

Our Family News Letter

Issue 126

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2024

From The Newspapers... by Bob Heck

This section of Our Family Newsletter shows articles found by searching newspaper archives using Newspaper.com, Google.com, Ancestry.com, and MyHeritage.com. However, the following article came to me in a different sort of way.

One of the members of MPAFUG, our computer genealogy group, found the article while downsizing his home in Eagle, Wisconsin. The article appeared in the Milwaukee Journal over 22 years ago. He thought that I might like to have the original newspaper pages and so he drove the 29 miles to Greendale and gave them to me.

The Milwaukee Journal: Wednesday, May 15, 2002, Pages 1B and 2B.

Genealogists gathering for tips on exploring family mysteries

By Tom Held

Of the Journal Sentinel Staff

Standing in a churchyard near Richmond, Va., Bob Heck breathed a bit of life into a great-grandfather who had lived a century ago.

Years of genealogical research and an assortment of maps, from 1865 and the present, guided Heck to that small patch of grass. While quiet and still that morning, it had been overwhelmed by war on a day in 1864, when Heck's great-grandfather and dozens of others from the Wisconsin 19th Infantry fought an anonymous battle in the Civil War.

Subtly, Heck felt the battle, if not the presence of his ancestor.

"It was so neat to be able to walk on that ground," Heck said this week. "You just stood there and said, "Wow, this is incredible.""

It's the kind of moment that inspires genealogists such as Heck to pore over fading records and search every day for scraps of information. They call it breathing life into the bones of history.

Hundreds of people looking for stories to attach to the names and dates in their own family histories will join Heck in Milwaukee this week for the National Genealogical Society's annual Conference in the States, one of the largest meetings of its kind. This will be the first year Milwaukee hosts the conference, which begins today at the Midwest Express Center.

More than 150 seminars and lectures will provide guidance from the country's foremost genealogists. The convention runs through Saturday.

Heck, a retired electrical engineer who lives in Milwaukee, will give lectures on using Personal Ancestral File software and getting the most out of the FamilySearch Web site.

Those mundane lecture titles belie the deep satisfaction and emotional rewards genealogists find in their avocation.

"I think it helps give people some sense of self and of being part of something more than self," said Jack Brisse, president of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society. "It's being a part of a line of people, a place in history, in a broad

sense. It helps one identify how we're part of this world in which we live."

In searching for long-lost or long-forgotten ancestors, genealogists are looking for themselves as much as their forebears.

"People get a little bit of insight into what makes them who they are," said Dawn Knauft, a certified genealogical records specialist who lives in Madison.

Knauft is one of the few people who turned their curiosity into a profession, charging an average of \$300 to \$500 to help others fill out their family stories.

It was curiosity, about a great-grandfather, that pulled Knauft from a career in photography to a career in genealogy. She wanted to know more about this man who died in Chicago when her grandmother was just 2 years old.

Knauft's search for Joseph Kain, who died in 1913, started a trek further into the family history, to the 1800s and to Germany. In the search, she found a tragic story of a great-great-grandfather who died aboard a ship steaming toward the homeland in 1902, leaving behind a wife and family in Chicago.

"He left on this trip, and they never saw him again," Knauft said.

Those stories "add flesh to the bones" of history, and motivate those who search for them.

"Even the mundane can be interesting," Knauft said. "Just the way they scraped by after moving halfway around the world to start a new life is remarkable."

Not all of the stories turn out to be tales of heroism and persistence. Brisse said he found a great-grandfather who left his wife and children on a mortgaged farm in Wisconsin to look for gold in the Yukon Territory in 1898.

"He never came back," Brisse said.

As part of his search into family lore, Brisse traveled to the Yukon and walked along the creek where that rounder of an ancestor panned for gold.

"I found the old ruins of miners' cabins there, such as he would have lived in, and I saw the jail, and the guardhouse where he spent 10 days 'Crazed with drink,'" Brisse said. "I found the records of his claim and a newspaper account of his having been a guest of the Northwest Mounted Police."

The discovery that one of his forebears led a less than exemplary life did nothing to discourage Brisse. The detective work, the travel and the experience were rewarding enough.

It's a similar story for most genealogists: The exploration itself is as satisfying as the discovery. Their searches lead them to places and relatives they would never see or meet without their curiosity and determination.

"Many of us are people who like mystery stories and detective novels," Brisse said. "We like to solve problems."

Heck's most vexing problem now is finding conclusive evidence that a great-great-great-great-grandfather fought in the Revolutionary War. On a trip out East, Heck found his grave on a piece of land in Walloomsac, NY. But his searches have failed to uncover any record of his military service.

"I'm still working on it," he said. It's just part of a never-ending story."

EDITOR's Note: Since the newspaper article was published in 2002, some 22 years ago, I have found a record showing that Benajah Burgess served during the Revolutionary War for the State of Connecticut. **Bob Heck, Editor.**

“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/>

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.**

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

Ellen R. Stiner, Don & Sharon Heck, Cheryl and Loraine Heck, Alvin and Carolyn Heck, Steve & Cara Pfeiffer. 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 31 years and eleven months as of 1 September 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 126 issues of the newsletter covering the period from June 1993 (Issue 1) to September 2024 (Issue 126).

All of the issues are available for free 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.

Notes From The Internet:

Yesterday my husband saw a cockroach in the kitchen. He sprayed everything down and cleaned thoroughly. Today I'm putting the cockroach in the bathroom.

News from the Department of Energy: By 2035 All guitars must be electric.

The Heck family Picnic held on July 21, 2024

The annual Heck Family picnic took place at the Leisure Center at Wind Point in Racine, Wisconsin. We were so happy to see Mary Kay Hansen (nee Heck) attending. Mary Kay lives in California.

Mary Kay got me aside and whispered that her husband, David, who passed away on March 27, 2024, was an avid Cubs fan and that it was his wish that his ashes be spread at Wrigley Field in Chicago. With a smile she said, "So I did." I asked her how did she get permission from the Cubs and she told me that she didn't. But she did attend a game and discreetly made David's wish come true.

There was lots of good food to be had at the picnic and we spent a lot of time reminiscing about the good old days. Shirley Heck was there and my brother Don and I talked with her and we told her that she was our favorite babysitter. Shirley asked why and we told her that she let us stay up to watch the Schlitz Saturday Night Theater with Jack Brand. Jack Brand was the Host of 'The Schlitz Saturday Night Theater. It was reported that Jack actually drank the beer during the commercial breaks, and often was a bit tipsy by the end of the movie. Shirley said that she thought that she would get in trouble by letting us stay up that late. We never told our parents about staying up late, but I suspect that they had a hint on Sunday morning when they struggled getting us up for church.

One of the things that we did at the picnic was to set up the large wall TV with the Deep Story of Johann Heck part 1 and 2, my great-great grandfather, Henry Heck part 1 and 2, my great grandfather, and of Margaret Henningfeld Heck, my paternal grandmother.

I created the Deep Story by writing each story, selecting a still photo of Johann, Henry and

Margaret for animation, selecting other photos for help in telling the story, selecting a voice for Johann, Henry, and Margaret, and finally using MyHeritage to create the Deep Story. The Deep Story is created by computer using AI or Artificial Intelligence.

Several family members asked about getting a copy of the stories so that they can be shared with other family members. The Deep Stories are actually on our Whattheheckfamilygroup web page located at:

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

However, in order to simplify viewing the Deep Stories, I put together direct links to each of them along with a discription of each.

Johann Heck Deep Story Part 1 (1810-1856 Alendorf, Germany to Brighton, Wisconsin)

<https://www.facebook.com/1319264448/videos/1076762056275335/>

This is PART 1 of a video of Johann Heck describing his life in Alendorf, Germany and in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin from 1810 through 1856. This includes views of Alendorf, of the ship the Peter Hattrick, and a cemetery view of Brighton, Wisconsin.

Johann Heck Deep Story Part 2 (1856-1885 Brighton, Wisconsin to Swan Lake, Minnesota)

<https://www.facebook.com/1319264448/videos/3276512939261359/>

This is Part 2 of a video of Johann Heck's life story. Part 2 continues his story in Brighton, Wisconsin and in Swan Lake, Minnesota from 1857 through 1885. Part 2 includes the Civil War, 1861-1865, and the Sioux Indian uprising of 1862.

Henry Heck Deep Story Part 1 (1839-1857)

<https://www.facebook.com/1319264448/videos/1069410266938637/>

This is PART 1 of a video of Henry Heck describing his life in Alendorf, Germany and in Brighton, Kenosha County, Wisconsin from 1839 through 1857. This includes views of Alendorf, of the ship the Peter Hat-trick, of the passenger list, and a cemetery view of Brighton, Wisconsin.

Henry Heck Deep Story Part 2 (1857-1920)

<https://www.facebook.com/1319264448/videos/551212849335299/>

This is Part 2 of a video of Henry Heck’s family history. This video takes you from 1857 through 1920. It includes his family’s journey from Brighton, Wisconsin to Swan Lake, Minnesota, his return to Wisconsin in 1861, and the Civil War in which Henry was wounded at Drewry’s Bluff, Virginia. His story continues with his marriage to Mary Ann McNulty in 1869 and the raising of his children as part of the Wisconsin branch of our Heck Family. His story ends in 1920 with his passing at Waterford, Wisconsin.

Margaret Henningfeld Heck Deep Story (1880-1963)

<https://www.facebook.com/1319264448/videos/1061741835281780/>

This is Margaret Henningfeld Heck's Deep Story. She was the wife of Robert Steven Heck. Her story begins in 1880 at Burlington, Wisconsin and includes information about her parents, Henry Henningfeld and Clara Stratmann, and her siblings. Margaret talks about her husband and her children and ends with her passing in 1963.

Be sure to click the speaker icon usually seen at lower right to adjust the audio volume in the video.



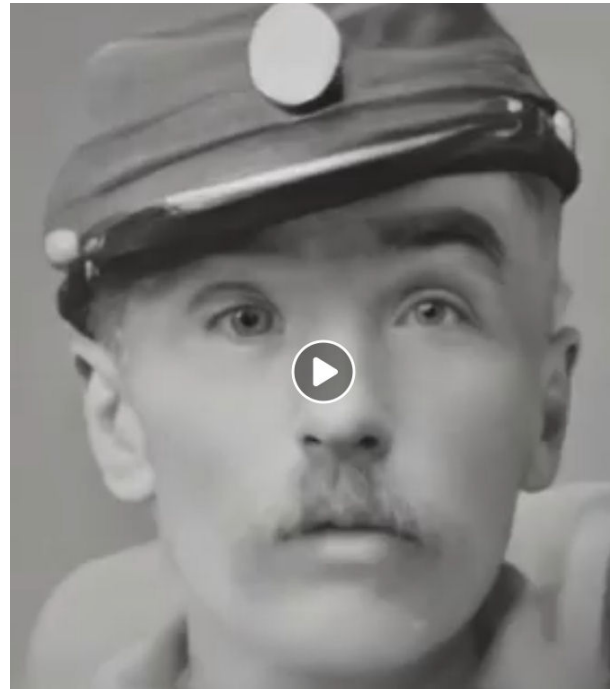
Also at the lower right side of your screen you will see a double arrow.



If you click on it you will get a full screen display of the Deep Story. Clicking it again will return you to a normal screen. Clicking on Esc will also return you to a normal screen.

On some computer systems when you click on the address for a Deep Story you may get a message to click on Ctrl+Click which means Ctrl and the left mouse button to view the video.

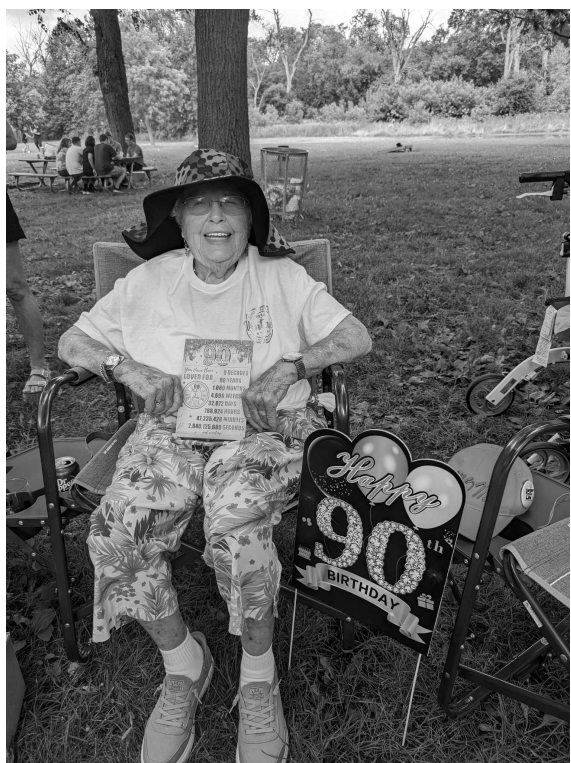
If the video starts with an image of the person speaking with a right pointing triangle in the center, clicking on the triangle will start the video.



Please feel free to share these Deep Stories with other members of the family.

From the Photo Album

Lorraine Heck turns 90.



On 25 June 1934, just 90 years ago, Lorraine Simmons was born in New Jersey. Just 21 years later on 25 June 1955, at the age of 21, she married Robert Jerome Heck, age 22, in Newark, Essex County, New Jersey. It was also Lorraine's 21st birthday. Now 90 years after her

birth she celebrated her 25 June 2024 birthday at the Beer Garden at Whitnall Park in Franklin, Wisconsin.

Her six children were there to celebrate the occasion with her. The children in order of birth include: Cheryl Ann, Mary Elizabeth, Lois Jean, Michael Robert, Marjorie Doris, and Paula Colleen. All of the children live in Wisconsin except Marjorie, who lives in California.



Shown standing left to right: Paula, Jenny (granddaughter), Mary Beth, Cheryl, Michael. Seated left to right are Lois, Lorraine, and Marjorie.

Two other of our family members, Shirley Heck and Cel Heck, are both 89 years old, and are less than a year away from hitting that 90 year milestone.

The rest of us youngsters wish all three of them the very best of health. It was so good to see all three of you at the Heck Family picnic in July.

Happy Birthday Lorraine

More from the photo album



This classic photo is of Robert Michael Heck born 12 August 1962 and his sister Debra Jean Heck born 16 August 1964. They are the children of Clarence Joseph Heck and Mary Vilagi.

The photo was found on Facebook and had the following caption: "Wishing my baby Sister Deb a wonderful and Happy Birthday! Love you so much...Love Bob"



The photo at left was taken by Cheryl Heck at her Aunt Donna (nee Heck) Benedict's home in Whitewater, Wisconsin in August 2024. Donna had set up a display of her husband Al Benedict's art work, with the help of her three children,

Michelle, Albert Jr., and Melissa. This was the last item that Albert worked on before passing away on 26 November 2022. This newsletter only uses grayscale photos so the photo shown does not do justice to the richly colorful work that Albert did. Therefore I asked Cheryl if she would post several of her photos in full color on the Whattheheck Group webpage located at:

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

In memoriam, the family of
**Albert
Benedict**
invite you to
OPEN STUDIO

Enjoy the art,
see the inspiration,
and celebrate the artist.

Saturday, August 17th
from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

N7827 Kettle Moraine Drive
Whitewater, WI 53190



The photo at left shows the Robert Gerald Heck family in 1950. In the back are Mary Ann Heck (nee Mikel) and Robert Gerald Heck, and in front left to right are Bob, Don, and Gary Heck.

Descendancy Chart for Johann Heck 1810-1885, followed by Descendancy Chart for Henry Heck 1839-1920.

1-Johann Heck b. 17 Feb 1810, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 21 Jun 1885, West Newton, Nicollet, Minnesota, USA

- + Anna Barbara Schaefer b. 30 Aug 1801, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 23 Nov 1855, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Peter Heck b. 8 Oct 1834, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 6 Apr 1900, New Ulm, Brown , MN
 - + Margaret Zeren b. 2 Aug 1850, Paris Twn., Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 12 Feb 1933, New Ulm, Brown , MN
- 2-Anna Lucia Heck b. 24 Dec 1836, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 26 Apr 1858, Swan Lake, Nicollet , MN
 - + Leonard Boor b. 1 Nov 1827, Bittburg, Germany, d. 17 Mar 1911, New Ulm, Brown , MN
- 2-Henry Heck b. 10 Feb 1839, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 20 Feb 1920, Waterford, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Mary Ann McNulty b. 11 Mar 1844, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 7 Apr 1912, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Joseph Heck b. 17 Feb 1841, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 30 Apr 1919, New Ulm, Brown , MN
 - + Josephine Stuetz b. 29 Aug 1852, Wuertemberg, Germany, d. 12 Feb 1923, Minneapolis, Hennepin , MN
- 2-Clara Heck b. 18 Jul 1843, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 4 Oct 1919, New Ulm, Brown , MN
 - + Vincent Brunner b. 21 Nov 1836, Erbach, Wurttemberg, Germany, d. 29 Sep 1920, West Newton, Nicollet , MN
- + Susannah Sebenbrunner (ZEREN) b. Abt 1820, Alsace-Lorraine, , France, d. 5 Jan 1892, Fairfax, Renville , MN
- 2-Lucia Heck b. 7 Apr 1857, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 25 May 1927, New Ulm, Brown , MN
 - + William Dorn b. 6 Dec 1856, Paris Twn., Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. Bef 1927, New Ulm, Brown , MN
- 2-Joseph H. (Josiah) Heck b. 4 Apr 1859, Swan Lake, Nicollet, Minnesota, USA, d. 20 Nov 1908, New Avon, Redwood, Minnesota, USA
 - + Elizabeth Alice Giefer b. 31 Aug 1864, Swan Lake, Nicollet, Minnesota, USA, d. 17 Apr 1886, Swan Lake, Nicollet, Minnesota, USA
 - + Mary Schottenbauer b. 28 Aug 1873, St. George, Nicollet, Minnesota, USA, d. 2 Oct 1964, New Avon, Redwood, Minnesota, USA

1-Henry Heck b. 10 Feb 1839, Alendorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany, d. 20 Feb 1920, Waterford, Racine , Wisconsin, USA

- + Mary Ann McNulty b. 11 Mar 1844, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 7 Apr 1912, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, par. Peter McNulty and Patience Burgess
- 2-James Henry Heck b. 1 Nov 1869, Dover, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 29 Sep 1943, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Wilhelmina C. Hoernemann b. 19 Aug 1873, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 2 Oct 1919, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Mary Ann Heck b. 26 Feb 1871, Dover, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 21 Jul 1943, Milwaukee, Milwaukee , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Gustav (August) Grosstueck b. 7 Mar 1872, Manitowoc, Manitowoc , Wisconsin, USA, d. 24 Aug 1941, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, par. August Grosstueck and Kate Kennedy
- 2-John Peter Heck b. 31 May 1874, Dover, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 29 Nov 1936, Waterford, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Anna Ketterhagen b. 19 May 1874, Browns Lake, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 15 Feb 1941, Waterford, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Mathias Heck b. 7 Sep 1875, Dover, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 21 Jan 1923, Thompsonville, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Alwina Duman b. 7 Jan 1880, , , Germany, par. John Duman and Mary Stiel
 - + Elizabeth Gross b. 7 Mar 1887, Racine, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 1 Apr 1943, Racine, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Elizabeth Adaline Heck b. 9 Dec 1877, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 7 Jan 1965, Waterford, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Alfred J. Plucker b. 7 Jan 1884, Rochester, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 6 Nov 1959, Waterford, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Robert Steven Heck b. 14 Dec 1879, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 16 May 1923, Racine, Racine , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Margaret Frederica Henningfeld b. 2 Apr 1880, Burlington, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, d. 24 Apr 1963, Racine, Racine , Wisconsin, USA, par. Henry Frank Henningfeld and Clara Sibilla Elizabeth Stratmann
- 2-Eva Clara Heck b. 19 Jan 1883, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 20 Jan 1948, Milwaukee, Milwaukee , Wisconsin, USA
- 2-Laurence Peter Heck b. 3 Nov 1886, Brighton, Kenosha , Wisconsin, USA, d. 12 Jul 1960, Wauwatosa, Milwaukee , Wisconsin, USA
 - + Elvia S. Hart b. 11 Jul 1888, Melbourn, , Australia, d. 7 Apr 1977, Milwaukee, Milwaukee , Wisconsin, USA, par. Arthur B. Hart and Ada B. Young