

letter since I just wanted to gauge the reaction to it. Much to my surprise the feedback was excellent. That first issue was sent to about 20 people. This issue 100 is being sent to 60 people.

On the previous page you can see the front page of Issue 1, dated June 1993.

Heck Family Lands In America In May, 1852

Wisconsin had a large established settlement of Germans in Racine and Kenosha County. In particular the area around Brighton in Kenosha County had a large collection of people from the Alendorf area. Many of the families came over in large groups and formed extensions of their old homeland. Customs were maintained and the German language was preserved.

Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer had five children born at Alendorf. Peter, the oldest, was born on November 5, 1834; Anna Lucia was born on December 24, 1836; Heinrich was born on February 11, 1839; Joseph was born on February 17, 1841; and Clara the youngest was born on July 19, 1843.

France, under the rule of Napoleon, took control of Western Germany in wars with the Netherlands and Prussia. With the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, part of the Rhineland, the state in which Alendorf was located, was made part of Prussia. An agricultural depression gripped the country in the 1840's and there were many peasant uprisings in the rural areas. There was a social revolution in most West European countries in 1848. Initiated by the French Revolution, many of the people developed a desire for democratic rule and individual liberty.

Europe also was faced with a widespread crop failure in the late 1840's, overpopulation and a lack of work. This, coupled with the economic stress and failure of the 1848 revolution, led to the widespread immigration to America.

For whatever reason, Johann and Anna Barbara decided in 1852 to start a new life in America. No doubt they were lured by the glowing reports from friends and relatives in Wisconsin. The thought of rich land at \$1.25 an acre was hard to believe. The men of the village gathered at the local Gasthaus and shared letters from America over a stein of beer. They dreamed of the opportunities ahead of them and made their plans.

We will never know what was in their minds that spring day of 1852 as they bundled their five children and what few possessions they could carry and started their journey to the port of embarkation. It must have been difficult to say goodbye for the last time to their friends and relatives and start the slow ascent up the slight rise out of town past their church at the edge of Alendorf. They probably looked back once more with sadness as the road turned to the right, and all they could see of their home as they rode along a ridge was Calvary Hill and the crucifix silhouetted against the sky.

No doubt Johann and Anna Barbara stopped at the foot of the crucifix and said a silent prayer for a safe journey to America. They probably hugged each other surrounded by their children and turned away for the last time. A new life and a new world was before them.

The road soon took them through the villages of Ripsdorf and Dollendorf. As they passed the City Hall, they must have remembered their

Most immigrants were in their early 20's when they came to America, however Johann and Anna Barbara were old in comparison. Johann was 41 and Anna Barbara was 51. Peter was 17, Anna Lucia was 15, Henry was 13, Joseph was 11 and Clara was eight years old.



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The image above is also from Issue 1 and gives some history of the Heck family landing in America in May 1852. In reality the family actually arrived in May 1853. The 1852 date came from the Civil War pension record of Henry Heck, my great grandfather. Henry was only 14 years old when he arrived in New York with his parents, thus it is easy to understand his error.

During the past 25 years we have done some neat things such as placing a tombstone on the unmarked graves of Peter McNulty (1806-1880's) in Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin and Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck (1801-1855) in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. It took quite a bit of research in both cases to find the exact location of the burial places for my great-great-grandparents.

Our Family News Letter

Issue 89 Greendale, Wisconsin June 2015



Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck Tombstone Project Completed

Thanks to the contributions from our many readers we were finally able to complete the tombstone project that we started in 2013. It all began when we discovered the burial place of Peter McNulty at the Saint Mary's Church cemetery in Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin. In August 2013, I had asked the Sextant responsible for the cemetery if he could help us locate the exact burial place of Peter McNulty. From the church records we knew that he was buried in an unmarked lot identified as lot four of the Thomas Morrow lot. My brother, Gary Heck, was actually the first person to find the burial location documented in the church sacramental records. Gary was a member of the parish and had access to the records.

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.



When we got to the cemetery at Dover, we were surprised to find that the burial place for Peter McNulty was marked with four little orange marker flags similar to those used by utilities to mark the location of buried power lines. The four of us talked about how sad it was that there

Shown above is page one of Issue 89, for June 2015. Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck is buried next to Patience Burgess McNulty (1820-1894) my other great-great-grandmother.

In the process of writing Our Family News Letter I researched techniques for producing photo clips from 8mm movies. After a great deal of trial and error I learned how to capture those photo clips so that I could include many of them in the newsletter.

My parents purchased an 8mm movie camera in 1940 and took over 14,000 feet of movies over the years. Captured on those old movies were images of our family, family events, and places where they lived.

I remember at the time how much we hated having to go outside to pose with visiting relatives for movies. It seemed to take forever and we were always told not to move. Today I am thankful for those old time movies and the precious images that they hold.



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 1600s.

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.

The image above is from Issue 92 from March 2016, page 7 showing photo clips taken from 8mm movies.

Our Family News Letter On-Line.

Thanks to my son, Bill Heck, 100 issues of Our Family News Letter are now available to you on-line and for free. They are available to you at the following web address:

<http://ourfamilynewsletter.com/>

Just go to the web address shown above and select a year and then an issue. There are four issues per year starting in 1993. Each issue is usually eight pages in length and in PDF format. That's 800 pages of our family history!

You should feel free to share the web address and the newsletters with other members of your family. If we don't share our family history,

someday there won't be anyone around to tell our story.

“What The HECK” Facebook Group

Chery Ann Heck, my first cousin, once removed, and I belong to the MPAFUG (Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group) which is a computer-genealogy group with 500 members in 22 States and 3 foreign countries. I am the Director of the group and Cheryl is a member.

While doing some research I stumbled onto an article about genealogy research in the social media. I knew a little about social media sites but I knew that Cheryl used Facebook a lot and would be great at giving a presentation on the subject.

Kicking and screaming a little she finally agreed to put together a presentation on the subject and present it at our March 2018 meeting. She asked for my help in assembling the Power Point slide show, and I agreed.

Cheryl started her research and soon discovered that what was needed was a Facebook Group that was open to our family members. It would be a place for family members to share stories, photos, videos and audio clips. The idea was to create a Facebook Group dedicated to our family history and genealogy.

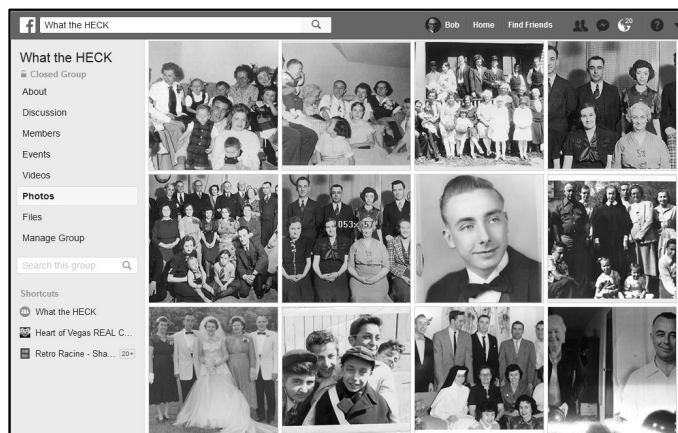
Cheryl started the Group on 22 January 2018 and was the Administrator. I became a member that same day. She asked me to be a Co- Administrator on 8 February. The Group, known as, “What The HECK”, has 43 members as of 18 February.

If you are interested in joining the Group log into Facebook and search for “What The HECK”. You can then request to join the Group.

What will you find on “What The HECK”?

PHOTOS

You will find a lot of old photos of our family along with a description of the event and the people in the photo.



Shown above are a few of the pictures that you will find. More are being added all the time. Members of the Group are encouraged to post some of their historic photos from their photo albums.

AUDIO/VIDEO INTERVIEWS

You will find audio/video slide shows that we put together and posted for our family. This requires a little bit more of an explanation.

I had interviewed my mother and dad many years ago and recorded the interview on an analog tape recorder. Cheryl interviewed her grandmother, Frances Pier Heck, her dad and all of his siblings. She also used an analog tape recorder for her grandmother's interview. Her interviews of all the others were done with a digital recorder. Each interview is about an hour long. I digitized the analog interviews and am now in the process of creating a slide show with pictures with the interview as the sound track.

Our intent is to post all of the slide show interviews on the “What The HECK” Facebook Group.

As of 18 February 2018 we have interviews posted for Robert G. Heck, Frances Pier Heck, Richard Heck, and Robert Jerome Heck. Robert G. Heck is my father and Robert Jerome Heck is Cheryl's father.

VIDEOS

Under Videos you will find some home movies that were taken in the 1940's using 8mm film. I digitized the films and added some background music. Several have been posted.

The videos include Clarence and Frances Heck kissing on a cold winter day, Gary Heck learning to roller skate with a pillow tied to his butt, and the Clarence Heck children.



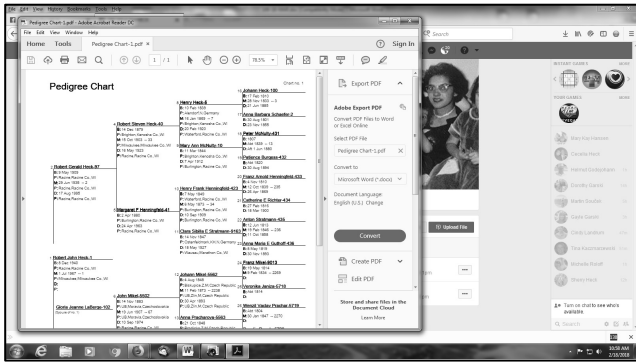
Shown above are a few of the interviews and video movies.

FAMILY HISTORY

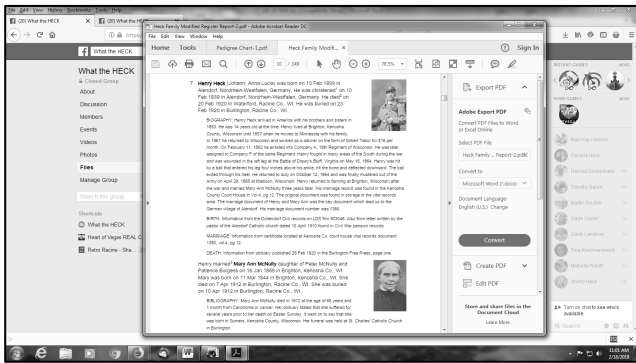
The Heck Family Modified Register Report is 149 pages long and in PDF format. It contains the descendants of Anna Lucia Heck born in 1778, and goes forward to the present time showing most of her descendants. This is an early history of our Heck family from Alendorf, Germany. It contains many photos and documents. Anna Lucia Heck was my great-great-great-grandmother, and Cheryl's great-great-great-grandmother.

Also included in our family history is a five generation pedigree chart.

The Heck Family Modified Register Report and the five generation pedigree chart can be found under Files on the Group page.



Shown above is the pedigree chart



Shown above is a page from the 149 page Modified Register Report.

From the Newspapers...



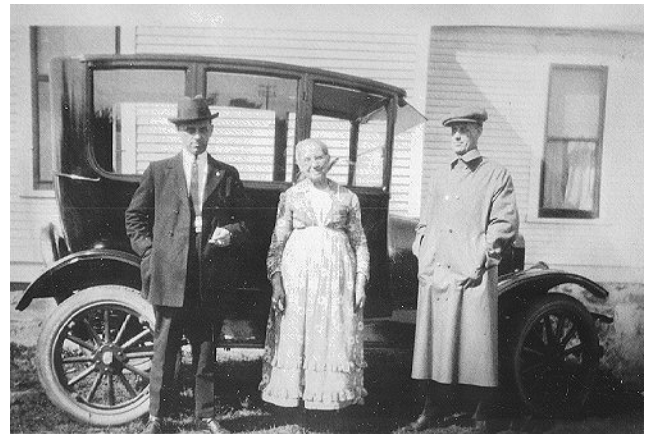
Editor's Note: Sylvester Henningfeld is shown at lower left. He and his twin brother, Carlos, were conductors on Milwaukee Street Cars starting in 1899. Sylvester and Carlos were brothers of Margaret F. Henningfeld Heck.

Bus Transportation News, July 1922, Volume 1, Issue 7.

“EXECUTIVE APPOINTED: Sylvester Henningfeld will have charge of Bus Operations of the Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company.”

“Mr. Henningfeld has been appointed superintendent of bus operation in which capacity he will supervise the operation of the various motor bus lines of the company.”

“Mr. Henningfeld, though still a young man, has been identified with the transportation department of the company for twenty-three years, entering the service as conductor on the Wells Street line. He was later made station clerk, then was instructor of conductors, then supervisor of various city lines, then night supervisor and dispatcher. Mr. Henningfeld’s promotion represents years of faithful, conscientious and intelligent work. He has been actively identified with the Employees’ Mutual Benefit Association of the company, serving for two years as director and for two years as a member of its executive committee.”



Sylvester and Carlos Henningfeld visiting their mother, Clara Stratmann Henningfeld.

118. PHINEAS^s CHASE (*Phineas,^s Abraham,^s William,^s William¹*), of White Creek, Washington Co., N. Y., born about 1725, died in 1796. He married REBECCA MOSHER. He was living at Quaker Hill, Dutchess Co., N. Y., in 1771.

Children:

- i. MARGARET,^s b. 5 July 1758; m. 3 Apr. 1773 AMOS FISHER.
- ii. RACHEL, m. COMFORT CURTIS.
- iii. MORDECAI, m. as early as 1790 PATIENCE JOHNSON, who survived him and m. (2) his brother, Elihu Chase of White Creek (118, v), *q. v.*
Children:
1. Sylvia,^s b. 4 June 1791; m. in 1809 Nathan Pierce.
2. Nehemiah, b. 4 Nov. 1792.
3. Rebecca.
4. Anna.
- iv. NEHEMIAH, of Gayland, Wayne Co., N. Y., b. probably at White Creek, 9 July 1767; d. at Galena, N. Y., 22 Aug. or 22 Sept. 1829; m. before 1790 MARY WOODWARD, b. 4 July 1768, d. 15 Sept. 1841.
Children:
1. Mercy,^s b. 26 Jan. 1790; m. Daniel Hunt.
2. Phebe, b. 7 Mar. 1792; m. Peter White.
3. David,^s b. 11 Mar. 1794.
4. Wilcox, b. 23 Sept. 1795.
5. Mordecai, b. 23 Sept. 1797.
6. James, d. young.
7. Mary, b. 12 Dec. 1802; m. Rufus Staunton.
8. Nehemiah, b. 26 Feb. 1804.
9. John, b. 17 July 1807.
10. Archibald, b. 11 Feb. 1811.
11. Rebecca, b. 13 Sept. 1813; m. 12 Jan. 1834 John Staunton.
- v. ELIHU, b. probably at White Creek; d. there; m. after 1795 PATIENCE (JOHNSON) CHASE, widow of his brother, Mordecai Chase (118, iii), *q. v.*
Children:
1. Joel,^s 3. Ann, 5. Ureilla.
2. David, 4. Mary.
- vi. ANNA, m. JAMES HUNT.
- vii. HENRY, b. in 1774; m. in 1802 CATHARINE ANNIS.
Children:
1. Lucy,^s b. in 1804; m. — Whitaker of Marshall, Clark Co., Ill.
2. Amarilla, b. in 1806; m. — Slade.

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Phineas Chase Jr. Served in the Revolutionary War.

My 5th Great Grandfather (Great-great-great-great-great-grandfather) Phineas Chase Jr. served as an enlisted man in the 16th Regiment from Albany County, New York Militia, under Colonel John Blair.

MRS. ANNA WILLIAMS HEPLER LESLIE.

59236

Born in Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

Descendant of Phineas Chase.

Daughter of Charles Boyd Hepler and Mary Millard Wright, his wife.

Granddaughter of William Henry Wright and Eliza Chase, his wife.

Gr-granddaughter of Nehemiah Chase and Mary Scobey, his wife.

Gr-gr-granddaughter of Mordecai Chase and Patience Johnson, his wife.

Gr-gr-gr-granddaughter of Phineas Chase and Rebecca Mosher, his wife.

Phineas Chase (1756-1826) enlisted in the 16th regiment of Albany

County, New York militia, under Col. John Blair. He was born in Dutchess County; died in White Creek, N. Y.

Also No. 54707.

The document above is a DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) issued publication showing the connection to Phineas Chase Junior and listing the regiment in which he served.

Mordecai Chase and Patience Johnson were the parents of Rebecca Chase, first wife of Benjamin Burgess. Rebecca and Benjamin had Patience

Burgess who married Peter McNulty. Patience and Peter had Mary Ann McNulty, wife of Henry Heck.

Did you know that the Heck family has been in the United States since 1853?

Did you know that the Henningfeld family has been in Wisconsin since 1845?

Did you know that the Burgess family has been in America since 1637?

From the Photo Album...



Richard Heck on right in Korea.



L-R Back: Delores, Frances, Shirley, and Margaret Heck.

L-R Front: Donna and Mary Kay Heck.



L-R: Clarence (Junior), Eugene, Frances, and Clarence Heck.



This picture is from the wedding reception of Richard and Cel Heck on 24 April 1954.



The picture at lower left shows Richard and Cel Heck with their parents. Richard's parents are on the left and Cel's parents are on the right.



L-R Front: Eugene, Mary Kay, Donna, and Clarence Heck Junior.

L-R Middle: Mrs. Pier, Delores, and Shirley Heck.

L-R Back: Frances, Larry and Clarence Heck.



Robert Jerome Heck is at center with the safety guard strap over his right shoulder. Others in the photo are Robert's classmates.

These photos were from a collection from Cheryl Ann Heck. If you would like to see your family photos in this newsletter or on the "What The HECK" Group page on Facebook please send a copy to Cheryl at

[http://whatdahek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whatdahek@sbcglobal.net).



The photo above was sent in by Alvin and Carolyn Heck from 920 West Midland Avenue, Woodland Park, CO 80863.

On the back of the photo Alvin wrote, "Just finished servicing truck 1, 11 more to go."

In a note Alvin said, "After my long illness, I'm finally back to volunteering at our local fire station: Northeast Tiller County District. I am sending along a picture of me and my hard work. I also joined the Knights of Columbus at our church. I have been helping them with their activities. I have been keeping busy. Take care and I hope you are all well."

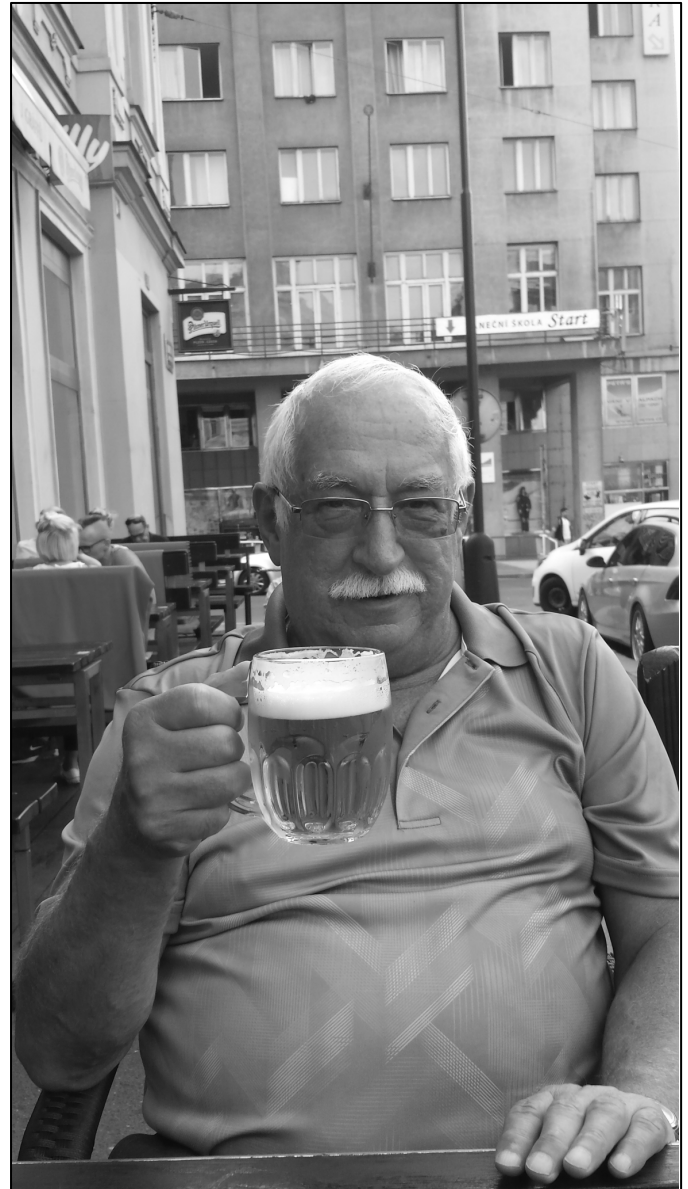
Thanks Alvin. That is a lot of washing to do. It is great to see you around and about.

Thanks to our contributors...

My deepest thanks go to all of our readers but especially to those who are the contributors who help keep this newsletter going with their generous donations and pictures. This list is for the period December 2017 to March 2018.

Lorraine Heck
Ellen and Bill Stiner
Frank and Andrea Lamping
Alvin and Carolyn Heck

Contributions to keep Our Family News Letter going are always welcomed and can be sent to:
**Robert J Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive,
Greendale, WI 53129.**



Your Editor, Robert J. Heck, enjoying a cold Pilsner beer at a sidewalk café in Prague, Czech Republic, in August, 2017. Below is a plate full of Moravian kolaches.

