner's march, which was most acceptably rendered by Miss Florence Spencer, the bridal party entered the parlors, under the guidance of Miss Mary Rhodes, who was mistress of arrangements.

At the right of the bride, who was most becomingly attired, stood her father and mother, and on the left the father and brothers and sisters of the groom, Rev. Wm. Botzer, of the M.E. church, performing the ceremony. After the ceremony the wedding dinner was served. To say this was under the supervision of the bride's mother will give one an idea of the excellency of the courses served.

The bride is an only daughter and one of our best known and highly esteemed young ladies. The groom, a son of our townsman, W. E. Burgess, is a successful Chicago business man. They will, after a short trip, make Chicago their home.

The bride received many beautiful and valuable presents. We will publish the list next week."

That last sentence caught my eye. I don't think that I have ever seen a list of gifts for a wedding published in a newspaper. The genealogical advantage of such a list is that it tells us who attended the wedding.

List of Presents

"The following is the list of presents at the wedding of Mr. Wm. E. Burgess and Miss Carrie DeLong, of Somers, on the 3rd of December, 1891."

"Two \$20 gold pieces, father and mother of the bride; \$20 gold piece, father and family of the groom; mother of the bride, a clock; bridegroom, gold beads and jewel case; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burgess, silver butter knife; Mr. and Mrs. J. D. DeLong, carving knife and fork; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Buswell, teaspoons; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burgess, pickle castor; grandpa DeLong and auntie, \$5; Mr. Chas. DeLong, \$3; Mrs. Maria Reas, \$2; Mr. and Mrs. George A. DeLong, silver butter dish; Mr. Alton DeLong, rocking chair; Miss Carrie Halliday, hand-painted drop; Mr. and Mrs. W. Burgess, napkins; Mr. Benjamin, pair of towels; Mr. and Mrs. L. Cook, rocking chair; Rev. P. Dougherty and daughter, table cloth; Mrs. Alonzo Burgess, May and Roy, two solid silver table spoons; Mrs. J. F. Owen, 4 towels; Edwin Reas, rolling pin and potato masher; Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Chandler, silver berry spoon; Miss Sarah Leet, gold-lined sugar spoon; Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Dow, silver individual salt and pepper bottles; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dow, bud jars; Mr. and Mrs. E. Cook, water set; Mr. and Mrs. E. Wright, berry spoon and table cloth; Mr. and Mrs. E. Gillett, silver fruit dish; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Bain, student's lamp; Mrs. Lewis and daughter, silver butter knife; Misses Anna and

Hattie Spence, handkerchief and holder; Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Yule, dozen silver spoons; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Sims, glass berry dish in silver; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Williams, chenille table spread; Mr. W. Price, glass and silver card receiver; Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Jordan, chenille table spread, and Miss Edith Jordan, Brussels rug; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Bowton, set silver knives; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lewis, fruit knives; Miss Jessie Sims, silver spoon holder; Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord Shepard, Mr. and Mrs. H. Cooper and daughter Lillian, card receiver; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fink, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Rhodes, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Spence and Mrs. J. W. and Mary Rhodes, glass and silver fruit dish; Miss Emily Smith, painted silk throe; Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Foster, card receiver; Mr. and Mrs. S. D. McCoy, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Rowlands, silver castor; Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Bowker, bureau and dresser scarfs; Mr. and Mrs. Levi Fink, vegetable dishes and pillow shams; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. F. Carpenter, 4 towels; Mr. L. L. Owen, napkins; Mr. Walter and Miss Florence Spencer, set silver forks; Mr. and Mrs. N. E. Thompson, pickle castor.

Editor's note: What Luck. Not a single toaster!!!

The Ancestors of Michael Emery Brott

Editor's note: Michael Emery Brott was the husband of Mary Elizabeth Henningfeld, sister of Margaret F. Henningfeld Heck. The following e-mail from Laurie M. Grimes (lmgimes@juno.com) takes the Brott family back to 1607.

Hi, Bob,

The ancestry I'm going to be giving you is from our family files and the book "Descendants of Albert and Arent Andriessen Bradt" by Cynthia Brott Bisaca (1990). It's an extensive study of this large family, with a lot of information about the descendants of these two brothers who came from Norway (via Amsterdam) to America in 1637. It's available on microfilm from Family History Centers and many large libraries around the country have it. After the first book, Cynthia wrote a supplement with updates and corrections, then retired. She

passed all her files. etc. on to me. I haven't had a chance to enter all the information into the computer, as my main focus has been to continue her research and answer Bradt/Brott/Bratt queries, acting as a clearinghouse for Bradt information; hence no GEDCOM.

Your line of descent goes through the oldest brother Albert and is as follows: (Note: Cynthia used the modified Henry system which assigns numbers to each succeeding generation according to that person's birth order. Also, the names in parentheses give the spouses' parents and birth, death dates, where known)

1 Albert Andriessen Bradt b. 1607 Fredrikstad, Norway, d. 7 June 1686.
m. Annatie Barents (Geesie Barents) 11 April 1632 Oudekerk, Amsterdam (d. 1661)

12 Barent Bradt bpt. 22 Oct. 1634 Amsterdam, Holland, m. Susanna Dirkse Meyer (Dirck Meyer, Maritje _?) ca. 1656 (d. May 1722)

125 Johannes Bradt b. ca. 1668 Albany, d. 20 Oct. 1711 Schaghticoke, m. Maria Keteluyne (Joachim Ketelhuyn, Anna Douw) 7 May 1693

1256 Bernardus Bradt bpt. 29 Aug. 1703 Albany RC, d. 1773, m2. Eva Van Petten (Nicholas Van Patten, Rebecca Groot) 23 Dec. 1748 Schen RC (b. 24 Sept. 1719)

12564 Nicholas Bratt bpt. 8 July 1750 Schen RC, m. Anna Barbara Overacker (Michael Overacker, Anna Barbara _?) ca. 1772

12564.4 Charles Brott b. 18 May 1779, d. 18 Oct. 1865 Hillsdale, MI m1. Lydia Reynolds ca. 1800 (b. 1783, d. 11 July 1813)

12564.41 Nicholas Brott b. 29 Mar. 1801 Mohawk Valley, m. Laura Symonds (William Symonds, Olive _?) 14 Feb. 1825 Lockport, (b. 12 Apr. 1800 Litchfield, CT, d. 26 May 1869)

12564.414 Harrison P Brott b. 27 Dec. 1835, d. 12 Mar. 1919, m. Catharine Yost 5 Jan. 1859 (b. 4 Mar. 1840, Germany, d. 15 Oct. 1916)

12564.4144 Michael Emery Brott

I'm in the process of updating and correcting again and will be publishing another supplement in the near future. Are you interested in having your material added. We have Michael's marriage to Mary Henningfeld, and his children, but not complete birth and marriage information. How are you related?

Let me know if you have any questions
Laurie Grimes

Internet success story: a 27 year old query

I had a bit of luck while doing some Internet research. I was searching Family Tree Maker at <http://www.familytreemaker.com> for a Jacob Nicholas Weekley in the 1841- 1916 time period. I found a reference that showed Jacob Nicholas Weekley, in a Pennsylvania publication in 1973. The publication was "**The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine**", Volume 28, 1973, Number 2, Page 107. A quick check on the Internet showed that the nearest copy of the publication was at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in Madison.

Since I had a research trip planned for Madison, I added the publication to my "Things to look up in Madison" list. I found the item, which turned out to be a 27-year-old query. The query was seeking information on the parents of Jacob Nicholas Weekley from Emmitsburg, Maryland who served in the Civil War and who was married to Mary Ann Cozad. The submitter's name was listed as Mrs. William F. Schmidt from Westfield, Wisconsin.

Back to the Internet again, I looked up William Schmidt on the address and phone search and found one listed at Westfield, Wisconsin. The address and phone number was listed. Back again to the Internet, I used "Dial Pad" at <http://www.dialpad.com>

to place a free long distance phone call through my computer to William Schmidt in Westfield. After explaining about the query that I had found, I was told by an elderly William that Mary Lou Schmidt, his wife, was the one who had done the family research. I asked if she was still living and was surprised when William said, "She better be; she just went to work." Later that evening I connected with Mary Lou again using "Dial Pad."

As it turned out, Mary Lou had placed the query 27 years ago but never heard from anyone in response. Mary Lou had good success tracing the Cozad side of the family back to the 1500's. She was stuck on the Weekley side. On the other hand, I was stuck on the Cozad side of the family but was back to the early 1700's on the Weekley side. An exchange of data is now taking place thanks to the Internet and a 27-year-old query.

Bob Heck's note: The Weekley and Cozad families are from Gloria's side of the family.

An Obituary from the past...

From the September 20, 1948 Racine Journal Times:

Henningfeld, PFC George R. 2054 Carter St. Age 29. Killed in combat action July 30, 1944, in France while serving his country in the U.S. Army. Born in Racine, April 16, 1915, PFC Henningfeld had been employed at the Dumore Co. for six years before enlisting in the Army on December 18, 1942. He was a squad leader in Co. C, 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division, and was killed while participating in the campaign in northern France. He was buried in the temporary Military Cemetery at Marigny, France.

He received his education at St. John's Parochial School, Washington Junior High School and graduated from Horlick High School. PFC Henningfeld was highly interested in handball and golf, was captain of the Flat Iron Square bowling team, and had been a football player on the Horlick High School team. He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church and Local 642 UAW-CIO of the Dumore Co.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George J. Henningfeld; one sister, Mrs. Charles Jacobs Jr.; two nephews; one niece. Funeral services will be held Thursday, 8:30 AM, at the Strouf Funeral Home and 9 AM at St. John's Church, Rev. A. G. Weiler officiating. Burial will be in World War II Memorial plot in Holy Cross Cemetery. The Rosary will be recited Wednesday evening, 8 o'clock, at the Strouf Funeral Home. Military rites will be conducted by the Catholic War Veterans, John M. Gross Post No. 1073.



Upper Photo L-R: Bob, Don and Gary Heck (I never did like the way our parents picked out our school clothes.)

Lower Photo: Gary & Bob in center on the way to church in Norel, Canada in 1946.

At Right: State Baseball Champs from 1938. Clarence Heck is front left and Bob Heck is back row third from left.



From the photo album...

Next page: **Upper Left:** Mary Ann Mikel Heck at age 16.

Upper Right: 1. Mary and Bob Heck. 2. Bob, Don and Gary Heck with Mary Heck. 3. Gary, Bob and Don Heck. 4. Bob and Mary Heck.

Lower Right: Bob Heck

Lower Left: 1. Robert G. Heck. 2. John and Anna Mikel, parents of Mary Heck. 3. Bob, Don and Gary Heck in 1945. 4. Lydia and Tillie Mikel, sisters of Mary Heck.

