

Our Family News Letter

Issue 122

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2023

Dolores Mary Gibson Kunka, (nee Heck) January 30, 1934 – July 24, 2023



Dolores Mary Gibson-Kunka, age 89, passed away peacefully Monday evening, July 24, 2023 at Aurora Medical Center in Mt. Pleasant.

Dolores was born in Racine on January 30, 1934, daughter of the late Clarence and Frances (nee: Pier) Heck.

Dee, as she was affectionately known by family and friends graduated from St. Catherine's High School "Class of 1952", and earned her teaching degree from Dominican College. A great athlete, Dee played second base and pitched for the Racine Belles baseball team in their last years of existence.

On September 7, 1955, Dee was united in marriage to John "Jack" R. Gibson. They raised four children, Kathleen, John, James and Rebecca and shared thirty seven wonderful years together before Jack preceded her in death in 1992. Dee was fortunate to find love again and married Bernard "Bernie" Kunka on February 27, 1999.

Dee taught at Sacred Heart Grade School for three years and then was employed with Racine Unified for thirty years. She was a member of St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church, and the 5th Street Yacht Club Ladies Auxiliary where she served as secretary and member of their board. In

her spare time, Dee enjoyed playing bridge, her flower garden, her gourmet cooking club, cheering on the Brewers and Packers, her many travels around the world, and her winters in Marathon, spending time on their boats the "Dee-Light" and "Prospector". Above all, Dee will be best remembered for her great love and devotion to her family.

Dee will be dearly missed by her husband of twenty four years, Bernie; her children, Kathleen Martin, John Gibson Jr., James (Carol) Gibson, Rebecca (Kevin) Christensen; grandchildren, Matthew (Karie) Martin, Patrick (Michelle) Martin, Rachael Gibson, Sam Christensen, Sara (Luke) Sebald; great grandchildren, Kaden Nygren, Ella Martin Levi and Louis Sebald; siblings, Shirley Heck, Mary Kay (David) Hansen, Donna Benedict; sisters-in-law, Cel Heck, Lorraine Heck, Mary Heck; her extended Kunka family, sons, Bill Kunka, Mike Kunka, Jim Kunka (Denise Schoening); daughter, Ellen (Mike) Panozzo; grandchildren, Kate (Chris) Simonds, James (Stephanie) Kunka; great grandchildren, Nathan and Rhiannon Kunka; many nieces, nephews other relatives and friends. In addition to her parents and husband John, Dee was also preceded in death by her brothers, Richard, Lawrence, Robert, Clarence "Junior", and Eugene; sister, Marjorie Johnson; son-in-law, James Martin; and her great granddaughter, Penelope Martin.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church, 1903 Green Street, Tuesday August 1, 2023, 11:00 a.m., with Rev. Steve Varghese officiating. Entombment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, Hwy 32. Relatives and friends may meet with the family at the church on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. Memorials to St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church have been suggested.



This photo of Dolores was captured from an 8mm movie taken at the 1947 Heck family picnic held at Burlington, Wisconsin.

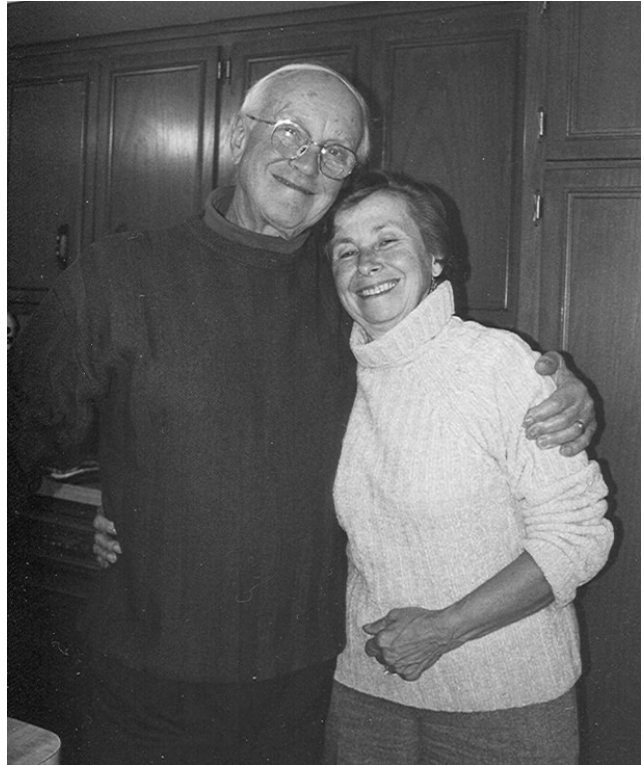


The photo above was taken in the backyard of the Robert G Heck home at 1306 Jones Avenue in Racine. The photo was taken on September 7, 1955. Those identified are at far left, Mary Kay and Cel Heck, at center are Dolores and Jack Gibson, and at far right are Robert Jerome Heck and Eugene Heck.



The photo at left shows Dolores and Jack Gibson and their four children from left to right: John, Kathleen, Rebecca, and James.

The photo below shows Bernie and Dolores Kunka from a few years ago.



We send our deepest sympathy to Dolores' family. We will miss her smile and sharp intelligence at our family gatherings. She was very interested in our family history and had contributed numerous stories and photos. She always enjoyed reading Our Family News Letter.

“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/>



Above is just a sample of some of the photos available on What the Heck web site. While the photos above are shown in black and white, many of them are in full color on the website.

All Issues of Our Family News Letter are On-Line

Our Family News Letters are now available to you on-line and for free. There are 122 issues of the newsletter covering the period from March 1993 (Issue 1) to September 2023 (Issue 122).

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.

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.**

Many thanks to our contributors who help keep this newsletter going. Here are the contributors since last Christmas:

Ellen R. Stiner, Pamela Wagner Kebis, Gary & Carol Heck, and Don & Sharon Heck.

Johann Heck's Third Family

Over the years I have written about my great-great grandfather, Johann Heck (17 Feb 1810 – 21 Jun 1885).

Johann actually had three families over his 75 years of life. I have often written about his first and second families. Following is the story about his third family.

The First Family: This family include children that he had with his first wife, Anna Barbara Schaefer (30 Aug 1801 – 23 Nov 1855). They include: Peter Heck 1834 – 1900, Anna Lucia Heck 1836 – 1858, Henry Heck 1839 – 1920, Joseph Heck 1841 – 1919, and Clara Heck 1843 – 1919.

The Second Family: Johann married Susannah Sebenbrunner, widow of Nicholas Zeren, on 26 June 1856, approximately one year after the death of Nicholas Zeren. Nicholas and Susannah had seven children which became step-children of Johann Heck. The children of the second family were: John Zeren about 1846 - ?, Anna Zeren about 1848 - ?, Margaret Zeren 1852 – 1933, Nicholas Zeren 1852 – before 1860, Peter Zeren 1853 – 1907, Philip Zeren 1854 – 1952, and Mary Zeren about 1855 - ?.

What is interesting is that Margaret Zeren was not only a step daughter of Johann Heck, she was also his daughter-in-law since she, at the age of 16, married her step brother Peter Heck who was 31. Margaret and Peter married on 26 Dec 1865, at the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin following the end of the Civil War.

The Third Family: Johann Heck and Susannah Sebenbrunner Zeren had four children together as follows: Lucia Heck 1857 – 1927, Joseph H (Josiah) Heck 1859 – 1908, Andrew Heck 1863 – 1923, and Anna Heck 1866 – 1896. It is this third family that I would like to write about in this issue of Our Family News Letter.

In order to understand how we are related to the four children of Johann Heck and Susannah Sebenbrunner Zeren, I will relate them to me first. Johann Heck is my Great-Great Grandfather. I am his Great-Great Grandson. This is usually shown on charts as 2X Great Grandchild.

On the chart at right, Johann Heck is listed as the Common Ancestor. I am shown as his 2X great grandchild. Lucia, Anna, Joseph, and Andrew would each be listed as a Child in the second column. Lucia Heck and Anna Heck are my Great-Grand-Aunts, and I am their great-grand-nephew. Joseph Heck and Andrew Heck are my Great-Grand-Uncles, and I am their great-grand-nephew. For my children, they are Great-Great-Grand-Nephews or 2nd great-grand-nephews. For my grandchildren they are Great-Great-Grand-Nieces or 3rd great-grand-nieces.

Johann Heck	common ancestor	child
Henry Heck	child	brother/sister
Robert S Heck	grandchild	nephew/niece
Robert G Heck	great-grand child	grand-nephew/niece
(Me) Robert J Heck	2x great-grandchild	great-grand-nephew/niece
David & Bill Heck	3x great-grandchild	2nd great-grand-nephew/niece
Lauren & Grace Heck	4x great-grandchild	3rd great-grand-nephew/niece

For clarification, Lauren and Grace are the 4th great granddaughters of Johann Heck and they are 3rd great grand-nieces of the four children of Johann and Susannah.



Oh! That makes it perfectly clear.

Minnesota, U.S., Territorial and State Censuses, 1849-1900

		1885		Nicollet	
6	Bunker John	28	M	11	Bernady
7	Heck John	28	M	11	
	Zeren Susanna	69	F		
	Zeren Philip	28	M	11	West
	Heck Andrew	28	M	11	W
	Heck Lucia	17	F	11	
8	Anna Susanna	49	F	11	Bernady

1885 MN census

1880 United States Federal Census for Franz Miller

Minnesota > Nicollet > Bernadotte > 187

Street House N Dwelling Family No	Name	Race	Sex	Birth Mo	Relatio	Occupation	Months Sick	Read and Write	Speak and Understand English	Cannot Read or Write	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother
187	Miller, Franz	German	M	10	Head	Farmer					Germany	Germany
	Miller, Anna	German	F	10	Wife						Germany	Germany
	Miller, John	German	M	10	Son						Germany	Germany
	Miller, Mary	German	F	10	Daughter						Germany	Germany

1880 Federal Census MN

1870 United States Federal Census for Andrew Heck

Minnesota > Nicollet > Granby

Household	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Married	Occupation	Months Sick	Read and Write	Speak and Understand English	Cannot Read or Write	Birthplace of Father	Birthplace of Mother
1	Heck, Andrew	21	M	W		Farmer					Wisconsin	Wisconsin
2	Heck, Lucy	12	F	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
3	Heck, Joseph	11	M	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
4	Heck, Philip	7	M	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
5	Heck, Anna	4	F	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin

1870 Federal Census MN

269	John Haack	17	M	W		Farmer						
270	Susannah	41	F	W								
271	Peter	18	M	W		Farmer						
272	Henry	20	M	W								
273	Joseph	19	M	W		Farmer						
274	Clara	15	F	W								
275	John	14	M	W								
276	Anna Heck	11	F	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
277	Margaret	11	F	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
278	Peter	9	M	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
279	Philip	7	M	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
280	Mary	5	F	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
281	Lucy	4	F	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin
282	Josiah	1	M	W							Wisconsin	Wisconsin

1860 Federal Census MN

The 1885 census shows the John Heck family with Philip Zeren 28 (Step-Son), Andrew Heck 21, and Annie Heck 17 (Children).

The 1880 census shows Philip 25 (Step-Son), Joseph 21, Andrew 16, and Annie 14.

The 1870 census shows Peter Zeren 19, Philip Zeren 17, Lucy Heck 12, Joseph Heck 11, Andrew Heck 7, and Anna Heck 4.

The 1860 census shows the John Haack (sic) family with 1st family children, Peter 26, Henry 20, Joseph 19, and Clara Heck 15. Also shown are the Zeren children (incorrectly listed as Haack): John 14, Anna 13, Margaret 11, Peter 9, Philip 7, and Mary Zeren. Lastly are listed the 3rd family children: Lucy 4, and Josiah (Joseph) 1. The name Josiah was used to distinguish between the 1st family Joseph and the 3rd family Joseph.

Our cousin, Howard Walter Heck, in his book "The Hecks From Alendorf, Germany" published in 1991, wrote some great stories about the 3rd family. I had helped Howard with a lot of

the research on that branch of our family and on the German research as well as the Wisconsin research. Howard did almost all of the Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota research. Howard gave me permission to use any part of his book for Our Family News Letter. Howard passed away in Minnesota on 26 October 2022. Howard didn't like to write letters about our research so he asked if we could correspond by way of using a cassette tape. We corresponded for many years using that method.

Of the four children from the 3rd family, only Andrew remained single. I would like to start with his story.

Andrew Heck

10 JAN 1863 – 21 FEB 1923

Andrew, son of Johann and Susannah, was born on his parents' farm in Brighton Township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. His mother was pregnant with Andrew when the family fled Minnesota during the Sioux uprising. Andrew did not marry and lived with his parents on their farm near Swan Lake. He was admitted to the Alexander Hospital in New Ulm in May, 1894, because he was thought to be mentally disabled. On December 17th of that same year he was adjudged to be insane by the Probate Court in New Ulm, and was sent to the State Hospital in St. Peter.

Vincent Brunner, husband of Clara Heck from the 1st family, was appointed by the court to be Andrew's guardian. On July 3, 1895, an inventory and appraisal record was filed by Vincent Brunner for Andrew. It listed his following assets as: 1 sleigh (old)... \$6.00, 1 wagon (old)... \$15.00, money... \$70.00 and real estate valued at \$1,300. The appraisers were Peter Jutz, Adam Epper and Adam Jutz, farmers in the Swan Lake area.

Andrew was transferred to the state hospital in Anoka, Minnesota on March 14, 1900. He passed away on February 21, 1923, in the Anoka

Hospital at the age of 60 and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery in New Ulm.



The photo above shows the tombstone for Andrew Heck. The inscription reads, “Hier Ruht (Here Rests) Andreas Heck, Geb (Geborn - Born) 10 JAN 1863, Gest. (Gestorben – Died) 21 FEB 1923, R.I.P (Rest In Peace). Note that Andrew in German is Andreas.

Psychiatry was a very inexact science before the turn of the century and persons could be judged insane merely for being “different” or difficult to

handle. The two examining physicians at Andrew’s insanity hearing probably knew less about psychiatry than they did about healing people, and that was very limited at that time. Some of the questions on the court form indicate the lack of knowledge in judging someone insane. One of the questions asked, “Has he or she been subject to any bodily disease, epilepsy, suppressed eruptions, discharges or sores, or ever had any injury to the head?” Andrew spent twenty eight years in an institution for problems that could probably be treated in a psychiatrist’s office in our day. Treatment in the hospital was non-existent in those days, and the care the patients received was uneven at best. For example, the Superintendent of the hospital was the informant on his death certificate. He did not know Andrew’s correct age, who his parents were, or where he was born.

It was interesting to note that in the 1900 census Andrew was listed as able to read, write, and speak English.

Lucy Heck
16 MAR 1857 – 25 MAY 1927

Lucy was the daughter of Johann Heck and Susannah Zeren. She was born on March 16, 1857, on her parents’ farm in Brighton Township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. She was baptized on April 7, 1857, in St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Brighton. That same year her parents, and a group of others from the same area, moved to Minnesota near Swan Lake in Nicollet County. Lucy was the oldest child of John and Susannah.

Lucy, age 22, married William Dorn on April 22, 1879, in the Swan Lake Catholic Church. William was born on December 6, 1856, in Paris Township, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. The Dorn and Heck families farmed in adjoining townships and were both members of the Brighton Catholic Church in Wisconsin.



The William Dorn Family: In the photo above, taken about 1894, are shown back L-R: Susanna, Phillip, John, Anna, and Peter. Shown front L-R: Lucia, Lucy (Heck), William Dorn, Clara, and Margaret.

William and Lucy farmed, after their marriage, in the Swan Lake area until 1887 when they moved to a farm near Fairfax, Minnesota. William went to work for the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railroad Company in 1895, and resided along the line at Storm Lake and Fort Dodge, Iowa, and New Ulm. He was a section foreman with the railroad. William retired in October, 1926, and they moved back to New Ulm. Lucy passed away on May 25, 1927, from cancer of the stomach. She had been ill for some time, and had been living at the Alexander Home for the Aged at the time of her death. All of her children were with her at the time of her death. William went into the Alexander Home for the Aged after Lucy's death and he passed away there on June 21, 1942. They are both buried in the Catholic Cemetery in New Ulm.

The children of Lucy and William are:

- (1) John P., born December 23, 1880, died July 11, 1968.
- (2) Phillip S., born December 14, 1882, died 23 October 1948.

- (3) Susanna (Sister Modesta) born June 16, 1885, died February 6, 1911.
- (4) Anna (Sister Anacleta) born July 10, 1887, died January 3, 1971.
- (5) Peter, born 1889, and died as an infant.
- (6) Peter Frank, born September 21, 1891, died June 25, 1964.
- (7) Lucia (Sister Ermelinda) born July 16, 1894, died July 3, 1974.
- (8) Margaret (Sister Beatildis) born April 28, 1899, died December 17, 1982.
- (9) Clara born October 10, 1902, died May 18, 1871.

Anna Heck

2 AUG 1866 – 28 JUL 1996

Anna was the youngest child of Johann Heck and Susannah Zeren. She was born on August 2, 1866, on her parents' farm in Wisconsin, where the family had fled during the Sioux Uprising in Minnesota in 1862. Anna moved back to Minnesota with her parents to a farm near Swan Lake in Nicollet County, where she continued to live on the farm after her mother's death in 1892. She lived there with her brother, Joseph, and his son John, her brother, Andrew and her half-brother, Philip Zeren.

She married Jacob Mayer in November, 1894, in the Swan Lake Catholic Church. Jacob was born on his parents' farm near New Prague, Minnesota, in 1870. His parents were Benedict and Elizabeth Mayer. Benedict was born in Prussia in November, 1837. Elizabeth was also born in Prussia in September, 1846. They came to America in 1864, lived in New Jersey for approximately two years and moved to Minnesota. They purchased a farm near New Prague where they lived out their lives.

The newlyweds made their home with Anna's brothers on the farm. She gave birth to a daugh-

ter on July 23, 1896. The infant was named Sophia, most likely after Jacob's younger sister. Anna died a short time later on July 28, 1896, in her home, from birth complications. No information has been found on Jacob after Anna's death.

Joseph Heck
4 APR 1859 – 20 NOV 1908

Joseph was the son of Johann Heck and Susannah Zeren. He was born on his parents' homestead near Swan Lake, Nicollet County, Minnesota. He married Elizabeth Giefer in the Swan Lake Catholic Church. She was born on August 31, 1864, to Egidius Giefer and Margaret Schuck. Her parents were early settlers in the Swan Lake area, arriving in 1857. Egidius was the victim of a Minnesota blizzard in January of 1873. He had gone to Nicollet and was found frozen to death near the railroad tracks just on the edge of town. He left a wife and ten children, all under 18 years of age. His oldest son, Peter, only 14 years old, carried on the farm operations.



Joseph's wife, Elizabeth, passed away at the early age of 22 on April 17, 1886, on their farm near Swan Lake.

She is buried in the Swan Lake Catholic Church Cemetery. Joseph married a second time to Mary Schottenbauer.

Joseph and Elizabeth had one son, John Heck, born on September 16, 1884, on his parents' farm near Swan Lake. John lived in New Avon Township, Redwood County, Minnesota. Later he lived in Wabasso, and Vesta and finally Redwood Falls, Minnesota. John passed away at Redwood Falls on September 23, 1968. He is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Clements, Minnesota. John never married.

Joseph continued to live on his parents' farm after the death of his first wife, Elizabeth. His son, John, was only two years old when Elizabeth

died. Joseph's mother, Susannah, most likely took care of her grandchild. Joseph's father, John, passed away the year before Elizabeth's death, so Joseph was left to operate the farm with the help of his younger brother, Andrew, and his half-brother, Philip Zeren. Joseph bought the farm from his mother in 1891. She passed away on January 5, 1892.

Joseph married Mary Schottenbauer in 1896. She was born on August 28, 1873, in St. George, Nicollet County, Minnesota, to John Schottenbauer and Barbara Martinka. Her parents were born in Bohmen, Austria, and came to this country with their family between 1870 and 1872. They farmed in West Newton Township, Minnesota. Mary attended school in St. George.

Joseph and Mary sold their farm near Swan Lake in October, 1898, and purchased another farm near Clements in New Avon Township, Redwood County, Minnesota.



Joseph passed away on November 20, 1908 and is buried in the Swan Lake Catholic Church Cemetery. Mary stayed on the farm with her children. Mary passed away on October 2, 1964, and is buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Clements.



The children of Joseph Heck and Mary Schottenbauer are:

- (1) Gertrude, born November 20, 1898, died November 3, 1968.
- (2) Margaret, born April 29, 1900, died September 3, 1985.
- (3) George, born April 21, 1905, died May 10, 1985.
