

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 128

Greendale, Wisconsin

March 2025

## Property Tax for Benajah Burgess in 1799

Many of you probably received your property tax bill in December 2024 from your local government and you may have already paid them.

*Assessment Roll of the Real & Personal Estates in the town of Hoosick in the County of Rensselaer, completed by the Commissioners the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December 1799, according to the directions of the Statute entitled "An act for the assessment & collection of Taxes."*

Peoplers names	Real Estate	Personal	Taxes
Allen William	330	40	37
Armstrong Martin	200	32	23
Ayers Peter	115	66	18
Armstrong Hagediah	240		24
Armstrong Sapheniah	240		24
Andrew Samuel	670	80	75
Arnold Benjamin	2530	187	76
Arnold John	90	30	12
Andrew Marcus	7	4	
Aylsworth Andrew	736	3	74
Aylsworth Thomas		55	5
Arnold Brock	110	80	14
Burphy Thomas Junr	1000	98	9
Brownell Thomas		60	6
Bonway David		30	3
Barnet Nathaniel	2850	212	6
Burgis Benajah	2550	168	71
Bigelow Phelim B	275	10	23
Baker David			
Brown James	554	22	57
Baker Sherman	300	71	37

Above is the Assessment Roll of the Real & Personal Estates in the town of Hoosick in the County of Rensselaer, New York, completed by the Commissioners the 13th day of December

1799, according to the directions of the Statute entitled "An act for the assessment & collection of Taxes."

Shown between the two black arrows is the tax assessed for Benajah Burgess, my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather in 1799, which is 225 years ago.

His Real Estate was assessed at \$2,550 and his Personal Property at \$168. His total tax bill was \$2.71.

Here is how I am a descendant of Benajah Burgess my Great-Great-Great-Grandfather:

**Benajah Burgess** married Zilpha Matteson, Benjamin Burgess married Rebecca Chase, Patience Burgess married Peter McNulty, Mary Ann McNulty married Henry Heck, Robert S Heck married Margaret Henningfeld, Robert G Heck married Mary Ann Mikel, Robert J Heck (me) married Gloria LaBerge.

After I found the tax information on Benajah Burgess, I decided to look up tax information on our Wisconsin ancestors on the Internet.

Here is what I found:

Tax Search at Parkside University ARC Center.

1856 Peter McNulty, Brighton, Kenosha County, **Township 2 N Range 20 E-1/2 SW ¼ Section 23, 80 Acres**, Value \$480, Town Tax \$3.87, County Tax \$1.88, State Tax \$2.57, School Tax \$0.41, Collectors % \$0.43, Total Tax \$9.16.

1857 Widow Zeren Not Assessed in 1855, Brighton, Kenosha County, **Township 2 N Range 21, NW-1/4 SW ¼ Section 11, 40 Acres**, Value \$60, Town Tax \$0.26, County Tax \$0.17, State Tax \$0.23, School Tax \$0.12, Road

Tax \$0.29, Collectors % \$0.06, Total Tax \$1.13.  
Taxes for 1855: Town Tax \$0.26, County Tax \$0.18, State Tax \$0.23, School Tax \$0, Road Tax \$0, Collectors % \$0.03, Total Tax \$0.70.

1857 Peter McNulty listed as Peter McEnutly, Brighton, Kenosha County, **Township 2 N Range 20 E-1/2 SW ¼ Section 23, 80 Acres**, Value \$640, Town Tax \$3.25, County Tax \$2.78, State Tax \$2.74, School Tax \$3.28, Collectors % \$0.60, Total Tax \$12.65.

1858-1859 Peter McNulty, Brighton, Kenosha County, **Township 2 N Range 20 E-1/2 SW ¼ Section 23, 80 Acres**. Paid taxes both years.

1876 Henry Heck, Personal Property Tax, Dover, Racine County, Valuation \$75, State, County, Town Tax \$0.60, School District Tax \$0.30, Total Tax \$0.90.

1876 Henry F Henningfeld, Personal Property Tax, Burlington, Racine County, Valuation \$800, State, County, Town Tax \$4.54, School District Tax \$2.86, Total Tax \$7.40.

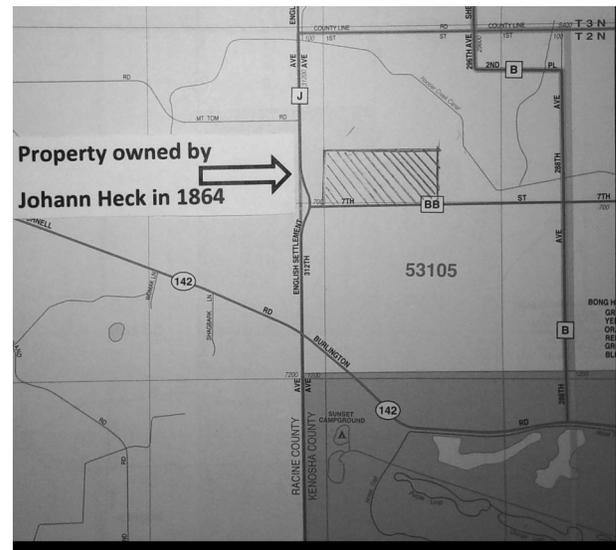
1877 Peter McNulty, Dover, Racine County, **Township 3N, Range 20E, Section 34, Part S part E1/2, NE1/4, ½ Acres**, Value \$100, State, County, Town Taxes \$0.99, School District Tax \$0.42. Total tax \$1.41.

1878 Peter McNulty, Dover, Racine County, **Township 3N, Range 20E, Section 34, Part S part E1/2, NE1/4, ½ Acres**, Value \$75, State, County, Town Taxes \$0.74, School District Tax \$0.34. Total tax \$1.08.

1879 Peter McNulty, The land described as , Dover, Racine County, **Township 3N, Range 20E, Section 34, Part S part E1/2, NE1/4, ½ Acres**, Was sold to Henry Keller who paid the taxes on it on 31 DEC 1879.

1879-1884 Peter McNulty, No record of being taxed in Dover, Racine County.

1864 **Johann Heck**, Volume O, Page 381, purchased from Nicholas Wagner and his wife on 17 October 1864, for \$800, land described as **S-1/2 of SW-1/4 of Section 4, in Township 2-North and of Range 20-East containing 80 acres**.



The map above shows the location in western Kenosha County, Wisconsin of the 80 acres of land owned by Johann Heck in 1864. His land is shown as the striped rectangle located at the intersection of highway BB and Highway J. Highway BB is also known as 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway J is also known as English Settlement Avenue.

The gray area in the lower right part of the map is known as the western part of The Bong State Recreational Area.

Johann Heck was my great-great-grandfather and was the first Heck in our family to come to America. He arrived with his family in 1853. The family consisted of Johann, his wife Anna Barbara nee Schaefer, and their five children: Peter, Anna Lucia, Henry, Joseph, and Clara. Anna Barbara died in 1855 and Johann married the widow Susannah Zeren in June 1856. The combined family moved to Minnesota in 1857 but returned to Wisconsin during the 1862 Sioux Indian uprising. The family returned to Minnesota in 1867.



Above is a photo that I took many years ago of the home that Johann Heck lived in back about 161 years ago. The photo below is one that I took from Google Maps Street View in 2025, of the same property. The trees have grown and many more were planted over the years.



The original home was just a one story structure. After Johann migrated back to Minnesota in 1867, the new owners added a two story addition on the left side, and attached to the original one story structure.

When I took the top picture many years ago, the current owners invited me in to view the original structure including the hand-dug basement which was used as a storm cellar. It was only about four feet in depth.

The photo at upper right shows the current barn that was added long after Johann migrated back to Minnesota. If there was an original barn from

1864, its owners were unaware of its existence or exact location.



Maybe someday I will find a photo of the Johann Heck home in Swan Lake, Nicollet County, Minnesota.

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## “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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P. M. Myers Esq. Clerk

Benjamin Burgess } This Indenture made the fifth day of April  
 Alfred Foster } in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred  
 1089 Cato 508 100 a. } and thirty, Between Benjamin Burgess of the  
 first part And Alfred Foster of the town of Hannibal County of Oswego } Cayuga County and State of New York of the  
 State of New York of the second part witnesseth that the said party of the }  
 first part for and in consideration of the sum of five hundred dollars }  
 lawful money of the United States of America to him in hand paid }  
 by the said party of the second part at or before the enscaling and delivery }  
 of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged that }  
 Burgess sold remised and quit claimed and by these presents }  
 doth bargain sell remise and quit claim unto the said party of the }  
 second part in his actual possession now being and unto his heirs }  
 and assigns forever

and assigns forever all that piece or parcel of land situate in the town of Ira }  
 County of Cayuga in the State of New York known and distinguished by }  
 being fifty acres of land land situate in the town of Ira in a square form part of }  
 lot number ten in the township of Ira beginning said fifty acres at the north }  
 south west corner of said lot number ten bounded in the same has been sold }  
 heretofore by the people of the State of New York subject to the conditions, excep }  
 tions and reservations contained in the patent of which this parcel of land is a }  
 part and subject also to all tax and taxes charged thereon or any part thereof }  
 since the first day of June Eighteen Hundred and twenty four Also all that }  
 certain piece or parcel of land situate in the township of Ira in the County }  
 of Cayuga and State aforesaid said subdivision number six of great lot }  
 number nine in the town of Ira formerly in the township of Cato in the County }  
 of Cayuga and State aforesaid said subdivision containing one hundred }  
 acres as shewed by both the more or less together with }  
 all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging }  
 or in anywise appertaining and the reversions, remainders, rents }  
 issues and profits thereof and also all the estate right, title, interest }  
 claim or demand of whatsoever of his the said party of the first part }  
 either in law or equity of in and to the above bargained premises and every }  
 part and parcel thereof to the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns }  
 to the sole and only proper use benefit and behoof of the said party of the }  
 second part his heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof the said party }  
 of the first part hath hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first }  
 above written

Benjamin Burgess J.D.

Witnessed and delivered in the presence of William Wilton -  
 Cayuga County On this 5th day of April A. D. 1830 Came before me Elijah }  
 J. Courts a Commissioner to take the proof and acknowledgment of deeds &c }  
 the within named Benjamin Burgess to me well known to be the same person }  
 described in who executed and grantor of the within deed and acknowledged }  
 or he executed the same for the uses and purposes mentioned therein. All }  
 which I do hereby certify according to the Statute in such case made and }  
 provided Let it be Recorded. Elijah J. Courts -  
 Recorded April 7th A. D. 1830 at half past 7 o'clock P.M.  
 P. M. Myers Esq. Clerk

## Document Found of Indenture

The document on the previous page was written on 5 April 1830 at Ira, previously known as Cato, located in Cayuga County, New York.

The document shows that Benjamin Burgess sold his land of 50 acres plus 100 acres for \$500 to Alfred Foster, his father-in-law, from Hannibal, County of Oswego, New York.

Other Marriages...		Parents
Amanda Foster-1157 1799 - Catskill Area, Greene, NY 10 Jun 1886 - Somers, Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA		Alfred Foster-2038 5 Jul 1774 - South Brimfield, Hampden, MA 7 Mar 1849 - Southport, Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA
Marriage: Abt 1828 -304		Mehitable Castle-9676 1776 - 1860 - Kenosha, Kenosha, Wisconsin, USA
Spouse		
Benjamin Burgess-494 Abt 1794 - Hoosick, Rensselaer, NY Mar 1838 - Southport (Now Kenosha), Kenosha, W, USA		
Children	Born	Parent Link
1 William Everington Burgess-1158	2 May 1830	
2 Martha Matilda Burgess-1159	22 Dec 1833	
3 Belinda Ruth Burgess-1160	1835	
4 Cyrus Burgess-1161	1838	

Amanda nee Foster was a widow who was first married to Russel Allen (1795-1828) in about 1820. They had at least one daughter, Mahitable Allen born on 21 September 1822. Amanda married Benjamin Burgess in about 1828. The Indenture was written just about one month before the birth of William Everington Burgess, the first child from the union between Amanda and Benjamin.

The significance of the Indenture on the previous page is that it was found by using an Artificial Intelligence (AI) system introduced at the FamilySearch Labs website. The AI system is capable of reading hand written text. The handwriting must be neat in order to minimize errors. The Indenture has some excellent handwriting.

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## From the Photo Album...

Shown at upper right is a wedding photo of Delores Heck and Jack Gibson taken 17 September 1955 at Racine Wisconsin. Also shown in the photo is Delores' mother and Jack's parents.

In the second photo at right is Richard Heck escorting his sister, Delores, down the aisle at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. On Delores' left are Don Heck and his mother Mary Ann Heck.



The photo above was from a group of photo albums in the Robert Gerald Heck family. It was marked that this was the first grandchild of Frances and Clarence Heck. At left are the parents, Marjorie nee Heck and Donald Walter Johnson. The child is Jerald Michael Johnson. Don and Marjorie were married on 15 NOV 1952, and Jerald was born on 23 SEP 1953.

## **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 late 2024 and early 2025:**

Ellen R. Stiner, Sue and Jeff Miller, Barbara and Dave Schneider, and Judi and Steve Behrendt. 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 nine months as of 1 March 2025. It is mailed to 60 family members and posted on-line to all of our family members with the address.

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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 128 issues of the newsletter covering the period from June 1993 (Issue 1) to March 2025 (Issue 128).

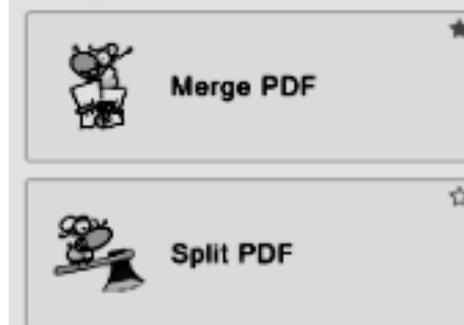
All of the issues are available now at the following web address:

**<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. Each issue of the PDF file is searchable. I actually combined all 128 issues into one single file on my computer so that I can search all of the files for keywords and names. The file size is huge and is 1.6 Giga Bytes in size.

The free program that I used to combine the files is called PDF Toolbox. Just enter PDF Toolbox in Google to find the free download.



Here are just two of the functions available in **PDF24 Toolbox**. There are 42

different functions available in this free program. I use **Merge PDF** to create a single file of the 128 issues of this newsletter.

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## **New advances at the FamilySearch.org genealogy website.**

If you are interested in researching your family history, I highly recommend that you try using the FamilySearch.org FREE website. The site is the largest repository for family history research in the world and it is absolutely free.

The site is run by the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) and is open to anyone. When you enter the website you will be asked to register. You will not be asked for a credit card number or in any way for personal information. The reason for registering is it provides a link for your research. Only deceased people can be accessed by others. You and your living family members can only be accessed by you. You will be asked to create a user name and a password and that is it. You only need to do this one time. After that any time you go to FamilySearch.org you enter your user name and password and you are instantly taken to your data and your files.

Associated with the web site is what is called Family Search Labs which is located at the following address:

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/labs/>

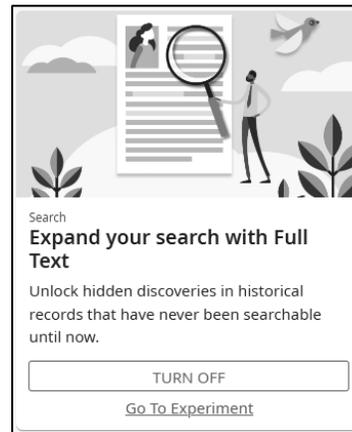
Family Search Labs is associated with Brigham Young University (BYU). Following is a description of the current resources:

At RootsTech 2024, FamilySearch spread the word about an exciting new venture on its website: the FamilySearch Labs. At the current time, there are five experiments you can try, after signing in to FamilySearch:

1. Expand Your Search with Full Text – There are a few collections that can now be searched with full-text capabilities and keyword searches. A video is available for explaining the search tips that are available.
2. Family Group Trees – Family group trees let you share important family memories and information with close living family. You can create family groups and invite them to share your family group trees.
3. Find Help with AI Search – Use AI queries to find answers in the Help Center, the FamilySearch Wiki, RootsTech videos, etc.
4. Together by FamilySearch – Share stories, memories, activities, etc. across family groups and with an app on mobile devices.
5. Profile Quality Score – Choose from a number of selected ancestor profiles in FamilySearch and see how the information is rated for quality, from low to high. Sources are evaluated and potential data problems are identified so that profile information can be improved.

These new features are still in testing mode and should be finalized later this year. The Family History Guide will have documentation for the features when they are finished.

The one that I use the most is number 1 above. That is what I used to find the document on page 4 of this newsletter.



This is the symbol that I used. Just click on Go To Experiment when in the webpage and enter a name of a person you are researching and a place such as a State.

As an example I entered “Clarence Heck” and Racine, Wisconsin and I found his WWII draft registration (shown below), Clarence as a witness for a friend applying for citizenship, and several obituaries.

SERIAL NUMBER	1. NAME (Print)	ORDER NUMBER
2495	Clarence Henry Heck	557
2. ADDRESS (Print) 1437 Milwaukee Av. Racine Racine Wis. c.		
3. TELEPHONE Becker	4. AGE IN YEARS 25	5. PLACE OF BIRTH Burlington
6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP U.S.A.		
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Mrs. Frances Elizabeth Heck wife		
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON 1434 Milwaukee Av. Racine Racine Wis.		
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME Medine Manufacturing Co.		
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS 1774 and Racine Racine Racine Wis. c.		
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.		
REGISTRATION CARD D. S. S. Form 1		10-17105 Clarence Heck (Registrant's signature)

If you would like to view a video on YouTube just enter the following address in your browser.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KilgciUvqFk>



## More Photos from the Photo Album

The photos at left were found in a photo album labeled “**Robert G Heck album 2**”. Yes, there was also an album 1 and it contained mostly photos of his girlfriends before he got married.

The top left photo shows Margaret Frederica nee Henningfeld Heck holding her granddaughter Joanne Mary Heck born 10 March 1936 at Racine, Wisconsin.

The middle left photo shows Joanne Mary Heck with her parents, Stella and Alvin Heck.

The lower left photo shows from left to right: Robert Gerald Heck, Bernice Mary nee Heck Bark, and Alvin James Heck in a Christmas photo. Robert, Bernice, and Alvin were siblings and children of Robert Steven Heck and Margaret Frederica Henningfeld.



The photo above right shows Bernice with her brother Edward Christopher Heck. Edward Heck died on 8 OCT 1931 from Myocarditis and Mitral Regurgitation. Contributory causes: inflammatory rheumatism. His obituary stated that he died at his home at 1335 North Main St. in Racine after a lingering illness. He was a student at St. Joseph's school and was 15 years of age. The photo above left shows Bernice Heck in her 1<sup>st</sup> Communion dress.