

# Our Family News Letter

Issue 78

Greendale, Wisconsin

September, 2012

## Vern Friend Celebrates 100 Years



Meet your cousin, Vern Friend. Vern just celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Howard Kansas. He was born on 9 July 1912. Vern is my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin, one time removed. His daughter, Louise Friend Havens, from Winfield, Kansas, is a subscriber to this newsletter and has been for many years.

Vern is a descendant of Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase. Benjamin was born in 1794 in New York State and migrated to Wisconsin in

1836. He and his family operated a saw mill on the Pike River in the Wisconsin Territory. Today the location of the homestead is in Kenosha County, adjacent to Parkside University.

Vern's ancestry is as follows:

Vern Friend born

Wiley M. Friend & Gertie Richardson

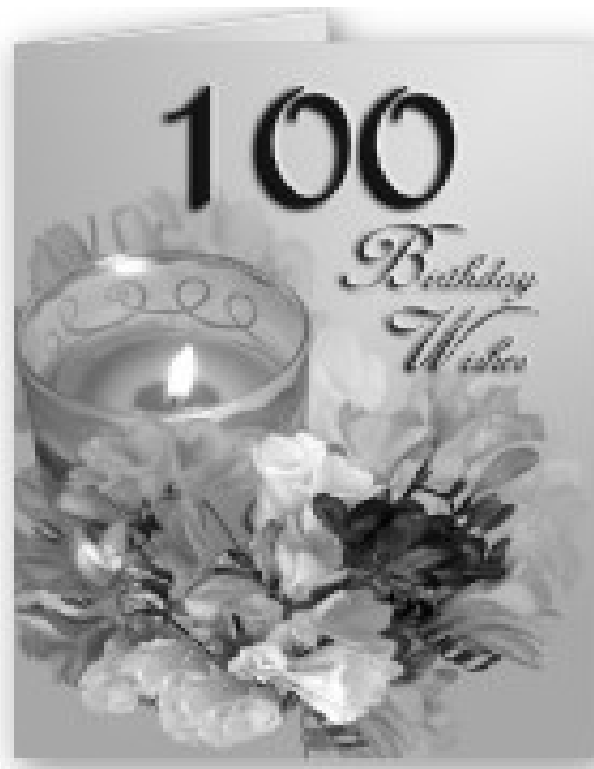
Henry Richardson & Julia Burgess

Nehemiah Burgess & Sophia Woodman

Benjamin Burgess & Rebecca Chase

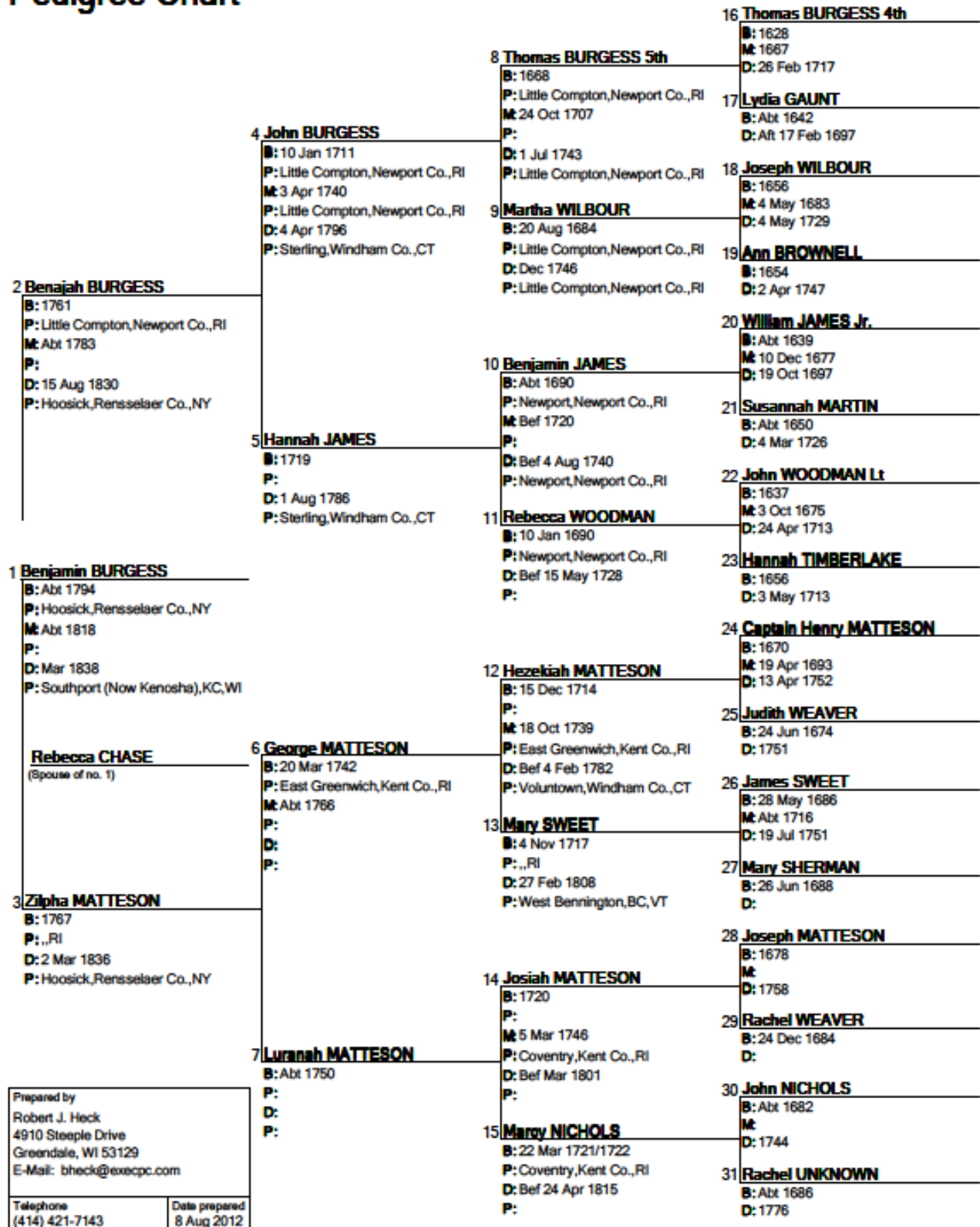
His ancestry going back an additional five generations from Benjamin Burgess and Rebecca Chase is shown on the next page.

Our best wishes go out to Vern for a very Happy Birthday.



# Pedigree Chart

Chart no. 1





**Meet more of your cousins.** The Deloris Kunka Family 2012. Note: John Gibson, in the Brewer shirt, was cloned into this picture and was not present when the group picture was taken.

Beginning on left Sam Christensen, grandson, 18 years old; Patrick Martin, grandson, 24 years old; Carol Gibson, daughter in law; Rachael Gibson, granddaughter, 14 years old; James Gibson, son; Dee Kunka; Bernie Kunka; Kathie Martin, daughter; John Gibson, son; Jim Martin, son in law; Matthew Martin, grandson, 28 years old; Beckie Christensen, daughter; Kevin Christensen, son in law; Sara Christensen, granddaughter, 18 years old. Sam and Sara are twins. Thanks to Deloris for sharing this photo with our readers. If you would like to see a favorite photo in Our Family News Letter, please send me a copy with a left-to-right listing of names and relationships.

## An Article From Louise (Friend) Havens

This is an article I wrote following my father's 100th Birthday celebration at Howard, Kansas.

My father, Vern Friend, is a great-grandson of Nehemiah Ebenezer Burgess and Sophia Woodman.

Nehemiah & Sophia's daughter, Julia Floretta Burgess, married Henry Richardson in Gage Co. NE. Julia & Henry was Vern's grandparents.

Julia & Henry Richardson's daughter Gertrude "Gertie" Richardson married Wiley Friend. Gertie & Wiley were Vern's parents.

My father, Vern Friend, married Florence Armstrong in 1932. They had five children, Melvin, Louise, Phyllis, Harold and Arthur. Phyllis died in February 1994 from cancer and Arthur died in March 2011 from COPD and short-term memory loss. Our mother, Florence, died in November 1979 from cancer.

My father has lived by himself since our mother died. He lives in Howard and I live in Winfield (about an hour's drive between us). I call him every morning and check on him. My brother,

Melvin, lives closer and goes to see him and spends about 2 or 3 hours with him 4 to 5 days a week. He drives him to Eureka a couple times a month to grocery shop and brings him to Winfield for doctor's appointments.

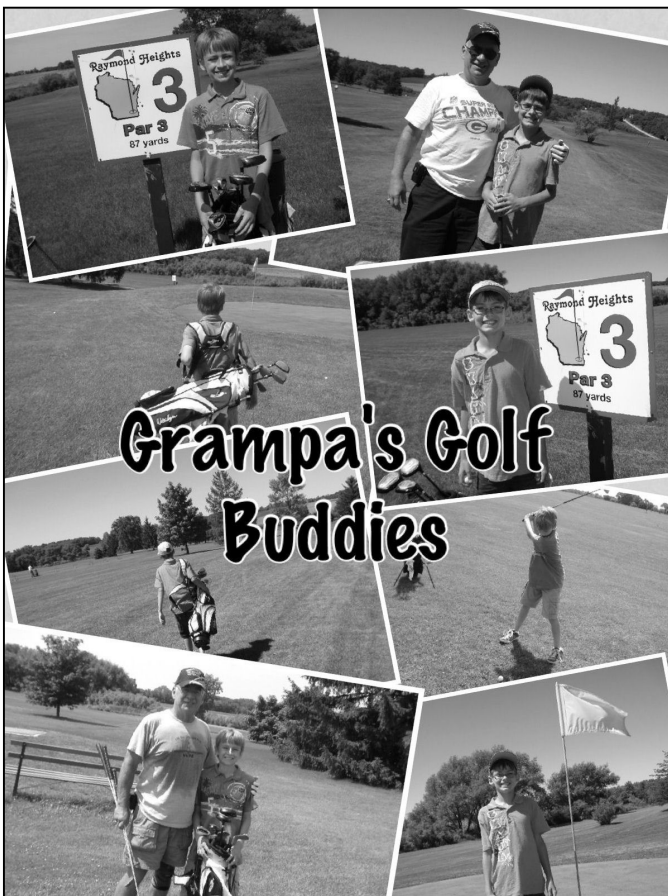
Vern's mind is still very sharp. He is able to get around but his legs are not as strong as they used to be. At our insistence for safety sake, he is now walking with a walker most of the time.

Let me know if you can use this in one of your newsletters.

Louise (Friend) Havens

[LouiseH@cox.net](mailto:LouiseH@cox.net)

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Don Heck, my younger brother, born in 1945, sent in a composite picture of his 2012 golf outing with his two grandsons, Nathan and Nicholas Tappen. Nathan was born in 1999, and Nicholas was born in 2001. Nicholas is shown wearing glasses. Don didn't include the scores but from

the look on his grandson's faces, they must have done quite well. Nathan and Nicholas are the sons of Amy (Heck) and Adam Tappen from Crystal Lake, Illinois.

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## It's A Small World.

Following our July 18<sup>th</sup> Computer – Genealogy meeting at the Milwaukee Personal Ancestral File Users Group, I was putting some of our equipment away when one of our helpers handed me a large cardboard box. I asked what was in the box and the helper stated that one of the members dropped it off for our freebie table. We opened the box and much to my surprise we found nine awards with the name Heitkemper on each.



The above award recognizes Genevieve and Raymond Heitkemper for 23,710 hours of Volunteer Service to Veterans in the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Program. The award was given on 31 July 1994 at Milwaukee.

I have been researching the Heitkemper family for many years since my great-great grandmother, Anna Maria Elisabeth Guthoff, was married 1<sup>st</sup> to Johann Peter Theodor Brueggemann, 2<sup>nd</sup> to Anton Stratmann (my line), and 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friedrich D. Heitkemper.

It turned out that one of our members of our genealogy group works at a thrift shop and brought them to our meeting for our free table. Usually the thrift shop throws out items like this. Normally we make items such as these available for two meetings and then we dispose of them by either throwing them out or donating them to historical societies.

I decided to photograph the items and also to place a notice on Ancestry.com that they were available. A subscriber to Ancestry saw my posting and contacted a lady that she thought was a descendant of the Heitkemper family.

It turned out that the lady that she contacted was JoAnne Heitkemper, the daughter of Genevieve and Raymond Heitkemper. JoAnne is my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin whom I have never met. JoAnne would like to have the nine awards and I'm looking forward to meeting her.

**It IS a small world after all.**

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The Heck Family Picnic in July was well attended this year as usual. Cel Heck asked that I thank everyone who helped set up and helped

clean up when it was finished. She said that helps make our family picnic successful. Next year the picnic will be held on Sunday, July 15, 2013 so be sure to mark your calendar.

One new item introduced at the picnic was the Marvin D. Pfeiffer Memorial Trophy.



Marvin was always active in the family picnic golf outing. The memorial trophy is a fine tribute to him from all of our family. Marvin passed away on March 7, 2012. He would have loved to present the trophy to the winner of the 2012 Heck Family Golf Championship, Don Heck shown at left. Marvin was always in there trying to win the championship.



Pat (Heck) and husband Bob Merritt at the Heck Family Picnic 2012. Pat and Bob are from White Bear Lake, Minnesota.



Carolyn and Alvin Heck at the Heck Family Picnic 2012. Carolyn and Alvin are from Peyton, Colorado.



L-R: Lori Suchla, Shirley Heck, and Joanne Pfeiffer at the Heck Family Picnic 2012.



L-R: Larry and Gene Heck at the 1970 Heck Family Picnic (42 years ago) at Lincoln Field in Racine.

## Captured Images from 8mm Movies

Following are a few images that I captured from an 8mm movie. To put things in perspective, to the left of the dime is one frame from an 8mm movie. I used the computer to enlarge and enhance the image.



The images were taken from an 8 mm movie from my cousin, Bob Heck, the retired New Berlin Fire Chief. He took the movies in Germany in the early 1950's and in New Berlin after he was married to Lorraine.



Bob Heck with a pipe in hand starting a movie tour of his trip from Germany to Rome. Bob probably sent the movie home so that his family could see his trip to Rome.

Turn the page to find out who in the Heck family was a violin player.



L-R: Marjorie, Michael, Lois, and Cheryl Heck (playing the violin), children of Lorraine and Bob Heck from New Berlin, Wisconsin. Cheryl and Lois were sporting plastic hair and that may have had an influence on their musical careers. This photo was made from an 8mm movie clip.



This photo was also made from an 8mm movie clip taken in 1944 at Racine, Wisconsin. The movie was made by my parents, Robert G. and Mary Heck. Gary Heck was standing next to Patricia Carls. Patricia was a neighbor.

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## **Special Thanks to our contributors.**

The following readers sent in contributions to help defray the cost of publishing Our Family News Letter in 2012. . Contributions to help cover the costs are greatly appreciated.

**Frank and Andrea Lamping**

**Bob and Lorraine Heck**

**Alvin and Carolyn Heck**

**Joanne Pfeiffer and Family.**

This newsletter is written and published by

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**Racine Daily Journal, Friday,  
February 28, 1902.**

"Alonzo Burgess, aged 81, one of the pioneers of Kenosha County, and an early resident of Racine County and City, died this morning at his home 1346 College Avenue, after a long sickness."

"Deceased was born in East Bennington, Bennington County, Vermont, August 27, 1820. Five years later he was taken to Oswego County, New York, by his parents, who were farmers. In that County he remained until 1835, when he emigrated to Wisconsin Territory. He located on a tract of land adjacent to the Village of Southport, now Kenosha, March 5, of that year."

Alonzo Burgess was the brother of Patience Burgess McNulty.

# From the Newspapers

Racine Journal Times, Saturday, 23 November 1940, page 6.

## Miss Jeanne Henningfeld Is Bride on Thanksgiving.

A white carpet led to the altar of St. John's Ne-pomuk church which was decorated with white chrysanthemums, ferns and palms Thanksgiving morning in anticipation of the nuptial high mass at which Miss Jeanne Henningfeld, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. George Henningfeld of 2054 Carter Street, became the bride of Charles Jacobs Jr., son of Mr. And Mrs. Charles Jacobs of 1958 Taylor Avenue.



Escorted by her father, the bride, a graduate of Marquette University College of Nursing, wore white slipper satin and a fingertip veil edged in Chantilly lace with a coronet of imported French orange blossoms. In bridal tradition she wore pearls, a gift from the bridegroom, as "something new," carried a crystal rosary for "something old" and tucked a blue flower in her bouquet of white pompons, sweet peas and roses as "something blue."

Rev. A. G. Weiler officiated at the ceremony and Miss Anne Polansky was made of honor.

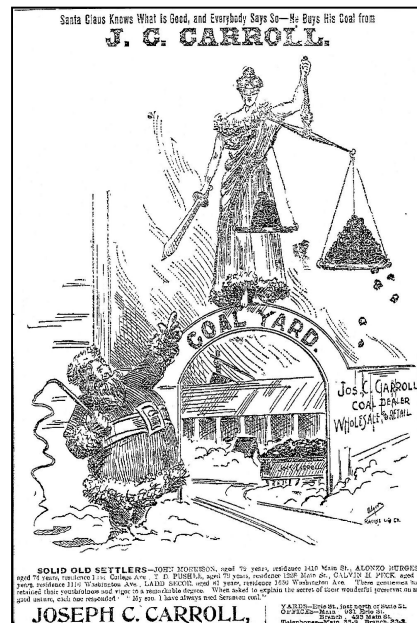
Best man was Robert Jacobs, brother of the bridegroom. George Henningfeld Jr. (Royce) was groomsman and Donald Henningfeld and Norbert Gedemer ushered. The Sisters of St. John's church provided the music.

Dinner was served at Meadowbrook Country Club for 45 and 200 guests were received by the newlyweds from 2 to 5 pm. After a brief wedding trip Mr. And Mrs. Jacobs will be at home at the West Park apartments. Mr. Jacobs is employed by the Hamilton Beach Company.

Parties for the bride were given by Mrs. E. Peterson, Mrs. Margaret Heck and Bernice Heck, Mrs. C. Jacobs, Mrs. G. Henningfeld and Miss Ann Polansky and Mrs. Norbert Gedemer.

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## Truth in Advertising



This ad appeared in the Racine Journal Times on 26 December 1895. The small print at the bottom stated in part, "John Morrison aged 79 years, Alonzo Burgess aged 74 years, T. D. Pushee aged 79 years,

Calvin H. Peck aged 80 years and Ladd Secor aged 81 years, when asked to explain their secret of their wonderful preservation, each stated, My son, I have always used union Coal."