

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 92

Greendale, Wisconsin

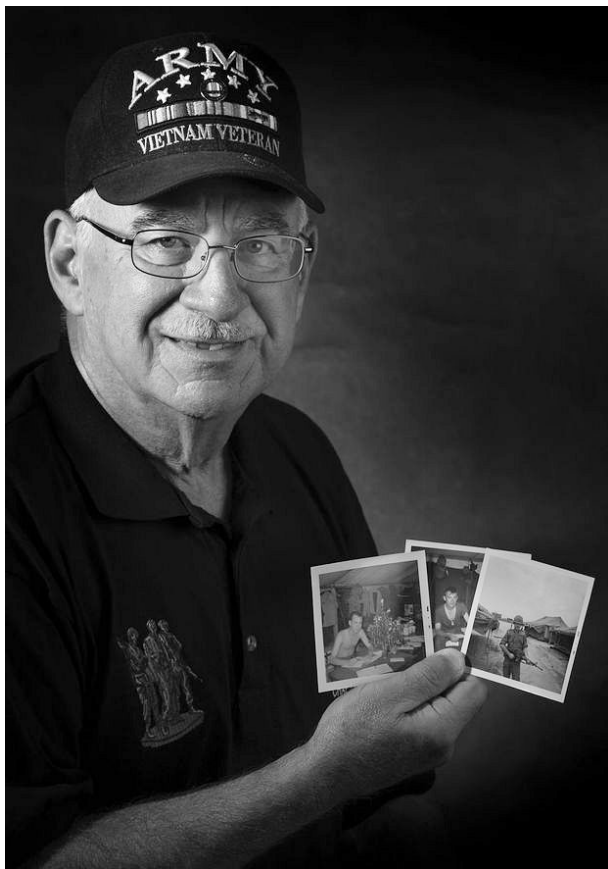
March 2016

## Don Heck Veteran: Saying 'Thank You' means more than you know.

*From the Racine Journal Times 10 November  
2015*

**"Whether I agreed or not, I did what my country asked me to do. Coming back (to the U.S.) was the hardest adjustment."**

— *Don Heck on hearing from civilian detractors of the Vietnam War*



In today's society, it is customary to thank a veteran for his or her service. For Caledonia resident Don Heck, the sentiment is deeply meaningful.

Heck, who served in the Army, was deployed to Vietnam for just over a year, from 1966-1967. He served in the Army's Finance Disbursing System and never fought in combat. But Heck did witness the pains of being in a battle as he lost friends and witnessed an exchange of weaponry.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't think I would be coming home," Heck said as he reflects on his 13-month tour of duty.

Heck, of course, did return home, but like so many who served in the Vietnam War, he received far from a hero's welcome. One of his most painful recollections occurred in Georgia, where he was stationed as he capped off his service to the Army.

On one occasion, Heck said he happened to be walking around in town, running an errand, and a civilian asked if he served in Vietnam. When Heck replied affirmatively, the person fielding the question asked how it felt to kill innocent people.

"That hurt and bothered me for quite a while," Heck said. "After that, I didn't want to talk about it. Whether I agreed or not, I did what my country asked me to do. Coming back (to the U.S.) was the hardest adjustment."

As he contrasts the unrest of the latter half of the 1960's to today, Heck said he is encouraged by the renewed appreciation toward veterans of all branches of the military — a sense of pride he

believes was re-ignited in this country in the early 1990's during the Gulf War.

For Heck, the pains of the past have been healed, particularly as he participates in various patriotic parades and other associated programs in the Racine area. He frequently witnesses an outpouring of gratitude that runs in stark contrast to the civilian commentary of the 1960's.

"I don't think any vet is looking for a pat on the back," Heck said. "But it really means a lot when someone comes up to you and thanks you." More recently, Heck, a member of the local Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 767, has been instrumental in bringing the Moving Wall monument to Racine.

Constructed by veterans, the wall is a one-half scale replica of the actual Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Moving Wall has traveled to different sites across the U.S.

Heck said he cannot help but feel emotional as he reflects on some of the experiences he has encountered as he helps people find the name of a loved one.

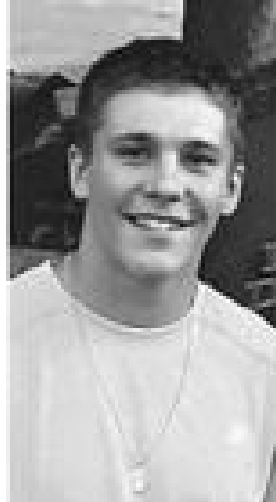
One of Heck's more touching recollections involved helping a Vietnam veteran, who is losing his lucidity, locate the name of a friend who died while in combat. After narrowing the search, Heck was able to find the name of the veteran on the monument.

"His daughter said I made his day," Heck said. "That really meant a lot to me."

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## **Grandson of Alvin (Carol) Heck and Patricia Walker Died in Auto Accident**

**Jarett Louis Heck**, 20, of Paddock Lake, passed away Tuesday, December 15, 2015.



He was born on October 19, 1995 to Jim and Mary (Sawisch) Heck in Milwaukee. He was educated in Paddock Lake and graduated from Central High School.

Jarett was passionate about fishing, being outdoors and playing sports. He loved hanging out with family and friends. Jarett was a free-spirited young man who enjoyed the life that he lived.

Jarett is survived by his loving parents Jim and Mary Heck, his siblings Jimmy, Jonathan and Madison all of Paddock Lake and his grandmother Patricia Walker of Kenosha and his grandfather Alvin (Carol) Heck of CO.

His grandparents Mary and Louis Sawisch precede him in death.

Funeral Services for Jarett will be held on Sunday, December 20th at 4:30 p.m. at Journey Church (10700 – 75th Street). Visitation will be held on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 p.m. until the time of service. Memorials would be appreciated to the family.

**RACINE COUNTY** — A pair of friends, driving not far from home, were killed in a single-vehicle crash early Tuesday morning. Zachary R. Faulhaber, 22, and Jarett L. Heck, 20, who were identified Wednesday, died when their vehicle went airborne off of Highway 75, north

of Highway 11. The accident was reported at about 5 a.m.

Faulhaber lived in Dover, less than a mile from the crash site, while Heck is from Paddock Lake in Kenosha County, according to Racine County Medical Examiner Michael Payne.

Heck's brother Jimmy Heck said both went to Westosha Central High School in Paddock Lake, but said his brother and Faulhaber had only been friends for a few months.

Jarett had the kind of personality that would make people smile, Jimmy said.

"He was that kind of person that you'd wake up in the morning and he'd come upstairs and make you smile with his goofiness," Jimmy said.

Jarett was athletic and played football in high school, according to his brother. He also loved to fish and used that as his outlet.

"He loved to just go and fish," Jimmy said. "It was one of his biggest hobbies ever. He was a super athletic kid for how out there he was."

Jimmy said his brother acted like a tough guy but had a soft heart. Jarett is survived by his parents, Mary and Jim, and his three siblings, Jimmy, Jonathan and Madison.

The crash took place at the 1900 block of Highway 75. The vehicle reportedly went airborne after striking a concrete culvert. According to Sheriff's Sgt. David Coughlin, neither man was wearing a seat belt and both were ejected from the vehicle.

Lt. Steve Sikora confirmed that speed was "definitely" a factor in the crash. Jimmy said that Faulhaber was driving, although Sikora could not confirm that, as the investigation is ongoing.



### **Grace Heck attends her first dance escorted by her dad, Dave Heck, in 2016.**

We learned that Grace Heck, age 7, was escorted by her dad, to a Girl Scout dance. We also learned that many of the girls did summersaults and gymnastic moves at the dance. Dave told his daughter that she better not rip her new dress or she will have to explain it to her mother. Apparently she heeded her father's advice as the dress remained intact.

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## Photos from the Internet and photo album



The photo above was found on Ancestry.com and shows our distant relatives, Henry Henningfeld, born 20 December 1832 or 1833, died 30 May 1918 and his wife Christina Hallen (sometimes shown as Hellend, or Holland), born 10 April 1835 and died 15 January 1920.

This Henry Henningfeld should not be confused with our Henry Frank Henningfeld, husband of Clara Stratmann. The two were 1<sup>st</sup> cousins and certainly knew each other quite well. Their common ancestors are their grandparents, Johann Henrich Wilhelm Henningfeld and Maria Catharina AKA Bucker Struman.

The following is an obituary from a Phillips, Wisconsin Newspaper, dated Thursday, June 6, 1918: "Henry Henningfeld, Sr. Last Thursday

afternoon, Memorial Day, saw the close of the life of the above named citizen of this place, after a ripe old age, spent actively and honestly, and in his death this city has lost a good citizen, his neighbors a most peaceable and kind friend and his immediate relatives an exemplary parent.

Deceased was born at Westphlie, Germany, December 20, 1832; being 85 years, 5 months and 10 days old at the time of his death. He came to America in 1847, locating at Waterford, Racine County, Wis., where he resided until about 13 years ago, when he moved to this city.

He was a mason by trade, but for many years was engaged in farming. He was married on Feb. 2, 1861, to Miss Hallen, who survives him and is only a year or two younger than he was. On Feb. 2, 1911, they celebrated their golden wedding in this city. This union was blessed by the birth of eleven children, all still living but one son, William, who died in this city in 1907.

The ten surviving children all of whom were present at the funeral services, conducted by Father Keclik at the Bohemian Catholic church Monday morning, June 3, are six sons -- Frederick of Union Grove, Louis of Phillips, John of Waterford, Theodore of Burlington, Joseph and Henry Jr. of this city, four daughters -- Mrs. Geo. Kortendick of Waterford, Mrs. Wm. Rossmiller of Burlington, Wis., Mrs. Aug. Rapp of this city and Mrs. Chas. E. Hicks of Catawba.

There are also 43 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren as immediate relatives to mourn his death. Among those who attended the funeral was Godfrey Hallen of Marinette, brother of the widow. This large family circle have the sympathy of Phillips people in the loss of their beloved relative, who died not of any particular diseases, but who rather passed quietly from the scene of activity after spending a long and useful life."

### Editor's Note:

Henry Henningfeld was the oldest of six children. His parents were Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Bruggerman.

Elizabeth married John Herman Alberts eleven months after the death of her husband Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld. Johann Wilhelm died on 13 January 1849 just 15 months after arriving in the United States. The St. Sebastian's Catholic Church record indicates that Elizabeth died during childbirth on 28 February 1851 while giving birth to John Henry Alberts. Her son was baptized on April 15, 1851.

The second marriage of Elizabeth to John Herman Alberts was clearly out of necessity since Elizabeth was left with six children ranging in age from 17 years to one year.

In the 1850 US census of Racine County, Wisconsin, for Norway Township, Herman Alberts, age 39, is listed as head with Elizabeth Alberts, age 40, who is Elizabeth Bruggerman Henningfeld Alberts. Her children are listed as Henry Heningfelt (sic) (17), Elizabeth (14), William (10), Carle (7), Frederick (3) and Mena (1). All of the children were born in Germany except Mena who was born in Wisconsin.

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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.

Please feel free to copy this newsletter and pass it on to other members of your family.

## **2016 Heck Family Picnic 10<sup>th</sup> July**

It's time to mark your calendar for the annual Heck Family Picnic. The picnic actually started in 1948 and was held at Brown's Lake near Bur-

lington, Wisconsin. In 1949 the picnic was held at Mary and Bob Heck's house at 1306 Jones Avenue in Racine, Wisconsin and at Douglas Park, just down the street.

The Polio Epidemic put a stop to the family picnics for many years. There was so much fear of that dreaded disease that people avoided gathering in large groups especially during the summer months. Public swimming was shut down and many of the public beaches were closed. The first polio vaccine was the inactivated polio vaccine. It was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk and came into use in 1955. That put an end to the epidemic.

In 1962 the Heck Family Picnic's resumed at Lincoln Field in Racine. Eventually it was moved to the Wind Point lighthouse just north of Racine. The picnic activities were expanded to include a golf outing at Shoop's Park near Wind Point with a kick-off breakfast at Hamzie's Restaurant on Douglas Avenue. More recently, the picnic has been held at the Leisure Center near Wind Point. The golf outing is still a central activity as is swimming in the outdoor pool at the Leisure Center.

Originally the Heck Picnic was for descendants of Henry Heck (1839-1920) and Mary Ann McNulty (1844-1912) and included family members from Burlington, Waterford, and Racine. Today the picnic is for descendants of Robert Steven Heck (1879-1923) and Margaret Henningfeld (1880-1963).

For more information about the Heck Family Picnic you can contact Cel Heck at (262) 639-5370 or **cecelias@wi.rr.com** . For information about the golf outing you can contact Don Heck at (262) 639-2124 or **dgheck@sbcglobal.net** .

## **Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, July 10, 2016.**

## Thank You to our Contributors.

I would like to thank all of you for your help in keeping this newsletter alive and well. This issue is number 92. That may not mean much to some people but it means that this newsletter has been published and distributed to 60 family members every three months for the past 276 months or the past 23 years. We have never missed an issue.

The newsletter was actually started when I was asked 23 years ago to give a talk on how to create a family history newsletter. The group that asked was the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group, which is a computer genealogy group that I helped form. I told the Group leader that I had never written a newsletter, and she said that I should create one and talk about what I thought should be in it.

I wrote the first newsletter and included a picture of my great-grandfather, Henry Heck in his Civil War uniform on the first page. After I gave my talk I had extra copies of that first issue so I decided to send them to my brothers, cousins, aunts and uncles, and to my parents. I got so many favorable comments and words of encouragement to keep writing the newsletter that I just had to continue.

Our contributors for 2014-2015 include: **Frank and Andrea Lamping, Bob and Gloria Heck, Gary and Carol Heck, Alvin and Carolyn Heck, Rebecca and Brian Wright, Don Johnson, Sue and Jeff Miller, Don and Sharon Heck, Ralph Heck, Howard and Anne Heck, Joanne Pfeiffer, Richard and Jean Koenen, Pat Merritt, Steve and Cara Pfeiffer, Shirley Heck, Lorraine Heck, Rick Heck, Jim and Karen Heck, Sherry Heck, Cel Heck, Barbara and David Schneider, and Ellen and Bill Stiner.**

**Thank you for keeping our family history alive through this newsletter.**

## From the Photo Album...



*5th Grade Boys*



The photos above were taken in 1951 at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School in Racine, Wisconsin. Your editor is at far right on the top photo. Judging from the expressions on the faces of the boys they were not happy about the event.



Post card from the Village of Rhynern, near Hamm, Westfalen, Germany. The Catholic church is shown at center and is the place where most of our Guthoff and Stratman ancestors were christened, married and buried. Our family was living in Rhynern and in the smaller neighboring villages as early as the late 1600's.

## Photo clips from 8mm Home Movie Films



Robert Gerald Heck with his son, Robert John Heck 1942.



The photo at left was taken at the 1948 Heck picnic at Brown's Lake showing Delores Heck.



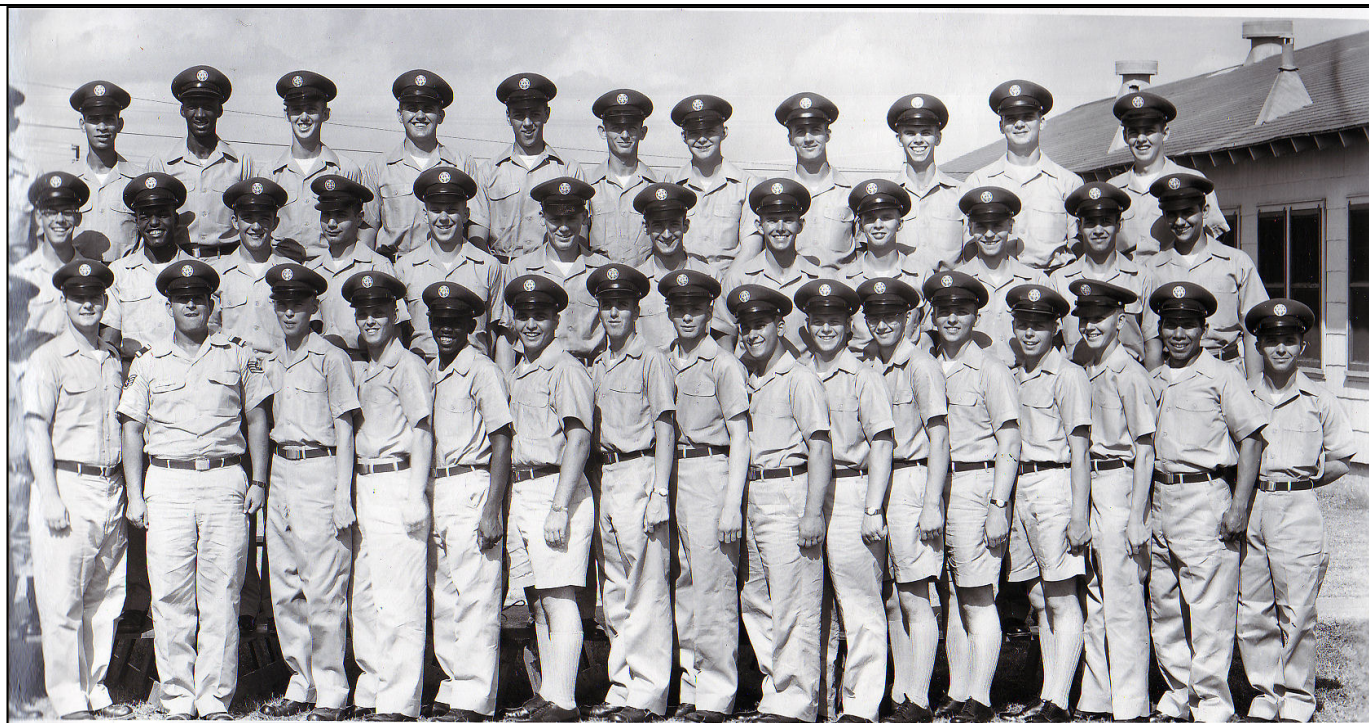
Stella and Alvin Heck in Racine, Wisconsin.



Margaret, Fanny, and Clarence Heck at the Cave of the Mounds taken in about 1946.



Margaret and Fanny Heck at the 1949 Heck picnic in Racine, Wisconsin.



This photo was taken in August 1958 at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. Can you find Bob Heck in it? I'm located in the center row, sixth person from the right. This was Basic Training Flight 590, USAF Squadron 3724.

## From the Newspapers....

Racine Journal Times, Thursday, 29 March 1960

### Susan Bark

"Joining brothers Edward, James, Allen, and Gregory is a new sister, Susan Marie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bark, 1216 Schiller St. The infant was born February 7<sup>th</sup> to the former Bernice M. Heck. Sponsors for the baby at baptismal services at St. Rose's Church were Mary Vilagi and Alvin Heck Jr. Grandparents are Mrs. Margaret Heck and Mrs. Agatha Bark."

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Racine Daily Journal, Monday, 12 March 1900, page 1.

### BURGESS

"Benjamin Burgess, one of the oldest residents of Racine County, died at his home near Kansasville yesterday, aged 87 years. Mr. Burgess set-

tled on the farm where he died in 1844, and has lived there continuously ever since. He leaves several children to mourn his death. The funeral will take place Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock from the home."

Editor's Note: This Benjamin Burgess was the oldest son of Benjamin Burgess Sr. and Rebecca Chase. The family arrived in Wisconsin in 1835.

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Oshkosh-Democrat, 31 October 1851

### Peter McNulty

"Information is wanted of Peter McNulty, who was last seen at Johnson's Tavern, Johnstown Center, on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April last, on his way to Janesville. Address William Kemp, Janesville."

Editor's Note: Could this possibly be our Peter McNulty, husband of Patience Burgess?

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Racine Journal Times, 27 June 1946

### Michael Brott

"Mrs. Margaret Heck, of 11224 Blake Ave., received word today that her brother-in-law, Michael Brott, 78, died last Tuesday at his home in Seattle, Washington."