

Our Family News Letter

Issue 117

Greendale, Wisconsin

June 2022

Joanne Mary Pfeiffer Nee: Heck

March 10, 1936 - February 21, 2022



We were saddened to learn of the passing of Joanne on February 21, 2022, in Racine, Wisconsin. She will be missed by all of us as she brought so much happiness and friendship to all of our family events.

Here is her Life Story as put together by her family and published by the Maresh – Meredith and Acklam Funeral Home.



“Joanne Pfeiffer was an amiable and generous woman to know and love. She modeled a life

rich with hard work, putting others first, and being an exceptionally loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Her warm personality, cheerful demeanor, and infectious smile will forever be remembered by her many special friends and loved ones.

Despite the Thirties being marked by tough economic times, the decade also saw an expansion of new technologies. Aviation, radio, and film were making great strides. Bringing great joy to their world, Alvin Sr. and Stella (Nee: Celmerowski) Heck welcomed home their newborn baby girl, Joanne Mary, on March 10, 1936, in Racine, Wisconsin. Her birth brought much happiness to her loving parents.

Joanne lived a typical childhood of the times. As a young child, she enjoyed jumping rope and playing marbles at Sacred Heart School. She also loved joining the kids in a game of basketball or baseball at recess. During her junior year, she met the love of her life, Marvin Pfeiffer. The two of them shared the same homeroom and took an interest in one another. She was a bit social and occasionally got detention for wearing lipstick. She graduated with the class of 1954 from St. Catherine’s High School. Joanne started work as a bookkeeper and Marvin joined the service. He was a soldier in the United States Army and upon his return, the happy couple joined in marriage on November 24, 1956, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Soon after their marriage, they started their family that grew to include seven wonderful children; David, Daniel, Steven, Ann, Jeanie, Lori, and Judi.

As a mother, Joanne relished in her devotion to her children. As a family they enjoyed making memories at the beach, going camping, as well as roller skating. Joanne loved to make the holidays special, especially Christmas, by hosting

the traditional cut-out cookie bake with her family and her over-the-top decorations. A wonderful baker, her family loved her Heath Bar cakes and cherry torte! She loved preparing homemade spaghetti and meatballs, Mock Chicken legs, and chocolate malts served in a bowl. Marv especially loved her fried Chub. She and Marv raised their children with a strong Catholic foundation and were proud to have them all graduate from S. Catherine's High School. Joanne modeled for them a life filled with hard work and the importance of family.

Always active, Joanne enjoyed her many special hobbies over the years. She had an extensive collection of Christmas ornaments which she cherished. Artistic and creative, she enjoyed painting ceramics with her special group of childhood friends from Sacred Heart. She also loved playing cards with her friends and going bowling. She enjoyed doing her crossword puzzles and playing Scrabble. A devoted Christian, she faithfully attended Mass at St. Joseph Parish. She also was a member of the Catholic Women's Club. Joanne loved going out to breakfast after Mass.

Attending the many special events of her grandchildren was a special delight! Highlights of her years as a grandmother were the many trips she took to Florida to take each of her grandchildren to Disney World.

Above all else, any time Joanne was surrounded by her loved ones, her heart was content. She left a legacy of unconditional love through many small acts of love and great sacrifice. Her ability to accept life's challenges, her spirit of adventure, and her wonderful sense of humor, will be dearly missed. May her loved ones reflect on her life with great happiness and may they honor her life by always looking for the good in others."

From The Racine Journal Times, Racine, Wisconsin.

"Joanne Mary Pfeiffer, age 85, passed away Monday, February 21st, 2022, surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her three sons, David (Mary) Pfeiffer of Waukesha, Daniel (Patti) Pfeiffer of Naperville, IL, Steven (Cara)

Pfeiffer of Racine; her four daughters, Ann (Dan) Kelley, Jeanie (Malcolm) Hatfield, Lori (John) Suchla, Judi (Steve) Behrendt, all of Racine Co; twenty-eight grandchildren, Michelle (Rich) Jacobi, Catherine (Dan) Zuperku, Amanda Pfeiffer, Jonathan (Bethany) Pfeiffer, Kaitlyn (Ryan) McNamara, Meghan Pfeiffer, James (Amanda) Pfeiffer, Joy (Steve) Blankenheim, Jenny (Tim) Ketelboeter, Julia Pfeiffer, Karin (Mike) Vaughn, Erick (Gwen) Robertson, Laura (Ryan) Dehart, Craig Robertson, Rebecca (Tony) Arndt, Tom (Amber) Pfeiffer, Jamie Pfeiffer, Rachel Kelley (fiance Ben Johnson), Erika (Eric) Kelley-Staniszewski, Dana (Rich) Gallagher, Mackenna Hatfield, Malcolm "Tre" Hatfield III, Jacob Suchla (fiance Emily Zeman), Andrew (Lauren) Suchla, Lauren Behrendt, Sammi (Josh) Rodriguez, Jack Behrendt, and Luke Behrendt; twenty great-grandchildren, Zander, Bellamy, Gwenyth Zuperku; Quentin, Tyler, Renae Dehart; Wyatt, Axl Robertson; Charlotte, Daniel Pfeiffer; Charlie Blankenheim; Alya, Ada Ketelboeter; Hayden Vaughn; Aaron, Amelia Arndt; Jacob Johnson; Flynn, Fiona Gallagher; Charlotte Suchla; brothers and sisters, Alvin (Carol) Heck of Colorado, Patricia Merritt of Arizona, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Richard Pfeiffer of Racine, Quinn Smet of Stoughton, WI, Joanne Pfeiffer of Ames, IA, Glenn (Sue) Pfeiffer of Racine; special friends, Sandi and Steve Nylander, the Carlson family, all of Racine, cousins, other relatives and many dear friends and neighbors. Joanne was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Marvin, her brother, Ronald Heck, her brother-in-law, Robert Merritt, and her sister-in-law, Verna Smet.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 11:00 A.M. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1533 Erie Street, with Rev. Steve Verghese officiating. Relatives and friends may meet with the family at the church on Tuesday from 9:30 A.M. until the time of the Mass. Private Interment will be held. Memorials to St. Joseph Catholic Church or to St. Catherine's High School have been suggested. Thank you to the Parkview Garden's staff, Kindred hospice nurses, Dr. Brittig and Nurse Ruth for their compassionate care."

Photos from the old photo album...

Editor's Note: The following photos were found in the old photo album belonging to my father, Robert Gerald Heck 1909-1995.



Joanne Heck shown on her Christening day in 1936.

The photo below is of Joanne Heck being held by her grandmother, Margaret Frederica Heck Nee: Henningfeld. The photo was taken on

Joanne Heck's Christening day probably in March, 1936.



Joanne loved family history and many years ago we would work together on our genealogy. Joanne liked to keep her data on paper and in three ring binders, whereas I favored keeping it on the computer. Many times I would have to

make a trip to Racine to help her untangle her data when she tried to add it to her own computer. Joanne was a very good researcher and she had a good feeling about where to find that hidden data.

A special note to Joanne: If you happen to see our great-great grandfather, Peter McNulty, up there in heaven, please ask him to drop us a hint

about where he was born in Northern Ireland in about 1807. Our cousin Cheryl Heck and I have continued searching for that information just like you and I were searching for it over 50 years ago. Rest in Peace.

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.

Our Family News Letter

Our Family News Letters are now available to you on-line and for free. There are 117 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to June 2022 (Issue 117). All of the 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.

UPDATE on the Heck Family Picnic 2022.

After two years without a Heck Family Picnic, we are happy to announce that the picnic is now scheduled for Sunday, 10 JULY 2022 at the Leisure Center in Racine, Wisconsin. Please mark your calendar accordingly. Sherry Heck made the reservations and she will be working on the details for the picnic. She will communicate the plans to our family members and we will post updates on the Heck family website.

Because of Covid-19 the Heck Family Picnic had to be canceled for 2020 and 2021. The fami-

ly golf outings were also canceled in 2020 and 2021. The previous time that the Heck picnic was canceled was during the Polio epidemic in 1952.

We want all of our family members to stay safe and healthy during this pandemic and we will communicate any special requirements to you.

We still need one of our family members to step forward and volunteer to set up the pre-picnic Heck Family Golf Outing. The golf outing normally starts out with a breakfast followed by a round of golf at an area course. The golf outing is held on the same day as the Heck Picnic. Please let Sherry Heck know that you are volunteering. Also please let Bob Heck know so he can update the golfers on our website.

Thank you and please help spread the word.

Bob Heck (414) 421-7143 and Sherry Heck (262) 639-5370

From the Scrapbook...



The newspaper article from 9 May 1977 was found in a family scrapbook. The article appeared in The Racine Journal Times and it is shown at lower left.

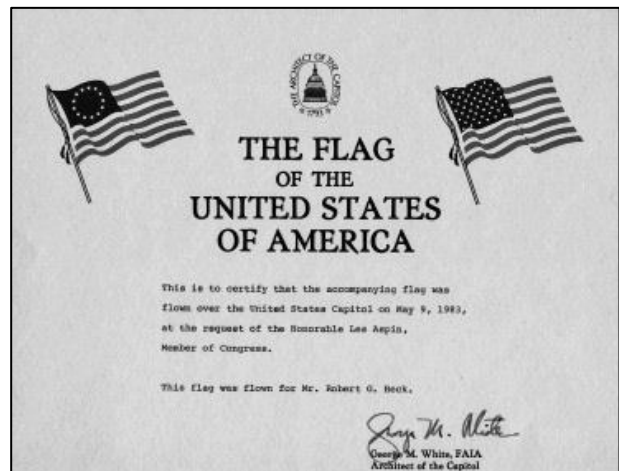
“Would the real centenarian please stand up? Actually 7th District Ald. Robert G. Heck, left, nor his son, Don, is 100 years old. So the father-son duo came up with a gimmick to help celebrate their birthdays, both of which are today. Take the senior Heck’s age - 68 - and add his son’s age - 32 - and voila, 100 years. Helping the pair celebrate over the weekend was Ald. Heck’s wife, Mary.”

The story goes on a bit. My brother, Don, recently wrote a brief add-on.

A SPECIAL DAY AND GIFT

“May 9, 1977 was a very special day for me and my dad. We celebrated our 100th birthday together on that day. May 9th is both of our birthdays. I turned 32 on that day and he turned 68. What a great celebration we had together.

May 9, 1983 was also another special day. A good friend of my dad, Congressman Les Aspin had an America flag flown over the United States Capital on that day. He did this in honor of my dad’s birthday. Dad gave me the flag along with the certificate below to remember our special day.”



The Flag of the United States of America

This is to certify that the accompanying flag was flown over the United States Capitol on May 9, 1983, at the request of the honorable Les Aspin, Member of Congress. This flag was flown for Mr. Robert G. Heck.

From the Internet...



The photo above was found on the Internet in the Nicollet County, Minnesota Historical Society web page. Alois Heck (left) and August Bauermeister (right).

The text from the Historical Society that was linked to the photo follows.

“The two young men in this photo are sitting at a table and playing cards. A partially filled beer bottle and two glasses of beer are on the table.

See the following census data for Alois Heck.

Name: Alois Heck **Age in 1910:** 23; **Birth Year:** about 1887; **Birthplace:** Minnesota; **Home in 1910:** New Ulm Ward 2, Brown County, Minnesota; **Street:** North Broadway Street, **House Number:** 720; **Race:** White; **Gender:** Male; **Relation to Head of House:** Head; **Marital Status:** Married; **Spouse's Name:** Mary Heck; **Father's Birthplace:** Germany; **Mother's Birthplace:** Germany; **Native Tongue:** English; **Occupation:** Parker Industry; **Flour Mill Employer, Employee or Other:** Wage Earner; **Home Owned or Rented:** Rent; **Farm or House:** House; **Able to Read:** Yes; **Able to Write:** Yes; **Years Married:** 2; **Out of Work:** Y; **Number of**

weeks out of work: 4; **Household Members: Name and Age:** Alois Heck 23, Mary Heck 20, Frank Heck 2.

Title: Alois Heck and August Bauermeister, **Place:** New Ulm, **People:** Heck, Alois, 1887-1984 Bauermeister, August, 1870-1959.”



This is a photo of Alois Heck and Mary T. Lang on their wedding day, 28 May 1907, at West Newton, Nicollet County, Minnesota. This photo was from the book, “The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany” by Howard Walter Heck.

I met Alois in 1983 when I attended the Heck – Lang Family Reunion in New Ulm, Brown County, Minnesota. Howard Heck had invited me to attend the reunion. Prior to meeting Howard I had no idea that the Heck family lived in Minnesota. I met a lot of our relatives at that reunion.

Alois was not able to attend the reunion since he was living in a nursing home in New Ulm at the time and he was 96 years old. I was able to visit with Alois in the nursing home and I recall that he was hard of hearing but had a very sharp mind. I sat with him for an hour or so taking notes and he talked about many of his early memories. He told me that he had written an autobiography about 10 or 12 years earlier. He suggested that Howard probably had a copy of it.

He told me stories about the Sioux Indian uprising of 1862 that had been passed on to him by his parents and other relatives. He told me about the grasshopper invasion that had wiped out most of the crops of the Johann Heck family. He

talked about how the family fled to St. Peters and then some went back to Wisconsin.

He told me how to find the Johann Heck land and the Catholic Church at Brighton, Nicollet County near Swan Lake which was just a few miles away from New Ulm. I was able to follow his directions and thus found the church cemetery where many of our relatives, including Johann Heck and Susannah Zeren Nee: Sebenbrunner Heck are buried.

EDITORS NOTE: Alois wrote his short autobiography in 1971, when he was 84 years old. His story which follows is written in his exact words. Some of his sentences may ramble a bit but each is well worth reading. His story will give you a glimpse into what life was like between 1890 and 1971 for our relatives. His father was Joseph Heck, the younger brother of Henry Heck, sons of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer.

My Autobiography by Aloysius Ferdinand Heck 1887 - 1984

"I was born at 501 North Broadway, New Ulm, Minnesota on February 15, 1887 to Joseph and Josephine Heck. I was baptized in the Holy Trinity Church and went to Holy Trinity School until I was 10 years old. Then we moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. I did not like the big city life, and my Uncle and Aunt, the Vincent Brunner's asked me to come and stay with them on their farm.

I went up (sic) to them and stayed with them on their farm at West Newton, Nicollet County, Minnesota. I stayed with them for several years until I was old enough to get a job on the Frank Altman farm for \$125.00 a year, which at that time was the wages for a hired man on the farms. I worked there until 1905, when my year was up I went back to St. Paul, Minnesota and got a job at the White Enamel Refrigerator Co., and worked there all winter and summer until in the latter part of July, when I went back to West Newton for the harvest work.

I got a job on the Mrs. Catherine Lang farm. She was the mother of my wife Mary T. Lang. And

as the Vincent Brunner farm was right across the road from the Lang farms, I was no stranger for there was the place where I got acquainted with my wife.

After the harvest I went back and worked for Frank Altman again. I worked there until 1907, and on May 28, 1907, Mary T. Lang and I were married in the church of St. George in West Newton, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

We moved to St. Paul, Minnesota and I worked for a contractor by the name of George J. Grant that summer, then we went back to St. George in the fall and helped with the harvest and thrashing.

We stayed with the mother-in-law as she wanted to have her daughter with her when she had her first baby. I was kind of nervous, but everything went off okay. There was no one else around so I had to hitch up the team and go and get the Midwife and when I came back the little boy had just been born. Everything was in good shape so the next day I went thrashing again.

That week they had a barn dance in the neighborhood and some of the thrashing crew went to the dance, but I walked home the two miles to visit my little new born son and stayed for a few hours and then walked back two miles to where we had the thrashing rig and threw some wood on the boiler and that morning I got up at 4:30 and fired up the old boiler and had the steam up and ready to start thrashing for the day.

After thrashing we moved to 727 North Broadway, New Ulm, Minnesota and we lived in New Ulm all our married life. We had a family of five boys and one girl of which two of the children died of pneumonia at the age of nine months; them that died were Clara and Roman.

The next three children that were born were boys, so we have four boys left. Frank was the first of our children, then Clara and then Roman and Victor, Edwin and Robert. Frank lived in Searles, Minnesota, Victor and Edwin in New Ulm, Minnesota and Robert in Caldwell, Idaho, and glad to say that they are all big and strong.

When we moved to New Ulm in the fall, times were not so good, as jobs were hard to get and them jobs that we could get paid only small wages. The first job I got was driving a team on a road grading job. I had to be at the barn in the morning, curry my two horses and harness them, hitch them to the wagon and drive six blocks and be on the job at 7 a.m. until 12 noon and have one hour for dinner, and feed the horses and start working at one o'clock and work until six in the evening, drive home, unhitch and unharness the horses and work six days a week to get \$35.00 a month, and we could only work until the ground froze. In winter we didn't have no work.

The neighbor and I sometimes cut a few cords of wood for a dollar a cord and fence posts for one cent a piece and walk out to the woods three miles in the morning and back in the evening.

I got a job in the fall at the New Ulm Roller Mill, but that was a lower paying job then the teamster job, we only worked three days in two weeks, so in spring I went back to teamstering for a few months and then I got a job at the Eagle Roller Mill packing flour for \$210.00 for 12 months work and that is where I stayed until the wages went up in World War I.

After World War I, milling was not so good so I started painting, then times got so bad that nobody had any work done so I worked in the City Cemetery for one season for \$45.00 a month, then the boss from the New Ulm Roller Mill asked me to come and work for him again so I went down and worked for him again. In a short time after I started to work there again, the Eagle Roller Mill Co. bought the New Ulm Roller Mill, and dismantled it, but I stayed there until I was laid off at the age of 65 years.

If my wife and I live until May 28, 1972, we can celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary, and in the 65 years we didn't have a bed of roses all the time, it was hard going at times but we had our own cow and chickens, a lot and a half of garden, and my wife was a good seamstress and done a lot of sewing for the people and she earned a lot of money sewing dresses, and we sold milk for five cents a quart and eggs for eight

to twelve cents a dozen and we canned a lot of vegetables and that helped quite a lot. We canned our vegetables out of our own garden, because we didn't have the means to buy the canned vegetables in the store and that good jam the wife cooked was sure enjoyed by the whole family.

We have lived to the ripe old age, I am going to be 85 years in February 1972, and the wife is going to be 82 on July 12, 1972, 85 – 82 years is a long span of life, but I still can remember the day when we got married, it was a nice summer day and nice and warm, we were both a little excited, but we made it with flying colors. When the first baby came I was the one that was excited, the wife didn't have time to get excited as she had a job to do."



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

From the Photo Album...



The Josephine Stuetz Brunner Heck family.

Standing L-R: Joseph, Magdalene, Theresa, and Mary Brunner.

Seated L-R: Mary Brunner Heck, Aloysius Heck, John Brunner.

New Ulm Review

February 21 1923

Location: New Ulm

Description: Mrs. Josephine Heck Obituary

MRS. JOSEPHINE HECK

“Mrs. Josephine Heck passed away quite suddenly at the State Soldiers' Home in Minneapolis last Monday afternoon. Word was received that day by Mrs. Ferd. Schaefer, residing on South Minnesota Street, a daughter of the deceased. The deceased had been afflicted with asthma for some time past, and this with other complications was the cause of death.

The deceased, whose maiden name was Josephine Stuetz, was born in Wuertemberg, Germany on August 29, 1852 and was therefore past seventy years old when she answered the final summons. She came to America with her parents when quite young, and the family located in West Newton Township.

She was married about 50 years ago to Ferdinand Brunner at St. George, who passed away eight years later, and about thirty-nine years ago she was united in marriage to Joseph Heck, who died three years ago. After remaining in West Newton Township for several years, Mrs. Heck made her home in New Ulm until twenty years ago.

The five children which were born to her first union are: John Brunner of Portland, Clackamas, Oregon; Mrs. Mary Buerger, of Seattle, Washington; Joseph Brunner of St. James, Mrs. Charles Mathwig of St. Paul and Mrs. Ferd. Schaefer of this city. Alois Heck of this city is the one son born to her second union. The deceased is also survived by twenty-one grandchildren and two brothers, Joseph and Mike Stuetz both of Spokane, Washington. Funeral services took place Thursday morning at nine o'clock and interment made at Lakeview cemetery in St. Paul.”

Biographical note on Josephine as found on an Internet file:

“Josephine (Josepha) immigrated to America with her family in 1853. She married Ferdinand Brunner at St. George Catholic Church in West Newton Township on December 16, 1869.

Ferdinand Brunner, along with his brother, Xafiar Brunner, owned the Brunner Dance Hall, Saloon and Boarding House in West Newton. It was known also as the "Farmers Home" and was located directly across from the Harkins Store. The Harkins Store closed its doors in 1901. Josephine and Ferdinand had five children, John Martin, Joseph H., Theresa, Mary and Magdalena. Ferdinand died in June of 1881.

Josephine married Joseph Heck on 18 April 1882 in Holy Trinity Catholic Church in New Ulm. Joseph and Josephine had three children, Clara Josephine, Rosa Margaret and Aloysius Ferdinand. Joseph Heck and Josephine Stuetz Brunner Heck separated about January 1887.

Josephine stayed on in New Ulm until June 1898, when she moved to St. Paul, Minnesota with her son, Aloysius. Her mother had passed away the previous year.

In an article written in the New Ulm Review on October 06, 1897 ‘Mr. William Cordes has retired from the management of the Windsor Hotel. Mrs. Josephine Heck has purchased the furniture, leased the building and will assume charge at once.’

Josephine operated a small hotel or boarding house in St. Paul. She died on February 12, 1923 from asthma and other complications in the State Soldiers Home in Minneapolis, where she had been living. She is buried in the Old Soldiers Plot in Lakewood Cemetery, which is located at 34th and Hennepin Avenue in Minneapolis.”