

Our Family News Letter

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More on Two Brothers to America in 1883.

In the last issue of "Our Family News Letter" I had written about our research for finding the actual connection to the Heck family now living in Alendorf, Germany. We know that we are related to them but we don't have the actual connection or progenitor as it is called in genealogical terms. In 1989, when Don & Sharon and Gloria & I visited Alendorf, we were all dumbfounded when we saw one of the Heck brothers who looked identical to our Uncle Alvin Heck from Racine. I remember thinking, "Uncle Al? What are you doing here?"

We knew that two brothers that were from the Heck family in Alendorf were named Balthasar and Thomas Heck. We also knew that they left Alendorf for America in 1881 and 1883 respectively, according to the book, "Von der Eifel nach Amerika". However, the same book stated that both departed from Germany in 1883 on board the Brig Hermann and arrived in New York at Castle Garden on 23 April 1883.

I checked the passenger list for the ship "Hermann" for 23 April 1883, and found Thomas Heck listed with his family, which included a son named Balthasar. His brother, Balthasar was not on that ship.

A further check of the Castle Garden passenger lists showed that a Thomas Heck and a Balthasar Heck traveled together on board the ship "SS City of Chester" and arrived on 2 April 1881 in New York. I suspect that these were the "Heck brothers." This suggests that Thomas Heck probably returned to Germany to gather up his family and later returned to the United States in 1883.

I decided to do some census checking to see what year Balthasar and Thomas indicated that they arrived in the United States. For Balthasar Heck, he stated that he arrived in 1881 on the 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 census. For Thomas, I checked the same census years and found the following: 1900 (1880), 1910 (1882), 1920 (1883) and 1930 (1882). The year in parenthesis is the year stated for arrival in the United States. In 1930, Thomas was 74 years old and his wife, Elizabeth, was 68, so it is not unusual to find errors in his arrival date.

While we found and confirmed the Balthasar Heck family was living in Willmont, Nobles County, Minnesota, we suspected that the Thomas Heck family might have lived in Elkton, Brookings County, South Dakota. I stated in the last newsletter, **"While we have no proof that Thomas Heck from Elkton, Brookings County, South Dakota is the Thomas Heck from Alendorf, a bit more research might prove or disprove that link."**

I decided to search the LDS FamilySearch.org web site for a Thomas Heck. Much to my surprise I found that there were two entries for a Thomas Heck listed in the IGI International Genealogical Index Volume 5. The record showed a Thomas Heck born 2 October 1856 at Darpen Allendorf, Alsace-Lorraine Province, France. There was no documentation given that would support the location as being accurate.

I checked MapQuest.com and Google.com but there was no listing for Darpen Allendorf, Alsace-Lorraine Province, France. A check for just Allendorf on MapQuest.com listed 10 with that spelling, and all were in Germany. None were in France. A check for Alendorf with one L listed just one in Germany and none in France. I be-

lieve that the information in the IGI index was in error and that the correct place of birth was Alendorf, Germany. The Civil birth registration records of Dollendorf, the County Seat for Alendorf, supports this contention.

In another IGI listing there was another Thomas Heck with the exact same date and place of birth and date of death as in the first IGI record. His parents were listed as Thomas Heck and Anna Dries. Thomas' date of birth was listed as 2 Oct 1856 while our records show it as 8 Oct 1856. (Birth date verses christening date perhaps?)

Thomas Heck and Anna Dries were the parents of both Balthasar and Thomas, so it appears that we have "found" the right Thomas Heck in the United States.

The IGI index for Thomas Heck listed his wife as Maria Elizabeth Wilmes, born 18 July 1862, at Keispelt, Capellen, Luxembourg. They were married on 24 November 1886 at New Trier, Dakota County, Minnesota. He died on 16 December 1943, probably in South Dakota and she died on 7 December 1950 at Yangton, Yangton County, South Dakota. Their children were (1) Consolta Mary Heck, born at Ashton, Iowa; (2) Elizabeth Heck born 1888 at Ashton, Iowa; (3) Catherine Agnes Heck born 20 October 1889 at Ashton, Iowa; (4) Anne Catherine Heck born 1891 at Ashton, Iowa; (5) Margaret Heck born 16 April 1894 at Ashton, Iowa; (6) Josephine Heck born 2 December 1895 at Elkton, Brookings County, South Dakota; (7) Clara Heck born 17 December 1897 at Elkton, South Dakota; (8) Gertrude Elizabeth Heck born 11 March 1901 at Elkton, South Dakota; and (9) Theresa Mary Heck born 3 May 1902 at Elkton, South Dakota.

Our Minneapolis cousin and fellow genealogist, **Howard Heck**, author of the book, "The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany", joined in the search armed with information that I had provided plus information that he had gleaned during his visit to Alendorf. Howard sent me an e-mail message

with results of some of his searches. His e-mail follows:

"Hi Bob:

I had a meeting in St. Paul today and stopped first at the Minnesota Historical Society. It was the most productive two hours I have ever spent there.

I was armed with the information you gave me about Balthasar Heck and his family. I also had the death certificate numbers for Balthasar and his sons, Joseph and John. I copied all of the information from them and then looked for Joseph's obituary. It was in the Clinton, Minnesota, newspaper, "Northern Star". Here is what I have so far in rough draft form.

Balthasar Heck: (1851- 1937)

He died in the hospital in Graceville, Minnesota at age 86. He lived in Beardsly, Minnesota and was a retired farmer. His father was Thomas Heck, born in Germany and his mother was Mary Dries who was born in Germany. The informant on the death certificate was Josephine Heck, a resident of Beardsly. Balthasar is buried at Beardsly, Minnesota and was born in Germany. He died of heart problems.

John Heck, son of Balthasar: (1893 - 1965)

He died on his farm near Graceville, Toqua Township, Minnesota. John was born in St. Killian, Nobles County, Minnesota. He was not in the military. The informant on the death certificate was his wife, Anna. His Social Security number was 477-40-2642. John is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery in Beardsly, Minnesota.

Joseph Heck, son of Balthasar: (1889 - 1981)

He died in the hospital in Graceville, Minnesota. Joseph was born in Minnesota. His Social Security Number was 473-40-7017. He was widowed

and his wife was Frances Elizabeth Stoick. Joseph was not in the military. He was a farmer. His mother was born in Germany. Joseph died of a stroke and is buried in the Graceville Consolidated Cemetery. The informant was his daughter, Regina J. Boyle of Craceville. The following was taken from his obituary:

"Joseph and Frances were married on April 8, 1913, in Rosen. As a boy his parents moved from Nobles County to Barry. Joseph farmed south of Beardsly, Minnesota until 1935 and then farmed in the Graceville area. They moved into Graceville when he retired in 1957. Their children are Regina, who married Edward A. Boyle of Graceville; Agnes who married Richard Meyers of Arden Hills, Minnesota; Mrs. Adeline Melberg of Wheaton; Mrs. Rose Wohlers of Graceville; Lawrence Heck of Fargo, ND; Tony Heck of Richmond, CA. He is survived by sisters, Mary Hoffman of White Sulfur Springs, Montana; Agnes Kirkey of Minneapolis; Mrs Anna Kirkey of Graceville; Theresa, wife of Edward Proegrba of Montrose, Minnesota; Josephine, wife of I. Jacobson of Wheaton. Joseph was preceeded in death by a sister, Kate Freund and brother, John. His wife, Frances, died on March 7, 1966."

This is as far as I got before I had to leave. I searched for Joseph's obituary first because he died last. I felt his children's information would be easier to trace because it is more current. While I wait to go back to the Minnesota Historical Society for the other obits, I will try to find some or all of his living children or grandchildren. I will keep you informed of my search for living relatives.

Howard Heck"

Our search for the connection to the present day Heck families living in Alendorf, Germany continues.

Another Mystery Waiting to be Solved

Robert Steven Heck married Margaret Frederica Henningfeld on 15 October 1903 in a civil ceremony at the Milwaukee County Court House. The person pronouncing the marriage was James A. Graves, Justice of the Peace. Witnesses to the marriage were Matt Heck and James D. Shaw. A "Special Permit" was issued by Judge L. W. Halsey.

The first question that comes to mind is why was a special permit required? The license was granted on the same day as the marriage, Thursday, 15 October 1903. The license number was 12809. It was not an age issue since both Robert and Margaret were over 21 years of age. Had there been a previous marriage and an annulment? Was there normally a waiting period between the time the license was issued and the marriage took place?

The Burlington Standard Democrat ran a brief news article on 24 October 1903, about the marriage. The article follows.

"Robert Heck, of Racine, and Miss Margaret Henningfeld, of Milwaukee, were united in marriage in the former city last week by Rev. Theo. Meyer in St. Mary's Catholic Church."

The "last week" from the article would have put the marriage date between October 12th and October 17th.

I did some checking and found that the Reverend Theodore Meyer was the Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Racine in 1903. I then went to the Family History Library and read the microfilm of the church marriage records for St. Mary's. I read every marriage record from 1899 through 1920 but the marriage of Robert Steven

Heck and Margaret Frederica Henningfeld was not listed.

As I recall, the Bible that belonged to Margaret Frederica Henningfeld Heck listed her marriage on 15 October 1903, at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Is it possible that the marriage just wasn't entered into the church records by mistake? Was the marriage performed in the rectory rather than in the church? Why would they have been married twice? Why would they have been married twice within the same week and possibly on the same day? Did they just say that they were married in the Catholic Church just to satisfy their relatives?

If anyone has a clue about these questions, I sure would like to hear about it.

A Follow Up From Ralph Heck, Burling- ton, Wisconsin

Heck, 50th

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Heck of Burlington will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 3 during an open house in their honor from noon to 3 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 587 E. State St. (Highway 11), Burlington. Family and friends are invited (no gifts, please).

Heck and the former Ruth Nienhaus were married Oct. 2, 1954, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Burlington, where they are still members.

The Hecks have four children: Debbie (Sandy) Sandberg of Racine; and Mike (Carrie), Carol (Tom) Robers and Linda (John) Fisher, all of Burlington.

The couple has 10 grandchildren.



Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Heck

The following e-mail message is from Ralph Heck from Burlington, Wisconsin. As you can see by the previous article, Ralph and Ruth celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in October, 2004. It is always nice to hear from our cousins. I encourage you to send me your thoughts and memories. Thanks to Ralph, another mystery bites the dust.

"Dear Bob

Always enjoy receiving your family newsletter, and the Dec. 06 Cemetery Hunting article was especially interesting. In addition to the Hecks you mentioned, all of the James Heck family, with the exception of Loraine Heck Pier are buried in St Mary's cemetery. This includes Raymond , Herbert, Joseph, and their wives, a daughter Alice, and also Anna Hugunin, a cousin who helped raise the children when James' wife died. My father, (Raymond James Heck), was the oldest, 13, when his mother died.

There is a little story as to how Henry Heck , my great grandfather's, original tombstone ended up in the park in downtown Burlington. I was doing some electrical work in the old Nuns convent at St Mary's and found several stones in a basement storage room. I took Henry's to my friend who was the cemetery sexton and with his maps went looking for an unmarked grave. What we found was a newer monument at the gravesite. All's well that ends well, but now I had a gravestone in my back yard. A year latter the Burlington Historical Society members were moving the old log cabin to Wehmhoff Park and my offer of a Civil War veteran's gravestone was gladly accepted.

It took some re-cutting and cleaning and with the help of the "Heck" book (by Howard Heck), we could include a little more information on OUR Civil War Veteran. And yes, people have asked if he is buried there. In fact, there is a notice in the cabin telling where the actual gravesite is located.

Keep up the good work with the newsletter Bob

Ralph Heck"

Ralph's e-mail address is: rheck1@wi.rr.com

The Henningfeld Family found in 1847 Passenger List

"Franz Henningfeld from Vinnum Ksp. Olfen, Land Worker born 5 Nov 1810 married with Elisabeth Richter born 27 Feb 1816, and their children Maria Catharina born 10 Aug 1840, Catharina Elizabeth born 12 Dec 1842, and Catharina Carolina born 8 Feb 1845 and also parents: Wilhelm Henningfeld born 5 Apr 1777, and Maria Catharina Bucker born 18 Mar 1780 emigrated in 1847 to America."

The ages on the manifest matched the correct age for the three children of Franz Henningfeld and

NAMES.	AGE.		SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The Country to which they severally belong.	The Country of which they intend to become inhabitants.
	YEARS.	MONTHS.				
to Rottorf	26		M	Preach	Germany	USA
W Henningfeldt	37		M	"	"	"
E "	28		F	"	"	"
M "	56		F	"	"	"
M "	7		F	"	"	"
E "	4		F	"	"	"
C "	2		F	"	"	"
W Rodenwark	27		M	"	"	"

The passenger list from the Bark "Trident" which sailed from Hamburg, Germany and arrived in New York on 26 June 1847. The five members of the Henningfeld family are shown along with the mother of Franz Henningfeld.

While doing some research on the Henningfeld family I searched the Castle Garden site and others for the family arriving in 1847. I found a listing with W. Heninfeldt, a male aged 37 (1810); with E. Heninfeldt, a female aged 28 (1819); M. Heninfeldt, a female aged 56 (1791); M. Heninfeldt, a female aged 7 (1840); E. Heninfeldt, a female aged 4 (1843); and C. Heninfeldt, a female aged 2 (1845). I added the calculated birth year in parentheses based on their age and the year of the ship's arrival.

The following note was found by Henning Henningfeld from a list of immigrants who traveled to America from Germany.

Elizabeth Richter. The age for W. Heninfeldt also exactly matched the age for Franz Henningfeld. The 56 year old female, M. Heninfeldt, is probably Franz's mother, Maria Catharina Bucker Henningfeld. Her age appears to be off by 10 years in the manifest. That is not unusual in a passenger list where one person gives the information for all in the family.

It appears that the W. Heninfeldt on the manifest is actually Franz Henningfeld. Franz's father, Johann Henrich Wilhelm Henningfeld would have been over 68 years of age in 1847, if he was still alive. I suspect that he had already died by 1847 and his wife was going to America with her son Franz. She would have also been joining her two daughters and a son already in Wisconsin.



Painting of a German Bark such as the "Trident" which sailed during the 1840 to 1850 time period. The "Trident" was from the Port of Hamburg, Germany. The Master of the Bark "Trident" in 1847 was Anton Schmidt. A Bark was a three-mast vessel with only two of the masts having square rigging.

One remaining question is which of the Henningfeld family members came to America and Wisconsin in 1845? Another search of ship passenger lists found a T. F. Hennigfeld, aged 28 traveling with Elizabeth Hennigfeld, age 31, and Frances Hennigfeld, age 21. Francis was actually listed as male but this is an error. The family traveling with the Hennigfelds was the Sanders family which included 20 year old Louis Sanders, the future husband of Frances Henningfeld.

In a note from the Louis Sanders family history, Anna Maria Francesca arrived in America on 30 Jul 1845 with her future mother-in-law, Gertrud,

sister, Catherine Elizabeth, and brother, Theodore. She is thought to have traveled with her future husband, Louis Sanders. They settled in the Milwaukee area. Her death is listed in the Racine County vital records and shows her age at the time of death as 70 years.

Frances married Louis Sanders on 18 August 1846, at Burlington, Wisconsin.

The conclusion from all of this is that T. F. Hennigfeld is Theodore Henningfeld, Elizabeth is Catherine Elizabeth Henningfeld, who married John Henry Hoffer on 22 February 1846 at Bur-

List or Manifest of all the Passengers taken on board the *Ship Triment* whereof *Hayton* is Master, from *Germany* burthen *368*

NAMES.	AGE.		SEX.	OCCUPATION.	The Country to which they severally belong	The Country of which they intend to become Inhabitants.
	YEARS.	MONTHS.				
<i>Thos. Titke</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>farmer</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>U.S.A.</i>
<i>Kang^a do</i>	<i>29</i>		<i>F</i>			
<i>Ytlanda do</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>F</i>			
<i>Wm Sanders</i>	<i>29</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>farmer</i>		
<i>Fred. do</i>	<i>20</i>		<i>M</i>			
<i>Sarahtha do</i>	<i>28</i>		<i>F</i>			
<i>Yostunde do</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>F</i>			
<i>Leand^a do</i>	<i>9</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>farmer</i>		
<i>Joseph Hellenbuck</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>farmer</i>		
<i>L. F. Henningfeld</i>	<i>28</i>		<i>M</i>			
<i>Ely do</i>	<i>31</i>		<i>M</i>			
<i>Francis do</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>M</i>	<i>farmer</i>		
<i>Wm. Butterfield</i>	<i>34</i>		<i>M</i>			

The passenger list from the ship Triment or Tremont which arrived in New York on 16 July 1845. On board the ship were the William Sanders family and three members of the Henningfeld family. Frances Henningfeld married Louis Sanders seven months later at Burlington, Wisconsin.

lington, and Francis is actually Frances Henningfeld.

By 1847, all of the Henningfeld brothers and sisters, with the exception of Maria Catharina Henningfeld Engelkamp, were living in Wisconsin either at Burlington, Rochester, or Waterford, all in Racine County.

Special Thanks to our many readers...

I would like to thank all of you for helping make "Our Family News Letter" a success by reading it, contributing articles or photos to it, and for helping fund it by your generous donations. Special thanks go out to Don & Sharon Heck, Kathy

Lerud, Mary Kay & Dave Hansen, Pam & Tom Kebis, Marjorie Ayo, Laila & John Suter, Cel & Dick Heck, Shirley Heck, Delores & Bernie Kunka, Cheryl Heck, Bob & Lorraine Heck, Sue & Jeff Miller, Anne & Howard Heck, Marjorie & Don Johnson, and Corinne & Dale Wise.

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 e-mail address is **bheck@execpc.com**

Photos from Marjorie Heck and Don Johnson Wedding 15 November 1952



Clockwise: Marjorie & Don; Clarence, Marjorie & Fanny; Clarence & Marjorie; Don & Marjorie; The wedding party at brunch; Delores, Shirley, Donna, Marjorie, Don, Mary Kay.

