

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 44

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 2004

## **Clara Stratman Found on a Passenger List on 15 June 1868. Mother and Brother Found on 19 June 1869 List.**

Family stories handed down through the years had it that Clara Stratman traveled to America alone at the age of 16 years. She supposedly was traveling to meet her fiancé, Mr. Henning, in Racine, Wisconsin. According to the story he died of pneumonia while she was in transit.

Clara Stratman was the mother of Margaret Henningfeld, my grandmother. Clara married Henry Henningfeld on 6 May 1873 at Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin.

Because of her age and the fact that the country was in a state of reconstruction from the American Civil War which had just ended four years earlier, there certainly were a lot of questions about the validity of the story. Young girls rarely traveled alone at the age of 16 during that time period.

I started a search on the Internet for Clara, her brother Charles Stratman and their mother Elizabeth Guthof Stratman Heitkemper. Using my subscription to Ancestry.com as my main research tool I was able to access the New York passenger lists for the time period.

Clara Stratman was found as passenger #227 of 700 on board the ship the S.S. Hermann. Details about the ship are shown on the next page of this newsletter. The interesting thing is that Clara Stratman was shown as being 20 years old rather than 16. The record also clearly shows that she came from the town of Hamm in Germany. She

was traveling alone which was not that uncommon for a young lady of twenty years.

The ship S.S. Hermann had departed from the Port of Bremen, Germany and arrived at the Port of New York on 19 June 1869. The crossing under the combination of sail and steam power typically took two weeks depending on the weather. As much as an additional week could be added if the weather conditions were unfavorable.

## **19 June 1869**

Continuing my search through the passenger lists, I finally found the record for Elizabeth Guthof Stratman Heitkemper, her son Carl Stratman and her son Friedrich Heitkemper. Not surprisingly they also traveled from Bremen, Germany on board the same ship, the S.S. Hermann, and arrived at the Port of New York on 19 Jun 1869. They were listed as passengers #691, #692 and #693. Missing from the list was Elizabeth's second husband Fred D. Heitkemper. More research will be required to determine if he arrived before or after Elizabeth.

This newsletter is written and published by **Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129**. My e-mail address is **bheck@execpc.com**

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

Guest editorials and articles are always welcome. So are your family pictures.

Our home page address is:  
**<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.htm>**

## *The SS Hermann*

The "Hermann" of 1865 was a 2,873 gross ton ship, built by Caird & Co. Greenock for Norddeutscher Lloyd [North German Lloyd]. Her details were - length 318ft x beam 40ft, clipper stem, one funnel, two masts, iron construction, single screw and a speed of 11 knots. There were accommodations for 80-1st, 120-2nd and 500-3rd class passengers. She was originally laid down as the "Europa" but was actually launched in June 1865 as the "Hermann". She sailed on her

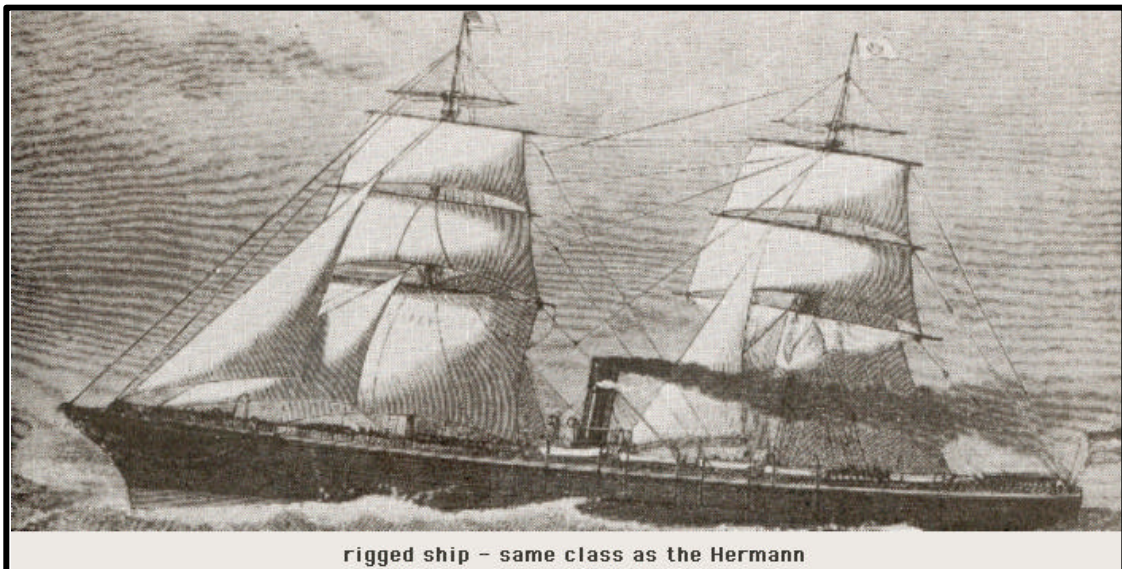
maiden voyage from Bremen to Southampton and New York on 17/12/1865. In 1872 her engines were compounded at Southampton and on 22/12/1892 she commenced her last voyage Bremen - New York. In 1893 she was sold and was scrapped in 1896. [ North Atlantic Seaway by N.R.P.Bonsor, vol.2,p.545]

[Posted to The ShipsList by Ted Finch - 5 November 1997]

Shown below are an actual photo and an engraving of the S.S. Hermann.



**S.S. HERMANN, 1865 North German Lloyd**



**rigged ship - same class as the Hermann**

## The Schaefer Family Found on Passenger List.

I have been searching for the Johann Heck family on passenger lists ever since I started re-searching my family history over 30 years ago. Information from Henry Heck's Civil War pension records stated that the family arrived in this country in the spring of 1852 when Henry was 12 years old. Since we have baptismal records for Henry Heck showing that he was born on February 10, 1839, he would have been 13 years old in 1852. If he were 12 years old when he came to this country his arrival year would have been 1851.

I've searched through the records for 1851, 1852 and 1853, but have never found the Heck family on the passenger lists. Since it was thought that several families from Alendorf, Germany traveled as a group to Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, I started a search for the Johann Schaefer family. Johann Schaefer was the brother of Anna Barbara Schaefer, wife of Johann Heck.

After searching several passenger lists I found the Johann Schaefer family arriving at the Port of New York on 3 September 1852, on board the American sailing ship the Antarctic. Listed were Johann Schaefer 56, Catherine 45, Peter 25, Angela 23, Lucia 21, Susanna 11, Mathias 7, and Barbara 5.

I searched the entire ship's passenger list for the Johann Heck family but they were not to be found.

The Johann Schaefer family lived at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin from 1852 until nine German families, including the Johann Heck family, migrated to Swan Lake, Nicollet County, Minnesota in 1857. Descendants of the Johann Schaefer family still live in the Swan Lake area to this day.

## Bob Heck's Speaking Schedule for 2004

Last year I was asked to conduct a series of 23 two-hour lectures at libraries in the Waukesha and Milwaukee County area. A total of 678 people attended the presentations on Internet Research for the Beginning Genealogist. This year I've been asked to present 39 genealogy lectures at Waukesha County libraries. The subjects and schedule is shown below. There is no charge for the lectures so please feel free to attend any of them.

**AncestryPlus** This presentation concentrates on using the Ancestry Plus System available for free at the library for researching United States vital records data, historic newspapers around the United States 1786-2001, US Census data and images from 1790-1930, Immigration records of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier, and Great Britain, Scotland, Wales and Ireland vital records from as early as the 1500's.

**Beginning Genealogy** This program will explore what is available on the Internet for the genealogist in simple non-technical terms. While the title suggests that this is a beginner's program, even the experienced genealogist will find it to be of great value. You will learn of the latest and greatest web sites available to help you with your research. You will also learn the secrets and techniques for searching the Internet. With over 20 percent of the Internet dedicated to genealogy and family history research you owe it to yourself to add this fantastic tool to your genealogy toolbox.

**PAF** This software program is free for downloading from the Internet which makes it very popular among beginning and advanced genealogists and family history buffs. During this session you will learn where to get the program and how to use it. You will learn how to create many different reports, write a 200 page book in 60 seconds and how to create your own web site using PAF-5 and much more.

**Ellis Island** If your ancestors arrived in the United States between 1892 and 1924 and entered through Ellis Island, New York, you should attend this free session. This talk concentrates on using the Internet to find your immigrant ancestors in the records from Ellis Island. How much money did they have? Where were they born? Who was the nearest relative left behind? Who were they staying with in the United States. What ship were they on? Find out by attending this lecture.

**Photo Magic** Learn what you can do with a computer and a simple scanner to salvage, repair and improve worn or damaged photographs in your genealogy collection. If you own a scanner or digital camera you probably already own the software programs required to salvage those priceless family photographs. Even photos that are overexposed or underexposed, torn, or has missing parts can be salvaged. Learn about the magic and what can be done.

**Federal Land Record Research** Learn how to conduct the research right from your computer or the computers at this library. This lecture includes an explanation of the Metes and Bounds system and of the Federal Township and Range System used here in Wisconsin and many other states and how to download copies of the original documents as well. Did your ancestor own land? If so, where is it located today? Find out by attending this free lecture.

**Funeral Home Research** This presentation concentrates on finding information available through many funeral homes and in some cases through the Internet. The information may be as simple as a card or as complete as detailed family history and photos. This is often one of the areas of genealogical research that is overlooked but that may contain just the information to get over that brick wall.

**USGenWeb** Learn how to conduct the research right from your computer or the computers at this library. This workshop covers the free Gen Web system available throughout the United States and in nearly every County within each State. The Internet sites make available a great deal of free genealogy data, vital records, cemetery data, and much more. During this session you will learn what is available and how to conduct productive and effective research.

**DATE, 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**March,**

Monday March 29, 2004, 2:00 Waukesha AncestryPlus

**April**

Monday April 12, 2004, 2:00 New Berlin Beginning Genealogy

Monday April 19, 2004, 10:00 Mukwonago Beginning Genealogy, 2:00 Waukesha PAF

Wednesday April 28, 2004, 10:00 Big Bend Ellis Island, 2:00 New Berlin Ellis Island

**May**

Monday May 3, 2004, 10:00 North Lake PAF, 2:00 Oconomowoc AncestryPlus

Saturday May 8, 2004, 10:00 Waukesha Photo Magic, 2:00 Brookfield Beginning Genealogy

Monday May 10, 2004, 10:00 Delafield AncestryPlus, 2:00 Oconomowoc Federal Land Record Research

Thursday May 13, 2004, 10:00Sussex PAF, 2:00 Menomonee Falls AncestryPlus

**June**

Saturday June 5, 2004, 10:00 Big Bend Photo Magic, 2:00 Muskego AncestryPlus

Wednesday June 9, 2004, 2:00 Brookfield AncestryPlus  
Tuesday June 15, 2004, Evening 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Elm Grove Ellis Island

Thursday June 17, 2004, Evening 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Menomonee Falls Photo Magic

Monday June 21, 2004, 10:00 Muskego Beginning Genealogy, 2:00 New Berlin Photo Magic

**August**

Saturday August 7, 2004, 10:00 Hartland Photo Magic, 2:00 Delafield Photo Magic

Tuesday August 17, 2004, Evening 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Mukwonago Funeral Home Research

Friday August 20, 2004, 2:00 Eagle AncestryPlus

Monday August 23, 2004, 10:00 Brookfield Photo Magic



## September

Thursday Sep 9, 2004, 2:00 Elm Grove AncestryPlus  
Monday Sep 13, 2004, 10:00 Sussex AncestryPlus,  
2:00 Menomonee Falls Beginning Genealogy  
Thursday Sep 16, 2004, 2:00 Eagle PAF  
Tuesday Sep 21, 2004, Evening 6:00 – 8:00 PM, North  
Lake US GenWeb  
Thursday Sep 23, 2004, 10:00 Pewaukee AncestryPlus,  
2:00 Sussex PhotoMagic

## October

Monday Oct 4, 2004, 10:00 Butler PAF,  
Thursday Oct 7, 2004, 10:00 Hartland AncestryPlus,  
2:00 Delafield Beginning Genealogy  
Wednesday Oct 13, 2004, 10:00 Pewaukee Ellis Island,  
2:00 Brookfield PAF  
Monday Oct 18, 2004, 10:00 Butler US GenWeb,

I'll also be presenting four other lectures outside of the library system. These include a lecture at the African-American Genealogy Society, a three hour workshop at the Wisconsin Historical Society Gene-A-Rama workshop, a two hour Internet lecture at the Arrowhead Workshop, and a lecture on British research at the Richmond, Illinois BigWill Genealogy Group.

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**Pictures from the past.** This is a before picture of Bill Heck. Go to page 8 to see him now.

## What ever happened to Rose Aspland?

Your first question probably is Who was Rose Aspland? Rose was the daughter of Sherman Aspland and Elizabeth McNulty. Elizabeth McNulty was the daughter of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess.



Rose was close to the Heck family in Burlington and Waterford, Wisconsin. She was also close to the Sylvester Dibble family from Paddock Lake in Kenosha County. Her name could often be found in the local newspapers as a visitor.

Rose Aspland appeared in a photograph with Henry Heck, Mary Ann McNulty Heck, Lizzie, Mary, Laurence and Eva Heck and Gwen Plucker in 1911. Rose was the niece of Mary Ann McNulty Heck.

The marriage of Rose Aspland to Charles E. Kelly was shown in the Winnebago County, Illinois vital records index, license number 79. Her name was shown as Rosa Aspland. In the obituary of her mother, Elizabeth McNulty Aspland, her name was shown as Mrs. Joseph Kelly. On a hunch I did a search for anyone named Rose or Rosa in the Illinois death index for Winebago County. I found a Rose Nicholls with the same date of birth as Rose Aspland. It wasn't until I found Rose's obituary in a Beloit, Wisconsin newspaper that I discovered that she married a second time. The reason for looking in the Beloit newspaper was that Beloit, Wisconsin and Rockton, Illinois are right across the border from each other. Most people in Rockton subscribe to the Beloit newspaper.

**OBITUARY:** The Beloit Daily News: Tuesday, October 25, 1966: Rockton - "Mrs. Rose A. Nicholls, 302 West Union St., Rockton, died Monday at the Friendship Nursing Home in Beloit where she had been a resident the last 14 months. Mrs. Nicholls, who had been a Rockton resident most of her life, was born September 5, 1874, in Kansasville, ILL (sic), the daughter of Herman (sic) and Elizabeth McNaulty (sic) Aspland. She was married to Charles E. Kelley and Richard Nicholls, both deceased. Mrs. Nicholls was a former school teacher in the Rockton area, and was a member of the Old Stone Church. Survivors include two step-sons, Everett Nicholls of Beloit and Fred Nicholls of Spearfish, SD; two step-daughters, Pearl Hendee of Beloit and Vera Jones of Kenney, ILL.; two nieces, Eva Brady of Beloit and Edith Barber of Sponner, Wis., and several cousins, great nieces and great nephews. Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Rosman-Uehling-Kinzer Central Chapel with the Rev. Rankin Shrewsbury officiating. Burial will be in the Rockton Cemetery. An informal visitation will be held Wednesday at the Central Chapel."

NOTE: In the above obituary there were several spelling errors. Kansasville, ILL should be Kansasville, Racine County, Wisconsin, Herman should be Sherman, and McNaulty should be McNulty.

### **Did you know.....**

.....Before 1855, there was no immigration processing center in New York. The shipping company presented a passenger list to the Collector of Customs, and the immigrants made whatever Customs declaration was necessary and went on their way.

.....Before Ellis Island there was Castle Garden. Immigrants into New York processed through Castle Garden, which was just across the bay.

### **Special Thanks to Supporters....**

I would like to thank all of you who made donations and contributions to help keep this newsletter alive. I'm sure that you know that it takes a lot of work and money to keep this newsletter going. This issue is the 44<sup>th</sup> consecutive issue published since June 1993. The newsletter comes out every three months and we have never missed an issue. As a result of your generosity I'm able to continue sending the newsletter to over 60 families around the country and to Canada without charge.

Here is a list of our contributors since December 1, 2003: Howard & Ann Heck, Jeff & Susan (Bark) Miller, Dale & Corinne Wise, Philip & Antoinette Heck, and Richard & Gladys LaBerge.

Isn't it GREAT to be able to share our family history with each other?

### **Jack Heck 1917-2003**

In a letter from Philip and Antoinette Heck we learned of the death of one of our Canadian relatives. Peter Benjamin (Jack) Heck, known as Jack, passed away at Salmon Arm, British Columbia on October 20, 2003 at the age of 86.

Jack Heck was born on a farm in Sunnynook, Alberta, Canada on January 26, 1917. He was the son of Joseph Herman Heck and Mary Curry Larson. As you may recall, Joseph Herman Heck was the son of Peter Heck and Margaret Zeren, and grandson of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer from Swan Lake, Minnesota. Johann Heck was the first of our family to immigrate to the United States in 1852.

Jack had six sisters and six brothers. Two of his sisters, Clara Heck of Calgary, Alberta, Canada and Mary Heck of Hanna, Alberta, Canada survive him.

Jack Heck at age 82



Jack served for five years in the Canadian Army. He met a girl from Hanna with three children and married her. They purchased a farm in Carline, Alberta, Canada and farmed it for many years. They raised the three children on the farm. When Jack retired from farming he moved to Salmon Arms, British Columbia.

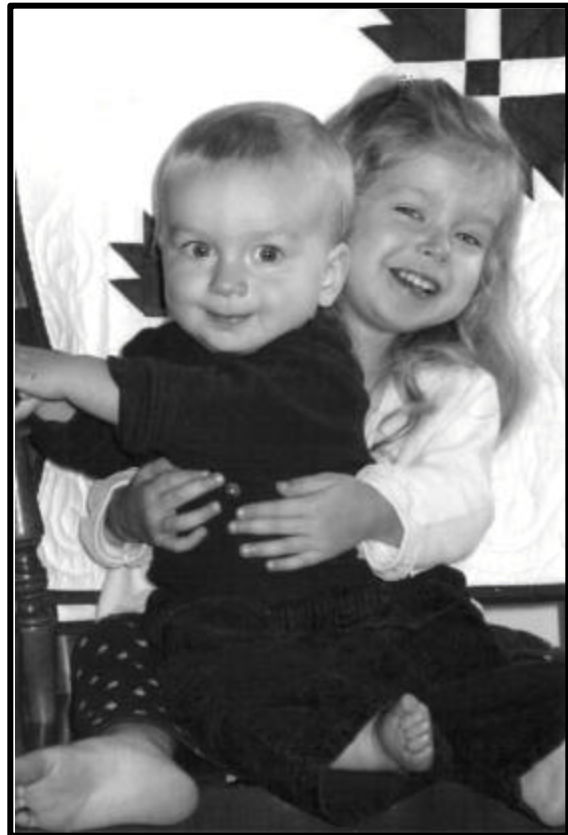
Mary Heck's address and phone number is:

Mary L. Heck  
12 501st 5 St W  
Hanna, AB T0J 1P0  
(403) 854-3115

Clara Heck's address and phone number is:

Clara M. Heck  
403 40th 11A St NE  
Calgary, AB T2E 7T2  
(403) 234-9061

## Meet your cousins...



Gosh how these children have grown. Matthew Miller age one year and his sister Sarah Miller age three years sure look happy as they await the arrival of Santa on Christmas Eve, 2003. Matthew and Sarah are the children of Susan (Bark) and Jeffrey Miller from North Oaks, Minnesota.

Susan was born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin and is the daughter of Edward Bark and Bernice Heck, and granddaughter of Robert Steven Heck and Margaret Henningfeld.

### **Bill Heck Releases New Music CD**

My son, Bill Heck just released a really nice music CD called "Calm Before the Storm" and in the process put together an autobiography. I'm including it on the next page.

## Bill Heck's Musical Autobiography

I started playing guitar when I was twelve years old by taking lessons at Lincoln Music House in Milwaukee. I had a tough time with it, and struggled every week trying to learn theory and proper technique. After nine months of lessons, I called it quits – but not quits with the guitar. By then, I owned a Peavey 10 Watt amp and a black Cort Flying “V” which looked really cool, and sounded really bad (I’m sure that I was a big part of the ‘sounded really bad’.) Anyway, I would get together with my friends Chris, Marty, and Scott from Brookfield and ‘jam’ almost every weekend. We used to cover just about every song from Metallica’s Ride The Lightning and Master Of Puppets. Right around this time, I picked up a black Kramer Striker to replace the Cort, and also picked up a really loud Peavey Special 130 amp. We also used to record a lot of ‘originals’ on my Fostex 4-track recorder.

In the next few years, I upgraded more equipment. This included a Roland GP-8 effects rack, an ART Multiverb, a Roland 1200 Watt power amp, and a 4x12 Celestian-loaded cabinet. I also picked up a red Carvin Ultra-V, which I still play on occasion. Since then, Chris, Marty, and Scott branched off and started up Outlander.

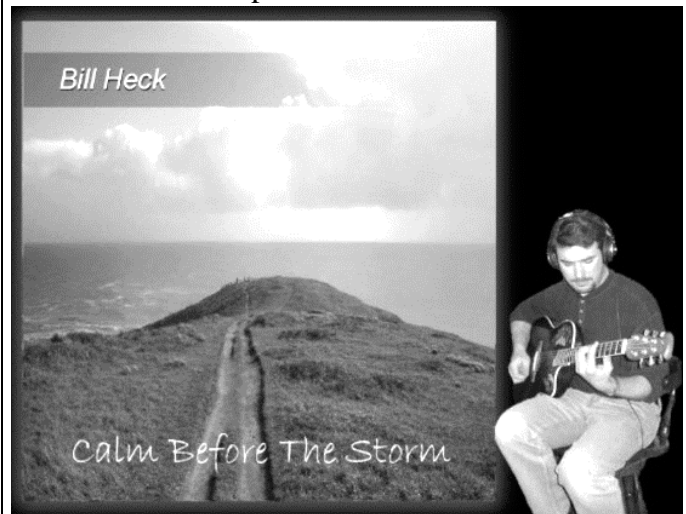
Anyway, I decided to put together some of my recorded ideas and make a tape, which would become my first ‘solo’ project entitled “Through Time”. This consisted of six tracks, all done on the Fostex 4-track recorder.

I continued to play guitar heavily, and then one day at Generac Corporation, where I was working as a Network Administrator, I met up with Pat Hunkins - percussionist. Pat and I didn’t take very long to come up with some solid music ideas. We formed the band Aftermath, and came out with a CD titled “It’s Always the Quiet Ones”.

Since then, I upgraded the equipment list a bit – added an Ovation acoustic, a Fender American Strat, a Carvin DC400, and a homemade model put together with a bunch of Carvin parts have been added to the arsenal. I also recently picked up a Korg Triton ProX synth, and a Fostex digital multi-track recorder.

My current CD project is entitled “Calm Before the Storm” and is available soon through this web site. (<http://BillHeck.com>) It consists of eight tracks – two of them recorded with Pat Hunkins on the drums. This CD takes on a significantly different angle from before, as I explored a bit with the Korg synth, the Ovation acoustic, and generally lightened things up a bit – everyone tells me it’s an ‘age thing’.... It probably is, but that’s ok.

Over the years, I have been influenced by a lot of different musicians and bands. Some of them include (in no particular order) Joe Satriani, Eric Johnson, Rush, Queensryche, and Metallica. Recently, I have been listening to a lot of George Winston on the piano as well.



Bill was thrilled when he recently received an e-mail message from a broadcaster in Germany asking permission to play some of his songs on the radio. If you would like to order a copy of the CD you can do so by going to

**<http://BillHeck.com>**