

Our Family News Letter

Issue 114

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2021

Discovered in a 1918 Newspaper Article

The following newspaper article was discovered while doing some research for a presentation I was working on.

FRED LABERGE BETTER; IS FLYING AGAIN

The old adage that "you cannot keep a good man down" is literally exemplified by Fred LaBerge, of this city, who was hurt in a recent fall at the aviation field at Waco, Texas, and whom the doctors said would be unable to do any more flying, although his recovery was assured. Fred has not only completely recovered much sooner than expected, but is flying again as chipper as ever, nothing daunted by his dash to earth. He is now engaged in signalling ranges to the artillerymen.

Fred LaBerge, born Alfred LaBerge from Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War I. He was the grandfather of my wife, Gloria LaBerge Heck. We had known that he worked on aircraft at Rich Field located at Waco, Texas during the War to end all wars. We had always been told that he was a mechanic servicing aircraft such as the Curtis Jenny shown above right. What we didn't know was that Fred LaBerge was a Pilot and apparently not a mechanic.

The article states that he was injured in a "dash to earth." This suggests that he probably crashed his Jenny and was seriously injured as a result.



Gloria's dad, Richard J LaBerge, son of Wilfred, often spoke about photos that his dad had from his time in the service during World War I. Those albums and photos are long gone and nobody seems to know where they are. They may have been thrown out after Wilfred's death in 1961.

Wilfred was born in Ladysmith, Wisconsin on 22 July 1894, and remained there as a farmer after the War. On 24 August 1920 he married Genevieve Jannette Weekly at Duluth, St. Louis Co., Minnesota.

The insignia on the right arm of Wilfred's uniform shown on the next page is similar to the insignia worn by mechanics in the Army Air Corps. The difference between the aviator's patch and the mechanic's patch is that on the Aviator's patch the propellers are slightly swept while on the mechanic's patch they are straight. This probably contributed to the idea that he was a mechanic.



The photo above shows Wilfred seated and his brother, Archie standing. Archie is wearing the U.S. Army uniform of an infantryman while Wilfred sports the uniform of the Army Air Corps.



The photo below at left shows Gloria with her grandfather Wilfred LaBerge on the farm at Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin.

Fred LaBerge Dies; Ladysmith Native

Fred LaBerge, native of Ladysmith and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ludger LaBerge, who settled in Rusk county about 80 years ago, died Thursday at St. Mary's hospital, having suffered a stroke two days before.

Services were held Saturday at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic church, of which he was a member, and interment was in Riverside cemetery. The McElravy funeral home was in charge.

Mr. LaBerge was born in Ladysmith, then Flambeau Falls, July 22, 1894, and married to Genevieve Weekly at Duluth, Minn., in August, 1920. They have resided on a farm in the town of Dewey.

His wife survives, as also do five children, 18 grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers. The children are Richard and Wilfred, of Milwaukee; Kathryn Starck, of New Berlin; Louise Boettcher, of Ladysmith, and Lucille Dailey, of Cedarburg; the brothers and sisters, Mrs. Louise Jacobson and Mrs. Jake Speich, of Ladysmith; Leon, of Napa, Calif., and Allen, of Coos Bay, Ore.

At left is the obituary of Wilfred LaBerge as published in the Ladysmith newspapers in October 1961. The obituary lists his children as Richard and Wilfred of Milwaukee, Kathryn Starck of New Berlin, Louise Boettcher of Ladysmith, and Lucille Dailey of Cedarburg.

Brothers and sisters were Mrs. Louise Jacobson and Mrs. Jake Speich of Ladysmith, Leon of Napa, California, and Allen of Coos Bay, Oregon.

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. If you have old photos and a story behind them that you would like to see in this newsletter, please contact Bob Heck.

Join "What the HECK"

If you would like to learn more about our family, join our **Heck Family Facebook Group**. Log onto 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. There is no charge to be a member of the Heck Family Facebook Group.

Included in the "What the Heck" site are many photographs, Document images, video clips, and news.

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

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

Our Family News Letter

Our Family News Letters are now available to you on-line and for free. There are 113 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to June 2021 (Issue 113). The 113 issues are available now at the following web address:

<http://ourfamilynewsletter.com/>

Each issue of the newsletter is eight pages in length and is filled with the history of our family. The specific branches include but are not limited to: Heck, Henningfeld, McNulty, Stratmann, Schaefer, Burgess, Richter, Guthoff, Chase, Heitkemper, Heinrichs, plus many more.

World War II Draft Registration

The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, also known as the Burke-Wadsworth Act, enacted before the war on September 16, 1940, was the first peacetime conscription in United States history. This Selective Service Act required that all men who had reached their 21st birthday but had not yet reached their 36th birthday register

with local draft boards. Later, when the U.S. entered World War II, all men from their 18th birthday until the day before their 45th birthday were made subject to military service, and all men from their 18th birthday until the day before their 65th birthday were required to register.

While researching the subject I uncovered the draft registration cards for Clarence, Robert, and Alvin Heck and for Edward Bark, husband of Bernice Heck. These cards follow.

<p>SERIAL NUMBER 2495 ORDER NUMBER 557</p> <p>1. NAME (Print) Clarence H. Heck 134 Milwaukee Ave. Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>2. ADDRESS (Print) 134 Milwaukee Ave. Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>3. TELEPHONE BRIDGE 3-7437 (Number, Exchange, City)</p> <p>4. AGE IN YEARS 33 (Date of Birth) JUL 21 1907 (Month, Day, Year)</p> <p>5. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN U.S.A. (Country)</p> <p>6. RELIGION WISEMAN (Religion)</p> <p>7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON WITH WHOM YOU ARE REGISTERING Mrs. Mary Ann Heck 134 Milwaukee Ave. Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>8. ADDRESS OF THIS PERSON 134 Milwaukee Ave. Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>9. EMPLOYER'S NAME Modine Manufacturing Co. (Name)</p> <p>10. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1714 Madison Ave. Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>11. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VIEWED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. (Signature) Clarence Heck (Date) 10-11-40</p> <p>REGISTRATION CARD D. N. S. Form 1 (Rev. 1-1-40)</p>	<p>REGISTRAR'S REPORT</p> <p>DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>RACE</th> <th>HEIGHT (Approx.)</th> <th>WEIGHT (Approx.)</th> <th>COMPLEXION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>5-6</td> <td>143</td> <td>Sallow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negro</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Light</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ruddy</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Dark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oriental</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Freckled</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Light brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Dark brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Black</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Black</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philippine</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Black</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: Six toes on each foot.</p> <p>I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows: Sick on registration day Taken to hospital Friday am Dr. Charles M. Groll 15th St. Racine, Wis.</p> <p>Registrar for: Sixth Precinct, Racine, Wis. (Name, City or county, State)</p> <p>Date of registration: October 21, 1940.</p> <p>Local Board No. 1 63 Racine County 101 OCT 16 1940 001 2221 Douglas Ave. RACINE, WIS. (LOCAL BOARD) (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.) 16-17105</p>	RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	White	5-6	143	Sallow	Negro			Light				Ruddy				Dark	Oriental			Freckled				Light brown				Dark brown	Indian			Black				Black	Philippine			Black
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Clarence Henry Heck WWII Draft Registration

<p>SERIAL NUMBER 1650 ORDER NUMBER 1044</p> <p>1. NAME (Print) Robert Gerald Heck 1212 Hager Street - Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>2. ADDRESS (Print) 1212 Hager Street - Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>3. TELEPHONE PROSPECT 2-2637 (Number, Exchange, City)</p> <p>4. AGE IN YEARS 31 (Date of Birth) APR 29 1909 (Month, Day, Year)</p> <p>5. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN U.S.A. (Country)</p> <p>6. RELIGION M.L.W. (Religion)</p> <p>7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON WITH WHOM YOU ARE REGISTERING Mrs. Mary Ann Heck 1212 Hager Street - Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>8. ADDRESS OF THIS PERSON 1212 Hager Street - Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>9. EMPLOYER'S NAME Walker Mfg. Co. (Name)</p> <p>10. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1201 Michigan Bldg. Racine, Racine, Wis. (Street, Apt. No., P.O. Box, etc.)</p> <p>11. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VIEWED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE. (Signature) Robert Heck (Date) 10-11-40</p> <p>REGISTRATION CARD D. N. S. Form 1 (Rev. 1-1-40)</p>	<p>REGISTRAR'S REPORT</p> <p>DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>RACE</th> <th>HEIGHT (Approx.)</th> <th>WEIGHT (Approx.)</th> <th>COMPLEXION</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>5'10"</td> <td>164#</td> <td>Sallow</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Negro</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Light</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Ruddy</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Dark</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oriental</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Freckled</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Light brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Dark brown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Black</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Black</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philippine</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Black</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:</p> <p>I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows: 7th Precinct Racine, Wis. 15th St. Racine, Wis.</p> <p>Registrar for: 7th Precinct, Racine, Wis. (Name, City or county, State)</p> <p>Date of registration: OCT 16 1940</p> <p>Local Board No. 1 63 Racine County 101 OCT 16 1940 001 2221 Douglas Ave. RACINE, WIS. (LOCAL BOARD) (The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space.) 16-17105</p>	RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	White	5'10"	164#	Sallow	Negro			Light				Ruddy				Dark	Oriental			Freckled				Light brown				Dark brown	Indian			Black				Black	Philippine			Black
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Robert Gerald Heck WWII Draft Registration

REGISTRATION CARD - (Man born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER: 1 NEW (THIS)

NAME: ALVIN JAMES HECK

ADDRESS: 1310 HAMILTON ST. RACINE WIS

DATE OF BIRTH: 7-2-1911

CITY: RACINE WIS

STATE: WIS

RELIGION: MRS. STELLA HECK WIFE

EDUCATION: K.S.A.

REGISTRATION OFFICE: RACINE WIS

REGISTRAR: MEG ANAT-DIV

DATE OF REGISTRATION: Oct. 16-1940

LOCAL BOARD NO. 18

CITY HALL ROOM 307

RACINE RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

Alvin James Heck

Alvin James Heck WWII Draft Registration

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	5-8 1/2	168	Fallow
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
Oriental	Gray	Red	Dark
Indian	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
Filipino	Brown	Black	Light brown
	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Bald	Black

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for: Max Hundelohst

Date of registration: Oct. 16-1940

LOCAL BOARD NO. 18

CITY HALL ROOM 307

RACINE RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

Using the 1860 Census records for Wisconsin I was able to find that Henry worked for Leymon Dutton in the Paris Township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The Paris Township is located just to the east of the Brighton Township, near St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church and cemetery.

Age	Name	Sex	Color	Height	Weight	Complexion	Education	Occupation
31	Leymon Dutton	M	White	5'10"	160	Fallow	1000	Farmer
29	Mariah	F	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
28	Mariah	F	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
27	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
26	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
25	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
24	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
23	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
22	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
21	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
20	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
19	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
18	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
17	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
16	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
15	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
14	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
13	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
12	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
11	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
10	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
9	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
8	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
7	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
6	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
5	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
4	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
3	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
2	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic
1	Henry	M	White	5'8"	120	Fallow	1000	Domestic

REGISTRATION CARD - (Man born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER: 1 NEW (THIS)

NAME: EDWARD JACOB BARK

ADDRESS: 1319 WALKER AVE RACINE WIS

DATE OF BIRTH: 5-20-1922

CITY: RACINE WIS

STATE: WIS

RELIGION: SAME

EDUCATION: SAME

REGISTRATION OFFICE: RACINE WIS

REGISTRAR: EDWARD J. BARK

DATE OF REGISTRATION: JUN 30 1942

LOCAL BOARD NO. 18

CITY HALL ROOM 307

RACINE RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

Edward J. Bark

Edward Jacob Bark WWII Draft Registration

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	5-6 1/2	135	Fallow
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy
Oriental	Gray	Red	Dark
Indian	Hazel	Brown	Freckled
Filipino	Brown	Black	Light brown
	Black	Gray	Dark brown
		Bald	Black

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification:

SCAR RIGHT EAR

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board: E. Elizabeth Cook

Date of registration: 6-30-42

Racine County 101

JUN 30 1942 001

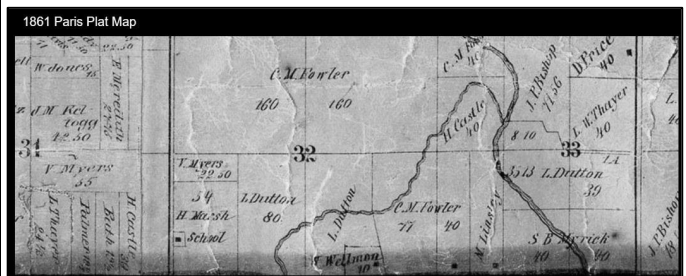
5221 STAMPA (LOCAL BOARD)

RACINE RACINE COUNTY WISCONSIN

Note that Edward Bark married Bernice Heck on 9 November 1946 after the end of World War II.

I Located the Farm Where Henry Heck worked in 1861

I had learned from the Pension Records of Henry Heck that prior to serving in the Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War he was employed as a Farm Laborer in Wisconsin. He stated that he was paid \$14.00 per month working on a farm. The question was, who did he work for and where was the farm located in Wisconsin?

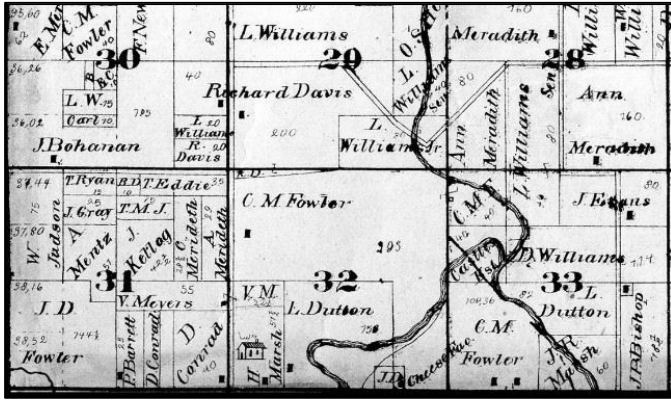


The land owned by L. Dutton is shown in this 1861 plat map in section 32 (with two parcels each containing 80 acres) and in section 33 (with one parcel containing 39 acres). The total size of the farm was 199 acres. Henry probably lived on the farm up until he enlisted in the 19th Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry in 1862.

A 199 acre farm back in 1861 was considered a huge farm and certainly required hiring a farm laborer to assist in managing it. Farm equipment

during those pre Civil War days consisted in horse drawn equipment. Tractors were unknown at that time.

To confirm the spelling of Leymon Dutton I looked up his name and property on an 1873 Plat map of Paris Township shown below.



It appears that Leyman sold off some his land as he is shown as owning 156 acres in section 32 and 82 acres in section 33 for a total of 138 acres. The small black rectangle shown in section 32 is the location of the house that Leymon lived in. Henry probably also lived in that same house in 1861.



Above is shown the same land in 2021. The street on the left is 220th Avenue and the street on the bottom is 60th Street also known as Highway K in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The homes in the image appear to be constructed within the past 50 years. The original house was

probably replaced but was originally located in the lower central part of the picture.

A Letter From Our Relatives in Germany Written in 1922 Following WWI.

Thomas Heck (1806 -) and Anne Marie Dries (1815 -)

Thomas was the son of Johannes (Johann or John) Heck and Magdalena Molitor. He was born about 1806, in Alendorf, German State of Prussia. Alendorf was in the German State of Prussia before its defeat by the French Emperor, Napoleon in 1802. Napoleon created the State of Westphalia in 1907, under his protection.

Thomas married Anna Marie Dries on January 8, 1839, in Alendorf. She was born in 1815, in Kerpen, about six miles southeast of Alendorf. Her maiden name is also spelled Drees, Drees and Dress in other records in Germany. Their children, all born in Alendorf, were:

1. Magdalena, born October 1, 1840
2. Balthasar, born November 24, 1841, Died February 2, 1851
3. Anna Margaret, born November 18, 1843, Died November 25, 1919
4. Matthias, born November 5, 1845
5. Elizabeth, born November 26, 1846
6. Anna Barbara, born June 22, 1848, Died young
7. Josef, born June 29, 1849, Died in 1899
8. Balthasar, born April 23, 1851, Died July 22, 1937
9. Anna Barbara, born June 23, 1854
10. Thomas, born October 8, 1856, Died December 16, 1943
11. Agnes, born September 28, 1859

Note: The following letter was furnished by Martha Mason. It was typewritten, but the writer mentions her handwriting in the letter. That suggests that it was translated into English and typed by someone else. Mrs. Nikolas Meyer wrote the letter. She was Agnes Heck, #11, the youngest daughter of Thomas and Anna Maria Heck. It was written to her brother Balthasar in 1922. It is a living account of the terrible living conditions in which the citizens of Germany found themselves after World War I.

The Treaty of Versailles in 1919, between the victorious Allies and defeated Germany and its allies, was particularly harsh. The treaty declared that Germany was solely responsible for the War. It reduced the size of Germany by one-eighth, a sixth of its farmland, an eighth of its livestock and a tenth of its factories. All of its colonies were taken away, its navy was abolished, its merchant fleet was reduced, and the size of its army was reduced to the size of the Belgian army.

The German economy was devastated by the war and reparations payments that exceeded its ability to pay. As a result, an unbelievable inflation befell the nation and its people. It was reported that it took a bushel of paper money to buy a loaf of bread. The letter was a poignant plea for help from Agnes to her brother, Balthasar.

My dear brother, sister-in-law and child and god-child,

Today it is 41 years that you left the dear homeland and today your good sister Agnes takes her pen to ask of you a sign of life. I have written several times but never received an answer. Maybe my letters never reached you on account of the War which brought misery to us.

Sister Agnes, is the only one living, everyone else of our family has died. Our sister, Magdalena died February 2, 1915. Margarete died on November 25, 1919. Our brother-in-law died a few months later. The youngest, Balthasar, died in the War; Henry also died. In one year four have died. I, your sister and brother-in-law are

well. Our son was also in the War and was severely wounded.

Here in Germany, everything is poor and expensive. The groceries are so high that one hardly can buy them. One lb. coffee cost over 100 Marks. I lb. yeast 50.00 D.M. and that is all what you buy. 100 lbs. of wheat cost 1000 D.M. 100 lb. of oats cost more than 600.00 D.M. Clothing is hard to get. One suit cost more than 1000.00 D.M.

Last year we had a poor crop; we had terrible heat; could hardly make it; scarcely buy feed; the cattle got sick with hoof and mouth disease. We lost in one year 8 head of cattle.

One cow costs 2000.00 D.M.; one little pig 6 weeks old, costs 1000 D.M.; a fat pig, over 2 years old 6000.00 D.M. and above. We had to pay war debts, more than 2000.00 D.M. a year and in addition the prices are rising and the money has no value.

Near the Rhineland, where the occupation is, it seems to be especially trying. When the soldiers retreated, the Americans move in. We gave a letter to one of the American soldiers to establish contact with you but in vain. In Germany are no more soldiers.

We tore down the old parish house and built a new one and in 2 years we will build a new church.

In spite of the distance, I remember you in my daily prayers at High Mass. I hope we will meet again sometime, if ever possible — but certainly in heaven.

Marie Meyer wrote to us once and inquired about you; She died last year. Joseph Meyer and Nickolaus are dead. I hope that you are still living. Please write to us and also to your God-child.

Most sincere greetings. We heard nothing from brother Thomas. We had a very cold winter and it was very difficult to endure. My brother-in-law

is still alive; he is old and feeble. Now I will close for today. 1000 hearty greetings from us all - from your good sister and sister-in-law, Agnes. Special greets to my God-child. Please give us a sign of life; excuse my poor handwriting: we are old.

This article is from the book, "The Heck Brothers Alendorf, Germany To The USA" by Howard Walter Heck, published in August, 2008, Library of Congress Control Number 2008906430. The book was published by The Anundsen Publishing Company 108 Washington Street, Decora, Iowa 52101. Howard also published the book "The Hecks From Alendorf Germany" published in March 1991, Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number 91-91844.

Also available at:

Minnesota Historical Society Library, St. Paul, MN 55102 United States

Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT 84150 United States.

Hecks From the USA Who Visited Hecks Living in Alendorf, Germany.

The following article appeared in the book, "The Heck Brothers Alendorf, Germany To The USA" by Howard Walter Heck:

When Bob and Howard Heck found the birthplace of their great-great-grandfather, John Heck, in Germany, Bob wrote to friends of his in Germany for assistance. He asked if they would visit Alendorf to check the records in the Catholic Church and determine if there were any Hecks still living in Alendorf. Bob's friends were able to obtain some information from the church records but their time was limited. They visited Theo Heck and his family. The best news was that Heck families still lived in Alendorf. Howard immediately wrote to Theo and began a correspondence. Theo was surprised to learn that they had relatives in America and was pleased to hear from him. Theo's mother, Katherina, lived

there with his family. His two brothers, Matthias and Peter, and his two sisters, Anna and Maria, also lived in Alendorf with their families. Theo's uncle, Matthias Heck, also lived in Alendorf in the Heck homestead, the house where John Heck was born and lived before he married in 1833.

Howard, his wife, Anne, his sister, Geraldine, and her husband, Howard Herman, visited Alendorf in 1984 while on a trip to Germany. They stayed with Marie and her husband, Albert Caspers, and their son, Edgar, for three days. All of the Hecks were very gracious hosts, and it was very enjoyable getting to know relatives they did not know existed.

In June 1989, Robert Heck, his wife, Gloria, Bob's brother, Donald, and his wife, Sharon, also visited the Hecks in Alendorf while on a trip to Europe. They were also warmly welcomed.

Scarlettah Schaefer, a descendant of Anna Barbara Schaefer, the wife of Johann Heck, visited the Hecks in Germany in 2007. She was also given a cordial welcome.

Daniel Pfeiffer, the son of Bob Heck's first cousin, Joanne Heck Pfeiffer and Daniel's daughter, Joy, visited the Heck families in Alendorf in March 2008. They, too, were given a cordial welcome and stayed with Maria Heck Caspers during their visit.



The photo above right shows Thomas Heck and his family at their farm near Elkton, South Dakota. His brother, Balthasar and his boys John and Joseph were visiting from Minnesota in 1903. L-R: Theresa, Thomas, Elizabeth, holding Rose, Anna, Betty (Josephine in front of her), Mary (Clara in front of her), Catherine, Margaret, Balthasar and his son's John and Joseph.

Balthasar Heck immigrated to America in 1881 and his brother Thomas in 1883. These two brothers were the subject of the book, "The Heck Brothers Alendorf, Germany To The USA" by Howard Walter Heck.

How are we related to Balthasar and Thomas Heck? Robert John Heck is related to Balthasar and Thomas Heck as 2nd cousins 3 times removed. Their common ancestors are Theodor Hecken and Anna Maria Hutsch.

Theodor Hecken married Anna Maria Hutsch
Johann Heck married Magdalena Molitor
Thomas Heck married Anne Marie Dries
Balthasar and Thomas Heck immigrated

Theodor Hecken married Anna Maria Hutsch
Anna Lucia Heck m. Johann Peter Schmitz
Johann Heck m. Anna Barbara Schaefer

Thanks to our contributors

This issue of Our Family News Letter is the 114th consecutive issue which is published four times a year. Members of our genealogy group can't believe that I haven't run out of things to write about.

During the past year the following readers of Our Family News Letter sent in contributions to help keep the News Letter going.

Ellen and Bill Stiner
Susan and Jeff Miller
Alvin and Carolyn Heck
Don and Sharon Heck

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

From The Photo Album



Bernice Heck and her brother Edward Heck.

Edward was born on 4 July 1916 and died on 8 October 1931. Edward Heck died from Myocarditis and Mitral Regurgitation. Contributory causes: inflammatory rheumatism. His obituary stated that he died at his home at 1335 North Main St. in Racine after a lingering illness. He was a student at St. Joseph's school and was 15 years of age. The funeral was held in the home and later at the church. Death information from Racine County vital records Vol 16, page 454. He is buried at the Calvary Cemetery at Racine, Wisconsin.

Bernice Heck married Edward Jacob Bark on 9 November 1946. They had five children: Edward James, James Allen, Allen Frederick, Gregory Thomas, and Susan Marie Bark. Susan married Jeffrey Steven Miller.