

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 105

Greendale, Wisconsin

June 2019

## How Did They Get Here?

Did you ever wonder how and when your ancestors got to America? Not many people even think about that. Many might remember hearing stories about distant relatives when they were younger but few documented what they heard.

We will take a look at some of our ancestors and see if we can document some interesting facts about them.

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**The Mikel Family:** My maternal grandparents, **John Mikel and Anna Pastyrik**, came to America in 1912 and 1914 respectively. John Mikel came first to find a place to live and work and to save up enough money to pay for passage for his wife and two children, Bohumil and Mary. Mary was my mother. The family lived in the small town of Uhersky Brod, Moravia, Czech Republic, located near the Slovakia border.



The trip at sea took nine days. Processing time

The trip from Uhersky Brod to Bremen, Germany took one day by train. Both the 1912 and the 1914 voyage was on board the SS George Washington which sailed from Bremen, Germany to Ellis Island, New York.

through Ellis Island took eight hours on average. From New York they traveled to Racine, Wisconsin by train which probably took two days. The total time from Uhersky Brod to Racine was about 13 days.

*The photo at left taken in 1920 shows John Mikel, Anna Pastyrik Mikel, and children Mary and Bohumil.*

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**Clara Sibilla Stratman:** Clara departed Germany from the port of Bremen on the ship SS Hermann. She arrived at the port of New York, Castle Garden, on 15 June 1868, three years after the Civil War ended. Her home was listed as the village/city of Hamm, Germany. She traveled alone from Germany to Wisconsin. According to undocumented family stories, Clara was 16 years old and engaged to a man named Henning. He supposedly died while she was in transit to America. NOTE: It is unlikely that a 16 year old single girl would travel thousands of miles alone. Clara later married Henry Henningfeld at Waterford, Racine County, Wisconsin on 6 May 1873. She was 20 years old when she arrived in the United States and was 25 when she married Henry Henningfeld.

Clara reportedly worked for a judge at the Racine County Court House and probably lived in the City of Racine for a period of time. This has not been confirmed by any documentation but was told to me by Clara's granddaughter, Lolita Henningfeld Manske in 2002.



*Clara Stratman Henningfeld*

On June 19, 1869, at the age of 50, Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff Stratman Heitkemper arrived at the Port of New York on board the ship SS Hermann with 847 passengers on board. Traveling with her were her two sons Carl Stratman, age 20 years, and Heinrich Fredrich Heitkemper aged 7 years. This was the same ship that her daughter Clara Stratman sailed on one year earlier in 1868. Carl was the brother of Clara and Heinrich Fredrich Heitkemper was the half-brother of Clara.

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**The Heck family:** The family consisted of Johann Heck, age 44, Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck age 50, and their five children: Peter age 18, Lucia age 16, Henry age 14, Joseph age 13, and Clara age 10. Henry was my great grandfather. The family departed from Alendorf, Germany and traveled by coach or wagon to Antwerp, Belgium. They had to travel through the Eifel Mountain area of western Germany, through the southern tip of the Netherlands and into Belgium. The trip from Alendorf to Antwerp was about 124 miles as the crow flies. The travel time would have been about three days in 1853.

After arriving in Antwerp the family had to check in with the Antwerp Police Department to verify that they were approved to leave Europe for America. They probably had to wait several days before boarding the sailing ship, the Peter Hattrick. The journey on board ship would have taken seven or eight weeks in 1853.

15	Joh. Heck.	44				
19	Anna	50	Wife			
20	Peter	18	Son			
21	Lucia	16	Daughter			
22	Henry	14	Son			
23	Joseph	13	"			
24	Clara	10	"			

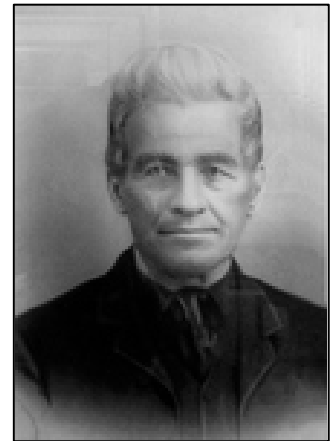
**Above is shown the actual passenger list of the Johann Heck family on board the ship Peter Hattrick in April 1853. Johann is #18 and Henry is #22.**

The Heck family arrived in the United States at the Port of New York, known as Castle Garden, on 16 April 1853. Processing time at Castle Garden was about one or two days. The family of seven had two chests containing all of their pos-

sessions. Think about that the next time you pack your luggage for a one week vacation trip.

The family then traveled to Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. Rail service had just become available to Chicago. The first New York-Chicago route was provided on January 24, 1853 with the completion of the Toledo, Norwalk and Cleveland Railroad to Grafton, Ohio on the Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati Railroad. The route later became part of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, owned by the New York Central Railroad. Rail service from Chicago to Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee was still under construction in the mid 1850 period. The trip from New York to Chicago was about 800 miles and would have taken three days by rail.

***Shown below right is an image of Johann Peter Schaefer.***



Most likely Johann Peter Schaefer picked up the Heck family either in Chicago or in Kenosha. Johann Peter Schaefer was the oldest brother of Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, and he arrived with his family at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin in 1852. By wagon the trip from Chicago to Brighton was 78 miles or a full day of travel.

The total trip from Alendorf, Germany to Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin probably took about 58 to 65 days.

The journey from Alendorf was not quite over. Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck died in November 1855 at Brighton, just two years after arriving in Wisconsin. Out of necessity, Johann Heck married the widow Susannah Sebenbrunner Zeren in June 1856. Together their combined family consisted of the following children on the day that they married: Zeren children and ages: John 10,

Anna 8, Margaret 4, Nicholas 4, Peter 3, Philip 2, and Mary 1. Heck children and ages: Peter 21, Anna 19, Henry 17, Joseph 15, and Clara 13.

In 1857 the combined Heck and Zeren families migrated to Swan Lake, Nicolet County, Minnesota and formed a new township called Brighton. Johann Heck and Susannah added four more children between 1857 and 1866. The trip from Brighton, Wisconsin to Swan Lake, Minnesota is about 400 miles and would have taken at least a week to complete.

Johann Heck died at Swan Lake in 1885, a full 32 years after leaving Alendorf, Germany.

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**The Henningfeld Family: Johann Henrich Wilhelm Henningfeld**, born 12 April 1779 at Henrichenburg, Germany, married **Maria Catharina Bucker Struman**, born 17 October 1778 at Olfen, Germany. They were married on 19 June 1804 at Olfen, Germany. Their family consisted of eight children of which six of them immigrated to Racine County, Wisconsin.

Following are the children and their year of immigration: **Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld** born 18 February 1808 at Olfen, died 13 January 1849 at Waterford, Wisconsin, immigrated in October 1847; **Franz Arnold Henningfeld** (my great-great-grandfather) born 4 November 1810 at Olfen, died 26 April 1869 at Waterford, immigrated 26 June 1847; **Catharina Elisabeth Henningfeld** born 7 December 1813 at Olfen, died 28 February 1851 at Burlington, Wisconsin, immigrated in 1845; **Johann Theodor Henningfeld** born 14 November 1816 at Olfen, died 13 November 1875 at Waterford, immigrated on 30 July 1845; **Bernardina Dorothea Henningfeld** born 15 March 1819, died 11 August 1859 at Waterford, immigrated in 1847; **Anna Maria Francesca Henningfeld** born 26 January 1823, died 29 October 1893 at Waterford, immigrated on 30 July 1845.

The spouses of the Henningfeld children were: Johann Wilhelm Henningfeld married Catherine Elizabeth Bruggerman; Franz Arnold Henningfeld married Catherine Elizabeth Richter;

Catharina Elisabeth Henningfeld married John Henry Hoffer; Johann Theodor Henningfeld married Maria Christina Dahlman; Bernardina Dorothea Henningfeld married William Kortendick; Anna Maria Francesca Henningfeld married Louis Josef Sanders.

The following note was found by Henning Henningfeld, a German researcher that I have corresponded with over many years. He is also the author of the published book "Die Familie Henningfeld" written in 2008. The following is from a list of immigrants who traveled to America from Germany.

"Franz Henningfeld from Vinnum Ksp. Olfen, Land Worker born 5 Nov 1810 married with Elisabeth Richter born 27 Feb 1816, and their children Maria Catharina born 10 Aug 1840, Catharina Elizabeth born 12 Dec 1842, and Catharina Carolina born 8 Feb 1845 and also parents: Wilhelm Henningfeld born 5 Apr 1777, and Maria Catharina Bucker born 18 Mar 1780 emigrated in 1847 to America." Note that the **u** in Bucker had an umlaut above it.



*The charcoal portrait above is that of Franz Arnold Henningfeld, my great-great-grandfather. The image was provided by Phyllis Cataldi in 1980. Her mother told her that the portrait was that of Franz Henningfeld.*

This research indicates that the parents of the Henningfeld children immigrated to America in 1847. Of the six children who immigrated, three came in 1845 and three came in 1847 with their parents. We were unable to find a record of the parents in Wisconsin.

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**Peter McNulty:** Peter McNulty was born in Ireland in about 1807 but the exact date and location of his birthplace is unknown. Peter departed Warrenpoint, Northern Ireland on 10 April 1834 at the age of 27. He arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, Canada and then in Boston, on 8 June 1834. This information was from Peter McNulty's Petition for Naturalization. We have not been able to find Peter arriving in Boston on board a ship. We suspect that he arrived in St. John, New Brunswick and then traveled to Boston by land. In 1834 it was not uncommon for



the immigrants to land in New Brunswick and to travel by coach, wagon or by foot to Boston. Many Irish immigrants made their way to Boston which had a large Irish population.

***The map above shows the path from St. John, New Brunswick to Boston.***

The distance from St. John to Boston is a little over 300 miles. The total travel time from Warrenpoint to Boston was two months.

Peter migrated from Boston to either New York or Vermont where he probably met and married Patience Burgess in about 1838. Next we find Peter and Patience in Kenosha County, Wisconsin in 1839 where he purchased land from the Federal Government.

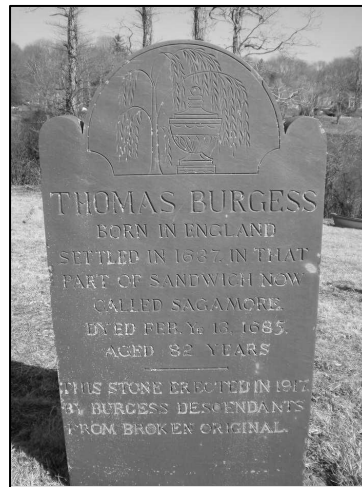
Peter died in Racine County, Wisconsin between 1883 and 1885. He is buried in the St. Mary's

Catholic Church cemetery at Dover, Racine County, Wisconsin.

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**The Burgess Family:** The Burgess family has an interesting history and represents the earliest branch of our family to immigrate to America.

Thomas Burgess I is believed by many researchers to be from Coffinswell, England. Church records show that Thomas Burgess I was baptized 4 Nov 1603 and his wife, Dorothy Goodman, was baptized in 1613 at Coffinswell, Devonshire, England. This leads to speculation since Thomas I was known as "The Goodman Burgess" in early New England records. He is buried in the Old Town Cemetery at Sandwich, Massachusetts.



**THE BURGESS HISTORY TREE**  
by Paul F. Burgess.  
Genealogy Publishing Service, Franklin, North Carolina. 1993:

“Thomas Burgess I arrived with his wife, Dorothy, in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1630, at the age of 27, and re-

mained for a time in the adjoining community of Lynn, about ten miles northeast of Boston. They are believed to have arrived on the ship 'The Blessing of the Bay'. A section of land was assigned to him, 3 July 1637, in Duxbury, 30 miles south of Boston; but in the same year there appeared on the map, 64 miles south of Boston, the township of Sandwich, in the colony of Plymouth, to which he moved the following year, making his permanent abode in that section of the township which has come to be known as Sagamore. He was one of the original eleven male members of the first Congregational Church in Sandwich and was known among his contemporaries as "Goodman Burgess."

Thomas Burgess I served for 13 days in the 1645 expedition against the Narragansets Indians. He was called to duty in the 2nd Company and went forth on 23 August 1645. Each soldier on going forth was supplied with 1 pound of powder, and 3 pounds of bullets and 1 pound of tobacco. The provisions were carried in canvas bags. His company returned Tuesday, September 2, 1645, and was disbanded the following day.

Thomas Burgess and his wife Dorothy had at least five children: Thomas Burgess II born about 1627 at Truro, England, died in 1687 in Rhode Island; John Burgess born about 1628 at Truro, died 1701; Elizabeth Burgess born about 1629 at Truro; Jacob Burgess born about 1631 at Lynn, Massachusetts, died 17 March 1718; Joseph Burgess born about 1633 at Lynn, died in August 1695.

The following is from the book, Burgess Genealogy by Katharine W. Hiam, published in 1997.

“The son Thomas Burgess II married Elizabeth Bassett on 8 November 1648 at Sandwich, Massachusetts. The union produced no known children, and a divorce, reputedly the first in the Plymouth Colony, was granted Elizabeth on 10 June 1661, on the grounds of adultery, for which Thomas II was punished by being whipped and forced to forfeit one third of his net worth. He subsequently married Lydia Gaunt, his ‘partner in crime,’ and the couple moved to Newport, Rhode Island.”

Thomas Burgess II died at Newport, Rhode Island on 26 February 1717. He and his wife Lydia Gaunt had one child: Thomas Burgess III.

Thomas Burgess III was born at Little Compton, Rhode Island in 1668. He was married three times and was the father of 15 children. His first wife was Esther Richmond, next was Martha Wilbour, my GGGGG-Grandmother (6<sup>th</sup> Great Grandmother), and last was Patience Williams.

Thomas Burgess III and Martha Wilbour had a son, John Burgess, born 10 January 1711 at Little Compton, Rhode Island. John Burgess mar-

ried Hannah James on 3 April 1740 at Little Compton, and later lived at Foster, Rhode Island and Voluntown, Connecticut. He died at Sterling, Connecticut on 4 April 1796 and is buried there.

John Burgess and Hannah James had nine children including Benajah Burgess born in 1761 at Little Compton. On 25 December 1787, John Burgess sold land at Voluntown, CT, to his son Benajah Burgess. A copy of that land record is in the possession of Robert J. Heck, Greendale, Wisconsin.

Benajah Burgess migrated to New York State and owned land in Vermont. Benajah Burgess was married to Zilpha Matteson in about 1783. Benajah died at Hoosick, New York on 15 August 1830 and is buried at Wallomsak, New York.

Benajah and Zilpha had a large family including Benjamin Burgess, born about 1794, who married Rebecca Chase in about 1818. The Benjamin Burgess family migrated to Western New York State and lived at Hannibal, Oswego County, New York. In 1835 the family made its final migration to Wisconsin. Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase had seven children including Patience Burgess.

All of the above can be confusing so let me simplify it with the following list:

Thomas Burgess I & Dorothy  
Thomas Burgess II & Lydia Gaunt  
Thomas Burgess III & Martha Wilbour  
John Burgess & Hannah James  
Benajah Burgess & Zilpha Matteson  
Benjamin Burgess & Rebecca Chase  
Patience Burgess & Peter McNulty  
Mary Ann McNulty & Henry Heck  
Robert S. Heck & Margaret Henningfeld  
Robert G Heck & Mary Ann Mikel  
Robert J Heck & Gloria LaBerge

Note: We have 45 relatives who were born in England and died in Massachusetts, Rhode Island or New York.

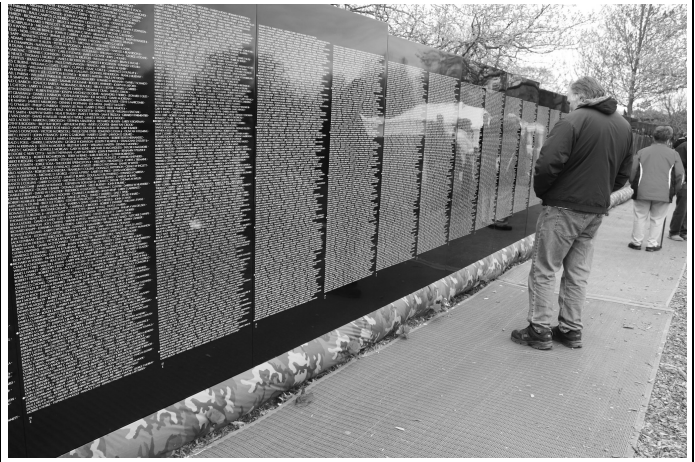
We honored the 47 young men from Racine County, Wisconsin who died during the Vietnam war. From L-R: Gloria Heck, Bill Heck, Michelle Roloff Heck, Sharon Heck, Don Heck, and Bob Heck.



The pictures were taken by Cheryl Ann Heck at Prichard Park in Racine on 17 May 2019. Don Heck worked for two years collecting photos of the 47 men and finding relatives or friends of the deceased soldiers. Don served in Vietnam and has spent a lot of time as a volunteer at the Veteran's Administration nursing home at Union Grove. We are all proud of Don and of his dedication.



These three young men posed during the dedication ceremonies representing the statue at the Vietnam memorial in Washington DC.



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## The Heck Family Picnic

The annual Heck Family picnic will be held on Sunday, 21 July 2019 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. I recommend a minimum flash drive size of 8 Gig.

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](mailto:cecelias@wi.rr.com)**

## From the Photo Album



Photo of the Mary Kay Heck and David Hansen wedding on 4 February 1961, taken some 58 years ago.



Photo of The Grand March at the wedding reception.

The photo at upper right was taken in 1938 at Racine, Wisconsin. The well fed baby is my older brother, Gary Heck, who is held by his paternal grandmother, Margaret Frederica Henningfeld Heck. Standing next to him is his maternal grandmother, Anna Pastyrikova Mikel. That same year Gary claimed that he won a



beauty contest for best of show for a baby. Nice going Gary.

This photo was taken at Hamburg, Germany in



July 1923. My great Aunt, Vincencia Pastyrikova Vanek is seated front row, second from left. She was waiting to board the ship SS Ohio

which arrived in New York's Ellis Island on 5 August 1923.

NOTE: If you have old family photos that you would like to see in the newsletter, please send me a JPG copy at the following address:

**bheck@execpc.com**

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## **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 [whatahek@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whatahek@sbcglobal.net). Cheryl is the one who created the group page for our family.

Right now there are 76 members of our family who belong to the "What The Heck" group on Facebook.

## **Our Family News Letter On-Line.**

Thanks to my son, Bill Heck, 105 issues of Our Family News Letter are now available to you online and for free. They are available to you at the following web address:

<http://ourfamilynewsletter.com/>

Just go to the web address shown 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.

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This newsletter is written and published by Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129. Our Family News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated. My e-mail address is **bheck@execpc.com**



Grace Heck, daughter of Judi and Dave Heck and granddaughter of Gloria and Bob Heck, had fun playing bingo with some seniors at Brenwood Senior Living. She enjoyed meeting and playing with her new friend Doris. Grace is in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and is very active with the Girl Scouts.