

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 120

Greendale, Wisconsin

March 2023

## Daniel Paul Pfeiffer 28 JAN 1959 - 22 DEC 2022



We were saddened to learn about the death of Daniel Paul Pfeiffer right before Christmas of 2022 at Naperville, Illinois.

His funeral service was video recorded and can be viewed by clicking on the following web link. I am not sure of how long the link will be active so you should give it a try soon.

[https://videos.memoryshare.com/video/15bxph\\_y3\\_wowza\\_recording\\_25221d18-80a4-49e1-90b5-efefca9d260c.mp4](https://videos.memoryshare.com/video/15bxph_y3_wowza_recording_25221d18-80a4-49e1-90b5-efefca9d260c.mp4)

Our sympathy goes out to the entire Pfeiffer family with our deepest condolences.

### Obituary:

“Daniel Paul Pfeiffer, the second of Marvin and Joanne Pfeiffer’s seven children, was born January 28th, 1959 in Racine, WI. He graduated from Saint Catherine’s High School after a short suspension for bringing couches to the school in an effort to set up a student lounge. He attended UW Stout where he went on to get his Master of Science in vocational education. He would marry Jodene Wichern in 1983, with whom he had four children: James, Joy, Jenny, and Julia. He would later meet Patti Robertson, the love of his life with whom he would spend 22 devoted years and

welcome her children Erick, Laura, Craig, and Karin into his joyfully expanding family.

Mechanically inclined from the start, Dan had a lifelong passion for cars that may have first gotten serious with a heavily dented VW minibus. Working on cars would lead him into teaching auto shop classes at Madison Area Technical College, and then on to a long career with Lexus of America. Dan’s work brought his family prosperity, and brought Dan himself the opportunity, for 29 years, to spin donuts in parking lots for the most valid of professional reasons.

“Love your family” and “be careful what you wish for” may have been Dan’s life motto, whether that meant starting a band with his brother Dave (and playing “Band On the Run” until it nauseated his siblings and damaged his hearing) or giving his 85-year-old mother her dream of a ride in a convertible (at over 100 miles per hour on the highway).

Dan adored his family. His social calendar was the Pfeiffer Family Calendar, full of birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, and weddings. His heart was fullest when his house on Flock Avenue in Naperville was full, especially at Christmas when it would overflow with children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Dan was not only devoted to his family but also his faith and attended Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Naperville.

Daniel P. Pfeiffer followed his father Marvin and mother Joanne in death on December 22nd, 2022. He is survived by his wife, Patti; children Erick (Gwen) Robertson, Laura (Ryan) Dehart, James (Amanda) Pfeiffer, Joy (Steve) Blankenheim, Jenny (Tim) Ketelboeter, Craig Robertson, Julia Pfeiffer, Karin (Mike) Vaughn, and adored grandchildren: Quentin, Tyler, & Renae Dehart,

Wyatt & Axl Robertson, Hayden Vaughn, Charlotte & Daniel Pfeiffer, Charlie Blankenheim, Ayla and Ada Ketelboeter.

Brother to David (Mary) Pfeiffer, Steve (Cara) Pfeiffer, Ann (Dan) Kelley, Jeanie (Malcolm) Hatfield, Lori (John) Suchla, Judi (Steve) Behrendt. Further survived by nieces, nephew, and many other relatives and friends.

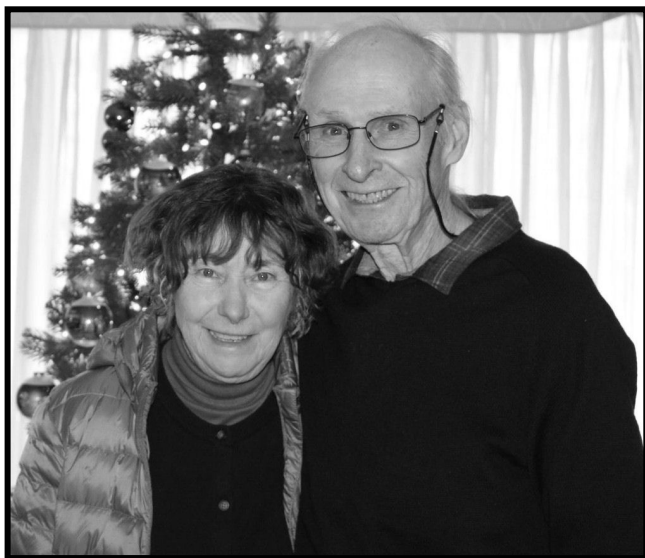
Visitation: Tuesday, December 27th 4:00-8:00 PM at Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Additional Visitation: Wednesday, December 28th 10:00-11:00 AM at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 815 S. Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60540. Funeral services to follow at 11:00 AM at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church."

Interment was at Naperville Cemetery, Naperville, IL.

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**Albert Benedict**  
**21 AUG 1943 – 26 NOV 2022**



Donna (Nee Heck) and Albert Benedict in 2021.

We were saddened to learn that Albert Benedict passed away two days after Thanksgiving in 2022. Following is his obituary. We send our deepest condolences to Donna and the entire family.

**Obituary:**

“Albert Benedict, 79, passed away Saturday, November 26, 2022 with his wife and children by his side. Albert was born in Racine, WI on August 21, 1943, the son of Albert and Mary (Knotek) Benedict. On July 8, 1967, he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Donna Benedict.

Surviving are his three children: Michelle M. Baugrud, Albert Benedict III (Beth), and Melissa J. Friedlander (Gabriel); four grandchildren: Ella and Evan Baugrud, Simon Benedict, and Niomi Friedlander; siblings: Elizabeth Bode, Nancy Spencer, Jacqueline Pocar, Mary Lou Hestevan, Ron Benedict; and nieces, nephews, numerous in-laws and dear friends. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by son-in-law, Joel Baugrud, brothers-in-law: Phil Spencer, Al Bode, and Bob Kloski.

Albert's love for building and creating began while working for his Dad as a pattern maker at Industrial Pattern and Model Works where he earned his Journeyman Card. Albert took that love and applied it to the fine arts, earning a BA in Fine Arts (1971) at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, a MA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1990), and an MFA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1992). Albert taught at South Milwaukee High School for 27 years, retiring in 1998.

In 1987, Albert and Donna relocated from Racine to Whitewater where they enjoyed the last 35 years. Albert built a studio in their home, which is where he spent countless hours creating his art. Albert used brilliant colors and whimsical designs and his artwork has been displayed at galleries and museums across the country. Albert and Donna would spend much of their summers (and cold WI winters) traveling to art shows across the country, combining his love of art and their passion for travel. Loading up the RV and spending months on the road exploring new places and meeting new people. On many occasions their children would join them on these adventures as his family was central to his life and

he loved spending time with his children and grandkids.

Services will be held on Friday, December 16, 2022 at Saint Patrick's Church, 1225 W. Main Street, Whitewater, WI 53190. Open visitation 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. followed by the Funeral Mass and a reception."

Published by Racine Journal Times on Dec. 4, 2022.

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## **Burgess Family Research**

While doing some research on the internet I found a link and email address of a fellow Burgess researcher, Gail Richard Quackenbush. Gail and I corresponded with each other many years ago but lost touch with each other when Gail joined the U.S. Air Force. We shared our research information on the Burgess family.

Gail and I are actually 4<sup>th</sup> Cousins via our common ancestors, Benjamin Burgess and his first wife, Rebecca Chase. Benjamin and Rebecca were born about 1794 in New York State near Hoosick, Rensselaer County, adjacent to where the Battle of Bennington, Vermont was fought in 1776.

Gail gave me access to his private web page which contained some documents that I had not seen before. The following biography of Benajah Burgess and his wife Zilpha Matteson, parents of Benjamin Burgess, was written by Gail.

### **Benajah Burgess ca. 1761-1830**

"Benajah Burgess was born about 1761 in Little Compton, Rhode Island, the youngest child of John and Hannah (James) Burgess. It was probably there that he met and married Zilpha Matteson and began their married life together. Benajah and Zilpha later moved to the nearby Town of Voluntown, New London County, Connecticut, where many of their children were born.

Benajah probably fought in the Revolutionary War as evidenced by the following minutes of a meeting of the Governor and the Council of Safety in Hartford on 31 July 1783: "Resolved that the Committee of pay table draw on the Treasurer in favor of Joseph Wylie constable of Voluntown for the sum of seven pound nine shillings & ten pence lawful money, it being for the like sum advanced by said Constable Wylie for the marching money or mileage paid to Messrs. Ezra Palmer, John Harris and Benajah Burgess, three soldiers detached to march to Horseneck."

Following the Revolutionary War, Benajah farmed in the Town of Voluntown. On 24 Dec. 1787 he purchased two tracts of land, one of 130 acres and one of 50 acres, in the Town of Voluntown, from his father, John Burgess.

In 1794, the northern part of the Town of Voluntown, was incorporated into the new Town of Sterling, Windham County, Connecticut. Among the freeman listed at the first town meeting of Sterling, held on 9 June 1794, were Benajah Burgess and Thomas Burgess, no doubt Benajah's elder brother.

Benajah and Zilpha and their young family of six or seven children left Connecticut about 1796 for New York State, settling in the Town of Hoosick, Rensselaer County, where they farmed for many years. Their farm was located near the present hamlet of North Hoosick, where New York State Highway 67 intersects with State Highway 22.

Benajah is shown on the 1799 tax assessment of the Town of Hoosick with real estate worth \$2,550. Although Benajah and his family cannot be located on the 1800 census, they are shown in the Town of Hoosick in 1810, 1820 and 1830.

Benajah Burgess wrote his last will and testament on 17 July 1830. He left all of his household furniture to his wife Zilpha and left five dollars each to his sons George, Archibald and Benjamin Burgess. He also left five dollars to each of his daughters Cynthia Potter, Lurana Pot-

ter, Nancy Potter, Hannah Matteson and Zilpha Bacon. In addition, he left his sons John, Harvey and Narron "Nairn" Burgess equal shares in "a certain piece of wood land owned by me and lying in the South Easterly part of Shaftsbury in the State of Vermont." He also left these three sons equal parts in any personal property not otherwise disposed of.

Benajah Burgess died 15 Aug. 1830 and was buried at the Walloomsac Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery just east of Hoosick Falls, New York. His wife Zilpha, listed as Sylpha on her tombstone, died 2 March 1836 and was buried next to Benajah. Next to them are their son John and daughter Nancy Potter. Benajah and Zilpha's son Nairn is buried near them, along with many members of his family. Nairn probably built the ornate cast iron fence that surrounds all of the Burgess' graves.

No family Bible has ever been found for Benajah and Zilpha but much is known of their children, not only because of Benajah's 1830 will, but also because of the 1848 will of their bachelor son John. John over the years had loaned out considerable money to friends and relatives in the form of mortgages and notes. He appears to list his brothers and sisters in his will in the order that they were born, mentioning those who had already passed away. The extensive probate records on file in Rensselaer County contain several listings of other heirs, primarily the children of his siblings Cynthia, Archibald, Hannah and Benjamin who had preceded him in death.

Compiled by his great-great-great-great grand-son, Gail Richard Quackenbush, 9 May 2020."

Gail also wrote a biography of Benjamin Burgess and his first wife, Rebecca Chase, and his second wife Amanda Foster. That biography follows:

### **Benjamin Burgess ca. 1798-1838**

"Despite a number of detailed county biographies published in the late 1800's of his nu-

merous children and grandchildren, the early life of Benjamin Burgess is still somewhat unclear. Although some accounts say he was born in Bennington County, Vermont, it is much more likely that he was born across the state line in the Town of Hoosick, Rensselaer County, New York. Benjamin was possibly the first of the children to be born in New York after his parents, Benajah and Zilpha (Matteson) Burgess, arrived from Connecticut with their young brood of six or seven children.

Benjamin is probably the Benjamin Burgess shown on the 1820 census of Bennington, Vermont with a young wife, no doubt Rebecca (Chase) Burgess, and two sons less than 10 years old. Also in the household were one or two young men, possibly brothers or farm hands. The census shows that two of the men in the household were engaged in agriculture.

Benjamin Burgess and his young family left the Bennington/Hoosick area about 1825 for Upstate New York, where Benjamin worked in the milling and lumber manufacturing business. Although some family biographies state they went to Onondaga County, New York or Erie County, New York, they probably settled in the Town of Ira, Cayuga County, next to the Town of Hannibal in Oswego County, and also bordering Onondaga County. Their daughter Julia Ann was born there 15 Nov. 1827 and her mother, Rebecca (Chase) Burgess, probably died shortly after her birth.

Benjamin Burgess married a second time, about 1829, to Amanda (Nee Foster) Allen of Hannibal, New York. Nothing is known of her first marriage to Mr. Allen but there is no mention that they ever had children. Amanda was the daughter of Alfred Foster, one of the founders of the Western Emigration Company which raised money through the sale of stock to help families move west to Wisconsin.

Benjamin and Amanda's first son, William Everington Burgess, was born 2 May 1830, to be followed by two more daughters, Ruth Belinda and

Martha, and a son Cyrus. Benjamin and his family are shown on the 1830 census in the Town of Ira, Cayuga County.

Much more is known of the last years of Benjamin's life. Benjamin and his family left New York for Wisconsin under the auspices of the Western Emigration Company in early 1836 along with seven other families. The "Portrait and Biographical Album of Racine and Kenosha Counties" (1892) describes the trip and their first years there:

"They started in the month of February with teams and sleighs, and from Michigan continued to journey with wagons, at length arriving in the town of Southport, now known as Kenosha on the 9th of March. He made a location in what is now the town of Somers, where he took a claim and built a mill engaging in the manufacture of lumber. The family endured much exposure, suffered from sickness and many privations came upon them during the first year. They had to live in covered wagons ere their cabin could be built. As the result of this exposure, Mr. Burgess died after two years, in March, 1837 (sic). His widow then carried on the business and when the land came into market paid for the same."

A separate account in the same book states, probably more accurately, that Benjamin died in March 1838 at the age of 39.

Amanda (Foster) Burgess was deeded the land on the Pike River where the mill had been built on 15 November 1838. The land description was the southwest quarter of Section One, Town Two North of Range Twenty-Two East, containing 160 acres.

No grave has ever been found for Benjamin Burgess, probably because no cemeteries had yet been organized at the time of his early death. His widow Amanda, who survived him almost 50 years, was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in the Town of Somers in Kenosha County.

Ref: 1820 Census, Town of Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont  
1830 Census, Town of Ira, Cayuga County, New York  
1840 Census of Racine County, Wisconsin Territory  
"Portrait and Biographical Album of Racine and Kenosha Counties" (1892), pp. 705, 935

Compiled by his great-great-great-grandson, Gail Richard Quackenbush, 17 May 2020"

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**This newsletter** is written and published by **Robert J. Heck,**

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.

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.**

### **Our Family News Letter is On-Line**

**Our Family News Letters** are now available to you on-line and for free. There are 120 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to March 2023 (Issue 120). Wow! That means that I have been writing this newsletter for 30 years.

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/>



The photo above was taken by Gail Richard Quackenbush at the Walloomsac Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery. The two small tombstones with white highlighting at center just behind the cast iron fence are the grave markers of Benajah Burgess and his wife, Zilpha Matteson. In the printed version of this newsletter the photo is in grayscale (black and white) while on the web page it is in color.

The document below is the Revolutionary War pay list dated January 11, 1777, for service during the months of October and November, 1776.



This roster was for the 23rd Regiment of Connecticut, Captain Hamlins Company, and it lists our Benajah Burgess receiving two pounds of lawful money. Benajah is shown to the left of the white arrow with a black outline.

I had seen printed text that Benajah had served during the war but this was the first original document showing that he was in the 23rd Regiment. This document was also from Gail Richard Quackenbush’s web page.

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The photo on the previous page at lower right was taken on July 1, 1967 at Whitnall Park in Milwaukee. Gloria and Bob Heck are shown with their grandparents. From left to right are John Mikel (1883-1974) and Anna Pastyrikova Mikel (1887-1972), Bob's maternal grandparents. On the right are Caroline Olsen Burmaster (1882-1974) and Genevieve Weekley LaBerge (1897-1977). Caroline was Gloria's maternal grandmother and Genevieve was Gloria's paternal grandmother.

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### **An article that I had written many years ago.**

Finding Photos in the Strangest Places  
By Bob Heck MPAFUG 1994

I found out long ago that in genealogy you have to ask the question if you expect an answer. This story of my family history search proves it.

My family always had a lot of pictures and photo albums stashed in cabinets and in the attic in our home in Racine, Wisconsin. Growing up I got to know a lot of those relatives through those old pictures. It wasn't until I got interested in genealogy in the early 1970's that I realized that I had never seen a photograph of my grandfather, Robert Steven Heck. Robert died as a young man in 1923, at the age of 43, as a result of an aneurysm of the stomach. He left a family with seven children behind.

I asked my dad why there were no pictures of his father and I was told simply that he never liked to have his picture taken. I said that he must have had a picture taken at some time in his life. My dad told me that he only remembered one picture and it hung on the wall of the house when he was 11 or 12 years old. He said that he thought that it was thrown out shortly after he died. I had checked with my aunts and uncles and none of them had a picture of my grandfather. I persisted and asked my dad if any of his cousins might have a picture of my grandfather. Dad thought about it for a while and then said that maybe his cousin in Waterford would have a picture.

Dad made a phone call and after exchanging pleasantries with his cousin he asked if she happened to have a picture of Robert Steven Heck. She said that she might since there was a suitcase of pictures out in the barn. She invited us over for a visit the following day.

Much to my surprise the suitcase was covered with chicken droppings and feathers and an accumulation of dirt deep enough to plant potatoes in. I would guess that suitcase had been in the barn for 20 or 30 years. I dreaded the thought of what condition the photographs might be in after all those years. Much to my surprise the inside of the suitcase looked clean and untouched by the hostile environment that it had been surrounded by for two or three decades.



The suitcase was filled with old pictures, postcards and a few old negatives. Dad's cousin started sorting through the pictures and called out the names of each person on the photo-

graphs. This was Aunt Liz, that was Uncle Matt, this was Uncle Robert, that was Aunt Mary, this was Aunt Eva, that was Uncle John, here is Uncle Jim.

Included were studio pictures of my grandfather, Robert Steven Heck, when he was about 19 years old and one of each of his brothers and sisters taken in about the same time frame. Then came the surprise.

There was a picture of my great-grandfather, Henry Heck, in his Civil War uniform that had been hand colored. The picture measured about 17 inches long by about 9 inches wide and was oval in shape. There were several other pictures of my great grandfather in his uniform taken at a studio after the war. A studio picture of my great grandmother, Mary Ann McNulty Heck, was also found in the suitcase along with a black funeral card from her funeral from 1912.



Digging a little deeper we found a picture of my great-great grandfather, Johann Heck, and his second wife, Susannah Sebenbrunner Zeren Heck, taken in about 1870. He was the first Heck from Alendorf, Germany to immigrate to America in 1852, along with his first wife, Anna Barbara Schaefer Heck, and their four children, Peter, Henry, Joseph, and Clara.

Several postcards from my grandmother, Margaret Henningfeld Heck, were also in the suitcase. One of them described the pain that Robert Steven Heck had in his stomach two years before he died of an aneurysm in the stomach. My grandmother complained in the postcard that he wouldn't see a doctor to find out what was causing so much pain in his stomach.

Following is a transcript of a note pertaining to that postcard.

Robert was in ill health for many years prior to his death, but it is unlikely that he knew that he was as sick as he was. He apparently didn't have much faith in doctors either. These facts are born out by the postcard that Margaret wrote to Lizzie Heck Plucker on July 27, 1914, a full nine years prior to his death.

“Dear sister and brother, How are you all? We don't ever hear a word from there. Wrote a long letter to Eva some time ago and sent her twin's pictures but never got answer. Wonder if she didn't get it. Rob is sick in bed. Oh, I wish one of you were here to talk to him to have the doctor, for he feels good a couple days then he is sick again. Can't eat anything and he has such a pain in his left side. I just put the hot water bag on and he says that feels some better. The kids are fine. Write soon. I'll write a letter. Margaret”

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**Many thanks to our contributors who help keep this newsletter going.**

Jeff & Susan Miller, Rebecca Write, Rick Heck, Don & Sharon Heck, Pat Merritt, Mary Kay & David Hansen, Ellen R. Stiner, Alvin & Carolyn Heck, and Cheryl Ann Heck.