

Our Family News Letter

Issue 34

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 2001

Loraine C. (Heck) Pier 1907 - 2001

Racine, Wisconsin: Mrs. Loraine C (nee Heck) Pier, 94, passed away at the Lincoln Lutheran Care Center on Thursday, August 2, 2001.

She was born in Burlington Wisconsin on May 11, 1907, daughter of the late James Henry Heck of Brighton and Wilhelmina C. (nee Hoernemann) of Burlington. On October 10, 1935, Loraine was united in marriage to Nicholas B. Pier at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Loraine was a member of the first graduating class of four at St. Mary's High School in 1925. She moved to Racine and worked as a Secretary at the Wisconsin Gas and Electric Company and as Secretary to the President of Racine College (later the site became the DeKoven Foundation). Loraine was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and resided at 1305 Chatham Street in Racine for more than 60 years. She was at St. Monica's Senior Citizens Home from July of 1998 until July of 2001, where she was able to help her roommates and inspire others, until she suffered a stroke.

Surviving are two sons and daughters-in-law, James B. (Bernice) Pier of Sun City West, Arizona and Nicholas F. (Dorothy) Pier of Los Osos, California; five grandchildren, Susan Pier, Carol Pier, David Pier, Tom Pier, and Steven Pier; five great-grandchildren, Brian, Elizabeth, and Nicholas Hernandez of Texarkana, Texas, Nicholas J. Pier of San Francisco, California, and Emma Pier of British Virgin Islands; sister-in-law, Frances Heck; nieces, nephews, and other friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Nicholas B. Pier in 1994; and a sister and three brothers, Alice, Joseph, Herbert, and Raymond Heck of Burlington.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1533 Erie Street, on Sunday, August 5, 2001, at 5:30 p.m. with Rev. Richard J. Stoffel officiating. Entombment will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery on Highway 32.

Articles about Loraine's branch of the family can be found in the March, 1994 and June, 1997 issues of "Our Family News Letter".

Meet our ancestors from Plymouth Colony

The descendency from Samuel Wildbore 1585 - 1656, is as follows:

Samuel Wildbore 1585 - 1656
William Wilbour 1630 - 1710
Joseph Wilbour 1656 - 1729
Martha Wilbour & Thomas Burgess
John Burgess 1711 - 1796
Benajah Burgess 1761 - 1830
Benjamin Burgess
Patience Burgess
Mary Ann McNulty
Robert S. Heck
Robert G. Heck
Robert J. Heck

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The Descendants of Samuel Wildbore

One of the many notable characters of early Massachusetts history, who were identified with the teachings of Mr. Wheelwright and Anne Hutchinson, and in consequence were exiled from the colony by the Puritan authorities, was Samuel Wildbore, the progenitor of a large proportion of the Wilbur families of New England today. The surname as used by the founder continued through one or two generations of his descendants, and in the records of the towns where they settled we find the entries Wilbore, Wildboare, Wildbore. Soon afterward the contracted forms, Wilbur, Wilbar, Wilber and Wilbor appeared, and it is to the first orthography that the family in New England at the present time adheres most consistently. The majority of the descendants of Samuel Wildbore, of Boston, Portsmouth, and Taunton, where the scene of his life was chiefly laid, have used the spelling Wilbur since the third generation. The name in its original form had its source in a nickname and signifies literally "the wild boar." We find the entry "Willelmus Wyldebore" in the Poll Tax for the West Riding of Yorkshire, 1379.

(I) Samuel Wildbore, immigrant ancestor and founder, was born in England and is believed to have come to this country before 1633 with his wife and several children. His first wife, Ann Wildbore, is thought by many authorities to have been the daughter of Thomas Bradford, of Doncaster, County York, England. He married (second) Elizabeth Lechford, widow of Thomas Lechford. In 1633 Samuel Wildbore was made a freeman in Boston, and with his wife was admitted to the church in December of the same year. In 1634 he was assessor of taxes. By 1637 he seems to have fallen away from the recognized church, for on November 20 of that year he was one of several disarmed "in consequence of having been seduced and led into dangerous error by the opinions and revelations of Mr. Wheelwright and Mrs. Hutchinson," and given license to depart from the colony.

Shortly thereafter he removed to Rhode Island, where he is next recorded in Portsmouth, on March 7, 1638, on which date he was one of eighteen who

entered into the following compact: "We, whose names are underwritten, do here solemnly in the presence of Jehovah incorporate ourselves into a Bodie Politick, and as he shall help, will submit our persons, lives and estate, unto our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, and to all those perfect and most absolute laws of his given us in his holy word of truth, to be guided and judged thereby."

In 1638 Samuel Wildbore was chosen clerk of the train band. In the following year he was made constable and given an allotment of a neck of land lying in the great cove, containing about two acres. In 1640 he and Ralph Earle, who seems to have been associated in some way with him, were ordered to furnish the town of Newport with new sawed boards at eight shillings per hundred feet, and half-inch boards at seven shillings, to be delivered at the "pit," by the water-side. On March 16, 1641, he was made a freeman in Portsmouth; in 1644 he was sergeant of militia, and in 1645 returned to Boston with his wife. On November 29, 1645, Samuel Wildbore and his wife were received into the church in Boston, and in a deposition made May 2, 1648, he made oath that when he married the widow of Thomas Lechford he received no part of her former husband's estate. In 1655 he was again at Portsmouth, but at the time of making his will he lived in Taunton and at the same time had a house in Boston. His will was recorded both in Massachusetts and in Plymouth Colony. It bore the date of April 30, 1656, and was admitted to probate November following. His estate was inventoried at £282 19s. 6d.

(II) William Wilbor, son of Samuel and Ann (Bradford) Wildbore, was born in England about 1630, and died in 1710 at Tiverton, R. I. On June 10, 1654, he received a deed of ten acres from Samuel Wildbore, then of Taunton. On December 10, 1657, he was granted eight acres. On June 7, 1671, he served as juryman. In 1678, William Wilbor represented the town of Portsmouth in the Rhode Island General Assembly. He owned property in Portsmouth, Little Compton, Swansea, and in Kings Town, the greater part of which he disposed

of by deed to his sons before his death. His will, dated March 1, 1710, was proved August 15 following.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the wife asked sarcastically,

"Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the husband replied, "in-laws."

An e-mail from a Cousin...

From: Dorothy Johnson <doja@frontiernet.net>
To: "Bob Heck" <bheck@execpc.com>

This is a copy of an e-mail sent to Ellie Stiner by Dorothy Johnson. Dorothy Johnson is the daughter of Molly Henningfeld Heinrichs, and granddaughter of Clara Stratman and Henry Henningfeld.

Happy Fourth of July, Ellie and Bill,

I was happy to get the Henningfeld family genealogy, and put in on my wordpad. I haven't tried to retrieve it yet, and I am going to print it out, so I will have a real copy.

I discovered something interesting as I was perusing the records. My Dad was born on September 7, and I also was born on that date. My Granddaughter Barbara shares that birthday also, so we have a three generation string of natal coincidence. As I discovered when looking at the records, my Mother had a sister, Caroline, born on Sept. 7, and my Aunt Della, who was married to Mothers brother Fred (Henningfeld) had that birthday also. As it happens the year I was born, 1925, Labor Day was on Sept. 7, which my Mother thought was

very appropriate. My Father was up north on a fishing trip. He and Mother named me Dorothy, which means gift of God.

Mother was very devout, I remember during Lent, we would say the Rosary on our knees every night. I also recall that she always prayed for a happy death, which scared me, as I couldn't bear thinking that one day she would die. As you know she spent her last few years in a nursing home. The comforting fact was that she died on Aug. 15 which is the Holy Day of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, so I am convinced she had a happy death, and a straight trip to heaven.

I had a little problem with the names in the records, Mother was never called Dorothy, always Mollie. Seeing your Dad called Anthony, Gerry called Marie etc. disturbed me, but I guess the official names must be used.

Here is a little insight into why we all sang, and loved cards, and in fact could do both at the same time. Carl and Rosemary both had polio, and wore leg braces, so activities had to be something they could both participate in. Cards and singing both fit the bill. It also led to a family closeness. When I was young I thought all families shared that closeness, but found we were quite unique. We have passed that closeness along to our kids, and Grandkids, too.

Franny, Butch, Joan and I were called the "Four Little Kids", and breathlessly awaited the day we would be able to join our siblings in song, and cards.

When I was in High school, the family would invite friends over for a potato pancake, apple pie dinner, and then the marathon poker game would start, and often times would last all night. One of the frequent guests was my guidance counselor, Al, on whom I had a huge crush. I was very humiliated when my mother would tell me it was time for bed.

I will tell you a story about your Father. I once asked if I could have a boy friend over for supper, and after supper we started playing cards, your

Dad passed wind, and said "Dorothy, shame on you ." I wanted to fall through the floor, I was so embarrassed. He did many nice things too, he let me read his G8 magazines. They were stories about world war one pilots who flew the biplanes , called spads, and engaged in "dog fights" with the German pilots , who flew "fokkers", Germany's planes. He made wonderful thick malted milks, when he was a "soda jerk" at the Fair store. Sometimes he would give me a nickel, which was the price of a ticket to the Ritz theater, that was a double -feature, plus news feature, comic feature, and installment feature. the pictures were usually westerns, and it was a heavenly way to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

Holy cow, this is a long e-mail, isn't it? On the Fourth of July, when I was a kid, we watched the parade, then followed it to the cemetery, listened to a patriotic speech, enjoyed a band concert, and got a free ice cream cone. We would save our pennies for weeks to buy fire crackers, and other pyrotechnics, and it was always a fun day.

Well, I have rambled on enough for one missive, but I have one more item. These days I watch the Boston Pops concert, tape the Capitol Fourth, and Macy's fireworks spectacular, have my Cracker Jacks, popcorn, and soda, and on this night I am a kid again, and the only drawback is that my knees hurt from standing up so often to sing the National Anthem, but it is a small price to pay to hear the 1812 Overture twice with cannons, and to feel the pride I have in this wonderful country of ours.

Much Love,
Dorothy

Did you know that....

- ...Don & Sharon Heck just became grandparents again?
- ...this newsletter has 60 free subscribers?
- ...Mary Kay (Heck) Hansen was my kissing cousin?
- ...Gloria Heck and Kathy Mikel only ate one half of a cream puff at the Wisconsin State Fair?
- ...I was impressed that they shared a single cream puff between them.

Meet some of your cousins...

Pamela (Wagner) Kebis sent in the picture of her family. Pamela's ancestry is as follows:

Johann Heck & Anna Barbara Schaefer
Joseph Heck (1841 - 1919)
Aloysius Heck (1887 - 1984)
Victor Heck (1911 - 1980)
LaDonna Mae Heck
Pamela Wagner Kebis



*From left to right.
Pamela (Wagner) Kebis, Susan (Chasman) Wagner, Sarah Wagner (youngest girl), Elizabeth Wagner, LaDonna (Heck) Wagner, Laurel Wagner (was Boren but divorced), Diana (Boren) Russom, Chuck Russom, Dale Boren, Jonathon Boren, Richard Wagner, Rick Wagner Jr., David Wagner, Tom Kebis.*

In 1982, I found a query about the Heck family from Minnesota in an old issue of Genealogical Helper magazine. The issue was three or four years old at that time. The query was written by none other than Pamela Wagner Buck who is Pamela Wagner Kebis today. I sent a letter to Pamela 19 years ago but it was returned as not deliverable. She had moved from Dillerdale Street in LaPuente, California about a year earlier.

Several years later I sent a letter to the neighbors on either side of her old address and asked them if they could forward my letter to Pamela. One letter was returned with the note that they had no idea of where she was living now.

Now 19 years later I got an e-mail message from Pamela Wagner Kebis in response to a query that I ran on Rootsweb on the internet. My query was in reference to the Heck family from Minnesota. It turns out that Pamela Wagner Buck divorced Andrew Buck in 1981, and married Tom Kebis in 1995.

Pamela is the Vice President of Bank of America and manages the technical staff. She now lives in Diamond Bar, California.

I would also like to welcome Pamela's parents, LaDonna Heck Wagner and Richard John Wagner, to the list of subscribers of this newsletter. LaDonna and Richard are retired and are living in Durango, Colorado.

A Civil War Diary

Located on page seven of this newsletter you will find an interesting page from the Civil War Diary of Joseph Merrill of Kenosha, Wisconsin. While he was not a relative, he was stationed in the 19th Regiment of the Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry, the same unit that my great grandfather, Henry Heck was in.

The page shows the entry of May 16, 1864 and describes the battle that Henry Heck was wounded in near Richmond, Virginia. There is little doubt that Joseph Merrill knew Henry Heck since they both enlisted from the same county at the same time and served in the same unit since 1862.

The diary was interesting to read from cover to cover. Joseph started out buying a small bag of apples for himself. He soon discovered that his fellow soldiers were willing to pay him extra for one of them. As time went by, Joseph would purchase a larger bag of apples and soon two bags then three. Finally he started buying a bushel of apples and the

money started to roll in. Within a short time he was buying two and then three bushels at a time. He was married at the time so he would send his apple earnings home to his wife in Kenosha.

Joseph made one purchase of four bushels of apples but then discovered that he had reached a limit. The apples started to rot in the bottom of the last bushel, and his profit was at risk of becoming a loss. He quickly backed down to three bushels which seemed to work quite well for him. In one of his entries he stated that he went to town and bought five gallons of oysters, 21 pounds of crackers and eight dozen eggs to resell to the troops.

I would guess that Joseph became a grocer after the war.

From the photo album...

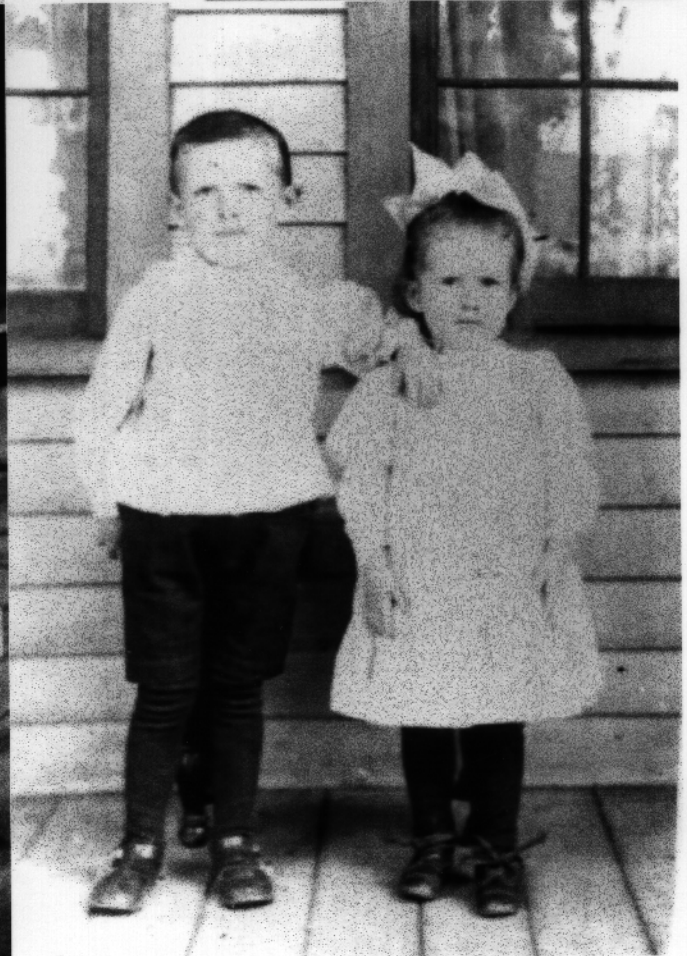
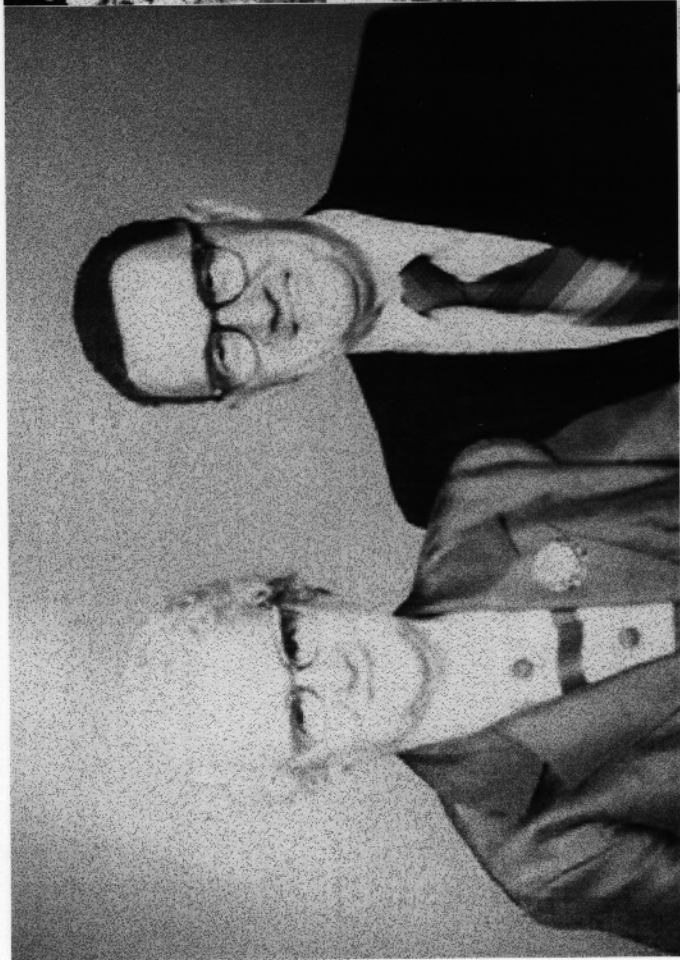
On page six starting at upper left and going clockwise: (1) The Nick Pier family. (2) The wedding of Nick Pier and Loraine C. Heck. Joseph Heck, brother of the bride is standing at left. Note that Nick Pier was the brother of Frances Pier Heck, wife of Clarence Heck. (3) Loraine Heck and her brother, Ray Heck from Burlington, Wisconsin in about 1910. (4) Loraine C. Heck Pier and Nick Pier.

More from the photo album...

On page eight top row, left to right: Gary and Bob Heck in 1944, Robert G. Heck with Don and Gary Heck in 1945. Joan and Gary Heck with Cindy and Lee in 1964. Our first home at 1212 Hagerer Street in Racine, Wisconsin.

At center is a picture of the Robert G. Heck family. Left to right: Robert, Bob, Gary, Don and Mary Heck in 1945. This picture was taken at 1306 Jones Avenue in Racine, Wisconsin.

Bottom from left to right: Robert G. Heck at Heck Park in Racine. Mary and Robert Heck with Cindy and Lee Heck in 1964. The Bob and Gloria Heck family with David and Bill. The Don and Sharon Heck family with Steve and Amy.



Civil War Diary of Joseph Merrill of Kenosha, 19th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

16 May 1864

16th Monday morning foggy. Rebs strongly reinforced from Richmond during the night and morning. Heavy attacks on our right and left. We are obliged to fall back with considerable loss. So foggy we could not see the Rebs 'till they were upon us. The hardest day that I have seen. The wounded are passing by in all forms. The loss in our regiment this day, 6 killed, 40+ wounded and missing. We fall back to our former positions and camp.

18 04 70
6th May Sunday Marched some
four miles and camped in
camp a few days then went
on Pickett the whole Regt
the night. Ming. taken to the
front remained on Pickett
till the 14th
14th Saturday relieved and ordered
to fight the Regt in front
15th Sunday Marched to Drewry's
Bluffs and camped under
a cover of a woods 10 miles from
16th Monday morning Foggy
Rebs strongly reinforced from
Richmond during the night and
morning Heavy attacks on our
right and left we are obliged
to fall back with considerable
loss. So foggy we could not
see the Rebs till they were
upon us the hardest day the
wounded are passing by in all forms
the loss in our Regt this day
6 killed 40+ wounded and
missing

Henry Heck from Kenosha County, served in Company F, Wisconsin 19th Infantry, and was one of those wounded during the battle at Drewery's Bluff near Richmond, Virginia.

