

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 102

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2018

## “Bill Heck & the Rush Tribute Project”



In 2017, Bill Heck, son of Gloria and Bob Heck

(your Editor), was named WAMI Guitar Player of the Year. Bill plays the lead guitar for the band known as the Rush Tribute Project. The band had been nominated for the WAMI Tribute Band of the year for 2017. WAMI is the Wisconsin Area Music Industry and their annual awards are considered a great tribute.

When Bill won the Guitar Player of the year he felt really bad for his band because they did not make it. This year, 2018, the Rush Tribute Project was again nominated for Tribute Band of the Year for 2018. This time they made it.

The group consists of three pieces: Tom Slawnik on the drums, Sean Jones doing vocals, bass guitar and keyboard, and Bill Heck on lead guitar and performing backup vocals.

The group played to a huge crowd at Rosemont, Illinois. Their performance was video recorded and posted online. That video was posted on June 14, 2018 and by August 14<sup>th</sup> it had been



viewed 489,917 times.

The photo on the bottom of the previous page shows the crowd at the Rosemont concert with Bill Heck on stage.

If you would like to see and hear one of their songs just enter the following web address on your computer.

**<https://tinyurl.com/BillHeck>**

Congratulations to Bill and to the Rush Tribute Project. You guys really work hard and you richly deserve the following you have and the awards.

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Bill and his fellow band members really have a lot of fun as can be seen on this photo from the Rush Tribute Project web page. The building in the background is the Ontario Parliament Building in Toronto, home of the original Rush group. You can see the Rush Tribute Project page at: **[https:// facebook.com/TheRushTributeProject/](https://facebook.com/TheRushTributeProject/)**

## Meet your messy Cousin...



This is **Weston Henderson**, the son of Pamela Joan (Landrum) Henderson and Michael Henderson from Williamston, South Carolina. Pamela is known by her nickname, PJ, and is the daughter of Cindy Sue (Heck) and Dennis Landrum, and the granddaughter of Gary and Carol Heck, all from South Carolina. The expression on Weston's face seems to be saying, "That's the way yer supposed to eat cake."

On the following page you will find a picture of PJ and her three sons. The boys from left to right are Weston, Cooper, and Michael. Weston was born on 15 April 2016, Cooper was born on 22 December 2009, and Michael was born on 11 January 2008.



Meet the Hendersons from Williamston, South Carolina.

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## **A Day at Roosevelt School**

In 1946, I was in Kindergarten at the Roosevelt Elementary School in Racine, Wisconsin. It was a public school on the North side of Racine. I don't remember a lot about Kindergarten other than the fact that we drank chocolate milk and played a lot. A year later I started first grade at Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School in Racine.

In April, 1946, Roosevelt Principal Robert Gregory ('46-'61) used documentary film skills learned while on the staff of General Douglas MacArthur during WWII to produce a film called "A day at Roosevelt School".

The film was rare color footage from post-World War II Racine, documenting a day in the life of the students of Roosevelt School. The film included Kindergarten through 6th Grade, with glimpses of the children from 72 years ago.

The movie was made on 16mm film and music from the World War II time period was added later.

One of my best friends in High School was Larry Garski. His wife Dottie sent me a link to the film and asked if I could help her identify Larry in the film since he had attended Roosevelt School in 1946 in Kindergarten. I didn't know that Larry and I had been in the same Kindergarten class. I searched for Larry and sure enough I found him on the film. He was wearing a Navy uniform and gave a snappy hand salute toward the camera. Several of the students were wearing military uniforms so they were probably celebrating the end of World War II.

The film can be viewed at the following address:  
<https://www.facebook.com/149166628448451/videos/1540396641372/>



Bob Heck is seated at far right in a blue military uniform in this 1946 movie at the Roosevelt School.

The uniform that I was wearing looked familiar to me so I did some research and found that I was wearing that same uniform in a movie that my parents had made in 1945. In that movie I was standing next to my brother, Gary, who was wearing the uniform of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Following a little more Internet research I found that the insignia and my uniform were identical to the uniform and insignia of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

In searching through that 1946 movie I discovered that there were at least four other children that were in my first grade class at Saint John Nepomuk School.

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## Our Family News Letter On-Line.

Thanks to my son, Bill Heck, 102 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 over 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.

## From the Photo Album...



The 1947 First Communion Class from Saint John Nepomuk Catholic School. Bob Heck is standing in the front row at far right.

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## Henningfeld Family in Auswanderer list of Emigration from Germany to America.

Following is a listing of Henningfeld family members who emigrated from the Olfen area of Germany to America from 1845 through 1847. Those from Vinnum were our ancestors. In German, Auswanderer translates to Emigrants.

Those listed include Franz Henningfeld, born 4 Nov 1810, Catharina Elizabeth Henningfeld, born 7 Dec 1813, Johann Theodor Henningfeld, born 14 Nov 1816, Bernardine Dorothea Henningfeld, born 15 Mar 1819, and Anna Maria Franziska Henningfeld, born 26 Jan 1823. All of them were the children of Wilhelm Henningfeld, born 12 Apr 1779, and Maria Catharina Bucker Strutman Henningfeld, born 18 Mar 1780. Note that Wilhelm Henningfeld, and Maria Catharina Bucker Strutman Henningfeld also emigrated to Wisconsin with their family.

**1678** a) Franz Carl Heinr. H e n n i n g f e l d aus Recklinghausen, Schmied b) 26. 12. 1809 d) Cath. S c h o t t l e r 1805 Hillen e) W. 10. 3. 1842 o), 1845 p) Nordamerika

**1679** a) Joh. Theodor H e n n i n g f e l d g t . B ü c k e r aus **Vinnum** Ksp. Olfen, Handarbeiter b) 14. 11. 1816 o) 1845 p) Nordamerika

**1681** a) Cath. Elis. H e n n i n g f e l d aus **Vinnum** Ksp. Olfen b) 5. 12. 1813 h) M. Franziska 27. 1. 1823 o) 1845 p) Nordamerika

**2853** a) Franz H e n n i n g f e l d aus **Vinnum** Ksp. Olfen, Kötter b) 5. 11. 1810, d) Elis. R i c h t e r 27. 2. 1816 e) M. Cath. 10. 8. 1840, Cath. Elis. 12. 12. 1842, Cath. Carolina 8. 2. 1845 g) W. H e n n i n g f e l d 5. 4. 1777 u. M. Cath. B ü c k e r 18. 3. 1780 o) 1847 p) Amerika

**2868** a) W. Kortendieck aus Selm, We-  
ber b) 19. 11. 1817 d) Braut: Bernardine Dor-  
othea Hennigfeld aus **Vinum**, 15. 3.  
1819 o) 1847 p) Nordamerika

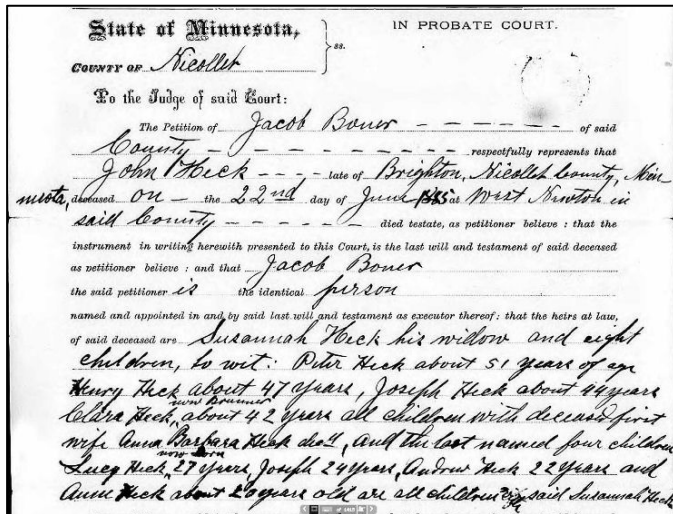
The family members settled in the Waterford and Rochester areas of Racine County. Bernardine Dorothea Hennigfeld, married William Kortendick in Olfen, Germany, migrated as a new bride (Braut) and raised a family in Waterford. The Kortendick Hardware stores in Racine were owned and operated by descendants of that family.

Anna Maria Francesca Henningfeld married Louis Josef Sanders in Burlington in 1846, and raised a large family in Waterford. Branches of that family live in Elm Grove, Waukesha County, Wisconsin.

Catharina Elizabeth Henningfeld married John Henry Hoffer, a Civil War veteran, in Burlington in 1846, and raised a small family in Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin.

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## From the Photo Album...



This is a photo of a document from the probate record of Johann Heck shown here as John Heck. Johann was the founder of the Heck family from which we are descendant. Johann immigrated to Wisconsin in 1853 and migrated to Minnesota in

1857. He died in 1885, and is buried at Brighton, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

The document lists the children of Johann as, "Peter Heck about 51 years of age, Henry Heck about 47 years, Joseph Heck about 44 years, and Clara Heck about 42 years, all children with deceased first wife, Anna Barbara Heck, deceased, and the last named four children, Lucy Heck 27 years, Joseph 24 years, Andrew Heck 22 years, and Anna Heck about 20 years old are all children of said Susannah Heck."

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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 September 2018.

Lorraine Heck  
Ellen and Bill Stiner  
Frank and Andrea Lamping  
Alvin and Carolyn Heck  
Shirley Heck  
Don and Sharon Heck  
Cel Heck  
Steve and Cara Pfeiffer

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

## From the Newspapers...

**Rockford, Illinois Daily Register, Saturday, 28  
August 1886, page 3:**

“Sherman Aspland, a Rockton gentleman 45 years old was overcome by sunstroke yesterday while working on a thresher.”

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**Racine, Wisconsin Journal Times, 27 October 1915, page 13:**

“ The Alter Henningfeld – Roberts At Waterford, at 8:30 o’clock this morning Miss Winifred Henningfeld, of that place, and John D. Roberts, of this city, were united in marriage. Immediately following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride’s parents, many friends and relatives being present from Racine and the surrounding country. There were congratulations, a wedding breakfast and Mr. and Mrs. Roberts received many handsome gifts. They departed for a brief wedding trip and will make Racine their future home.

The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Henningfeld, pioneers of the county, and the groom is a son of R. W. Roberts of this city, who came from Oneida County, N. Y., in a prairie schooner in 1844.

The bride has resided in the vicinity of Waterford all of her life and is one of the most admired ladies in that vicinity. Mr. Roberts has been a resident of Racine all his life and for many years has been employed on the newspapers here, for the last four years on the reportorial staff of the Journal-News. He is popular and widely known throughout the city.”

NOTE: Winifred Henningfeld was the daughter of William F. Henningfeld and Margaret Grueter, and the granddaughter of Franz Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Richter.

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**New Ulm, Minnesota, New Ulm Review, 29 May 1912, page 9:**

### **“Wedding Anniversaries**

But very few people are fortunate enough to be able to celebrate their golden wedding and if they happen upon this rare occasion to be hale

and hearty as are Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Brunner of St. George who celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their wedding-day last Tuesday they are certainly to be congratulated. The golden wedding was celebrated in grand style in the Catholic Hall of St. George and although the weather was unpleasant, a large concourse of people from New Ulm, Fairfax, Gibbon and West Newton were present to do honor to the venerable couple. In honor of the event high mass was celebrated at the Catholic Church at St. George at 9:30 a.m. and the guests then adjourned to the hall.

The groom was born in Erbach, Wuertemberg, Germany November 21, 1836 and the bride whose maiden name was Clara Heck, was born in Aachen, Prussia July 22, 1842. They were united in marriage at the old Catholic log church at West Newton by Rev. Sommersisen, a missionary; on May 19, 1862. They have always made West Newton their home, following the pursuit of farming until some years ago when they turned over the farm to their son Alfred and have since resided at St. George.

Both are highly respected and honored by their neighbors and friends. Mr. Brunner is receiving a pension from the State for efficient service rendered during the Indian Massacre. Their eight children: Mrs. William Brown, Mrs. Frank Altman, and Alfred Brunner of West Newton; John Brunner, Frank Brunner and Mrs. John Schweiss of Fairfax and Fred Brunner of Gibbon and 27 grandchildren were present to help make the celebration a success in every way. The Review extends somewhat belated but nevertheless sincere and hearty congratulations.”

NOTE: Henry Heck visited Vincent Brunner and wife, Clara Heck, Henry’s sister, in 1912.

A family group photo of the Vincent Brunner family is shown on the next page. The photo was taken in about 1884 in Minnesota. Clara Heck Brunner is seated at left holding their youngest daughter, Lucia Brunner.

## More Photos From The Photo Album



### Vincent Brunner and the Sioux Indian Uprising:

NOTE: The following story is from Howard Heck's book, *The Hecks from Alendorf, Germany* published in March, 1991, Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number 91-91844.

“Clara and Vincent (Brunner) settled down on the homestead, but their new life together was soon interrupted. On August 17, 1862, just three months after their marriage, the Sioux Indians, under the leadership of Chief Little Crow, started the famous Sioux Uprising, described in Chapter 4. The following account is also taken from the *History of the St. George Church*: ‘An Indian named Dickinson asked Vincent Brunner to take him to New Ulm, telling him of the outbreak and saying he wanted to procure soldiers. He prom-

ised to pay him well for the trip. Brunner agreed but on the way there heard the report of firearms and told the Indian he was returning to warn his wife. Dickinson then ordered him to continue to New Ulm at the risk of death. On the way back to his farm, Brunner warned his neighbors of the uprising.’

Vincent volunteered his services during the Uprising and became a ‘citizen soldier’ by joining Captain St. Julien’s ‘Frontier Avengers’ which was organized in St. Peter on August 22, 1862. He served in the unit as a corporal. The Frontier Avengers marched to the relief of New Ulm, which was under siege by the Indians, and arrived there on August 24. Vincent applied for a state pension and was awarded one on March 12, 1907. He received a pension of twelve dollars a month until his death in 1920. His application for the pension stated that he ruptured his right side while warning the settlers and helping them escape from the Indians.”

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### The Heck Family Picnic

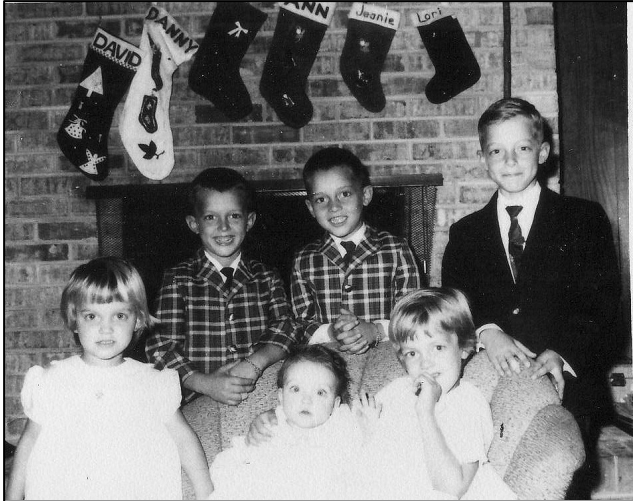
The annual Heck Family picnic was held on Sunday, July 8, 2018 at the Leisure Center near Wind Point, Racine, Wisconsin. The golf outing at Shoop’s Park was still a central activity as was swimming in the outdoor pool at the Leisure Center. Everyone had a great time visiting and just having a lot of fun.

We had our display of family pictures mounted on two display boards. We spent a lot of time explaining who those pictured were and how they were related to us. It was great to see some of the family members try to explain to their children and grandchildren just how they were related. It is not easy to point to a picture of Johann Heck, (1810-1885) and explain that he was their great-great-great-great grandfather. The puzzled look on some of the younger people’s faces clearly showed the difficulty.

In case you are wondering, Johann Heck was the first of our family to immigrate to America in

1853 along with his wife, Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, and their children, Peter, Anna Lucia, Henry, Joseph and Clara.

## More Photos From The Photo Album



L-R: Jeanie, Steve, Lori, Danny, Ann and David Pfeiffer, children of Marvin and Joanne (Heck) Pfeiffer.



One Heck of a lot of family members. Photo taken at Christmas, 1962. (We should save this picture for the 2019 Heck Family Picnic and see who can identify the most people in it.)

Pictures at right show the two posters that we displayed at the Heck Family Picnic in 2018 and 2017. We also had a computer set up to show home movies taken in the 1940s.

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