

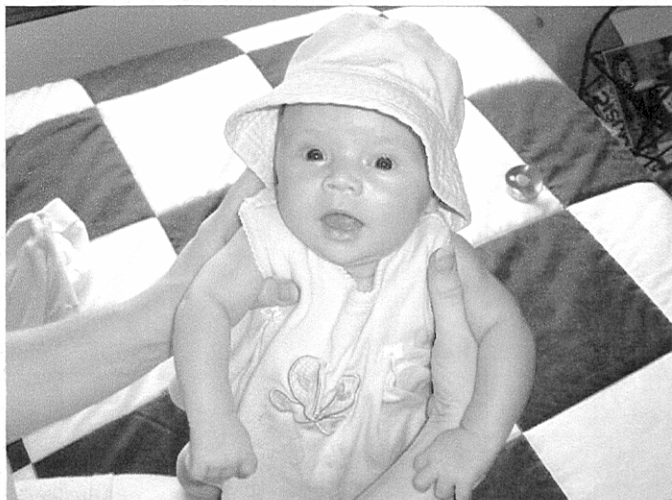
Our Family News Letter

Issue 42

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 2003

Meet Lauren Emily Heck



Lauren Emily Heck sporting her new hat and dress in July, 2003.

On May 31, 2003, we were blessed with the birth of our first grandchild, Lauren Emily Heck. Her proud parents, Judi and Dave Heck, called us to tell us the exciting news. Lauren came into the world weighing 6 pounds and 8 ounces and was 22-1/2 inches long. She was born at the West Allis, Memorial hospital here in Wisconsin.

That night we were able to see Lauren Emily and her happy but tired parents at the hospital. Note that all four grandparents are ready, willing and able to spoil the dickens out of her.

Things have changed a little since our sons Dave and Bill were born in 1969 and 1971 respectively. Back then the new mother shared a room with several other new mothers. Visitors were generally limited as were the visiting hours. As a matter of fact when Dave was born in 1969, the hospital was restricted because of the Hong Kong flu. I remember taking 8 mm movies and 35 mm pictures so that the family could see their new

grandson. Developing generally took several days on the pictures and about a week on the movies.

With the birth of Lauren Emily the private hospital room looked more like a hotel room complete with refrigerator, large screen TV and stereo music. Dave even got to stay there at night with Judi and the baby.

Dave is so proud of his new daughter that he created a special web site for her. The web site contains many photographs from her first day all the way up to the present time. The site also contains a detailed family history of Lauren's ancestors complete with pictures and text notes. Everyone is invited to visit her web site at the following address:

<http://www10.brinkster.com/dheck/lauren/lauren.htm>

You'll find a lot more pictures of Lauren Emily Heck on the pages of this newsletter.

You can write to Lauren, Judi and Dave Heck at 8179 South White Oak Drive, Oak Creek, WI 53154.

Dave's e-mail address is: dheck@wi.rr.com

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

The newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated.

Our home page address is:

<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>

My e-mail address is: bheck@execpc.com

Update on Robert S. Heck's appeal to the Circuit Court in 1914.

In the last issue of **Our Family News Letter**, I reported on a front page article about my grandfather, Robert Steven Heck, 1879 - 1923, in which he was arrested and sentenced to sixty days of hard labor in Racine, County, Wisconsin for allowing a minor to loiter in his saloon.

The news was on the front page of the local newspapers for three days in 1914. Robert appealed his conviction to the Circuit Court.

I searched every newspaper from June 3, 1914 through December 31, 1914, in detail, and was not able to find the final disposition of the case. I also did a scanning of newspapers from January 1, 1915, to June 3, 1915, without success.

His case was listed on the Circuit Court docket for November 1914, to be reviewed by a judge rather than a jury. The case was not listed on the docket for December 1914, and was probably resolved but not published in the local newspapers. It was interesting to note that the November article stated that the charges were "selling liquor to a minor."

Did Robert Steven Heck serve 60 days at hard labor? We may never know the answer to that question.

Alendorfers settled in Swan Lake and Union Hill, Minnesota

An interesting article about the immigrants from Alendorf was found while doing some research recently. The article mentioned Alendorf and Kenosha County, Wisconsin, but it also mentioned speech patterns of those from Alendorf.

Alendorf, Germany was the ancestral home of the Heck Family. Many of the families left Alendorf in 1852 and immigrated to the United States. They originally settled as a group in and around the Brighton, area of Kenosha County, Wisconsin. In

1857, nine of the German families sold off their property in Wisconsin and emigrated to the area near New Ulm, Minnesota in a place called Brighton at Swan Lake. The land there had just been opened for settlement and the price was only \$1.25 per acre. The German families are probably responsible for naming the area Brighton after their Wisconsin lands.

The area known as Union Hill, Minnesota is located about 40 miles northeast of Swan Lake and New Ulm. For perspective, Union Hill is located just west of New Prague, Minnesota on highway 19.

It is almost certain that families from Swan Lake visited with Alendorf families from Union Hill.

When we visited with the Theo Heck family in Alendorf, Germany in 1989, our German friends, Heinz and Marianne Kleckers from Wuppertal, later told us that the people from Alendorf had a very different and strange accent and they were difficult to understand. They said that they spoke with the accent when speaking to each other but spoke "proper" German when speaking to us.

Here are a few paragraphs from the article:

"Another interesting observation is the birthplace of these early settlers. Of the 22 families whose descendants are still present in Union Hill today; 21 of the fathers and, for the most part, the mothers also came from within an area having a diameter of 50 miles. Most of the other 22 families also came from within this area."

"This area is between Bonn and Trier in Western Germany near the border of Luxembourg on the west and the Rhine River on the east. Over half of them came from the Waxweiler area, which is about 25 miles northwest of Trier, about 55 miles southwest of Bonn and within 10 miles of the Luxembourg border. Other birthplaces in the Waxweiler area were Bitburg, Fliesheim, Mauel, Mettendorf, Wallersheim, and Wilsecker. Another

group involving at least a fourth of the families came from an area about 25 miles northeast of Waxweiler. Towns in this area included **Alendorf**, **Dolendorf**, Feusdorf, **Ripsdorf**, Schmittheim, and **Walsdorf**. These six are within 10-12 miles of each other. Several families also came from the area around Trier."

"Their speech was a form of low German. Even though they came from a relatively small area slight differences existed in the speech of the two main groups. The family from Waxweiler, for example, pronounced some words differently than the family from **Alendorf** even though the communities were less than 25 miles apart."

"These immigrants were also called Prussians since their homes in the Rhenish Provinces were part of Prussia at that time. They much preferred to be called Rhenish Prussians, however. The area ruled by Prussia was not a continuous territory for the German independent states of Hannover and Hessian lay between Prussia and the Rhenish Provinces. Prussia, a powerful eastern German state, was restored these lands in the treaty of 1815 for her role in defeating Napoleon. These lands had been taken over by Napoleon in 1795 from Prussia. Prussia had taken over these independent Rhenish Provinces about 20 years earlier."

"Land ownership by the peasant farmers became common in Western Europe only several generations before migration to this country occurred. Before this time, the nobles and lords controlled most of the land as well as the lives of the people. However, due to the limited agricultural land and the large population, farms were small. Over two-thirds of the large population in this part of Europe were considered rural. Farms were divided and subdivided as the next generation came of age. Most farms consisting of many scattered fields ranged from 10 to 25 acres in size. The limited opportunities for these Europeans meant that some of the surplus people would have to migrate to areas with fewer people."

"It is no wonder that the settlers from this part of Europe had a strong appreciation for the soil and a desire to own more land than was possible for them in their homeland. The first to come picked areas they felt had the most fertile soil. This they found under the "Big Woods" in this part of Minnesota."

"These weren't the only reasons, however, for the migration to this county. Prussia demanded military support from the lands she ruled. Men were required to serve several years in her armies. This obligation led many individuals and families to leave their homeland and come to this country in order to avoid the military duty. The stories of adventure and success in the new land, no doubt, also played a part in the decision to come to this country."

"These settlers were by no means strangers to one another upon establishing themselves in this community. Many were related to one another. Seventeen families involved one or more brothers or sisters in the group of 44 families. Nine more families became in-laws after marriage in this country shortly after their arrival here. It appears, therefore, that in 1867, 26 of the 44 families had one or more brothers or sisters in the group. In addition, at least seven families were cousins to one or more of the 26 families. Even in those days many families were related to one another which is even more true today in the Union Hill area."

"Besides being related, there is no way of knowing how many were friends or at least knew each other before coming to this country. Many settled in **Kenosha County, Wisconsin**, for a couple of years before coming to Union Hill. Here they must have become acquainted with others who came from the same area in their homeland. It is no wonder, therefore, that the families were not complete strangers to each other upon settling in the Union Hill area."

The article was written by Victorin J. Ruhland, and it appeared in the New Prague Times newspaper. It

was titled "The Early Settlers of St. John's Parish at Union Hill in 1867".

Wow! What a Summer!!!

This summer was a busy one for me. I was asked to teach a two-hour class on "Internet Research for the Beginning Genealogist" at 23 libraries located in Waukesha and Milwaukee Counties. I started on May 12th with the first talk and ended on July 31st with the 23rd and last talk. All together I spoke to 678 people at the free seminars. I guess that this shows just how much interest there really is in the field of Family History and Genealogy.

Here is one of the announcements of the seminar.

"Genealogy the focus of library lecture"

"Hartland Public Library, in conjunction with the Hartland Historical Society, will sponsor a free lecture, "Internet Research for the Beginning Genealogist," at 2 p.m. Friday, May 30, at the Hartland Village Hall community room."

"Funded by the Waukesha County Federated Library System, this program will explore what is available on the Internet for the genealogist in simple, non-technical terms. While the title suggests it is a beginner's program, even the experienced genealogist will find it to be of great value."

"Participants will learn of the latest and greatest Web sites available to help with researching their family trees, as well as learning secrets and techniques for searching the Internet."

"Bob Heck, who has been using computers to track his family history for years, will present the program. He is an organizing member and leader of the Milwaukee PAF Users Group, a computer genealogy group with more than 365 members."

"Heck has lectured at many genealogy societies in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois and at

national conferences. He is the Webmaster of several genealogy Web sites and has written many family history books using genealogy software."

Meet some of your cousins...

The picture below was taken in South Carolina this year when Lee Heck visited with her dad, Gary, and her sister Cindy. Form left to right: Cindy Landrum, John Landrum, Caleb Brack, PJ Landrum, Laina Brack, Jodi Brack, Colin Brack, and Lee Heck.



Did you know that.....

....John Landrum shot a 12 pound turkey? I was going to put a picture if it in the newsletter but John's family ate it.

....deer hunting season starts in South Carolina in the middle of August and runs through January 1st?

....PJ and John will sort of be hunting together this year? John will do the shooting and PJ will "run the hounds."

....Gary Heck still considers Lake Michigan as "casual water" when he golfs? That means that there is no penalty if he slices his ball into the lake.

Thomas Burgess had 15 Children.

(He also had three wives.)

Thomas Burgess, my 6th great grandfather, married first, Esther Richmond, sometime before 1692.

Esther was born in 1669, the daughter of Edward Richmond and Abigail Davis. Thomas and Esther had five children as follows: Edward, Deborah, Lydia, Esther, and Abigail Burgess. All of the children were born at Little Compton, Rhode Island between 1692 and 1698.

Esther Burgess, wife of Thomas, died at Little Compton on 12 November 1706. She is buried at the Commons Cemetery next to the church.

On 24 October 1707, Thomas married my 6th great grandmother, Martha Wilbour at Little Compton. Martha was a local girl and was born at Little Compton on 20 August 1684. Martha was the widow of Timothy Clossen and was the daughter of Joseph Wilbour and Ann Brownell. Thomas and Martha had six children as follows: Joseph, John, Mary, Thomas, Martha and Jacob. All of the children were born at Little Compton between 1708 and 1717. Their son, John Burgess was my 5th great grandfather, and was buried at Sterling, (Voluntown), Connecticut.

Martha Wilbour came from the prominent Wilbour and Brownell families of Little Compton. A great deal of history has been written about both families in the local Rhode Island history. Martha Wilbour died at Little Compton in December, 1746. She is probably buried at the Commons Cemetery but since most of the early slate tombstones have weathered badly her exact burial location is unknown.

At the age of 54, Thomas Burgess took a third wife when he married Patience Williams before 1722. It is not known if Patience was married before her marriage to Thomas Burgess, but most likely she was. The name of Williams may have been her married name.

Thomas and Patience Burgess had four children as follows: Mercy, Rebecca, Martha, and Nathaniel, all born at Little Compton between 1722 and 1729.

Thomas Burgess was 75 years old when he died in 1743. His tombstone at the Commons burial grounds at Little Compton, Rhode Island states: "Thomas Burgess died July ye 1st 1743 in ye 75th year of his age." His grave is located in the 27th row at the cemetery.

The death date and birth year of Thomas Burgess is recorded in Vital Record of Rhode Island by James N. Arnold, published in 1893.

Patience Burgess died three years later in 1746.

Shown below are the black slate tombstones of Esther Richmond Burgess, 1669 – 1706, and Thomas Burgess, 1668 – 1743.



Thomas Burgess and his spouses had a total of 15 children over a period of 37 years. When the youngest child was born in 1729, the oldest child was 37 years old. The family consisted of six boys and nine girls plus the parents. It must have been a busy household in Little Compton, Rhode Island.

Web Site Honors World War II Veterans

The following web site has a listing of many World War II veterans and in some cases even a picture of the veteran.

<http://wwiimemorial.com/>

While conducting a search on the web site I found a listing for our own Howard W. Heck from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Howard and Ann have been on our subscribers list since this newsletter was first created in 1993.



Howard W. Heck, U.S. Army, Company L, 85th Regiment, 10th Mountain Infantry. Howard received the Combat Infantryman Badge.

Other familiar names found on the web site include my Father-in-law, Richard J. Laberge and his first cousin, Donald R. LaBerge, both from Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Donald R. Laberge was with the U.S. Army as a Supply Sargent and was stationed stateside during the war. Information on Donald was submitted by his son, Steve J. LaBerge.

Richard J. LaBerge, was with the 8th Air Force, 492nd Bomb Group, known as the Carpetbaggers, 858th Squadron. He was stationed at the Air Base near Kettering, England.

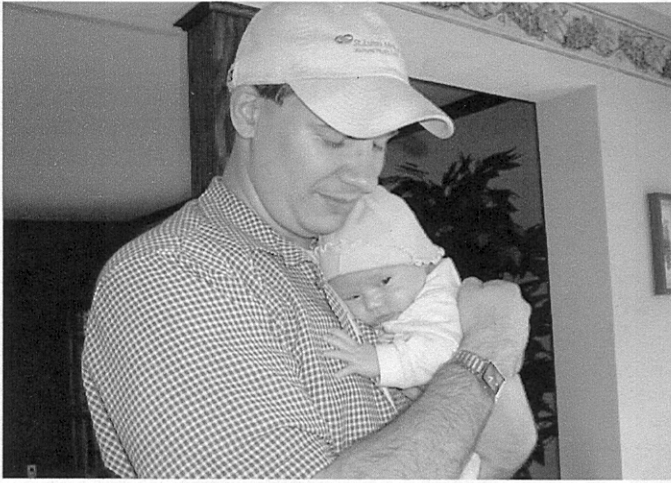


Richard J. LaBerge, U.S. Army Air Force

Special Thanks to supporters...

I would like to thank those who made donations to help keep this newsletter going. It is through their generous donations that I'm able to send this newsletter to more than 60 families. Here are the contributors since March 1, 2003: Don & Sharon Heck, Richard & Gladys LaBerge, Kathy Lerud, Ellen R. Stiner, Shirley Heck, Al & Donna Benedict, Dick & Cel Heck, Douglas & Evelyn Stark (from Alberta, Canada), and Laila Suter.

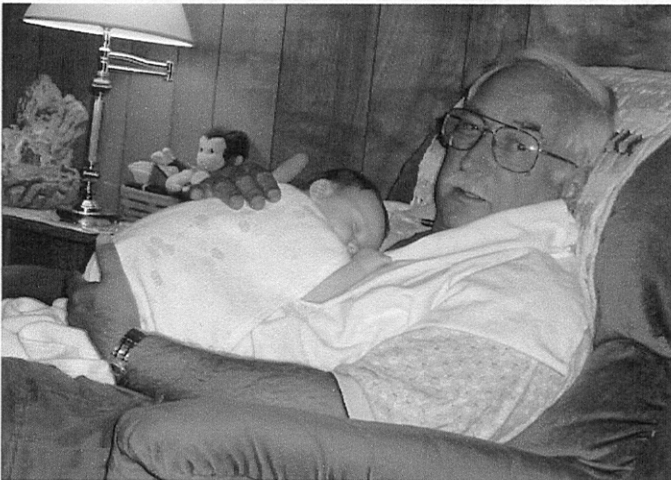
Thanks a million!!!



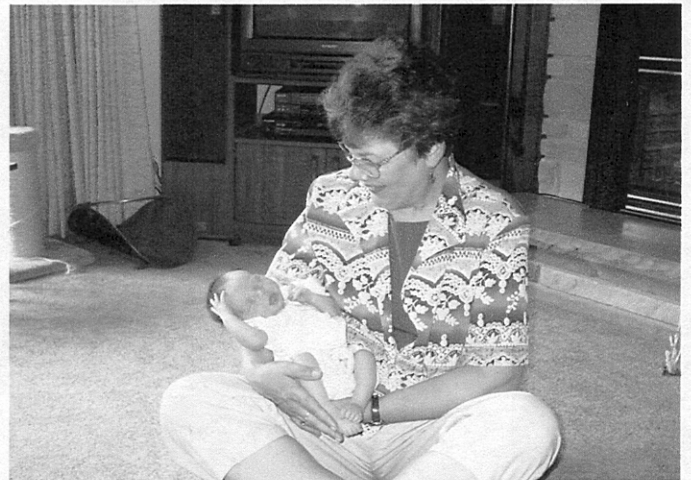
Dave & Lauren Heck



Judi & Lauren Heck



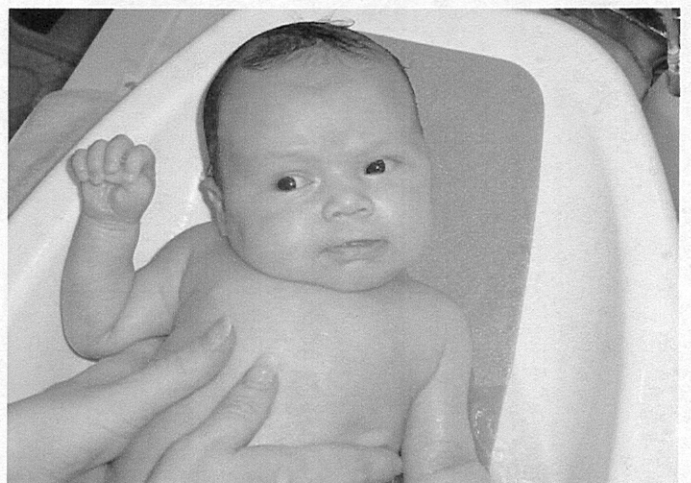
Grandpa Bob & Lauren



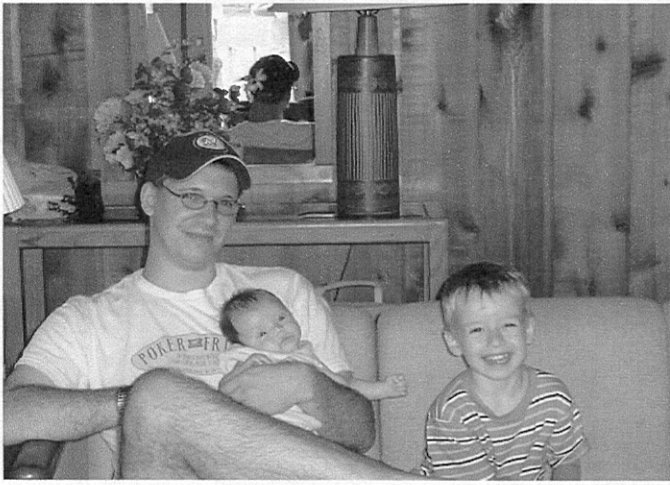
Grandma Gloria & Lauren



Grandma Joan & Grandpa Dale



I protest these nude pictures!



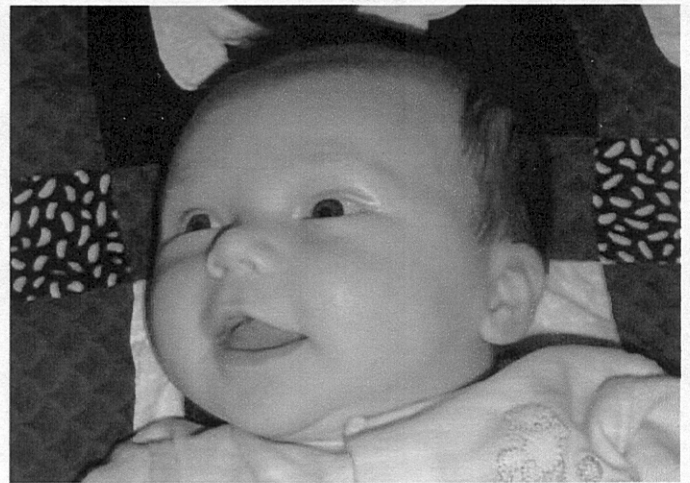
Dave, Lauren and Nathan



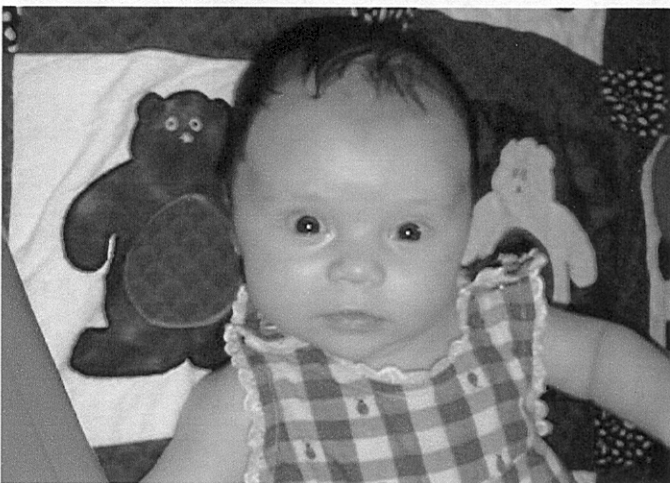
Judi, Dave & Lauren



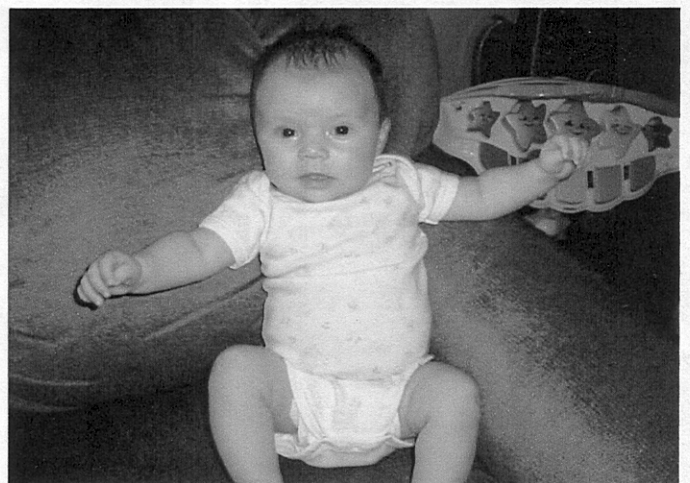
Is it time to Party or Potty?



Did you say milk?



Lauren Emily Heck



Please pick me up