

Our Family News Letter

Issue 130

Greendale, Wisconsin

September 2025

Prehistoric Dinosaur-Like Creatures Roam the Streets of West Bend, Wisconsin.



My son, Bill Heck, takes a lot of creative photos from his home in West Bend, Wisconsin, in Washington County. He and Michelle often send us copies as email attachments. The photo above was taken in color but for this newsletter, I change them to grayscale.

When Gloria received her copy of the photo she burst out laughing. She said that I have got to see the dinosaurs. It appears that two huge creatures were walking along the street. The “creatures” were actually Sandhill Cranes but in the photo they appear to be almost as tall as the houses across the street. If you are having difficulty seeing the cranes, both are walking to the right. One is near the center of the photo and the second crane is near the left edge of the photo.

Bill and Michelle are frequently visited by the cranes along with herds of deer, flocks of turkeys, ducks, geese, and lots of other wildlife. We always enjoy sitting on their upper deck while watching the birds and animals.

Shown at right is a photo from Bill and Michelle of a close-up of a hummingbird on a feeder on

their upper deck. Our “grand dog” Maggie, likes to sit on the deck or inside at a window, keeping an eye on the birds, squirrels and occasional chipmunks who like to eat from the bird feeders.



At right are Michelle and Bill Heck enjoying the summer sunshine.



Visitors at the 2025 Heck Picnic

We were happy to see the James Nicholas Heck family at our July, 2025, annual Heck-Henningfeld family picnic at the Leisure Center in Racine.

The family includes James and Karen, nee Werner, and their three children, Mathew, Robert, and Molly.

We were trying to figure out when Robert first attended our family picnic. My guess was in July, 1995, or 30 years ago. I asked James if Robert could have been in the five Bob Heck's photo taken at Wind Point. He said, "Yes, that was it."



From left to right are Bob Heck, Bob Heck, Bob Heck, Bob Heck, and Bob Heck.

To clarify, also known as: Robert John Heck born 1940, Robert Michael Heck born 1962, Robert Gerald Heck born 1909, Robert Werner Heck born 1994, and Robert Jerome Heck born 1932.

I sure feel a Heck of a lot better now that I cleared up the Bob Heck issue.

At upper right is a photo of Robert Werner Heck, Karen, and Jim Heck at the 2025 Heck-Henningfeld family picnic



Other Photos from the 2025 Family Picnic.



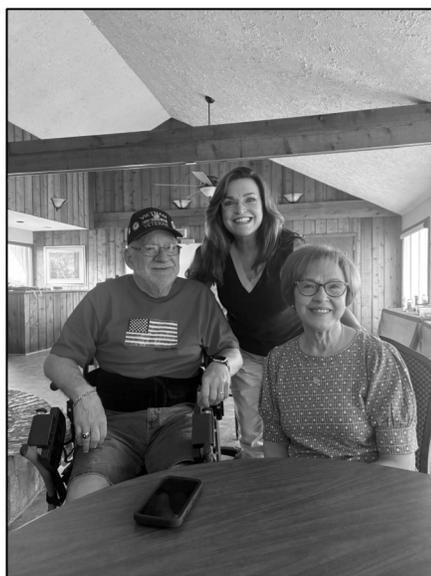
Lois Jean Hawkins nee Heck and Barbara Ann Schneider nee Heck, first cousins. Lois is the daughter of Robert Jerome and Lorraine Heck. Barbara is the daughter of Richard and Cecelia Heck.



Cel Heck with her daughter Sherry and her son Rick. You might notice that the panda bear that Cel is holding has a large bandage on its right foot. Cel explained that she accidentally dropped the panda into a bed of hot coals. The panda has been fitted with a strap and collar so that Cel can retrieve it the next time she drops him into a hot spot.



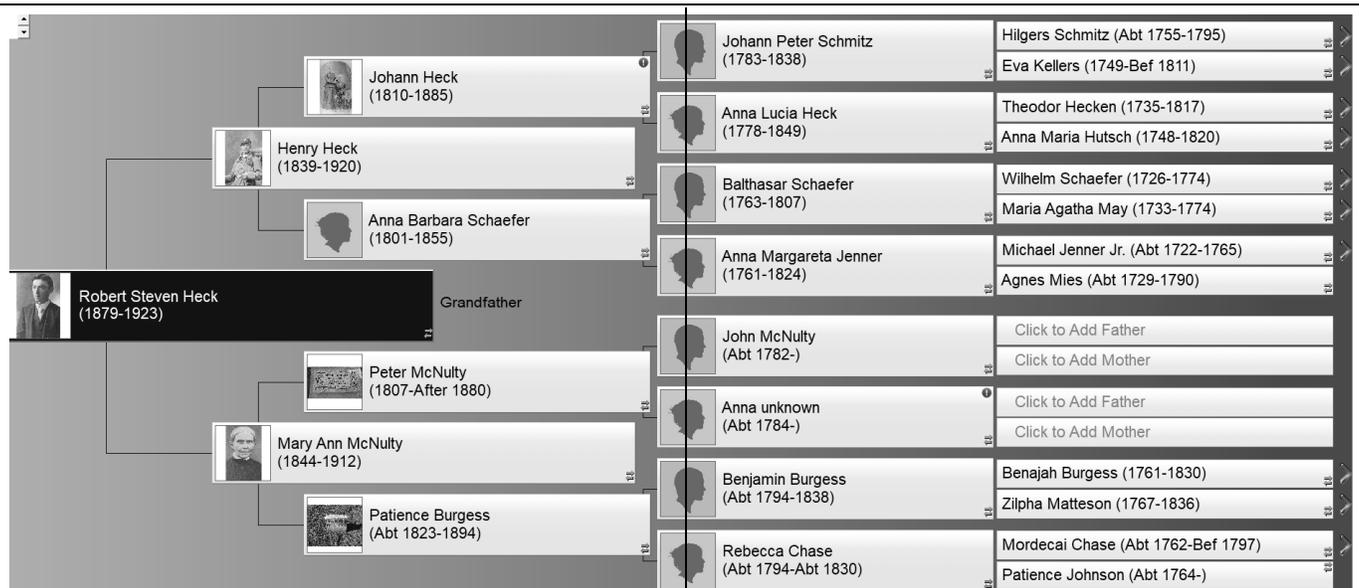
Gloria and Bob Heck getting ready to party at the 2025 Heck family picnic.



It was great to see Jeanie Marie Hatfield nee Pfeiffer at the picnic. She took a lot of pictures and was happy to share them with us. Jeanie is shown here with Sharon and Don Heck.



Lorainne Heck with her daughters Lois Hawkins and Cheryl Ann Heck.



A Bit of our family history

Our family tree has many branches in it. Shown above and below are just five generations of our Heck-Henningfeld branches.

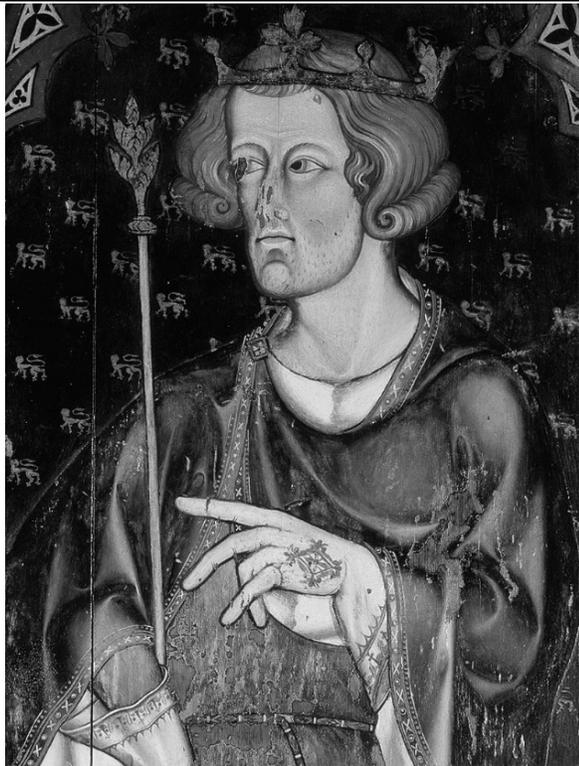
From the Heck side we have the following surnames: Heck, Schmitz, Kellers, Hecken, Hutsch, Schaefer, May, Jenner, Mies, McNulty, Burgess, Matteson, Chase, and Johnson. These lines go back to at least 1722 and that is just in five generations.

Weyman, Stratmann, Hooper, Guthoff, Duncker, Pauler, and Schulte. These lines go back to at least 1726 and that is just in five generations.

In addition, If you are a descendant of Robert Steven Heck and his wife Margaret Frederica Henningfeld, and most of you are, then you are related to 22 Presidents of the United States. Plus you are a descendant of King Edward I (1239-1307) the King of England. Don't worry about ascending to the throne since there are probably several million people who can make the same claim.



From the Henningfeld side we have the following surnames: Henningfeld, Stalmans, Struman, Bucker, Richter, Schils, Achenkamp, Berghof,



King Edward I, King of England from 1272-1307. This painting, in color, was erected at Westminster Abbey sometime during reign of Edward I.



Note: You are related to all of the people at lower left but you are not a descendant of them. This chart only shows deceased relatives so we could be related to some living Presidents also.

“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 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.**

Here is the current list of contributors for 2025:

Sue and Jeff Miller, Ellen Stiner, Barbara and Dave Schneider, Judy and Steve Behrendt, Jean and Rich Koenen, Karen and James Heck, and Sharon and Don Heck. **It is with the greatest appreciation to all of you for keeping this newsletter going.**

This family newsletter has been published every three months since 1 June 1993 which makes 32 years as of 1 June 2025. It is mailed to 60 family members and posted on-line to all of our family members.

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 130 issues of the newsletter covering the period from June 1993 (Issue 1) to September 2025 (Issue 130).

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 130 issues into one single file on my computer so that I can search all of the files for keywords and names.

A hint for Christmas: You can download each issue of the newsletter and save them on a flash drive. You can take the flash drive to almost any printing shop and have them printed and bound into a book. Give your children and grandchildren a copy of their family history.

A look at some of the early notes on our Chase ancestors.

Our Chase line of ancestors going back seven generations is as follows:

- (1) Rebecca Chase born ca. 1794, and died ca 1830 was married to Benjamin Burgess.
- (2) Mordecai Chase born ca. 1762, and died 1797 was married to Patience Johnson.
- (3) Phineas Chase Jr. born 1726, and died 1799 was married to Rebecca Mosher.
- (4) Phineas Chase Sr. born 1693, and died 1761 was married to Desire Wing.
- (5) Abraham Chase born 1666, and died 1738 was married to Elizabeth Henry.
- (6) William Chase Jr. born 1622, and died 1684 was married to Unknown name.
- (7) William Chase Sr. born ca. 1595, and died 1656 was married to Mary Townley.

(7) William Chase Sr.

William Chase, immigrant ancestor and progenitor, was a native of England, where he was born about 1595, and with his wife Mary and son William came to New England in the ship with Governor Winthrop in 1630. He settled first at Roxbury, Mass., where soon he became a member of the first church of Roxbury. The record of Rev. John Eliot, the Indian Apostle, of "such as adjoined themselves to this church," has the entry: "William Chase, he came with the first company, bringing with him his wife Mary and his son William." Thomas and Aquila Chase, who settled at Hampton, N. H., in 1639, are thought by genealogists of the Chase family to have been either brothers or cousins of William Chase, the first comer. On October 19, 1630, he applied for admission as a freeman, and was admitted on May 14, 1634. William Chase was subsequently a town officer of Roxbury, and a prominent man in its early life and affairs. In 1638 he was one of the pioneer company which settled the town of Yarmouth, of which he was chosen constable in 1639. In 1645 he served against the Narragansetts. He died in Yarmouth in May, 1656. His will, dated May 4, 1656, and proved

May 13 of the same year, states that he was aged. He bequeathed to his wife Mary, and two sons, Benjamin and William. His widow died in October, 1660.

(6) William Chase Jr.

William Chase Jr. was a drummer boy in 1645 in Myles Standish's Company which fought against the Narragansett Indians. According to the Quaker records of Swansea Monthly Meetings, William had four children by each of two wives. Rev. John Eliot, in his records of the Roxbury church (pp. 73-74), stated that William Chase came with his parents in 1630 and was "a child of ill qualitys & a sore affliction to his parents." The following entry is found in the records of a General Court held at Plymouth on 6 Mar 1654/5: "William Chase Junr. for goeing into the house of Richard Berry, and taking away by violence a p'cell of flax and a smale p'cell of hose yarne, was sentanced to sitt in the stockes an houre on a training day att Yarmouth." (Vol 3, pg 74)

William Chase, son of William and Mary Chase, was born in England, about 1622, and accompanied his parents to America, in 1630. He removed with his father's family to Yarmouth, in 1638, and died there, February 27, 1685. He was a prominent resident of the town, but took no active part in civic affairs. The name of his wives is not known; they were the parents of eight children.

(5) Abraham Chase

Abraham Chase sold land at Harwich, MA in 1695. Tiverton was part of MA at the time of his death. It became part of RI in 1747. In his will, dated 10 May 1737 and proved 17 Oct 1738, he mentioned his sons and daughters.

(4) Phineas Chase Sr.

Birth and marriage information from NEHGR Vol 87, 1933, page 133. He was a member of Oblong Monthly Meeting in Dutchess County, NY in 1742. In May, 1761 the heads of families are listed in the Quaker records for Oblong, and Desire Chase is so listed as head. The IGI index

lists several places of marriage for Phineas and Desire. One record shows it as Dartmouth, two as Freetown, and one as Tiverton. Dartmouth and Freetown are both in Bristol County, MA. Tiverton is in RI.

Marriage record found in Dartmouth, MA. vital records: Dartmouth Monthly Meetings, Society of Friends; film #823,562 (2nd item on roll, pg. 112).

New England Hist. & Gen. Register (1933) vol. 87, pg. 53 & 133-4.

(3) Phineas Chase Jr.

Birth information from IGI index, 1553356. His birth is also listed in NEHGR Vol 87, 1933, page 134. Marriage information from IGI index 1621526.

BIOGRAPHY: In 1771, Phineas was living at Quaker Hill, Dutchess County, New York.

PROBATE: Washington County, New York Wills; Film # 513,861; Book 1; Pages 233-236

(2) Mordecai Chase

Mordecai issued a will on September 24, 1796 at Washington County, New York. The will can be found on LDS film 0908502 Book F, pg 144-147 and 560. His will was probated July 22, 1797. In it he mentions his wife Patience, brother Elihu, son Nehemiah, and other daughters but none were mentioned by name.

After Mordecai died, his brother, Elihu, married Mordecai's widow, Patience nee Johnson.

Barber, Gertrude, "Abstract of Wills of Washington Co., NY 1788 - 1806, 3 volumes, OCPL:LN48-W27-Bb. Also mentions brother Elihu. Executors: James Hunt, Elihu Chase, George Bowen. Witnesses Asa Rice, Paul Thayer. Note that several other brothers and sisters were known to exist but were not named in the will."

SOURCE: New York Wills; Washington County; Book 1; Pages 144-146; Microfilm # 513,861.

VITALS: New England Historical & Genealogical Register; Volumes 87 & 88.

WILL: Made in 1796; Probated 18 Dec 1797, Washington County, New York.

(1) Rebecca Chase and Amanda Foster
 Birth information from the NEHGR vol 87, 1933 page 46.

Rebecca Burgess nee Chase died in about 1828 probably in Vermont or eastern New York state. She was the mother of seven children born between 1818 and 1827, to wit Sylvia, Benjamin Jr., Nehemiah, Alonzo, Joel, Patience, and Julia. Her husband Benjamin Burgess, moved to western New York state with his six children and there, married Amanda Foster. Benjamin and Amanda had four children.

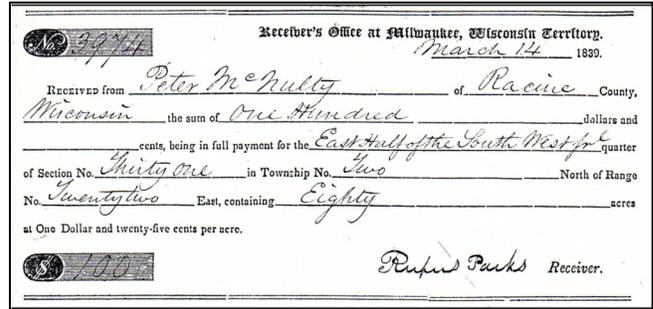
Amanda Foster was the second wife of Benjamin Burgess. Her father was one of the early settlers of Southport. Benjamin and Amanda and their children traveled with her father from western New York state to Wisconsin in 1836. Amanda was listed as head of the household in the 1850 census of the city of Kenosha. Her age was shown as 51. Living with her were her children Martha age 17, Belinda age 15, and Cyris age 11. All were born in New York except Cyris who was born in Wisconsin in 1839.

In 1880, Amanda Burgess was living in the city of Racine, Racine County, Wisconsin next door to her daughter Martha Burgess Ticknor.



From The Photo Album

The photo shown at lower left was found in an envelope in the back of an album from my father. The photo shows the Racine baseball team. Standing second from left is his brother, Clarence Heck.



Shown above is a photo of a receipt that proves that our ancestor, Peter McNulty was actually in the Wisconsin Territory earlier than we originally thought. The receipt is dated March 14, 1839, and it shows that Peter paid \$100.00 for 80 acres of land in present day Kenosha County.

TOWNSHIP No.										RANGE No.		DISTRICT	
DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATS										Acres	Value	Number of Sections	Number of Homesteads
PART OF SECTION	Acres	Value	Range	Section	Acres	Value	Section	Acres	Value				
1/2 Sec 31	80	100.00	22	31	80	100.00	22	31	80	100.00	22	31	80
Peter McNulty													
4 MAR 1839													

Above is a photo of the actual registration of the sale of land to Peter McNulty on 4 MAR 1839. His name is the 7th from the top near the bottom of the photo.

Need Help?

If any of you ever need some help in researching your family history, feel free to stop in at the Family Search Center, located at 9600 West Grange Avenue in Hales Corners, Wisconsin. The Center is located in the Mormon Church building (LDS). Enter at the doors facing West Grange Avenue. I volunteer there every Thursday evening from 6:00pm until 9:00pm. The Center is located a short distance west of the Southridge Shopping Center. My cousin Cheryl Ann Heck is also a volunteer on Thursday evenings. We love to help people.