

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 87

Greendale, Wisconsin

December 2014

## Photo Found of Rose Heck on BadgerLink

Many years ago I had asked my Dad if he had a picture of his twin sisters, Rose Margaret and Lilly Marie Heck. They were born on 31 July 1915 in Racine, Wisconsin. Lilly died on 19 March 1916 and Rose died on 12 April 1917. Both died of malnutrition.

My Dad knew nothing about his twin sisters except that they were very small when they were born. He said that they were so small that they could fit in a cigar box. He was not aware of any pictures of Rose and Lilly.

### **Fast Forward to September, 2014:**

While working on a presentation on Newspaper Research For The Genealogist, I entered "Rose Heck" into a search in Newspaper Archives in BadgerLink.org. The search resulted in four newspaper articles about a Rose Heck in Racine Newspapers. Three of the articles were about a Rose Heck graduating from nursing school. She was in her early 20's. One article was about my Dad's sister Rose Heck.

When I opened the article I was greatly surprised to find a picture of Rose Heck on the front page of the 4 October 1916 issue of The Racine Journal-News.

The first half of the article dealt with the expenses of the Summer Camp Program, while the last half of the article explained the mystery behind the malnutrition issue of Rose Heck. Rose's mother, while not mentioned by name, was Margaret Frederica Henningfeld Heck, my grandmother.

*Suppose This Was Your Baby?*



ROSE HECK AND CITY NURSE  
*"This Baby's life and four others were saved at  
the Summer Camp."*

**From the Racine Journal-News,  
Wednesday, October 4, 1916, Page  
One:**

**"SUMMER BABY CAMP CREDITED WITH SAVING LIVES OF 5 LITTLE TOTS."**

**"City Solons Balk on an Appropriation of \$400 to Promote the Proposition."**

**"Record of the Camp's Work, now on file in the City Health Office. Is one of interest to all parents in Racine."**

"During last summer a baby camp was established and operated in a large tent at the Horlick Park. Eleven sick infants were given the care afforded by the camp, but the place was crowded and often it was necessary to place two little tots in the same bed. Proofs are on hand to show that the lives of five babies were saved because of the care and nursing given them."

"To defray the expenses of this camp the City of Racine appropriated \$150 for medicine, the Racine Woman's Club voted \$50, the Florence Nightingale Society \$50, from small banks located around the city \$25 was realized and perhaps \$115 to \$120 was received from private sources."

"All services in connection with the camp were free, except one nurse. The fact that five little ones were saved from death and are now healthy and robust children, is sufficient evidence that the camp is a good thing and of everlasting benefit to the poor mothers of the city and a God-send to the suffering infants."

"The appropriation of \$400 has been asked for in the city budget to defray the expenses of the camp during the coming summer, and members of the council are hesitating about granting it. In fact, some of them are adverse to allowing a single cent."

"The saving of five lives surely is deserving of the highest commendation by all classes of people. If as many more babies can be saved in

1917, is it not worth \$400? Is not a single life valued at more than such a small sum?"

"A record of the children nursed back to health during the hot period is kept at the Health Office and is of unusual interest, especially to the mothers and fathers of the city. The following record is given by the health department:"

"One case is that of Rose Heck, 1110 Marquette Street. She is one of twins, weighing two pounds at birth, and when nine months old weighed six pounds and six ounces. Her case is malnutrition, a very difficult case to get something to agree with. We changed her food about ten times. She would get along a little while on one kind of food and then it would be all off and we would have to change it again. We feared very much for her through the hot weather and when we took her to the camp her weight was eight pounds – she gained six ounces and two weeks after the camp closed she lost it again. She is also one of the babies that attend our clinic regularly. The mother said that if it wasn't for the camp and the clinic she was sure her baby would have been dead long ago. We also had the mother of this baby out to the camp for three weeks. She gained a few pounds and was better able to take care of her babies when they came home. This mother is intelligent and tries to do everything she possibly can to carry out the orders the doctor gives."

"The accompanying picture shows Miss Schmidt, nurse, and the little Heck child."

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The following article appeared in the **Racine Journal Times** on **6 October 2014** on page 1.

## **130 years later, grave finally marked**



***Robert Heck shown at the tombstone of his great-great-grandfather, Peter McNulty, who rested in an unmarked grave for 131 years at St. Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery at Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin.***

**"DOVER** – After about 130 years, Peter McNulty has his final resting stop marked thanks to his great-great-grandson. Robert Heck's interest in looking into his family's past started 40-some years ago. He was talking with his grandmother and she started telling stories about the "old country," Czechoslovakia, recalls Heck, who grew up in Racine and now lives in Greendale. He learned more and more about her side of the family, but when he turned to his father's side he didn't have any grandparents left to tell him stories. That is when he turned to libraries and other resources to find out what he could. "I started piecing the family together," said Heck, 73, a retired electrical engineer, who graduated from St. Catherine's High School in 1958.

Through his research, Heck learned his great-great-grandfather McNulty was born in what is now Northern Ireland in 1807. Then at age 27 he boarded a ship and sailed to America.

In New York state, he ended up marrying a 16-year-old; they later moved to Wisconsin, where they built a log cabin and a sawmill on the Pike River just north of where the University of Wisconsin-Parkside is now located, according to Heck's research.

He went on to raise 13 children and at one point bought a saloon in Dover, according to Heck.

U.S. Census records from 1880 indicate he was in poor health, and he was not listed in the next census, Heck said.

While Heck still doesn't know when exactly his great-great-grandfather died, he was able to track him to the cemetery at Saint Mary's Catholic Church Cemetery in Dover at 23303 Church Road.

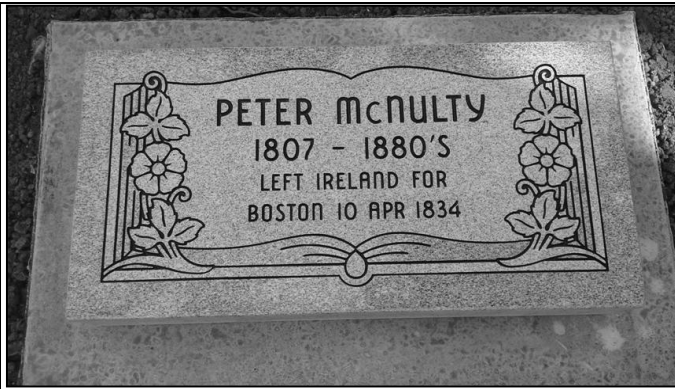
But he found that there was no gravestone.

That was until late last month when Heck, thanks to donations from family, was able to put a headstone on McNulty's final resting spot.

'It's a really warm feeling to stand there and say future generations will know where he was buried,' Heck said. 'It made all the research worthwhile.'

His next endeavor, he said, is to get a gravestone for another great-great-grandparent, Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, who is buried at the Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church Cemetery in Brighton.

Heck jokes his wife hopes he is not planning on marking every unmarked grave. He said he doesn't know about any other direct-line relatives with unmarked graves, at least at this point."



This is the finished product shortly after it was installed in September 2014.



This view shows the Peter McNulty tombstone in the foreground. The stone measures 2' X 1'.

Those who contributed to the **Peter McNulty Tombstone Project** include:

**Lorraine and the Late Robert Jerome Heck**

**Bill & Michelle Heck**

**Cheryl Ann Heck**

**Bob Heck (Your Editor)**

**Rebecca Wright**

**Joanne Pfeiffer**

**Dick and Cel Heck**

**Shirley Heck**

**Dan Pfeiffer**

**Dolores and Bernard Kunka.**

I want to thank all of you who contributed to this project and for the encouragement that you gave me while I researched the possibility of placing a tombstone on my great-great grandfather's grave.

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## **A New Project: A Tombstone for Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck.**

Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck arrived in America in May, 1853 along with her husband Johann, and their children, Peter, Anna Lucia, Henry, Joseph, and Clara.

She was the sister of Johann Schaefer who was the head of the Schaefer family in Swan Lake, Nicollet County, Minnesota. Johann Schaefer had seven children.

Peter Heck was the head of a large branch of the Heck family who also settled in the Swan Lake, Minnesota area. Peter Heck married Margaret Zeren they had six children.

Anna Lucia Heck married Leonard Boor but she died at Swan Lake shortly after her marriage. She did not have any children.

Henry Heck was the head of our Heck family in Wisconsin, which includes all of the Hecks from

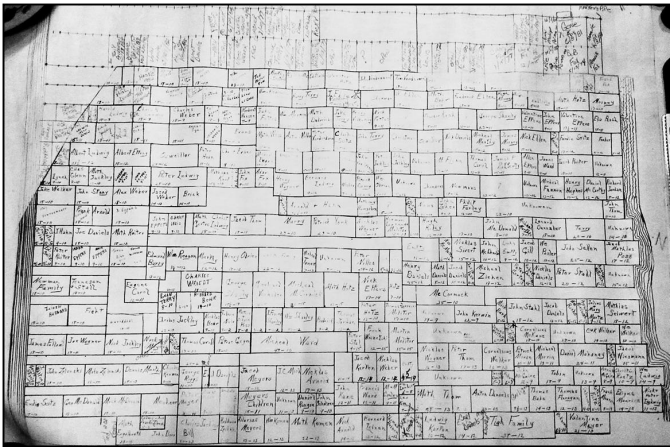


Burlington, Waterford and many from Racine. Henry Heck was married to Mary Ann McNulty and they had eight children.

Joseph Heck headed up the Heck family in the New Ulm, Minnesota area. He was married to Josephine Stuetz and they had three children.

Clara Heck married Vincent Brunner and they lived in Nicollet County and Brown County, Minnesota. They had nine children.

Anna Barbara Schaefer had five children, 26 grandchildren and 83 great-grandchildren. She died at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin on a farm that is now on the Northern end of the Bong Recreation Center. She only lived for three and a half years in America and left young children behind. The church record at St. Francis Xavier Church of Brighton states that she is buried in the church cemetery. Her grave is unmarked and is one of several listed in the cemetery plot book as unknown.



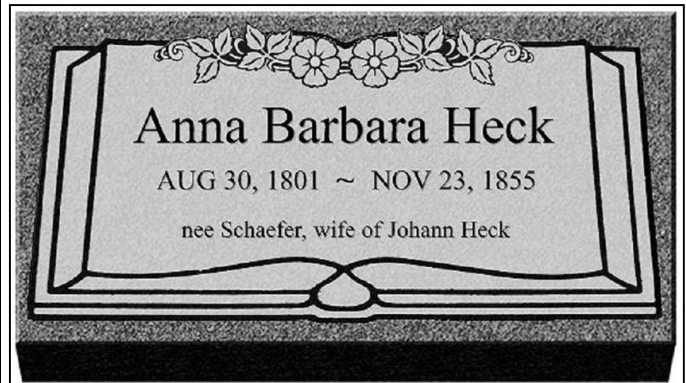
I obtained a copy of the cemetery layout at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church Cemetery from the Sexton. The layout is shown above. I then went to the church burial records and found all of the burials that took place in 1854, 1855, and 1856. I plotted them on a copy of the layout and they formed a very tight pattern. Right in the middle of the cluster was an unmarked grave that I believe is the final resting place of Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck who died in 1855.

Ironically the unmarked grave was right next to the grave of Patience Burgess McNulty.

I believe that when Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck died unexpectedly in 1855, her husband, Johann Heck, probably purchased two lots, one for his wife and one for himself. Johann Heck remarried and migrated to Swan Lake, Minnesota in 1857. He and his second wife are buried at Brighton, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

Henry Heck was the son of Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck. His wife, Mary Ann McNulty was the daughter of Patience Burgess McNulty. When Patience died in 1894, Henry and Mary Ann would have been the ones responsible for her funeral and burial arrangements. Henry would have known where his mother was buried and since there was an unused grave owned by his family next to his mother, that would be a good place to bury his mother-in-law, Patience.

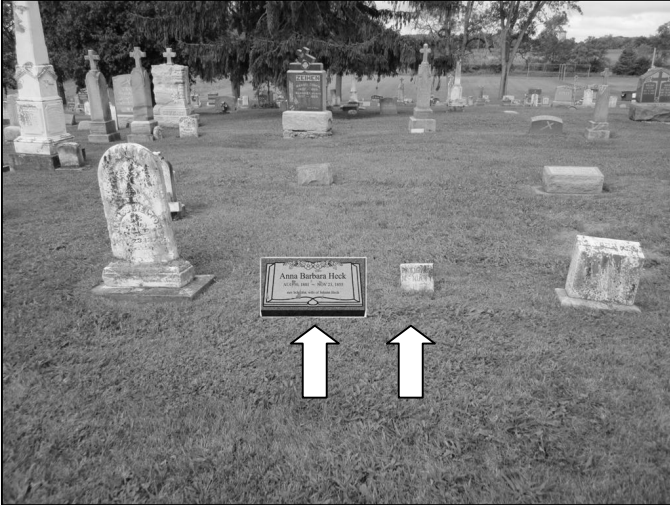
I presented this thought to the Sexton of the cemetery and he in turn presented it to the cemetery board and to the parish priest. They all agreed with my logic and gave me permission to place a tombstone for Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck in the spot next to Patience Burgess McNulty.



Here is an image of the proposed tombstone. It shows Anna Barbara Heck Aug 30, 1801 ~ Nov 23, 1855, nee Schaefer, wife of Johann Heck.

I wanted to get the footing for the tombstone installed before the ground freezes this year so I ordered the tombstone and footing. It will be the same size as Peter McNulty's tombstone and

footing. The stone will be made of gray Vermont Granite.



*This is a concept image of the proposed location of the new tombstone. Anna Barbara's is shown at left and Patience McNulty's at right.*

I had a little money left from the Peter McNulty tombstone project and I will use it toward the Anna Barbara Schaefer tombstone project. Any money left over from the Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck project will be used to help cover the cost of this newsletter.

I hope to have the new tombstone installed before the end of 2014. I will include a picture of it in a future issue of this newsletter.

If you would like to help mark the grave of Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, please send your check made payable to Robert J Heck and send it to me at 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129.

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## From the Newspapers...

"Mrs. L. Cool and her brother, Fred Burgess, departed for Mt. Clemons, Michigan on Monday, where Mr. Burgess will take treatment for rheumatism."

(Racine Weekly Sept 1, 1895)

"A brilliant wedding took place at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon April 15, at the home of Mr. Wm. Burgess when his daughter Hattie was

united in marriage to Clayton B. Reas in the presence of nearly one hundred friends of the contracting parties. Miss Edith Lewis acted as bridesmaid and Burdette Burgess, brother of the bride, was best man. As the wedding march was being played by Miss Mae Burgess the bridal party came into the parlor preceded by Rev. George J. Rea and took their places on the white fur ring underneath a handsome arch decorated with evergreens and Easter lilies. The ceremony was short but impressive, at the close of which the young couple received the party congratulations of their many friends. The bride was attired in a white India linen gown trimmed in lace and satin ribbons, wore white slippers and carried a bouquet of white Roman hyacinths. The groom was wearing the same flower. A rose bowl with daybreak carnations was a beautiful centerpiece. The refreshments were delicious and nicely served by young ladies and gentlemen, superintended by Miss Mary Rhodes, in her usual capable manner.

After the supper, music and sociability were participated in, a solo "The Old Oaken Bucket" was exquisitely rendered by Mrs. Owen (nee Florence Spencer) the audience joining in the chorus. It was a great pleasure to listen to Somers' former sweet singer again. Then came the announcement that the young ladies should gather in the front yard as the bride was about to throw her bouquet into the crowd and the young lady fortunate enough to catch it would be the first to be married. One of our popular young ladies carried off the prize. The presents were numerous and elaborate, betokening the high esteem in which the young couple are held by their friends. Mr. and Mrs. Reas left on Friday afternoon April 17 by way of Northern Pacific to Portland, Oregon from which place they will go by ocean steamer to San Francisco; then by rail to Porterville, near which place Mr. Reas owns a fine fruit farm. The best wishes for their future prosperity and happiness will follow the young people through life's journey."

(Racine Weekly April 23, 1896)

"Mr. Fred Burgess is very sick with typhoid fever."

(Racine Daily Oct. 21, 1896)

"Miss Maggie Sinclair and George Burgess were united in marriage at the Presbyterian Church on Thursday afternoon, Rev. Henry Brown officiating."

(Racine Weekly Oct. 28, 1897)

"Mrs. W.E. Burgess of Chicago had a tumor removed from her left side on Tuesday last. Her many friends here will be pleased to learn that she is getting along as well as expected."

(Racine Weekly Jan. 27, 1898)

"George and Robert Burgess hauled two loads of flax straw to Franksville Thursday morning."

(Racine Daily Feb. 8, 1899)

"Robert Burgess went to Chicago Tuesday where he accepted a position with an ice company."

(Racine Weekly May 25, 1899)

"A short time ago Wm. Burgess received a case of honey from his son in law, Clayton Reas of California."

(Racine Weekly June 1, 1899)

"A very pleasant reunion was held at the home of William E. Burgess on Christmas Day. His six sons were home - Charles of Bristol, Edward and his family, Will, Burdette and Robert of Chicago and George and his family of Somers. The family presented their father with a beautiful upholstered rocker."

(Racine Daily Jan. 1, 1900)

"Burdett and Robert Burgess of Chicago are spending a few days at their father's home in the village."

(Racine Daily July 18, 1900)

"No clue has yet been obtained to the party who placed a baby boy on the steps of Alonzo Burgess."

(Racine Daily Oct. 23, 1900)

"Charles Burgess, a resident of the Town of Somers, was very badly injured in this city about 1 o'clock this afternoon. While attempting to drive

his team of horses attached to a load of hay onto the back of the chemical engine house, he drove them too near the building, resulting in the wagon capsizing. Burgess was precipitated on the stone pavement, falling a distance of several feet. He was picked up unconscious. Dr. Nott was summoned and after making a temporary examination ordered that the man be taken to the St. Luke's hospital in the patrol wagon. At the hospital the physician made a complete diagnosis of the case and found him suffering from the effects of a severe concussion. It is also thought that the man's skull is fractured. He had not regained consciousness up to three o'clock this afternoon."

(Racine Journal Aug. 13, 1901)

"George Burgess is moving to the Flett farm which he will work the coming year."

(Racine Journal Jan. 9, 1903)

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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. If you would like to see some of your old photos in it, send them to me at my e-mail address:  
**bheck@execpc.com** along with a description.

## Another Mystery Solved...

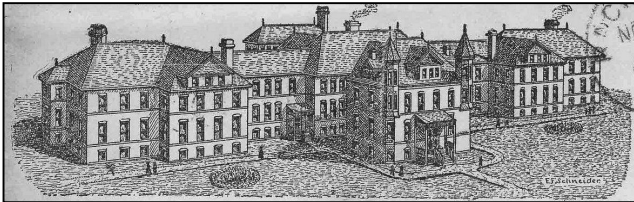
Thanks to some diligent research by Rebecca Wright, Cheryl Ann Heck, and Paula Heck Robotka the final resting place of Henry McNulty and his brother Peter McNulty Jr. have been found. Well, sort of.

The two men were the sons of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess McNulty and back during the Civil War time period both were sent to an insane asylum in Racine.

Back then if a person was retarded or had some other mental issue they were often declared to be

insane by the local courts and were sent to jail, prison, or an asylum. That is what happened to Henry and Peter Jr. in 1864.

I thought that the location of the asylum was near Union Grove at what was known as the Southern Colony. Now we know that the asylum was located in Racine just to the east of the Regency Mall in what is known today as Pritchard Park.

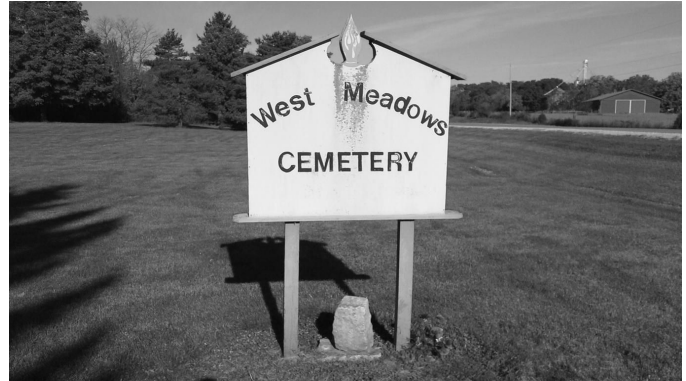


Henry McNulty died there on 31 July 1899 and Peter McNulty Jr. died there on 8 March 1915. Both were believed buried at the cemetery on the asylum grounds. The cemetery was known as East Meadows Cemetery.

A fire destroyed the original asylum building on 20 February 1904. The asylum was rebuilt and was later demolished in about 1970. The asylum was known as the Gatliff Asylum.

In 1971 State Highway 11, also known as Durand Avenue, was widened. As a result about 70 bodies were moved to a new cemetery called West Meadows Cemetery located at County Highway J, north of County Highway A near Rochester, Racine County, Wisconsin.

According to research by Rebecca Wright, both Henry and Peter McNulty are now buried at West Meadows Cemetery.



Without question the West Meadows Cemetery is one of the strangest places. None of the graves are marked and there are 14 blank wooden markers spread around the remote cemetery. All are painted dark brown and none contain inscriptions.

Rebecca wrote in her entry for Henry McNulty on the FindAGrave.com web site the following passage.

"Henry McNulty was the eldest child and son of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess McNulty. He was born about 1842 in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. Henry grew up in Brighton along with his 12 brothers and sisters. He had a troubled childhood, was considered infirm and could neither read or write. After years of trouble with local law enforcement both he and his younger brother Peter were brought before the courts and placed in the Racine Asylum where they remained for the rest of their lives. Henry and Peter were both buried at the Racine Asylum's cemetery, now known as the West Meadows Cemetery in Racine. This cemetery was also where both the inmates of the asylum and paupers of Racine County were buried."

Rebecca Wright is the great-great-great granddaughter of Elizabeth McNulty and Sherman Aspland. Elizabeth McNulty was a sister of Henry McNulty and Peter McNulty Jr.

Gloria made me promise that I would not put markers on the graves of the McNulty brothers.