

Our Family News Letter

Issue 93

Greendale, Wisconsin

June 2016

FamilySearch.org

Use FamilySearch.org to research your family history.

There is a FREE web site on the Internet that contains millions of documents and records of our ancestors. I will walk you through an example of what you might find on the site.

I'll use my maternal grandfather, John Mikel, as an example. John Mikel was born in what is known today as the Moravian State in the Czech Republic in 1883. He was married there in 1907 and emigrated to Racine, Wisconsin in 1912. His wife and two children followed in 1914. With that as background information I want to start a search at:

<http://familysearch.org>

After entering the web site click on "SEARCH" and scroll down to "Browse all published collections" and click on it.

On the left side of the screen click on "United States (1001)" and wait for the States to appear. Scroll down to "Wisconsin (29)" and a list of 29 databases will appear.

Some of the more interesting databases for Wisconsin include Birth, and Death Index from 1820-1907, Marriage Record Information from 1836-1930 and from 1973-1997, Wisconsin State Census for 1855, 1865, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905, and **Wisconsin County Naturalization Records 1807-1992**. If you click on the "Wisconsin County Naturalization Records 1807-1992" you will be able to browse through 1,135,393 images sorted by County.

I selected **Racine County** for my search. There you will find "Declarations of Intention" often referred to as the 1st papers, "Petitions for Naturalization" referred to as the 2nd papers, "Petition evidence", and finally a combination of "Petitions for Naturalization and Petition evidence"

I started with a search in "Petition evidence 1904-1962 M" which listed names starting with the letter M sorted in alphabetical order. Following is the record found for John Mikel.

No. of certificate 1745828 28
Name John Mikel
Age 38 years
Declaration of intention No. 2078
issued by Clerk of Circuit
Court of Racine County.
on the
18 day of June, A.D. 1915
Petition No. 27 No. 2087
Order signed on the 26 day of
Sept. A.D. 1912
Name, age and place of residence of wife:
Names, ages and places of residence of minor children:
Gottlieb, 11 yr. Racine
Mary, 9 " "
Lydia, 11 mo. " "
Lillian, 11 mo. " "
John Mikel
(Signature of holder)
Old certificate No. 1745828
3087

This one little card contains a lot of information about John Mikel's efforts to become a citizen of the United States. The card shows that John Mikel was 38 years old when he signed the document on 26 September 1922. It gives his "Declaration of Intention" document number as 2078 through the Circuit Court in Racine County, Wisconsin. It gives his "Petition for Naturalization" document number as 3087 contained in volume 27 dated 18 June 1915. It gives the "Certificate of Naturalization" number 1745828 which is the proof of citizenship in the United States. And finally, that simple card lists the names of his four children, their ages and where they are living in 1922. The children were Gottlieb age 11 years, Mary (my mother) age 9 years, Lydia 11 months and Tillie 11 months all living in Racine.

The next step is to search for the 1st papers or the Declaration of Intention number 2078 from 18 June 1915. Click on "Declarations of Intention 1914-1915 volume 16, number 1801-2100". Document 2078 should be in that volume. Attached to the 1st papers is a small card from the US Department of Labor Immigration Service.

N. Y. Form 226. CERTIFICATE OF ARRIVAL—FOR NATURALIZATION PURPOSES
(For use of aliens arriving in United States after June 29, 1906. To be issued immediately prior to petitioning for naturalization.)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE
OFFICE OF
COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION
ELLIS ISLAND, N. Y., Jan 21, 1922

This is to certify that the following-named alien arrived at the port indicated, on the date and in the manner described below, viz:

Name of alien: Mikel, Jan
Port of entry: New York, N. Y.
Date of arrival: Mar 19, 12
Name of vessel: George Washington
For the Commissioner: A. F. Sherman, Chief Clerk

While the card is small, it contains some key information about John Mikel. His name was shown as Jan Mikel, which is the Czech version of John. It shows that he arrived at Ellis Island, New York on 19 May 1912 and that he arrived on board the ship George Washington.

The Declaration of Intention document 2078 shows the physical characteristics of John Mikel and it gives his date of birth as 14 November 1883 and that he was born at Uh Brod, Moravia, Austria. That place of birth today is Uhersky

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Department of Commerce and Labor
NATURALIZATION SERVICE
ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Wisconsin, Racine County, ss: In the Circuit Court of Racine County.

I, John Mikel, aged 31 years, occupation Laborer, do declare on oath that my personal description is: Color white, complexion dark, height 5 feet 3 inches, weight 135 pounds, color of hair black, color of eyes brown, other visible distinctive marks none.

I was born in Uh Brod, Moravia, Austria on the 14th day of November, anno Domini 1883; I now reside at 1821 Marquette St, Racine, Wisconsin.

I emigrated to the United States of America from Bremen, Germany on the vessel George Washington; my last foreign residence was Uh Brod, Moravia, Austria.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and Apostolic King of Hungary, of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of New York, in the State of New York, on or about the 18th day of March, anno Domini 1911; I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein; SO HELP ME GOD.

John Mikel (Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of June, anno Domini 1915.

[SEAL.] Clerk of the Circuit Court.
By John L. Plythe, Deputy, Clerk.

Brod, Moravia, Czech Republic. The reason that Austria is shown as the country is because that part of Europe was known as the Austrian-Hungary Empire. Also shown on the document is his current address of 1821 Marquette Street, Racine, Wisconsin, his last place of residence in Moravia as Uh Brod. It incorrectly states that he arrived in New York on 18 March 1911 rather than 1912. It shows that he left Europe from the port of Bremen, Germany and that he renounces any allegiance to Francis Joseph, Emperor of Austria and Apostolic King of Hungary.

The next step is to find the "Petition for Naturalization" which can be found in Volume 27 as document number 3087. Click on "Petitions for Naturalization and petition evidence 1921-1922, volume 27, number 2961-3210". The Petition for Naturalization gives much of the same information from the other documents but it includes the place of birth of the children.

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.



The Story Behind the Pictures

For as long as I can remember these two pictures of my grandparents, John Mikel and Anna Pastyrik Mikel, hung on the wall in their dining room overlooking the dining room table.

They saw hundreds of family meals on all of the special days that were celebrated in the dining room. Christmas, Easter, birthdays, visits from our Michigan cousins, and going away parties when we left for and returned from service to our country.

I never thought about those pictures that were hand colored. They were just always there.

One day, when I was in college, I stopped by to see Grandma and Grandpa. I walked along the side of the house and much to my surprise the two pictures, still in their frames, sat in a trash-can. I picked them out of the trash and took them into the house. I asked my Grandmother why they were being thrown out? She said, "Nobody wants those old pictures." I told her that I would really like to keep them and she said that I could have them. We sat down together and I asked if she could tell me a little about the pictures.

This is the story that she told me in her words.

Grandpa came to America in 1912, the same year that the Titanic sank on its trip to the United States. Times were difficult in the "Old Country" and many people were out of work. War was expected in Europe within a few years and people were afraid of what may be coming. We had heard of the many opportunities in America from friends and we knew that many people from our area of Uhersky Brod and Rudimov were looking to move to Racine, Wisconsin where a Czech community was being built.

Our plan was that Grandpa would travel to Racine and find a place to live and a place to work. I would stay home with my son Bohumil and would come to Racine in a year or so after he earned enough money to pay for our passage.

Grandpa left along with four other friends from Uhersky Brod and arrived in New York in May 1912. I didn't tell Grandpa that I was pregnant with your mother, Mary Ann Mikel, because I knew that he would not have left had he known. I waited until he had established himself in Racine and then told him that I was expecting.

In 1914 Grandpa sent for our two children, Bohumil and Mary Ann, and me. We traveled by train from Uhersky Brod, Moravia to Bremen, Germany and from there boarded the same ship, the George Washington, which Grandpa had sailed on in 1912. I was sick most of the trip and a woman from our area helped take care of my two children. I don't know what I would have done without her help.

After we arrived at Ellis Island we boarded a train, which took us to Racine, Wisconsin. Grandpa was there at the train station to greet us along with some friends. Our first meal together in Racine was at a friend's house and it consisted of hot dogs. I thought that people must be poor here if they have to eat dogs. We all had a good laugh when they told me that hot dog did not contain any dog.

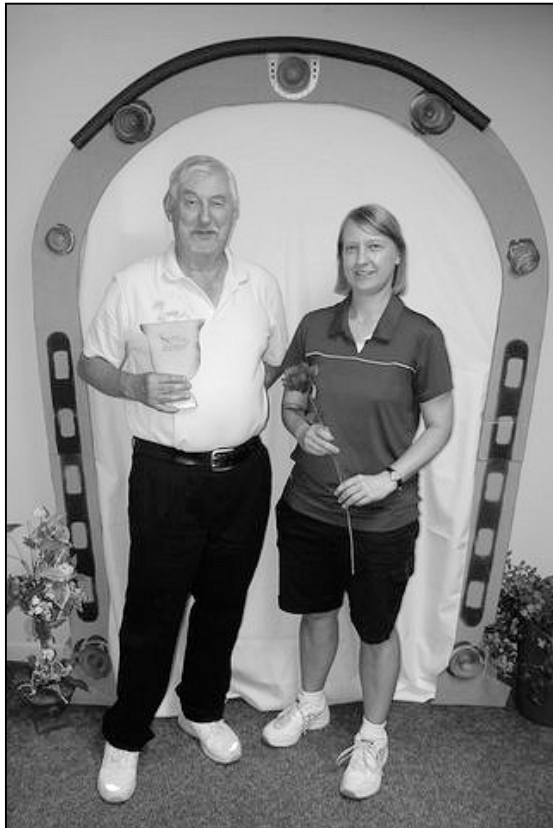
When Grandpa met us at the train station he had \$14 to his name. He said that he wanted to commemorate our starting a new life in this country by having portraits made of the two of us. I thought that \$14 must be a lot of money and that we should save it instead. He insisted that we have the portraits made and they hung in our dining room until now.

She asked me what I would do with the pictures and I told her that someday they would hang in my house. Today those two pictures hang in our recreation room overlooking the computer that I am using to write this story.

Gloria had the two brass nametags engraved and they state John Mikel 1883-1974 and Anna Mikel 1887-1972.

My Grandmother was a simple person and used simple words and phrases so some of the words that I used in this article may have been a little different from her exact words but they carried the same meaning.

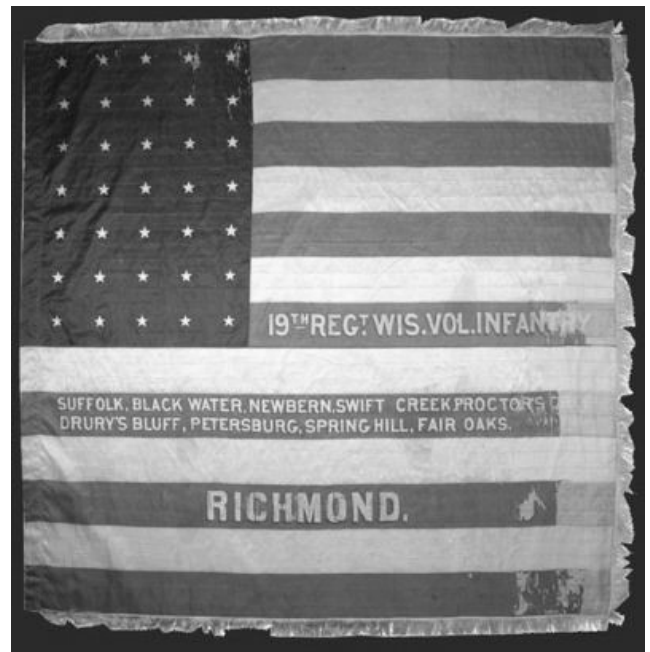
From The Photo Album



My brother, Gary Heck with his youngest daughter, Lee Heck attending the Chickasaw, South Carolina Kentucky Derby Days.

Lee is the only woman not wearing a wide rimmed hat or any hat for that matter. Gary, on the other hand, appears to be sporting a white Colonel Sanders beard in the early stages of growth. I'm not sure if Gary is holding an oversized mint julep or if he is holding a vase for Lee's red rose.

Thanks Gary for sharing these photos with us.



This is a photo of the Regimental flag of the 19th Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry in which Henry Heck served during the Civil War. The battles are noted in the red stripes of the flag. They in-

clude Suffolk, Black Water, Newbern, Swift Creek, Proctor's Creek, Drury's Bluff, Petersburg, Spring Hill, Fair Oaks, and Richmond.

On February 11, 1862 Henry Heck enlisted into Company K, 19th Regiment of Wisconsin. He was later assigned to Company F of the same Regiment. Henry fought in many areas of the South during the war and was wounded in the left leg at the Battle of Drury's Bluff, Virginia on May 16, 1864. A musket ball that entered his leg four inches above his ankle hit the bone and deflected downward. The ball exited through his heel. He returned to duty on October 12, 1864 and was finally mustered out of the Army on April 29, 1865 at Madison, Wisconsin.



The battle flag above is from the 19th Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry and shows the Seal of Wisconsin in the center.

These flags are in a collection of Wisconsin unit flags kept at the Military Museum at Madison, Wisconsin.

The newspaper article at right from the Racine Journal in 1864 shows the losses in the 19th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers from the 13th day of May 1864, to the 20th of July 1864. Henry Heck is listed under Company F. His name is gray highlighted.

Losses in the 19th Regiment.

List of casualties in the 19th Regiment Wisconsin Volunteers, from the 13th day of May 1864, to the 20th of July 1864.

Company A.—N. W. Pitts, wound in shoulder; J. C. Fosnot, leg; George Fosnot, leg; H. C. Feegles, abdomen, lung and thigh; J. H. Steel, left leg; Jean Thorn, right shoulder; John Fosnot, contused in groin; A. C. Tuttle, right leg; Charles Day, knee amputated; W. T. Reynolds, lung; B. S. Pitts, missing; J. Malow, left temple; Sylvester Searles, head killed; W. W. Holton, neck; E. Haines, thorax; Louis Cahoon, scalp.

Company B.—Ira Munroe, right thigh; I. T. Underwood, right thigh; Peter Thompson, hand; Robert Pulver, leg.

Company C.—George Johnson, wounded through pelvis; M. Stevens, right thigh; Jasper Potter, left leg; E. Ross, right shoulder; William Davis, hand; Henry B. Nichols, right leg; Melvin Gates, thigh; William Kerrigan, right arm.

Company D.—S. Richmond, killed; Charles Church, wounded, left side; Albert Waldrof, killed.

Company E.—Robert Sawyer, wounded right leg; M. Dermott, killed; Amasa Coffrine, killed; Wm. Oekler, wounded, abdomen; Thomas Taylor, head; Daniel Bylew, arm and side; Thomas Elliott, head; Jacob Kippers, left arm.

Company F.—F Steine, wounded, right lung; S. Kohn, left hand; Henry Heck, leg; J. Seiberlick, right leg; F. Neumann, thigh; John Wendt, leg; G. Gebaur, scalp; G. W. Neumann, side.

Company G.—A. Brooks, wounded, head; J. Guyer, right thigh; E. D. Bullis, neck; John S. Harris, right arm.

Company H.—William Bricknell, wounded, right arm.

Company I.—Samuel Osmond, wounded, head. Aaron Shockley, right leg.

Company K.—Alvencor E. Velie wounded, head; Silas C. Seaman, accidental.

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, July 10, 2016 for the annual Heck Picnic.

The Heck Family picnic will be held at the Leisure Center near Wind Point on Sunday, July 10, 2016. The golf outing at Shoop's Park 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 mostly attended by descendants of Robert Steven Heck (1879-1923) and Margaret Henningfeld (1880-1963), however any relatives are invited.

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 .

Irish Church Records Now On-Line....

For those of you who have Irish ancestors there is some really good news. The National Archives in Ireland has released Irish Church records and placed them on-line for free.

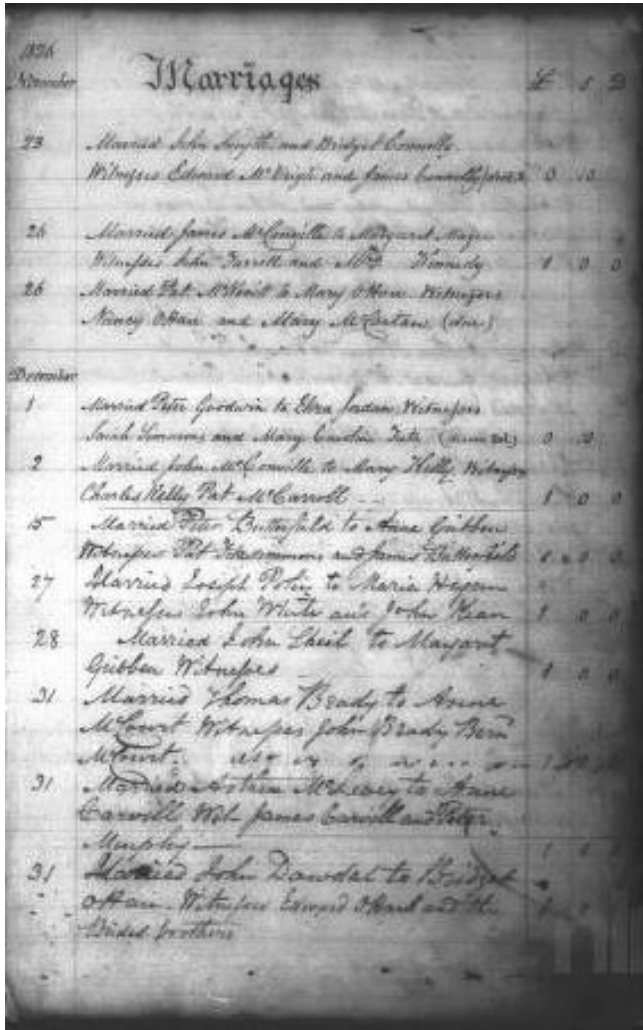
Here is the web address:

<http://registers.nli.ie/>

When you enter the web site you will see a map of Ireland showing the four Provinces: Ulster, Connacht, Leinster and Munster. If you click on **Ulster** you will see the Counties within the Province. Click on **County Down** and you will see the Dioceses. Click on **Clonallon** and a box will pop up. Click on **Clonallon** in the box and you will see the microfilm for **Warrenpoint**.



Warrenpoint is the port from which Peter McNulty sailed when he left Ireland for Boston on 10 April 1834.



This is the type of church record that you will find. If any of you happen to find Peter McNulty please let me know. I have been searching for him for 45 years.



Congratulations to PJ and Michael Henderson on the birth of their third son, Weston Henderson, born on 15 April 2016 at Williamston, South Carolina. PJ is the daughter of Cindy (Heck) Landrum and granddaughter of Gary and Carol Heck. By the way, PJ stands for Pamela Joan.

It looks like Weston is sure to become a baseball player.

From the Newspapers

Racine Journal News, January 26, 1914:

Briefs From Burlington

"Mr. And Mrs. George Henningfeld came out from Racine to attend the Fireman's Mask Ball and incidentally carry off a prize."

The Waterford Post, October 29, 1915:

Henningfeld – Roberts

"What is described as a very pretty wedding occurred at St. Thomas Catholic Church on Wednesday morning when Mr. John D. Roberts of Racine, and Miss Winifred Henningfeld of Waterford, plighted their troth, Rev. J.P. Pierron officiating. The best man was Raymond Kelly of Racine, the maid of honor, Miss Josie Rambo, and the bridesmaid, Miss Kathryn Henningfeld, both of Waterford. After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served for the bridal party at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Henningfeld."

"The above happy affair was the culmination of an interesting romance when the groom in the pursuit of his duties as a newspaper writer for the Racine Journal – News visited Waterford and fell in love with one of our pretty girls. He is a bright, capable young man and his fair young bride is every way worthy of the man of her choice. The Post offers its very best congratulations."
