

# Our Family News Letter

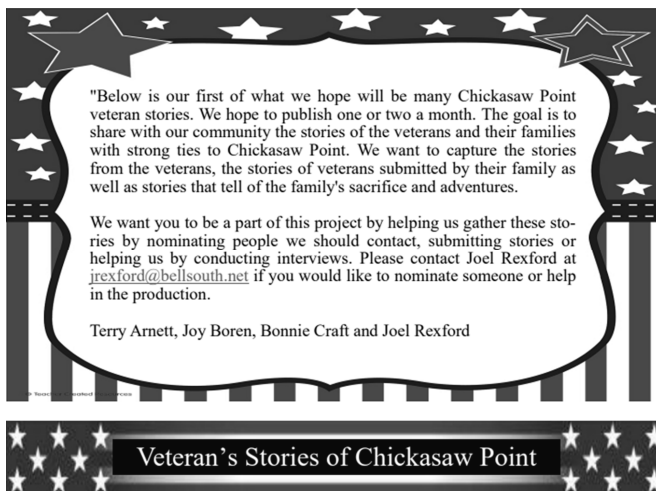
Issue 125

Greendale, Wisconsin

June 2024

## An Autobiography of Gary M. Heck

I am quite proud of my older brother, Gary, who was selected to be the first veteran to present his story as part of the Chickasaw Point Veteran Stories. Here is his story as he wrote it.



"Below is our first of what we hope will be many Chickasaw Point veteran stories. We hope to publish one or two a month. The goal is to share with our community the stories of the veterans and their families with strong ties to Chickasaw Point. We want to capture the stories from the veterans, the stories of veterans submitted by their family as well as stories that tell of the family's sacrifice and adventures.

We want you to be a part of this project by helping us gather these stories by nominating people we should contact, submitting stories or helping us by conducting interviews. Please contact Joel Rexford at [jrexford@bellsouth.net](mailto:jrexford@bellsouth.net) if you would like to nominate someone or help in the production.

Terry Arnett, Joy Boren, Bonnie Craft and Joel Rexford

Veteran's Stories of Chickasaw Point

### Story 1 Personal Story by Gary Heck



I was born in Racine, Wisconsin in 1938. I attended a Catholic grade school and graduated from St. Catherine's High School in 1956. I went to college for one year, but I actually spent more

time in the pool hall than I did in classes. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. A couple of my high school friends were going to enlist in the Army and go to Germany. It sounded like a good idea to me, so I enlisted in June of 1957 for three years. I was sent to basic



training, advanced basic training and unit training at Fort Hood, Texas. I was assigned to the 1st Armored Rifle Battalion, 54 Infantry, Combat Command C, and 4th Armored Division.

After six months of training our unit was sent to Heilbronn, Germany where I was assigned as a Rifleman in the 3rd Squad, 3rd Platoon, and Company D. After about one year I was an acting Sergeant. I later got promoted to a real Sergeant. While in Germany, I was sent to forward observer school where I learned how to direct artillery. I also earned the EIB (expert infantryman badge). There were rather strict requirements that needed to be met. Only about 1 in 10 meets the requirements. I also taught map reading classes.

I enjoyed being in Germany because it allowed me to see a lot of Europe. I visited London, Paris, Rome, Geneva, Amsterdam, Venice and Berlin. At that time Germany was divided into East and West Germany. I also went to the Vatican, Belgium, Denmark and Liechtenstein. I also got to "visit" Grafenwoehr, Baumholder, and Hohenfeld all training areas in Germany.

I did get into both West and East Berlin. I was told if I get on a train in Berlin I should make sure it was the U-Bahn and not the S-Bahn. It seems the S-Bahn would go through East Berlin and enter East Germany where, as an American soldier, I would be detained. I do remember West Berlin was mostly rebuilt and almost everything was new. When I was in East Berlin, the main street starting at the Brandenburg gate was brand new and very modern, however if you went one block over, there were still large mounds of rubble and bombed out buildings left from WW2.

Speaking about WW2, one of my earliest memories was the end of WW2. I was seven years old and playing baseball when suddenly, car horns were blaring all over the place and factory horns and whistles were going off and everyone was shouting "the war is over, the war is over". Another old memory was that the Japanese were going to invade Racine by landing on the shores of Lake Michigan. We decided that we would meet them on North Beach and stop them. When the war ended and we were not invaded, we figured that they must have heard about us and were too scared to try an invasion.

Memories from my service include running up every hill in Germany, some really cold days riding in an Armored Personnel Carrier and the time someone mistakenly sent an actual alert. We had practice alerts about once a month. We thought that we were going to war until we found out it was a mistake. I was Honorably Discharged from Fort Sheridan, Illinois in April 1960.

After my discharge I went to work for Walker Manufacturing in Racine as a production controller. Walkers made tail and exhaust pipes. My job was to decide when and how many pipes we built. I did this for ten years. Walkers started to move production out of Racine about that time.

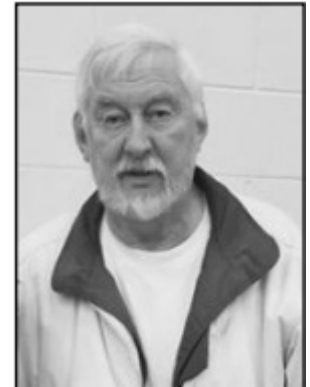


I always had an interest in law enforcement, so I applied to the Racine County Sheriff's Department and was hired in January of 1971 as a deputy. I spent 23 years as a deputy before retiring at the end of 1993. I served as a Narcotic Investigator, was promoted to Lieutenant, and served as the 3rd Shift Commander, the Administrative Lieutenant, and Investigative Lieutenant and then to Operation's Captain.

I went back to college and graduated from Carthage College Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. I then went to Webster College and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration and also in Administration of Justice. I graduated from the FBI National Academy in 1983.

When I left Washington, DC it was 55 degrees, when I landed in Detroit it was 32 degrees, and when I landed in Milwaukee it was 11 degrees. The next morning, in Racine it hit the all-time low in Racine County of -33 below zero with a wind chill of about -80 below. When I woke up that next morning, I noticed a shine on the north bedroom wall. It turned out to be ¼ inch of ice on the inside wall. That was the moment we decided we were moving south when we retired.

I then moved to Chickasaw Point in 1994 and love it. I married Carol in October 1994. We each have two daughters. I always believed that everyone should contribute to their community. At one time I was on the POA Board for over three



years, and I was also on the Marina Board for fifteen years with six of those as President. I have been President of the Men's Club for two terms and President of the Men's Golf for three years. I also served on numerous committees and projects. It was a rewarding experience for me. I thank everyone for allowing me the privilege of serving Chickasaw Point.



"Expert Infantryman's Badge" a symbol that Gary proudly displays on the front of his truck  
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Editor's Note: Gary and Carol Heck live at 345 Chickasaw Dr., Westminster, SC 29693.

# David N. Hansen

May 6, 1939 – March 27, 2024



David N. Hansen was born in Racine, Wisconsin, on May 6, 1939. He later moved to Dublin, California, and then settled in Livermore, California. He passed away on March 27, 2024.



David was devoted to God and to his family. He was a singer and entertainer. He was funny and loved by all.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Kay (nee Heck) Hansen; his children Lori Hansen-

Carter and Brian Carter, Mark Hansen, Lynn Yamagata and Kent Yamagata, Lisa Hansen and Kevin Crimmins, and Leeanne Hansen; his grandchildren Elizabeth Hansen and Jason Le-

hew, Patricia Stewart, Perry Stewart, David Yamagata, Melissa Yamagata, Sarah Lazarin and Enrique Lazarin, and Audrey Jacobson and Justin Jacobson; his great-grandchildren Brianna Stewart, Brody Gutierrez, Hayden Hansen, Marcus Lewis, Dakota Lewis, Penelope Lehew and Baby Lazarin on the way. He was preceded in death by his parents Lyle Hansen and Verna Hansen; his siblings Lyle Hansen, Dean Hansen and Carol Spath; his granddaughter Katrina Yamagata.

He was an accountant and business manager who worked at several places including JI Case, Clark Equipment, Hitachi, Diablo Auto Body and H&R Block. He volunteered his time for many years with St. Vincent De Paul at St. Michael church.

We will miss him for the rest of our lives, until we see him again in heaven.

A memorial Mass will be held on Friday, April 19, 2024, at 11a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Church, 458 Maple St., in Livermore, California. A celebration of life will immediately follow the service at 856 Sundial Circle, Livermore, California.



4 February 1961, wedding party at Racine, Wisconsin. Attendants included: Delores Gibson, Dean Hansen, Donna Heck, Lyle Hansen, Jean Herdt, Dave Doerpinghaas, Wanda Hansen, and Ricky Heck.

We were very sorry to learn of the passing of David N Hansen. We remember him leading the family in song at the 2022 Heck Family Picnic. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his entire family.

## **“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/](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/>  
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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 copy and 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.**

A great example of a non-cash contribution is the article written by my brother, Gary Heck, found on page one and two of this issue of Our Family News Letter. We encourage any and all of you to consider making a biography contribution.

**Many thanks to our many contributors who help keep this newsletter going. Here are the contributors in 2023-2024:**

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 eleven months as of 1 May 2024. It is mailed to 60 family members and posted on-line to all of our family members with the link.

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## **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 125 issues of the newsletter covering the period from June 1993 (Issue 1) to June 2024 (Issue 125).

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.

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## From the Photo Album...



On April 13, 2024 we were able to visit with our granddaughter, Lauren Heck, at Iowa City, Iowa at the University. Shown above L-R: Abby a friend of Grace, Grace, Lauren, Gloria, Bob, and Dave Heck. Lauren is just finishing her junior year at the University of Iowa.



On April 25, 2024 our youngest granddaughter, Grace Heck turned 16. The photo above shows her birthday party on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Shown L-R: Bev Wenzel, Judi's godmother, Dale and Joan Wehrman, Bill (behind Joan) and Michelle Heck, Gloria and Bob Heck, Dave Heck, Dave and Susan Kress. Seated is Grace.

Dale & Joan and Gloria & Bob are Grace's grandparents.

On the upper right side of this page is a photo from our album of the Henningfeld side of our family. Shown is Clara Sibilla Elizabeth Stratmann the wife of Henry Frank Henningfeld from Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin. The Christening record for Clara Sibilla Stratmann was found in the St. Antonius Catholic Church record of Geithe, Kr Hamm, Germany. The record shows that she was born on 14 November

1847, and was christened on 21 November 1847. Godparents were Clara Guthoff, Sibilla Peiler,



and Casper Schulte.

Clara departed Germany from the port of Bremen on the ship Hermann. She arrived at the port of New York on 15 June 1868. Her home was listed as the city of Hamm. She traveled alone from Germany to Wisconsin.

Marriage Record: 6 May 1873: From the church record at St. Thomas Catholic Church at Waterford, Racine County, Wisconsin: "Die 6 Mai in Matrimonum conjunxi: Henricum Heningfeld cum Clara Strattman, nullo obstante impedimento. Testes Fuere Carlos Strattman et Gmil Heningfeld."

Translation: " On the 6 May 1873 in matrimony are joined together Henry Heningfeld with Clara Strattman without obstacles or impediments.

Witnessed by Charles (Carlos) Stratman and William Heningfeld."

Clara's mother, Anna Maria Elizabeth nee Guthoff, Brüggemann, Stratmann, Heitkemper, her brother, Charles (Carlos), and her half-brother, Henry Fred Heitkemper, arrived in New York on the same ship (Hermann) on 19 June 1869, about one year after Clara had arrived. Yes, Clara's mother was married three times. Her first husband died in 1844, a year or so after their marriage. Her second husband died in 1858, 12 years after they were married. Her last husband died in 1911, 13 years after his marriage to Clara's mother.



An enhanced photo of Anna Maria Elizabeth nee Guthoff, Brüggemann, Stratmann, Heitkemper. I used MyHeritage.com to enhance the image.

MyHeritage.com is a commercial website but it can be accessed at any public library or Family Search Center Library (LDS). You can register for the FREE Basic MyHeritage.

### **What do I get with a Basic MyHeritage subscription?**

Signing up to MyHeritage is completely free and allows you to build your own family site. Basic sites are free to create. With your Basic family site, you can add up to 250 individuals in the family tree(s) you build. If you add photos and scanned documents to the family site, the limit of storage space is 500 MB.

If you stay with a Basic subscription and created your family tree in Family Tree Builder, you will be able to sync it with your online family site as long as it doesn't go over the limit of 250 individuals.

If your tree grows and you need more storage, you can upgrade your family site at any time with a site subscription.

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## **Are you ready for the Heck family Picnic on July 21, 2024?**

We are happy to announce that the Heck Family Picnic is now scheduled for Sunday, 21 JULY 2024 at the Leisure Center in Racine, Wisconsin. The address of the Leisure Center is 101 Bayfield Drive, Racine, WI. Please mark your calendar accordingly. Sherry Heck made the reservations and she will be working on the details for the picnic. She has communicated 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 was sent out by Sherry and Shirley Heck. They use the sign-up list from The 2023 and earlier 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. Contact Sherry Heck at (262) 639-5370.

A group of golfers usually start golfing at about 8:00am at Ives Grove Golfing Center located at 14101 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI which is just west of I-94 on Highway 20 (Washington Avenue).

The cost of the picnic is \$10 per individual family, which covers rental of the Leisure Center, silverware, paper plates and napkins.

Swimming is available for \$3.00 per person paid at the pool. There are changing facilities at the pool. Bring a lock if you wish to lock up your things.

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 Heck family picnic was started by the grandchildren of Henry Heck 1839-1920 and Mary Ann McNulty 1844-1912.

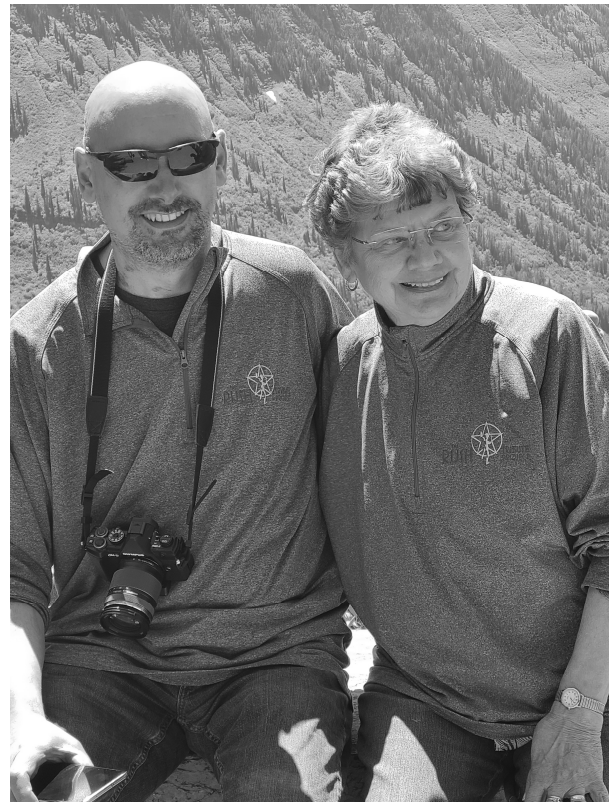
There were eight branches of the Heck family, each branch headed up by the children of Henry Heck. The eight branches and where they lived were:

James Heck – Burlington; Mary Ann Heck Grostuck – Milwaukee; John Heck – Waterford; Mathias Heck – Thompsonville; Elizabeth Heck Plucker – Waterford; Robert Steven Heck - Racine; Eva Clara Heck (never married) - Milwaukee; Laurence Heck – Milwaukee.

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. In 1948 the Heck picnic was held in Racine at the home of Robert Gerald Heck on Jones Avenue. A family softball game was held just down the street at Douglas Park.

The Polio epidemic hit Wisconsin hard and the Heck picnics were cancelled. In 1969 they were resumed for the next 55 years.

From 1969 through 2024, the picnics were held at various places in Racine, including Lincoln Field, Wind Point Lighthouse, and The Leisure Center near Wind Point.



The photo above shows Bill Heck with his mother, Gloria, during a trip that Gloria and Bob Heck made with Bill and Michelle in June, 2023 to Western Canada. The best part is that Bill and Gloria were wearing their Rush Tribute shirts. Bill is the lead guitarist in the Rush Tribute Project band. The Canadian Rockies make for a great background for this, my favorite picture of the entire trip.

<i>Patriot Snapshot</i>
<b>Burgess, Benajah</b>
A202482
Residence: Voluntown Windham Co, Connecticut
Born: Circa 1761
Died: 8/15/1830 Hoosick-Bur Rensselaer Co NY
Service Service: Labree, Pub Recs of the State of CT, 782-1784, Vol 5, P90
*Proven Lineage
Looking for your Revolutionary War Patriot? Contact us at Smith-McMillan Chapter

**D**aughters of the American Revolution list Benajah Burgess as having served in the Revolutionary War. Benajah is my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandfather.

**Peter McNulty finally found on a passenger list arriving in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada in 1834.**

After years of searching I finally found Peter McNulty arriving in North America. The transcribed record shows his name as Peter McAnally rather than Peter McNulty. In Irish records I have often found McNulty listed as McAnulty. In hand written records the letters It are often misinterpreted as ll (two L's). The reason for this is that crossing the letter t is often not done or is done so lightly that one is not sure if the letter is a lower case L or a T.

The record shows that Peter was 28, born about 1808, and he arrived in St. John, New Brunswick in 1834. The source publication code is 6637.17. The source biography is Passengers To New Brunswick: The Custom House Records – 1833, 34, 37, & 38. Saint John, N.B.: The New Brunswick Genealogical Society 1987, 483p.

This is a near perfect match for our Peter McNulty except for the spelling of his last name. The next step is to find how he arrived in Boston. He either arrived in Boston by land or by a smaller ship.

Peter McNulty is my great-great grandfather who married Patience Burgess. Their daughter, Mary Ann McNulty, married Henry Heck in 1869 at Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin.

Nearly everyone named Heck who can trace their ancestors back to Racine, Burlington, or Waterford, Wisconsin is a descendant of Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess.

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**From The Newspapers...**

This section of Our Family Newsletter shows articles found by searching newspaper archives using Newspapers.com, Google.com, Ancestry.com, and MyHeritage.com.

Newspaper articles can be a rich resource for family historians, genealogists and anyone interested in learning more about their family.

**Gordon Heinrichs**

Gordon A. Heinrichs, 85, Wausau, died Tuesday, Dec. 11, 2001, at his home.

He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a weather forecaster during World War II. He was employed by Procter & Gamble for 31 years, retiring in 1977.



Gordon Heinrichs

Survivors include his wife, Margaret (Debalske) Heinrichs, Wausau; four daughters, Carol (Robert) Dombroski, McFarland, Ellen (William) Stiner, Golden, Colo., Nancy (Russ) Wendorf of Ringle, and Kay (Gene) Hintze of Greensboro, N.C.; one son, Tom (Nancy) Heinrichs, Wausau; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandsons; four sisters, Rosemary Reynolds and Lorraine Teuke, both of Wausau, Dorothy Johnson, Shawano, and Joan Woolley, Green Bay; and many nieces and nephews.

Services will be at 12:30 p.m. today at The Church of St. Anne, Wausau. Burial will be in Restlawn Memorial Park Cemetery, Wausau. Visitation will be from 10:30 a.m. today until the time of service at the church.

Brainard Funeral Home, Wausau, assisted the family with arrangements.

Memorials can be directed to The Church of St. Anne, Wausau.

**James Heck, 73, Dies After Short Illness**

James Heck, 73, son of Henry Heck, Civil war veteran, died at 11:30 p. m. Wednesday. Mr. Heck had been a resident of Burlington for many years.

He was born Nov. 1, 1869, on a farm in the town of Brighton, Kenosha county, and spent his early life in that vicinity, later moving to Burlington. His wife, the former, Wilhelmina Hoerneman, died in 1919. Mr. Heck, a painter by trade, had been in poor health for the past 10 years, but was not confined to his bed until a week prior to his death. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church, and of the Holy Name society of that parish. Friends will gather at the McCarthy funeral home at 8 p. m. Friday to pray the rosary.

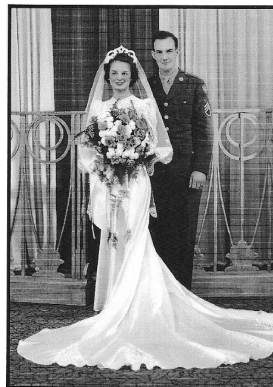
Surviving Mr. Heck are four children, Ray Heck and Herbert Heck, Burlington; Mrs. Nic Pier, Racine, and Corp. Joseph Heck, at Camp Shelby, Miss., who will be home for the funeral. He also is survived by two sisters, Miss Eva Heck and Mrs. Alfred Plucker, Waterford; a brother, Laurence Heck, Milwaukee; a cousin, Miss Anna Hugenin, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 9 a. m. Saturday in St. Mary's church. Burial will be in St. Mary's cemetery.

Shown above are two obituaries from our family. Gordon Heinrichs was the son of Frank Heinrichs

and Dorothy Amelia Henningfeld. Gordon is shown on his wedding day, 31 October 1942 with Margaret Debalske.

The second obituary is for James Henry Heck, son of Henry Heck and Mary Ann McNulty.



James was the head of nearly all of the Hecks in Burlington, Wisconsin.



Shown at left is the wedding photo of James Henry Heck and Wilhelmina Hoerneman taken on 2 September 1903, at Burlington, Wisconsin.

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