

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 36

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 2002

## Frances E. Pier Heck 1905 - 2002



RACINE - Frances E. (nee: Pier) Heck, 96, passed away Saturday, January 19, 2002, at her residence. Frances was born in Brighton, on May 28, 1905, daughter of the late John and Johanna (nee: Fettes) Pier. On June 21, 1927, she was united in marriage to Clarence H. Heck, who preceded her in death February 24, 1955. Frances was a graduate of St. Catherine's Academy. She was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, belonging to the Dominican Tertiary, Christian Mother Altar Society, and a long-time Mission Volunteer. Frances Heck was an inspiration of love for her 10 children

and their spouses, her 39 grandchildren, her 55 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Her family has so many treasured memories of her love and dedication to Christian family values. Her daily life witnessed to the message of love embodied in St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians. She was dearly loved and will be forever cherished.

Survivors include her 10 children, Richard (Cel) Heck of Racine, Marjorie (Donald) Johnson of Torrance, Calif., Lawrence Heck of Racine, Robert (Lorraine) Heck of Ft. Myers, Fla., Dolores Gibson (Bernard) Kunka, Shirley F. Heck, Eugene (Carol) Heck, all of Racine, Mary Kay (David) Hansen of Dublin, Calif., Donna Jean (Albert) Benedict of Whitewater; 39 grandchildren; 55 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, other relatives and many dear friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was also preceded in death by her daughter-in-law, Nancy Heck; son-in-law, John Gibson; sisters, Eleanor (Henry) Markson, Margaret (Norman) Sorenson; brothers, John (Loretta) Pier and Nicholas (Lorraine) Pier. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 2201 Northwestern Avenue, Friday, January 25, 2002,

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

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

11 a.m. with Rev. Michael Sparough S.J. officiating. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, Kinzie Avenue, Relatives and friends may meet with the family at the funeral home on Thursday from 5 until 7 p.m. (Prayer Vigil at 7 p.m.) and at the church on Friday from 10 until 10:45 a.m. Memorials to Sacred Heart School have been suggested. MARESH-MEREDITH AND ACKLAM FUNERAL HOME 803 Main Street 634-7888

## The End of an Era

We were all saddened by the passing of Frances (Fanny) Heck in January, 2002. She was the last of her generation of the Heck family and will be greatly missed by all of us. While the last few years were difficult for her and for her family, we will long remember her during happier times. We'll remember her at the family picnics and the get-togethers. She was the one who always had a smile on her face.

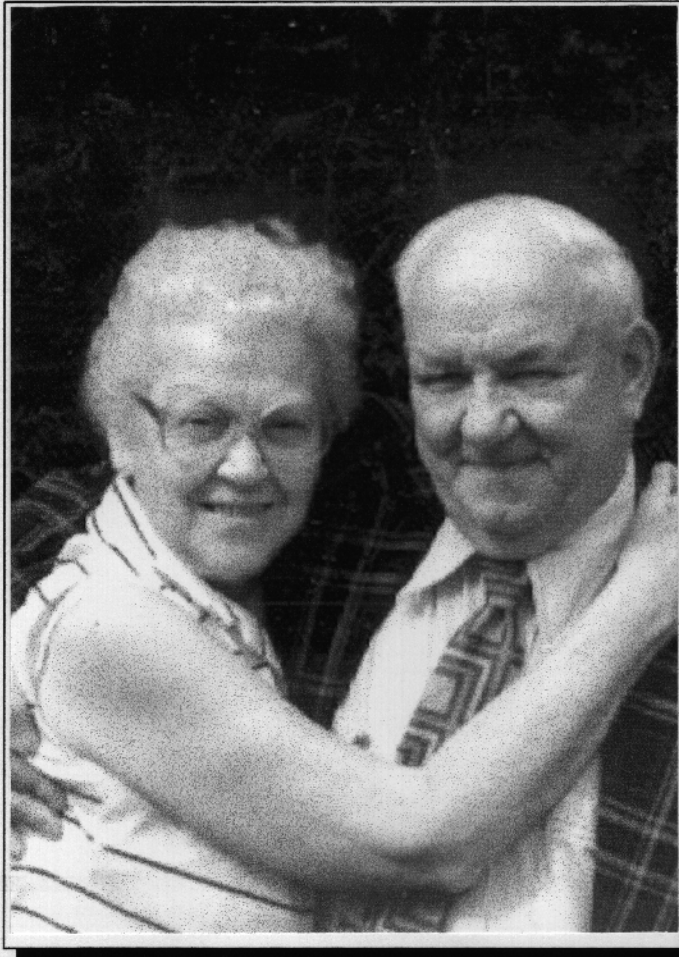
When I was at the funeral home I couldn't help notice that she had an ever slight smile on her face. I mentioned that to her children and they all agreed. She looked so nice.

Fanny lived for almost 47 years after her husband Clarence died in 1955. One of her grandchildren asked her why she never remarried. Her response was that she only had one love and that was Grandpa Clarence.

At the funeral home there were also a lot of pictures of her, her children, her grandchildren and her great grandchildren. Shirley Heck spent a lot of loving time putting hundreds of pictures into a collage. The pictures brought back many fond memories and had a lot of people smiling. At the end of this newsletter you will find some pictures of Fanny and her family from my own collection.

I always remember on Sunday afternoons, my dad would drive over to Harriet Street so I could pick up my cousin Mary Kay for roller skating. I remember seeing my Uncle Clarence sitting in the living room smoking a cigar and I can still hear my Aunt Fanny saying, "You kids be careful now."

## **Bernice Bernhardt Heck 1909 - 2002**



*Bernice and Alvin Heck in 1985*

BERNICE HECK AGE: 92 Nee: BERNHARDT passed away January 2nd 2002 at Willow Green Home, Racine, Wisconsin. Mrs. Heck was born in Racine, WI. on May 11, 1909, daughter of the late Matthias and Anna (Nee: Nelson) Bernhardt and a lifetime resident of Racine. Bernice went to school at Holy Name Catholic School and St. Catherine's High School, and was a member of St. Joseph's Church, Ladies of the Moose, and Jolly Times Club.

Mrs. Heck was married to Joseph P. Powaser in 1927, and the mother of three sons: Dr. J. Thomas (Joan) Powaser of Dearborn Hts, Michigan, William (Julie Jackson) Powaser of Battle Creek, Michigan, and Robert (Carol) Powaser of Racine.

After the death of Joseph in 1955, Bernice was married to William "Bill" Wittke, formerly an Alderman of Racine. He died in 1977, and she then married Alvin J. Heck, Sr. at St. Joseph's Church on November 30, 1985. They lived together in Racine until his death on August 5, 1997.

Mrs. Heck has nine Grandchildren: Gregory (Gale) Powaser, Waterford, MI., David (Marta) Powaser of El Dorado Hills, CA., Jerome (Julie) Powaser of Peoria, IL., Elizabeth (John III) Santeiu of Dearborn Hts., MI., Cynthia Hediger of Columbia, Maryland, Michael (Lisa) Powaser of Dearborn, MI., Peter (Christine) Powaser of Houston, TX., Patrick (Jacqueline) Powaser of Dallas, Texas. and Amy (Todd) Swiertz of Racine. She has eleven Great-grandchildren. Bernice has a Sister, Charlotte Hansen and one brother, Richard Bernhardt, both of Racine, other Nieces and Nephews and Friends.

Bernice has a large extended family thru her marriage to Alvin, she has four Step-children: Joanne (Marvin) Pfeiffer of Racine, Alvin (Carol) J. Heck, Jr. of Colorado Springs, CO., Patricia (Robert) Merritt of St. Paul, MN., and Ronald Heck of Beaver Dam, WI. She has eighteen Step grandchildren: David (Mary) Pfeiffer of Waukesha, WI., Daniel (Patti) Pfeiffer of Naperville, ILL., Steven (Cara) Pfeiffer, Ann (Daniel) Kelley, Jeanie (Malcolm) Hatfield, Lori (John) Suchla, Judi (Steven) Behrendt, all of Racine, Jeffrey Heck, Julie (Mark) Turvaville, James (Mary) Heck, all of Kenosha, William (Sharon) Merritt of Shoreview, MN., Susan (James) Spiedel of St. Paul, MN., Katherine (Kevin) Starr of Lindstrom, MN., Matthew, Robyn, Nathan, Christopher, and Olivia Heck, all of Beaver Dam, WI. She has forty-three Great Grand Stepchildren, Nieces, Neph-

ews, and Friends. Preceding her in death besides her parents, was one brother, Jerome Bernhardt.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 1532 Erie Street, on Saturday January 5th at 10 A.M. with Reverend Richard Stoffel officiating. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, Hy. 32. Relatives and friends can meet with the family on Friday January 4th from 5 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. The Rosary at 7 P.M. Relatives and friends can also meet with the family on Saturday at the church from 9:30 A.M. until time of Mass. Memorials to St. Joseph Church would be appreciated.

The family would like to thank the staff and residents of Villa St. Anna and Willow Green Home for their care and kindness to Bernice.

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### Like teenagers....

Bernice Wittke was a good friend of my parents, Mary and Bob Heck, and was set up by them for a blind date with my Uncle Alvin Heck. Bernice had been a widow for about seven years and Uncle Al was a widower for about a year. Alvin and Bernice hit it off right from the start and were like



*Bernice and Alvin sit holding hands at Wind Point, Wisconsin in July,*

teenagers as they started dating. It was neat to see them walking hand-in-hand together.

I spoke with Aunt Bernice and Uncle Al at their 10th wedding anniversary and asked them about their courtship. Both thought it would be difficult to start dating again and they were not quite sure of how to act. However both of them said that it was so natural that their fears were of no concern. Aunt Bernice did tell me that she was afraid to get married again since she had lost two husbands already. They were a very happy couple and both will be missed very much.

### Johann Heck in Burlington 1863

Johann Heck, my great great grandfather, was surprisingly found at Burlington, Wisconsin in the Saint Mary's Catholic Church records on January 18, 1863. That was the day that his son Andrew Heck was baptized. The surprising thing is that Andrew was reportedly born in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

We know that Susannah, second wife of Johann, was pregnant with Andrew when the family fled Swan Lake, Minnesota in 1862. The reason that the family fled was because of the Sioux Indian uprising in 1862 at New Ulm and Swan Lake, Minnesota. Johann was 53 years old when Andrew was born. Susannah was about 43 at the time.

From this information it appears that Johann lived in Burlington for a short period of time in 1863. He later purchased land in Kenosha County before returning to Minnesota in 1870. In 1875, Johann purchased 120 acres of farm land in Nicollet County, Minnesota near the land that he had originally owned.

The Christening record is shown at the bottom of this page. The record is written in Latin and states:

*"In 1863, on the 18th of January was baptized Andrew the legitimate male child of Johann Heck and Susanna, born Siebenbern, his wife, born on the 10th of this month, and witnessed by Andrea Niles and Catherine Ketterhagen."*

### MyFamily Web Page Expanded

I've set up a web page for our family for the purpose of sharing news, photos, genealogy, and chats. The site is password protected and is available by invitation only. (That keeps the spam people out of the site and away from your e-mail address.) Many of our family members have visited the site and have added their own pictures to it. If you are already registered by me you can get into the site at <http://www.myfamily.com> by entering your user name and password. If you would like to be added to the site just send me an e-mail message or a letter with your name and e-mail address. I'll add you to the list which now numbers about 50.

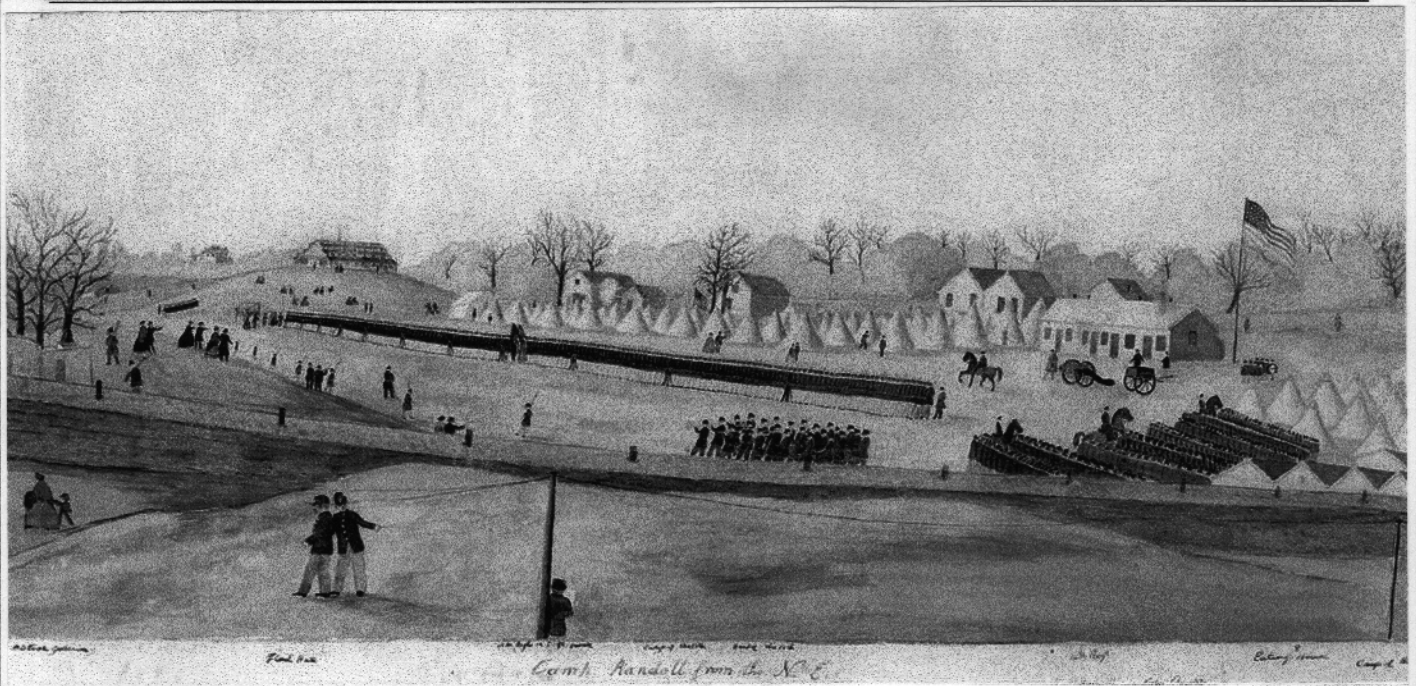
If you add photos, please use JPG format in order to keep the size down. Also don't use the highest resolution on your digital camera or scanner. Generally 100 to 200 dpi works just fine.

Right now there are probably 50 pictures on the site that you can view, copy and print. Some of the pictures are very old while some are of recent parties or picnics.

If you lost your user name and password, send me an e-mail and I'll get it for you. My address is:

**bheck@execpc.com**

1863  
Die 18 Januarii baptizatus est Andreas filius legitime Johannis Heek  
— et Susannae n. Siebenbern conjugum natum 10<sup>to</sup> die hujus mensis  
Andrea Niles et Cath. Ketterhagen.



## Camp Randall in 1862

The sketch shown above was a watercolor of Camp Randall in Madison, Wisconsin in 1862. It was drawn by John Gaddis of the 12th Wisconsin Infantry. The sketch shows soldiers drilling and standing in formation. The sketch was made at the exact time that Henry Heck was at Camp Randall undergoing training with the 19th Wisconsin Infantry.

The site of the training camp is presently occupied by the University of Wisconsin's Camp Randall Field, home of the Wisconsin Badgers Football Team. Following the Civil War an arch was dedicated at the site for the men and women who served and underwent training at the site. The arch is now next to the stadium. A picture of the dedication is shown below. It was taken in 1912.

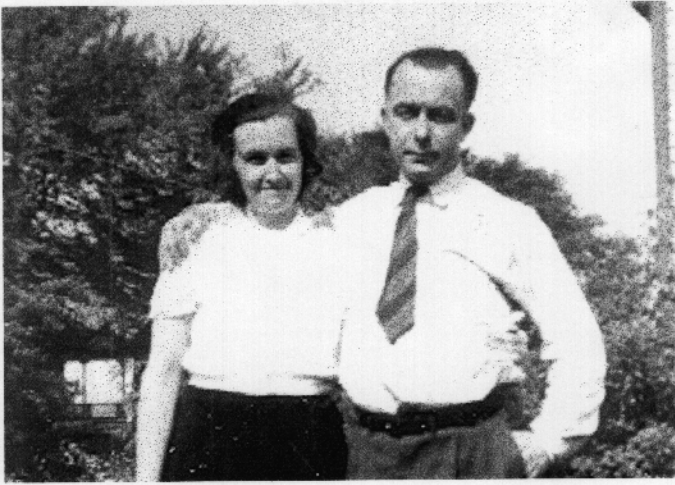


## Benajah Burgess Found in 1830

You really hate to lose a relative in the US Census, especially back in 1830. I had been searching for Benajah Burgess and his family in that census for some time. I had searched the index published for New York State but could never find a Benajah Burgess.

One thing you do learn in genealogy is to check alternate spellings of the names. I had checked for BURGESS, BURGESS, BURGIS and BURGESS but Benajah was not to be found. I then started a search of the index concentrating on the location of Hoosick.

I found an entry in the index which looked like it had possibilities. The name was **Benasa Burger**. I then went to the actual census images and on page 161, I found him. I enlarged the image and it was quite clear that the name was **Benaja Burges**. A check of the ages and sex of the individuals clearly indicated that I had found **Benajah Burgess**. The record indicated that there was one male between 0-5 years, two males between 20-30, one male between 60-70, one female between 10-15, one female between 20-30, one female between 30-40, and one female between 60-70. The only mystery remaining is who was the youngest boy?



Fanny & Clarence Heck



Wedding of Frances and Clarence. Robert Heck standing at left and Nick Pier at right.



Marjorie Heck's 1st Communion.



Frances with her children.



Clarence & Frances with Marjorie



A family party.



Mary, Frances, Bernice and Alvin Heck, 1996.



Alvin, Bernice, Mary & Bob Heck, 1993.



Margaret, Fanny, and Stella.



L-R: Mary, Bob, Alvin, Eddie, Bernice, Fanny, 1983.



Fanny, Bob, Mary, Alvin, Bernice, Bernice, Eddie,  
1986.



Fanny and Angela, 1985.

# HO, FOR THE WARS!

NINETEENTH (Independent)

# INFANTRY REG.



LIEUT. COL. CHARLES WHIPPLE.

Two Companies are now being raised in the North-West: "MCQUELLEN CADETS," Captain--Charles M. Davis, of Eau Claire; 1st Lieutenant--John Thomas Taylor, of Chippewa Falls. Headquarters at Eau Claire House. "GAYLORD RANGERS," Lieutenants Page and Bosworth; Headquarters at William Newton's.

## THE WAR DEPARTMENT HAS AUTHORIZED

This Regiment to be raised, armed and equipped, consequently all expenses are paid from the time of enlistment, and recruits do not have to wait for board and pay to commence until 40 men are raised, as by joining Companies authorized by the State, for they are put to board at once, and all expenses are paid--their pay commencing from the time of enlistment.

### CLOTHING AND UNIFORMS

Will be furnished immediately, Capt. TROWBRIDGE, United States Officer, having received full instructions to fit up this Regiment the same as the United States Army.

### Men Joining this Company

Can do better than at almost any other kind of daily employment, besides rendering a great service to their Country in putting down the Rebellion, as the following schedule, per item, will show:

U. S. Pay in Gold, per Month,	\$13.00
By Board,	\$12.00
By Clothing,	\$3.50
By Medical Attendance,	\$0.50
By Family, per Month,	\$5.00
<b>Total,</b>	<b>\$34.00</b>

## ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN GOLD.

Is also paid by the U. S. to each Recruit when discharged from service. 100 ACRES OF LAND will probably be granted by Congress to those who enlist to put down this Rebellion. The best of treatment will be carefully bestowed upon all Men in this Regiment, both in sickness and in health, and their rights and interests will be looked after at all times during their enlistment.

### Certificate of Capt. TROWBRIDGE, of U. S. Army.

Microfilm, Dec. 27, 1963. This certificate and full instructions have been received from the War Department to pay all special expenses, and within the 10th Independent Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers, Colonel SAUNDERS, commanding, the same as the United States Army, and that all men joining this Company or Regiment, will be compensated, all expenses paid and pay in hand, their pay commencing from the time they sign the roll and are sworn in.

J. M. TROWBRIDGE, Capt. U. S. A.  
Mustering Officer and Acting Quartermaster U. S. Army.

**Lieut. Col. CHARLES WHIPPLE,**

**Detailed for Recruiting Service.**

[Face Press Print]

The poster shown above is one that was used to encourage enlistment into the 19<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry Regiment. This is the same unit that Henry Heck joined in 1862. He served under Colonel Saunders. Recruiting hasn't changed much in the last 140 years. Promises were made that just never materialized. (When I joined the Air Force in 1958, I was told that there was a beautiful girl behind every tree in San Antonio, Texas. That may have been true, except that there were no trees in that area of Texas where I went through Boot Camp.) The poster states that the men would get \$13 in gold per month, \$12 for board, \$3.50 for clothing, \$0.50 for medical, and \$5.00 for men of family. The total per month was \$34 when the average farm worker was earning about \$16 per month. The men were also promised \$100 in gold when they were discharged. The most remarkable claim was that Congress would probably grant 160 acres of land to each recruit who enlists to put down this rebellion. That never happened.