

Our Family News Letter

Issue 112

Greendale, Wisconsin

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Images Captured from old 8mm Movies

My parents purchased an 8mm movie camera in 1940 and took a lot of movies over the years. Initially the film was black and white and in later years it was in color. The quality of the film and videos was not very good and the images would fade in time.

My parents, Robert Gerald Heck and Mary Ann Mikel Heck took over 14,000 feet of movies in a period of 56 years. Years ago I digitized the movies and saved them on video CD's and DVD's. In this issue of Our Family News Letter I decided to include some captured images from those old movies. The quality of the captured images is not great but they still give us a look at life of our family from the past.

Your Editor, Bob Heck.



Three generations of "Robert Heck". L-R: In the background is a portrait of Robert Steven Heck, his son Robert Gerald Heck is holding his son Robert John Heck. We are not sure if the photo was intended to show three generations since it was taken from an 8mm movie in 1941-1942.



L-R: Bernice Heck Bark with her mother Margaret Frederica Henningfeld Heck. I'm not sure of when the picture was taken, Bernice married Edward Jacob Bark on 9 November 1946. This photo could have been taken prior to that date.



L-R: Bernice Heck Bark, Edward Jacob Bark, and Margaret Heck. I'm not sure of when or where this movie clip was taken but the tall building in the background looks like the Johnson Wax building in Racine, Wisconsin. Edward, Bernice, their children and Margaret lived at 1216 Schiller Street in Racine. A Google Map search shows that the Johnson Wax tower building was just south of Schiller Street.



The Johnson Wax tower at Racine, Wisconsin. The building construction started in 1936 and was completed in 1939. The building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and was celebrated as one of the top 25 buildings of the 20th century.



L-R: Bob and Gary Heck involved in a bit of arm wrestling in about 1945 or 1946. Clearly you can see that Bob was about to flip Gary over his shoulder and win this round of never ending bouts.



Prior to the passing of Child Labor Laws in the United States we had to work hard for our food. At lower left is pictured Bob Heck cutting the grass with a human powered lawn mower. Gas and electric lawn mowers didn't come into general use until the 1950's and 1960's.



L-R: Gary and Bob Heck. Bob was busy working while Gary was playing in a pedal car fire truck. Gary could be seen telling Bob to keep on sweeping or there would be no food for supper for either of them.



Margaret Frederica Henningfeld Heck showing one of her granddaughters how to count. Margaret and Robert Steven Heck had 8 children by 1919 and 23 grandchildren by 1960. Only four of their children lived to adulthood. William Harold (1907-1908), Twins: Lilly Marie (1915-1916), and Rose Margaret (1915-1917), Edward Chris-

topher (1916-1931). The other adult children were Clarence Henry (1905-1955), Robert Gerald (1909-1995), Alvin James (1911-1998) and Bernice Mary (1919-1993)



This image was taken as a clip from an 8mm movie and shows my younger brother, Don Heck with a head of curly hair. Don had straight hair back then so my mother decided that he would look better with a few curls on top. She gave him a permanent and my dad was not happy about it. It didn't seem to bother Don even though some of the kids in the neighborhood called him Curly Top.



The image above is a clip from an 8mm movie showing Joanne and Alvin Heck. They were inside of their house at the time. The movie was taken through the glass window which appears to have been used by Alvin to draw pictures on.



The clip above is of Robert Jerome Heck taken while he was stationed with the U.S. Army Signal Corps in Germany from 1953 through 1954. Robert had sent the color 8mm movie to his parents, Clarence and Frances Heck.



The image above is of Clarence Heck from an 8mm movie taken in 1940 or 1941. The movie was believed to have been taken on Marquette Street in Racine, Wisconsin.

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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.

OBITUARIES

Clarence Heck

Funeral services were held yesterday in Racine for Clarence Heck, 50, Racine, who came here last August as a partner in the Grand TV Sales & Service, Schofield. Mr. Heck, who had been ill for some time, died last Thursday in Cleveland, Ohio, of complications which followed heart surgery.

The funeral services were held yesterday morning in Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Racine, and interment followed in Holy Cross Cemetery there.

Mr. Heck came here last Aug. 15 to form the TV firm in partnership with Carl Heinrichs. He had planned to move his family here at the close of the school year. Mr. and Mrs. Heinrichs attended the funeral services.

Among the survivors are the widow; five sons, Cpl. Robert Heck, who is with the Army in Germany, Lawrence Heck, Mosinee, and Richard, Eugene and Clarence Heck Jr., Racine; five daughters, Mrs. Donald Johnson, Los Angeles, Calif., Sister Francis Clare, Milwaukee, and the Misses Mary Catherine, Donna Jean and Delores Heck, at home, his mother, Mrs. Margaret Heck, Racine; two brothers, Robert and Alvin Heck, and a sister, Mrs. Edward Bark, also of Racine.

While doing some research for a presentation I will be doing I stumbled onto an obituary for Clarence H. Heck, the oldest brother of my dad. Clarence died on 24 February 1955. I had seen the obituary for my Uncle Clarence as published in the Racine Journal Times. The obituary at left, however, was published in the Wausau Daily Herald in Wausau, Wisconsin. I was not aware that Uncle Clarence and his cousin Carl Heinrichs had formed a partnership in the Grand TV Sales & Service Company in Schofield, a suburb of Wausau. What really caught my eye was a line in the third paragraph. **“He (Clarence) had planned to move his family here at the close of the school year.”**

If Uncle Clarence had moved the family to Wausau in May or June 1955, think about the effect that might have had on that branch of the Heck family. Of the 10 children, only four of them were still in school in 1955. The four were Clarence Jr. (married 17 June 1960), Eugene (married 17 September 1959), Mary Catherine (married 4 February 1960) and Donna (married 8 July 1967). If the four lived in Wausau they likely would have married someone from there.

NOTE: Carl Heinrichs was the son of Molly (nee Henningfeld) Heinrichs. Molly was the sister of my grandmother, Margaret Frederica (nee Henningfeld) Heck.

Rockton Herald, Thursday 9 March 1939

“James H. Aspland, 72, a resident of this vicinity all his life, died at his home east of town last Thursday afternoon. He had been in poor health for some time and seriously ill for the past two weeks.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 Sunday at the Rosman-Uehling-Kinzer funeral chapel in Beloit. The Rev. H.A. Studebaker officiating. Burial was made in Eastlawn cemetery [this is not correct - he was buried at Rockton].

Mr. Aspland was born April 20, 1866, at Brighton, Wisconsin. He was a farmer by occupation. His wife Margaret Kelley Aspland died on April 4, 1924.

He is survived by a daughter Mrs. R.G. Wright of Manchester Road; a sister, Mrs. Richard

Nicholls, of Beloit; two brothers Frank and Albert Aspland, Rockton; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.”

Rockton Herald, Wednesday, 10 November 1926

Frank Sherman Aspland article.

“Legion Aids Sick Buddy Harvest Crop.”

“Beloit, Nov. 10.-(Special) – Working with all the spirit that characterized their service during the days of 1917 and 1918, members of Myron C. West post, American Legion, husked, loaded and placed in cribs 25 acres of corn for Frank Aspland, a fellow legionnaire who is ill at his farm home near Rockton.”

“The Legionnaires, who numbered 50, were on the job bright and early. Farmers, who live near Aspland, were present with seven teams to haul the loaded wagons from the fields to the cribs. The work continued through the day, and it was not until late afternoon that all the corn was stowed safely away.”

To Leave for Hospital

“Aspland, who saw service with the 90th division overseas, will leave for a government hospital soon to receive treatment for an illness which resulted from being gassed. He has been worrying over getting his corn husked during the last few weeks, and when the Legionnaires heard of it, they decided to abandon their regular Armistice Sunday church services and spend the day aiding Aspland.”

Serve Luncheon at Noon

“The Rev. E. J. Evans told the men and women that they had given faithful services to their country in time of war, and now they were performing one of the best possible peace time services aiding a fellow man in distress. He praised them for the willingness with which they had given up a beautiful Sunday, which they were unaccustomed in order to make another person happy.”

“Luncheon was served at noon by the Asplands and members of the Legion auxiliary. The men

declared that a meal never tasted better, and after taking a short period of rest all retired to the fields to complete the work.”

NOTE: Frank Sherman Aspland was the grandson of Sherman Aspland and Elizabeth McNulty Aspland. He died on 25 April 1933.

Rockton Herald, Thursday 27 April 1933

“Frank Aspland, Jr., a World War veteran who saw service in France, died Tuesday morning in the veteran's hospital in Milwaukee. He had been in ill health for many months.

He was born Sept. 25, 1895, in Rockton Township. He was married March 16, 1920 to Miss Pearl Wright. He is survived by his widow, son and daughter, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Aspland, Sr., and two sisters. He was a member of Walter Graham American Legion Post of Rockton.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the home of his sister, Mrs. Joseph Brady at Beloit and at 3:00 at Rosman-Uehling-Kinzer chapel. Rev. Wilbur Hopkins officiating. Burial in Rockton cemetery.”

**THE SERVICE OF JOHN BURGESS
(Connecticut)
IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

From Burgess Notes by Dean Burgess

“At the outbreak of the American Revolution our Burgess family was in the part of Voluntown, Connecticut, which would become Sterling. John and Hannah Burgess’ youngest son, **Benajah Burgess**, clearly went to war from Voluntown. *The Public Records of Connecticut reports:* that at a meeting of the Governor and Council of Safety convened at Hartford on 31 January 1781: “Resolved that the Committee of pay tables draw on the Treasurer in favor of Joseph Wylie, Constable of Voluntown for the sum of seven pounds, nine shilling and ten pence lawful money, it being the like sum advanced by said Constable Wylie for

the marching money, or milage paid to Messrs Ezra Palmer, John Harris and **Benjh Burgess**, three soldiers detached to march to Horseneck."

"John Burgess' mother and father, John the elder and his wife Hannah (James) Burgess are buried at Sterling, CT, where two of their sons, Thomas and **Benajah** are listed among the first freemen of Sterling when it became a township in Windham County, CT, after the war. We know that John was there around 1800 because of an ad quoted in The History of Windham County by Lapum: "John Burgess offered for sale 'excellent soal-leather' and as good morocco and calf skin shoes as could be found in market, and also a new fashioned four wheel vehicle, called a wagon which had somehow come into his possession and which most people thought a very impractical invention."

"By 1808 he and Urania (Mowrey) Burgess were settled on a farm by the Cherry Valley Turnpike (now NY route 20) on the county line between Richfield Springs, Otsego County, NY, and Winfield, Herkimer County, NY, as his surviving farm book starts on that date and continues until his death in 1821. That is followed by his eldest son (the one born while he was at Quebec), Gideon's account of his expenses in a trip to Cooperstown to settle his father's estate. One of John and Urania's sons, Dr. Morey Burgess, returned to Moosup in Plainfield Township, Windham County, CT, to practice medicine only a few miles from where his grandparents were buried in Sterling. Gideon married Sally French whose family lived and died in Moosup."

"John was probably granted the New York land for his war service. John and Urania are both buried in a private plot on that

farm. John's grave is marked by the DAR. His brother **Benajah** also settled in New York State, probably on land granted to him for his service mentioned above, at Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York."

John Burgess

BIRTH 1753
Foster, Providence County, Rhode Island, USA

DEATH 24 Apr 1827 (aged 73-74)
East Winfield, Herkimer County, New York, USA

BURIAL Burgess Farm Cemetery
Herkimer County, New York, USA

MEMORIAL ID 88981196 · [View Source](#)

MEMORIAL PHOTOS 2 FLOWERS 4

John Burgess, a Revolutionary War veteran, was the son of John Burgess and Hannah James of RI. He married Urania Mowrey in about 1773 in RI. John and Urania had twelve children. John and Urania came to the wilderness that was central NYS soon after the Revolution and raised a dozen children on their farm on the Herkimer and Otsego County border.

Family Members

Spouse Urania Mowrey Burgess 1759-1815

Children Phebe Skinner unknown-1837

Find a Grave record for John Burgess a Revolutionary War Veteran, buried at the Burgess Farm Cemetery located at Herkimer County, New York.



Close-up of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) memorial bronze marker.

His tombstone shows "In memory of Mr. John Burgess who died 22nd April 1827 in the 75th year of his age."

Editor's Note: John Burgess was the brother of our ancestor, Benajah Burgess both of whom were mentioned in the article on the previous page.

I am a descendant of Benajah Burgess as follows:

- 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

Benajah is my great-great-great-great Grandfather, sometimes shown as 4th GGF.

Join "What the HECK"

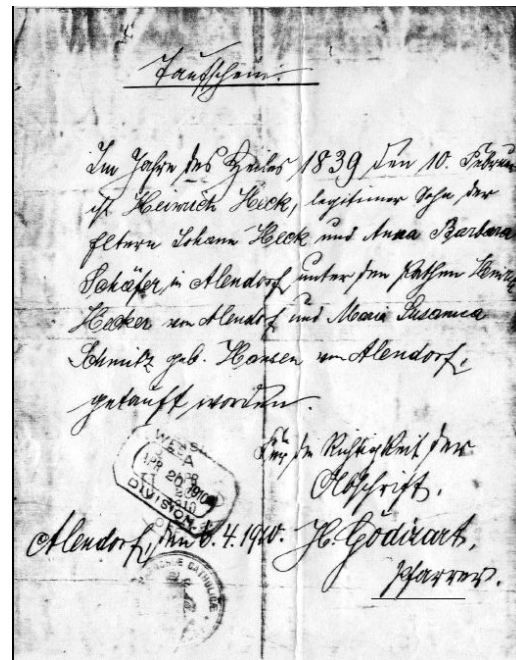
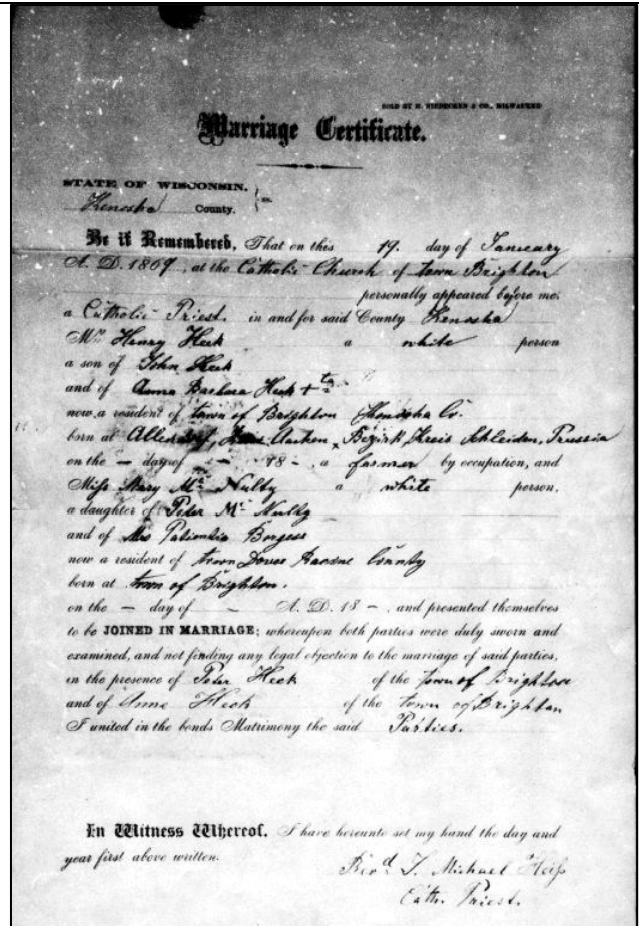
If you would like to learn more about our family, join our Heck Family Facebook Group. Log into Facebook and search GROUPS for "What the HECK". You can then request to join the Group. All we ask is that you state how you are related to the Heck family.

Here is the web address for our group page:
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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/>

The document at upper right is a copy of the original marriage record of Henry Heck to Mary Ann McNulty, dated 19 January 1869. This was the document that clearly identified the Village of Alendorf as the birth place of Henry Heck.



The document above is a certified birth record of Henry Heck born at Alendorf, Germany on 10 February 1839 by the Pastor of the Catholic Church.



This classic photo was taken in October 1971 at a cabin at Conner's Lake in Northern Wisconsin. My sons Dave at left and Bill at right are listening to their grandfather, Robert G. Heck, reading



one of Dave's favorite books "The Little House" published in 1942. Grandma Mary Ann Mikel Heck looks on with keen interest. The boys have their PJs on so this must have been a bedtime story. Bill was looking at grandpa trying to figure out how the little house ended up in the center of a large metropolitan city surrounded by skyscrapers. We still have this 79 year old book with Dave's name written on the first page. Dave is now 52 and Bill is 50. When the photo was taken Dave was 2 years and 10 months old and Bill was 10 months old.



The photo at left shows Dave Heck and the one above shows Bill Heck during the pre-Covid-19 time period.

Dave, Judi, Lauren, Grace and their black cat Hershey live in Franklin, Wisconsin.

Bill, Michelle, and their dog Lizzie live in West Bend, Wisconsin.