

Our Family News Letter

Issue 119

Greendale, Wisconsin

December 2022

Meet Your Cousins



Shown above are newlyweds Mr. and Mrs. Nathan A. Tappen. The bride is Katelin Fritz. The groom is the son of Amy (nee Heck) and Adam Tappen from Florida. Amy is the daughter of Don and Sharon Heck from Racine.

Katelin and Nathan were married April 24, 2022 in Davenport, Iowa where they make their home. Congratulations to both of you and welcome to Our Family Newsletter.

Honor Flight 2022

As many of you are aware, my brother, Don Heck, served in the U.S. Army in Viet Nam in 1966, shortly after he and Sharon were married in Racine. After his return to the United States and Racine he became active in veteran groups. Don was involved in helping disabled veterans at the VA home in Union Grove, Wisconsin. Since the formation of the Honor Flights system he has been active in greeting the returning flights from Washington DC.

Don was affected by Agent Orange while serving in Viet Nam. Most recently he has been confined to his walker and is no longer able to drive a car.



Shown above at center is Don Heck giving a sharp salute to the returning veterans. His friends in the photo help Don attend the ceremony at Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee by picking him up and driving him there.

We are all proud of the hard work and dedication that Don and his fellow vets have shown towards our American veterans.

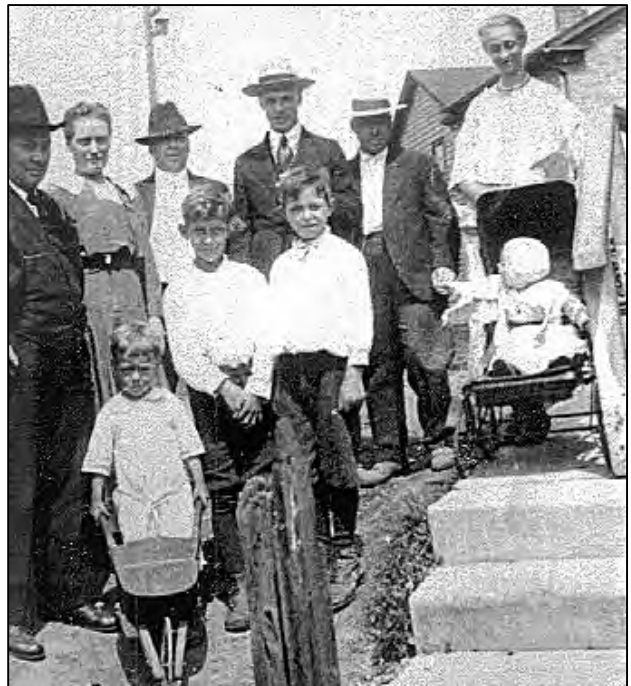
Changing Images of Margaret Frederica (nee Henningfeld) Heck.



Shown above is a photo of my grandmother, Margaret Frederica (nee Henningfeld) Heck taken in about 1903 at Burlington, Wisconsin. Margaret married Robert Steven Heck on October 15, 1903 in a civil ceremony in Milwaukee and later that day in a Catholic ceremony in Racine.



In the photo at lower left are shown L-R: Mathias Heck, Edward Heck, Margaret and Robert Steven Heck. Mathias was the brother of Robert. The picture was believed to have been taken in 1918 or 1919.



The grainy photo above was taken in Racine in 1920 with the children L-R: Edward Christopher, Robert Gerald, Alvin James, and Bernice Mary Heck. Standing L-R: John and Anna Heck, Mathias Heck, Joseph Heck from Minnesota, Robert Steven and Margaret Heck.



The photo above was taken in 1940. L-R: Bernice Heck, Mary and Michael Brott, Margaret and Mary Heck, and Gary Heck. Mary and Margaret were Henningfeld sisters. Michael and Mary were visiting from Seattle, Washington.



The photo above of Margaret Heck was taken in Racine but the year was not known.

Margaret was frail and ill for many years and at one point was confined to a Tuberculosis Sanitarium at Union Grove, Wisconsin in 1921. She was found working as a cleaning lady in office buildings in Racine after husband Rob died in 1923. She and her sons sold Williams Shaving Cream and tooth brushes door-to-door in order to keep the family together. In her later years she was blind and had difficulty hearing and was confined to a bed. She outlived five of her eight children.

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 119 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to December 2022 (Issue 119). 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.

“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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/Whattheheckfamilygroup/)**

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.**

**Howard Walter Heck
6 NOV 1925 – 26 OCT 2022**



We were greatly saddened to learn about the recent passing of Howard Walter Heck, Many of you may remember Howard when he visited us at our Heck-Henningfeld family picnic at Wind Point many years ago. Howard was a gifted genealogy researcher with whom I had collaborated for many years. Howard went on to write and publish five family history books, two of which, many of you purchased. The first book was titled, "The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany" and the second was, "The Heck Brothers, Alendorf, Germany To The USA".

Howard and I met many years ago when he contacted my Dad in Racine, Wisconsin. Howard was trying to figure out how the Wisconsin Heck's connected to the Minnesota Heck's. At

the time I was not aware that we had a branch of our family living in Minnesota. Howard's great grandfather, Peter Heck, and my great grandfather, Henry Heck, were brothers. My Dad referred Howard to me since I was just starting my research on our Heck family.

Howard and I exchanged many audio tapes over the years in which we exchanged research notes. Howard did not own a computer at that time so our extensive exchange of data was easier for him by using tape recordings. One of the big questions that we were researching was about where our family came from in Germany. We knew from Civil War documents that the family came from a place called Alendorf with various spellings. Unfortunately there were 22 Alendorfs that we were able to identify. Howard sent a letter in German to each of the 22 Catholic churches in those small villages but only got 11 responses, all of them were negative.

I was into computer genealogy and still am. One day I found my great grandfather's marriage certificate on a computer index that indicated that the original document was in a courthouse storage area in Kenosha, Wisconsin. It was that document that led us to our ancestral home in Alendorf, Germany. I immediately called Howard with the news. Boy was he ever excited about my discovery.

I contacted some German friends that lived in Wuppertal, Germany, and asked if they could pay a visit to Alendorf for some photos and to see if there were any Heck family members still living there. We were excited to learn that indeed the Heck families were still there. That resulted in Howard and his wife, Anne, and other relatives visiting Alendorf and the Heck families. In 1989, Gloria and I and my brother Don and sister-in-law Sharon, took a trip to Europe and while there we went to visit with the Heck relatives at Alendorf. Since then three other branch members of our family were also able to visit Alendorf. They were in the Schaefer and Pfeiffer branches of our family.

Howard and his brother Gerald came to Racine for our annual Heck-Henningfeld family picnic. I went to New Ulm, Minnesota to attend the Heck-Lang family reunion. We continued to share our research over the years. I was able to visit Howard and Anne several times while on business trips to Minneapolis.



The 1984 photo above shows the Heck family from Alendorf and standing at the left are Anne and Howard Heck. Our Heck family left Alendorf for America in 1853. Howard and Anne were the first of our Heck family to visit Alendorf in 131 years.

Here is his obituary:

Howard W. Heck of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, passed into eternal life at the age of 96 on October 26, 2022 from dementia. He is survived by his daughters, Karen Karbo, Susan Heck, Dianne Fancher and granddaughter, Allison Fischer, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife, Anne of 70 years, his sisters, Evelyn Wilson, Marie Rocheleau and Geraldine Herman, his brother, Gerald Heck and son-in-law, Skip Karbo.

Howard was born on November 6, 1925 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Joseph and Frances Heck. Howard graduated from North High in 1943. He served his country from 1944-45 in WWII as a Sergeant in the Infantry of the United

States Army, 10th Mountain Division in Northern Italy.

After the war, while working as a letter carrier on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Howard met the "love of his life" Anne and after a whirlwind relationship they were married in 1946.

Howard and Anne returned to Minnesota where he attended the U of M and graduated with a degree in civil engineering. He later worked for the U of M Plant Services Division until his retirement in 1988.

Howard and Anne settled in Brooklyn Center, where Howard devoted many years to community service. In 1960, Howard co-founded a local, non-partisan political organization in Brooklyn Center "Citizens for Better Government" (CBG), which was nationally recognized for endorsing qualified individuals for public service in the community. He was elected as a Brooklyn Center trustee/councilman and served the city from 1959 to 1972. Howard was a charter member of the Brooklyn Center Historical Society, served as chairman of the restoration committee of the Old Dunning School House in Champlin, Minnesota and volunteered on the collaboration of the book "The Brooklyn". In 1966, he served as a delegate in the Minnesota state convention. He was an active member of the Community Emergency Assistance Program (CEAP). In 1976, Howard was honored with the "Brooklyn Center Outstanding Citizen" award by the Brooklyn Center JC's. Howard and Anne were charter members of St. Alphonsus Catholic Church and were active in several church committees over the years.

Howard served on the Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Council. After his retirement, Howard and Anne traveled to Austria and Germany where he did extensive research on his family history and published five books, which are displayed in The Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. In 1984, Howard shared his expertise and taught a community education

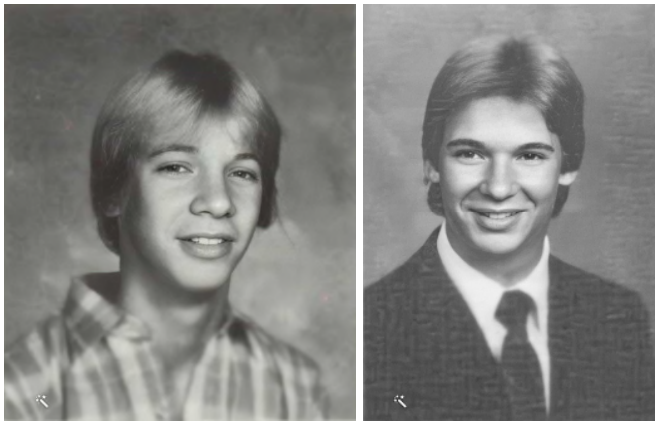
class "Tracing Your Family Roots".

Howard was once asked "What do you want written on your tombstone" he replied "He was an honest man".

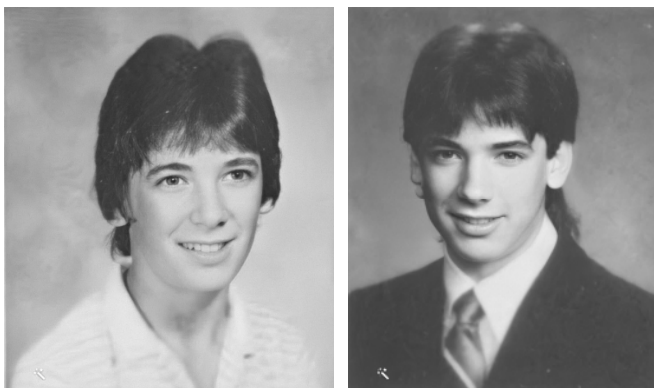
A Memorial Gathering will be held Thursday, November 10 from 2-5PM at Cremation Society of MN, 7835 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Park.

A Collection of Class Photos Found on the Internet.

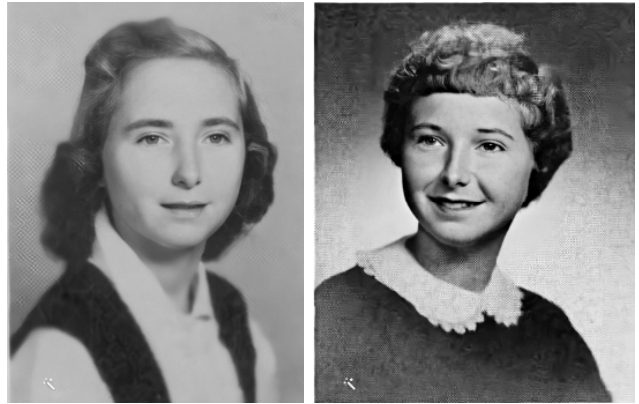
Following are photos of our family members as found on the internet. I tried to find a senior image and an earlier image at the same school.



Dave Heck as a Freshman and as a Senior at Greendale High School.



Bill Heck as a Freshman and as a Senior at Greendale High School.



Mary Kay Heck as a Freshman and as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.



Delores Heck as a Sophomore and as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.



Joanne Heck as a Sophomore and as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.

Editor's Note: I had good luck in finding senior class pictures but when looking for the underclassmen photos the freshman photos were a bit harder to find. That is why in some cases a sophomore photo is shown.



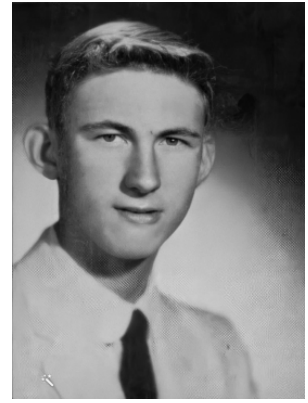
Michelle Roloff as a Junior and as a Senior at J.I. Case High School in Racine. Michelle and Bill Heck live in West Bend, Wisconsin.



Bill Heck is not the only one into music. Shown above in the 2nd row, second from left is Michelle Roloff as a member of a Jazz Concert Band at Case High School in Racine.



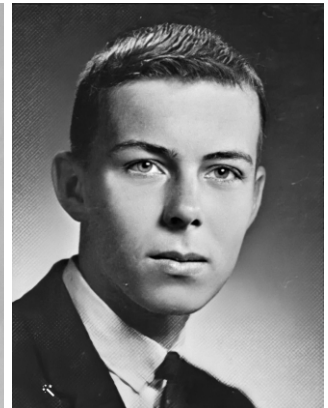
Donna Heck as a Freshman and as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.



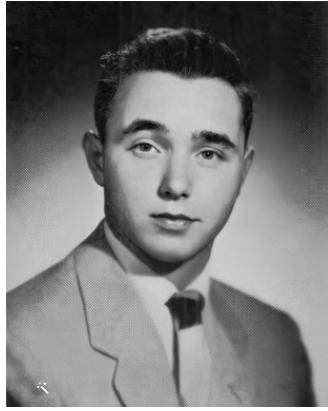
Gary Heck as a Junior and as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.



Clarence and Eugene Heck as Freshman at St. Catherine's in Racine.



Patricia Heck as a Freshman and Edward Bark as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.



Ronald Heck at Horlick HS and Clarence Heck at St. Catherine's in Racine, both Seniors.



At right is Robert Heck behind his friend Larry Garski in a play at St. Catherine's about the Lincoln Assassination.



Shown at left is Bill Heck hitting a powerful back handed return for the Greendale High School tennis team.

They really had a strange choice of practice uniform styles back then.



Shown seated at far left is Robert Heck being trimmed up with a beard in preparation for a school play at St. Catherine's in Racine. I really liked that beard and I tried to grow one like it but all I got was peach fuzz.



Donald Heck as a Freshman and as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.



Alvin Heck as a Sophomore and Robert Heck as a Senior at St. Catherine's in Racine.

I hope that you enjoyed this journey through those high school years. All of the images were found by conducting a search on Ancestry.com. Just enter a first and last name, year of birth, and the location such as Racine.