

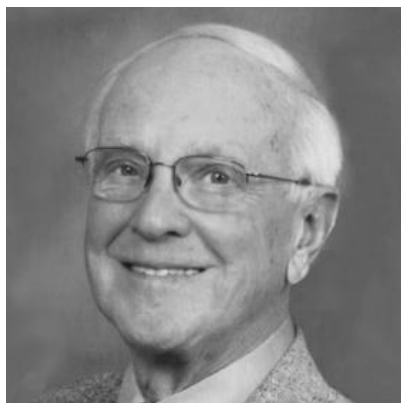
Our Family News Letter

Issue 124

Greendale, Wisconsin

March 2024

Bernard Paul Kunka **25 JAN 1927 – 29 DEC 2023**

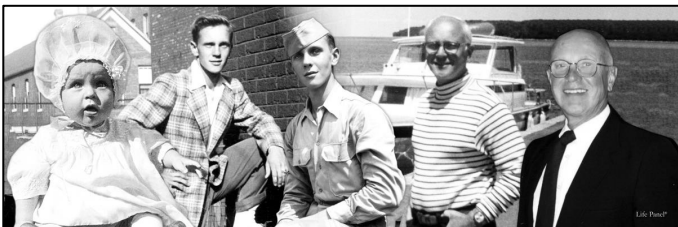


Bernard Paul Kunka, age 96, passed away peacefully Friday, December 29, 2023, at Parkview Gardens. He was born in Chicago, IL, January 25, 1927, son of

the late Bernard and Victoria (Nee: Tryanowski) Kunka.

Bernie graduated from De La Salle High School "Class of 1945". He served in the U.S. Army and then earned degree in Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

On August 19, 1950 he was united in marriage to Laraine Malcos and they moved to Racine where Bernie was hired by Acme Steel for 38 years, retiring in 1989. Laraine passed away in 1991.



On September 27, 1999, he was married to Dolores Gibson (Nee: Heck) who passed away this past July 24th. Bernie was a member of St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church and a member of the 5th Street Yacht Club. He enjoyed boating, classical music, reading and traveling. He will be remembered for his humor, positivity, cheerful demeanor, adventurous spirit and gen-

erosity. Above all he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather who will be dearly missed.



Surviving are his children, Bill Kunka, Mike Kunka, Jim (Denise) Kunka, daughter, Ellen (Mike) Panozzo; grandchildren, Kate (Chris) Simonds, James (Stephanie) Kunka; great grandchildren, Nathan and Rhiannon Kunka; sister-in-law, Jane Kunka; his extended Gibson family 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; nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends. In addition to his parents and wives he was preceded in death by his brother, John and sister Joan (Jack) O'Rourke.



A prayer service will be held at the funeral home, Thursday, January 4, 2024, 6:30 pm with Rev. Andrew Linn officiating. Relatives and friends may meet prior to the service 4 pm until 6:30 pm. Private interment will be held at the Bohemian National Cemetery. Memorials to St. Croix Hospice have been suggested. The family wishes to thank caregivers at Parkview Gardens and St. Croix Hospice.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of Dee and Bernie. We will miss seeing them both at the Heck Family Picnics each year.

An 1891 article about the 1862 Sioux Indian Uprising.

In past issues of Our Family News Letter, I had written about my great-great grandfather, Johann Heck. I wrote about his life in Alendorf, Germany and about him taking his family to Castle Garden, New York in 1853 and from there to Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin. I wrote about his wife, Anna Barbara Schaefer, dying in 1855, and his marriage to the widow Susannah Sebenbrunner, Zeren in 1856. I wrote about how the Heck family migrated to Brighton, Nicollet County, Minnesota in 1857 along with 9 other German families. I told you about how the Heck family fled Minnesota back to Brighton, Kenosha County as a result of the Sioux Indian uprising in 1862. The family was warned by friendly Indians that trouble was coming. The Heck family often shared food with them and the children often played with the young Indian children. Johann and part of his family returned to Nicollet County, Minnesota in 1867. The Henry Heck branch stayed in Wisconsin. Johann died in Minnesota in 1885, and is buried at the Catholic Cemetery at Brighton TWP, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

Following are some excerpts that I found in a book, *The Indians' Revenge* by Rev. Alexander Berghold that was published in 1891.

“About the middle of August, 1862, mail-carrier Miles was met by the Indians some two miles south of the lower Agency (Lower Reservation) and led out of his way across the prairie, because they were holding a secret meeting in a ravine on the bank of the Wabash River, where he would have observed them. A few days previous to this Miles noticed some newly-cut signs on the trees, apparently of great importance.”

“About the same time friendly Indians warned the settlers of the approaching dangers, saying:

“Pakat-shi” (Go away) and “Nippo” (To Kill). They also made signs with their hands which the whites did not want to understand or believe. A week or so before the outbreak, a number of gaudily-decorated Indians held in the town of New Ulm those wild dances, which are always forebodings of evil. Their tomahawks and scalping-knives were sharpened.”



This photograph is titled "People escaping from the Indian massacre of 1862 in Minnesota, at dinner on a prairie". It is the right half of a stereograph published by Whitney's Gallery, St. Paul, Minnesota. This photo is actually labeled "Mixed Bloods" who were rescued by non-hostile Dakota Indians, A branch of the Sioux Indians. The girl in the foreground wrapped in the striped blanket is Elise Robertson, the sister of Thomas Robertson, a mixed blood who acted as an intermediary between the hostile and non-hostile Dakota Indians and the white settlers.

The following article is from the book “The Sioux Massacre of 1862” by Charles S. Bryant. It clearly describes what the settlers had to endure while fleeing to the military fort at St. Peter, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

“St. Peter became a major site for refugees; it offered food, shelter, medical care. Many refugees died in St. Peter from their wounds, or from diseases brought on by overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and a poor water system.”

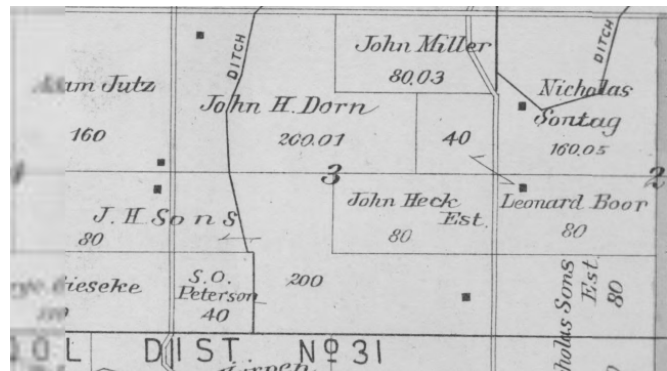
“The quiet village of a thousand inhabitants thus increased by thousands had become full to overflowing. Every private house, every public

house, every church, school-house, warehouse, shed, or saloon, and every vacant structure is full. The crowd throng along the public highways: a line of cooking-stoves smoke along the streets; the vacant lots are occupied, for there is no room in the houses.”

“All is clatter, rattle, and din. Wagons, ponies, mules, oxen, cows and calves are promiscuously distributed among groups of men, woman and children. The livestock from thousands of deserted farms surround the outskirts of the town; the lowing of strange cattle, the neighing of restless horses, the crying of lost and hungry children, the tales of horror, the tomahawk wounds undressed, the bleeding feet, the cries for food, and the loud wailing for missing friends, all combine to burn into the soul the dreadful reality that some terrible calamity was upon the country.”
The Sioux Massacre of 1862--Charles S. Bryant.

Johann Heck's farm property taxes in 1881.

While doing some research recently at the Family Search Center Library in Hales Corners, I found the tax list of personal property in Brighton Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota for the period 1879-1880. The tax form showed that Johann Heck owned two adjoining parcels of farm land; the first described as N-1/2 of SE-1/4 in Section 3 of Township 110N Range 29W containing 80 acres. The second described as SE-1/4 of SE-1/4 in Section 3 of Township 110N Range 29W containing 40 acres.



On the previous page is the 1899 plat map of the Johann Heck estate shown as John Heck Est., a full 14 years after Johann Heck died. It took many years to settle some estates. Note that directly across the road from Johann Heck was the Leonard Boor family. Johann's daughter, by his first marriage, Anna Lucia Heck, was married to Leonard Boor. Above the property of Johann Heck is the Dorn family property. Johann Heck's daughter, by his second marriage, Lucia Heck, was married to William Dorn.

The Adam Jutz family property is shown to the left of the Dorn family property. Angela (Anna Marie) Schaefer, was the niece of Anna Barbara Schaefer, the first wife of Johann Heck. Angela Anna Marie Schaefer was married to Peter Johann Jutz, and their son Adam Jutz owned the 160 acres.



Jutz Family Photo.

Standing L-R: Francis, Nicholas, Clara, Lena, Adam. Seated L-R: Annie, Maria nee Diedier, Peter Johann, and John. NOTE: Maria nee Diedier was the second wife of Peter Johann Jutz. Angela Anna Marie, the first wife, died at Swan Lake, Nicollet County, Minnesota in late 1862 after the Sioux Indian uprising.

What is interesting is that nearly all of the families surrounding the Johann Heck property came either from Alendorf, Germany or as part of the group who migrated together from

Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin to Brighton, Nicollet County, Minnesota in 1857. And Yes, Brighton, Nicollet County, Minnesota was indeed named after Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

Back to the taxes for Johann Heck's 120 acres of land and home. His taxes were \$4.36 plus \$0.87 School Tax for a total of \$5.23 which Johann Heck paid on February 25, 1881.

“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 smaller letters so you can see that there are no spaces in the web address.

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

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 copy and share this newsletter with your family members. If you have old pho-

tos 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 many contributors who help keep this newsletter going. Here are the contributors in 2023:

Ellen R. Stiner, Pamela Wagner Kebis, Gary & Carol Heck, Don & Sharon Heck, Cheryl and Loraine Heck, Alvin and Carolyn Heck. God bless all of you for your generosity and support.

This family newsletter has been published every three months since 1 June 1993 which makes 30 years and eight months as of 1 February 2024. It is mailed to 60 family members and posted on-line to all of our family members with the link.

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 124 issues of the newsletter covering the period from June 1993 (Issue 1) to March 2024 (Issue 124).

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 in PDF format so it can be read and downloaded by any computer, tablet or phone. Each issue 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 related branches of our family.

From The Newspapers...

Merritt-Heck Nuptials Told

Robert W. Merritt claimed Patricia J. Heck as his bride in rites read recently in Sacred Heart Church by the Rev. Alois Klas. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heck Sr., 2500 Harriet St., and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Merritt Sr., 3557 Douglas Ave.

As she was given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a gown of Chantilly lace over slipper satin. The fitted bodice featured a tulle insert below the Peter Pan collar and the bouffant skirt ended in a sweep train. Her fingertip French illusion veil was gathered to a pleated tulle pillbox with lace trim and accents of sequins and pearls. She carried an all-white bouquet of orchids surrounded by garnet roses and feathered carnations.

The bride was attended by Mrs. Marvin Pfeiffer as matron of honor and by Mrs. Howard Merritt Jr. and Joan Peterson as bridesmaids. Their pink and blue Chantilly lace sheaths had bateau necklines and pouffed overskirts with crushed cummerbunds. They wore matching half-hats of pure silk with forget-me-nots and circular veils. The honor attendant carried a crescent bouquet of



—AAA Album
MRS. ROBERT MERRITT
(Patricia Heck)

pink garnet roses and pink carnations.

Fawn Schmidt was flower girl, wearing white chiffon over satin. She carried a lace basket of pink roses and carnations.

Alvin Heck Jr. was best man and the groomsmen were Ronald Merritt and Mike Brinkman. Marvin Pfeiffer and Lawrence Martin ushered. The bride's cousin, Jeff Torkelsen, was ringbearer.

The couple greeted 375 guests at a reception at Roma Lodge. After a wedding trip to Wisconsin Dells, Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska, the new Mr. and Mrs. Merritt are residing at 1426 W. 6th St.

Prior to her marriage, the bride was guest of honor at a shower given by her bridal aides and her mother.

This newspaper clipping shows the wedding announcement of the 27 June 1958 wedding of Patricia Jean Heck to Robert W. Merritt.

From the Photo Album...

On the following page is a photo of Richard John Heck and his daughter, Sherry Lynn Heck at the Milwaukee airport, returning from a full day in Washington D.C. on the Honor Flight. During the Korean War, Dick proudly served in the United States Army. Dick was united in marriage to the love of his life, Cecelia Mae Catrine on April 24, 1954 at St. Rita Catholic Church,

where he was a long-time and active member. He was also a lifetime member of Roma Lodge, a 4th Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the Northside Businessmen Association. A large crowd was at the airport to greet and honor our returning veterans.



The photo at lower left shows the James Heck family from Burlington, Wisconsin. From Left to Right are James Henry Heck 1869-1943, Raymond James Heck 1906-1998, Alice Elizabeth Heck 1912-1943, Herbert Alfred Heck 1910-1986, Loraine Christina Pier nee Heck 1907-2001, Anna Huguenin 1887-1970, (Anna was a niece of James Heck and housekeeper for the James Heck family.), and Joseph Henry Heck 1914-1985.

James Henry Heck, husband of Wilhelmina Hornemann, was the oldest son of Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty. He was the brother of Robert Steven Heck who was married to Margaret Frederica Henningfeld. Nearly all of the Hecks in Burlington are descendants of James Henry Heck while many of the Hecks in Racine are descendants of Robert Steven Heck.

Meet your distant relative...

While doing some research I found a funeral card for Friedrich Heitkemper. He was born on 20 September 1862 and died on 26 June 1923. Both dates exactly matched those that I have for Henry Fred Heitkemper. Friedrich and Henry Fred are the same person.

The Westfalen town of Bork, Kr. Ludinghausen Parish Register film 1046916, shows Friedrich Heitkamper (sic) christened on 27 September 1862. His father was listed as Friedrich Heitkamper (sic) and his mother was shown as Elizabeth Guethof (sic).

Naturalization papers for H. F. (Henry Fred) Heitkemper petitioned for citizenship on 21 Oct 1884 and stated that he was 30 years old and that he arrived at the Port of New York in June 1869. He was granted citizenship on 30 Dec 1892.

On the next page is a photo of the funeral card written in German with Gothic print characters and the translation from German to English using Google Translator.



Translation from German to English:

“Jesus! Maria! Joseph

He was dear to us in life and we remember him in prayer.

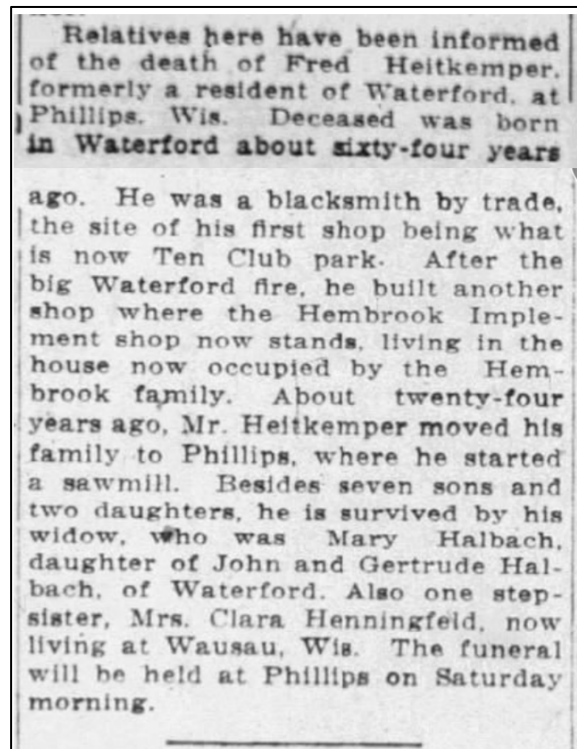
In pious memory of Friedrich Heitkemper, born September 20, 1862, died June 26, 1923. Bullied and suffered, you have the great pain, suffered and folded, is a dear, dear heart. If you leave it to us all too soon, your pining will inflict deep and heavy wounds on us. Rest in peace, dear, dear father, God grant the rest of heaven, in those bright, blessed days there we will see you again.

Most Merciful Jesus, give them the eternal rest! (7 years indulgence.) Sweet Heart of Maria, set my salvation! (800 days indulgence.) Sweet

Heart of Jesus, be my love! (300 days of indulgence.)

Printed by Diederich-Schaefer Co., Milwaukee”

So how is Henry Fred Heitkemper related to your editor, Bob Heck? He is my great grand uncle. Our common progenitor is Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff. Henry Fred is the son of Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff and her third husband, Friedrich D Heitkemper while Bob is the great great grandson of Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff and her second husband, Anton Stratman.



First Person	
Line of Descent to Common Ancestor	Search
Henry Fred Heitkemper-1164	b.1862
Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff-436	b.1819

Second Person	
Line of Descent to Common Ancestor	Search
Robert John Heck-1	b.1940
Robert Gerald Heck-97	b.1909
Margaret Frederica Henningfeld-41	b.1880
Clara Sibilla Elizabeth Stratmann-9163	b.1847
Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff-436	b.1819

This chart at left shows how Henry Fred Heitkemper and me, Robert John Heck, are related through Anna Ma-

ria Elisabeth Guthoff.



This photo taken in 1907 at Phillips, Price County, Wisconsin, shows the Henry Fred Heitkemper family at their saw mill. L-R back row: Alphonse, Herman, Mary Gertrude (Maime), Henry, Rudy, Mr. McFaden, and William. Front row Henry Fred Heitkemper, Joseph, and Mary (nee Halbach) Heitkemper. The family had a total of 10 children. Mr. McFaden was an employee at the saw mill.

There were two christening records for Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff. The first was the original church record (1185484 Rhynern) and the second (996565 Rhynern) was a duplicate church record. The Original record shows the name as Anna Maria Elisabetha Guthoff and the duplicate record shows the name as Angela Maria Guthoff. The duplicate record was made some time after the original record and thus is a transcription record which is in error. Both records show that the birth took place on 8 May 1819 and the christening took place on 10 May 1819.

Elisabeth Guthoff was known as Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff Brüggemann Stratman Heitkemper. Her first marriage was to Johann Peter Theodor Brüggemann. He died one year after their marriage. Her second marriage was to Anton Stratman. He died 12 years after their marriage. Her third marriage was to Friedrich Diedrich Heitkemper. He died 52 years after their marriage. She died in 1893 and is buried at Waterford, Wisconsin. Her grave marker is an iron cross inscribed with the name Anna Maria

Heitkemper. The birth and death dates are identical to that of Elizabeth Guthoff. Her death as listed in volume "O", page 104 in Racine County, shows her last name spelled as "Hutkamper". She is known to have lived in the town of Bork in Prussia. She may have lived in the town of Coesfeld however no record of that has been found.

On June 19, 1869, at the age of 50, Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff Brüggemann Stratman Heitkemper arrived at the Port of New York on board the ship S.S. Hermann with 847 passengers on board. Traveling with her were her two sons Carl Stratman, age 20 years, and Heinrich Fredrich (Henry Fred) Heitkemper aged 7 years. This was the same ship that her daughter Clara Stratman sailed on one year earlier in 1868.

DEATH: Racine County Vital Records, Vol O, pg 104. and LDS film 1871993 for St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Waterford, WI.

MARRIAGE: Familysearch.org lists an Elizabeth Guthoff married to Anton Strutmann (sic) on 15 Feb 1846 at the town of Geithe which is in Kr. Hamm (County Hamm). She was 27 and Anton was 33. His birth year was shown as 1813 and her birth year was shown as 1819. Her father was shown as Heinrich Guthoff in the transcribed record. She was shown as a Widow. Source film number 949283 Reference number 3, Indexing project batch number M96442-1.



The photo shown here is the only known photo of Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff Brüggemann Stratman Heitkemper.

The photo was from a small pin. The photo was sent to me many years ago by Rosemary Heinrichs Reynolds from

Wausau, Wisconsin.