

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 110

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2020

## New Information About the Burgess Family Discovered

While doing some research on one of the branches of our Burgess family I stumbled on to some information that we had not previously known about the family.

The following paragraph was found in a biographical sketch of William C. Dow. For clarification, the person referenced as Mr. Dow in the paragraph is Thomas Jefferson Dow, the father of William C. Dow.

“In 1857 Mr. Dow married (second) Miss Ruth B Burgess. She survived her husband and died in November, 1893. Four children were born to them, namely: Carrie, deceased wife of William LeRay, of Racine; William C., of Racine; Albert W., of Bridgeport, Conn.; and Walter I., of Racine. Mrs. Dow was born in the Mohawk Valley, N.Y., but when she was only a year old her parents came to Southport, now Kenosha, making the trip with an ox team. Her father started a sawmill there, but died not long after his arrival, when only in middle life. He left a large family. His widow, who was his second wife, had herself been previously married, and was a Mrs. Allen when Mr. Burgess married her. She survived him many years, dying at the age of eighty-seven.”

I underlined the significant parts of the paragraph so that I can explain them here.

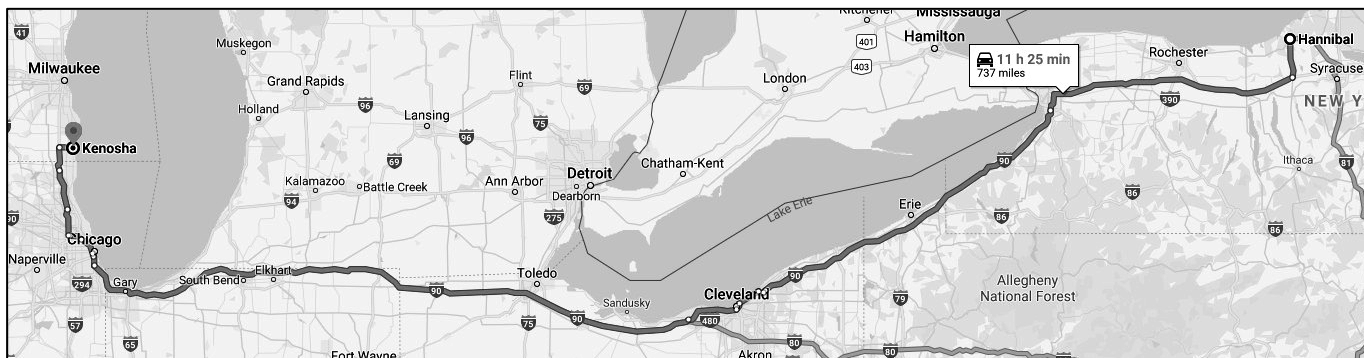
The first underlined text was for Miss Ruth B Burgess. We had her in our data as Belinda Burgess, daughter of Benjamin Burgess and Amanda Foster. We now have her as Ruth Belinda Burgess.

The second underlined text states that Mrs. Dow, Ruth Belinda Burgess, was born in the Mohawk Valley, New York one year before her family migrated to Southport, Wisconsin in 1836. That establishes her year of birth as 1835. Also the text states that they traveled by ox team which would have been quite slow. The top speed of an ox team was 3 miles per hour. The distance from Hannibal, New York to Kenosha, Wisconsin is 737 miles via freeway today. If they traveled 8 hours per day it would have taken them 31 days by ox team **if** there was a freeway in 1836. Realistically it would have taken much much longer considering that Chicago was unpopulated swamp land and there were only Indian paths and horse trails available for much of the distance.

**The last underlined text was the surprise.** The couple referenced was Benjamin Burgess and his second wife, Amanda Foster. This text shows that Amanda Foster was previously married to a Mr. Allen. Thus any marriage record would likely list Benjamin Burgess marrying Amanda Allen, not Amanda Foster.

After a little more research I found that Amanda Burgess was first married to Russell Allen in New York State and they had at least one child, Mahitable Allen, born 21 September 1822. Mahitable married William Harrison Smith in April 1848 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Mahitable died on 23 January 1876 in Kenosha. Mahitable Allen and William Harrison Smith had four children: William E. Smith born 1844, Frank G. Smith born 1847, Willard Adelbert Smith born 1849, and Ada Smith born 1851. All of the children were born in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

On the following page is displayed a map of the travel path from Hannibal, New York to Kenosha, Wisconsin.



Mahitable Allen would have been 14 years old in 1836 and she certainly would have traveled with her mother, Amanda and her step father, Benjamin Burgess to Wisconsin.

The Burgess family was quite large in February, 1836 when they set out to make the long trip to Southport, now Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The family members on that trip would have been Benjamin Burgess and his second wife Amanda Foster Allen Burgess, (Children from Benjamin Burgess Sr. and Rebecca Chase) Benjamin Jr. 17, Nehemiah Ebenezer 16, Alonzo 15, Joel 14, Julia 9, (Children from Benjamin Burgess Sr. and Amanda Foster Allen) William Everington 6, Martha Matilda 3, and Ruth Belinda 1 and (The child from Russell Allen and Amanda Foster) Mahitable Allen 13. It is unclear if Patience Burgess 16, the daughter of Benjamin Burgess Sr. and Rebecca Chase, was on the trip. She may have already married Peter McNulty by 1836. Patience and Peter may have been in the same wagon train.

At any rate, the ox drawn wagon train would have been crowded and most likely consisted of two or more covered wagons since there were at least 11 people ranging in age from 42 years to 1 year of age. The nine children were all under the age of 17 and at least two of them would have still been in diapers. The wagon train started out in February 1836, so that the wagons would not be bogged down in the mud of the trails and swamps. The land would have been frozen and the temperature inside the canvas covered wag-

ons without heat would have been extremely cold.

When the family arrived at Southport they claimed land on the Pike River within a mile of today's Petrifying Springs Park adjacent to the Parkside University in the Somers Township of Kenosha County. In 1836 it was still part of Milwaukee County. The family would have lived in the covered wagons while a cabin and a saw mill were being built.

Using [FindAGrave.com](http://FindAGrave.com) I was able to find the burial place of Thomas Jefferson Dow and Ruth Belinda Burgess Dow at Mound Cemetery in Racine.

#### **Thomas Dow**

Birth 29 Jun 1830

Death 21 Aug 1888 (aged 58)

Burial Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin, USA

Plot Block 16

Mound Cemetery

#### **Belinda Dow**

Birth 30 Jul 1835

Death 7 Nov 1893 (aged 58)

Burial Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin, USA

Plot Block 16

Mound Cemetery.

**More information from a biography of William Everington Burgess.**

In the process of researching for the previous article I found a detailed biographical sketch for William Everington Burgess, the first child of Benjamin Burgess Sr. and Amanda Foster Allen. The biography stated that William was born in Erie County, N.Y. on May 2, 1830.

“Benjamin Burgess, father of William, was born in Vermont, and when a young man went to New York. He was twice married, his second union being with Amanda Foster, a native of the Empire State and a daughter of Alfred Foster, a mechanic and well-known citizen of the community in which he resided. After a few years’ residence in Erie County, N.Y., Mr. Burgess removed to Oswego County, where he was engaged in the milling business and manufacture of lumber for a number of years.”

“Alfred Foster came to Wisconsin in 1835, to make locations for friends, and finally took up his residence in Kenosha County, where he resided until his death. Benjamin Burgess and his family followed him in 1836. They started in the month of February with teams and sleighs, and from Michigan continued to journey with wagons, at length arriving in the town of Southport, now known as Kenosha, on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March.”

From the record “10,000 Vital Records of Central New York 1813-1815” I found the following information on Alfred Foster:

“3187. Foster, Alfred, 74, died 3/7/1849, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Burgess, in Southport, Wisconsin, born in New York State and lived for many years in Hannibal, Oswego County there 9/4/1819.”

From these articles we can conclude where Benjamin Burgess may have lived. According to these sketches he was born in Vermont, lived for a few years in Erie County, New York, then he lived in Oswego County, New York, and finally in Somers, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

From other research we know that Benjamin Burgess was listed in the 1830 census as living in Ira, Cayuga County, New York. Ira is just south of Hannibal, Oswego County, NY.

Benjamin’s son, Alonzo Burgess, listed in his biography that he was born on 27 August 1820 at East Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont. He stated that in 1825 he moved with his family to Hannibal, Oswego County, New York and lived there until 1836 when they migrated to the Wisconsin Territory.

Benjamin Burgess and Amanda Foster Burgess sold land in Oswego County, New York in 1835 to Earl Watson Jr., as is recorded in Book V, page 125, FHL US/CAN film number 1011767.

Benjamin’s father was Benajah Burgess. Benajah Burgess was found in the 1810 US census for New York in Rensselaer County (010 31101-11). In the 1820 census he was listed as living at Hoosick, Rensselaer County, NY line 186. Benajah Burgess was located in the 1830 census at the town of Hoosick, New York. Males listed: 1 under 5, 2 between 20 and 29, 1 between 60 and 69. Females listed: 1 between 10 and 15, 1 between 20 and 29, 1 between 30 and 39, 1 between 60 and 69.

GRANTORS	GRANTEES	Libers.	Page	Date	Month	Day	Year
Benajah Burgess	Benjamin Burgess	257		Feb	18	1830	
Benajah Burgess	John Burgess	258					
Benajah Burgess	Harvey Burgess	258					
Benajah Burgess	Aaron Burgess	39		July	6		
Benajah Burgess	Archibald Burgess	39		Feb	18	1830	
Zilpha Burgess	Archibald Burgess	40					
Zilpha Burgess	Archibald Burgess	41					
Zilpha Burgess	Solomon Babb	98		Nov	10		

The image above is from the New York State land sale records from 18 February 1830. Benajah Burgess has four transfers of land to his sons, John, Harvey, Aaron (Nairn), and Archibald while Benajah’s wife Zilpha, transferred land to their son Archibald. Benajah died six months later on 15 August 1830. What is interesting is that Benajah’s two sons, Benjamin and George left Eastern New York and migrated to Western New York State. Neither Benjamin nor George had land transferred to them by their parents in February of 1830.



Shown above is the tombstone of Amanda Foster Allen Burgess located at the Oakwood Cemetery, at Somers, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The inscription shows “**Amanda Foster Burgess, mother of Wm. E. Burgess, Born 1799, Died 1886.**”

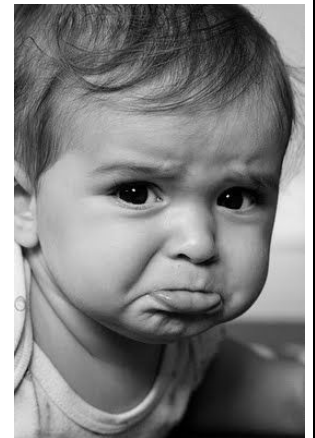


The photo at lower left shows the partially buried tombstone of Alfred Foster. The date of death is partially visible and the age is shown as 75. Above is a photo showing the approximate location of his burial place at the Green Ridge Cemetery in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The cemetery is located at 66<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the city. The Saint James Catholic Cemetery is connected to the Green Ridge Cemetery. These are the oldest cemeteries in Kenosha.

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## The Heck Family Picnic for 2020 was canceled.

Sorry to say but after a run of many years it was necessary to cancel the 2020 family picnic. The Corona Virus just made it too high a risk to have the picnic. The Leisure Center stated that the outdoor swimming pool was only open to members. That meant there would be no swimming for the Heck family. Also we would not be allowed to have an open buffet for our food. We would have to eat outside since social distancing was also required. Hopefully the Heck Family Picnic can resume in 2021.



## WISCONSIN'S TAX ON BACHELORS

Wisconsin leads the world—so far as the taxing of bachelors is concerned. Elsewhere the project has been considered but nowhere adopted, and everywhere the luxurious bachelor, free from matrimonial cares, has been able to snap the finger of scorn in the face of his married brothers. But in Wisconsin, at least, the tables are to be turned. Mr Peter Clery is the Solon who proposed a law that every 'wilful' bachelor above the age of thirty shall be compelled to pay a tax. And the legislative body has accepted it with enthusiasm, possessing in its ranks, no doubt, a large majority of married men. The only unmarried males to escape the tax are those who can satisfactorily prove that they have done their best to get married—and failed. Spinsters, however, get off scot free, seeing that, as the introducer of the bill rather unkindly put it, 'old maids have enough to put up with already.'

The newspaper article above was one that I found while researching the Internet for a presentation I was making on Newspaper Research.

The article appeared in a 1905 issue of an Australian newspaper and referenced a new Wisconsin Tax on Bachelors. It stated that, "Wisconsin leads the world --- so far as the taxing of Bachelors is concerned."

The last part really made me laugh. "The only unmarried males to escape the tax are those who can satisfactorily prove that they have done their best to get married --- and failed. Spinsters, however, get off scot free, seeing that, as the introducer of the bill rather unkindly put it. 'Old maids have enough to put up with already.'"

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## Phone Call from a reader of Our Family News Letter

A few weeks ago I received a phone call from one of our readers, Louise M Friend Havens. Louise is 85 years of age and was born in Elk County, Kansas in December 1934. Louise was

married to John William Havens on 12 April 1955. John passed away on 4 November 2016. His obituary follows:

“OBITUARY-Winfield Daily Courier, November 8, 2016

John William Havens  
(October 3, 1935 - November 4, 2016)

John William Havens, 81, of Winfield, Kansas, passed away Friday morning, November 4, 2016 at his home, due to complications of heart, lung and diabetes diseases.

John was born October 3, 1935 in Wilmot, Kansas. He was the youngest of three children born to Charlie and Mary (Huffmaster) Havens. Many people knew him by his nickname "Hoot". He attended grade school in Wilmot until 1945 when the family moved to Winfield, where he finished his education.

On April 12, 1955, John married Louise M. Friend in Elk County, Kansas. They became the parents of three daughters, Deanna, Mary and Susan.

From 1950 until 1953, he worked for Barnett's. In 1953, he went to work in the oil field with his father. In 1954, he began working at the Consolidated Flour Mill in Winfield until 1963. John then worked at the Wichita Flour Mill in Wichita from 1963 to 1965. In 1965, he became employed by the Cowley County Highway Department, working there until he retired in 1999. From 1965 to 1974, he also worked on weekends at the filling station on West 9th hill, and from 1979 to 1988, he pumped several oil wells in Cowley County.

He enjoyed being with his family and his many friends. He enjoyed Bluegrass music and attending the Walnut Valley Festival, fishing, building garden tractors and competing in tractor pulls in Kansas and Oklahoma. He also enjoyed having his morning coffee at McDonalds, visiting with his friends.

Preceding him death were his parents, his brother, Sherman "Dode" and his sister, Frances. Survivors include: His wife: Louise of Winfield; His daughters: Deanna Havens of Hutchinson; Mary Eastman and husband, Jack of Mill Creek, WA; Susan Harris and husband, Bob of Winfield; His grandchildren: Jaema Lee Tickel; Jus-

tin Eastman; Chance Eastman; Katelyn (Eastman) Harris; Haley Eastman; Carley Eastman; Chrissy Glaze; Eric Harris; Nick Harris; Keri Harris; His 8 great grandchildren; His brother-in-law: Harold Friend of Winfield; and Many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M., Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at Miles Funeral Service in Winfield. Private family interment will follow at Tisdale Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home on Tuesday evening from 4 to 8 P.M.

A memorial has been established in John's name for the Tisdale Cemetery. Contributions may be made through the funeral home."



The photo above shows John William Havens and Louise M Friend Havens.

Louise is a descendant of her great-great grandfather, Nehemiah E Burgess, the son of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase. Nehemiah was a brother of Patience Burgess McNulty, my great-great grandmother.

Louise was asking for some help in finding information about her great-great grandfather's family. His name was George Daniel Reeder

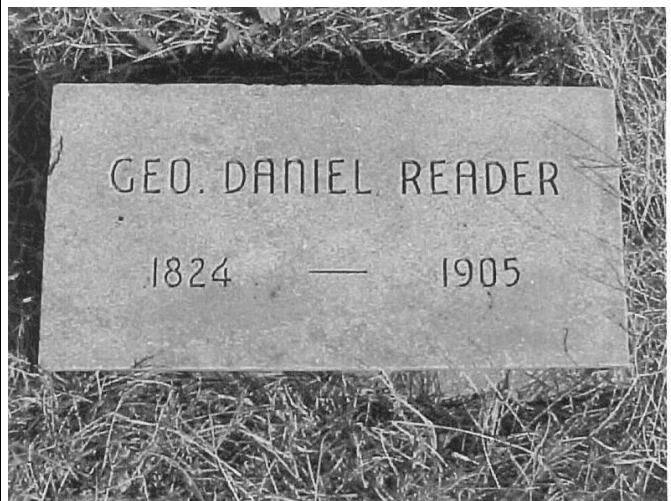
1824-1905. The name Reeder can also be found as Reader, Rader, and Radder.

I was able to find an obituary for George Daniel Reader and it is shown below:

#### OBITUARY

"G. D. Reader died at Severy, Kansas, February 20, 1905 at 8 a.m. He was born in Berlin, Germany, Dec. 18, 1824 and came to America when a boy of 14. He was a cooper by trade and lived in Illinois for several years. He married Miss Williams Comfort Baylor of Ohio in 1849. They had 13 children, four dying while small. Mrs. Reader joined her little ones some 20 years ago. Mr. Reader came to Clinton in 1872. He remained here some time then settled near Coal with his family. Over a year ago, he went to Ft. Scott to visit one of his daughters, then to Severy, to visit the other two daughters that live there. His remains were shipped to Clinton and brought out to Coal and peacefully laid to rest at Parks Chapel. He leaves 9 children to morn his loss -- Mrs. Amanda Ulrich of Kansas City; Mrs. Mary Minich of Washington, Ill.; Mrs. Lizzie Friend and Ella Foster of Severy, Kansas; Mrs. Josie Cole of Malta Bend, MO.; Jasper of Pueblo, Colorado; John of Sprague, MO.; and Mrs. Emma Ballard and Henry Reader of Coal."

Note that the spelling of his surname is Reader.



The tombstone of George Daniel Reader at Leesville, Missouri. He was born on 18 Decem-

ber 1824 at Berlin-Mitte and died on 20 February 1905 at Severy, Kansas.



The photo at left is of George Daniel Reader, his wife Comfort Williams Bayler and their son, Jasper.

The meaning of Berlin-Mitte is “Middle of Berlin”. That makes it very difficult to research since Berlin was such a

large city with hundreds of churches of all denominations.

I did find one listing of George Daniel Reader on Ancestry.com however there was little or no documentation of the facts. The Ancestry file shows that the parents of George Daniel Reader were John Phillip Reader 1787 – 1869 and his wife Catherine. John Phillip Reader was shown as being born in Germany and died in Livingston, Missouri. His parents were shown as Heinrich Reader and Catharina Dohr. Again without documentation the reliability of these names is very weak.

I hope that this sheds some light for Louise. It was great talking with her about her family history.

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### **Frank L. Lamping 1956-2020**

We were saddened to learn that Frank L Lamping passed away in June. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Andrea and her family.

Many years ago Frank invited Gloria and me to the Henningfeld Family Reunion at the family farm in Yorkville, Wisconsin. Frank and I set up two large tables with genealogical information on both branches of the Henningfeld family. We met so many of our distant relatives that day. It is one which we will always remember.



### **We Are Cousins.**

L-R: Cheryl Ann Heck, Frank L Lamping, and Bob Heck. This picture was taken at Union Grove when the community came out to support Frank in his nomination to the Green Bay Packer Fan Hall of Fame. He won the honor in 2017.

Following is the obituary of Frank from the Polnasek-Daniels Funeral Home:

### **Frank L Lamping**

“Age 63, of Union Grove, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on Thursday, June 18, 2020, following a long courageous battle with cancer. Frank was born August 14, 1956 to Frank and Joyce (nee Henningfeld) Lamping in Racine, WI. His early life was spent in Union Grove where he graduated from Union Grove High School “Class of 1974”. Following high school, he attended University of Wisconsin in Madison. On August 27, 1983 he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Andrea M. Smart at St. Robert’s Catholic Church in Union Grove.

Following their marriage, they resided in Union Grove where Frank was involved in the community in many ways. Frank was retired from American Roller after 33 years of service. He was known for being the epitome of a true and genuine community leader and was involved in a variety of community organizations including: the Union Grove Lions Club (30 years), Leadership Union Grove, Relay For Life (17 years), Union Grove / Yorkville Land Use Planning Committee, Union Grove Recreation, Yorkville

Liaison, Union Grove History Seekers, Blacksmith of Oak Clearing Museum, Milwaukee and Burlington Genealogy member, Henningfeld Family Reunion Chairman, Union Grove Class of 1974 Reunion Committee, Union Grove Men's Volleyball League and Union Grove Recreation Youth Baseball League. But most recently, anyone who knew Frank knows he was a die-hard Green Bay Packer Fan and in 2017 was inducted into the Green Bay Packers Fan Hall of Fame as the 19th member. In Frank's humble eyes, this was the ultimate honor to receive. In August of 2019 Frank was honored by the Community State Bank with the "Frank Lamping Community Service Award" named after Frank and now a yearly honor given to a community member who exemplifies positivity, selflessness, leadership and inspire others to give back to the community.

Frank is survived by Andrea his loving wife of 36 years, his siblings: Penny Haakenson, Peggy (Tom) Czerniak, Darlene (Brad) Kusmirek and Diane Squires, his mother-in-law Jane Smart, Sisters-in-laws Sandra (Doug) Nelson and Linda (Gene) Bower. He is further survived by aunts, many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, cousins and many many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law Harold Smart and sister-in-law Laura Smart Molitor.

Public visitation for Frank will take place on Friday June 26, 2020 from 2pm until 7pm at Polnasek-Daniels Funeral Home. Social distancing will be followed. In honor of Frank please wear your Packer attire. A PRIVATE Mass of Christian Burial will take place at St. Mary Catholic Church in Dover, with PRIVATE burial in Union Grove Memorial Cemetery.

Due to allergies, in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Andrea to be distributed amongst Frank's favorite charities."

Polnasek-Daniels Funeral Home & Crematory  
908 – 11th Ave.  
Union Grove, WI 53182  
262-878-2011

## 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/>

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## **Thanks to our contributors.**

Contributions helped keep this newsletter going for the past 27 years. This issue is number 110. The newsletter is published every three months and has never missed an issue in 27 years. Here is a list of our contributors during the past year:

**Lorraine & Cheryl Heck** (N. Fort Meyers, Florida & New Berlin, Wisconsin)

**Sue (Bark) & Jeff Miller** (North Oaks, Minnesota)

**Ellen & Bill Stiner**(Golden, Colorado)

**Ruth & Ralph Heck** (Burlington, Wisconsin)

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## **Our Family News Letters** are now

available to you on-line and for free. They are available to you at the following web address:

<http://ourfamilynewsletter.com/>

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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. My e-mail address is **HECK.BOB@gmail.com**

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your family members.