

Our Family News Letter

Issue 35

Greendale, Wisconsin

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George J. Henningfeld

George J. Henningfeld was born 6 July 1884 at the town of Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin. He had eight brothers and sisters, one of who was my grandmother, Margaret F. Henningfeld Heck. While he was really my Great Uncle, we always called him, "Uncle George."

I remember being told that Uncle George was a fireman and that he was injured when he was thrown from a fire truck. I tried to find out when the accident occurred but the best that anyone could recall was that it was in 1945. I searched through a few newspapers of 1945 but never did find information about the accident. I had even contacted his daughter, Jean Henningfeld Jacobs, but she didn't remember the date either.



George J. Henningfeld

The following article appeared in the Monday, April 7th, issue of the Racine Journal Times:

A few months ago I contacted a Tom Gavanhan who was a volunteer at the Racine Firefighter's Museum. He looked in a scrap book from the 1945 and 1946 period and found that Uncle George was injured on 7 April 1946. The next step was to locate newspaper articles about the accident.

Fireman Unconscious in Hospital; Hurts Head in Fall from Truck

George J. Henningfeld, 62, Racine fireman, still is unconscious in St. Luke's Hospital with a compound fracture of the skull suffered when he fell from the rear running board of a fire truck making an emergency run early Sunday.

No One Sees Accident

Fire Chief Rudolph E. Anderson, who made an investigation, said the truck was called from the Marquette Street station at 4:30 a.m. and proceeded some distance beyond the intersection of Marquette and Prospect Streets, when Captain William Hayek, in charge, missed Henningfeld and started a search for him. No one had seen him fall.

The injured fireman was found at the intersection, lying against the curbing. He was rushed to the hospital. The Chief said he found a depression in the pavement at the intersection and said that Henningfeld possibly was jolted from the truck.

On Department 20 Years

Henningfeld was appointed to the fire department, March 1, 1926. For several years he has been

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stationed at the Marquette Street fire house as a member of the Number 3 Truck Company.

Henningfeld's son, PFC. George R. Henningfeld, 29, member of a Flying Fortress crew, was killed in action in France on July 30, 1944.

The following brief article appeared in the Racine Journal Times on April 9th.

Hurt Fireman Still in Coma

George J. Henningfeld, 62, fireman, who fell from the Number 3 truck on an emergency run early Sunday, still is in a coma at Saint Luke's Hospital, but his condition today is reported to be much improved.

Fire Chief Rudolph E. Anderson is keeping a fireman on constant duty at the bedside, the men maintaining three hour shifts.

No one saw Henningfeld fall from the truck. Firemen missed him and returning to Marquette and Prospect Streets found him lying against a curbing, unconscious.

I searched through newspapers covering two weeks after the April 9th article but was unable to locate a follow-up article.

Uncle George was 41 years old when he became a fireman in 1926, which had to be difficult considering that most starting firemen were in their late teens or early twenties. The competition to keep up with the younger men had to be a real challenge for him.

On August 31, 1910, George J. Henningfeld married Martha Stutz in the parsonage at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On August 31, 1960 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with their family and friends.

George and Martha lived on Carter Street in Racine.

Biography Had Many Errors

The following biography had many errors in it. The idea that some of the people mentioned were from Paris, France probably came from the fact that they lived in Paris Township, Wisconsin. Some of the dates are also incorrect. John Heck was a native of Prussia and came to America in 1852. His name is actually Johann Heck, and was the first Heck from our family to come to America from Alendorf, Germany. Johann Heck married Susannah Zeren, widow of Nicholas Zeren. Johann Heck's first wife, Anna Barbara Schaefer died at Brighton, Wisconsin in 1855.

"The History of Redwood County, Minnesota"

Author: Curtis-Wedge, Franklyn Publisher:

Cooper, Chicago 1916, P. 1003

John Zeren, a well-known citizen of Wabasso, was born October 16, 1874, in West Newton township, Nicollet county, Minnesota, son of Peter and Gertrude (Stacken) Zeren. Peter was born in Brighton township, Kenosha, Wis., in July, 1850, son of Nicholas Zeren, a native of Paris, France, who came to America, locating in Kenosha county, Wisconsin, where he engaged in farming and died in 1854. He was married in France. After his death the widow married John Heck, **also a native of France, (sic) who came to Wisconsin in 1858 (sic)** and then came to Nicollet county, Minnesota, where he took up a homestead of 160 acres in Brighton township. In 1860 he sold his claim for \$150.00 and returned to Wisconsin. In 1861 he returned to Nicollet county, Minn., and bought 120 acres in Brighton township. At the time of the Indian uprising in 1862 the family took their livestock and went to St. Peter to avoid the Indians. On returning to the farm they found their house safe but the barn and wheat stacks had been burned.

Peter Zeren, the father of John, worked on the home farm during the summers and in the winter was employed in the pineries in Michigan.

In 1871 he came to Minnesota and bought 80 acres in West Newton township, Nicollet county. Here he remained until 1885, when he sold and moved to Chaska, Carver county, this state. He was a carpenter contractor there for twelve years and then moved to Renville county, where he rented a farm in Cairo township. He moved to Fairfax, where he died. He was married in 1871 to Gertrude Stacken, born in 1851 in Prussia, Germany, who is still living in Fairfax. Her father, Cornelius Stacken was born in 1813 and came to America in 1867, locating in Lake township, Carver County, Minnesota, where he bought 140 acres of land. In 1896 he returned to Granby township, Nicollet County. He died in 1898. His wife, Katherine (Rademacher) Stacken, was born in 1815 and died in 1895.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Zeren had the following children: John, Cornelius, of Wabasso; Margaretha, who died in 1899; Philip, a farmer in North Dakota; Mary, Mrs. Chas. Johanneck, of Redwood Falls; William, of Fairfax; Elizabeth, of Fairfax; Gertrude, of Fairfax; Katherine, Mrs. E.G. Weldon, of Wabasso, and George of Fairfax.

John Zeren remained at home until twenty-one years of age, when he entered the harness business of Mahovel & Ness at Fairfax. After two years he went to Wabasso and followed the harness trade there until 1903, when he engaged in the harness and shoe business for himself. He was a member of the village council for nine years and is a director of the Wabasso Building & Loan Association and a stockholder in the Citizens Bank of Wabasso. Mr. Zeren was married June 26, 1900 to Barbara Sons, born in 1877 in Brighton Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Nicholas and Susana (Schaefer) Sons, both natives of Prussia, Germany. Nicholas Sons came to America in 1860. He was one of the old Civil War veterans and died in 1880. His wife was born in 1830 and died in 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Zeren have the following children: Leona, Raymond, Mildred, Werner and Win.

Alois Heck: An Autobiography Written In 1971 At The Age Of 84

*A BIOGRAPHY WRITTEN BY: ALOYISUS F.
(ALOIS) HECK ABOUT THE 27TH. AND 29TH.
OF NOVEMBER IN THE YEAR OF 1971*

I was born at 501 North Broadway, New Ulm, Minnesota on February 15, 1887 to Joseph and Josephine Heck. I was baptized in the Holy Trinity Church and went to Holy Trinity School until I was ten years old. Then we moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. I did not like the big city life, and as my uncle and aunt, the Vincent Brunners, asked me to come and stay with them on their farm. I went up to them and stayed with them on their farm at West Newton, Nicollet County, Minnesota. I stayed with them for several years until I was old enough to get a job on the Frank Altman farm for \$125.00 per year, which at that time was the wages for a hired man on the farms. I worked there until 1905, when my year was up I went back to St. Paul, Minnesota and got a job at the White Enamel Refrigerator Company and worked there all winter and summer until in the later part of July, I went back to West Newton for the harvest work and got a job on the Mrs. Catherine Lang farm. She was the mother of my wife, Mary. T. Lang. And as the Vincent Brunner farm was right across the road from the Lang farm, I was no stranger, for there was the place where I go acquainted with my wife.

After the harvest I went back and worked for Frank Altman again. I worked there until 1907, and on May 28, 1907, Mary T. Lang and I were married in the church of St. George in West Newton, Nicollet, Minnesota.

We moved to St. Paul, Minnesota and I worked for a contractor by the name of George J. Grant that summer, then we went back to St. George in the fall and helped with the harvest and thrashing. We stayed with my Mother-in-law as she wanted to have her daughter with her when she had her first baby. I was kind of nervous, but everything went off O.K. There was no one around so I had to hitch a team and go and get the midwife, and when I

came back the little boy had just been born. Everything was in good shape so the next day I went thrashing again. That week they had a barn dance in the neighborhood and some of the thrashing crew went to the dance, but I walked home two miles to visit my little new born son and stayed for a few hours and then walked back to where we had the thrashing rig and threw some wood in the boiler and that morning I got up at 4:30 and fired up the old boiler and had the steam up ready to start thrashing for the day.

After thrashing we moved to 727 North Broadway, New Ulm, Minnesota, and we lived in New Ulm all our married life. We had a family of five boys and one girl of which two of the children died of pneumonia at the age of nine months, them that died were Clara and Roman. The next three children that were born were boys, so we have four boys left. Frank was the first of our children, then Clara and Roman and Victor, Edwin and Robert. Frank lives in Searles, Minnesota; Victor and Edwin in New Ulm, Minnesota; and Robert in Caldwell, Idaho, and glad to say that they are all big and strong.

When we moved to New Ulm in the fall, times were not so good, as jobs were hard to get and them jobs that we could get, paid only small wages. The first job I got was driving a team on a road-grading job. I had to be at the barn in the morning, curry my two horses and harness them, hitch them to the wagon and drive six blocks and be on the job at 7:00 a.m. until noon and have one hour for dinner, and feed the horses and start working at one o'clock until 6:00 in the evening, drive home, unhitch and unharness the horses and work six days a week and got \$35.00 a month, and we only could work until the ground froze in winter, we didn't have no work.

The neighbor and I sometimes cut a few cords of wood for a dollar a cord and fence posts for 1 cent a piece and walk out to the woods three miles in the morning and back in the evening. I got a job in the fall at the New Ulm Roller Mill, but that was lower paying job then the teamster job, we only worked three days in two weeks, so in spring I went back to teamstering for a few months and

then I got a job at the Eagle Roller Mill packing flour for \$2.10 for 12 hours work and that is where it stayed until the wages went up in World War I.

After World War I, milling was not so good so I started painting, then times got so bad that nobody had any work done so I worked in the City Cemetery for one season for \$45.00 a month, then the boss from the New Ulm Roller Mill asked me to come work for him again so I went down and worked for him again. In a short time after I started to work there again, the Eagle Roller Mill Company bought out the New Ulm Roller Mill, and made a Rye Mill out of it and in a short time after that the International Milling Company bought out the Eagle Mill Company and dismantled it, but I stayed there until I was laid off at the age of 65 years.

If my wife and I live until May 28, 1972, we can celebrate our 65th, wedding Anniversary, and in the 65 years we didn't have a bed of roses all the time, it was hard going at times but we had our own cow and chickens, a lot and a half of garden, and my wife was a good seamstress and done a lot of sewing for the people and she earned a lot of money sewing dresses, and we sold milk for 5 cents a quart and eggs for 8 to 12 cents a dozen and we canned a lot of vegetables and that helped quite a lot.

We canned our vegetables out of our own garden, because we didn't have the means to buy the canned vegetables in the store and that good jam the wife cooked was sure enjoyed by the whole family.

We have lived to the ripe old age, I am going to be 85 years in February, 1972, and the wife is going to be 82 on July 12, 1972, 85-82 years is a long span of life, but I still can remember the day when we got married, it was a nice summer day and nice and warm, we were both a little excited, but we made it with flying colors. When the first baby came I was the one that was excited, the wife didn't have time to get excited as she had a job to do.

Lawrence McNulty Found in 1880 Census

Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess had 13 children between 1842 and 1869. The 10th child was Lawrence McNulty, named after Peter McNulty's brother, Lawrence. The 13th child was Sylvester McNulty. Sylvester McNulty was found in the 1880 census in Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin at age 11 working at a resort. No other record for him has ever been found.

Lawrence McNulty was found in the 1880 census working on a farm at Spring Water, Waushara County, Wisconsin. He was 18 years of age and was living on the Jennet Christie farm with five women ranging in age from 18 to 53. Jennet Christie was a widow and one of her daughters, Clara V. Christie age 21, was to become the future wife of Lawrence McNulty. Part of the reason that Lawrence was so difficult to find was that his name was listed as Larry McNeltie. The following list is from the 1880 census records.

Census Place: Spring Water, Waushara County, Wisconsin (Wild Rose) Source: FHL Film 1255452 National Archives Film T9-1452 Page 365D

Name, Relation, Sex, Marr, Race, Age, Birthplace, Occupation, Father born, Mother born

Jennet J. CHRISTIE Self F W W 53 SCOT
Occ: Keeping House Fa: SCOT Mo: SCOT

Maggie A. CHRISTIE Dau F S W 24 WI
Occ: At Home Fa: SCOT Mo: SCOT

Mary C. CHRISTIE Dau F S W 23 WI
Occ: At Home Fa: SCOT Mo: SCOT

Clara V. CHRISTIE Dau F S W 21 WI
Occ: School Teacher Fa: SCOT Mo: SCOT

Addie B. CHRISTIE Dau F S W 18 WI
Occ: At School Fa: SCOT Mo: SCOT

Larry MCNELTIE Other M S W 18 WI
Occ: Farm Laborer Fa: IRE Mo: NY

John Halbach & Gertrud Kroeger Grueter

The following German web site has a detailed article on the John Halbach family from Germany and from Wisconsin. Part of that article is shown here.

http://home.wtal.de/Halbach/e_book_10.htm

In 1853 John Halbach married Gertrud Kroeger, widow of John Grueter. Gertrud was born in Coesfeld, Germany on October, 10. 1825. She, along with her four brothers and father, arrived in Milwaukee in 1844. On May 5, 1846, she was married to John Grueter. Cholera, which ravaged Milwaukee and much of the Midwest in 1850, took the lives of her husband, father and an infant son. She was widowed with two little children -- Theodor Grueter, who became a resident of Burlington, Wisconsin, and Margaret, who married William Henningfeld and lived in Waterford, Wisconsin.

In 1873, John Halbach and his wife, Gertrud Kroeger Grueter Halbach, and their family moved from the city of Milwaukee and bought from John Hofer, the northwest corner lots on East Main Street in the village of Waterford.

John and Gertrud had seven children: John Jr., Mary (Mrs. Fred Heitkemper), Werner George, Gertrude (Mrs. Albert Wiemer), Herman, Henry and Wilhelmina. Both John Jr. and Werner married and with their families, moved to Annaheim, Saskatchewan, Canada. Mary and Fred Heitkemper moved to Phillips, Wisconsin. Gertrude and Albert Wiemer raised their family on a farm on Highway 36, north of Waterford.

Later Henry and Herman carried on leading the family store. Wilhelmina was single and lived at her parent's home.

Coming to Waterford in 1873, John and Gertrud opened their doors to other "new-comers", providing them with food and lodging. After a year or so, they started a small country store in a twelve by twelve-foot room of their cottage. Millinery and

notions were the chief wares bought and sold. Later, they dealt in most wares which the farmers of the community wanted to buy and sell. This necessitated trips to the city, and in those pioneer days, it meant a great deal more than just covering distance. Mr. And Mrs. Halbach, with their two sons, Herman and Henry, aged fifteen and thirteen, made weekly trips to the city selling the farmer's products and buying stock.

The Halbach Store became an institution. The two-storied building and the warehouse were filled with merchandise. Poultry became a great issue, as much of it was slaughtered and sold to city trade. One day they hauled two 4,000 pound loads of poultry. There was a time when the entire output of butter from the creamery was sold by the store.

The general store in the early days had a potbellied stove, where all the farmers and townspeople gathered to discuss the affairs of the day. What a wonderful feeling on a wintry day!

John Halbach died on October 12, 1901; Gertrud followed him seven years later, on June 19, 1908, Wilhelmina died November 16, 1912. The Halbach Brothers Co. store carried on under the able management of Herman and Henry Halbach.

John, the eldest son of Johann and Gertrud had only one daughter, Geraldine. Werner George had 10 children: John, Henry, Lawrence, Aloysius, Mary, George, Regina, Ida, Peter and Frank.

Herman Halbach, the younger brother of Werner George, was president of the School Board and he was instrumental in constructing the first all-inclusive Waterford High School building. Classes moved in September, 1915. Herman W. Halbach, in addition to his civic and store activities, was well-known nationally and internationally for his developing of the Halbach Strain of White Plymouth Rocks. He was a winner of championships and blue ribbons wherever his chickens were shown. He put Waterford on the word map by shipment of poultry not only to every state in the union, but to Canada, Mexico, South America, the Hawaiian Islands and South Africa. In his later

years, he built up a herd of pure-bred registered Holstein chickens.

His wife, Mary Wegge Halbach, was as intensely interested in the poultry and dairy farm business as was her husband. All the children cooperated to make Riverdale Farm a success. Joseph Halbach was the manager of the farm work; Leonard Halbach assisted in the development of the herd of pure-bred Holsteins; William Halbach carried on the poultry tradition; Marie (Hydar) presided over the office; Agnes (Hoermel) (later a Milwaukee high school teacher) and Regina (Keller) busied themselves delivering milk to neighboring families, helping with the chickens and working at the store.

Herman Halbach died on January 23, 1920, after attending the National Poultry Show in Chicago. His wife, Mary, died on September 6, 1926.

Henry Halbach, the youngest son of Johann and Gertrud, had a family of nine children- Catherine (Nettesheim), Seraphine, Helena, Sister Genevieve, Ottilia (Gauerke), Ludwig, Florian, Ralph and Adela (Sister Charity). Henry Halbach died in 1955 at the age of ninety-two, Josepha Kepper Halbach, his wife, a helpmate always, died in 1963, also at the age of ninety-two.

Ludwig Halbach, living in Kansasville with his wife, Mildred, was a dairyman, having sold his cattle a few years ago.

Meet you cousins...

On the last two pages of this news letter you will find the family of Alvin James Heck. Alvin and Carolyn live at 1049 Beacon Bluff Hts., Colorado Springs, CO 80906.

Alvin and Carolyn are frequent contributors to "Our Family News Letter". Alvin sent in the pictures and I am happy to share them with all of our readers. If you would like to have your family featured in "Our Family News Letter", just send me some group photos and a description of each.

Modified Register for Alvin James HECK Jr.

First Generation

1. **Alvin James HECK Jr.** was born on 2 Jun 1938 in Racine, Racine Co., WI.

Alvin married (1) **Patricia SORENSEN** on 7 Oct 1960. The marriage ended in divorce. Patricia was born on 7 Mar 1942 in Kenosha, Kenosha Co., WI.

Alvin and Patricia had the following children:

- 2 M i. **Jeffery Allen HECK** was born on 30 Mar 1963 in Racine, Racine Co., WI.
- + 3 F ii. **Julie Ann HECK** was born on 23 May 1966.
- + 4 M iii. **James Michael HECK** was born on 23 Nov 1969.

Alvin married (2) **Carolyn Marie KRAUSE** on 5 Jan 1984 in Racine, Racine Co., WI. Carolyn was born on 1 Jul 1944 in Stafford, WI.

Carolyn was married to Roger Belanger, and had three children by him as follows: Eugene Belanger, Paul Belanger and Neil Belanger. Carolyn's parents were Stan Krause and Elaine Weber.

Second Generation

3. **Julie Ann HECK** (Alvin James) was born on 23 May 1966 in Racine, Racine Co., WI.

Julie married **Dewey Mark TURVAVILLE** on 25 May 1991 in Racine, Racine Co., WI. Mark was born on 10 Jun 1966.

Mark and Julie had the following children:

- 5 M i. **Jordan Christopher TURVAVILLE** was born on 2 May 1994 in Kenosha, Kenosha Co., WI.
- 6 M ii. **Hunter TURVAVILLE** was born in 1997.
- 7 F iii. **Autumn TURVAVILLE** was born in 1998.

4. **James Michael HECK** (Alvin James) was born on 23 Nov 1969 in Racine, Racine Co., WI.

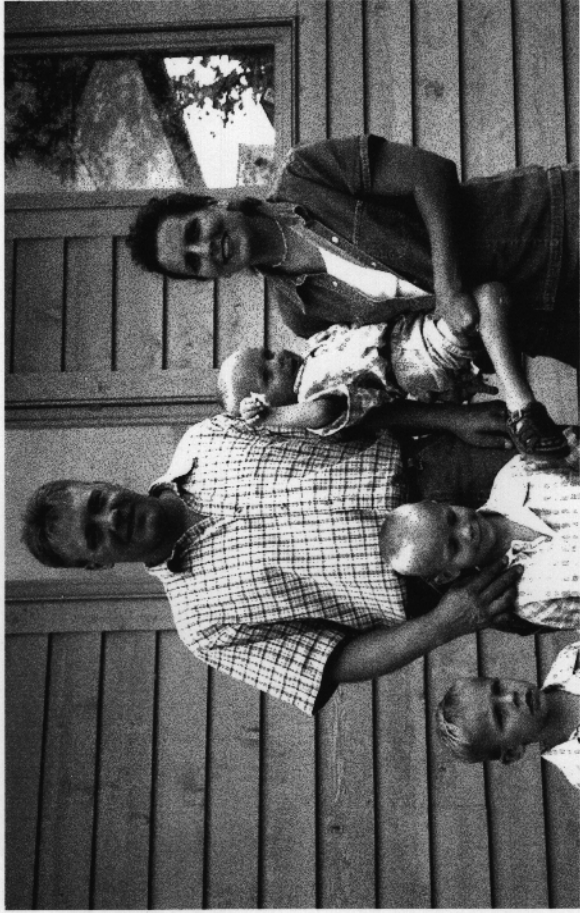
James married **Mary Elizabeth SAWISCH** on 18 Jul 1992 in Antioch, IL.

They had the following children:

- 8 M i. **James Michael HECK** was born on 31 Mar 1994 in Oak Creek, Milwaukee Co., WI.
- 9 M ii. **Jarrett HECK** was born in 1995.
- 10 M iii. **Jonathon HECK** was born in 1997.



Al and Carolyn Heck with Jim and Mary Heck.



Jim & Mary Heck with Jimmy Jr.7, Jarrett 6, Jonathan 4. Mary & Jim are expecting their 4th in December.



Julie & Mark Turvaville with Jordan 7, Hunter 4, Autumn 3, & Kaila 12.



L-R: Jeff Mary & Jim Heck.