

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 51

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 2005

## Henry Heck's 140 Year Old Discharge Papers Found

In late August, 2005, while working on my computer I received an e-mail message from a lady named Sherry Temple from Hubertus, Wisconsin. Sherry is not related to me in any way that I know of. She was just trying to find a home for a long lost document that was over 140 years old and in very fragile condition. She conducted a search for "Henry Heck" on the Internet and soon found one of my web pages, which contained information about Henry and his Civil War service. Henry Heck was my great grandfather. Here is the first message:

**Hi,  
I have an original document for Henry Heck. From your Web info, you list a Henry Heck. I have a Discharge Document from the Civil War. It is the original.  
My mother said she found it in a book many years ago and just put it away. She gave it to me this weekend and thought that maybe I could find Henry's descendent. Might Henry be related to you?  
Thanks,  
Sherry Temple  
Hubertus, WI**

I was really excited to receive Sherry's e-mail message especially when I realized that the discharge document could be that of my great grandfather. I answered her message and gave her some specific information about our Henry. I told her that our Henry had served in Company K and Company F of the 19<sup>th</sup> Regiment Wisconsin Infantry from 1862 to 1865. I also gave her some background information about Henry and his family.

Sherry then sent a second e-mail message in which she gave me more detailed information. This confirmed that the document belonged to our Henry Heck. All of the dates matched information that I had on Henry. Here is the second message:

**Hi Bob,  
I have the original document in front of me. I am convinced this is Henry. It says Henry was born in Germany and that he was a Private in F Company 19th Regiment of the Wisconsin Infantry under the command of Captain Martin Scherff. According to the document he was twenty-three years old, five feet five with dark hair, eyes and complexion. This paper says he was discharged on the twenty-ninth day of April in 1865 at Madison, WI after serving the three years of his service. It is signed by a Dickerson, 1st Lieut, 5th US Cavy, Mustering Officer. It is stamped with a check number dated March 21, 1868 in blue ink. There is also a red stamp as Paid in Full by a Van Alstyne PM also dated 1868. It says he joined on the Eleventh day of February in 1862. There is also a blue stamp on the back that says US Pension Office Aug 11, 1880. It had been folded and It looks like Henry carried it around in his wallet, maybe for ID. How was Henry related to you? If you think this is your Henry I want to send this to you. I'm kind of afraid to just stick it in the mail; it is very fragile. I have it in a plastic sleeve. My mother is thrilled that we may have found Henry's family.  
Please let me know.  
Thanks  
Sherry Temple**

After I confirmed that this did indeed belong to my great grandfather, Sherry sent me a scanned copy of the document as an e-mail attachment.

Naturally I was curious about how Sherry's mother happened to have the document. In response to my questions she provided the answers in her next e-mail message. That message follows:

**Hi Bob,**

**About 30 or 35 years ago when we lived on the east side of Milwaukee, my sister lived in an old house on Knapp St. We can't remember the address anymore but it was torn down about 25 years ago. My sister lived on the lower floor and there were several families we can remember living there, namely the Allens and the Rivera family. This house was an old brick side by side. You don't see many of these anymore.**

**Anyway to make a long story short. My mother lived across the street and when they condemned the building and my sister had to move they found an old book, in the attic, about American Wars and this paper was in that book.**

**This house was on Knapp Street between Broadway and Milwaukee Streets. Do you know if Henry may have lived there at one time? My mother doesn't know what my step-father might have done with the book, he has passed away since, but she saved that paper all these years.**

**Do you want me to mail the paper to the address on your previous email?**

**Best regards,  
Sherry Temple**

I told Sherry that most likely, Henry Heck's youngest son, Laurence Heck, was the one responsible for leaving the book and document in the attic of that apartment. Laurence Heck lived in that neighborhood many years ago while he worked as manager of the Boston Store Restaurant. In 1920 he was married and living on Milwaukee Street which is just around the corner

from Knapp Street. By 1930, Laurence was divorced and was living on Van Buren Street in Milwaukee. Van Buren Street is in the same neighborhood as Knapp Street.

I suspect that when Laurence was getting a divorce, he may have lived in one of the apartments on Knapp Street. He probably left his father's book and discharge paper in the attic.

A copy of that original 140-year-old discharge certificate is included in this newsletter.

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## **A 108 Year Old Portrait of Henningfeld Twins Discovered in Racine**

This is another interesting story about the Internet. Last week, on November 8<sup>th</sup>, I received a phone call from a Derek Stolpa from Racine. It seems that he was in the process of remodeling an attic room in the house that he and his wife had purchased about two years ago.



While he was climbing on top of the attic room he discovered a picture frame wrapped in an old newspaper. He had a hard time viewing it in that cramped crawl space so he brought it down into a lighted area of the attic.

The newspaper that covered the frame was brown and very brittle. By just touching it the

newspaper crumpled into small pieces. He was able to read the date on the newspaper and he discovered that it was an October 8, 1932, Racine Journal Times newspaper.

After removing the remaining newspaper he found that he had a charcoal studio portrait of two young men about 18 years of age. On the back of the portrait he found written in pencil the following: "**Henningfeld, 729 McHenry Street, Burlington.**" He then conducted a search on the Internet searching for the keywords Henningfeld and Burlington. That led him to another of my home pages and ultimately to my phone number. He also contacted the Burlington Historical Society and they suggested that he contact me since I was researching the Henningfeld family in Wisconsin.

After we spoke on the phone he sent me a digital picture of the portrait. The portrait measured 16 inches by 20 inches in size. A large frame was included which measured 24 by 28 inches. The process used to make the portrait was half-photographic and half-artistic. The process, which was common in the late 1800's, was to develop a photographic image on paper and then touch it up with charcoal to give it the impression of being an artist's charcoal sketch. The digital image is shown on the previous page of this newsletter.

I was able to quickly identify the two young men on the photo as Carlos and Sylvester Henningfeld, twin brothers of my grandmother, Margaret Henningfeld Heck. The Burlington address was the home of Henry and Clara Henningfeld, my great grandparents and the parents of Carlos and Sylvester. The portrait, which is believed to be a high school graduation picture, was taken in about 1894, and thus was 111 years old. It had been wrapped up in that newspaper for 73 years.

Derek wanted to return the portrait to someone in the family so we made arrangements for me to pick it up on the following Saturday. I asked

Derek for his address and when he told me that it was 2054 Carter Street in Racine, I was taken aback again. That was the address of George and Martha Henningfeld, the younger brother of Carlos and Sylvester and of my grandmother, Margaret Henningfeld Heck. George Henningfeld was a fireman in Racine. I had written articles about George Henningfeld in earlier issues of Our Family News Letter. See Issue 35, December, 2001 and Issue 49, June, 2005.

I put together some photos that I have of the Henningfeld's and also a brief clip from an 8mm movie of the family standing in front of the house at 2054 Carter Street in Racine in 1944. Royce Henningfeld was on the movie along with his sister Jeanne and his parents, George and Martha. Royce was killed at Normandy three months later.

Derek showed me where he found the portrait and the remains of the 1932 newspaper. I told him that the last time that I was in that house was probably in the early 1950's.

I thanked Derek for taking the time to locate me and for not just throwing out that old portrait.

It sure pays to have a genealogy web page.

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

Our Family News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated. My home web page address is **<http://www.execpc.com/~bheck/heck.html>**

My e-mail address is **[bheck@execpc.com](mailto:bheck@execpc.com)**

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## Meet The Henningfeld Family From Yorkville, Wisconsin

This is starting to sound like a broken record, but here goes another good luck story that occurred because I happen to have web pages of our family history.

A few months ago I received a phone call from an Angela Henningfeld from Florida. Angela was starting to trace her Henningfeld family history and found one of my Henningfeld web sites on the Internet. Her Henningfeld grandparents lived on a farm in Yorkville, Racine County, Wisconsin. The farm was called the Henningfeld Farm. After exchanging some information we determined that Angela and I (Robert J. Heck) were 4<sup>th</sup> Cousins, 2 times removed. My great great grandfather, Franz Henningfeld, was the brother of Angela's great great great grandfather, Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld. That's where the two times removed comes from. We are two generations apart.

Angela's ancestry looks like this:

Angela Henningfeld  
Ronald Henningfeld  
Milton Henningfeld (b. 1924)  
Rudolph Henningfeld (b. 1894)  
Louis Henningfeld (b. 1861)  
Henry Henningfeld (b. 1833)  
Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld (b. 1806)

Angela told me that her family has a Henningfeld reunion every year at the Henningfeld Farm or at a nearby park. This year the reunion was held on September 11, 2005, at the Henningfeld Farm. Angela invited Gloria and me to the reunion and asked if I could bring along some of my Henningfeld genealogy.

I put together some wall charts showing all of the Henningfeld branches on a single chart. This put the relationship in perspective. A second

chart showed the information that I had on their side of the family. Admittedly the information that I had was a bit sketchy.

At the reunion we were greeted by many of the Henningfeld descendants. It reminded me a lot of the Heck family reunions that we hold each year in Racine. Gloria and I were asked several times how we were related to their Henningfeld family. Usually a visit to the wall charts cleared that up.



*Angela Henningfeld and Frank Lamping, 2005.*

A man by the name of Frank Lamping, a cousin of Angela, was at the reunion and he had a large collection of family history from their branch of the Henningfeld family. Frank lives in Union Grove, Racine County, Wisconsin. He had old 8mm and super 8mm movies that went back many years. He had a monitor and VCR set up so that he was able to show the movies to those attending the reunion. Frank spent a lot of time pointing out who was who on the films. There was a great deal of interest in the displays that Frank and I had set up.

Frank gave me a CD with many of their family pictures on it. Most of the people were identified which helped me figure out who belonged to whom. Frank is in the process of compiling a GEDCOM file of his genealogy that he will share with me. That will allow me to further up-

date the descendants of the Henningfeld's in America.

The reunion had a buffet style dinner with everyone bringing a dish. The food was really good and there was plenty of it. At the end of the day Frank worked to get everyone to gather along side of the barn for an annual family group picture. It reminded me of the times that we had in gathering our Heck family for a group picture at Wind Point.



*Angela Henningfeld and Gloria Heck 2005.*



*The six children of Rudolph and Lillian Henningfeld from Yorkville, Wisconsin. From left: Evelyn Johnson, Myrtle Narlock, Milton Hen-*

*ningfeld, Audry Christensen, Joyce Lamping, and Raymond Henningfeld. The picture was taken in September, 1987, at the Henningfeld farm in Yorkville.*



*The group picture of the Henningfeld family at Yorkville, Wisconsin. This picture was taken in 1987.*



*Evelyn, Milton, Rudy, Raymond, Lillian, Joyce, Audrey, Myrtle Henningfeld - Winter of 1940*

The Henningfeld family came over from Olfen and Vinum, Germany in 1845 and 1847, and initially settled in Racine County, Wisconsin in the Waterford, Rochester, Yorkville and Burlington areas. One branch later moved to Phillips, in northern Wisconsin, and another branch migrated to Saint Louis, Missouri after the Civil War. A third branch moved to Rock Valley,

Sioux County, Iowa. A Franz Carl Henningfeld immigrated to the United States from the same area of Germany in 1845, but I haven't been able to confirm where he lived in the United States.

Research into the Henningfeld family continues. There is a lot of data out there just waiting to be discovered.

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## **Bob & Lorainne Heck Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage**



*Lois, Paula, Lorainne, Bob, Cheryl, Mary and Michael on June 25, 2005.*

On June 25, 1955, Robert Heck and Lorainne Simmons were united in marriage at Newark, New Jersey. Fifty years later the vows were repeated and their children, friends and many relatives helped them celebrate in New Berlin. The picture above was taken with five of their six

children. Their daughter, Marjorie from California was unable to attend.

Bob and Lorainne are "Snow Birds" spending the summer months in New Berlin Wisconsin and the rest of the year in Fort Meyers, Florida.



*Bernie and Delores Kunka, on the left and right, help Lorainne and Bob, at center, celebrate 50 years of marriage. Delores is Bob's sister.*

Congratulations to Bob & Lorraine. May you have many more happy years together.

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*Lauren Emily Heck, learning Trick or Treat tactics, October, 2005.*



## **Two of Henry Heck's Daughters Worked at the Burlington Blanket Factory**

In 1891, the Burlington Blanket factory opened at Burlington, Wisconsin. The factory was producing over one million blankets per year, which were being sold all over the United States and in Europe. The factory's success was due for the most part because they were producing "Ransom's Stay-On horse blankets. As the name infers the blanket stayed on the horse when you tried to put the saddle on or if you were just covering the horse for the evening.

As times changes, the company added new products including linings for Mackinaw coats, saddle pads, felted carpeting, linings for automobile trunks. During World War I the company made horse blankets, collar and saddle pads for the government. During World War II they made cartridge and pistol belts, canteen covers, and camouflage material.

The picture above shows women operating the sewing machines in 1907. Mary Ann Heck and Eva Clara Heck, daughters of Henry Heck, both worked for the Burlington Blanket factory around the time that the photo was taken.

Mary Ann Heck later married Gustav, known as August, Grostuck. They were divorced and Mary Ann lived the remainder of her life in Milwaukee.

Clara Eva Heck never married. She lived in Burlington while working at the factory but moved to Milwaukee in later years. She owned property in Burlington and in Waterford.

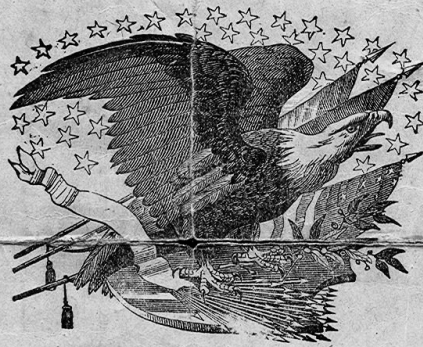
The photo of the factory was found at the Burlington Historical Society museum.

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### **Add Your Story & Photos to Our Family News Letter**

If you have some photos and stories that you would like to share with our readers, please send them to me at: **Bob Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129**

To all whom it may Concern.



Know ye, That Henry Heck  
Private of Captain Martin Schreff  
Company, (F.) 14th Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry  
VOLUNTEERS who was enrolled on the eleventh day of February  
one thousand eight hundred and sixty two to serve three years or  
during the war, is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States,  
this twenty ninth day of April, 1865, at Madison  
Wisconsin by reason of Expiration of term of service  
(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.)

Said Henry Heck was born in January  
in the State of Prussia, is twenty three years of age,  
five feet five inches high, Dark complexion, Dark eyes,  
Dark hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Laborer

Given at Madison Wis this first day of  
May

W. D. Dickerson  
1st Lieut 5th U.S. Cav  
Commanding the Regt.  
Mustering Officer



[A. G. O. No 99.]