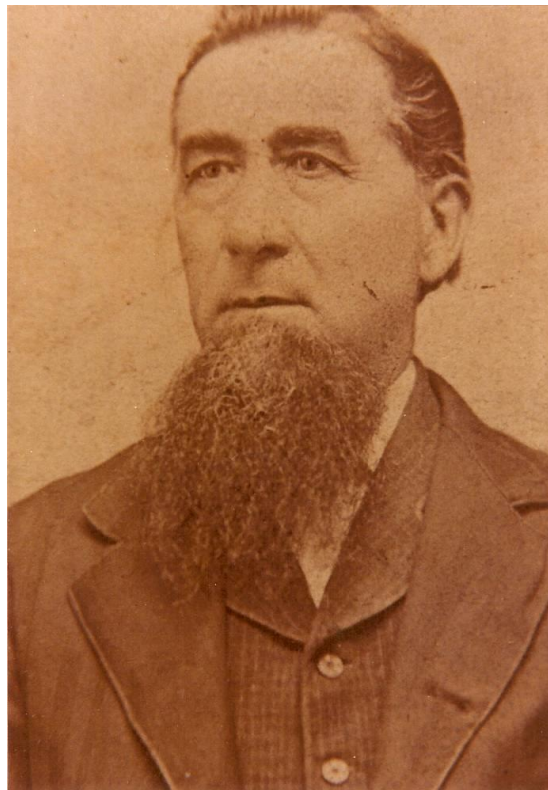


# Becker and Friedrichs Family History

Here is a picture of our great great grandfather, Johannes. Becker, who was born in Prussia in 1824 and immigrated to America about 1850. He married Elizabeth Friedrichs around 1855 and established himself as a Cooper on Gratiot Ave just outside of downtown Detroit, where he plied his trade from 1854 until, shortly before his death in 1905. He supplied barrels and casks for the Union Army during the Civil War. He also fought in the Civil War and was wounded at Gettysburg. He is the father of Sophie Becker Ott, his oldest child, grandfather of Elizabeth Ott Bender and great grandfather of Beatrice Bender Gamache. He did well financially and helped to establish his son John Sr. in a lucrative plumbing business.



**Johannes Becker**  
**1880**

Husband of Elizabeth Friedrichs, Father of Sophie Becker Ott,  
Grandfather of Elizabeth Ott Bender, Great Grandfather of Edward Bender

Here is Elisabeth Becker nee Friedrichs, our great great grandmother. She was born in Germany and immigrated here sometime before 1853. She met and married Johannes (John) Becker Sr. in 1855. She is the mother of *our* great grandmother, Sophie Becker Ott, the grandmother of our grandmother Elisabeth Ott Bender and great grand mother of Beatrice Bender Gamache. Elisabeth loved her family and had a really kid heart toward her children. She took the family of her daughter Elizabeth Becker Booms in when Elizabeth died in childbirth. Great great grandma lived just long enough for that motherless infant to turn 17. And when the family would come to visit she would take them downtown to buy them clothes and shoes. "Die Kinder brauchen Shue" (The children need shoes) was a phrase she could often be heard uttering. Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker died in 1911.



**Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker**

Mother of Sophie Becker Ott, Grandmother of Elisabeth Ott Bender,  
Great Grandmother of Edward Bender

Here is a picture of John H. Becker, the son of Johannes Becker and Elisabeth Friedrichs Becker. He is the brother of our grandmother Sophie Becker Ott. He is also the father of our Grandmother Elizabeth Bender's oldest son, Arthur Francis Bender Sr.. Sophie went back to her parents home for awhile after her husband Wilhelm Ott died. During this time, Art was conceived there at her parent's home. John H had eight children by his wife. One day after he had an affair with a married woman she brought a new born daughter, Adelaide, to him and said, "Here John, she's yours, I can't keep her. My husband told me it's not his and to get that bastard out of his house". John took Adelaide home and his wife raised her. John is also responsible for the "case of the traveling tombstone". His brother in law Wilhelm Ott carved his own tombstone just before he died and had it put on his own grave where it remained from 1893 until after his wife Sophie's death in the 1920s. When Sophie died her kids had to borrow money from John H before they could bury Sophie per the demands of the funeral director. John lent them the money and then went to the cemetery and had Wilhelm Ott's stone removed, saying he was having Wilhelm's newly deceased wife's name added. When the tombstone returned to the cemetery it had John's father's name on it and it was placed on Johannes' grave. Wilhelm's grave remains unmarked to this day.



John H. Becker, son of Johannes & Elizabeth Becker, Father of Estella Becker Reiman



Norman Bender, Stuart Neff, Sophie Becker Ott, Bruce Neff  
1919

Here is a picture of our great grandmother Sophie Becker Ott holding her great grandchild, Bruce Neff. At her feet, the older child at left is our Uncle Norman John Bender, and the young child on the right in the grass is Stuart Neff, the adopted son of Harold and Mildred Neff. This picture was taken in front of the Bender house on Maxwell and Lambert in 1917.

Sophie Becker Ott had a hard life as a married woman. Her husband Wilhelm Ott was still grieving for the loss of his first wife, Elisabeth Braun who died of cancer at the young age of 43 and for his infant son who died earlier in the same year as he lost his wife. After he married Sophie they also lost an infant son and during his entire marriage he was suffering from a severe form of emphysema due to the fact that he was a stone cutter for the firm of Knapp & Knapp, his cousins who talked him into coming to America to work in their building business. The Knapps built many of the buildings in and around downtown Detroit. Wilhelm, as well as many of his Knapp cousins cut the stone from the quarry and formed them for the buildings. The stone dust remained in their lungs, causing them to die a horrible death, often hemorrhaging to death on the living room floor after years of not being able to breathe. As Wilhelm became more and more distressed by not being able to breathe he began to become very angry and took his anger out on Sophie, calling her filthy names and writing filthy things about her on the bedroom wall.





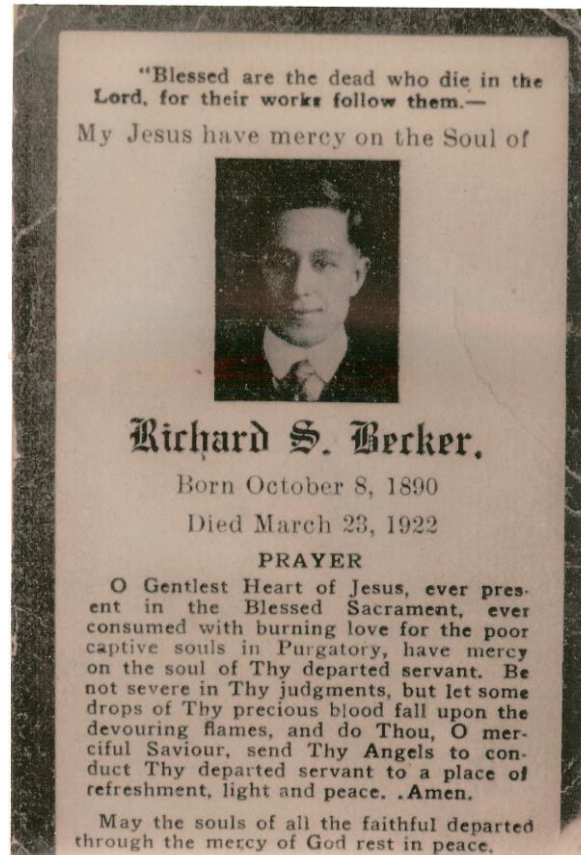
Charles Buehler & Rhea Becker Buehler  
Daughter of John H. Becker

Here is a picture of John H. Becker's daughter, Rhea Becker Buehler. When Rhea was born John H. raised all kinds of hell because she was so dark complexioned. He should have realized by now that the dark complexion came from him as Arthur Bender Sr. had the same dark complexion. Rhea is the sister of Estella Becker Reiman, who is the mother of Father Frederick (Jack) John Reiman, OSM, who has been a missionary in southern Africa since the 1940s.



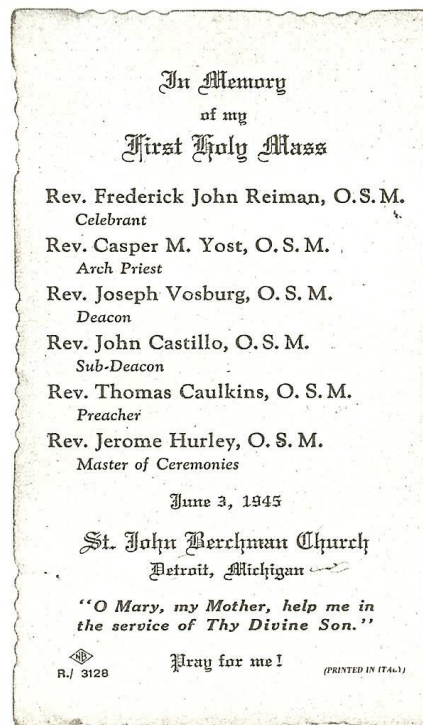
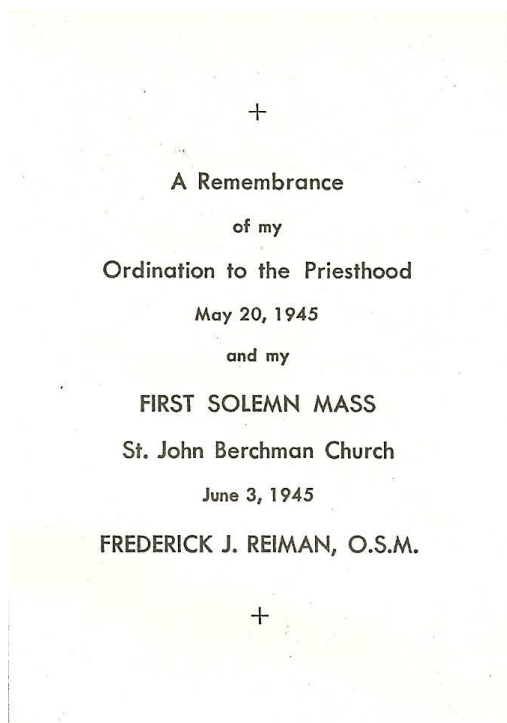
Rhea Becker Buehler, Daughter of John H. Becker Jr.  
1905

Here is another picture of Rhea Becker on her first communion day, around 1905. She is the daughter of John H. Becker, the grand daughter of Johannes and Elizabeth Friedrichs Becker, the niece of our great grandmother. Sophie Becker Ott.



Here is a picture of Richard S. Becker, son of Richard Becker. He was only 32 years old when he died. He went to his parents on Sunday for dinner and when he got there he told them he wasn't feeling well. His mother told him dinner wasn't ready yet so she told him to go lay down in the side bed room and rest and she would come get him when dinner was served. He went and laid down and after awhile they heard a thud against the bedroom wall. They ran into the bedroom and found Richard dead against the side wall next to the bed. His heart had failed him. His Uncle Nicholas also died quite young of the same thing. The cousin I received a lot of Becker pictures from was 53 years old and had already had 5 heart attacks and was nursing her heart. I read several years later in the news paper that she had died of heart failure. Heart trouble runs very strongly in the Becker family. Mild manic depressive problems also exist quite a bit in the Becker line. The Becker line on the other hand is the most financially successful of our forefathers. In 1854 Elizabeth Friedrichs came to the marriage with a building lot she gave to her husband and he purchase many lots adjoining and built up a very successful Cooper trade that he practiced for over 50 years.





Here is a copy of the memorial card of our Becker cousin's ordination to the priesthood. Our cousin, Frederick (Jack) John Reiman was ordained to the priesthood in May, 1945 and said his first Holy Mass at St. John Berchman Church on June 3, 1945. He is the son of Estella (Stella) Becker Reiman, the grandson of John H. Becker, and the great grand son of Johannes Becker and Elizabeth Friedrichs Becker.

Our grandma Elizabeth Ott Bender was very good friends with his mother Stella Reiman and socialized often. They attended many church functions together through the years.

Stella also had a daughter Mildred Reiman Mc Gee who lived in Stella's house on Lakewood and Forest after Stella's death and raised 9 children there. Fr. Reiman stayed there with his sister when he returned to Michigan for a visit.

Since the 1940 Fr. Reiman has been a missionary priest in the south of Africa. He says that he and his little black altar boys leave his home base on Friday afternoon and they walk over 40 miles on foot from Friday to Sunday night, saying mass at many villages along the way. He said that his people there are neatly dressed and well behaved. He said however that he is shocked by the behavior of the blacks he sees in Detroit.





Father Jack Reiman, son of Estella Becker Reiman and his sister Mildred Reiman Mc Gee  
at their first Holy Communion

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Father John Reiman as an altar boy in St. John Berchman's church at Lakewood and Forest in Detroit. Upon graduation from Servite High school he entered the order of the Servants of Mary seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated in June, 1944 and celebrated his first mass on June, 3, 1945 at St. John Berchman's Church on Lakewood and Warren in Detroit, Michigan. He then traveled to South Africa and remained an African missionary with the Servite Order for over 40 years.



Father Jack Reiman, as an altar boy