

Our Family News Letter

Issue 83

Greendale, Wisconsin

December 2013

Robert Jerome Heck 1932-2013



We were all deeply saddened to learn of the sudden and tragic death of our dear friend and cousin, Robert Jerome Heck. Bob died at their Florida home on 9 October 2013 after an outing of several days with the Power Squadron. After returning from the outing, Bob and Lorraine cleaned their boat. Bob then went for a swim in his Association pool where his heart stopped and he subsequently drowned. Bob was 81 years old. All of us send our deepest sympathy to Lorraine, and their children and families. Their children include Cheryl Ann, Mary Beth, Lois Jean, Michael Robert, Marjorie Doris, and Paula Colleen.

OBITUARY: Heck, Robert J. of North Fort Meyers died suddenly October 9, 2013. Robert was born in Racine, Wisconsin to Clarence and Frances Heck. He was one of ten children. Robert was a veteran in the U.S. Army Signal Corp. from 1953-1955, stationed in Germany. Robert attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and worked as an analyst for the Apollo Program. He joined the New Berlin, WI Fire Department in 1967 raising to the rank of Fire Chief in 1987. Bob retired in 1994 and relocated to North Fort Meyers in 1995. Robert joined the Fort Meyers Power Squadron where he taught boating safety education and was a member of the Fort Meyers Beach Yacht Club. Robert is survived by his wife Lorraine, of 58 years, six children, eleven grandchildren and ten great-grand children.

A Memorial visitation will be held Wednesday from 9-11AM at the funeral home. A Memorial Mass will follow at 11:30AM at Holy Apostles Church, 16000 West National Avenue. Interment will be at Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Union Grove. The family would prefer memorial contributions in Robert's name to LGD Alliance, 19919 Villa Lante Place, Boca Raton, Florida 33434.

Heritage Funeral Homes, New Berlin Chapel, 16880 West National Avenue, 262-901-1140, www.heritagefuneral.com

Published in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Sunday, 20 October 2013.

NOTE: A memorial mass was held October 15th at 10:00AM. at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 2157 Cleveland Av. Fort Myers, FL.

The following tribute was written collectively by the children of Robert Jerome Heck and presented at his funeral by his daughter, Mary Beth.

What can be said about our Dad Robert Jerome Heck? Well the first thing that came to mind was his middle name. Did we have fun with that? We laughed when Mom yelled "Robert Jerome" because when she used our middle names you knew you were in trouble. In fact, when my daughter-in-law Elizabeth was choosing a name for her first-born son she asked, "What's your Dad's middle name?" When I said JEROME she said, "Absolutely not!"

Bob, as everyone called him, loved everyone whether they were black, white, red, tall, thin, ugly or fat. He always had kind words and thoughts about everyone he met and this is the example he passed onto all of his children and grandchildren.

Dad tried hard not to say bad words. One of his famous sayings was "Jimminy Crickets!" But, once in a while he would slip. Like the time he spent a couple of weekends putting up wallpaper in the bathroom with the kids helping him. As the last piece was going up, a string of not so nice words came out. He called everyone into the bathroom and asked if we noticed if something was wrong. Not even Mom could figure out what might be wrong. Then he said "All the wallpaper is hung upside down." Which it was! Every flower was upside down and that's exactly the way it stayed for many years.

He loved teaching because he loved to learn. He spent many hours teaching himself about fire safety, fire investigation, boating, weather, astronomy, music, genealogy and the list goes on and on.

Dad lived and attended High School at the Minor Seminary in Saint Francis, Wisconsin. He would walk from the dormitory to the convent where he

was taught to play the flute by the Sisters of Saint Francis. Bob also played the concertina when we were small. He would play and sing polka songs. One of his favorite songs was "I Dream of Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair." He would sing this extra loud so Mom could hear because he was trying to make her jealous of a former girlfriend whose name was Jeannie. He purchased a keyboard at a rummage sale that had a Learn-to-Play book, then spent countless hours in the basement teaching himself to play. He loved to learn new things and then shared what he learned with others.

One day at a gas station in New Berlin a fireman encouraged Dad to consider joining the volunteer fire department. So he did! He learned all about fire fighting, and how to drive and operate the pumps on the fire truck. He also learned about medical emergencies and was assigned to respond on the fire department's ambulance. Bob was in one of the first certified EMT classes in the State of Wisconsin. How fitting, that emergency personnel from Lee County Florida responded to help Dad the evening he passed away.



L-R Back: Robert Jerome Heck, Paula, Marjorie, Lois, Mary Beth, Cheryl Ann. L-R Front: Michael and Lorraine.

Everyone knew when Bob was driving the fire truck because he would be smoking his old stogie as he drove. One day when backing the fire truck back into the station Captain Peters was talking to him when Bob turned his head around and his cigar smashed into the closed window.

That is how Dad got a cartoon published in the fire department's newsletter. Captain Peters was a great artist, and captured Dad perfectly.

After Mom and Dad retired they took piano lessons for 10 years and were active in the church choir.

Our Dad was also great at fixing things we broke. With six kids along with Mom, we kept him very busy. He was a master with super-glue, hot glue and duct tape. He could take anything apart, fix it, and put it back together again. There was rarely a day that you did not see him at his workbench or sitting at the picnic table working on a project.

Mom always said Dad had Saint Anthony looking after him because he was a master at finding lost things around the house such as keys, glasses, and money. I don't know how Cheryl is going to live without him. She has a real knack for losing things! Sometimes referred to as a scatterbrain by Mom although after this comment, I might be known as brainless. Oh well, it won't be the first time! Dad will have countless hours in heaven saying "Jimminy Crickets" to all of us!

One of Dad's favorite things were his beloved Green Bay Packers. He would come home from church and immediately change into his Packer attire. His children loved to buy him anything to do with the Packers and he was the best-dressed Packer backer ever.

One thing our Dad never learned to do was dance. But oh how he sure loved to polka! Mom said he hopped around like a bunny rabbit, which is exactly what all of us kids do even if we don't want to admit it.

Bob loved his family and was a great husband and father of Cheryl, Mary Beth, Lois, Mike, Marjorie and Paula. Mike was his only son, which was kind of fun when we were growing up. We really gave Mike a hard time, especially when he started dating! Then six years after the first four came Marjorie, known as the "first mis-

take," but how she loved Daddy! The "second mistake" was Paula, born 10 years after the first four. What I just heard is that Paula is the smallest of the bunch because Dad and Mom ran out of steam!

He was a grandfather of 11. Hundreds of stories could be told about the grandchildren he adored. One day when Dad asked Mom, "What's the real name of that kid named Gooley?" She was three years old at the time and everyone called her Gooley. Mom answered, "Oh Bob, her name is Nicole." We all laughed.

He is also the great-grandfather of 10. He had a very special place in his heart for my 4-year-old granddaughter Brookie, who is afflicted with a rare disease. Dad prayed for Brookie daily and could be heard humming hymns throughout the day in her behalf.

We all will miss our Dad, his love for people, for learning, teaching and for loving our Mom for 58 years. We hold everything about him in our hearts.

Note From The Editor: Three and a half weeks before my cousin, Robert Jerome Heck passed away, I wrote the following story intending to publish it in this issue of Our Family News Letter. The story tells a lot about genealogy research, a bit of good luck, and some great memories. Our story follows.

An Unbelievable Weekend With My Dear Cousins.

On Saturday, September 14, 2013, I took my first cousin, Robert Jerome Heck, his wife Lorraine, and their daughter, Cheryl Ann on a cemetery tour of Racine and Kenosha Counties. I had given a tour to Bob and Cheryl seven years earlier in the summer of 2006. Cheryl asked if we could repeat the tour since her Dad had recently gained such a deep interest in our family history and roots.

The day began for us at 9:00 am on a perfect autumn day. I picked up Bob, Lorraine, and Cheryl at their home in New Berlin. Lorraine was sporting a new walking stick and she looked like she was ready to climb Mount Everest. We had all the equipment that we needed to make a day of it. Water bottles, cameras, notebooks, maps, and backpacks made up our equipment list. My cousin, Bob had a huge three ring binder containing his notes on our family history. He was bound and determined to figure out who was buried in each of the gravesites that we were going to visit. I even had my notebook computer along just to show them graphically who was who.

Our first stop was at the Saint Thomas Cemetery in Waterford, in Racine County, Wisconsin. There we viewed the iron cross grave marker of Franz Henningfeld who died in 1869. He was Bob's and my great-great grandfather and Cheryl's great-great-great grandfather. We visited many more graves of the Henningfeld, Heitkemper, Heck and Plucker family. Cheryl took a lot of pictures.

Our next stop was to the cemetery at Saint Mary's in Dover, Racine County. There we were much surprised to find that the exact grave location of Peter McNulty was marked with four little flags, one in each corner. The gravesite of Peter does not have a tombstone or any other marker so we were always approximating the location. We knew that Peter was buried in an unmarked grave identified as Block 2, Lot 10, Grave 4, of the Tom Morrow Lot at St. Mary's Church in Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin. This information was found in the church records but no recording of the date of death was listed. Earlier I had contacted the cemetery Sextant seeking the location of the gravesite and he went out and marked the exact location for us. We also visited the grave of my sister-in-law, Joan Heck. Bob and Lorraine remembered the church and the evening funeral Mass for Joan. They didn't recall that it was at Dover.

Our next stop was to Kansasville where we found the site of the Peter McNulty Saloon. The

saloon is no longer there but a paint roller company occupies the site today. Henry Heck also lived in Kansasville for a short time when Peter, his father-in-law, was living there. Peter McNulty was my great-great grandfather.

Our next stop was in Burlington at the Saint Mary's Cemetery called "God's Acre". There we viewed the tombstones of the Heck, Richter, Plate and Henningfeld families. Cheryl took a lot of pictures. Bob was getting a little tired and was waiting for us in the car. Lorraine was marching all over the cemetery like a trooper finding our family tombstones. That walking stick was sure a big help. Lorraine was also pulling some weeds out of the flowerbeds from any site that had them.

We were all getting hungry so our next stop was to a buffet located on highway 50 and I-94. After lunch I asked the others where they would like to go next: Racine or Brighton. Right away Bob said we should go to the Brighton Cemetery at Saint Frances Xavier church. Bob said that we could always visit the Racine cemeteries.



Our next stop was at the cemetery at Saint Frances Xavier, which is in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. We quickly found the small tombstone of Patience Burgess McNulty. She was my great-great grandmother and was the

wife of Peter McNulty. We searched the cemetery for the grave of Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, wife of Johann Heck. Anna Barbara died at Brighton in 1855 just two years after arriving in the United States. We could not find a gravestone for her. Cheryl then asked if we could make a rubbing of Patience's tombstone. I told her that I had rice paper, tape and crayons in the car and would go get them. While walking toward the car, an elderly lady waved to me and I waved back. I walked up to her and she saw the name HECK Bier Garden printed on my sweat-shirt and she asked if we were the Heck family who settled in Brighton in the 1850's.



L-R: Robert Jerome Heck, Archbishop Listeck, Robert John Heck.

The lady was the retired Principal of the school and she was so excited because she was also the Director of their Faith Museum, which housed the early records of the Saint Frances Xavier church. She took us into the museum and we spent the next two hours looking at old documents and records. She told us that the following day was a huge celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of their church. That church is the oldest Catholic Church in the State of Wisconsin. She invited us to attend the celebration, which included a Mass by Archbishop Listeck, a catered luncheon with Irish and German cuisine, Celtic music, German music, and a huge concert in the church. At the luncheon she asked us to stand and she introduced us as the Heck family

whose family settled here in 1853. There was a long applause from the 200 people attending.

Later we were having our picture taken with the Archbishop. Bob was standing on the Archbishop's right side and I was on his left. The Archbishop asked Bob who he was and Bob said "I'm Bob Heck." The Archbishop turned to me and asked the same question and got the same answer: "I'm Bob Heck." Bob and I really had a good laugh at the expression on the Archbishop's puzzled face as we explained that we were both Robert J. Heck and that we were first cousins.

After the concert it was time to head for home. We had a great weekend and discovered lots of new things about our family heritage. Bob, Lorraine and Cheryl were thrilled at our great weekend adventure. By the way, Cheryl took over 400 photos.

Edith Heitkemper Mehre 1930 – 2012

We were saddened to learn that one of our distant relatives and frequent contributors to this newsletter, Edith M. Heitkemper Mehre, passed away. Edith was a great help in collecting the history of our Heitkemper branch of our family.

Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff, mother of Clara Stratmann, was married three times, the last being to Friedrich D. Heitkemper in 1859 at Geithe, Germany. Edith was the great granddaughter of Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff, and I was her great-great grandson.

Edith's husband, Frederick Mehre was kind enough to send me notice of her death. We send our sympathy to Fred and to his family.

OBITUARY: Edith M. Mehre 81, Wausau died Monday, July 2, 2012 under the care of Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services at North Central Health Care Center, Wausau. She was born 2 October 1930 in Park Falls, daughter of the late Alphonse and Katherine (Folger) Heitkemper. On 17 March 1956 she married



Fred Mehre in Crown Point, Indiana. Edith worked at the Menominee Falls Newspaper, 7 Pu Bottling Company and Rural Insurance Company. Edith proudly served her country in the United States Army from

1950 to 1956. Survivors include her husband Frederick Mehre, Wausau, her children, Pat (Rob) Van Oeveren, Lansing, Michigan, Rick Mehre, Minnesota, and Kurt Mehre, Schofield and four grandchildren. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by one son, Jon Scott Mehre, two brothers, Albert and Jerome and two sisters, Lorraine and Elsie.

Fred is living at 607 Eagle Nest Blvd., Apt. #105, Rothschild, WI 54474

Richard John Heck honored on Honor Flight to Washington, DC.



Sherry Heck accompanied her dad, Richard J. Heck to Washington, DC on board the Honor Flight. Richard served in the United States Army in Korea from 1950 through 1952. The Honor Flight took place on 2 November 2013 with two chartered aircraft. One aircraft was for World War II veterans and one was for Korean War veterans.

Hundreds of people, including members of Richard's family and friends, were at Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee to greet and cheer for the returning veterans of World War II and the Korean War.



This sign was made by Cheryl Heck, niece of Richard. It reads, " Thanks for your amazing service from 1950 – 1952. Thank you for making the freedom we all enjoy possible. We love you Uncle Dick! Your brother Bobby, Mary Beth, Cheryl Ann, Paula Colleen, Lorraine, Michael, Lois Jean and Marjorie."

The Honor Flight web site had the following agenda for the veterans.

The day starts early. The first groups arrive at General Mitchell International Airport by 4:30am. This early arrival allows time for checking in, meeting up with your guardian for the day, processing through TSA security and enjoying a breakfast and entertainment at the gate before boarding the plane to Washington DC.

Once we arrive in DC, you will immediately board our deluxe motor coaches and head toward our first stop in our nation's capitol. We have also made arrangements for a police escort throughout the day so we can whip through that notorious Washington DC traffic!

The highlight of every trip is our visit to the World War II Memorial where you will have ample time to soak in the symbolism and take in

its beauty. We typically arrange for a group photo to be taken here. Besides a visit to the World War II Memorial, every trip includes visits to other memorials but the itineraries may vary. Every trip typically includes a stop at the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. Past Stars and Stripes Honor Flights have included stops at the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, and even the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial. We also try to include a short bus tour of Washington DC on every trip which allows for rest and chance to eat one of your two boxed meals which will be served to you on the bus during your day in DC.

Even if you do not travel with your own wheelchair or request one for your trip, we bring extra wheelchairs with us. We have found that even the most able-bodied veteran may tire by the end of the day. If that is the case, please know that wheelchairs will be available for your use.

After our day in DC, we will board the buses for our trip back to the airport. There will be another security screening for the return flight. Once we land in Milwaukee, your guardian will make sure that you land safely in the arms of your loved ones after your long day.

Oh, yes. There may be one or two more surprises on the way home...but we want you to discover those for yourself!

Editors Note: The surprise mentioned above includes "Mail Call" during which the veterans are given packets of cards and letters sent in for them. Anyone who ever served in the military knows how important "Mail Call" was to us.



L-R Behind the Welcome Home sign are Angela Maynard, David Schneider, Cel Heck, Teresa, Nicholas, Barbara Schneider and Rick Heck.

Congratulations to Richard and Thank You for your service.

If you are interested in researching emigration in the 1800's from the Munster area of Germany to the United States, you can download the entire book for free at the [http](http://www.genealogy.net/vereine/wggf/downloads/BZWF22_24_Auswanderer_RBZ_Muenster.pdf) address shown below. **"Westfälische Auswanderer im 19. Jahrhundert – Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Münster."**

http://www.genealogy.net/vereine/wggf/downloads/BZWF22_24_Auswanderer_RBZ_Muenster.pdf

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This newsletter is written and published by
Robert J. Heck
4910 Steeple Drive
Greendale, WI 53129

From The Photo Album...



Bob Heck, your Editor, standing next to his car at the St. Mary's Cemetery in Burlington, 2013.



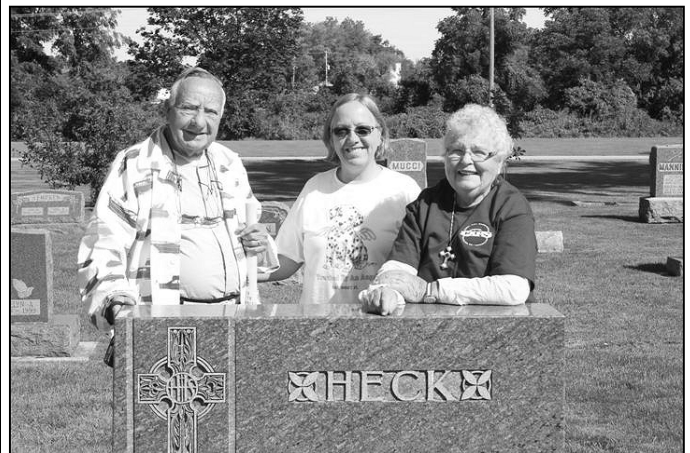
Bob Heck, your Editor, with Lorraine Heck standing in front of two tombstones of Frances and Caroline Henningfeld, children of Henry Henningfeld and Clara Stratmann at St. Mary's Cemetery in Burlington. Frances was hours old and Caroline was four years old. Caroline died from blood poisoning from an ulcerated tooth.

MEMBERSHIP IN 1869

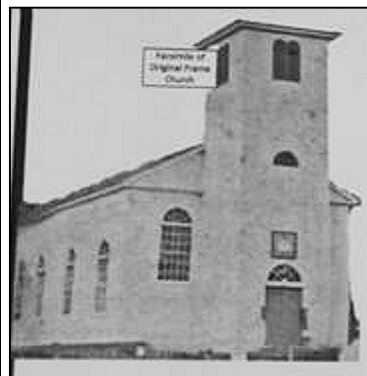
GERMANS		IRISH	
	(children)		(children)
Aldes, Nicholas & Ann Maria	6	Babe, Thomas & Mary	3
Arnold, Nicholas & Anna Maria	6	Burns, Philip, & Ellen	4
Bohr, Mathias	2	Broderick, Winefred	6
Bohr, Nicholas & Eva	6	Barrett, Patrick & Eva	7
Bohr, John & Anna Maria	1	Callahan & Ellen	4
Brick, Peter & Magdalena	9	Carroll, Bridget	4
Bohr, Bartholomew & Elizabetha	2	Connelley, Peter & Mary	5
Bach, John	1	Dixon, James	7
Christmann, Nicholas & Eliz.	1	Farley, Phillip & Katherine	4
Christmann, Hubert & Anna Maria	3	Flanery, Mathew & Mary	4
Daniels, Mathias & Katherina	9	Flannagen, Thomas & Mary	4
Daniels, Jacob & Maia K.	1	Flannery, Michael & Katherine	5
Daniels, John & Katherina	1	Hutly, Edward & Anna	4
Daniels, Hubertus	1	Jorden, Thomas & Margaretha	2
Dries, Joseph & Katherine	6	McGegen, Owen & Johanna	5
Dorn, Mathias	4	McCormack, J. Mrs.	1
Dorn, Lambert	4	McCormack, Jane	3
Dalsin, Henry & Anna Maria	5	McCormack, Patrick & Anna	5
Dalsin, John & Gertrude	2	Murphy, Dennis & Johnanna	3
Ehlen, Nicholas & Ann Maria	5	Mahoney, Daniel & Eliz.	8
Epp's, Valentine & Anna	8	McCuire, Anna	1
Evans, Mathias & Katherina	1	McKune, John & Mary	1
Agel, Johannes & Katherina	1	McQuick, Wm & Anna Bridget	3
Geuer, Joseph & Barbara	6	Mooney, John & Jane	4
Fister, Joseph & Ferdinand	1	McMaster, Wm & Anna	4
Fritz, Ferdinand	1	Moran, Margaretha	6
Gerden, Katherina	2	Mooney, Mary	3
Gegen, Nicholas & Maria	4	McDonald, John & Anna	7
Gill, John & Johanna	2	O'Brien, Brian & Bridgett	3
Gill, John & Margarita	4	O'Brien, Corey & Anna	5
Gill, Nicholas & Maria	8	Riley, Hugh & Katherina	3
Heck, Henrich & Maria	2	Regan, Daniel & Ellen	2
Heck, Peter & Margaretha	2	Riggs, Mary	3
Heck, John & Susanna	8	Shanley, Wm & Elizabetha	6
Hamacher, John & Margaretha	4	Shanley, George & Mary	3
Hofman, Peter J. & Maria	10	Tigh, Michael & Bridgett	2
Hess, Peter & Anna Maria	8	Tobin, Wm & Anna	8
Hess, Anna	1	Ward, Michael & Mary	6
Hahn, Peter & Anna	6	Ward, James & Bridgett	5
Hahn, Mathias & Christina	1	Walsh, John & Honora	6
Hotz, Mathias & Katherina	7	Welton, James & Mary	5
Johannes, Peter & Maria	3		
Johannes, Jacob & Margaritha	5		
Kemen, William & Katherine	6		
Kerber, Jacob & Katherina	7		
Karpen, Henry & Elizabetha	3		
Karpen, Peter & Maria Katherine	5		
Kramer, John & Julia	1		
Leinen, Bernard & Maria	2		
Leinen, Nick & Anna	5		
Ludwig, Bernard & Elizabetha	5		
Ludwig, Wm & Margaretha	11		
Ludwig, John & Anna Maria	9		

Membership list from 1869 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at Brighton, WI. Enlarged portion below shows Peter Heck with 2 children and Johann (John) Heck with 8 children. Henry Heck was married at that church on 16 January 1869 and did not have any children at the time the membership list was created.

Heck, Henrich & Maria	
Heck, Peter & Margaretha	2
Heck, John & Susanna	8



Robert Jerome, Cheryl and Lorraine Heck at Waterford, 2013 standing behind a Heck tombstone.



St. Francis Xavier Church as it appeared in 1849. The Johann Heck family arrived in 1853 and the Peter McNulty family in 1840. They attended Mass at this church. In 1861 a steeple was added. Henry Heck married Mary Ann McNulty there in 1869.