

Our Family News Letter

Issue 68

Greendale, Wisconsin

March, 2010

Meet Your Cousins...



Wedding: Victor Ferdinand Heck and Alice Marie Kaping

The picture above was found on the Internet while doing an image search on Ancestry. Unfortunately the connection to the photo has been removed. The photo shows the wedding picture of Victor Ferdinand Heck and Alice Marie Kaping.

Victor was the son of Aloysius Heck and Mary Lang. Victor was born on 16 August 1911 in New Ulm, Brown County, Minnesota and Alice was born on 31 July 1915 also at New Ulm, Minnesota. The picture was taken on 9 December 1933 in New Ulm.

I had the pleasure of meeting Aloysius in New Ulm, Minnesota in 1982 at a family reunion. Aloysius was in a nursing home at the time and was 95 years old. I was new to genealogy at the time so I was only armed with a notebook and pen for taking notes. I wish that I had a tape recorder at the time. Aloysius had a great memory and was recalling one story after another. He spoke about the grasshopper invasion in Minnesota that nearly wiped out every farmer in the area. He recalled the stories told to him by his father and mother including the Sioux Indian uprising in 1862. He died two years later in New Ulm.

Howard Heck, in his book "**The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany**" wrote a nice biographical sketch of Victor and Alice. Part of it is repeated here.

Victor went to Holy Trinity grade school. After leaving school he worked on a farm of his great uncle, Frank Altmann. He also worked for the Catholic Cemetery in New Ulm. Later he owned and operated a gas station, then worked in Foster's Furniture Store. At the time of his death in 1980, he was working at Herberger's.

Alice, the daughter of Otto H. Kaping and Ann Margaret Rickers, went to grade school at St. Paul's Lutheran School and graduated from New Ulm Public High School. She worked for Woolworth's Store for twenty-three years as a bookkeeper and as Office Manager for the T.V. Signal Company for eighteen years.

Victor served in the Army Infantry during World War II, from 1943 to 1946, and saw action in Germany. He was active in many civic affairs after the war. He was Commander of the Legion Club in New Ulm for two terms. He was an avid golfer and bowler and is listed in the New Ulm Bowling Hall Of Fame. Victor also served on the Board of Governors of the New Ulm Country Club.

Victor and Alice had one child, LaDonna Mae Heck who married Richard J. Wagner. LaDonna is a reader of this family newsletter as is her daughter, Pamela Kebis.

Beiträge Zur Westfälischen Familienforschung (Posts of Westphalian Family Research)

Auswanderer Liste für 1803-1850 (Emigrant List for 1803-1850)

The following names and information was found in the book published at Munster, Westfalen (Westphalia), Germany, in 1966. This is the area of Germany where our Henningfeld and Kortendick families originated. The Henningfeld family lived in Vinnum and Olfen just outside of Munster, and the Kortendick family lived in Selm, which is also near Munster. Note that there is a small town in Kenosha County, Wisconsin, called New Munster.

Reference Number 1678, Franz Carl Heinrich Henningfeld from Recklinghausen, Blacksmith, born 26 Dec 1809. Spouse Catharina Schottler, born 1805 at Hillen. Wilhelm born 10 Mar 1842, Year of emigration 1845, destination North America.

Reference Number 1679, Johann Theodor Henningfeld known as Bücken from Vinnum Parish, Olfen, Hand Laborer, born 14 Nov 1816, Year of emigration 1845, destination North America.

Reference Number 1681, Catharina Elisabeth Henningfeld from Vinnum Parish, Olfen, born 5 Dec 1813. Her Sister Anna Maria Franziska Henningfeld, born 27 Jan 1823. Year of emigration 1845, destination North America.

Catharina Elisabeth Henningfeld went on to marry John Henry Hoffer on 22 Feb 1846. She died on 28 Feb 1851, at the age of 37. Anna Maria Franziska Henningfeld went on to marry Louis Josef Sanders on 18 Aug 1846. She died on 29 Oct 1893 at the age of 70.

Reference Number 2853, Franz Henningfeld from Vinnum Parish, Olfen, A small farm owner, born 5 Nov 1810. Spouse Elizabeth Richter Henningfeld born 27 Feb 1816. Daughter Maria Catharina Henningfeld born 10 Aug 1840. Daughter Catharina Elisabeth born 12 Dec 1842, Daughter Catharina Carolina Henningfeld born 8 Feb 1845. Parents Wilhelm Henningfeld born 5 Apr 1777 and Maria Catharina Bucker Henningfeld born 18 Mar 1780. Year of emigration 1847, destination North America.

This document shows that the parents of Franz Henningfeld did travel to America in 1847. Wilhelm and Maria Catharina were not found in the 1850 US Census for Wisconsin. No record of their deaths has been found. Both of them probably died between 1847 and 1850.

The ages of the Henningfeld family on that 1847 voyage were: Franz 36, Elizabeth 31, Maria Catharina 6, Catharina Elisabeth 4, Catharina Carolina 2, Wilhelm 70, and Maria Catharina 67.

Franz Henningfeld died at Waterford, Wisconsin on 26 Apr 1869. He is buried at the St. Thomas Church Cemetery in Waterford. A large iron cross marks his grave.

Elizabeth Richter Henningfeld died at Burlington, Wisconsin on 18 Mar 1900. She is buried at the St. Mary's Church Cemetery at Burlington. Her obituary follows.

OBITUARY: "Mrs. Elizabeth Henningfeld died at the home of her son, Henry Henningfeld on McHenry Street, on Sunday, March 18, at 6 p.m.

The deceased was born in Olfen, (sic) Westpfahlen, Germany, February 27, 1816, and was consequently 84 years and 19 days old at the time of her demise. On October 2, (sic) 1839, she was united in marriage to Francis Henningfeld in her native country, coming to this country in 1847. She resided in Waterford till about 23 years ago, since then she has made her home with her son in this city."

Maria Catharina Henningfeld went on to marry Fred Weisman first and later Henry Plate in 1861. Her obituary, published in 1923, follows.

Obituary: "Burlington Standard Democrat, 24 Aug 1923, "Friday: Mrs. Henry Plate Died Last Friday Morning. Well Known Matron Passed Away While Sitting In Chair. Mrs. Henry Plate, who last Wednesday celebrated her eighty-third birthday, passed away suddenly at the home of her niece, Mrs. John Litzler, last Friday morning from heart failure. She was up that morning as usual and passed away sitting in her favorite rocker. Funeral services were held from St. Mary's Catholic church Monday morning, Rev. J. A. VanTreek officiating. Her remains were laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery. Catherine Henningfeld was born in Germany August 15, 1840, and came to this country when a child, her parents settling at Waterford. Here she grew to womanhood and married Fred Wiessman. After his death she married Henry Plate and for many years they conducted the boarding house opposite the Soo Line depot. Mr. Plate died some ten years ago and for the past two years she has made her home with Mr. and Mrs. John Litzler. She is survived by three children, Albert, of Milwaukee, Adolph, and daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Pitt, of Chicago; also by three sisters, Mrs. John Wurms and Mrs. John Lieber, of this city and Mrs. Elizabeth Millartz of Hortsonville (sic), Wisconsin." She is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Burlington, Wisconsin."

Catharina Elisabeth Henningfeld went on to marry Anton Millertz in 1863. They had 11 children and lived in the Appleton, Wisconsin area.

Catharina Carolina Henningfeld went on to marry John Wurms in 1864. They had 9 children and lived in Waukesha and Burlington, Wisconsin. Her obituary follows.

OBITUARY: "Burlington Standard Press 28 October 1932: Mrs. Caroline Wurms, 87 years of age, died at her home at 1:15 o'clock Thursday morning, having been ill only a week from bronchial trouble. Caroline Henningfeld was born in Germany, February 27, 1845, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henningfeld, the last survivor of a family of seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Henningfeld. At the age of 3 she came to America with her parents who settled in Burlington and later lived for a time in Waterford. On November 24, 1864, she was united in marriage to John Wurms at old St. Mary's church, by the late Rev. Michael Wisbauer. For many years Mr. Wurms was a partner in the tailor shop of Schumacher & Wurms and later owned his own shop. Eighteen years ago Mr. and Mrs. Wurms celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Waukesha where they then made their home. Mr. Wurms died February 28, 1915. With the exception of fifteen years residence in Waukesha Mrs. Wurms lived her entire married life in Burlington. She was a member of the Christian Mothers Society of St. Mary's church for sixty-eight years, and a member of St. Anne's Society of St. Charles' church since its organization. Surviving her are eight children, John and Clara, living at home; Mrs. John Litzler and William Wurms of Burlington; Frank of Janesville; Mrs. Joe Bodenberger of Evansville; Joe Wurms and Mrs. Walter Howard of Waukesha. Two children are deceased. She is also survived by nine grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at St. Charles' church, Rev. F. J. Hillenbrand officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery."

Reference Number 2868, Wilhelm Kortendieck from Selm, a Weaver, born 19 Nov 1817. His Bride Bernardine Dorothea Henningfeld, born 15 Mar 1819. Year of emigration 1847, destination North America.

Bernardina Dorothea Henningfeld

Kortendieck was the sister of Franz Henningfeld. Bernardina died in Waterford, Wisconsin on 11 Aug 1859. She and Wilhelm Kortendieck had six children.

From the Photo Album

Robert and Mary lived all of their lives in Racine, Wisconsin. They had three sons: Gary, Bob, and Donald Heck.

The garage in the background appears to be the same one that I remembered, however the chicken coop on the right was replaced with a large vegetable garden. The driveway appears to



The photo above was taken in 1931 during the depression. It was taken at 1212 Hagerer Street in Racine, Wisconsin, at the home of Mary Ann Mikel. From left to right: Eloise Mildred Irene Jensen, Bohumil (Mike) Mikel, Erma Kristof, Robert Gerald Heck, and Mary Ann Mikel. This was the first formal date for Eloise and Bohumil and also for Robert and Mary.

Bohumil and Eloise were married on 11 January 1934, and Robert and Mary were married on 29 June 1935. Bohumil and Eloise lived in Racine for a few years but moved to Detroit, Michigan. They retired to Walker, Minnesota. They had three sons: James, Bruce, and Daniel Mikel.

be grass covered. In later years I remember helping my grandfather hauling red paving stones from nearby Douglas Avenue in a wooden wagon. Douglas Avenue was being paved and the paving stones were available for anyone who wanted them. To this day if you drive by 1212 Hagerer Street you can still see the paved driveway but the old garage is gone.

On 4 December 1982, I interviewed both Robert and Mary Heck. I interviewed them separately and each interview took about an hour. Part of the interview of Robert follows.

Question: Tell me how you met your wife?

Answer: I loved to dance and I used to go to all of the dances. That's why I used to go out and

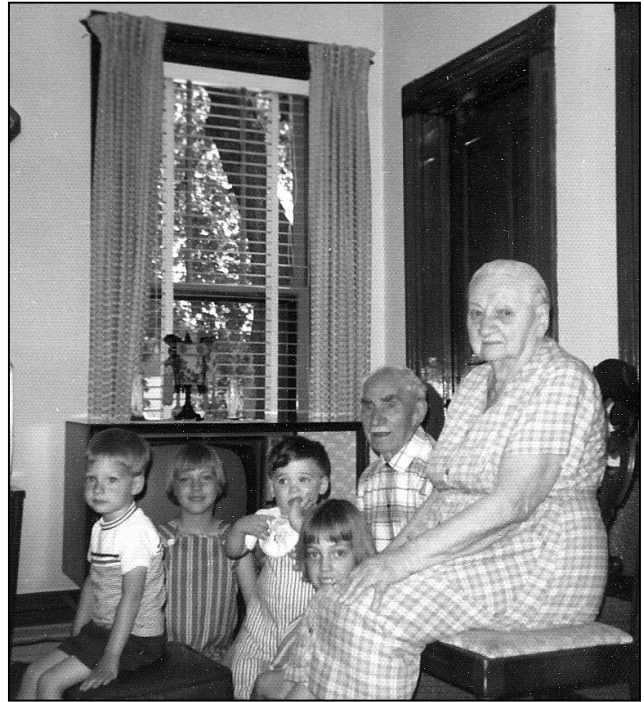
sell soap and neckties and whatnot, so I'd have money to go to the dances. Those days nobody had any money. I met her at the Beachland Gardens which was located at the north of the present water works in Racine. It was a large pavilion. I was down there dancing one night and I saw her and she had a pink dress on. I used to love to waltz. I watched her and she waltzed pretty good, so I went over and asked her to dance and she said, Yes, and that's how we got started going together. That was about 1931 or 1932. That place since has burned down. They used to have many good bands there from all over the country. They were pretty good. They had Carlson from Milwaukee who was considered the "Prince of the Waltzes" and ... that was Bill Carlson who later was an announcer on WTMJ-TV. He had a wonderful band. Wayne King came in one time at the Serb Ballroom on Main Street between State and 2nd Street. It was a big, large ballroom.

Then we started going out. She was working at that time as a Beauty Operator at Racine Drygoods. I would meet her at night and we would go dancing, walk around, and go to ballgames. Those days we didn't have the money. Douglas Theater had Thursday night 10 cent night and I would meet her there and she'd pay her dime and I'd pay my dime.

When we got married we had about half our furniture bought from Porter's and when we got through with the honeymoon I think we had about \$11.25 in my pocket. But we managed to survive. I was fortunate that I was usually working, while I didn't make much, 17-1/2 cents an hour, at least I was working.

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**



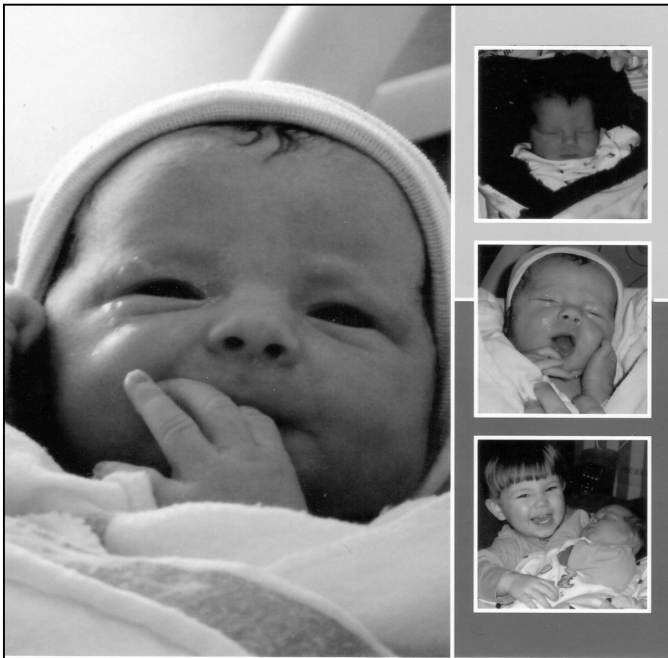
John and Anna Mikel with four of their grandchildren. Left to right: Steve Heck, Lee Ann Heck, Bill Heck, Cindy Heck, John Mikel, and Anna Pastyrikova Mikel. The picture was taken 16 June 1972 at the Mikel home at 1212 Hagerer Street in Racine, Wisconsin. Anna Mikel died in her sleep 10 days later. John Mikel died in 1974.



John & Anna Mikel in 1971.

On the previous page is a picture of John and Anna Mikel, my maternal grandparents. The picture was taken in 1971 in the dinning room at their home at 1212 Hagerer Street in Racine, Wisconsin. John was 88 and Anna was 84 at the time the photo was taken. In the background is a framed picture from a Czech story. A second framed picture from the same story also hung on the dinning room walls. Both pictures, in their original frames, now hang in my dinning room in Greendale, Wisconsin.

Meet your new cousin....



This is **Cooper Wyatt Henderson**, born 22 Dec 2009. He is the son of PJ and Michael Henderson, granddaughter of Cindy & Dennis Landrum, and great grandson of Gary and Carol Heck. The small insert picture at the lower right shows a very happy Michael Logan Henderson greeting his new baby brother.

Congratulations to parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

Danish and Norwegian Research

I started to do some research on Gloria's Danish and Norwegian side of her family recently.

Doing Scandinavian research into family history is an interesting and mind boggeling experience to say the least.

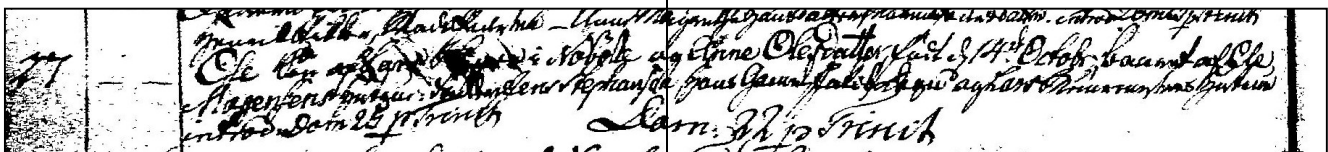
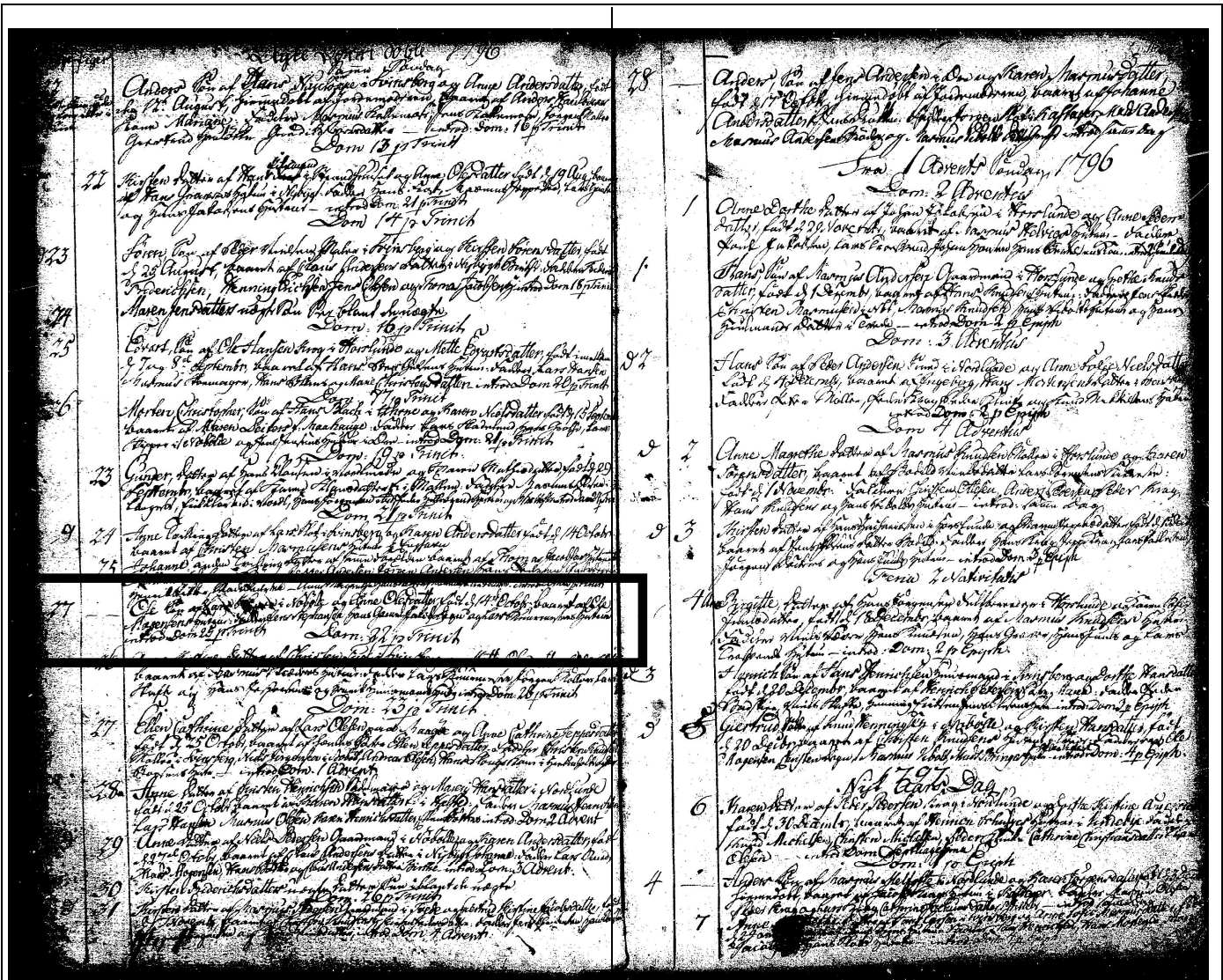
In this country it is fairly easy to trace a name back because the surnames generally stay the same, generation after generation.

In the Eifel area of Germany, where our Heck and Schaefer ancestors came from, it gets to be a bit tricky because the husband generally took the name of the wife if they lived on land owned by the wife's family. If they lived on land owned by the husband's family the husband kept his own name and the wife changed hers to match the husband's name. As a result the Heck name changed from Hecken to Schaefer to Heck and back to Schaefer and back to Heck again.

In Scandinavian research things get really challenging. For example, Gloria's great grandfather was Peder Olsen and he was the son of Ole Larsen. Ole Larsen was the son of Lars Rasmusen. Peder Olsen's mother was Sophia Amelia Pedersdatter, and she was the daughter of Peder Rasmusen and Metta Neilsdatter. In other words, a child's last name was derived from the father's first name. In the case of Sophia Amelia Pedersdatter, her last name litterally meant daughter of Peter (Pedersdatter). Meta Neilsdatter litterally means Metta, daughter of Neils. Peder Olsen litterally means Peder son of Ole.

On the following page you will see a typical Church Book record from the late 1700's. In this image, item 27 boxed in at the left is the christening record of Ole Larsen on 12 October 1796. The record is from the Lutheran Church in Horslunde, Maribo County, Denmark. The record, which is very difficult to read states that the parents were Lars Rasmusen and Anna Olsdatter.

Every now and then the surname of an individual might be taken from the name of the farm on which the family lived. The farm name could be that of the landowner.



Danish records can be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.arkivalieronline.dk/>

Norwegian records can be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://arkivverket.no/>

Swedish records can be found on the Internet at the following address:

<http://www.ddb.umu.se/ddb-english/material/>

The web sites are usually written in the native language but most have a conversion button marked "English" shown next to a British flag. If you ever come to a web site in a foreign language you can always go to the Google translation site for help. Here is the web address for translations:

<http://translate.google.com/?hl=en&tab=wT#delen1>

Have fun with this interesting branch of genealogy research.

Special Thanks to Our Contributors....

As you are probably aware, it takes a lot of thought, time and money to create, print and mail out this newsletter. Every three months, March, June, September, and December, I send this newsletter to over 60 family members. I haven't missed an issue since I started in June 1993. This issue is number 68. The annual costs are now \$223.20. I am very fortunate to have contributors who send in a check every now and then to help with the costs. In looking over past donations I found that 22% of our reader families contribute.

I just want to take some time to recognize those who have done so during 2009.

Don & Sharon Heck
Carlos & Virginia Henningfeld
Alvin & Carolyn Heck
Bob & Pat Merritt
Dick & Cel Heck
Shirley Heck
Steve & Cara Pfeiffer
Gary & Carol Heck
Dale & Corinne Wise
Howard & Anne Heck
Don & Marjorie Johnson
Jeff & Sue Miller
Pamela Kebis

Thank you so much for making this newsletter possible.

Bob Heck

From the photo album...

The photos at right were found in the State of Wisconsin Collection at

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/>

They were contributed by Armella Sanders and the Waterford Area Local History Collection.



Formal portrait of six of the nine children of Joseph Ludwig "Louis" Sanders (born 1827) and Anna Maria Francesca "Frances" Henningfeld (born 1823) taken about 1880 at Waterford, Wisconsin. In the back from left to right are: Louis Sanders (born 1852), Charles Sanders (born 1862), William Sanders (born 1850). Front left to right are: Wilhelmina Sanders Garnatz (born 1858), Josephine Sanders (born 1865), and Mary Sanders Quinn (born 1848).



The Joseph Ludwig "Louis" Sanders and "Frances" Henningfeld home at Waterford, Wisconsin. Frances was the sister of Franz Henningfeld, my great great grandfather.