

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 59

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 2007

## Milton B. Henningfeld

Adrian Daily Telegram, Sat., Sept 22, 2007  
Franksville, Wis - Milton B Henningfeld, 84,  
passed away in Wheaton Franciscan Hospital on  
Wed. Sept 19, 2007. He was born on the family  
farm in Franksville, WI, on April 27, 1923, son  
of the late Rudolph and Lillian (nee:Boss) Hen-  
ningfeld.



L-R: Evelyn Johnson, Myrtle Narlock, **Milton Henningfeld**, Audry Christensen, Joyce Lamping, Raymond Henningfeld in September, 1987 at the Henningfeld Family Reunion at Franksville (Yorkville), Wisconsin.

On Jan. 13, 1947 in Chicago, IL he was united in marriage to the former Helen Sternig. Mr. Henningfeld was employed at Henderson Plumbing and later by Miller Plumbing. He was a retired member of Plumbers Local 118. He was an avid bowler and golfer and enjoyed playing cards.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 61 years, Helen; their children, Ronald Henningfeld of Jacksonville, FL; Kenneth (Diane) Henningfeld

of Racine, WI; Gail (Shorty) Sarisen of Tigerton, WI; Bruce (Bonnie) Henningfeld of Greenfield, WI; and Sharon (Richard) Klein of Kansasville, WI.

Grandchildren: Angela Henningfeld, Kathryn (Ross) Fort, Anne (David) Henler, Tracy (Jeremy) Blinn, Kari (Greg) Leichner, Holly Henningfeld, Cory Henningfeld, Helen (Ken) Alt,



The Henningfeld Family group photo with L-R: Evelyn, **Milton**, Rudolph, Raymond, Lillian, Joyce, Audrey, and Myrtle Henningfeld in the Winter of 1940. The family lived on the farm at Yorkville, Wisconsin.

Teri Tobias, Russell (Jennie) Tobias, Lindsey Henningfeld, John Klein and Joey Klein.

12 great-grandchildren; sisters, Myrtle Narlock of Raymond, WI and Joyce Lamping of Union Grove, WI; sister-in-law Joanne Henningfeld of Kenosha, WI; and brother-in-law Paul (Bea) Christensen of Ft Atkinson, WI. His nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends further survive him. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother Raymond Hennign-

feld and by two sisters, Evelyn (Stanley) Johnson and Audrey Christensen.



The Henningfeld Family has held a Family Reunion every year on the family farm. This photo was taken in September 2005. Milton Henningfeld is seated second from left, surrounded by his brothers and sisters.

His funeral service will be held at Draeger-Langendorf Funeral Home in Racine, WI, September 22, 2007 at 9:30 am, with the Rev. Howard Haase officiating. Burial will follow in West Lawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to either the Wheaton Franciscan Hospice or your local hospice.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Milton B. Henningfeld is a descendant of :**

**Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Henningfeld**  
**Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld**  
**Henry Henningfeld**  
**Louis J. Henningfeld**  
**Rudolph Henningfeld**  
**Milton B. Henningfeld**

**Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld and Franz Arnold Henningfeld were brothers.**

## **PJ and Michael Henderson Expecting a Baby Boy in the Spring of 2008.**

We were excited to learn that PJ and Michael are expecting a baby boy in the Spring of 2008. PJ (Pamela Joan) Landrum, is the daughter of Cindy & Dennis Landrum, and granddaughter of Gary and Carol Heck. PJ was married to Michael Henderson at Easley, South Carolina in May, 2007.

Both PJ and Michael have been attending night school ever since they married. PJ and Michael purchased a house at Williamston, South Carolina, which is located within five minutes of their parents.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Scarletta Schaefer Visits Alendorf in 2007.**

Scarletta J. Schaefer from Oregon visited the Heck, Schaefer and Casper families in Alendorf, Germany in July, 2007. Her father, Scott, is a descendant from the Johann Schaefer family from the New Ulm, Minnesota area. Scarlettah J. Schaefer and Robert John Heck (Your Editor) are 4th cousins 2 times removed. Their common ancestors are Balthasar Schaefer and Anna Margareta Jenner.

Our relatives in Alendorf, Germany were very happy to meet with Scarletta and the often talked about previous visits from Howard and Anne Heck in the early 1980's and from Bob & Gloria and Don and Sharon Heck in 1989.

Scarletta sent me some photos of her visit and I have included several of them on the following page.



A view of the old Saint Agatha's Catholic Church at Alendorf, Germany. The church originated before Columbus discovered America. This photo was taken from Calvary hill.



Side view of the original Heck family home at Alendorf, Germany in 2007.



Scarletta Schaefer seated at center visits with the Heck and Casper families at Alendorf, Germany. Theo Heck, seated directly behind Scarletta was our first contact from the Alendorf Hecks.

The original Heck home at Alendorf, Germany is believed to be one of the older homes in the village. This is probably the home where Johann Heck's family lived prior to immigrating to Wisconsin in 1853.



Back view of the original Heck family home at Alendorf, Germany in 2007. This is typical of farm homes in that area of Germany.

In the Eifel Mountain region of northwestern Germany, farmers lived in the village and worked the land surrounding the village. The cattle and livestock were paraded down the village streets every morning on their way to the fields. In the early evening they were paraded back into the village. Heating a home in that area was often easy as the livestock lived under or

next to the living quarters. The body heat from the animals kept the house warm in the winter.

## From Historical Newspapers....

OBITUARY: Lafayette-Nicollet Ledger (Minnesota) 12 June 1997:

Edwin "Eddie" Heck, 84, of Cleveland, MN, and formerly of New Ulm, died June 8, 1997, at St. Peter Community Hospital. Services were held Tuesday at Minnesota Valley Funeral Home in New Ulm with burial in the City Cemetery, Soldier's Rest Section.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Heck of Cleveland, MN; daughters and sons-in-law, Marlene and James Brown of St. Peter, Maxine and Harold Falk of Hanska, and Helen and Ronald Pabst of Bloomington; sons and daughters-in-law, James and Connie Heck of New Ulm, and Edwin Jr. and Jeanette Heck of Bloomington; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and brother Frank Heck of New Ulm.

He was preceded in death by granddaughter, Shelly Marie Pabst on February 17, 1971; and a great-grandson Adam Edwin Heck in 1989.

He was born January 27, 1913, in West Newton Township, Nicollet County to Alois and Mary (Lang) Heck. He was a graduate of New Ulm High School. He married Mary Weir on May 18, 1936, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Ulm. He was a U.S. Army veteran, and was stationed in Kodiak, Alaska with the 215th AAA from 1941-1945. He worked for United States Postal Service in New Ulm as a custodian until retiring in 1975. They moved to Lake Jefferson in Cleveland, MN in 1975. He was a member of the New Ulm Fire Department for 20 years. He was an original member of the Schell's Hobo Band, New Ulm, Municipal Band, Nicollet American Legion Post 510 and Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.



The Alois and Mary (Lang) Heck family. Standing L-R: Robert, **Edwin**, Victor and Frank Heck.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you have a short or long story to tell about your past memories? Why not share them with our readers? Just send them to me by snail mail or by e-mail at [bheck@execpc.com](mailto:bheck@execpc.com)

## Exerts From the Ancestry and Descendants of John Matteson of Hoosick, New York

John Matteson (1754-1818), son of Thomas Matteson (about 1716-1793), grandson of Francis Matteson (1680-1751) and great grandson of Henry Matteson (about 1646-1690), lived in Hoosick, New York and Shaftsbury, Vermont. John Matteson was married in Cheshire, Massachusetts on May 17, 1776, to Esther Worden. John Matteson is related to our Matteson line through Henry Matteson. John's great grandson, William Curtis, reported their story in "Ancestry And Descendants of William Curtis Of Marcel-

lus, NY" published in 1912. His grandmother told the story to him. The story is interesting because it describes events that took place in the exact area where our Matteson and Burgess families lived during the American Revolution.

"John and Esther (Worden) Matteson settled on a farm about 30 miles north of Cheshire, Mass., in Shaftsbury, Vermont. Here they had lived about a year when he rushed in one day, telling his wife to go to her sister's about two miles away, "as the British are coming and I must go and fight." Snatching his gun from the wall and gathering his ammunition, he hurried away to the camp, while his wife fell in a faint."



"When she recovered, all by herself, she gathered a bundle of clothing, started out of the door and saw her father, Elder Peter Worden, coming on the old white faced mare, after her. She took her pot of pork and beans off the crane, set it on the hearth, raked up the coals, mounted behind her father and trotted to safety. My grandmother said her mother plainly heard the firing all through the famous Battle of Bennington. As an orator has said of it, 'There was no beating of drums, no inspiring music, no dazzling uniforms, no martial array. They were simply a band of resolute, determined farmers, armed, perhaps with rusty flintlocks, certainly in the crudest way, but also armed with determination to preserve their homes and independence.' History tells of their victory under the gallant Stark."



"After the battle was over, my great grandparents returned to their home and found the pot of pork and beans undisturbed. Later John Matteson removed to Hoosick, New York, where he owned a farm and kept a tavern. Here he died between March 10, date of his will, and March 25, 1818, date of proving same."

By William Curtis, 1912.

#### The Battle of Bennington August 16, 1777

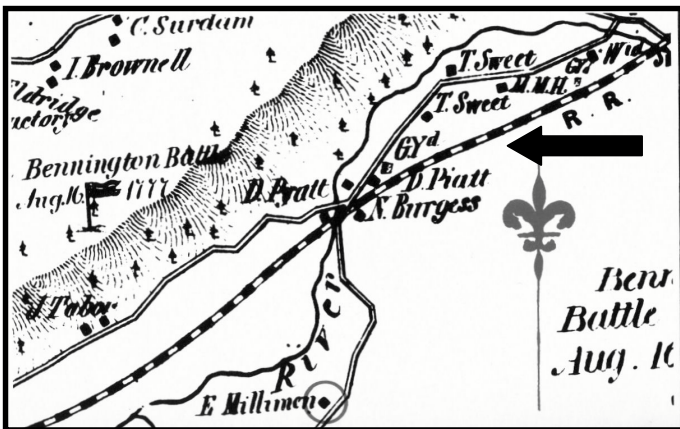
Aware of the advancing British troops moving east toward Bennington, Vermont, American Brigadier General John Stark decided to head them off rather than defend the supply depot at the Bennington site. Therefore, it was approximately five miles northwest of Bennington, near Walloomsac Heights, now in New York State, that the actual battle took place.

The fighting began at three o'clock on the afternoon of August 16. Folklore has John Stark uttering the immortal words, "There are the Red Coats; they will be ours or tonight Molly Stark sleeps a widow." The first shot was fired by American Colonel Moses Nichols' battalion; and by five o'clock that evening, the British troops were retreating in disorder. British Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Baum received a mortal wound at this stage of the battle and his demoralized troops surrendered. General Stark later described this engagement as "one continuous clap of thunder."

As General Stark was taking the captured and wounded enemy soldiers back to Bennington, British Colonel Breymann appeared with a second unit and surprised Stark and his men. The Americans fought back; but exhausted and hungry, they slowly gave ground.

Then suddenly, arriving overland from Manchester, Colonel Seth Warner and his Green Mountain Boys came to their aid. With this additional help and reinforcement, the scales were tipped in the Americans' favor and Colonel Breymann's ranks gave way and by dusk had fled, followed by the Americans in hot pursuit.

The Battle of Bennington was of no small consequence. The mostly untrained Yankees had overwhelmingly defeated some of Europe's best trained, disciplined and equipped troops. This battle resulted in a major turning point for the American Revolution.



My 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, Benajah Burgess owned land at Shaftsbury, Bennington County, Vermont, White Creek, Washington County, New York and at Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York. All of these places are within a few miles of each other. Benajah attended the Methodist Episcopal Church and is buried in the churchyard cemetery on the Walloomsac River where the Battle of Bennington was fought. Note that in the map shown above, GY<sup>d</sup> is the symbol used to designate a graveyard. In this case it is shown slightly above center to the left of the ar-

row and is the location of the burial place of Benajah Burgess. The church is no longer there and all that remains is a small cemetery. A cast iron fence with the name Nairn Burgess 1874 on

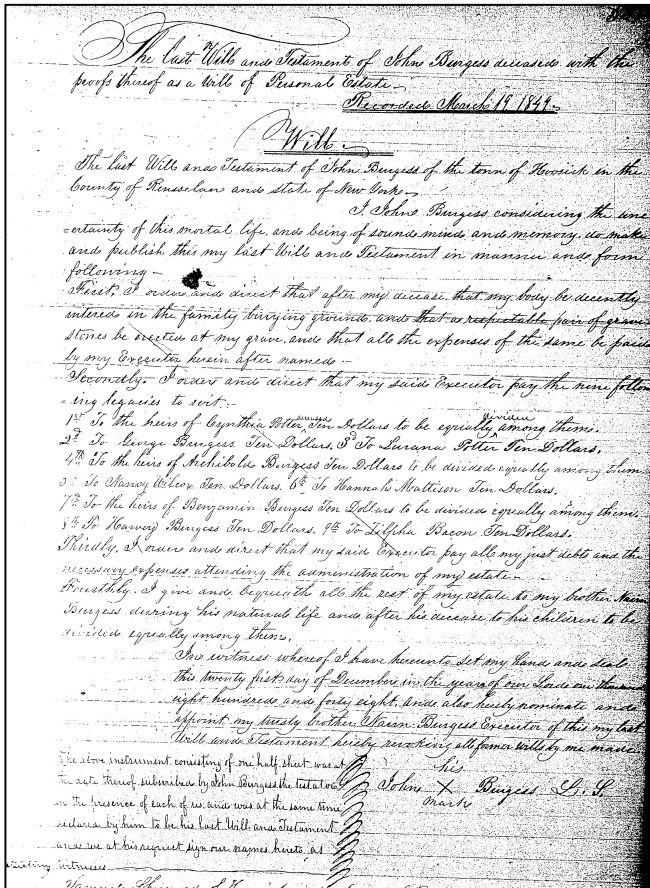


the gate, fences off the most notable area within the cemetery. Nairn Burgess' wife, Ruth Jewett, died at Walloomsac in 1874. Nairn, the son of Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson, died in 1877. Many of our relatives are buried within the confines of the cast iron fence. Note also that there is a N. Burgess shown on the map. This would have been Nairn Burgess' land in 1854. The Walloomsac River is shown simply as River on the map. The map was drawn in 1854.

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**

## John Burgess' Will from 1848



The Last Will and Testament of John Burgess, son of Benajah Burgess and brother of Benjamin Burgess was found in the records of New York by fellow Burgess researcher, James Leone of Palo Alto, California. In the Will, John mentions his sisters, Cynthia Potter (deceased), Laurana Potter, Nancy Wilcox, Hannah Matteson, and Zilpha Bacon. He also mentions his brothers, George Burgess, Archibald Burgess (deceased), Benjamin Burgess (deceased), Harvey Burgess, and Nairn Burgess.

By the time that the will was written, Benjamin Burgess had moved to Oswego County, New York and then to Kenosha County, Wisconsin. Benjamin died in Wisconsin in 1838 and his descendants remained in Wisconsin. As a result, when the Will was executed, a notice had to be placed in the State newspaper asking the Wis-

consin members of the Burgess family to contact the court in New York. This was then one of the key documents proving the link between the Wisconsin Burgess families and the New York Burgess families.

John Burgess died of typhoid fever on 13 January 1849, in New York State and is buried at the Methodist Episcopal churchyard cemetery on the Walloomsac River, inside the cast iron fence erected by his brother, Nairn Burgess in 1874.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Thomas (1601-1685) and Dorothy (1603-1687) Burgess tombstones at Sandwich, Massachusetts

A fellow Burgess researcher, Roger W. Burgess, sent me photographs that he took on 9 October 2007, of the tombstones of Thomas and Dorothy Burgess at the Old Town Cemetery in Sandwich, Massachusetts. The photos are very good and show a lot of detail. They are shown on the next page.

Roger wrote that the gravestone of Thomas Burgess (1601-1685), his 8<sup>th</sup> great grandfather, is located in the Old Town Cemetery in Sandwich, MA. The stone is about 20 inches wide by 37 inches high. The inscription reads:  
**"Thomas Burgess, Born in England, settled in 1637 in that part of Sandwich now called Sagamore, dyed Feb Ye 13, 1685, Aged 82 years."**

Dorothy's tombstone is the same size and reads:  
**"Dorothy, Widow of Thomas Burgess, Dyed Feb Ye 27, 1687. Age not found at the time this stone was erected in 1917 from broken original by her descendants."**

The replacement gravestones are located on a small knoll overlooking Shawme Lake. The Old Town Cemetery is in the center of Sandwich, Barnstable County, Massachusetts opposite a residence at 22 Grove Street.

\*\*\*\*\*

