# Our Family News Letter

Issue 111 Greendale, Wisconsin December 2020

# **Articles and Items From the Newspapers**

Over the years I've collected quite a few articles found in newspapers from all over Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota. Some are very short but they do have a story behind them.

New Ulm Review, Wednesday, 4 June 1890, New Ulm, Brown County, Minnesota, Volume 13, Page 6.

"While coming to New Ulm on Wednesday from Fairfax, Peter Heck and wife were thrown from their rig in a runaway and sustained some slight injuries. Mrs. Heck is bruised quite badly about the face and Mr. Heck was hurt in the neck."

Editor's Note: Peter Heck was the oldest son of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer. He was born on October 5, 1834, in Alendorf, Prussia, (now part of Germany) and came to America with his parents in 1853. He moved to Minnesota with his parents in 1857 and helped them establish their homestead. He and his brother Henry (ancestor of most of the Hecks from Wisconsin), went back to Paris township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, in the summer of 1860 and worked as farm laborers. Peter worked on a Mr. P. Frank's farm and Henry worked on the Seymor Datton farm. In 1862 the Civil War had been raging for well over a year and the recruiting was intense. Each state was asked to form more volunteer units. New recruits were paid a bounty of \$500 if they would enlist for three years.

Peter enlisted on August 21, 1862, with the 26th Regiment of the Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to Company D as a Private. He saw action in some of the most famous and bloodiest battles of the Civil War, notably in the

Battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863. Peter's regiment was sent west after Gettysburg and was attached to the Army of the Cumberland, encamped around Chattanooga, Tennessee. His regiment took part in the Battle of Missionary Ridge outside Chattanooga. The Union forces charged up the ridge which was heavily fortified by the Confederates. Through a rain of fire and cannon shot they attacked, and in a bloody onslaught, drove the Confederates from the top of the ridge.

In the spring of 1864 Peter's regiment was involved in a series of battles leading up to the Battle of Atlanta. The battles included Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Cassville, Dallas, Kennesaw Mountain, Peachtree Creek and Atlanta. After the capture of Atlanta, Peter and the 26th Regiment took part in Sherman's well-known "March To The Sea," which culminated in the capture of Savannah, Georgia. Peter also saw action in the battle of Averasboro and Bentonville, North Carolina. On March 19, 1864, the war ended for Peter.

Peter's regiment was mustered out of the service on June 13, 1865, the day it left Washington, D.C. The men were paid a bounty of twenty-five dollars. They arrived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on June 17. The returning heroes marched through town past enthusiastic crowds and proceeded to the Turner Hall where a splendid banquet was prepared for them. Peter received seventy dollars, his last military pay, on June 29.

Peter did not have to search too far for a bride after his return home. He married Margaret Zeren, his step-sister. The marriage took place in St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brighton, Wisconsin, on December 26, 1865. The new couple farmed in Brighton Township. The family moved to Minnesota in 1869 and took a homestead in West Newton Township, in Nicollet

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County, near St. George. They were living in the Village of Morgan, in Redwood County, at the time of Peter's death.

Peter entered the Alexander Hospital in New Ulm, Minnesota in January, 1900, and passed away April 6, 1900. The cause of death was "peritonice tuberculosis." He is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Fairfax, Minnesota.

Margaret was left with a few household items, no property, and no means of support. She moved to New Ulm and lived in an apartment house where a number of other widows lived. She subsisted on a veteran's widow's pension that paid only eight dollars a month. She moved into the "Old Peoples Home" in the Loretto Hospital in New Ulm in May of 1931, and passed away there on February 12, 1933. Margaret is buried at Fairfax, Minnesota.

# Waukesha Freeman, Waukesha, Waukesha County, Wisconsin, 4 March 1915, Page 1.

"John Wurms died Sunday afternoon at his home, 18 Baxter Street, after a short illness, he having been at his post in The Hughes Co.'s tailoring department up to Wednesday, when he was obliged to remain at home by what was believed to be a slight indisposition. He grew rapidly worse Saturday and the end came Sunday as stated. He was 84 years of age and came to this country from Germany when 18 years of age. He settled in Burlington, Wis., where he resided until about twenty years ago, when he removed to this city.

On Nov. 24, last, Mr. and Mrs. Wurms (nee Henningfeld) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage at their home. Besides his wife, Mr. Wurms leaves nine children: Frank J., of Janesville; William, John and Mrs. Frank Litzler, Burlington; Mrs. Joseph Bodenberger, Evansville, Wis.; and Joseph, Mrs. Walter Howard and Elizabeth and Clara Wurms of this city. Funeral services were held at St. Joseph's church yesterday morning at 9 o'clock a. m., Rev. W. G. Miller officiating. Interment was at Burlington. Mr. Wurms was of a kindly nature, and was generally respected by all who came in contact with him in

a business way. His frugal energetic life is an example to those who follow."

Editor's Note: Mrs. Wurms was Catharina Carolina Henningfeld, daughter of Franz Arnold Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Richter. Catharina Carolina Henningfeld Wurms was the sister of my great grandfather, Henry F Henningfeld.

# Burlington Standard Press, Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin, 28 October 1932.

"Mrs. Caroline Wurms, 87 years of age, died at her home at 1:15 o'clock Thursday morning, having been ill only a week from bronchial trouble. Caroline Henningfield was born in Germany, February 27, 1845, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henningfield, the last survivor of a family of seven children born to Mr. and Mrs. Henningfield. At the age of 3 she came to America with her parents who settled in Burlington and later lived for a time in Waterford. On November 24, 1864, she was united in marriage to John Wurms at old St. Mary's church, by the late Rev. Michael Wisbauer. For many years Mr. Wurms was a partner in the tailor shop of Schumacher & Wurms and later owned his own shop. Eighteen years ago Mr. and Mrs. Wurms celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at Waukesha where they then made their home. Mr. Wurms died February 28, 1915.

With the exception of fifteen years residence in Waukesha Mrs. Wurms lived her entire married life in Burlington. She was a member of the Christian Mothers Society of St. Mary's church for sixty-eight years, and a member of St. Anne's Society of St. Charles' church since its organization. Surviving her are eight children, John and Clara, living at home; Mrs. John Litzler and William Wurms of Burlington; Frank of Janesville; Mrs. Joe Bodenberger of Evansville; Joe Wurms and Mrs. Walter Howard of Waukesha. Two children are deceased. She is also survived by nine grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Saturday morning at 9 o'clock at St. Charles' church, Rev. F. J. Hillenbrand officiating. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery."

# New Ulm Review, New Ulm, Brown County, Minnesota, Wednesday 24 June 1885, Volume 8, Page 6.

"Mr. John Heck of Granby, aged 76 years, died very suddenly last Sunday night at the residence of Vinzense Brunner, in West Newton, where he had gone to attend the wedding of one of his grandchildren. A stroke of apoplexy was no doubt the cause of his sudden death."

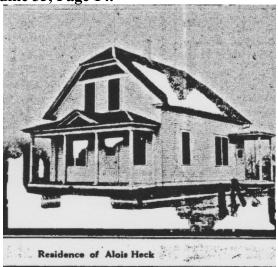
Editor's Note: John Heck, born Johann Heck, was my Great-Great-Grandfather. He was attending the wedding of his granddaughter, Anna Brunner, to William Brown.

## St. Peter Herald, St. Peter, Minnesota, Friday, 26 June 1885.

"John Heck of Granby fell dead on Monday at the home of V. Brunner in the town of West Newton. Mr. Heck went to West Newton on Saturday to visit and attend a wedding and on Monday while playing with some small children fell dead. He was 75 years old. The funeral occurred Wednesday."

Editor's Note: The obituary above had two errors in it. Johann Heck died on Sunday and his age was 76 years. An obituary published in German in a New Ulm newspaper stated that he died of a heart attack.

#### New Ulm Review, New Ulm, Brown County, Minnesota, Saturday, 19 December 1914, Volume 35, Page 14.



#### "New Home of Alois Heck"

"Tastel and Niemann have put up the new residence of Mr. Alois Heck on the corner of North Seventh Street and Broadway Street. It is an eight room, one and one-half story frame building, 30 X 30 feet, painted white. Furnace heat has been provided for. The cost is about \$3,500."

Editor's Note: I tried to locate the Alois Heck home in New Ulm, Minnesota using Google Maps and Street View. Many of the street names were changed over the 106 years since the house was built in 1914. By going to the WWI draft records and the 1920 U.S. Census records, I was able to find that the address was 723 North Broadway Street.



The Alois Heck home as seen in 2020.

Many changes were made to the house over the years but you can see that it is the same basic structure.

Using Zillow I was able to find more information about the house.

#### Overview

This 1350 square foot single family home has 5 bedrooms and 2.0 bathrooms. This home is lo-

cated at 723 N Broadway St, New Ulm, MN 56073.

#### **Facts and features Edit**

• Type: Single Family

• Year built: 1914

• Heating: Forced air

Cooling: Central

• Parking: Garage - Detached

• Lot: 8,250 sqft

The current home value is estimated by Zillow to be \$159,163 in 2020.



Standing L-R: Robert, Edwin, Victor, and Frank. Seated L-R: Mary Lang Heck and Alois Heck.

Mary and Alois had five children as follows: Frank, Clara, Roman, Victor, Edwin, and Robert. Clara and Roman both died before their first birthday. Alois was christened as Aloysius Ferdinand Heck, born 15 February 1887, died 27 March 1984. He married Mary T. Lang on 28 May 1907 at West Newton, Minnesota.

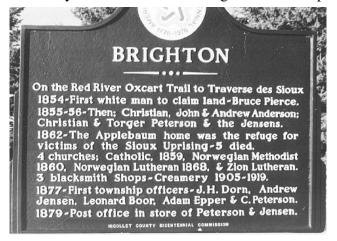
# St. Peter Herald, St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota, 15 January 1892.

"Mrs. John Haack (sic Heck) late of Fairfax but one of the pioneer women of Nicollet County died at her home in Renville County, last Thursday afternoon at the ripe old age of 72 years."

Editor's Note: Mrs. John Heck was Susannah Sebenbrunner Zeren Heck, the second wife of Johann Heck. She died at West Newton, Nicollet County, Minnesota and is buried next to Johann Heck at the Catholic Cemetery St. Mary of the Visitation at Brighton Township, Nicollet County on the Old Fort Road near Swan Lake.



St. Mary of the Visitation at Brighton Township,



Historical marker at Brighton, Minnesota.



Tombstones at center are for Johann Heck and Susannah Heck at St Mary of the Visitation.

Frau Bingens Prunner. Mach einer breifahrigen Krnntheit, bie sie in den letzten innt Monaten ans. Bett fesselten, ichloh am Samstag morgen gegen 2 Uhr Frau Bingens Brunner in ihrem Seim an ber nordlichen State Strafe ihre miben Mugen juni ewigen Schlunmer. Die Dahingeciebene hatte bas icone Alter bon 86 labren erreicht; als ber Schnitter Tob ihrem Erbendolein ein Biel feste. Frau Brumer, geb. Clara Sed, wurde am 18. Juli 1848 in Ablenborf in ber Atheinproving in Temichland geboren und fam als awolfjahriges Mabchen in egleitung ihrer Eltern nach ben Bereinigien Staaten. Nachdem ite mel-rere Jahre in Wisconsin zugebracht hatten, fiebelien fle nach Deinnesota über, mo fle fich in ber Rabe von Sman Late am ter parm nieberließen. Um. 15. Wai 1862 vereblichte fich bie Bertorbene in ber kathollichen Kirche zu Beit Newton init herrn Bingens Brunner, der fic mit ben acht Rinbern, bie ber Che entforoffen, überlebt. Hach ihrer Seirat ließen fie fich in Weft Newton auf ber Garm nieber, mo fie anfaffig blieben, bis fie bor zwei Jahren nach ber Giabi New Ulm jogen. Die überlebenben Kinder sind: Frau Wm. Brown, Frau Frank Altinann und Alfred Brunner von Weit Reivton; und Frant Brunner von Fairfar, Fred von Gibbon; Joieph von Georgeville, Minn., und Frau John Schweiß bon New Ulm. Dazu wird fie noch über-lebt von einem Bruber namens Henry Sed aus Watertown, Wie, und von 28 Enfeffindern. Der Trauerdienft fanb am Montagmorgen um 10 Uhr pon ber fatholiichen Rirche in St. George aus ftatt, und die Leiche murbe auf bem bortigen fatholijchen Friedhof beigesett. Die Cahingeschiebene mar Mitglieb vom Altarverein in St. George und Ehrenmitglied bes drift lichen Wättervereins babier.

MRS. VINCENT BRUNNER.

Saturday morning shortly after o'clock Mrs. Vincent Brunner pa away at her home on North State street. She had been ailing the past three years and had been confined to her bed the past five months. Death was due to weakened nerves and other Brunner, nee Clara Heck, was Ahlendorf, Rhinish province, Germany, on July 18, 1843 and thus was seventy, six years old when the Grim Reaper claimed her. She came to America with her parents when she wa years old and they lived for years in Wisconsin. During 1857 they settled in Swan Lake where they farmed for many years. On May 15, 1862, the deceased was married to Vincent Brunner, her surviving husband at the Catholic church of West Newton. This union was blessed with eight children

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Brunner lived on a farm in West Newton Brunner lived on a farm in West Newton and two years ago they 'removed to New Ulm. The surviving children are: Mrs. Wm. Brown, Mrs. Frank Altmann, Alfred Brunner of West Newton; John and Frank Bunner, of Fairfax; Fred, of and Frank Bunner, of Fairfas; Freq. of Gibbon; Joseph, of Georgeville, Minn; and Mrs. John Schweiss, of New Ulm. She is also survived by one brother Henry Heck, of Watertown, Wisconsin and by twenty-eight; grand children. Monday morning at ten o'clock in the Catholic church of St. George after Catholic church of St. George atter which the remains were interred in the St. George cemetery. The deceased was a member of the Altar society of St. George and an hoursy member of the Christian Mother society of this city,

The following people from out of city attended the funeral of Mrs. Vin Brunner Monday: Xaver Brunner of Bird Island; Wm. Dorn of Storm Lake Bird Island; Wm. Dorn of Storm Lake, Lows; Mrs. Herman Essen of Le Suer-Leo Schaefer and Henry Mueller of Swan Lake; Jos. Eckert, George Ecker and Mrs. Mary Hanson of Gibbon Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Schweise Mr. and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Schweiss' Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schweiss, Frank Biebl, Sr., Frank Biebl, Jr., John, B. Liebl, Mrs. Jos. Hirschmann, Mrs. Xaver Perber, Bern. Ferber, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Ran-weiler, Mrs. Frank Bergel, Mrs. Ben Straumann and Mrs. Peter Zeren, all of Fairfax.

Above are the obituaries for Clara Heck Brunner published in two New Ulm, Minnesota newspapers. The one on the left is written in German and uses Gothic letters. Gothic is not easy to read but that is what was taught in German schools. The one on the right was published in English and uses Roman letters. I placed both in the newsletter so that you could see the challenges in doing newspaper research. See if you can find the name Heck in Gothic. This is what it looks



Finding a German version and an English version in the same city is very rare. One error appears in both copies. Henry Heck is shown as

being from Watertown, Wisconsin. Henry was actually from Waterford, Wisconsin.

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### Did you know...

Five of our distant relatives served in the military during the War of 1812. Their relationship to me is shown after their names.

Captain John Burgess 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin, 5 times removed.

Consider Burgess 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin, 5 times removed. Daniel Allen 2<sup>nd</sup> Cousin, 5 times removed. Abel W. Irish 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin, 5 times removed. Ansel Allen 3<sup>rd</sup> Cousin, 5 times removed. The 5 times removed means that they are five generations apart from me.

### 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/Whatthehe ckfamilygroup/

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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/

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** 

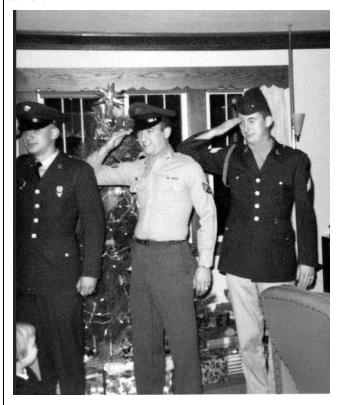
Please feel free to share this newsletter with your family members.

### From the Photo Album...



Top L-R: Don and Bob Heck. Bottom: Gary Heck.

The photo above is from a screen capture made during a ZOOM visit of Gary, Don and Bob Heck. Gary lives in South Carolina, Don lives in Racine, Wisconsin, and Bob lives in Greendale, Wisconsin. This is a great way for us to stay in touch and for sharing the latest news. When one of us speaks our picture is highlighted. These get-togethers usually last about an hour. We have also used SKYPE to communicate with each other.



L-R: Don, Bob and Gary Heck at Christmas time in 1965.

Don was on active duty in the U.S. Army at the time. Bob and Gary were veterans both having served in Germany. Bob was in the U.S. Air Force for four years and was stationed at Ramstein and Giebelstadt Air Bases. Gary was in the U.S. Army for three years and was stationed at Heilbronn, Germany.

Our uniforms were kept in the attic at our parent's home so Gary and I decided it would be neat to have a picture of the three of us in uniform. I'm afraid that if we tried to take a similar picture today none of us would fit in those uniforms that we wore 55 years ago.



Pictured above is the Veteran's Memorial in Greendale, Wisconsin. At right is a photo of the 8" X 8" brick that we had made to help support our veterans. The memorial is on Broad Street and is lit up at night.

The 807<sup>th</sup> TCS (Tactical Control Squadron) controlled the three air corridors to Berlin during the Cold War. The 602<sup>nd</sup> ACW (Aircraft



Control and Warning Squadron) controlled the southern corridor to Berlin.

#### **Century Farm Certificate from Minnesota.**

While doing some on-line research on farm locations in Minnesota I found a century certificate had been awarded to Henry Schaefer, R.R. 2 Nicollet, Minnesota 56074 in 1977. In order to obtain the certificate one had to provide proof that the farm in question had been in the same family for at least 100 years.

I opened the application and found that the land was in SW-1/4 of Section 7 of the Granby Township in Nicollet County and originally consisted of 154 acres. The land was originally purchased by Johann Peter Schaefer in 1867. He sold the farm to his son Leo N. Schaefer in 1908, and Leo sold it to his son, Henry Schaefer in 1955.



The photo at left is of Johann Peter Schaefer 1826-1911. Johann Peter was the nephew of our Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, and was born in Alendorf, Germany. He died at Swan Lake, Minnesota and is buried at the St. Mary of the Visitation

Catholic Cemetery. He was married to Elizabeth Epper 1845-1932. She is buried next to her husband. Johann Peter Schaefer was the son of Johann Schaefer 1792-1874 and Maria Katharine Lux 1801-1883. Johann Schaefer lived one mile north-west of the land that Johann Peter Schaefer owned.

Johann Schaefer arrived in the United States on 3 September 1852 along with his wife, Maria Katharine and six of their children. All of the children were born in Alendorf. The family settled in Brighton, Racine County, Wisconsin and migrated along with the Johann Heck family to the Swan Lake area of Minnesota in 1857.

#### Milwaukee Journal, April 1977

Elvia S Hart's obituary found after an extensive search.

Lawrence Peter Heck, the youngest son of Henry Heck married Elvia S Hart in Milwaukee on 16 April 1913. They had one child, Dorothy Mae Heck on 22 May 1916. Lawrence and Elvia divorced in 1922. They remarried to each other in 1924 and then divorced again in 1928. Lawrence never remarried, however Elvia married Oscar J Gebhardt. Oscar died on 22 June, 1935. Elvia remarried to a man named Phipps. He died before 1977. Her obituary follows.

"Phipps, Elvia S. (Nee Hart) April 7, 1977, age 88 years. Beloved mother of Dorothy (Ralph) Ihlenfeld, 2 grandchildren, Susan (Robert) Stumpner and Richard (Linda) Ihlenfeld, 2 great grandchildren Stacy and Laurie, 3 sisters, Gladys Chase of Oshkosh, Ruth (Edwin) Wasman of St Petersburg, FL and Beulah (Martin) Krug of Oshkosh, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Complete services Sat. eve April 9 at 7:30 pm at the Harder Funeral Home 4217 W Fond Du Lac Ave. Interment Riverside Cemetery Oshkosh, WI at 3 pm Monday. Friends may call



from 4 pm Saturday until time of services.

Member of St Marcus
Ev. Lutheran Church.

Memorials to the Church appreciated."

The photo at left was taken at Burlington, Wisconsin around 1921 or 1922.

The family lived in Milwaukee and was visiting Lawrence's sister, Eva Heck.

Eva Heck worked in

Milwaukee for a period of time but owned property in Burlington.

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2	Home 6 45 Miles St Thile Wis
3	Date of hirth Oct 3 1886
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5	Brighton Wis.
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?
7	What is your present trade, occapation, or office! Manager 39
8	By when employed? Millie Rake Krisch Co.
9	Have you a father, mother, wile, child under 18, or a dier or brother under 12, sajely described on you for support (specify which)? Mark and Child
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11	What military service have you had? Rank; branch
12	Do you claim exemption YED: Wife & Clied # Solely dep  The sole of the sole of the solely solely dep
13.00	190 Lawsuma Heck

Above: WWI Draft Registration. Below: WWII Draft Registration.

The WWI draft registration shows that Lawrence Heck was married and had one child. The date of the registration was 5 June 1917.

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
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The WWII draft registration shows that Lawrence Heck lived at 714 East Juneau Avenue and his employer, Elvia Gebhardt lived at 700 East Juneau Avenue, and his place of employment was across the street at 709 East Juneau Avenue.

The registration card further shows that Elvia Gebhardt was Lawrence's employer.

Today that address is for the Blackstone Apartments. The date of the registration was 27 April 1942. Apparently Elvia Gebhardt was the Manager of the apartments.



Photo of the Blackstone Apartments in 2020.

The building was constructed in 1915-1916 and contained 99 units ranging from one room and bath to five rooms and bath. Finishes included oak floors in the apartments, terrazzo corridors, marble stairs with iron railings, and a lobby feature marble mosaic wainscoting, ornamental stucco cornices and paneling. The inclusion of electric ranges in kitchens is noted as a first for an apartment building in Milwaukee.

An advertisement in the Milwaukee Journal on 14 July 1916 stated that the Blackstone Apartments is "Milwaukee's Largest Apartment Building."

In conclusion, Lawrence Peter Heck stayed in contact with Elvia despite marrying her twice and divorcing her twice. They must have had an interesting working relationship.

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