

Our Family News Letter

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A New Mystery Peleg Burgess **1806-1861**

Benajah Burgess was born about 1761 and died in New York State in 1830. He and his wife, Zilpha Matteson Burgess are buried at the Methodist Episcopal Cemetery at Walloomsac, Rensselaer County, New York. Benajah and Zilpha had a large family with eleven children, including Cynthia, George, Archibald, Nancy, Benjamin, John, Harvey, Nairn, Zilpha, Luranna, and Hannah. All eleven children were mentioned in his Will. One of his sons, John Burgess, died in 1849 and all ten of his siblings were mentioned in his Will.

Let me explain who Benajah Burgess was. Starting with me and working down six generations to Benajah we have:

Robert J. Heck – Gloria LaBerge
Robert G. Heck – Mary Ann Mikel
Robert S. Heck – Margaret Henningfeld
Henry Heck – Mary Ann McNulty
Peter McNulty – Patience Burgess
Benjamin Burgess – Rebecca Chase
Benajah Burgess – Zilpha Matteson

Benjamin Burgess was my Great – Great – Great – Great – Grandfather. This is usually shown as 4GGF or fourth great grandfather. Benajah Burgess was my 5GGF or fifth great grandfather.

We had no record of two additional children of Benajah Burgess and his wife, Zilpha Matteson. The two that were unaccounted for in a Will or in a Probate record were Peleg Burgess and Ophelia Burgess. These two children were listed in a 1918 Journal of Myrtle Jane (Franklin)

Wise, the paternal grandmother of Dale Finley Wise. Dale Finley Wise and his wife Corinne Ferne Fenske are subscribers of Our Family News Letter.

The 1918 journal entry is the only "record" of Peleg Burgess and Ophelia Burgess that we were aware of. Maybe Corinne Wise can shed some light on this.

While searching <http://findagrave.com> recently, I found a Peleg Burgess buried in or around Ironton, Sauk County, Wisconsin. I found that Peleg was married to Roxa Herrington and was listed on the FindaGrave site as the son of Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson.

In July 2013, Gloria and I took a trip to Ironton, which is located about 26.3 miles west of Baraboo, Wisconsin. After asking about the location of the Resting Green Cemetery, we finally found it 1.1 miles East of Ironton on Cemetery Road on a very steep hill.

We have not found any record of Ophelia Burgess, however we did find quite a bit about Peleg Burgess Senior from a biographical sketch from **Sauk County, Wisconsin History** and from the web site FindaGrave.com.

Sauk County, Wisconsin History published in 1918.

"December 28, 1891, Henry J. Rodwell married Miss Lillian Burgess. She was born in Ironton Township of Sauk County October 18, 1872, a daughter of Peleg Jr. and Lucretia (All) Burgess."

"Her father, Peleg Jr., was born in Washington County, New York, December 18, 1844, and was

brought to Sauk County in 1851 by his parents, Peleg Sr., and Mrs. (Herrington) Burgess. The Burgesses located on a farm in Ironton Township, where grandfather Peleg Sr. and wife spent their last years."

"Peleg, Jr., was reared on the farm, was educated in the public schools, and served nearly three years in the Union Army as a member of Company F of the Second Wisconsin Cavalry. He was a republican and an active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His death occurred February 12, 1902, at Lavelle, Wisconsin."

"His wife, Lucretia Diane All, who was born at Albion in Zane County, Wisconsin, April 3, 1852, died September 1, 1904. They were the parents of thirteen children: Lillian J., Mrs. Rodwell; Walter J., deceased; Charles P.; John G.; Murlian; William; Albert; Carrie; Hattie and Sarah, both deceased; Bertha; George and Arthur."

"Mr. and Mrs. Rodwell have been blessed with nine children, and some of them are still in the family circle. Their names are: Myrtle, deceased; Esther, wife of Edwin Thomas and mother of two children, Charles and Walter; Sarah; Charles H.; Carrie and Marion, both deceased; Mordecai; Mildred; and Everett."

For the longest time we thought that Benjamin Burgess was the only member of our Burgess family to live and die in Wisconsin. He died in March 1838 at Southport, now Kenosha, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. Later we found that George Burgess also lived and died in Wisconsin. George Burgess, son of Benajah, died on 28 Feb 1862 at Hustisford, Dodge County, Wisconsin. Now we know that a Peleg Burgess died in Wisconsin on 17 Aug 1861 and left a large family in Ironton, Sauk County, Wisconsin.

What we need is proof that Peleg Burgess was the son of Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson.

The FindaGrave web site states that Peleg Burgess was born in White Creek, Washington County, New York which is exactly where his siblings were born.

I've sent a query to the FindaGrave contributor asking where the information came from linking Peleg to Benajah and Zilpha.

I hope to find obituaries for both Pelig Sr. and Peleg Jr. when I go to the Wisconsin Historical Society Libray in Madison in early October.



Peleg Burgess tombstone at Resting Green Cemetery, Ironton, Sauk Co., Wisconsin states Date of Death as 17 August 1861 at the age of 55 years.



Bob Heck turns 80



My cousin, Bob Heck, retired New Berlin Fire Chief, turned 80 years old on 19 September 2012. The picture above was taken at his birthday party and shows from left to right: Bernie Kunka, Shirley Heck, Lorraine and Bob Heck, Delores Kunka, Larry Heck, Carol and Eugene Heck, Dick and Cel Heck. Shirley, Delores, Larry, Eugene, and Dick are siblings of Bob Heck.



The photo above shows Bob with his brothers and sisters.

Appropriately, the birthday party was held at the Union Grove, Wisconsin fire station. Bob's children and grandchildren hosted the party for many friends and family.

The Three Hecks are busy on the research trail.



Left to Right: Bob Heck, Editor of Our Family News Letter, Bob Heck, Retired New Berlin Fire Chief, and Cheryl Heck.

Yep, the three Hecks are at it again only this time we are researching the Peter McNulty family, the Benajah Burgess Family, and the Heck and Henningfeld Families. Pictured above, the three are working on a microfilm viewer at the Hales Corners Wisconsin Family History Library. Bob the Editor and Cheryl are Volunteers at the Family History Library each Thursday evening from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

Bob the Fire Chief helps out during the summer months by reading old church records written in Latin. Cheryl has become quite the expert in reading old scrip writing in Latin and German. Bob the Editor has been researching our family history for 45 years and has what others call that Bob Heck luck. Together the trio makes a powerful research team.

We are currently trying to find the christening, marriage and death records of the McNulty Family. This is difficult because Peter McNulty and his wife Patience Burgess were living in Wisconsin as early as 1836, many years before Wisconsin became a state and before Catholic

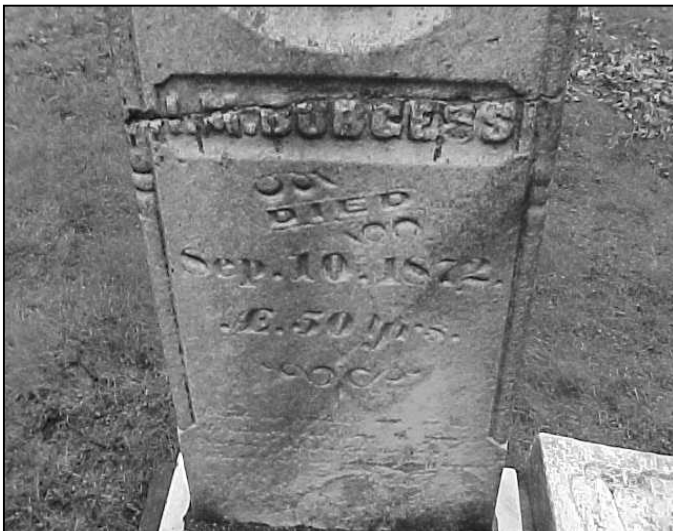
churches were established in the southeastern part of the State.

Meet some very distant cousins...

Isaac Burgess was the son of George Burgess and Mary Matteson, and the grandson of Benajah Burgess and Zilpha Matteson. The following biography of Isaac Burgess was found in The History of Dodge County, Wisconsin published in 1880.

"Isaac Burgess (deceased); born in **Washington Co., N.Y.**, Sept. 11, 1822; came to **Hustisford** in 1845, and settled on eighty acres of Government land; built a log house, in which he lived a number of years with his father and brothers. "

"On the 5th of May 1848, he married Miss Sarah, daughter of John Chandler, who settled with his family on Sec. 1, town of Oak Grove, in 1845; the Chandlers built the first brickyard in Dodge Co., furnishing the brick for many of the noted old buildings therein. Mr. Burgess bought his first plow of S.S. Bushnell, and carried it from his blacksmith shop, four miles east of Beaver Dam, to his farm, his family living two years in a log house; Mr. Burgess added to his farm, built a large farmhouse and several barns; he died Sept. 10, 1872, leaving his wife and three children - Charles, Eliza A. and Isaac."

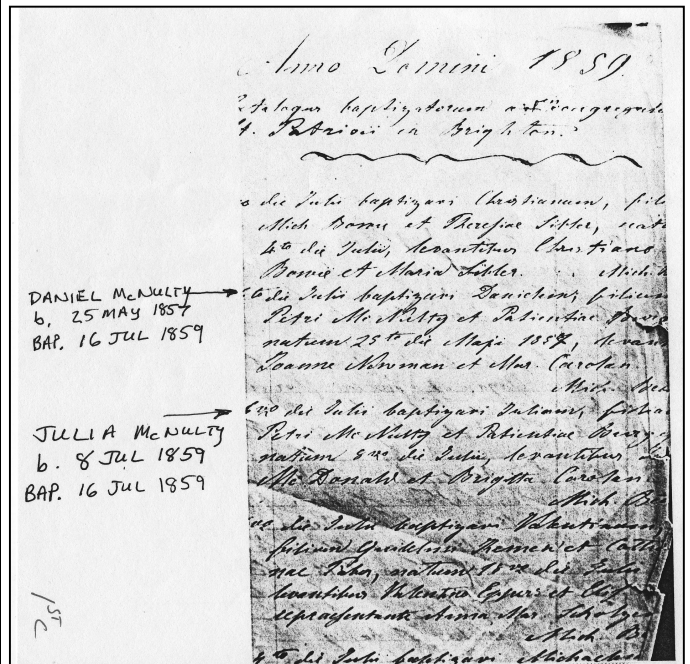


"Charles Burgess was born in Oak Grove May 1, 1851, and has spent his life and been educated in the county. He married, Dec. 25, 1861, Miss Florence D., daughter of S.S. and Charlotte W. Bushnell, who were among the first settlers in the county."

"Like his father and brother, Mr. Burgess is a Republican. He now owns 160 acres, or one-half of the old estate. Mr. and Mrs. Burgess have three children - Charles B., Lone H. and Clark B. Mrs. Isaac Burgess still enjoys good health on the old homestead; her daughter is now the wife of G.C. Rice, of Oak Grove; the younger son is now in charge of her share of the estate, on which the brothers have Durham grade cattle, grade Merino sheep and Berkshire hogs."

The Isaac M Burgess tombstone at the Union Cemetery at Lebanon, Dodge County, Wisconsin is shown at lower left. It is inscribed I. M. Burgess, Died Sep. 10, 1872, AE. 50 Yrs.

Christening Record of Two McNulty Children Found



The christening record shown above is from Catholic Church records from St. Francis Xavier in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

Unfortunately, the Family History Library missed microfilming the christening records at St. Francis Xavier between June 30, 1859 and January 1, 1871. They did microfilm christening, marriage, death, communion, and confirmation records starting in about 1848 and ending in 1920. The microfilm number is 1862418.

Fortunately, I was able to view the original church records at Brighton back on 1 November 1988, long before we had digital cameras. The parish house did not have a copy machine and all I had with me was a standard 35 mm film camera. I took many pictures of the pages containing our family records but back in those days one had no idea of how well the pictures would come out.

For our younger readers who were raised in the digital world we had to have our film developed and printed without knowing the quality of the pictures. The person doing the development made the judgment call on whether or not to print a particular picture. After all, color prints back then were expensive to print.

I recall that the record books at the church were in very poor condition and many of the pages were loose or had been separated from the binding.

Fast forward to 2013. My cousins, Bob and Cheryl and I were going through microfilm number 1862418 when we discovered that the 1859-1871 christening records were missing.

I pulled out my old original records that I had photographed over 24 years ago and found that I had made copies of the christenings for our family from the 35 mm negatives.

The image shown on the lower right side of the previous page contains the christening record for Daniel McNulty and Julia McNulty, children of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess. The record is written in Latin. Both children were baptized on 16 July 1859.

The record for Daniel reads as follows: 16 July (1859) baptism of Daniel son of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess, born 25 May 1857, witnesses John Newmann and Mar. Carotan. It was unusual that Daniel was not baptized until he was two years old.

The record for Julia reads as follows: 16 July (1859) baptism of Julia, daughter of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess, born 8 July (1859), witnesses Zak? McDonald and Brigitta Carotan.

Daniel McNulty apparently died at an early age, as he was not listed in the Census taken on 5 July 1860. That census listed the Peter McNulty family living in the Town of Brighton and included the following members of the family and their ages and place of birth. The years in parenthesis are calculated years of birth based on the age given in the census.

Peter McNulty age 60 born Ireland, Farmer
Patience age 28 born Vermont
Henry age 18 born Wisconsin (1842)
Mary age 17 born Wisconsin (1843)
Adaline age 16 born Wisconsin (1844)
Elisabeth age 12 born Wisconsin (1848)
Peter age 10 born Wisconsin (1850)
Julia age 1 born Wisconsin (1859)

Henry was listed in the census as an idiot and because of the age errors for Peter (60) and Patience (28), I suspect that he may have given the information to the census taker while the other family members may have been working the farm.

Two additional children were missing from the census: John McNulty and Benjamin McNulty.

John McNulty was born on 23 July 1850 and was baptized on 2 October 1850 at St. James Catholic Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The birth and christening information was contained in LDS film #1887302. John McNulty was not listed in the 1860 US census for Wisconsin and is presumed to have died at an early age.

Benjamin McNulty died on 29 December 1852 or 1857. The handwriting in the record is difficult to read. It appears to be 1852 but it is entered after other christenings that were performed in 1857. His age at death was shown as two years and six months.

Julia McNulty's death was listed in the church records of St. Francis Xavier on 31 August 1864. She was killed at the age of five years and 21 days by a blow to the head from a rock. The courts declared her brothers Peter and Henry insane after the incident. Peter was determined to be the one who killed his sister, however both spent most of their remaining life in prison or in an insane asylum.

DNA Tests and Genealogy

About six weeks ago I sent for a DNA test kit from <http://FamilyTreeDNA.com> when they reduced the cost of their test kit from \$289 to \$99. The test kit includes two swabs, two tubes, and detailed instructions on how to obtain a good DNA sample.



The swabs are also called cheek scrapers. Basically you scrape the inside of your cheek for about 60 seconds. Next you open one of the specimen tubes and push on the plunger on the applicator stick, which ejects the scraper into the tube. After the tube is sealed you repeat scraping using the second scraper and insert it into the second tube.

Both tubes are then mailed to FamilyTreeDNA and five or six weeks later the results are posted on the Internet on a secure site that can only be accessed by you using a kit number and a password.

I talked my 1st Cousin, Dan Mikel from St. Paul, Minnesota into doing a DNA test. Dan's father, Bohumel Mikel, was my mother's only brother. By having Dan and me both running a DNA test, we hope to have enough information from the male and female line of our Czech ancestry. I've researched our Czech ancestors but there were a few questions in the 4th and 5th generation. The DNA test should help us confirm what we found in our research or send us in a new direction to correct any errors.

I hope that I will be able to find my ancestors on the McNulty side of the family. So far we have my great great grandfather, Peter McNulty, born in 1807 in Northern Ireland. We have not been able to confirm his parents and grandparents.

One of the interesting things that we already found was that my ancestry is 78% Western Europe and 22% Palestinian, Adygei, Druze, Iranian, and Jewish.

I had never heard of Adygei or Druze so I looked them up on the Internet.

Adygei (Adygea) lies in southeastern Europe in the northern foothills of the Caucasus Mountains, with plains in the north and mountains in the south. Forests cover almost 40% of its territory. The country is small and has an area of 2,900 square miles. The population is just under 500,000 people and it is a Federal Subject of Russia.



The Druze people reside primarily in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Israel. The Institute of Druze Studies estimates that forty to fifty percent of Druze live in Syria, thirty to forty percent in Lebanon, six to seven percent in Israel, and one or two percent in Jordan.

Tribes of invaders from those areas worked their way up into eastern Europe and that is probably how I ended up with that ancestry.

The person on the top of my match list is my 1st Cousin, Dan Milel. The next closest matches are listed as my 3rd Cousins but I have not confirmed how we are related. I'll need to correspond with them to figure that out.

From the Photo Album



Pictured at lower left is Lee Ann Heck at her graduation from the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater on 10 May 1986.



Christmas 1990: Left to Right, Bernice and Alvin Heck, Bernice and Edward Bark, and Robert G. Heck. Alvin, and Bernice Bark are siblings of Robert G. Heck.



On the previous page are two pictures of the Robert G. and Mary Heck family taken on 29 June 1985 for their 50th wedding anniversary. In the upper photo with their three sons L-R: Bob, Robert, Mary, Gary, and Don Heck.

In the lower photo with the daughters-in-law L-R: Robert, Gloria, Mary, Joan, and Sharon Heck.



Bob Heck, 3rd from left, attending Ski School in 1960 at Innsbruck, Austria. The instructor is shown at far right. The U. S. Air Force maintained a "Base" at Innsbruck which was actually a Gasthouse that they took over during the winter months. If one wanted to attend Ski School the Air Force assigned you to the "Base" at Innsbruck for seven days. All we had to pay for was our transportation to the "Base" and for the Ski School tuition. Everything else was covered by the Air Force, including the ski boots, poles and skis. The final exam for the Ski School was to ski down the Austrian Alps, which took about



four hours, and to live and tell stories like this.

The picture at lower left was taken in June 1965 at Racine, Wisconsin. L-R: Anna and John Mikel, Cindy & Lee Heck, and Lydia Nelson and Tillie Mikel. Cindy and Lee are the children of Gary and Joan Heck. Anna and John Mikel are the great grandparents of Cindy and Lee. Lydia and Tillie are great aunts of Cindy and Lee.

Special Thanks to **Our Contributors**

The following readers sent in contributions to help defray the cost of publishing Our Family News Letter for 2013. Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated.

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