

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 101

Greendale, Wisconsin

June 2018

## “What The Heck” Facebook Group Page is Growing

In the March, 2018 issue number 100 of Our Family News Letter we announced the formation of the Heck family group page on Facebook. Cheryl Heck 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”, had 43 members as of 18 February 2018. On 1 May 2018 we reached a membership level of 79. The 79 members are either descendants of Robert Steven Heck and Margaret Frederica Henningfeld, or their spouse is a descendant or in at least in one case a member is dating a descendant.

The children of Robert Steven Heck that reached adulthood include:

Clarence H. Heck & Frances E. Pier  
Robert G. Heck & Mary A. Mikel  
Alvin J. Heck & Stella E. Celmerowski  
Bernice M. Heck & Edward J. Bark

Cheryl and I would like to expand the membership by making it open for descendants of Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty. That would allow the Waterford and Burlington Hecks to join the group.

The children of Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty that reached adulthood include:  
James H. Heck & Wilhelmina C. Hoernemann  
Mary A. Heck & Gustav Grostuck  
John P. Heck & Anna Ketterhagen  
Mathias Heck & Alwina Duman & Eliz. Gross  
Elizabeth A. Heck & Alfred Plucker

Robert S. Heck & Margaret F. Henningfeld  
Eva C. Heck (Not married)  
Laurence P. Heck & Elvia S. Hart

Eventually we would like to open the group to include the descendants of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer and Susannah Sebenbrunner Zeren. That would add the Minnesota Heck family members.

The children of Johann Heck that reached adulthood include:

Peter Heck & Margaret Zeren  
Anna Lucia Heck & Leonard Boor  
Henry Heck & Mary Ann McNulty  
Joseph Heck & Josephine Stuetz  
Clara Heck & Vincent Brunner  
Lucia Heck & William Dorn  
Josiah Heck & Elizabeth Giefer & Mary Schottenbauer  
Andrew Heck (Not married)  
Annie Heck & Jacob Meyer

Note that all of the children of Johann Heck with the exception of Henry Heck lived and died in Minnesota. Henry Heck was the head of the Wisconsin Heck family. We consider that Johann Heck was the head of the Minnesota Heck family.

If you are interested in joining the Group log into Facebook and search GROUPS for “What The HECK”. You can then request to join the Group. All we ask is that you state how you are related to the Heck family.

You can also send an e-mail message to Cheryl Ann Heck and ask her to send you an invitation to join the “What the Heck” group. Cheryl’s address is [whatdahek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whatdahek@sbcglobal.net)

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## From the Photo Album...



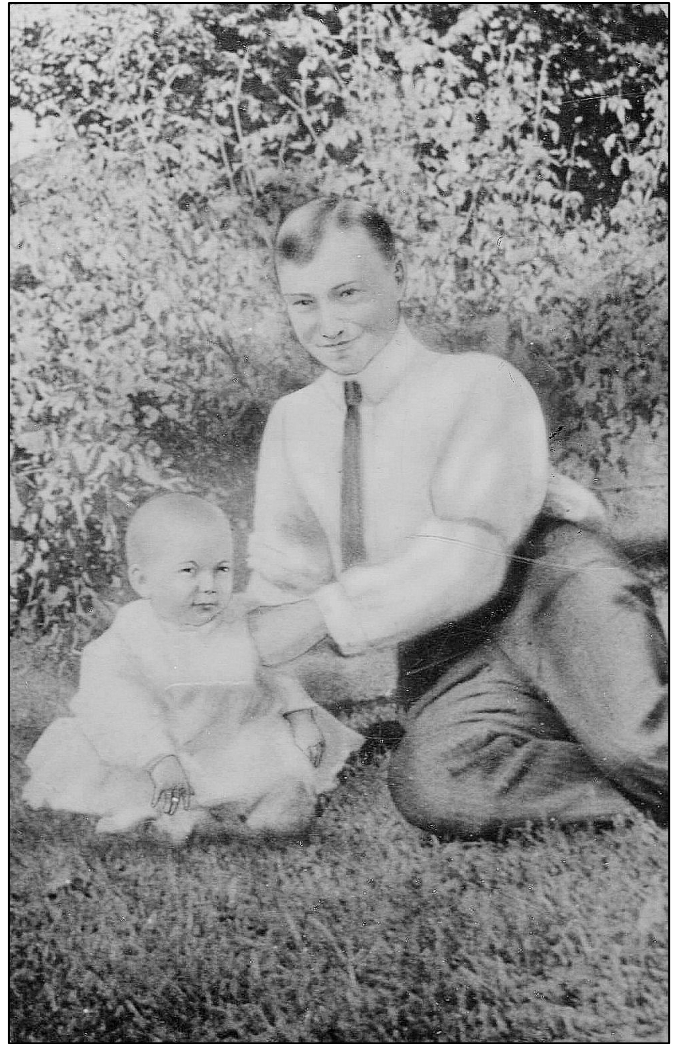
Grace Heck, daughter of Dave & Judi Heck, showing how happy she was after spending hours at Trick or Treating in October 2017.

Her mother, Judi, added this note: “Grace isn't sure yet if she is sharing with Lauren, who stayed home to hand out candy... that's OK, we'll all sneak some later.”



Delores (Dee) Heck Gibson with Jack (John Roberts) Gibson holding James Thomas Gibson in May 1960. James was born on 9 April 1960. Jack passed away on 1 January 1992.

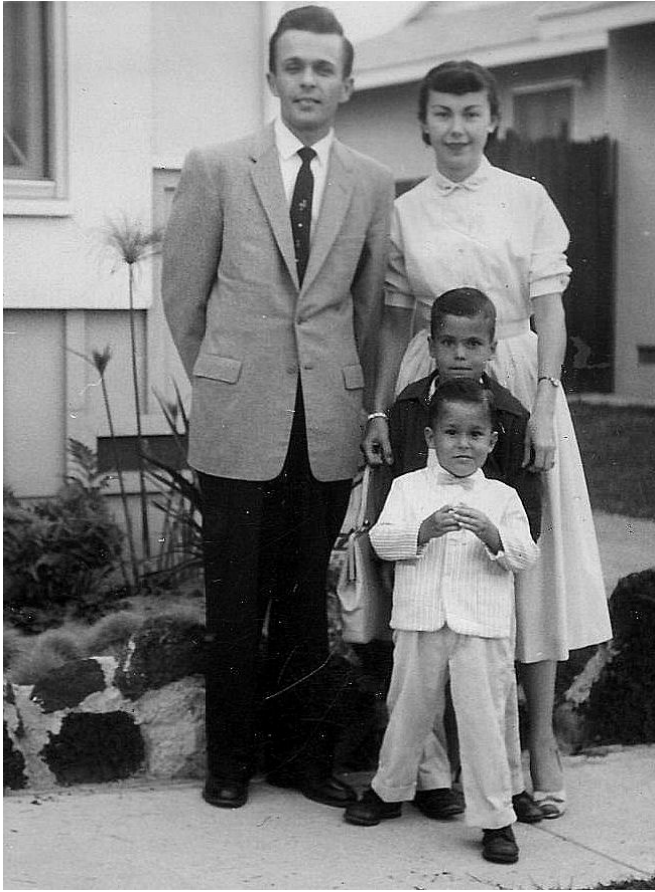
The photo at upper right is a rare photo of Clarence Heck with his father, Robert S. Heck. The photo was hand colored but is shown here as a



grayscale image. This photo hung on the wall at Richard Heck's home. Richard originally thought that the picture was of him and his grandfather, Robert Steven Heck however Robert Steven Heck died five years before Richard was born. See story on page 6.

The photo on the next page shows Don Johnson with his wife Marjorie Jean Heck and their sons Jerald Johnson and Laurence Johnson. Jerald was born in 1953 and Laurence was born in 1956. Don and Marjorie lived in Torrance, Los Angeles County, California.

When Don and Marjorie were moving to California, they had loaded their old car with everything that they owned. Marjorie's father, Clarence Heck, told them that they would never make it with that old car. Despite the warning



Don and Marjorie drove the 2,085 miles without much difficulty. Air conditioning was unheard of in those days. They just had to take it slow and easy.

## Relatives in the War of 1812

Britain blocked all French seaports and insisted that U.S. ships first stop at a British port and pay a fee before continuing to France. Britain was also interfering in the affairs of Canada, America's neighbor. The **War of 1812** came to be **known as** the second American **war** of independence.

The War of 1812 lasted from 1812 until 1815. Men who served in the US Military included just 7,000 men. Some men from the State Militias were drafted into the Federal Service. By the end of the war in 1815, the US Military forces included 35,000 men. The State Militias also participated in the War of 1812. A total of 458,000 men from the militias were used mostly for local defense purposes. The tour of duty for these men

was relatively short and in most cases was only a few months in duration.

A total of 20 men from our family served in the militia as follows:

From the New York Militia:

Waterman Ames  
 Royal B. Chase  
 Joshua Downer  
 Philip Gardiner  
 Edmund Allen  
 David Clancey  
 Benjamin Allen  
 Wilson Allen  
 Seneca Allen, John Crandall  
 Abial Holt  
 Silas Guilford Comstock

From the Massachusetts Militia:

John Burgess  
 Consider Burgess  
 George Kirby  
 John Clark

From the Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Louisiana Militias:

Seneca Downer (PA)  
 John Billings Langley (RI)  
 Nathaniel H. Langley (RI)  
 Joahua Fish (LA)

This is the first page of a huge pension record for Royal B. Chase (Shown as Rial. B. Chase and

WAR OF 1812.		
NUMBERS	SOLDIER	BOUNTY LAND
	<i>Chase, Royal B.</i>	
<i>War. Org. 10770</i>	WIDOW <i>Chase, Sally</i>	<i>10771 - 80 - 30</i>
<i>War. Org. 6140</i>	SERVICE <i>1st. Capt. U.S. Ar. N.Y. Mil.</i>	<i>6768 - 80 - 35</i>
	ENLISTED <i>June 29, 1812</i>	DISCHARGED <i>Dec. 25, 1812</i>
RESIDENCE OF SOLDIER <i>1850, 1855, Ann Arbor, Mich.</i>	REMARKS	
RESIDENCE OF WIDOW <i>1874, Elko Co., (P.O. Wells), Nevada</i>		
MAIDEN NAME OF WIDOW <i>Sally Everett</i>		
MARRIAGE OF SOLDIER AND WIDOW <i>Jan. 25, 1815, Ann Arbor, Mich.</i>		
DEATH OF SOLDIER <i>Jan. 10, 1865, Ann Arbor, Mich.</i>		
DEATH OF WIDOW <i>Sept. 5, 1884, Corinne, Utah</i>		

his descendants. His entire pension file is available on FamilySearch.org.

While all 20 men are distant relatives, none of them appear to be direct blood line relatives.

Royal B. Chase served for six months in the militia and was granted 80 acres of land for his service.

Royal B. Chase was a first cousin of Rebecca Chase, the first wife of Benjamin Burgess.

Benjamin Burgess arrived in Southport (now Kenosha) Wisconsin in 1836. He died two years later from complications from those first Wisconsin winters. Benjamin and his second wife Amanda started a saw mill on the Pike River near the town of Somers in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The site of the saw mill is on the land described as the South West quarter of Section One, Township Two North, of Range Twenty-Two East containing 160 acres. The land was officially transferred to Amanda Burgess by the United States on November 15, 1838 on certificate number 1018. The land was transferred for the United States by President John Tyler. This information is contained in the Abstract of Title number 48533, for the land.

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## Another Relative in the Revolutionary War

According to a biographic sketch of Alonzo Burgess written in 1879, his grandfather served in the Revolutionary War. A check of the Connecticut records indicated that Benajah Burgess, grandfather of Alonzo did serve for a short period of time.

The following is from the public records of Connecticut: "At a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety convened at Hartford on 31 January 1783: Resolved that the Committee of pay table draw on the Treasurer in favour of Joseph Wylie Constable of Voluntown for the sum of seven pound nine shillings & ten pence lawful money it being for the like sum advanced by said Constable Wylie for the marching money or mileage paid to Messrs.' Ezra Palmer, John Har-

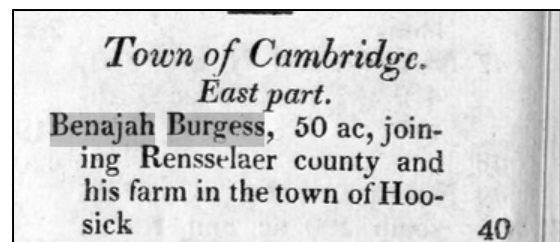
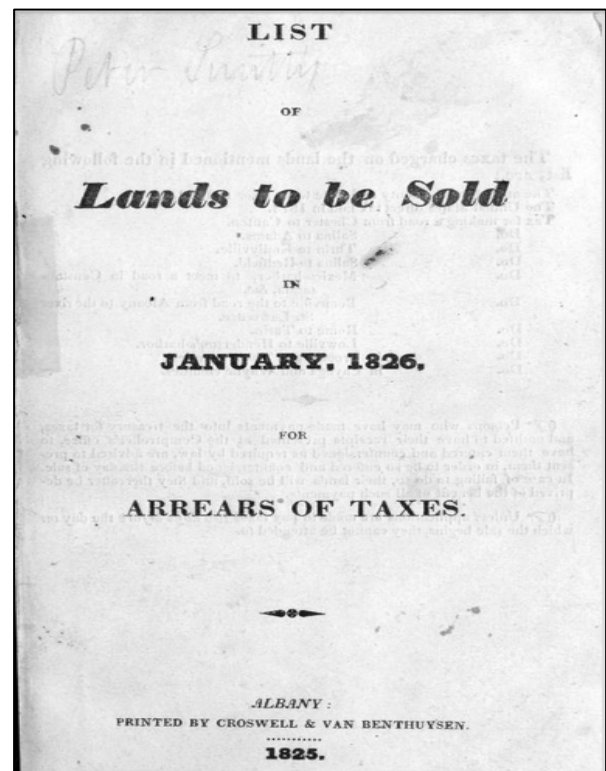
ris and Benjh Burgess three soldiers detached to march to Horseneck."

Benajah and his brother Thomas Burgis (sic) were listed as freemen (citizens) of the new town of Sterling, Connecticut at the first town meeting held on June 9, 1794. Their father, John Burgess, died at Sterling on 4 April 1796. Benajah migrated to Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York and owned the land that the Battle of Bennington was fought on in August 1777.

Sterling, Connecticut is 9.6 miles from Voluntown, Connecticut.

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## Lands to be sold for back taxes



Benajah Burgess was about to lose 50 acres of land for being arrears of taxes in Hoosick, New York in 1826.

## 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.

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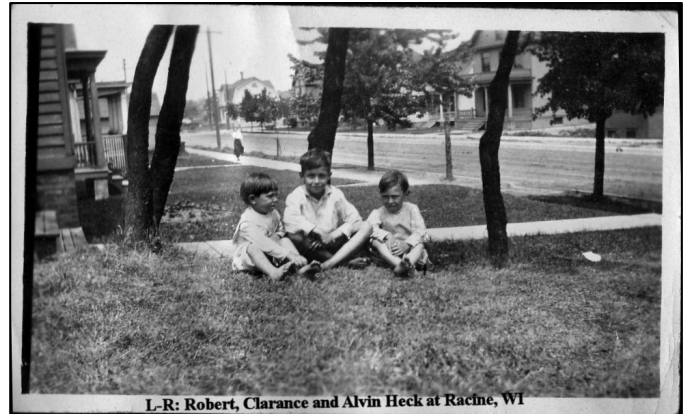
### **Thanks to our contributors...**

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. Articles about our family are always welcomed. What do you remember as a kid? What do you remember about your deceased relatives? This list is for the period December 2017 to April 2018.

Lorraine Heck  
Ellen and Bill Stiner  
Frank and Andrea Lamping  
Alvin and Carolyn Heck  
Shirley Heck  
Don and Sharon Heck  
Cel 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.**

## More Photos From The Photo Album



L-R: Robert, Clarence and Alvin Heck at Racine, WI

The photo above shows left to right: Robert, Clarence, and Alvin Heck at Racine, Wisconsin in about 1914. The picture was taken at the family home at 1110 Marquette Street. Today the street is known as North Memorial Drive.

The picture was found in a photo album owned by Howard Heck's Aunt Lucy Rose Heck, who was married to Frank Duggan. Lucy and her sister Josephine came to Wisconsin in July 1914 and visited relatives in Racine, Burlington, and Waterford.



The image above is a close up view of the three boys after doing some computer enhancing.



L-R: Mary Grostuck Heck, Josephine, Eva, Lucy Heck

The photo above shows left to right: Mary Grostuck, Josephine Heck, Eva Heck, and Lucy Heck. Below is a close up view after computer enhancing.



The photo at lower left shows left to right: Josephine Heck and Lucy Heck during their 1914 visit to Wisconsin. The caption in the photo album stated, "After a joyride at Waterford."

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## A Question For Our Readers.

While writing this issue of Our Family News Letter I kept going back to that photo on page two of this issue. I know that it was not possible for the young man in the photo to be Robert Steven Heck **and** the child to be Richard Heck.

As I kept looking at that photo and other known pictures of Robert Steven Heck, the resemblance was just too strong. I then used a program called PICASA which has the capability of identifying an individual in a photo by comparison to others in the program. PICASA said that it was Robert Steven Heck. Who was the young child? PICASA came through again and identified him as Clarence H. Heck. That made a lot of sense.

Robert Steven Heck was married on 15 October 1903 at the age of 23. Clarence H. Heck was born on 27 January 1905. The age of the child is about eight or nine months. That would make Robert Steven Heck about 25 years old when the picture was taken in the early fall of 1905.

My conclusion is that the picture is of Robert Steven Heck and his son Clarence H. Heck. Richard's story is partially true when he stated that the young man was his grandfather. The young child was not Richard but was Richard's father.

If any of you remember Richard Heck's story behind the picture, please let me know if my conclusion is correct.

You can still download a free copy of PICASA at the following web address:

**<http://picasa.findmysoft.com/>**

The program is not that great at editing photos but it may have solved this problem.

NOMEN.  <i>Lawrence McNulty</i>  1910	Die 12 mensis <i>Oct</i> A. D. 1909 obiit <i>Lawrence Mac Nulty</i>
	fili. <i>Joannes et Annae Mac Nulty</i> , aetatis <i>92 annorum</i>
	ex loco <i>Silver Lake</i> sepultus est die <i>14</i> mens. <i>Oct</i> A. D. 1909
	in cemeterio <i>Ss. Nominae in Wilmot</i>
	Adnotationes.....
<i>J. P. Keller</i>	

## From the Newspapers...

Kenosha News: 12 October 1909

### **Salem Pioneer Dead**

### **Man Widely Known in Silver Lake Neighborhood Died This Morning.**

“**Lawrence McNulty**, aged 85 (Sic) years, one of the oldest of the pioneer residents of the town of Salem, died early this morning at his home at Silver Lake as a result of a natural breaking down due to advanced age. The deceased was a native of Ireland, but came to this county more than sixty years ago and settled on a small farm on Silver Lake. His farm was afterward sold for resort property to Chicago parties and since that time Mr. McNulty had lived a retired life. He is survived by three children, Mrs. Henry Blum of Silver Lake, John McNulty, now living in Iowa, and Anthony McNulty of Duluth, Minnesota. The funeral will be held from the Catholic Church at Wilmot on Thursday morning with interment at the cemetery there.”

A note from Phyllis Grayson Merideth in January 1985 stated the following:

"At Wilmot Holy Name Church Cemetery tombstone inscription: Lawrence McNulty died 12 Oct 1909 age 93. Margaret, his wife, died September 1902. His daughter, Anna, born January 1860, died January 1874. I'm thinking he (Lawrence) may have been Peter McNulty's brother, as Peter and Patience named a son, Lawrence, (my great grandfather)."

“Loretta McNulty, daughter of Peter and Patience, went to Wilmot to live with Lawrence McNulty after Peter died. Lawrence is thought to be the brother of Peter McNulty for this reason. My grandfather Laurence McNulty took us to visit her when I was about 9 or 10 and I remember her being very small with gray hair. My Mom said that she was nearly a double of Grandpa Laurence.”

Note: The age of Lawrence in the obituary is likely not correct. It should be age 92 based on the church record at Wilmot or 93 based on his tombstone.

The Catholic Church record above shows that Lawrence McNulty’s parents were John and Anna McNulty. John is shown as Joannes in the record which is Latin for John. Lawrence would have been born in about 1817 while Peter was born in about 1807.

The Catholic Church records for Northern Ireland have been made available on the Internet. My cousin Cheryl Ann Heck and I are starting a search of the records since we think that Peter McNulty and Lawrence McNulty were brothers and their parents were John and Anna McNulty.

The problem is that we do not know the County or Parish in Ireland and there are many of them. We have put together maps of the areas and are now undertaking a page by page search of the records. Wish us luck.

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## The Heck Family Picnic

The annual Heck Family picnic will be held on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at the Leisure Center near Wind Point, Racine, Wisconsin. The golf outing at Shoop's Park is still a central activity as is swimming in the outdoor pool at the Leisure Center.

A list of things to bring to the picnic will be mailed to those of you who signed up last year.

We should have a computer history of our family available to you if you bring a flash drive to the picnic. The family history can be downloaded to your flash drive so that you can view it or print it at home.

For more information about the Heck Picnic and/or the golf outing you can contact Cel Heck at (262) 639-5370 or by e-mail at

**cecelias@wi.rr.com**

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## Burgess - In The News

Following are brief newsclips from various Racine newspapers from 1895 through 1903.

"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)

"Burdett and Robert Burgess of Chicago are spending a few days at their father's home in the village."  
(Racine Daily July 18, 1900)

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)

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 alone as well as expected.  
(Racine Weekly Jan. 27, 1898)

"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)

"Robert Burgess went to Chicago Tuesday where he accepted a position with an ice company."  
(Racine Weekly May 25, 1899)

"George and Robert Burgess hauled two loads of flax straw to Franksville Thursday morning."  
(Racine Daily Feb. 8, 1899)

"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)

"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)

"Mr. Fred Burgess is very sick with typhoid fever."  
(Racine Daily Oct. 21, 1896)



**Join us for some summer fun like this group at a Heck Family Picnic from the past.**