

Our Family News Letter

Issue 63

Greendale, Wisconsin

December, 2008

Burgess Brothers Incorporated

HONOREE est. 1792

Burgess Brothers Inc., the oldest operating business in Bennington, was founded by **Archibald Burgess** in the late 1700's. The company is located on Burgess Road, where the company originally settled. The Burgess family started construction work using horse power. The business progressed through five generations with each member changing or adding his share of personality. Richmond, son of Archibald, ran a trout farm with covered ponds alongside the home of Clyde Sr. until the waters were given to the Town of Bennington by George Burgess.

The horse drawn construction business continued with George R. "Timmy" Burgess. His sons joined him and the business became known as G.R. Burgess and Sons. After Timmy's death, his sons Frank, Earl and Clyde Sr. bought out their mother and continued as Burgess Brothers. Clyde Jr. bought out the brothers and the business then became owned by Clyde Sr., Belle, and Clyde Jr. It was incorporated in 1966.

In 1983, Clyde Burgess Jr. became president after the death of his father, Clyde Sr. Jim Sauer, the first person without the Burgess name to become part of the company, became vice-president. Clyde Jr's daughter, Peggy Burgess Sauer was named treasurer. Penny Burgess joined the company as office manager and assistant in 1985. In 1966 the business and the family suffered a huge loss with the death of Jim Sauer at age 46.

Currently, Clyde Jr. is in his late 70's and still very active in the company and grandson Glen Sauer operates the crane and Penny is vice president and secretary of the corporation. Three generations at business is challenging but rewarding. At Burgess Brothers, even those who are not related feel as though they are part of the family. They are very proud of their heritage.

Address: 1246 Burgess Road, Bennington, VT 05201

Phone: 802-442-4828

County: Bennington

Contact: Penny Burgess

Service: Construction Company

The preceding is a transcription of an advertisement that appeared in the *Vermont Business Magazine*, March 2007. The advertisement includes information about our Burgess family history. Archibald Burgess was the son of my great great great grandfather, Benajah Burgess. Archibald Burgess was also the brother of Benjamin Burgess, the first Burgess in our family to migrate to Wisconsin in 1836.

From the Waushara County, Wisconsin

Obituary Database: Larry McNelty. Birth Information: born 1 March 1861 in Brighton, WI. Marriage Information: married Clara Christie on 14 August 1881. Death Information: died 31 March 1930. Burial Information: service officiant Rev. Gordonier. Children listed in obituary: son, John C. McNelty; son Robert F. McNelty.

Editor's note: Larry McNelty was born as Lawrence McNulty, son of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess of Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.



Alendorf, Germany in 2008

In October, 2008, I received an e-mail message from friends from the Janesville, Wisconsin area. Mary and Myron Bohn are descendants of the Lenz family from Alendorf. Myron and I were classmates at St. Catherine's High School in Racine, Wisconsin.

Attached to the message was a collection of four, color photos taken by a man named Günther who lived in Alendorf, Germany. The photos were taken from the top of the hill called Kalvarienberg overlooking the Village of Alendorf in the valley below.

I took the four photos and using a computer program called Panorama Maker Pro 4, I stitched the photos together into

one large panorama. I printed the panorama into an 8 inch by 40 inch diorama. A copy of the gray scale version of the photo is shown at left on this page.

On the far right you will see a building in a clump of trees. That is the old Catholic Church built in the late 1400's. On the far hill at center you can see the juniper trees growing on the side of the hill. The people of Alendorf use those juniper trees to make a powerful drink called schnapps.

Scarletta Schaefer visits Alendorf in 2007

The following article was written by Scarletta Schaefer, representing the third American family to visit Alendorf since 1853. I had corresponded with Scarletta's father for several years on genealogy research. Scarletta is from Oregon.

Alendorf, Germany:

The last place I visited before returning to Munich for the flight home was Alendorf. Gary had left for Paris while we were in Trier. Kasey and I were picked up in Trier by Edgar (Casper) —my seventh cousin twice removed—and his sixteen-year-old niece Carolin—my eighth cousin once removed. We stayed two nights in Alendorf, at the home of Maria, Edgar's mother and my sixth cousin thrice removed.

I am related to these folks through my father, who is descended from the families that inhabited several towns in the area known as the Eifel. Our bloodline includes three different last names, due to frequent inter-village marriages as well as to the farm culture. An example: one fellow several generations back married his distant cousin but took her name because they were taking over her family's farm. Fortunately, our relatives in

the Midwest have researched the lineage and were able to figure out our exact relationship. Two of these closer relatives (my fourth cousins) have been out to Alendorf before, in the early and late eighties, respectively. I was the next, only the third American descendant to visit our ancestral village.

While driving the hour from Trier to Alendorf, Edgar asked what we wanted to see. I didn't know, just the town, I supposed. He laughed and said that would take all of half an hour. (It took a little longer than that . . . but not much, as the population is about two hundred fifty persons.) Kasey asked if there were any castles nearby. He chuckled again and from that point on made sure to mention every castle we passed. "You like castles, right?"

Edgar and Carolin speak much better English than I do German. Edgar has been to the states several times and Carolin has studied English for six years in school. Carolin has also studied French and traveled in France for three weeks, but she likes speaking English better. I think it's partially because she is better at English, but it seemed like she liked it better *per se*.

When we arrived in Alendorf we lunched with Maria—Edgar's mother, who was widowed several years ago—and Franz-Joseph—a friend of Maria's who was around most of the time that we were there. Neither Maria nor Franz-Joseph speaks English, and the Eifel boasts a thick accent, so I felt a bit worried at this point. I have studied German for a couple years, but that doesn't get one far with native speakers, especially in a different dialect than the one learned. However, we figured out how to communicate surprisingly well: I listened intently. Maria and Franz-Joseph spoke slowly and tried to choose words I understood. I nodded my head often or gave enthusiastic affirmations when I got what was being said. By the time we left, Maria looked to me to translate to Kasey what she was saying. (That was quite gratifying.)

After lunch we walked through the town to the old church at which Edgar had served as an altar boy. It's at the edge of the city. At some point the distance became too much of a nuisance, so they built a new church in the middle of town. These are very Catholic communities, it seems, because all my relatives there are Catholic, and the only churches I saw were Roman as well.

From the old church we walked along the Stations of the Cross. This path leads up to the top of the hill from which one can see the entire town and a good deal of the countryside. The final station is a crucifix from which Jesus has surveyed the city since 1675.

We did see the ruins of one castle up close, at Kronenburg—where we ventured with Carolin, Christiane (Edgar's wife), and Lukas (Edgar's son) after a post-hike coffee break. Almost as soon as we reached the ruins, rain began pelting us like little boys playing in a gravel pit, so we ducked into a cafe for hot cocoa and then went back home, to dinner.

Edgar, who—like most of the family members—lives in one of the larger towns outside Alendorf, observed aptly that the most common activity in this village is eating. While in Alendorf I ate ungodly amounts of cheese, and cold cuts, and bread, and cake. I drank dark, flavorful coffee (the exception rather than the rule in Germany and Switzerland, I found), pale Bitburger beer, or some persuasion of wine at every meal, along with the Gerolsteiner mineral water that originates in Gerolstein, just minutes from Alendorf.

My most vivid and cherished memories of Europe are of eating and drinking (along with failing to communicate), so the meal descriptions in my journal probably are a bit overboard for this blog. I promise I will highlight some of the most interesting ones though.

Dinner turned out to be a family affair. Maria's

brother, Theo, and his wife came, as did Helmut, Edgar's brother. We all ate (*sans* Edgar and family) while trying to talk about every one's professions, how we are related, and what Kasey and I do in Oregon (in both English and German, depending on who addressed whom). We also talked about the previous American visitors; they lived near the Mississippi River, after which Maria has christened the creek running through her yard "The Mississippi."

We retired early that night; for the next day we had planned a trip north to Cologne. After spending the day in Köln we (the whole family minus Theo and Susanne) met for dinner at an old mill converted to a restaurant where we toured the mill works (there are flour, mustard, and other mills in the complex), ate incredible food, chatted, and parted ways. After this last night in Alendorf, Gary picked us up and we were off for Munich.

Our hosts were nothing but hospitable, made us feel nothing but welcome, and treated us like family despite the great genetic divide. Though I left with a bit of a headache from thinking so hard about everything I said and everything I heard, and a consequent thirst for English, I enjoyed the visit thoroughly and hope to go again. Hosting them out here would be a blast as well.



Scarletta Schaefer

Bill Heck and Michelle Roloff married at Yosemite National Park.

Congratulations are in order for Bill and Michelle following their marriage at Yosemite National Park in California on July 7, 2008. Michelle is the daughter of Jerry and Marilyn Roloff of Racine, Wisconsin and Bill is the son of Bob and Gloria Heck of Greendale, Wisconsin.

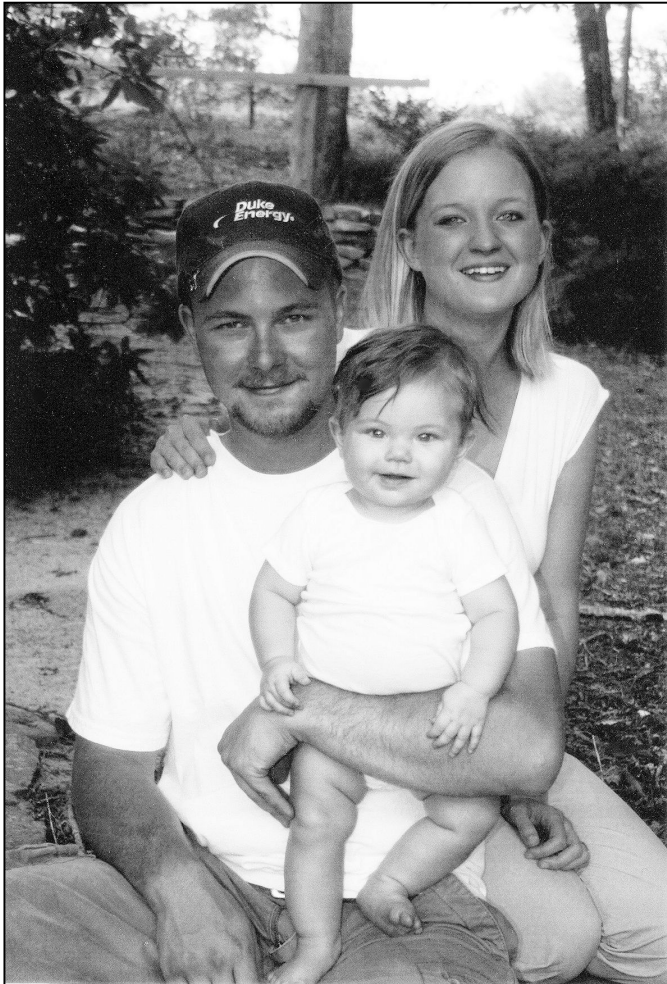


Bill and Michelle live at 1619 Redwood Street, West Bend, WI 53095.

A celebration of their marriage was held at a park in West Bend on October 11, 2008. The weather was perfect and South Eastern Wisconsin put on a beautiful display of Fall colors.

Congratulations Bill & Michelle.

Meet your South Carolina Cousins...

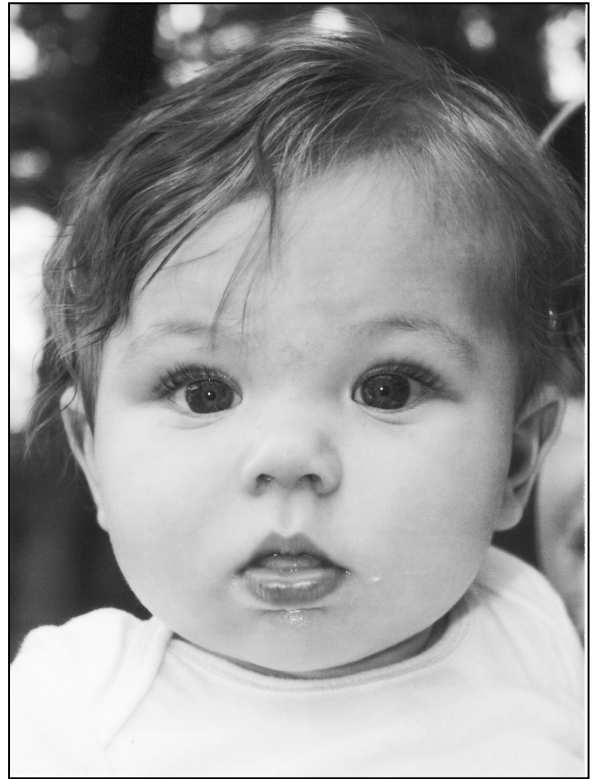


Left to Right: Michael, Logan and PJ (Pamela Joan) Henderson are shown in this 2008 photo. PJ is the daughter of Cindy (Heck) Landrum and Dennis Landrum. PJ is the granddaughter of Carol and Gary Heck.

We've watched PJ grow up through the pages of this newsletter and now we'll watch Logan grow up.

PJ, Michael and Logan live at 202 South Hamilton Street, Williamston, SC 29697.

Michael Logan Henderson, known by his family

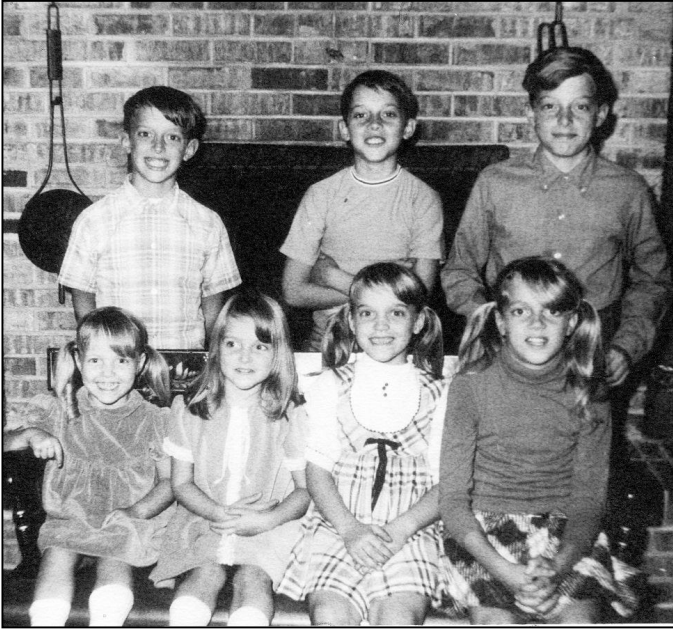


and friends as Logan, was born 11 January 2008.

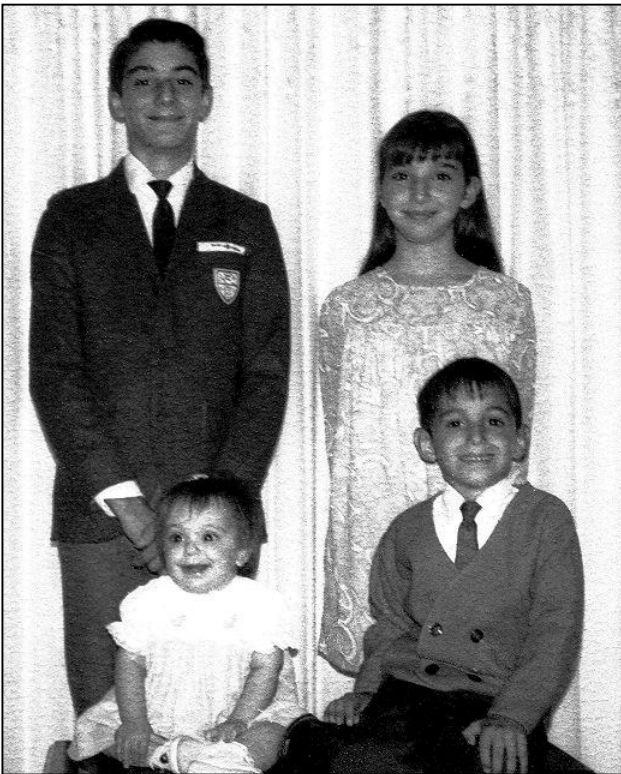


PJ and her brother John Landrum at Christmas time in 1989. John was born in 1987 and PJ in 1988.

Scenes from Christmas past...



L-R: Standing - Steve, Danny, and David. L-R: Seated - Judi, Lori, Jeanie, Ann Pfeiffer. This picture was taken in 1969, and shows the seven children of Marvin and Joanne (Heck) Pfeiffer.



At lower left are the children of Dick and Cel Heck from a 1968 Christmas card. Standing are Rick and Barbara. Seated are Sherry and Jim Heck.



L-R: Gary, and Bob in background and Don Heck in foreground. This picture was taken in 1948 at 1306 Jones Avenue in Racine, Wisconsin. Gary, Bob and Don are children of Mary (Mikel) and Robert G. Heck.

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**



The Heck Family from Alendorf

The photo above was sent to me by Howard Heck. We are attempting to identify the people in the photo. The following message was included with the picture.

Hi Bob:

I received a very interesting picture from Tom Youngworth. His mother was Clara Heck, the daughter of Thomas Heck. Tom said that the writing on the back of the picture was in his mother's handwriting that said, "Dad's folks in Germany. Dad is on extreme right." Tom sent it to me too late to be included in the book. What a shame!! I am sending it to you as an attachment.

I emailed Edgar Caspers, the son of Maria Heck Caspers. She lives in Alendorf. I asked him if he could ask his mother or her older sister, Anna if they could identify some or all of the people in

the picture. If Thomas had a copy, certainly someone in the families in Germany must have a

copy. Maria and Anna's uncle Matthias was the nephew of Thomas and Balthasar. He is mentioned on page 250 in the Heck Book. He is probably one of the children in the front row of the picture.

I think the person on the extreme right in the top row is Thomas. Balthasar might be next to Thomas or the second from Thomas might be Balthasar but that might be a stretch. It could be that Balthasar might have left for America before the picture was taken.

What do you think? Edgar emailed me that he will do his best. That was a few days ago. I will let you know if I hear from him.

Howard Heck

My mother in 1924



Mary Ann Mikel, age nine years, in 1924 at Racine, Wisconsin. She married Robert G. Heck in 1935. Enlarging the license plate on the Model T Ford showed that the picture was taken in 1924. Right below the license plate is a plate indicating the City of Racine.

Congratulations to Howard Heck

My cousin, Howard Heck, has just completed another book on the Heck family. Howard and his wife, Anne, live at 3100 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN, 55443-1969.

Howard wrote the first book, "**The Hecks From Alendorf Germany**" in 1991. A total of 115 books were published in the First Edition. The Library of Congress LOC number is 91-91844. The book has also been microfilmed by the LDS Family History Center. The film number is: FHL US/CAN Film 1697570 Item 1.

"**The Hecks From Alendorf Germany**" is a book about our Heck family, starting in Alendorf in the late 1600's, and following them to Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada. The book takes us all the way up to 1991.

Howard just finished his latest book called, "**The Heck Brothers Alendorf, Germany To The USA**" in August, 2008. That book was written because we discovered that two Heck brothers, Balthasar and Thomas, had come to America from Alendorf and settled in Minnesota and South Dakota. LOC # 2008906430

Howard has written several other family history books including "**The families Boser -- Böeser -- or Besser from the Duchy of Baden, to the U.S.A. : a journey, from 1610 to 2002**", and "**The Kardongs : a twelve generation history 1608-1996**".



L-R: Maria (Heck) Caspers, Matthias Heck, Howard Heck, and Edgar Caspers at Alendorf, Germany in 1984. Matthias passed on a story to Howard about two of his uncles who immigrated to America in the late 1800's. That led to the research that ultimately resulted in Howard's book.

Thanks Howard, for some great books.