

Our Family News Letter

Issue 121

Greendale, Wisconsin

June 2023

Are You Ready for the Heck Family Picnic 2023?

Lizzie is. She thinks that she is invited and in control of her owners, Michelle and Bill Heck from West Bend, Wisconsin. However we know who's in charge. Here she is pictured with her laptop computer, reading all about it on our internet web site.



If she looks puzzled it may be that she can't find the instructions for packing her doggie bones. **By the way, she just ordered 50 pounds of doggie bones from Amazon.com.**

We are happy to announce that the Heck Family Picnic is now scheduled for Sunday, 16 JULY 2023 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 if there are any changes.

A list of what each family is asked to bring for the shared buffet table will be sent out by Sherry and Shirley Heck. They use the sign-up list from past picnics. If you haven't signed up for an item to bring, please contact Sherry. She would be more than happy to add you to the mailing list.

We still need one or more 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

Here is a bit of history behind the Heck Family Picnic. The early picnics started in Burlington, Wisconsin at Browns Lake shortly after World War II. We still have old 8mm movies taken by my parents, Mary and Robert Heck of the 1947 Heck Family Picnic at Burlington.



This image was captured from the 8mm movie and shows some of the kids at the 1947 picnic. In the front the boy with the striped shirt is me, Bob Heck. To my left are Mary Kay and Donna Heck. The tall skinny girl next to and behind Donna is Joanne Heck, daughter of Alvin and Stella Heck.



In the adjacent photo are Alvin and Joanne Heck. In the photo below is Delores Heck playing catch with her Burlington cousins.

In 1948 the picnic was held in Racine at the home of my parents, Mary and Robert G. Heck. The kids got to play softball at Douglas Park just down the street.



In 1949 the Polio Epidemic hit the United States which pretty much shut down any social activity. All of the beaches and parks were closed.

The greatest fear was that the children would end up crippled for life and for us kids it was a fear of ending up in an iron lung machine. The photo below shows a large group of these devices in a children's hospital.

The iron lung provided breathing assistance for the children. Without it many would die. In 1952 alone, nearly 60,000 children were infected with the virus; thousands were paralyzed, and more than 3,000 died. Hospitals set up special units with iron lung machines to keep polio victims alive.

The summer of 1950 was referred to as "A Summer without Children" by the press.

The Salk vaccine was developed in 1952 but it took some time to vaccinate everyone. Of course there was a lot of fear of the vaccine since it was made with the dead polio virus. Nearly every kid knew of someone who had the virus. Two of our cousins, Carl and Rosemary Heinrichs had it.



Carl and his sister Rosemary were from Wausau, Wisconsin. Both were crippled by the virus. Rosemary was confined to a wheel chair and Carl had leg braces and needed crutches to get around.

The Heck Family Picnics resumed in 1967 at Lincoln Field in Racine. From there they took place every year at the Wind Point Lighthouse. Later they were moved to the Leisure Center near Wind Point in Racine.



This 1947 image from the 8mm movies shows Robert Jerome Heck with his 1st cousin, Donald Gerald Heck. Robert Jerome was the son of Clarence Heck and Donald Gerald was the son of Robert Gerald Heck.

We had to cancel the picnic for two years, 2020-2021, because of the Covid-19 epidemic.

More on the Honor Flight...

Shown at upper right is the group of veterans who regularly greet returning vets from the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., arriving at Milwaukee. At center in the cart with the American flags is my brother, Don Heck. Don is also shown in the adjacent photo.

Don got a new cart from the Veteran's Administration recently and spent a lot of time decorat-



ing it. He added a bright red flashing light and a squeeze bulb bicycle horn. Also added are the Welcome Home Veterans' sign that reads "Thank You For Your Service".

I thought that adding a siren to the cart would go well with the flashing red light but he told me that the group of Vets liked the bike horn that Don used to call the group to attention.

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 me.

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 121 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to June 2023 (Issue 121). Wow! That means that I have been writing this newsletter for over 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/>

New discovery of the burial place of Alfred Foster.

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."

Alfred Foster was born on 5 July 1774 and died on 7 March 1849 at the age of 75 years. He died in Kenosha County, Wisconsin and is buried at the Green Ridge Cemetery in Plot North East 117, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He was married to Mehitable Castle on 3 March 1796 at Great Barrington, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. Al-

fred Foster and his wife Mehitable lived in Hannibal, Oswego County, New York, and there raised three children: **Amanda Foster** 1799-1886, Alfred Foster Jr. 1807-1860, and Sarah Adaline Foster 1821-1899.



The partially buried headstone of Alfred Foster is located at the Green Ridge Cemetery in Plot North East 117, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The headstone has been there for 174 years. It will take more careful clearing to reveal all that is carved on the stone.

Alfred Foster had a brother named **William Orlando Foster**, known as Orlando, and both were part of the exploratory group that settled in Southport, now Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Alfred's first daughter, **Amanda** married **Benjamin Burgess**, a widower, in about 1828 in New York State. They had three children born in Hannibal, New York: William Everington Burgess, Martha Matilda Burgess, and Belinda Ruth Burgess. Benjamin brought six children from his first marriage with Rebecca Chase to this union: Benjamin Jr., Nehemiah Ebenezer, Alonzo, Joel, Patience (Wife of Peter McNulty), and Julia.

Benjamin Burgess and Amanda Foster Burgess sold their land in Oswego County, New York in 1835 to Earl Watson Jr., as is recorded in Book V, page 125, FHL US/CAN film number 1011767.

Benjamin Burgess and his family of nine children and his wife **Amanda**, arrived in Southport (now Kenosha) Wisconsin in 1836. The family started a saw mill on the Pike River near the town of Somers in Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The site of the saw mill is on the land described as the South West quarter of Section One, Town Two North, of Range Twenty-Two East containing 160 acres.

Benjamin Burgess died two years later in March 1838, from complications of those first bitter cold Wisconsin winters. The land was officially transferred to **Amanda Burgess** by the United States on November 15, 1838 on certificate number 1018. The land was transferred for the United States by President John Tyler. This information is contained in the Abstract of Title number 48533, for the land.

Amanda continued operation of the saw mill with the help of her uncle, **William Orlando Foster**, and her children and step children.

Other Marriages...	
Benjamin Burgess-494	
Abt 1794 - Hoosick, Rensselaer, NY	
Mar 1838 - Southport (Now Kenosha), Kenosha, W, USA	
Marriage: Abt 1828 --304	
Spouse	
Amanda Foster-1157	
1799 - Catskill Area, Greene, NY	
10 Jun 1886 - Somers, Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA	
Children	
1	William Everington Burgess-1158
2	Martha Matilda Burgess-1159
3	Belinda Ruth Burgess-1160
4	Cyrus Burgess-1161

The image above shows the family of Benjamin Burgess and his second wife, Amanda Foster. The image on the following page shows the family of Benjamin Burgess and his first wife, Rebecca Chase.

Other Marriages...	
Benjamin Burgess-494	
Abt 1794 - Hoosick, Rensselaer, NY	
Mar 1838 - Southport (Now Kenosha), Kenosha, W, USA	
Marriage: Abt 1818 --267	
Spouse	
Rebecca Chase-495	
Abt 1794 - White Creek, Washington, NY	
Abt 1830 -	
Children	
1	Sylvia Burgess-1151
2	Benjamin Burgess Jr.-1153
3	Nehemiah Ebenezer Burgess-1152
4	Alonzo Burgess-1154
5	Joel Burgess-1155
6	Patience Burgess-432
7	Julia Burgess-1156

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

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

More Photos from the photo album...



Meet the Leo Henningfeld Family. L-R Front: Leo T. (1931), Helen Rose (1930), Dorothy A. (1928), L-R 2nd Row: Magdalene nee Blottner (1892), May Henrietta (1919), Florence M. (1916), Louise R. (1922), Leo Werner Henningfeld (1879), L-R Back row: Robert J. (1920), Romayn L. (1917). The year of birth is shown in parentheses. Leo Werner Henningfeld was the

son of William F. Henningfeld and Margaret



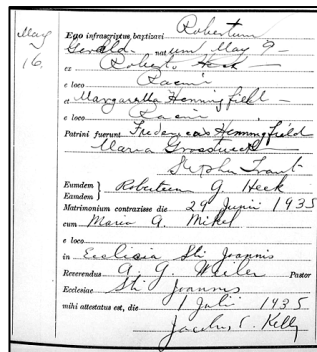
Grueter from Waterford, Wisconsin. Leo was the grandson of Franz Arnold Henningfeld and Catherine Elizabeth Richter. Franz was the head of our branch of the Henningfeld Family.

The photo at left is the wedding photo

of Leo Werner Henningfeld and Magdalene Blottner. It was taken on 17 June 1913 at Waterford, Wisconsin.

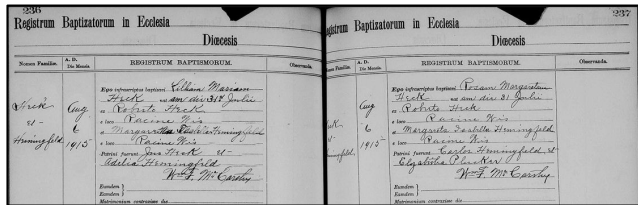
Milwaukee Journal 16 December 1961.

“Henningfeld, Leo W. aged 82, passed away Dec. 15, in Waterford; survived by wife, Magdalen, 3 sons, Roman of East Troy, Robert of Union Grove and Leo of Mundelein, Ill., 5 daughters, Florence (Mrs. John F. Jacobson), Dorothy (Mrs. Donald Martin), Helen (Mrs. John F. Martin), all of Waterford, Mae (Mrs. Charles Beeson), Deerfield, ILL., Louise (Mrs. Norbert Hegeman) of Kansasville, and other relatives and friends. Funeral services Mon., Dec. 18, 9:30 a.m., from St. Thomas church, Waterford. Father Hertel officiating. In state Sun. after 3 p.m. at the Mealy Funeral Home.”

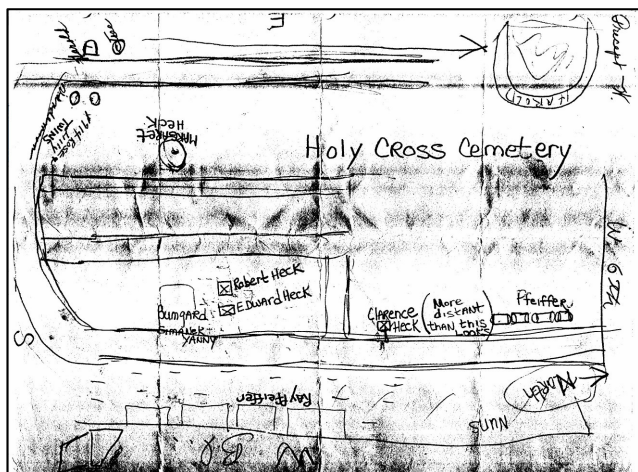


The document at left is a 1909 baptismal record and a 1935 marriage record for my parents, Robert Gerald Heck born

on 9 May 1909, baptized on 16 May 1909, and married to Maria A. Mikel on 29 June 1935, and recorded on 1 July 1935 at Racine, Wisconsin.

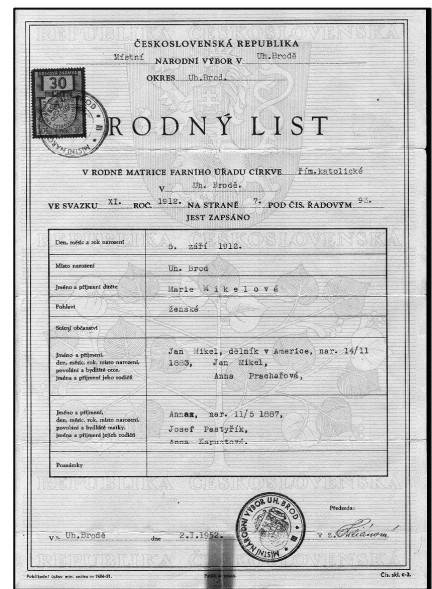


Shown above are the baptismal records for the twin daughters of Robert Steven Heck and Margaret Henningfeld. Their names were Lilly Marie and Rose Margaret. The date of birth was 31 July 1915 and the christenings took place on 6 August 1915. Both girls died of malnutrition, Lilly on 19 March 1916 and Rose on 12 April 1917.



Above is a hand drawn map drawn by my uncle Alvin Heck. He was telling me where his twin sisters, Lilly and Rose were buried in the old Holy Cross Cemetery located at 2530 Kinzie Ave, Racine, WI 53405. Alvin marked the two burial sites for the twins at upper left and indicated that they were buried near a grave marked Vander-Moon. We have never found the two graves. The cemetery office had no record of their burial. The Heck family was poor in 1916 and 1917 so they may not have been able to afford two tombstones for their daughters. It would not surprise me if the family buried their daughters on top of their brother, Harold's grave late at night.

The document at right is a birth record of my mother, Mary Ann Mikel. She was born at Uhersky Brod, Moravia, Czechia (Czechoslovakia), on 5 September 1912.



The document shows her name as Marie Mikellova and her parents as Jan Mikel and Anna Pastyrikova. The document also gives the birth date of both parents and the names of the grandparents. For a genealogist this is like finding a gold mine.

As a point of interest a female child is given the surname of the father and the suffix of ova. Thus my mother was known as Mikellova in the Czech Republic (Czechia) but in the United States she was Mary Ann Mikel. Most immigrants dropped the ova when they came to this country.

Her older brother, Bohumil Mikel, also born at Uhersky Brod, did not have a suffix affixed to his name. Male children did not have a suffix.

In Scandinavian countries the naming patterns are much more confusing. There they use Patronymic names. As an example, if a father named Peder Oleson had a son Nils and a daughter Maria, the children were known as Nils Pederson and Maria Pedersdatter. Pedersdatter literally means Peder's Daughter. Also the father, Peder Oleson, was the son of Ole Unknown. It could be Ole Svenson or Ole Pederson or anything else.

If the family lived in a large city, finding the ancestors would be very difficult.

Editor's Note: The following article appeared in our **Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group** newsletter, a Computer Genealogy Group, in May 2023. Randy Ray, one of our Steering Committee members, did an excellent job in explaining the use of DNA testing for family history research. I thought that this article would be of interest to you. Gloria and I have been DNA tested and use My Heritage and Ancestry.

“DNA - Understanding It in Basic Terms”

Randy began by defining Y-DNA, one of the three main types of DNA tests. Y-DNA refers to the DNA found on one of the sex chromosomes, the Y chromosome; the other sex chromosome being the X chromosome. Most biological males have a Y chromosome that women lack. Y-DNA testing is a way to trace your ancestry back into the distant past, tracing back through the paternal line. For women to take a Y-DNA test may not be very useful. A living biological father or brother should be tested to learn about the paternal side of the family's ancestry.

The second is the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) test which only looks at the maternal line of the family's ancestry. Only females can pass this on to the next generation.

The third test is the autosomal test which looks at the DNA of your autosomes. Autosomes are the 22 numbered chromosome pairs in your cells that together with the pair of sex chromosomes, make up the 23 pairs of chromosomes typically found in humans. You inherit autosomal DNA from both of your biological parents. This test is best for helping you find recent relatives on both sides of your family tree.

Many in the audience had been DNA tested. Even so, many people speak of reasons not to have a DNA test – privacy, cost, or just not interested.

Many companies are offering DNA kits, including Ancestry, My Heritage, The DNA Company,

23andMe, and Family Tree DNA being the most well-known. 23andMe is a very good choice for genetic health insights. They are all currently using “spit tubes”- spitting your saliva into a test tube – not blood tests. You own your DNA; it cannot be sold.

The matches are proven through centimorgan. With a centimorgan (CM), the greater the distance between two genetic markers, the higher number of physical opportunities for the exchange of DNA to occur. So, the matches have a higher frequency of recombination and a higher number of centimorgans between genes. In other words, the higher the CM number, the closer you are.

Randy showed us where to find the DNA Summary Results, DNA Matches, and “ThruLine” confirmations in the tabs of **Ancestry.com**. But don't take Ancestry's word for a match. Follow it through and prove it out on your tree. Randy does not look at the DNA match if they 1) do not have a tree 2) have a private tree 3) have an unlinked tree 4) are managed by someone else or 5) are beyond 3rd cousin.

It's important that we set aside what we think that we know. We need to follow the DNA where it leads. Confirmation bias is something of which to be keenly aware.

In Summary -

- DNA samples are rarely wrong.
- Matches to your tree are only as good as your tree.
- NEVER merge someone else's DNA matches into your tree. Verify, then verify the match again, and then manually enter it.
- Some people could care less about DNA; some people are very intrigued by it. Do not judge.
- If you have questions, contact your local DNA scientist.
- Remember, only pay for what you need.
