

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 118

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2022

## 2022 Heck Family Picnic Was Great.

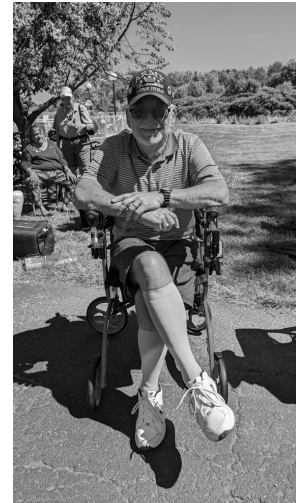


After two long years without a Heck family picnic due to the Corona Virus, we were finally able to have the picnic in July 2022. If you missed it you missed one of the better ones. In this issue of Our Family News Letter we will try to show you what you missed.

You didn't miss the annual organized golf outing because nobody came forward to organize the outing. At least three members of the family however did go golfing at Ives Grove. Hopefully next year the organized golf outing should be back.



Shown above, left to right, are Lois (nee Heck) Hawkins, Lorraine (nee Simmons) Heck, David Hansen (husband of Mary Kay nee Heck), and Bernie Kunka (husband of Delores Gibson nee Heck). The four were just enjoying the beautiful weather and talking about old times.



Don Heck sporting his new wheels at the picnic.

Inside the Leisure Center family members were busy setting up a huge display of food and desserts. There was enough food to feed an army but we did a good job consuming most of it.

This year we were able to set up video slide shows inside the center and display them on a large screen television monitor. The monitor was about 50 inches in size so everyone could see the show from anywhere in the room. Special thanks go out to John Gibson and Rick Heck for helping to set up the display.

The videos consisted of slide shows with background music put together by Bob Heck, your Editor. The collection included photos from Richard Heck, Delores Kunka, Mary Kay Hansen, Cheryl Heck, and Bob Heck. Included were videos made by Bob Heck using the MyHeritage genealogy website. Bob wrote the narrative and submitted still-photos of Johann Heck (1810-1885) and Henry Heck (1839-1920). MyHeritage used AI (Artificial Intelligence) to animate the lips of Johann and Henry in synchronization with the narrative. Bob selected the voice to be used from several available on the website.

The end result was that you could see Johann and Henry tell you their life story starting with their birth in Alendorf, Germany and ending with their death and burials in Minnesota and in Wisconsin. These animated videos can be seen on our What The Heck Facebook Group website. While some people think that this type of animation is creepy, others think it is great. Again, if you were not at the picnic, be sure to visit our group website.



Shown above is a very talented, Lynn (nee Hansen) Yamagata, the daughter of Mary Kay and David Hansen. Lynn brought her Karaoke equipment all the way from California along with her mother and father, and provided some great entertainment for the picnickers. Many joined in the fun for the group singing and several joined Lynn and sang as a trio. I especially enjoyed seeing Cheryl Heck and David Hansen singing with Lynn.

The Heck family picnic actually started out at Brown's Lake at Burlington, Wisconsin in 1948. In 1949 the picnic shifted to the back yard of Robert Gerald and Mary Heck of 1306 Jones Avenue in Racine. Douglas Park was just down the street and that is where the youngsters played softball and other picnic games. The idea was that the family picnic would be rotated between Burlington, Racine, and Waterford. Burlington is where descendants of James Heck lived. Racine is where the descendants of Robert Steven Heck lived, and Waterford is where Lizzie nee Heck Plucker and John Heck lived. James, Robert, Lizzie, and John were siblings, and the children of Henry Heck.

Unfortunately, the Polio epidemic started and public gatherings skidded to a halt. The Heck family picnics resumed at Lincoln Field in Racine in the mid 1960's. From there they were moved to the Wind Point Lighthouse in Racine, and later to the Leisure Center in Racine. This is just a bit of our family picnic history.



The photo above shows from left to right, Shirley Heck, Jim Heck and Cel Heck enjoying the shade at the Leisure Center.

Our hope is that the Heck Family Picnic will continue to be an annual event

On the next page, from left to right are John Suchla, Daniel Kelley, and Steve Behrendt playing cribbage. I went back to the archive of past picnics and these three gentlemen were playing cribbage back then. Their positions at the table hadn't changed in years.



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## Grace Heck Profile



Grace Heck, daughter of Judi and Dave Heck from Franklin, Wisconsin, loves to dance. Grace is 14 years old and will be a freshman at Franklin High School in the fall.

Her mother wrote, “I’m sad this dance season ended for Grace. I will miss her dances but I won’t get tired of re-watching them! **Hip hop** was for sure my favorite. Such creative choreography and just all around fun to watch! All of her team’s hard work paid off when they made it to the final round of Battle of the Stars last week at Nationals!”

“We had an exciting time at the Nationals in the Dells this week. All of Grace’s teams did really well! **Lyrical** placed 7th in the overalls, **Jazz** placed 3rd in the overalls, **Production** placed 1st in their category and 2nd in the overalls. **Pro-**



**duction** also won the Light Up the Stage award. **Hip hop** placed 1st in their category and 5th in the overalls. They also got a choreography award. Both **Hip hop** and **Production** made it to the Battle of the Stars on the final day of competition and they both took 2nd in their categories. **Hip hop** won another choreography award in the final battle round. So fun to watch!” Judi Heck

Editor’s Note: The items listed in bold print are dance routines that Grace is in. The “Nationals” is the Starpower National Talent Competition that was held at the Wisconsin Dells July 5 – July 9, 2022.

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**This newsletter** is written and published by **Robert J. Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive, Greendale, WI 53129.**

Our Family News Letter is published quarterly and is distributed without charge. My e-mail address is **HECK.BOB@gmail.com** Please feel free to share this newsletter with your family members. 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 118 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to September 2022 (Issue 118). 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.

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### **“What The Heck” Facebook Group Web Page**

How To 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. For example: My grandfather was Alvin Heck or I married Jim Heck. Either Cheryl Heck or Bob Heck will approve you for access. 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 family news.

Here is the web address for our group page:  
**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Whattheheckfamilygroup/>**  
Here is the address in larger letters:

**<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Whattheheckfamilygroup/>**

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### **Thanks to our contributors...**

My deepest thanks go to all 60 of our readers but especially to those who are the contributors who help keep this newsletter going with their generous donations and pictures. This list is for the period November 2021 to July 2022.

Cheryl Ann Heck  
Ellen R. Stiner  
Susan and Jeff Miller  
Rebecca Wright  
Rick Heck  
Don and Sharon Heck  
Pat Merritt  
Mary Kay and Dave Hansen

Contributions to keep Our Family News Letter going are always welcomed and can be sent to:  
**Robert J Heck, 4910 Steeple Drive,  
Greendale, WI 53129.**

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### **Photos from the Photo Album...**



A family get together: Seated Left to Right: Larry, Bob, Dick, and Gene Heck. Standing Left to Right: Shirley Heck, and Delores (nee Heck) Gibson, Kunka.

Of the siblings, Bob died on 9 Oct 2013, Larry on 3 Feb 2015, Dick on 25 Aug 2015, and Gene on 6 April 2017. Missing from the family photo are Marjorie Johnson who died on 27 Jun 2010, Clarence who died on 31 Dec 2021, Mary Kay Hansen, and Donna Benedict.

## Land sale from Benjamin Burgess to Alfred Foster in 1830...

The following transcript shows our ancestor, Benjamin Burgess (ca 1794 - 1838) selling land to his father-in-law in 1830.

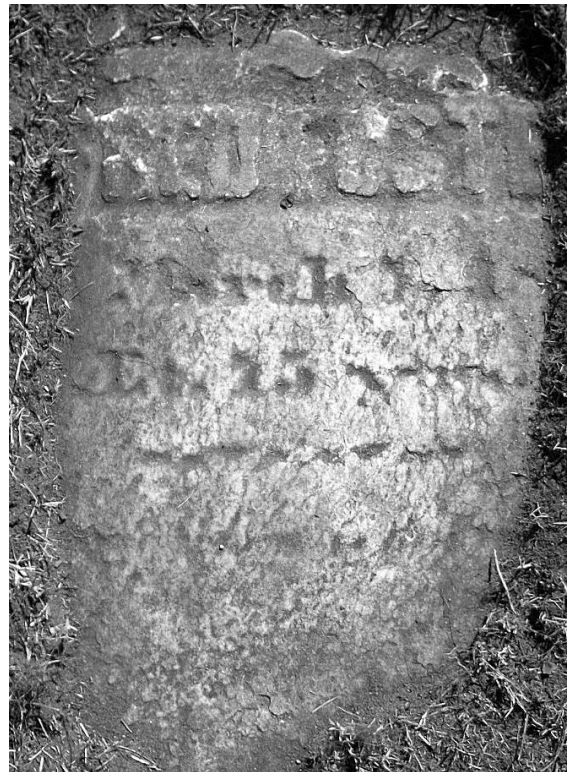
“Benjamin Burgess to Alfred Foster  
This indenture made the fifth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty between **Benjamin Burgess** of Ira, Cayuga County, New York of the first part and **Alfred Foster** of the town of Hannibal, County of Oswego, State of New York of the second part, witnesseth that party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred dollars lawful money of the United States of America to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part at or before the encsaling and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath bargained sold remised and quit claimed and by these presents doth bargain sell remise and quit claim unto the said party of the second part in his actual possession now being and to his heirs and assigns forever all that piece or parcel of land situated in the town of Ira, County of Cayuga in the State of New York known and distinguished by being fifty acres of land situated in the town of Ira in a square form part of lot number ten in the township of Ira beginning said fifty acres at the southwest corner of said lot number ten bounded as the same has been sold heretofore by the People of the State of New York...”

### From "History of Kenosha County", pg. 343-

"Early in the winter of 1834, a few persons indulging in a wish to emigrate to the West, made known their determination to each other. Among these, and probably the first of them, were John Bullen, Jr., Charles W. Turner, Waters Towsley, James Scott, Dr. B. B. Cary, Jason Lathrop, Hudson Bacon, Peter Woodin, **Alfred Foster**, Orlando Foster, William Bullen, George Bennett and Signey Roberts. After some occasional conversations upon this design, John Bullen, Jr., invited the above-named persons to a supper at his

house in Hannibal, Oswego Co., NY, and to spend the evening. Emigration to the West was the principal topic of conversation. The first object was to ascertain who would go; and the proposal was made to form a company, in order to render the removal as cheap and pleasant as possible, and that the company so formed might locate at some important point and there make a town and form a community of the right sort. Those persons present all appeared willing to share in such an enterprise. Such were the designs expressed on the occasion; and a committee was appointed to draft a constitution for the Company, and a meeting was proposed to be held at the hall (once the Masonic Hall), for the transaction of further business. Notice of this meeting was widely extended by J. Bullen, Jr., who was then Postmaster at Hannibal."

Editor's Note: Amanda Foster, the second wife of Benjamin Burgess, was the daughter of Alfred Foster.



The grave marker for Alfred Foster, age 75 years, died 7 March 1849, at Southport, now Kenosha, Wisconsin, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Burgess. Source: 10,000 Vital Records of Central New York 1813-1850.

From North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000: "Sarah Adaline Sanborn married at Salem, Wisconsin, December 31, 1840, William Foster, born at Hannibal, New York, January 2, 1809, he died at Racine, Wisconsin, January 1, 1871, a son of Alfred and Mehitable (Castle). He bought 400 acres between Racine and Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1838, and built saw-mills."

Editor's Note: William Foster was the brother of Amanda Foster Burgess. In the biography of Alonzo Burgess, it was stated that Alonzo worked for his uncle, William Foster, for five years in the lumber and brick business.

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### **One Step Closer to Finding the Ancestral Home of Peter McNulty.**

We believe that Peter McNulty had a younger brother, Lawrence McNulty, who lived in Wilmot, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. We know that Lawrence's wife was Margaret Cafferty, born in Ireland. Lawrence and Margaret were married in Ireland, and had one daughter, Ellen McNulty, born in Ireland in 1853. They had other children born in Wisconsin.

While doing some research I found a brief news clip from the Kenosha Telegraph, issue 52, Volume 45, page 3, dated Friday, May 29, 1885. It stated the following: "John Cafferty, wife and three children, lately from Ireland, are stopping with the family of L. McNulty, and will make it their home here. **Mr. Cafferty is Mrs. McNulty's brother.**"

Earlier research showed that John Cafferty was born in 1836, at Achill, County Mayo, Ireland. He married Katherine McNulty in 1855 in Ireland. Katherine was born in 1828 County Mayo, Ireland, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McNulty. From the death record of Lawrence McNulty in the Holy Name Catholic Church record at Wilmot, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, it showed that his parents were John and Anna McNulty.

A brief note found in the Kenosha Telegraph Courier, Thursday, July 10, 1890, stated: "Mrs P. McNulty visited Mrs. Henry Bluine (sic) the first of the week." Mrs Henry Bluim was the daughter of Lawrence McNulty and Margaret Cafferty and Mrs. P. McNulty is Mrs. Peter McNulty, whose maiden name was Patience Burgess.

What all of this means is that Margaret Cafferty was probably born in Achill, County Mayo, Ireland where her brother, John Cafferty was born. This suggests that Katherine McNulty, wife of John Cafferty, may have been the sister of Lawrence and Peter McNulty or at least a cousin.



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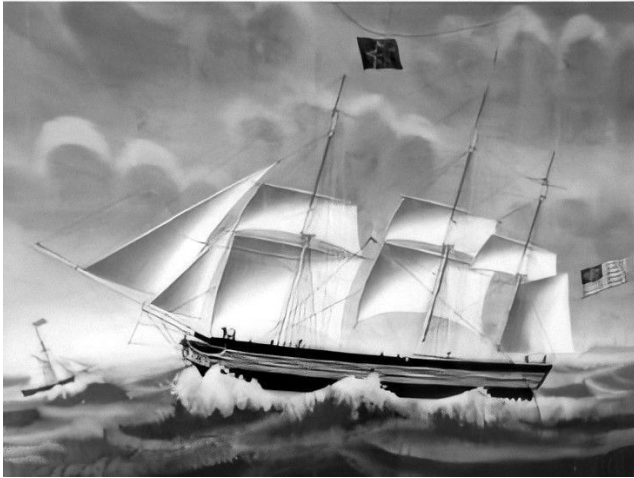
After some more research on the John Cafferty family I was able to find John's naturalization record in the Kenosha Circuit Court files on Ancestry. John stated that he was born in 1839 in Ireland and came to the United States in May 1885 at the Port of New York. On September 11, 1893 he became a citizen at the Circuit Court at Kenosha.

I located the Christening records for John's four children born at Achill, County Mayo, Ireland. The four children were Mary Cafferty born 15 October 1866, Catherine Cafferty born 15 May 1868, Joseph Cafferty born 17 Jun 1870, and Michael Cafferty born 6 March 1875. Joseph probably died at a young age in Achill. Mary married Peter Daly, Catherine married John Ludwig, and Michael married Susan Carney, all in Wisconsin. Mary, Catherine, and Michael came with their parents to America in 1885.

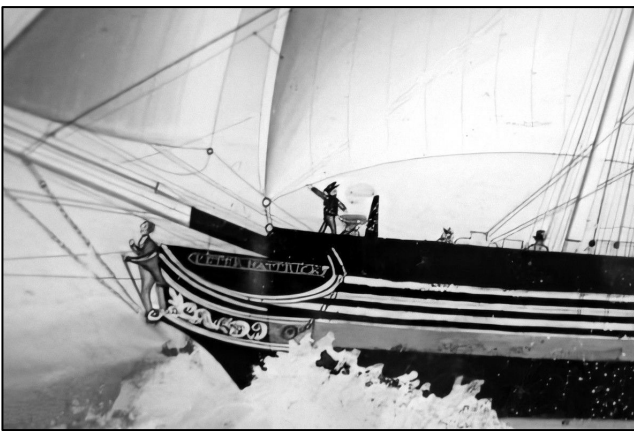
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### Information about the ship the *Peter Hattrick*...

The Johann Heck family sailed to America on board the sailing ship The *Peter Hattrick* from Antwerp to New York in 1853. The following article about the origin of that ship was found in a publication, "Connecticut River Ship Building".



The Ship *Peter Hattrick*, reverse painting on glass by P. Weytz from the Connecticut River Museum.



A close up painting of the Ship *Peter Hattrick's*, detail of the figurehead.

"Captain David Rawson Post was Master of the ship *Lorena* and gainfully employed by E. D. Hurlbut. He captained the *Hector* for nearly six years, and it was time for a new ship. He approached the Hurlbut owners with the idea of having a ship built for use in the New York – Antwerp line. The company owners agreed, so

David went to New City yard to talk over details with Richard P. Williams, master shipwright and shrewd businessman. Together he and David worked out the ship's specifications in collaboration with the Hurlbut brothers.

The packet would be 133 feet in length, 30.4 feet wide with a 21-foot draft. The owners decided the ship was to be named *Peter Hattrick* after Joseph Hurlbut's fifteen-year-old son, Peter Hattrick Hurlbut.

The young man was ambitious and would eventually join his uncle's New York shipping company as a partner.

Like his cousin Russel Handy Post, whose ship *Elizabeth Denison* had a full-length maiden carved and painted for a figurehead, David Post's *Peter Hattrick* had a carved figure of a dapper young man, dressed in coat and tails, gracing the bow of the ship. If Richard P. Williams's packet ships *Elizabeth Denison* and *Peter Hattrick* were docked side by side, and their figureheads were not visible, it would be difficult to distinguish one from the other. Both vessels had similar lines, and their hulls were painted black with a thick stripe of burnt umber and three narrow white lines painted above and running the length of their hulls. The only way one could tell them apart was that *Peter Hattrick* was nine feet shorter.

Westbound passages usually took about thirty-five days depending on the tides, headwinds, season, weather conditions and route. Ships at that time generally traveled between 100 to 140 miles per day at 4.0 to 6.0 knots, or about 4.6 to nearly 7.0 miles per hour."

Editor's Note: If you go to our What The Heck web page you will find colored images of the Ship Peter Hattrick. You can copy and download them from the web page.

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Editor's Note: It is rare to find images of early ships built in the early 1800's. Paintings were a common source such as those shown here.

**From the Newspapers...**

Burlington Free Press 20 FEB 1920

**CIVIL WAR VETERAN  
DIED AT WATERFORD**

**Heck**

Henry Heck, a veteran of the civil war and well known in this vicinity, passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Alfred J. Plucker, at Waterford, last Friday afternoon, aged 81 years. Mr. Heck had been poorly for several years and had failed gradually all winter. His body was brought to this city on the interurban funeral car Monday morning and services were held at St. Charles Catholic church at 10 o'clock, Rev. P. Dreis conducting the same, and interment was had in the Catholic cemetery.

Henry Heck was born in Germany February 10, 1839, and came to this country when a young man, settling in the town of Brighton. At the outbreak of the civil war he entered the services as a private in the Nineteenth Wisconsin, serving three years and three months, when he was discharged. He then returned to farming at Brighton and was married there to Miss Mary McNulty in 1868. They resided in Brighton until they removed to this city some twenty-three years ago. His wife died here about ten years ago.

Mr. Heck is survived by the following eight children: James Heck of this city; Mrs. Mary Grosatueck of Milwaukee; Matt. Heck of Thompsonville; John Heck and Mrs. Lizle Plucker of Waterford; Robert Heck of Racine; and Miss Eva and Lawrence Heck of Milwaukee.

Obituary of Henry Heck 1839-1920. Henry was the son of Johann Heck and Anna Barbara Schaefer. Henry was the patriarch of the Racine County Heck family living in Racine, Burlington, Waterford and Thompsonville.

Burlington Free Press 1926

**Carlos and Sylvester Henningfeld of Milwaukee, former residents of this city who have been working for T. M. E. R. and L. Co. over 20 years, have been receiving congratulations on the semi-centennial of their birth. Both are twins and look very much alike.**

50<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Henningfeld twins, brothers of Margaret Henningfeld Heck. Carlos and Sylvester were both living in Milwaukee.

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.**

**Of The County Board of Supervisors of Kenosha County.**

List of persons who have received aid from Soldier's Relief Fund since last report Nov. 10th, 1894:

Supplies, for commission...		
Mar 1 No 60 H Heck Brighton	25 00	
" 6 No 61 Mrs Frazine city.	15 00	
" 12 No 62 A C Sherwood "	10 00	
" 12 No 63 Mrs M Ernst "	10 00	
" 12 No 64 J Clifford P P....	5 00	
" 14 No 65 W C Carson city.	4 00	
" 19 No 66 Albert B Merrill Salem.....	25 00	
" 19 No 68 Mrs E Dodge city.	5 00	
" 22 No 69 Mrs C Gallagher Camp Lake.....	10 00	
" 28 No 70 Pat Brown city...	14 35	
" 28 No 71 W C Carson " ...	4 00	

March 1, 1895 is a record of payment of \$25.00 to Henry Heck as part of the Soldier's Relief Fund for Civil War service and disability. Henry was wounded in the left leg during the battle of Drewry's Bluff near Richmond, Virginia in 1864. Richmond was the capital of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Drewry's Bluff was located on the James River and provided protection for Richmond and Petersburg. Henry served in Company F of the 19<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry.

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