

Our Family News Letter

Issue 127

Greendale, Wisconsin

December 2024

DNA Testing for Family Research

Many of our readers know that DNA testing is a tool that genealogists use to learn more about their ancestral lineage, and about how they are related.

The way that it works is a person orders a DNA kit from one of many resources. Three popular ones in the genealogy world are **Family Tree DNA**, **Ancestry DNA**, and **MyHeritage DNA**. Another popular source is **23andME**, however it is used more by the general public who may be interested in non-genealogy questions such as, Am I allergic to coffee?

When you receive the DNA test kit you take a special cotton swab and rotate it several times on the inside of your mouth in the cheek area. The swab is then inserted into a plastic tube with a special liquid in it. The tube is sealed and mailed back to the company. Several weeks later you will get the results. DNA kits go on sale all the time. Prices range from \$30 to \$100.

I had my DNA tested by Ancestry DNA operated by Ancestry.com. I had subscribed to Ancestry and already had my genealogy research on their system. When I got the results back it showed where my ancestors came from by country. It also showed how much German ancestry I had as well as Czech, England, and Ireland. It listed a huge number of people that I was related to going back seven or eight generations. It even showed that I was related to Cheryl Ann Heck since she is the Daughter of my First Cousin.

The report went on to show that our common pro-genitor was Robert Steven Heck, my grand-

father and Cheryl's great-grandfather. Technically that means that Cheryl is my first cousin once removed. This means that she and I are one generation apart.

My report lists my DNA matches to 20,176 different people. That could take a few years to evaluate. For that reason most genealogists usually concentrate on matches to the third or fourth generation.

DNA testing can also be done on animals such as dogs.



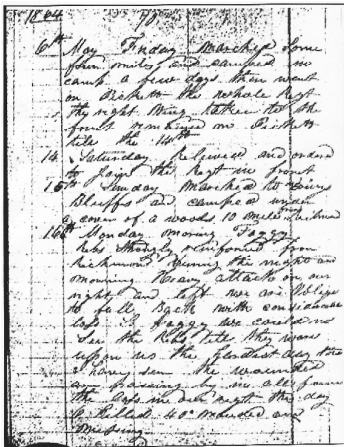
Here is a photo of my grand-dog, Maggie on the right running with her sister Mabel on the left. Maggie was adopted by my son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Michelle from West Bend, Wisconsin.

They decided to have Maggie's DNA tested to find out what mixture of pedigree she had. They knew when they adopted Maggie that she was born in Texas and that she was brought to a humane society facility in Wisconsin. To their surprise they found out that she had a sister, Mabel,

who was also adopted by a family in West Bend. They also learned that Maggie and Mabel had a brother who was adopted by a family in Watertown, Wisconsin.

The two West Bend families got together and Maggie and Mabel had a great time running together as they were reunited. They clearly knew that they were sisters.

Civil War Diary



Shown here is a page from a hand written diary from a soldier in Company F of the 19th Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry from 1864.

Of particular interest are entries written on May 15th and 16th.

“15th Sunday. Marched to Drewey’s Bluffs and camped under a cover of woods 10 miles from Richmond.”

“16th Monday. Morning Foggy. Rebs thoroughly reinforced from Richmond during the night and morning. Heavy attacks on our right and left. We are obliged to fall back with considerable loss. So foggy we could not see the Rebs till they were upon us. The hardest day that I having seen. The wounded are passing by me all from the loss in our right. This day 6 killed 40+ wounded and missing.”

My great Grandfather, Henry Heck, was one of the men wounded that day at the battle of Drewey’s Bluff. He served in Company F of the 19th Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry.

The hand written diary was one that I had not seen before. I had seen a printed report that was part of the regimental day report on the battle.

From the Christmas Photo Album...

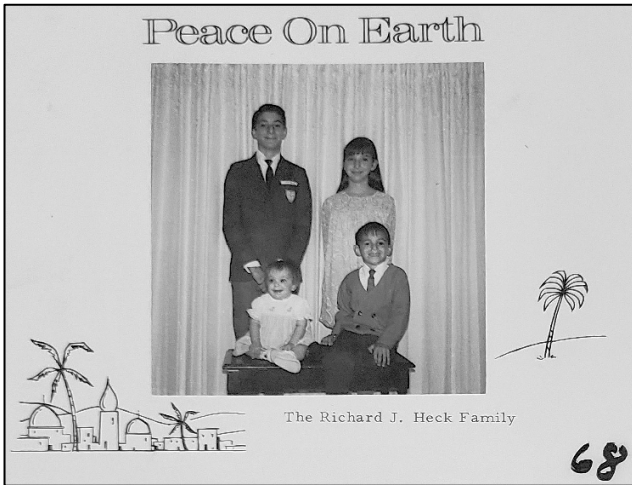
My folks, Robert Gerald Heck and Mary Ann Mikel Heck, had accumulated a lot of Christmas photos sent to them over the years. I just recently rediscovered an album that they had assembled. Since this is the Christmas season I thought that I would share some of them with you.



This photo shows the Robert Gerald Heck family at 1306 Jones Avenue in Racine in 1948. L-R Mary Ann, Robert Gerald, Bob, Don and Gary.



Shown above is Barbara, Ricky, and Jimmy Heck, children of Dick and Cel Heck. This photo was taken in 1964 in Racine.



This photo taken in 1968 shows the addition of Sherry Lynn Heck born on February 6, 1968.



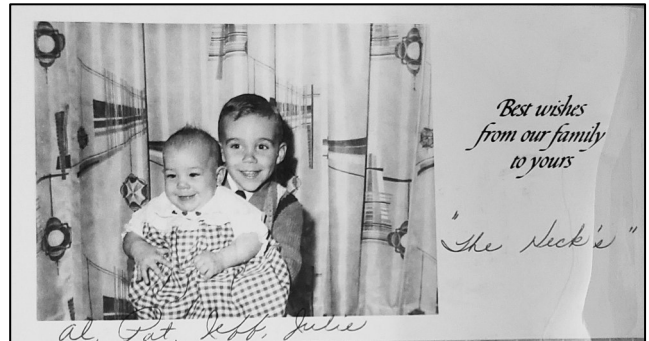
The photo above shows Jamie, Kathie, and Johnnie Gibson, children of Dee (Delores Heck) and Jack Gibson taken in 1963. Rebecca was born seven months later.



The photo at left was taken in 1965. It shows left to right, Johnnie, Rebecca, Jamie, and Kathy Gibson. Rebecca was born on 27 July 1964.



The photo above shows Jeffrey Heck, the son of Alvin and Pat Heck. The photo was taken in 1965. Jeffrey was born on 30 March 1963.

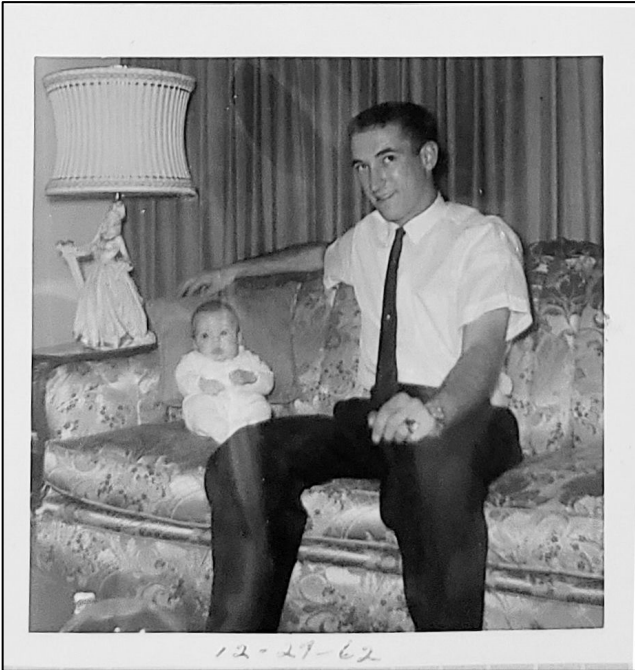


The photo above shows Jeff and Julie Heck, children of Alvin and Pat Heck. The photo was taken in 1966 at Racine. Julie was born on 23 May 1966.



The photo above shows Steve, Dan, and David Pfeiffer standing. Seated are Jeanie, Ann, Judi, and Lori Pfeiffer, children of Marvin and Joanne (Joanne Heck) Pfeiffer. The photo was taken in 1968. Judi was born on 24 February 1967.

I hope that you enjoyed this little trip through the Christmas memories album that my parents pieced together over the years.



One last Christmas photo. The photo above was taken when I was on a Christmas break while attending Pasadena City College in California. I had the opportunity to visit with my cousin Marjorie (nee Heck) and Donald Johnson. Shown are Janice Marie Johnson born 15 Oct 1962 and your editor, Bob Heck. The picture was taken on 27 Dec 1962.

“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, Steve and Cara Pfeiffer, and 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 31 years and six months as of 1 December 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 127 issues of the newsletter covering the period from June 1993 (Issue 1) to December 2024 (Issue 127).

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 Photo Album...

The Charles Francis Sanders Sr. and Catherine Gebhardt Family 1915.



Back row L-R: John Bernard, Louis William, Mary Ann, Frances Josephine, and Margaret Magdalena.

Front row L-R: Charles Francis Jr., Charles Francis Sr., William Conrad (back), Joseph Patrick (front), Catherine nee Gebhardt, Catherine Julia, and Henrietta Georgiana Sanders in 1915.

At this point you might be wondering how we are related to Charles Francis Sanders Sr. 1862-

1931. He is the son of Louis Josef Sanders 1827-1894 and Anna Maria Francesca Henningfeld 1823-1893.

Anna Maria Francesca Henningfeld, born in Olfen, Germany, is the sister of our Franz Arnold Henningfeld. Franz Arnold Henningfeld is my great-great-grandfather so his sister, Anna Maria Francesca Henningfeld is my great-great-grandaunt. Our common ancestors are Johann Henrich Wilhelm Henningfeld and Maria Catharina Bucker Struman.



This photo was taken on 1 November 2024 in Iowa at the Iowa vs Wisconsin football game. L-R: are Grace, Judi, Dave, and Lauren Heck. Lauren is a Senior at Iowa and Grace is a Junior at Franklin High School in Wisconsin. Lauren pulled some strings to get her little sister into the student section of the stadium. Note the Iowa sweatshirt that Grace was wearing. Dave tried to sneak in but his Iowa sweatshirt didn't hide his age.

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.

**Wednesday, 11 April 1928
Redwood Gazette,
Redwood Falls, Minnesota, Page 8.**

Obituary

Mrs. Gertrude Zeren

Burial services were held last Saturday morning at Fairfax for Mrs. Gertrude Zeren who passed away at the Loretta Hospital in New Ulm, Wednesday, March 28th, after an illness of five days from heart trouble. The funeral was held at St. Andrew's Catholic church at 9 o'clock with Rev. J. J. Georgen officiating. Interment was made in the Catholic cemetery at Fairfax.

Gertrude Starken was born in Brocket, Germany, December 2, 1853, and came to America with her parents at the age of eleven years, coming to Dahlgren township, Carver county, Minn., where they lived with a friend for a short time and then bought a farm in Laketown township, in the same county where she grew to womanhood. She was married to Peter Zeren on October 29, 1874, at Swan Lake, Nicollet county, where they lived until a year later when they moved to St. George and lived there for five years and then spent nine years at Chaska before moving to Fairfax. While living there Mr. Zeren died and a few years later Mrs. Zeren went to Wabasso to live with her sons and daughters and also lived with her daughter, Mrs. Johanneck of Redwood Falls. In January, 1928, she entered the old folks' home in New Ulm and died at the Loretta

Hospital March 28, after an illness of five days with heart trouble.

She is survived by nine children as follows: Mrs. Chas. Johanneck of Redwood Falls; John Zeren, Nels C. Zeren, Mrs. E. Weldon, all of Wabasso; Philip and Elizabeth Zeren of New England, N. D.; William Zeren of Boulder, Colo.; Gertrude of Minneapolis; and George Zeren of Milwaukee, Wis., to mourn the loss of a kind and loving mother. She is also survived by two sisters, Mrs. Ben Straumann of Fairfax, and Mrs. Elizabeth Zins of Fulda, Minn., twenty-nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. All of the children were present at the funeral excepting William Zeren of Boulder, Colo.

Those from out of town who attended the funeral were: John Zeren and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Zeren and family, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Weldon and family of Wabasso; Philip Zeren and Miss Elizabeth Zeren of New England, N. D.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Johanneck and son of Redwood Falls; Mr. and Mrs. George Zeren and son of Milwaukee, Wis.; Miss Gertrude Zeren of Minneapolis; Miss Myrtle Zeren of Manato; Mrs. George Johanneck, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Zins and daughter, Loretta, Mrs. Lena Zins and daughters, Eleanor and Myrtle, and son, Lewis, Henry Zins and son, Matt of Nicollet; Herbert Zins and daughter, Florence, and son, Cornelious, Mrs. Frank Starken, William Starken and sons, Clarence and Lynus; of Wabasso; Mr. and Mrs. Philip Starken of Water-

town, S. D.; John Heck, Mrs. Jos. Heck and daughter, Margaret, and son, George, of Clements; Mrs. Geo. Walter and son, Arthur, Mrs. Margaret Heck, Mr. and Mrs. John Schweiss, Miss Mary Sons, Mrs. D. Techney, Walter Peters, Mrs. Anna Wallner of New Ulm; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Paradis, Herbert and Charles

Johanneck of Redwood Falls; Mrs. George Kuenzli and son, Bernard, of Minneapolis; Miss Leona Zeren of New Brighton.

The obituary at lower left is for Gertrude Zeren nee Stacken. The article shows her maiden name incorrectly as Starken.

Issue 123 of Our Family News Letter from December 2023, went into the history of the Zeren family. The obituary was found in November 2024 and is copied in this issue.



Briefly, Johann Heck married Susannah Zeren, a widow with seven children, in 1856, shortly after the death of his first wife, Anna Barbara Schaefer. Peter Zeren, one of the children of Susannah, mar-

ried Gertrude Stacken at Swan Lake, Minnesota. Gertrude is shown here as a young girl in Minnesota. Peter Zeren worked for Johann Heck for a year or so at Swan Lake, Brighton Township, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

**Thursday, 7 November 2024
The Forest Republican
Crandon, Forest County, Wisconsin, Page 24.**

On the following page you will find a newspaper article that was printed in the newspaper as a result of a letter to the Editor by Sharon Heck (nee Bellomy), wife of Don Heck.

Sharon has been bitten by the genealogy bug and has been busy discovering new things about her family. The most significant find is that J D Vance and Sharon Dianne Bellomy are 2nd cousins 1 time removed.

In 2024, J D Vance is the Vice President elect of the United States. J D and Sharon can trace their ancestry back to Christopher Columbus (Lum) Bellomy (1873-1916).

J D Vance is the great-great grandson of Lum Bellomy and Sharon is the great-granddaughter of Lum Bellomy.

Sharon's father is Goebel Bellomy. The article outlines the story of her father who was a paratrooper during World War II. He was captured on the first day of the invasion of Sicily.

THANKS TO OUR TROOPS ON VETERANS DAY!

A letter from a Forest County WWII POW



Sharon (Bellomy) Heck (Goebel Bellomy's daughter) wrote to the Forest Republican to share that this article was in a box of papers my grandmother saved and was found after her death. I suspect that the article may have appeared in the Forest Republican back in 1943.

Not mentioned in the piece, his mother's maid-

en name which is Campbell. Goebel served with the 82nd Airborne. He was held prisoner at the Stalag 2B German POW Camp until the war ended. After he returned home to the town of Nashville, he married Katie Flannery and lived in Crandon with his family until the early 1960s. He was a proud veteran. He died in 1979 and is buried in the Nashville Cemetery.

The article reads: Mr. and Mrs. Marion Bellomy of the town of Nashville received a letter Saturday from their son, Pfc. Goebel Bellomy, 20, who is a German prisoner of war. He sent the following letter from a Nazi prison camp on Aug. 17, 1943:

"Dear Mother & Dad: Will drop you a few lines to let you know that I'm in good health and feeling fine. Hope you

are the same. Say, Mom, has Noah ever had to go to the army yet. I sure hope not. Mom, tell Dad not to sell my car as I might be home some day. I get a Red Cross box every week and it sure is a swell box. Say, Mother, tell Noah and the rest of the folks to write as often as they can. Be sure and write yourself. I sure would like to see all of you but it can't be. I'll have to close.

Your son, Goebel." This was the first the parents had heard from their son since June. On July 10, the day the Allies invaded Sicily, he was captured. Undoubtedly, he was one of the first to invade the island as he was a paratrooper.

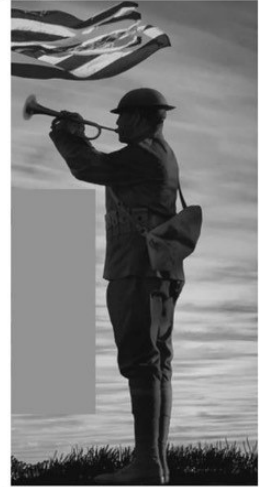
Goebel left here Nov. 15, 1942, for a camp in Texas, and then received his training as a paratrooper at Fort Benning, Ga. He was shipped overseas May, 1943.

LOCAL BOY WRITES FROM NAZI CAMP

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Let's Put Our Hands Together for Our Veterans

For their service and their sacrifice, we salute America's brave veterans.

Thank you for your dedication to this great country and our values as a nation. Your courage and conviction make us proud to be Americans.



7595 HWY 32/55 North, Argonne, WI 54511
715-649-3237

More from the photo album...



This picture shows L-R: Barney Joseph Stanitis, John Mikel, and Robert Gerald Heck. The picture was taken in about 1948 following a fishing trip to Puckaway Lake, Wisconsin. Barney was a friend of the family and John Mikel was my maternal grandfather. My Dad is shown at far right. I count 33 northern pike hanging on the fence. I'm not sure what the possession limit was back then but I would guess that they pushed the limit. I hate to think how long it took them to clean that many fish because none of them knew how to filet a fish.

Shown at Upper Right is an image of the death certificate for Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff Brüggemann Stratman Heitkemper. She was the mother of Clara Stratman Henningfeld. Anna Maria Elizabeth was born in 1819 in Germany and died on 30 November 1893 at Waterford, Racine County, Wisconsin. She was my great-great-grandmother.

Her maiden name was Guthoff. She was married three times, first to Johann Brüggemann in 1843, he died in 1844, second to Anton Stratman in 1846, he died in 1858, and third to Frederick Heitkemper in 1859, he died in 1911.

The death certificate was one that I had not seen before. I found it while doing a search for Heitkemper on the Find-A-Grave web site. The two dates at the bottom of the certificate appear to be incorrect, but are likely not. The Year shown is 1895, which is just under two years after the death. Often the parish priest reported

any deaths to the County. In 1893 they were required to report a death within two years.

Wisconsin, U.S., Death Records, 1872-2004 for Eliza
Pre-October 1907 > Racine, Vol 3-Vol 4

No. <u>052</u> 09687	
1. Full name of deceased.	<i>Elizabeth Heitkemper</i>
2. Color.	<i>W.</i>
3. Sex.	<i>F.</i>
4. Age.	<i>74 yrs less 22 da</i>
5. Name of the father of deceased.	<i>Henry Guthoff</i>
6. Name of the mother of deceased.	<i>Elizabeth</i>
7. Occupation.	<i>-</i>
8. Place of birth.	<i>Germany</i>
9. Name of wife of deceased.	<i>-</i>
10. Name of husband of deceased.	<i>Fred Heitkemper</i>
11. Date of birth and date of death.	<i>May 8-1819 - Nov 30/1893</i>
12. Cause of death.	<i>Pericardium atherosclerotic</i>
13. Name of the place, town or township and county in which the person died.	<i>Waterford Wis.</i>
14. Name and location of burial ground in which interred.	<i>St. Thomas Cath. Cem.</i>
15. Name of person returning certificate.	<i>Adelbert Koehler</i>
16. Residence of such person.	<i>Waterford Wis.</i>
17. Date of certificate.	<i>Nov. 9 - 1895.</i>
18. Date of registration.	<i>" 12 - 1890.</i>

1834		1837	
Registrum Baptizatorum in Ecclesia		Registrum Baptizatorum in Ecclesia	
Diocesis			
Nomen Patris	A. D. M. B.	Nomen Patris	A. D. M. B.
<i>Heck</i>	<i>Aug 6 1915</i>	<i>Heck</i>	<i>Aug 6 1915</i>
<i>Anna Maria Elizabeth Guthoff Brüggemann Stratman Heitkemper</i>		<i>Rose Margaret Heck</i>	
<i>Parochus: Robert Heitkemper</i>		<i>Parochus: Robert Heitkemper</i>	
<i>Witnesses: Clara Henningfeld, Adalbert Henningfeld</i>		<i>Witnesses: Clara Henningfeld, Adalbert Henningfeld</i>	
<i>W. F. McCaskey</i>		<i>W. F. McCaskey</i>	

The image above shows the christening records for Lilly Marie and Rose Margaret Heck born on 31 July 1915. Lilly died in 1916 and Rose died in 1917. They were the twin daughters of Robert Steven Heck and Margaret Isabella Henningfeld. This is the only record that I have found that showed Margaret's middle name as Isabella rather than Friedrica.
