

Our Family News Letter

Issue 61

Greendale, Wisconsin

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Richard Heck Celebrates His 80th Birthday



L-R: Shirley, Larry, Richard, Clarence, Mary, and Delores.



L-R: Sherry, Don, Bob and Gloria. Bob was expressing how happy we all were to have kept the fudge away from Marv Pfeiffer.



L-R: Clarence, Mary Delores and Bernie.



L-R: Marv, Shirley and Larry. Marv is puzzled about the empty plate of fudge.

Richard Heck started celebrating his 80th birthday a little early. Cel Heck decided that it would be nice to have Dick's siblings and close first cousins over to help in an early celebration. Helping to celebrate with Dick and Cel were Sherry Heck, Shirley Heck, Delores & Bernie Kunka, Larry Heck, Clarence & Mary Heck, and cousins, Marv & Joanne Pfeiffer, Don & Sharon Heck, and Bob & Gloria Heck.

The food was fantastic, as was the wonderful hospitality. One of the highlights of the afternoon, besides singing "Happy Birthday" to everyone who had a birthday within three months of the date, was the showing of some 8mm movies that had been converted to DVD. It was a lot of fun trying to guess who was who on the movies that dated from 1942 through 1970.



L-R: Sharon, Joanne, Cel, Shirley, and Larry.



Richard Heck in 1942 at Racine, Wisconsin. This photo was taken from the 8mm movie shown at Richard's 80th birthday party.

Happy Birthday, Richard.

The Search for Joel Burgess

Who the heck is Joel Burgess? Glad that you asked. Joel Burgess was the 5th of seven children of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase. Joel was born about 1821 at the Bennington, Vermont or Hoosick, New York area. Bennington and Hoosick are within a few miles of each other at the site where the Battle of Bennington was fought in 1776.

We had no trace of Joel Burgess following his marriage to Emily Sheldon on February 19, 1845. We knew that Joel married Emily at Southport, Wisconsin, but that seemed to be where the trail ended. We could never find him in the 1847 State Census or the 1850 US Census.

Southport is known today as Kenosha, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. In 1845 it was part of Racine County. The name Southport was given to the town because it was the southern-most port on Lake Michigan between Milwaukee and Chicago. In 1845, Chicago was still mostly swamp land.

While doing some research in the Southport newspapers I found a Commissioner's Notice dated December 9, 1845.

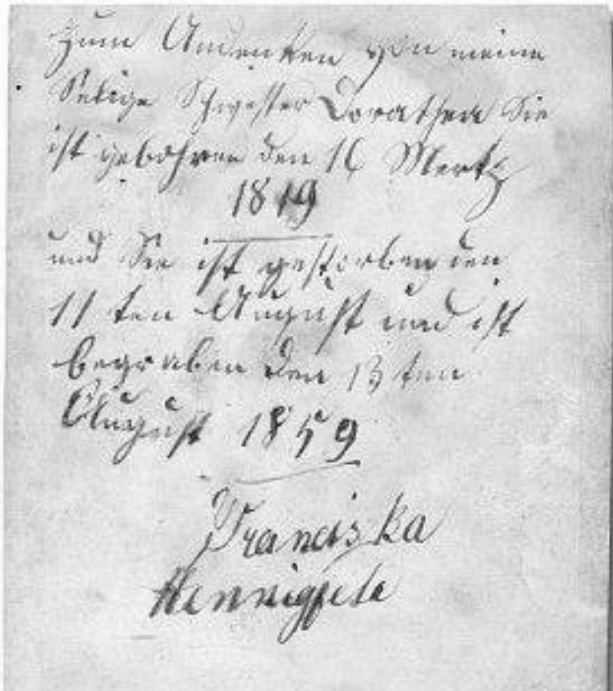
"Commissioner's Notice"

"The Undersigned Commissioners appointed by the Judge of Probate to examine the claims against the estate of Joel Burgess late of Southport deceased will meet at the office of J. B. Jillson in Southport on the 3rd day of January 1846 at 1 o'clock P.M. Also at the same place and hour on the 1st day of June 1846.

Commissioners: J. V. Quarles, G. W. Cole, J. B. Jillson. Southport Dec. 9, 1845."

Thus Joel Burgess died after his wedding on February 19th and December 9th of 1845.

Funeral Card of Dorothea Henningfeld Kortendick



The images shown at left are copies of the back and front of a burial card sent to me by Kathy Trimberger from Burlington, Wisconsin. She had asked if I could translate the writing on the back of the card. She thought that the card was for Franciska Hennigfeld. In reality the hand written text is actually from Anna Maria Franciska Henningfeld Sanders.

The card is for Dorothea Henningfeld Kortendick, the sister of Anna Maria Franciska Henningfeld Sanders. The writing is actually in Old German.

The person who wrote the note (Franciska Hennigfeld) is Kathy Trimberger's great great grandmother, Anna Maria Franciska Henningfeld Sanders. She wrote the note about her sister, Bernadena Dorothea Henningfeld Kortendick. She was known as Dorothea.

The written text states: "In memory of my holy sister, Dorothea who was born on 16 March 1819, and died on 11 August, and was buried on 13 August 1859." The card is signed by Franciska Hennigfeld.

Dorothea is buried at the St. Thomas Catholic Cemetery at Waterford. I have her birth as 15 March 1819 and her christening as 16 March 1819. In many parts of Germany the Christening date is celebrated as the birth date, while the actual birth date is not celebrated at all.

The prayer on the front says: "In Jesus' blood and in Jesus' saints arms, comfort I have always found in life. In the arms of Jesus I will hide myself, then I find luck and salvation, yes forever."

Bernadena Dorothea and Anna Maria Franciska were both sisters of my great great grandfather, Franz Henningfeld. Franz is also buried at Waterford. The card was found in a bible belonging to Kathy Trimberger's grandmother.



Dan Pfeiffer and daughter, Joy Visit Alendorf, Germany

Dan Pfeiffer, son of Joanne (Heck) and Marv Pfeiffer, visited Alendorf Germany with his daughter, Joy Pfeiffer. Dan and Joy stayed with the Maria (Heck) Caspers family. Maria is the widow of Albert Caspers. Their two sons, Helmut and Edgar Caspers were able to join in the warm welcome for their American visitors.



Maria (Heck) Caspers with Dan and Joy Pfeiffer at Alendorf, Germany in 2008.

Dan and Joy are the 4th family to visit Alendorf, Germany since our ancestors left in 1853. The first to visit were Howard & Anne Heck and

Howard's sister Geraldine & husband Howard Herman in 1984. The second family to visit Alendorf were Bob & Gloria Heck and Don & Sharon Heck in 1989. The third visitor from the West was Scarletta Schaeffer in 2007.

Everyone who visited Alendorf has commented about the kindness shown by our distant cousins, the Heck, Schmitt and Casper families.



Dan and Joy Pfeiffer visiting Matthias and Anna Maria Heck at Alendorf.

When Don & Sharon, Gloria & I were at Alendorf in 1989, Matthias Heck walked into the room and we all just about fell over. Matthias looked so much like my Uncle Alvin Heck that we all exclaimed, "Uncle Al; What are you doing here?"

When Dan first saw Matthias Heck at Alendorf, he was almost taken to tears because he looked so much like his grandfather Alvin Heck. This is astonishing when you consider that the American Heck ancestors and the Alendorf Heck ancestors have a common link six generations back. Theodore Hecken (later shortened to Heck) and Anna Maria Hutsch were our common link. Theodore Hecken was born in 1735 and his wife Anna Maria Hutsch was born in 1748. They were mar



ried on 20 February 1772, a full four years before the United States declared independence.

The picture above was created by cloning a picture of Alvin Heck and placing him on the right side of a photo taken by Dan Pfeiffer of Matthias Heck. Alvin Heck was born on 2 February 1911, at Racine Wisconsin. He died on 5 August 1998. Matthias Heck was born on 11 September 1932, at Alendorf, Germany.

You don't need a DNA test to show that the Alendorf Heck's and the American Heck's are closely related.

On April 13, 2008, Dan Pfeiffer and his parents, Marv and Joanne, invited us to a showing of the

pictures from Dan's trip. There were over 500 photographs, which Dan showed on a wide screen TV. The photos covered the Pfeiffer family home village of Sien, Germany and the Heck family home village of Alendorf, Germany.

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The Heck House in Alendorf, Germany built in 1787



Anna Maria Bach. Their son, Mathias Heck and his wife, Gertrud Bach inherited the house. Their daughter, Agnes Heck and her husband, Michael Helmig inherited the house next. In 1992, Helmut Withstutz bought the house.



The photos at left show the Heck home in 1984. The photo at lower left shows Anne and Howard Heck standing in front of the home during their visit in 1984.

The pictures above and below show the Heck home in 2008. Note that the home has been refaced with stone similar to the type of stone shown in the photo at upper left. The roof has been replaced with tile.

Recent documents uncovered at Alendorf show that the "original" Heck family home depicted in the pictures on this page was built in 1787. The original builder of the home is unknown however since it was called the "Thies house" it was probably built by someone named Thies. When the house was 13 years old in 1800, it was purchased by Johann Heck and his wife, Marie Magdalena Molitor. In 1840 the home was willed to Johann's son, Thomas Heck and his wife, Anna Maria Drees. They in turn left the house to their son, Josef Heck and his wife,





Bird's Eye View of the Walloomsac Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery.

Shown in the photo above is a bird's eye view of the final resting place of Benajah Burgess (1761-1830) and his wife, Zilpha Matteson (1767-1836). They are my great-great-great-great-grandparents. The site is on the Cottrell Road just outside of Walloomsac, New York. The cemetery is located just across the road from the Walloomsac River and a very short distance from Vermont. The famous "Battle of Bennington" was fought on this surrounding land in 1776. The battle was actually fought at Walloomsac, New York and not at Bennington, Vermont.

The white arrow in the picture points to a rectangular fenced in area that is the Burgess Family Burial Plot. You can see four tall grave markers inside the rectangle and just in front of them are the small markers of Benajah and Zilpha. Zilpha's name on the tombstone is actually shown as Silpha Burgess.

To the right is a photo taken by me many years ago of the Burgess Family Burial Plot. The large oak tree is no longer there on the bird's eye view. Only the white birch trees remain.

In 1811, the Walloomsac Methodist Episcopal Church was incorporated at this site. A small church was built here and was in regular use until 1845. After that time the church was used only for funerals because services were held at



the school-house in North Hoosick. Eventually the church building was sold to a local farmer and moved to his land to house various farm animals.

Benajah, Caroline, Edna, Eliza A., Frankie R., John, Leon J., Nairn, Nairn Jr., Nancy, and Silpha Burgess are buried at the cemetery.

Meet Grace Elizabeth Heck



On April 25, 2008, we were blessed with the birth of our second grandchild, Grace Elizabeth Heck. Judi and Dave Heck are the proud parents and Lauren Emily Heck is now officially a "Big Sister".



Lauren standing next to her new sister, Grace, and her maternal grandmother, Joan Wehrman.

Gloria and I were pretty excited to see our new granddaughter just seven hours after she was born. Grace came into the world weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces and she was 21 inches long.

Grace was born at the West Allis Memorial Hospital.



Judi and Dave Heck holding Grace Elizabeth Heck.

When Lauren saw her new little sister for the first time I think she was taken aback a little because she was so small. When Grace started to cry Lauren laughed and giggled a lot. I think she was thinking of that song about "The baby on the bus goes Waa Waa Waa".

Congratulations, Judi, Dave & Lauren.

Thanks to our contributors...

As many of you are aware, I don't charge anything for this newsletter. Many of our readers encourage me to continue writing the newsletter and often send me a contribution to help defray the expenses. This system has worked out for the past 61 issues of Our Family News Letter. I would like to thank the following readers for their kind and generous donation and words of encouragement: **Edith & Fred Mehre, Susan Espinoza, Susan & Jeff Miller, Corinne and Dale Wise, Sharon & Don Heck, Joanne & Marv Pfeiffer, and Cara & Steve Pfeiffer.**