

Our Family News Letter

Issue 40

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 2003

Bits and Pieces from Burlington, Wisconsin Newspapers

The following obituary was for Catherine Henningfeld Plate, sister of Henry Henningfeld, and daughter of Franz Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Richter.

Friday, August 24, 1923

Mrs. Henry Plate Died Last Friday Morning

Well Known Matron Passed Away While Sitting In Chair

Mrs. Henry Plate, who last Wednesday celebrated her eighty-third birthday, passed away suddenly at the home of her niece, Mrs. John Litzler, last Friday morning from heart failure. She was up that morning as usual and passed away sitting in her favorite rocker. Funeral services were held from St. Mary's Catholic Church Monday morning, Rev. J. A. Van Treeck officiating. Her remains were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery.

Catherine Henningfeld was born in Germany August 15, 1840, and came to this country when a child, her parents settling at Waterford. Here she grew to womanhood and married Fred Wiessman. After his death she married Henry Plate and for many years they conducted the boarding house opposite the Soo line depot. Mr. Plate died some ten years ago and for the past two years she has made her home with Mr. and Mrs. John Litzler.

She is survived by three children, Albert, of Milwaukee, Adolph, and daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Pitt, of Chicago; also by three sisters, Mrs. John Wurms and Mrs. John Lieber, of this city and Mrs. Elizabeth Milartz of Hortonville, Wisconsin.

Sometimes we find significant news stories in the old newspapers and sometimes they are like the two which follow from August, 1930. The Sylvester Dibble family is descendant from Peter McNulty through his daughter Loretta McNulty and Adam Dibble.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Dibble and son, Lawrence, motored to Kenosha.

Mrs. S. Dibble and son Lawrence motored to Kenosha Thursday where Lawrence had dental work done.

Peter Heck Obituary in Burlington Newspapers

Peter Heck, an old soldier formerly living in the town of Brighton, died at New Ulm, Minnesota, on April 6, 1900. The deceased leaves a wife and four children, also two brothers and one sister, to mourn his loss.

When President Lincoln called for volunteer soldiers to save our country Mr. Heck enlisted in the 26th Wisconsin Regiment for three years. He has two more brothers who served in the same war - Henry Heck, of this city, who was in the 19th Wisconsin Regiment for three years and Joseph Heck, who was in the 4th Minnesota Regiment. Peter was

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injured while in the army and Henry was shot through the leg at Petersburg, while Joseph received other disabilities. After the war was over the three brothers received their honorable discharge from the service.

Family Reunions in our family seem to be a tradition based on this article from October 6, 1906 Burlington.

Henry F. Henningfeld and family enjoyed a family reunion at the Henningfeld home in this city the first of the week. All the children were present, namely, Carlos and family and Sylvester and wife, of Milwaukee; Mrs. M. Brott and children of Chicago; Mrs. Robert Heck and children of Racine; Fred and family, George and Mollie, of this city. Mrs. Brott and family are soon to remove to the Pacific coast and the family gathering was planned before their departure.

Obituary From Friday, September 17, 1909

Henry F. Henningfeld died at his home on Origen Street at noon on Friday of last week. Mr. Henningfeld had been suffering from a complication of diseases that followed a heart trouble early last spring. He was able to be up and about until a few weeks ago when he was compelled to take to his bed; he failed rapidly and the end came quick. His funeral was held from St. Mary's Catholic church at 9 o'clock Monday morning, Rev. T. Jacobs in charge, and the remains were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery.

Henry Frank Henningfeld was born in Waterford May 7, 1849, and grew to manhood and learned the blacksmith trade there. He was united in marriage with Clara Strattmann (sic) on May 5, 1873, and they came to Burlington about thirty years ago and have since resided here. On coming here Mr. Henningfeld entered the employ of Jos. Pieters as blacksmith, and he has been in the same shop ever since, Wm. J. Pieters being his employer since the death of the elder Pieters.

Mr. Henningfeld is survived by his wife and the following children: Mrs. M. E. Brott, Seattle,

Washington; Fred and George, of this city; Sylvester and Carlos, of Milwaukee; Mrs. Robert Heck and Mrs. Frank Heinrichs, of Racine. One brother, William, of Waterford, and the following four sisters also survive him: Mrs. Henry Plate, of this city; Mrs. John Wurms, of Waukesha; Mrs. John Leber, of Milwaukee, and Mrs. Lizzie Millertz, of Appleton.

The Sylvester McNulty Mystery

One of the challenges for a genealogist is to piece together the descendants of a key ancestor. Usually the task is not that difficult but in some cases it may seem almost impossible. Meet Sylvester McNulty. I wrote a story about finding Sylvester in the 1880 census for Wisconsin. That story appeared in Issue 37, June, 2002 of "Our Family News Letter."

Sylvester McNulty was the youngest child of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess. He was born at Kansasville (Dover), Racine County, Wisconsin in about 1869, according to the 1870 US census for Wisconsin. Sylvester was 11 years old in the 1880 census and from that point on he seems to have disappeared.

I subscribe to a genealogy web page that contains all of the census data and images from 1790 to 1930. The site is <http://www.ancestry.com> in case you are interested in it. The site contains a massive amount of data and has been one of my favorites for some time. Using the search index for the 1930 census I looked for Sylvester McNulty in Wisconsin. He was not listed. I then did a search for him in the entire United States and found several of them listed. However, only one of them matched the age of our Sylvester McNulty. The others were not even close

Using the 1930 and 1920 census I was able to piece together information about the family of Sylvester. I also found a pedigree on the internet that added additional information. The pedigree showed that Sylvester McNulty died on 30 April 1936 and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Shelbina,

Shelby County, Missouri. I still needed to confirm that I have the right Sylvester McNulty but so far the information looked good.

This is what I found: In 1930 Sylvester McNulty, age 61, born in Wisconsin in 1868 or 1869, was found living at Black Creek, Shelby County, Missouri. He was found living at the same place in the 1920 census. At the age of 22 in 1891, he married Ellen Conboy, the daughter of Thomas Conboy and Bridgett E. Ford. Sylvester and Ellen had the following children:

Anna, born 16 Sep 1892, died 13 Oct 1979;
Ruth, born 6 Feb 1896, died 13 Nov 1976;
Sylvia, born 18 Oct 1898, died Mar 1985;
Lillian, born 1901;
Katherin, born 1904;
Thomas J., born 22 Oct 1906, died 10 Oct 1991.

I then ran an internet query in Shelby County, Missouri, asking for help in finding an obituary for Sylvester McNulty. I got two responses and both sent an obituary from two different newspapers. One of the obituaries from Shelbyville, Missouri, Wednesday, May 6, 1936, follows.

Syl McNulty, 68 Dies At His Home Here

Sylvester McNulty, 68, retired Shelbyville businessman, died at his home here Thursday night at 8:40 o'clock following two weeks' serious illness. He had been in failing health for three years.

He was born March 18, 1868, in Racine, Wisconsin, a son of James and Mary McNulty. He was reared in Wisconsin and Illinois, and came to Shelby County, Missouri, when as young man. For several years he worked at the local telephone central office and for many years operated a drayage service in this city. He was married on September 22, 1891, to Miss Ellen Conboy, who survives.

He also leaves six children, Mrs. Kathryn Williams, Thomas J. McNulty and Mrs. Anna Blanset of Shelbyville, Mrs. William Crawford of Obert, Nebraska, Mrs. Ruth King of Monroe City, and Mrs. Sylvia Peacher of Quincy, Illinois.

Funeral services were held Monday morning at 9:30 o'clock at the Shelbina Catholic church, of which Mr. McNulty was a member. Services were conducted by the Rev. Fr. Michael Grace. Burial was in the Shelbina Catholic cemetery.

The second obituary was pretty much the same except that it identified some of the children differently. They were Mrs. Paul King, Mrs. L. P. Crawford, and Mrs. W. V. Peacher.

The interesting thing about the obituary is that it lists Sylvester's parents as James and Mary McNulty. We know that Sylvester's father, Peter McNulty, died in 1880 or 1881, when Sylvester was just 11 or 12 years old. We also know that Sylvester was living with the Thomas Powers' family in Racine County, Wisconsin, in 1880.

According to the 1880 census for Missouri, there was a James and Mary McNulty living in Clay township, Ralls County, Missouri, however they did not have listed a son named Sylvester. Ralls County is close to Shelby County. James had been living in Missouri since at least 1856 based on the ages and place of birth of his children. It is possible that James McNulty was an uncle of Sylvester. The researcher who sent the obituary was under the impression that James and Mary McNulty of Ralls County were the parents of Sylvester.

It appears that after the death of Peter McNulty, Sylvester, age 11 or 12, may have been living with other family members and ultimately with the James McNulty family in Missouri. Sylvester had two sisters living in Illinois so he may have spent some time with them before settling in Missouri.

The concept that Sylvester McNulty may have had an uncle names James McNulty is an interesting one. This could lead to more information on the ancestral home of Peter McNulty in Ireland.

Did you know....

...that Sylvester McNulty was the youngest of 13 children?

A Special Thank You.....

I would like to thank the following subscribers of **Our Family News Letter** who made contributions recently to help keep this newsletter going.

Thomas & Pamela Kebis from California, **Marjorie & Don Johnson** from California, **Susan & Dr. Jeffrey Miller** from Minnesota, **Corinne & Dale Wise** from Arizona, **Ann & Howard Heck** from Minnesota, and **Lorraine Teuke** from Wisconsin.

The costs of printing and postage keeps going up and it is through the generous contributions of our subscribers that I'm able to continue producing this newsletter. Over 60 families receive this newsletter at no charge. This issue is the 40th consecutive issue since I started this newsletter in June, 1993. That amounts to about 320 pages of fun, news and family history. The cost of producing the newsletter and sending it out runs about \$49 per issue or \$196 per year. About half of that is covered by contributions while the other half is on me. I'm more than happy to continue creating the newsletter as it helps all of us to gain a better understanding of our ancestors.

If you would like to contribute financially or by just sending in a family picture or a story, my address is on the 1st page. Thanks again!

Did you ever wonder what others do with this newsletter after they finish reading it? It's too small to wrap fish in, that's for sure. It's not colorful enough to paper your walls with. The volume is too small to do you much good at a paper drive.

Some of our subscribers punch the newsletters and place them in a three ring binder. Some probably just throw them out. Corinne and Dale Wise from Lake Havasu City, Arizona put theirs into a cover and put them in the local genealogy section of their public library.

Please feel free to copy the newsletter and send it on to other family members. Remember that you can also obtain a copy of past issues #1 through #37 on CD for \$10. All 37 issues on one CD. That will allow you to read and print every page of the newsletter using your computer.

Marjorie and Don Johnson Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

On November 15, 1952, Marjorie Heck and Donald Johnson were married at Racine, Wisconsin. Now 50 years later they celebrated their anniversary at their home in Torrance, California with their family members and friends. The celebration took place on Thanksgiving weekend, 2002. What a great way to celebrate.

Their son, Jerry and wife Michele came from Las Vegas; grandson, Mark came from Oregon; granddaughter, Carrie, came from Maryland. Their son, Larry and wife, Elaine, along with grandson Sean came from Torrance; granddaughter, Jessica came from San Diego, California. Their daughter Janice and husband, Tom along with grandchildren Matthew and Kaeley came from LaCrosse, Wisconsin. Their daughter, Linda and husband Todd, along with grandchildren Joseph, Jonathan, Andrew, and Anna came from Cersitos, California.



Shown from left to right and bottom to top are:

Anthony Niepke, Kaeley Schlesinger, Jonathan and Joseph Niepke. Next row: Don and Marjorie Johnson, Janice and Matthew Schlesinger, Todd Niepke, Carrie and Jerry Johnson. Next row: Tom Schlesinger, Linda and Anna Niepke, Jessica Johnson. Next row: Elaine and Sean Johnson. Next row: Michele and Mark Johnson, and Larry Johnson.

What a great looking family picture. Congratulations Marjorie and Don, and thanks for sharing the picture with us.

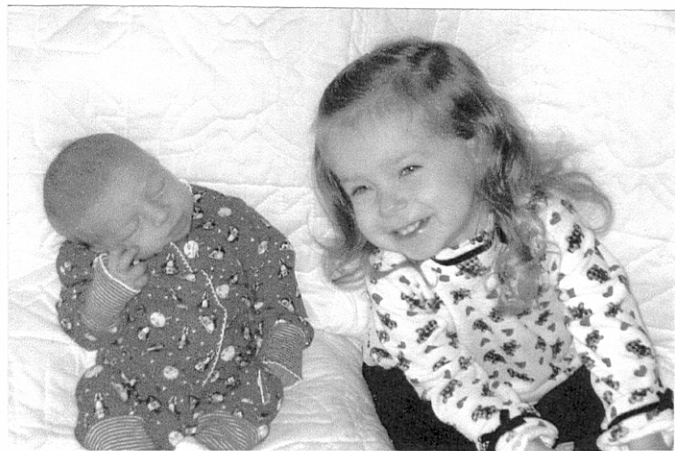
Meet Your Cousins...

Sue and Jeff Miller sent in this great picture introducing their new son and reintroducing their daughter to all of us. Shown in the picture is Matthew Paul Miller with his sister Sarah Elizabeth Miller. Matthew seems to be saying, "So you're the big sister who's been talking to me through mom's tummy." Sarah, by the way is two years old already. Matthew just missed arriving on Sarah's birthday which was November 17th.

Matthew, born on November 26, 2002, weighed in at seven pounds and 12 ounces. He was 20 inches long and has grown like a weed ever since this picture was taken when he was just five days old.

Sue, Jeff, Sarah and Matthew also have a new address and can be reached at 3 Don Bush Road, North Oaks, MN 55127. Their phone number is still the same (651) 486-9614.

Congratulations to the Miller Family from all of us.



The Heck Family Sells Tomatoes

One of the members of the Milwaukee PAF Users Group, a computer genealogy group that I head up, recently took the following picture while on vacation. (The group now has 365 members.) The picture shows **Heck's Market** displaying everything except tomatoes. You'll also note that nobody seems to be minding the store. The person who took the picture forgot to tell me where it was taken.

When Gloria, Sharon, Don and I were vacationing in Europe in 1989, we saw a **Heck's Gasthaus and Restaurant** in a small resort village in the Black Forest of Germany. We tried to talk to the owner but kind of got a brush off. We think that the owner figured we were just trying to smooch a free meal from him. I wonder how he figured that out? (We finally ate at one of his competitor's establishments just down the street.)

If you have an interesting picture of a Heck or Henningfeld facility, send it in and I'll try to include it in a future issue of this newsletter.

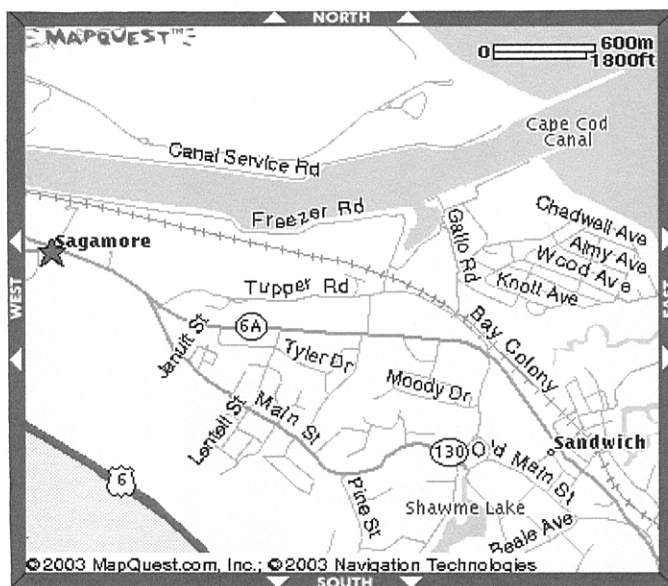
Past issues included pictures of the Heck Farm house in Alendorf, Germany taken by Howard and Ann Heck, The Henningfeld Gasthof in Heinrichsburg, Germany taken by Henning Henningfeld, and a sign about artist George Heck (no relation) in Alcatraz prison taken by Bob and Lorraine Heck.



Thomas Burgess 1603 - 1684

The following is from "The Burgess History Tree" by Paul Burgess.

"Thomas Burgess arrived with his wife in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1630, at the age of about 27, and remained for a time in the adjoining community of Lynn, about ten miles northeast of Boston. They are believed to have arrived on the ship "The Blessing of the Bay". A section of land was assigned to him, 3 July 1637, in Duxbury, 30 miles south of Boston; but in the same year there appeared on the map, 64 miles south of Boston, the township of Sandwich, in the colony of Plymouth, to which he moved the following year, making his permanent abode in that section of the township which has come to be known as Sagamore. The ancestral property, now intersected by the canal, remained in the Burgess name for over 200 years and bore scars of British cannon balls inflicted during the war of 1812, in the haphazard bombardment of settlements in the region."



"Sailing through the picturesque Cape Cod Canal, a descendant of Thomas Burgess may well indulge in interesting reflections, in historical, genealogical reveries, for here, while traversing Sagamore he passes directly through the extensive land holding of his Puritan Pilgrim ancestor. If he enter the canal at its eastern gateway, he may see at his left the site

of the old homestead, which is about a quarter of a mile from the canal. It was on the old Plymouth Road, now known as the King's Highway, and is on property once belonging to Mr. Henry H. Ellis. It is about three-quarters of a mile from the Sagamore Railroad Station."

The location of the Thomas Burgess property is in about the center of the modern day map shown at lower left. Thomas Burgess and his wife Dorothy are buried in the Old Town Cemetery, Sandwich, Massachusetts. Their original tombstones from 1684 and 1686 were badly weathered and fragments of the originals were used as footstones for new tombstones which were erected in 1917 by descendants.

Thomas and Dorothy Burgess were my 8th great grand parents through Thomas, Thomas, John, Benajah, Benjamin, Patience Burgess, Mary Ann McNulty, Robert S. Heck, Robert G. Heck, Robert J. Heck (me).

From The Photo Album...

Page 7 Starting at upper left & moving clockwise: #1: Dorothy Henningfeld Sheptson, Alvin Heck and Margaret Henningfeld Heck. #2: Cel and Dick Heck in 1966. #3: Gary Heck with Tiny in 1939 (Note that Gary is on the right). #4 Bernice Heck Bark. A note on the back of the photo states that she worked at Zahns. #5: Anna and John Mikel holding grandson, Gary Heck in 1939. #6: Bob and Larry Heck.

Page 8 Starting at upper left & moving clockwise: #1: Robert and Gary Heck in 1939. #2: A family reunion at Burlington, Wisconsin in 1948. Herb, Ray, Joe, and Alvin Heck. Clarence Heck with his back to camera. #3: Bernice Heck Bark and Stella Heck. #4: Margaret Henningfeld Heck. #5: L-R: Clarence Heck, George Henningfeld, Alvin and Robert Heck, and Edward Bark. #6: Unknown, Mary Heck, Unknown, Edward Bark, Margaret Heck playing cards at a 1948 family reunion at Burlington, Wisconsin.

