

Our Family News Letter

Issue 104

Greendale, Wisconsin

March 2019

Meet your not so distant relatives



Major General Bob Heck and his lovely wife, Gloria during the Civil War.

Well not really. Yes that is Gloria and Bob but the picture was taken at the Wisconsin Dells in November 2018 at a photo studio.

About a month earlier Gloria and I participated in a Walk-a-thon for CMT at the Pettit National Ice Center located in West Allis, Wisconsin. CMT or Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease is one of the hereditary motor and sensory neuropathies, a group of varied inherited disorders of the periph-

eral nervous system characterized by progressive loss of muscle tissue and touch sensation across various parts of the body. It usually affects the arms and legs first.

My cousin, Cheryl Ann Heck invited us to the event. Some members of Cheryl's family and some descendants of her grandfather, Clarence Heck's family have CMT.

Following the Walk-a-thon there was a drawing for about 90 donated items and gift certificates. Those attending could purchase tickets and drop a ticket or two into a cup adjacent to the donated item. One ticket was then drawn for each item.

The Walk-a-thon event collected \$14,400 through donations and ticket sales. All of the money goes for CMT research being conducted in many major hospitals around the country and in other parts of the world. The event was great and we met so many really nice people supporting this research.

My cousin Cheryl and her mother, Lorraine, purchased about 320 tickets between them. Needless to say about every third drawing was won by either Cheryl or her mother. One of the items that Cheryl won was a gift certificate for the Capone Old Time Photo Studio at the Wisconsin Dells. Since Cheryl didn't want to have her picture taken at the Dells she gave the gift certificate to Gloria and me.

I knew exactly what style of picture that I wanted. It had to be a Civil War era photo. I was thinking of the photo that I have hanging in my recreation room that showed my great grandfather, Henry Heck, dressed in his uniform complete with a back pack, a rifle and a saber. Of course a Private in the Union Army Infantry did not own nor did they carry a saber.



Studio photo of my great grandfather, Henry Heck, taken long after the Civil War ended in 1865.

I was reminded of my first visit to San Antonio, Texas while I was in basic training in the United States Air Force in 1958. We got to go to town and were impressed with all of the photo studios that lined the streets. You could even have your picture taken while seated in the pilot seat of an F-86 Saber Jet or of an F-100 Super Saber. They had the flight suits and even the helmet with a call sign of your choice.

Back to the Dells...

When Gloria and I got to the studio we were impressed with the various stages that they had set up. I told the owner that we wanted to have a Civil War era photo made. I told her about the picture that I have of my great grandfather and

described what he was wearing. Unfortunately they did not have a back pack but they did have rifles, pistols and sabers.

Gloria was busy picking out a dress and hat while I was being fitted for a uniform, boots and hat. The uniform that they had me wear was that of a Major General. They were looking around for something that looked like a back pack but I told them that Generals didn't wear backpacks and didn't carry a rifle. All I needed was a saber.

When Gloria walked in dressed in her era dress and hat, I was dumbfounded at how beautiful she looked. I think she was impressed with my uniform as well. It was a fun day for both of us.



Gloria and Bob Heck starting their walk at the Pettit National Ice Center.



Lorraine Heck leading the walk as Roger Kyburz and Lois Hawkins cheer her on.

Thanks Cheryl for a great time.



David Heck thought he was going bowling at the Root River Center in Franklin, Wisconsin, but his wife Judi pulled off one Heck of a 50th surprise birthday party. This group was waiting at the center to greet him with cheers and laughter. David, son of Gloria and Bob Heck turned 50 on January 3, 2019.

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. The cost of postage was just raised to 55 cents per newsletter so now the total cost for me to mail the 60 copies is about \$60 per issue. Articles about our family and old photos are always welcomed. What do you remember as a kid? What do you remember about your deceased relatives?

This list is for the period January 2018 to January 2019.

Frank and Andrea Lamping
Alvin and Carolyn Heck
Shirley Heck
Don and Sharon Heck
Cel Heck
Steve and Cara Pfeiffer
Bobbie Heck
Lorraine Heck
Lee Heck
Sue & Jeff Miller
Ellen & Bill Stiner

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.

The following story was sent in by Ellen and Bill Stiner from Golden, Colorado. Ellen is the daughter of Anthony Gordon Heinrichs and Margaret Debalske, and the granddaughter of Frank Heinrichs and Dorothy Amelia (Molly) Henningfeld from Wausau, Wisconsin.

“Holiday memories are the best gifts.”

“As the years pass, holiday memories stand out as the season’s best gifts, ones we remember long after we’ve outgrown a special holiday toy. When I asked Bill what his favorite Christmas holiday memory was he didn’t hesitate. “The annual Christmas program at Bush School,” he replied with a smile. Bush School was a tiny one-room schoolhouse near Marshall, Michigan, where he grew up. One teacher taught all grades K-8. Bill’s class had only one other student besides himself. Everyone participated in the Christmas program and preparations began about three weeks in advance. The program included singing Christmas carols, wearing costumes for skits, and putting up a Christmas tree, complete with old fashioned bubble lights. A portion of the “big” room was curtained off to mark the stage. The rest was overflowing with parents,

other relatives and family friends. Bill recalled wearing a wise man costume and singing, "We Three Kings." Alas, his first stint at acting in the pageant was somewhat less than successful, when at the tender age of just 4, he "freaked out" and ran to his mom's lap where he stayed for the duration. The program always ended with a visit by the Jolly Old Elf himself!"

"As for me, I mostly remember the warmth of being with my family in a cozy home decorated with a sparkling tinsel tree, colorful ornaments and a growing sense of excitement and anticipation. My sister Carol, brother Tom and I would lie on the carpet with our heads under the lower tree branches, just enjoying the lights and ornaments. We had a favorite ornament, a worn but still pretty pink apple, always hung near a tree light to catch all its sparkles. A favorite memory of mine occurred after I entered our local newspaper's Christmas coloring contest and WON! I used my gift certificate prize to buy a dollhouse, which trumped all my other gifts that year and sparked a lifelong fascination with miniatures!"

From Ellen and Bill Stiner, Christmas 2008.

Thanks to Ellen and Bill for sharing these great memories.

My favorite memories of Christmas.

By Bob Heck

I have many fond memories of Christmas while I was growing up however there are two Christmases that I remember more than any others.

The first was when I was in the U.S. Air Force stationed at Ramstein, Germany in 1959. My older brother, Gary, was stationed at Heilbronn, Germany serving with the U.S. Army. Our bases were about 80 miles apart from each other. I went to visit Gary at Christmas time. We went out for dinner on Christmas Eve and spent a lot of time talking about the past Christmas Eves that we remembered. We laughed when the subject of purple T-shirts came up. We both remembered opening a gift only to find T-shirts. Over the shoulder they went flying.

Later that evening we went to a Catholic Church in Heilbronn for midnight Mass.

The church was packed so we couldn't even get in. They kept the huge doors open and we stood outside on the steps with dozens of Germans but we could hear and see what was going on inside. At that time the Mass was still said in Latin so it sounded very familiar to us.

The congregations sang Christmas carols and most were also familiar to us. Many were in Latin which we used to sing together when we were in the Boys' Choir and in the Czech Choir. Even some of the German songs were familiar.

A light snow started to fall and at that point I resolved that I would never forget that special day with my brother.

The second Christmas was also one that I will never forget. It took place at Giebelstadt, Germany in 1961.

I belonged to a German Glider Club along with two other Americans. There were 40 German members. We were very close to them since we flew sport gliders together nearly every weekend. We were at a party at the Gasthaus Rose one evening and some of the Germans came up to us and invited us to spend Christmas with them. That was great but we had more requests than we could handle.

We didn't want to offend anyone so we three Americans talked to our German Glider Club Vice President, Heinz Monert. Heinz said that he would take care of everything. About a half hour later Heinz said that everything was all set up for us.

He gave us a schedule that started in Wurzburg with dinner at Herr and Frau Berger's house. From there we would go to midnight Mass at the Cathedral in Wurzburg. After that we would go to Giebelstadt for an early morning breakfast and then on to six neighboring villages to spend an hour or so with each family. That sounded great but none of us Americans had a car. Heinz said

that was not a problem as he handed us a set of keys for his car.

Everything went off without a hitch. Dinner in Wurzburg was followed by singing Christmas carols around a Christmas tree, lit with real candles. That was the first time that I saw a Christmas tree decorated with real candles.

Midnight Mass was spectacular and impressive for my non-Catholic American friends. Breakfast at Giebelstadt was great and of course included schnapps. On to Ingolstadt to visit the Helfritsch family, and then to Essfeld to visit another family. We visited Acholshausen, Gaukonigshofen, Tuckelhausen, and Ochsenfurt. Finally at the end of Christmas day we returned to Giebelstadt, totally exhausted, full of great German food and snacks, wine, beer and schnapps.

Everyone treated us so nicely that we will never forget their hospitality to three young Americans spending Christmas 8,000 miles away from home.

What ever happened to Frank (Francis) Henningfeld?

Francis Henningfeld known as Frank Henningfeld, was the youngest son of Franz Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Richter. Francis was born in about 1855 according to the 1860 U.S. Census for Norway, Racine County, Wisconsin. He could not be found in the 1870 or 1880 census. Likewise he could not be found in the Minnesota, South Dakota or Wyoming census or vital records.

A court document found in the Racine County Court House stated in part:

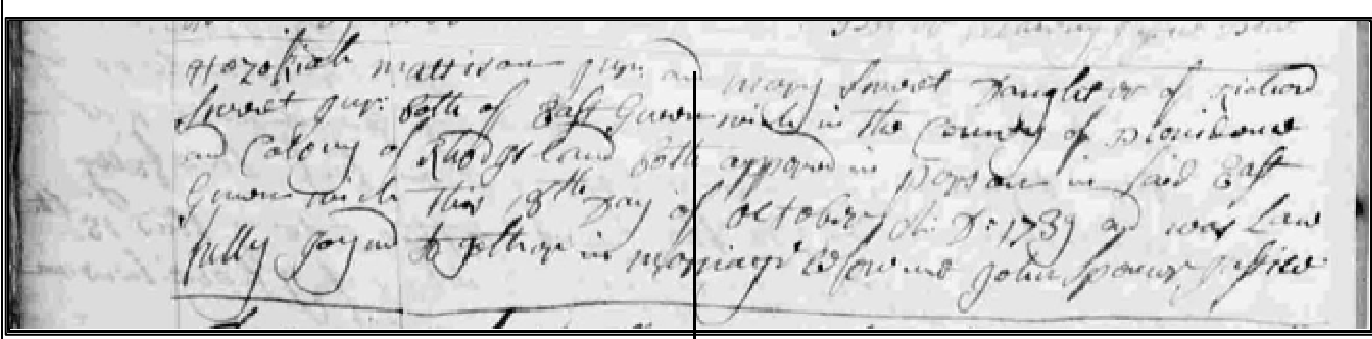
“ That said Frank Henningfeld, son of Francis Henningfeld, deceased, has been absent from the Town of Waterford, Racine County, Wisconsin, more than seven (7) years, to-wit: twenty-seven (27) years, where he had an established resi-

dence, that the last intelligence his relatives had from him was in a letter written by him at the City of Saint Paul, of the State of Minnesota in the year 1888, in which he stated that he was going to the Black Hills; that since the year 1888, no intelligence of his existence has reached his relatives, friends or acquaintances, who if he had been living, would naturally have heard from him, and from the above facts your petitioner believes that no one has seen him alive for more than seven (7) years last past and your petitioner further believes said Frank Henningfeld to be dead.”

The Petitioner stated that Frank Henningfeld owned one seventh (1/7) of a parcel of land in Wisconsin and that the other owners were Henry F. Henningfeld, William F. Henningfeld, Caroline Wurms, Katharine Plate, Mary Leber, and Elizabeth Millertz, all children of Francis Henningfeld and Elizabeth Richter. The Court declared that Frank Henningfeld was deceased and that the land in question could be disposed of or distributed to the living children of Francis and Elizabeth Henningfeld.

It's hard saying what may have happened to Frank Henningfeld. I recall seeing a note associated with the above document stating that Frank was supposed to be coming home by train on a certain day in 1888 before traveling to the Black Hills and would be arriving in Racine. Family members were at the train station on the appropriate day but Frank never arrived. Family members were at the train station for several days after but again Frank did not arrive.

Did Frank die in Minnesota or did he just decide to go directly to the Black Hills? We may never know what really happened to Frank Henningfeld.



The document above is the marriage record of Hezekiah Matteson and Mary Sweet on 18 October 1739. Hezekiah and Mary are my 6th great grandparents. In other words my great-great-great-great-great-great grandparents.

Here is how I am connected:

- Hezekiah Matteson
- George Matteson
- Zilpha Matteson
- Benjamin Burgess
- Patience Burgess
- Mary Ann McNulty
- Robert S Heck
- Robert G Heck
- Robert J Heck

The document reads: "Hezekiah Matteson juv: and Mary Sweet daughter of Richard Sweet juv: both of East Greenwich in the County of Providence and Colony of Rhode Island both appeared in person in said East Greenwich on this 18th day of October A.D. 1739 and was lawfully joined together in marriage before me John Spooner Justice."

I'm not sure of what the juv: stands for.

Hezekiah was 24 and Mary was 21 years of age, so I don't believe that it stands for juvenile.

The amazing thing is that documents such as we see above are being placed on the Internet so that researchers can access them without cost. Gene-

alogy has come a long way since I started researching over 50 years ago.

From the Photo Album



The photo above shows Cheryl Ann Heck as a Fire Fighter on the New Berlin Fire Department. Cheryl rose to the rank of Lieutenant before becoming a 911 dispatcher.

From the Newspapers

The Racine Journal News: Saturday, July 31, 1915 page 7:

Character Parade at Island Park Attracts Large Crowd.

"Despite the rain a large and appreciative audience witnessed the character parade given at Island Park playground yesterday afternoon. For the lover of variety the production left nothing to be desired. The characters were: ...Fiddlers

Three.. Thorwald Hanson, **Clarence Heck**, Bernard Van Bree..."

Editor's Note: Clarence Heck was 10 years old when he participated in the character parade. Clarence was the oldest child of Robert Steven Heck and Margaret F. Henningfeld.

Burlington Standard Press: June 6, 1975
Burlington, Wisconsin



St. Mary's First Alumni to Celebrate 50 Year Reunion Saturday.

Editor's Note: The photo above is the entire 1925 graduating class from St. Mary's High School in Burlington, Wisconsin. From left to right are **Lorraine Heck**, Ray Bienemann, Marie Rueter, and Florence Bienemann. Seated is Rev. Joseph Van Treeck.

Lorraine Heck was the daughter of James Henry Heck and Wilhelmina C. Hoernemann. Lorraine married Nicholas B. Pier, the brother of Frances (Fanny) Pier Heck. The photo appeared in the 1975 Burlington Standard Press newspaper. Lorraine passed away on 2 August 2001.

I wonder what the Priest is holding in his hand. The article said that discipline was strict.

Racine Daily Journal: Friday, December 9, 1881 and Saturday, January 2, 1883

Expenses for Racine County for 1881 & 1882

CARE OF PAUPERS, CITY AND COUNTY.	
N. H. Ayers, R. R. fare for paupers	1 65
L. H. Yance, digging graves	15 00
Town of Yorkville, care of transient poor	19 25
W. Y. Rogers, burying body of child	5 00
Anthony Bffel, care of body	5 00
John Steinhoff, boarding prisoners and transient poor	35 25
John Roche, shoes	20 70
Chas. Rhode, bedstead and coffins	32 60
Peter McNulty, boarding Henry McNulty	78 00
A. B. Hayes, amt. overpaid	4 81
Julius Lueck, amt. overpaid	115 93
R. B. Jones, goods	231 75
F. Ibing, coffins	51 00
Peter Bffel, "	72 00
F. R. Garlock, medical attendance	9 00
J. G. Meachem, care of patient at hospital	1 42
John Dietrich, Keeper of County house	465 00
Julius Lueck, Supt. Poor, (salary)	300 00
George West, " " "	150 00
Allen Stetson, " " "	100 00
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	\$1,713 36

Editor's Note: The text above shows that Racine County, Wisconsin paid Peter McNulty \$78.00 in 1881 for the boarding of his son, Henry McNulty. In the 1880 Census, Henry McNulty was listed as idiotic and insane and was a ward of the County.

CARE OF POOR OUTSIDE OF COUNTY HOUSE AND MEDICAL ATTENDANCE AND MEDICINES.	
S J Martin, medical attendance on paupers	37 10
L H Yance, digging graves	7 00
St Lukes Hospital, care of patient	17 10
J G Meachem & Son, medical attendance	40 38
R B Jones, goods for poor	53 50
Black Bros, hearse and carriage	4 00
Town of Yorkville, care of pauper	16 89
John Steinhoff, care of poor and tramps	52 00
Peter McNulty, care of pauper	88 00
F Wilhoft, coffin for pauper	8 00

This report from January 2, 1883 shows that Peter McNulty was paid \$88.00 during 1882 for care of a pauper. The significance of these articles or reports is that we now know that Peter McNulty was still alive in 1882. Peter McNulty would have been 81 years old in 1882.

Our Family News Letter On-Line.

Thanks to my son, Bill Heck, 104 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.

Join "What The HECK"

If you would like to learn more about our family, join our Heck Family Facebook 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.

Here is the web address for our group page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Whattheheckfamilygroup/>

Here is the address in larger letters:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Whattheheckfamilygroup/>

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
Cheryl is the one who created the group page for our family.

Meet some distant relatives



Henry Richardson and Julia Burgess family in April 1904.

Back row L-R: Arthur, Willis, Lewis, Walter
Middle row L-R: Chloe, Ida, Jean, Elsie, Gertie
Front row L-R: Henry Jr, Henry, Orvel, Jesse, Julia, Edgar.

Three other children died within their first year of life. Henry and Julia had 16 children between 1871 and 1897.

Julia Burgess, born 14 October 1856, was the daughter of Nehemiah Burgess and the granddaughter of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase. Julia Burgess was born at the town of Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin.

From her obituary: "When a child she moved with her parents to Gage County, Nebraska, settling on a farm 5 miles southeast of DeWitt. She spent her early life in Gage County, Nebraska, moving to Prairie County, Arkansas in 1894 and from there to Elk County, Kansas in 1899, where she resided until her departure for her Eternal home."

She died on 9 March 1928 at Howard, Elk County, Kansas.