

# BESANCON, INDIANA CHRONICLES

Issue 13

Summer, 2000

## THE HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS CHURCH BESANCON, INDIANA

The sun is just beginning to come up as the traveler turns onto Highway 30, mist rises from the black earth, and in the distance, the steeple of St. Louis rises, beckoning the way to the church doors just as it has for over one hundred and fifty years. The early 1840's French speaking immigrants made up the settlement in Jefferson Township and parts of Jackson and Adams Townships that was known as *Nouveau Gaul* or *Nouvelle France* - "New France". A great many of the settlers were from the region of FRANCE COMTE of Eastern France with the principal city and diocese of Besancon. This area is comprised of the Departments DOUBS, HAUTE SAONE AND VOSGES and across the border of Doubs is Switzerland with it's French speaking CANTON BERNE, now called CANTON JURA.

As the hard-working immigrants developed some of the best farm land in the county, they turned to their spiritual needs, and as early as April 16, 1840 records show that some sort of services were held in private homes. **Rev. A. Besonies** who came regularly from Ft. Wayne, saying Mass in the log house of **Joseph Dodane**. January 14, 1851 four acres of land was donated by **Gideon Dickerson** to **Bishop Maurice de St. Palas of Veincennes**. A small, neat, frame church was built under the patronage of **St. Louis**, medieval king of France. **Messrs. C.F. Lomont** and **Joseph Dodane** bore the bulk of the

expense of the building. After Father **Bessonies** left in 1857, his place was filled by Father **Julian Benoit** who served until 1864. Highly esteemed by the people of St. Louis Parish, a picture of Father Benoit, donated by **Mrs. Frank Henry**, now hangs in the auditorium of St. Louis School. **The Rev Fathers' Grevin, J.C. Carrier, A. de Montaubricq, Vandevannet, and Mignault** served the parish from 1864 to 1870. In 1870, **Rev. A. Adam** became the resident pastor, and it was at this time the settlement became known only by "**Besancon**". The congregation at this time numbered 600, and Father Adam began to the construction on a new, larger, and more substantial church. The parishioners furnished timber for most of the lumber, reportedly much of it was white ash.

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The Besancon Historical Society  
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New Haven, Indiana 46774-9679

Allen County Public Library

Gene Yoquelet, President  
Barbara Gorney, Vice President  
Carlton Giant, Treasurer  
Theresa Martin, Secretary  
Joyce Lomont Crowl, Editor of Chronicles

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On our March 25th meeting, we had the privilege of having **Reverend James Lothamer** as the guest speaker. His subject and presentation was on the "WESTRICK" family, and the unique finds in doing genealogy. This certainly was enjoyed by all who attended. Some people went away with the "burning" flame to continue their family research. Thanks, Father Jim.

By the way, Father Jim donated an entire collection of the "LOTHAMMER FAMILY NEWSLETTER" to the archive library. Jeff Hoffman will put these into one large binder, cataloged and indexed, and placed on the library shelf for all to read and enjoy. A lot of history and family genealogy is compiled in these newsletters.

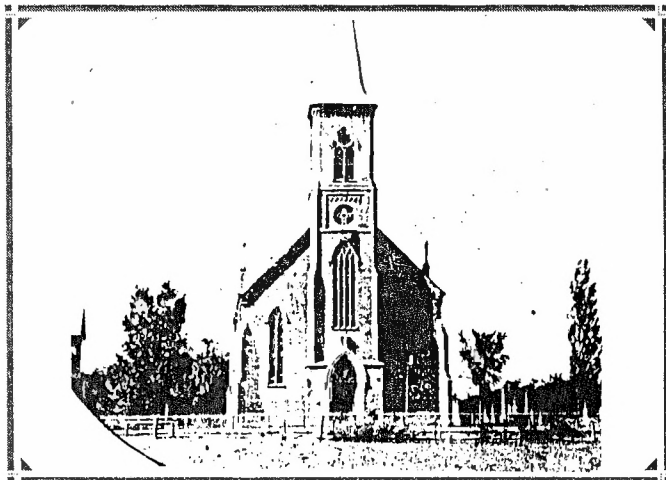
This brings something else to my mind that I would like to address to our subscribers. As you know, The Besancon Historical Society is indeed a non-profit organization. We rely mostly on subscription dues to cover all cost for the given year. Some people make extra cash donations when paying their dues, and we appreciate this. But, as we continue to grow so does our operating expenses. We strive to maintain a given sum in the treasury and the balance is used to operate on in the given year. As we continue to research and add to the archive library this means money for supplies and buying books that may be valuable in doing research. Also, we hope to go with a computer system in the near future. All guest speakers are given a token sum for our appreciation. We are striving to save enough money to publish a couple of books in the near future. Postage and mailing cost continue to increase. So your ten dollar membership (single) goes a long way to meet expenses.

Growth in the society continues in membership as well as the archive library, and still, the same local seven to eight people are doing the work. You, as

a subscriber, who cannot take an active part in the society due to distance or otherwise, can secure the future and growth of this organization by making a monetary donation toward the efforts of this society which is to maintain and preserve the histories and genealogies of the early immigrants of East Allen County. Your monetary donation may be designated by you. It may be put into a trust if you care to do so.

Thank you for your loyal support and interest in the Besancon Historical Society. Our purpose is to preserve something of the past so the future generation may learn and appreciate.

*Sincerely, Gene*



### MISSION of The Besancon Historical Society

#### ARTICLE II - SECTION 2:

The mission of the Besancon Historical Society of East Allen County is to preserve, interpret, and foster a deeper understanding of the history, heritage, and culture of the rural community known as Besancon, Indiana, generally located in Jefferson Township, Allen County, Indiana, and which has as its central focus, St. Louis Catholic Church.

Est.: 1994

## BESANCON FAMILIES

Besides land records and St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church records, the following abstracted records are some the earliest records for those families who settled in Jefferson Township around Besancon. For those who owned their own land, this was an important clue for researcher's to search the grantor and grantee books in the Allen County (IN) Recorder's Office for land records. Whether or not land was owned, another important source to consult is this rural area were the four federal agriculture schedules that were enumerated between 1850 and 1880. These records were abstracted in June/July 1998. They were done to aid genealogists in finding information on their ancestors. The original books are located at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne (IN). **Terri Gorney, CGRS**

### History of Allen County, Indiana (Chicago, Kingman Bros., 1880) p. 185, cool 2. Business Directory of Jefferson Township

Name	Section	Date of Settlement	From	PO Address	Business
Boitel, Francis	15	1849	France	New Haven	Farmer
Butler, Jacob A.	5	1853	Ohio	New Haven	Farmer
Bell, Robert	22	1875	Penn	New Haven	Farmer
Dawkins, H. G.	9	1849	England	New Haven	Farmer
Gladio, Francis		1847	France	Monroeville	Farmer & County Commissioner
Grover, Benj	17	1862	Maine	New Haven	Farmer
Harper, Wm.	5	1834	Ireland	New Haven	Farmer
Hutson, James T.	8	1848	Ohio	New Haven	Farmer
Joly, C. M.	31	1847	France	Maples	Farmer
Lamont, Edw. T.	16	1854	Indiana	New Haven	Farmer & Teacher
Lamont, Francis	16	1850	France	New Haven	Farmer
Linden, G. W.	6	1843	NY	New Haven	Farmer
Martin, Charles	14	1850	Indiana	New Haven	Farmer
Miller, J. P.	35	1848	France	Monroev'le	Farmer
McDougall, T.E.	7	1844	Ohio	New Haven	Farmer
Merillat, August	24	1847	Indiana	New Haven	Farmer
Mapel, Louis S.		1852	Penn	Maples	Farmer and Dealer in and Manufacturer of Lumber
Roussey, Francis	14	1847	France	New Haven	Farmer
Ryan, Patrick	3	1852	Ireland	Gar Creek	Farmer
Rothgel, Daniel	3	1854	Ohio	Gar Creek	Saw Mill Dealer in Lumber and Shingles
Snider, George	26	1841	Penn	Maples	Farmer
Verolt, August	9	1852	Switzerl'nd	New Haven	Farmer

## 1862 ALLEN COUNTY GAZETTEER

The following names and information were transcribed by **Terri Gorney, CGRS** from: S. U. Goodwin's Allen County Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1862 compiled by Jas. C. Beeks (Fort Wayne: Furste and Brothers, Book and Job Printers, 1862).

Jefferson Township was a rural agricultural community in 1862. The only village in the township with a post office was Maples. All residents of the township were listed with a post office of Maples. Maples was a small community of eighty people, situated ten miles southeast of Fort Wayne, on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway. There was one sawmill, a dry goods and grocery store, shoe and blacksmith shop, a couple of physicians, several carpenters and builders and a depot for fruit and ornamental trees. The Justice of the Peace for the township was **Paoli S. Tarr**.

Only those person living in Jefferson Township with a connection to Besancon were abstracted from the gazetteer. The spellings of the names were copied exactly as they were listed in the book.

SURNAME	FIRST	OCCUPATION
Ahinger	C.	laborer
Ahinger	F.	farmer
Ahinger	P.	farmer
Ahinger	U.	laborer
Bell	M.	farmer
Bengnot	C.	farmer
Berthand	L.	laborer
Beugnot	P.F.	
Bouvier	P.	farmer
Bowers	J. Y.	farmer
Bowers	L. H.	laborer
Cline	J.	laborer
Coulardot	S.	farmer
Dodane	J.	farmer
Dupuyson	J. B.	farmer
Gerardot	Anthony	laborer
Gerardot	Alex Jr.	laborer
Gerardot	A.	farmer
Gerardot	C.	laborer
Gerardot	J.	farmer
Gerardot	P.	laborer
Gerardot	S.	farmer
Glodio	F.	laborer
Gladio	P.	farmer
Hugenard	F. X.	farmer
Jackway	J. B.	laborer
Jeanpierre	E.	farmer
Jolley	C. M.	farmer
Lello	F.	laborer
Lombley	U.	laborer
Lomont	A.	laborer
Lourey	A.	laborer
Martin	J.	farmer

Martin	N.	farmer
Mayers	G.	farmer
Merilet	A.	farmer
Meyers	S.	farmer
Minnot	J.	farmer
Monat	E.	farmer
Morelle	J. B.	farmer
Mounier	J. P.	farmer
Palloiz	J. Jr	farmer
Palloiz	J. B.	farmer
Pequenot	F. C.	farmer
Perrot	F.	farmer
Pettit	John J.	farmer
Rondot	A.	farmer
Rorick	J. M.	laborer
Rose	M.	farmer
Rouge	H. W.	farmer
Rousay	A.	laborer
Rousse	F.	farmer
Roy	A.	farmer
Roy	A.	laborer
Roy	J. C.	laborer
Roy		laborer
Russey	F.	laborer
Rupez	X. F.	farmer
Saivott	F. Sr	farmer
Saivott	F. Jr.	laborer
Sasont	G.	laborer
Sausette	F.	farmer
Sordelet	J.	laborer
Terret	C. F.	farmer
Urbine	C.	farmer
Veinot	J.	laborer

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## PURCHASE OF BRONZE PLAQUE FOR ST. LOUIS

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**TO OUR SOCIETY MEMBERS:** Late in 1993 a dedicated group of people worked long and hard to place the St. Louis Besancon Historical District on the “**National Register of Historic Places**”. Documents to support this is now hanging in the reception area of the church office building.

However, the society thought it appropriate to have a designated plaque made for the church building. The plaque will be presented to the church members, and may be placed either on the exterior/interior of the building. The plaque has been ordered and is to read:

**“St. Louis, Besancon and Historical District was placed on the  
National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior, United States  
and donated by the Besancon Historical Society”.**

The actual cost of this plaque is \$238.00. It is bronze and measures 10 inches by 15 inches. I am asking each member of the society to donate four (4) dollars each so this sum may not be taken from the treasury. Please make checks payable to the Besancon Society, indicating plaque fund so your name will be credited to the “Plaque List of Donors”.

Thank you, Gene Yoquelet

*And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them,  
and blessed them. Mark 10:16*

**In memory of former  
Besancon Historical Society Members:**

**MARSHALL LOMONT  
URSULA LOMONT SOCKRIDER  
ALICE GLADIEUX PARNIN  
HELEN MOUREY JACQUAY  
KEVIN MONNIER  
BERNARD MONNIER**





## MARTIN HISTORY and GENEALOGY

*In this issue we continue with families of the Besancon area of Allen County. Three families of Martins are known to immigrant to Indiana in the early 1840's. They are **Nicholas Martin, Claude Charles Joseph Martin and Jean Francois Martin**. It is almost certain that a relationship between the "Martin" immigrants does exist, but to establish a connection would be difficult without family records. It is my guess that Nicholas M. of Jefferson Township may be a nephew to the two Martin immigrants that settled in Lake and Perry Townships. The origin of the "Martin" families are from **Courchaton and Calmoutier; Haute Saone, France**, but the distance between the two villages are not far. The Courchaton Martins came directly to Allen County, while the Calmoutier Martins immigrated to Calmoutier, Ohio first. (Researched by Gene Yoquelet).*

### *Descendants of Nicholas Martin*

*Generation No. 1*

1. **NICHOLAS<sup>1</sup> MARTIN** was born October 13, 1805 in Courchaton, Haute Saone, France, and died October 09, 1852. He married **BONA LAPAILLOTTE (LAPLU)**.

Notes for NICHOLAS MARTIN:

The Immigration Record lists MARTIN, NICHOLAS - Native of France, b., 13 Oct 1805, embark Le Havre, France, 13 March 1842.. Arrived New York, 05 April 1842. B 1- p 482, Allen County, Indiana

First listed in the 1850 census of Lake Township., page 327, # 1232, line 31

Children of NICHOLAS MARTIN and BONA (LAPLU) are:

- i. **MARY<sup>2</sup> MARTIN**, b. 1832, France.
- ii. **NICHOLAS MARTIN**, b. 1838, France.
- iii. **VICTOR MARTIN**, b. 1845, Indiana.
- iv. **MARY ANN MARTIN**, b. 1847, Indiana.

### *Descendants of Claude Charles Joseph Martin*

*Generation No. 1*

1. **CLAUDE CHARLES JOSEPH<sup>1</sup> MARTIN** was born September 09, 1801 in France, and died February 19, 1861 in Allen County, Indiana. He married **ELIZABETH FRANCES MEUNIER** in France. She was born in France.

Notes for CLAUDE CHARLES JOSEPH MARTIN:

Immigration records for MARTIN, CHARLES, - Native of France embark Le Havre, France, on 28 March 1843. Arrived New York, on 22 April 1843 B 1 page 56, Allen County Indiana.

First listed in the 1850 census of Perry Township, page 532, m #2736, line 26

Children of CLAUDE MARTIN and ELIZABETH MEUNIER are:

- i. **AUGUST JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1830, France.
- ii. **CONSTANTIN MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1832, France.
- iii. **ELIZABETH MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1834, France.
- iv. **DELPHIN MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1836, France.
- v. **MARY MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1838, France.
- vi. **JANE MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1840, France.
- vii. **ANN MARTIN**, b Abt 1842,

## *Descendants of Jean Francois Martin*

### *Generation No. 1*

1. **JEAN FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup> MARTIN** of Dept. of Haute Saone, France. He married **MARGUERITE** (unknown) also of France.  
JEAN FRANCOIS MARTIN: Immigration: Holmes County, Ohio

### *Generation No. 2*

2. **NICHOLAS MARCEL<sup>2</sup> MARTIN** (*JEAN FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup>*) was born January 01, 1817 in Dept. of Haute Saone, France, and died Abt. 1856 in Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana. He married **CATHERINE BOUVIER** March 05, 1844 in Holmes County, Ohio. She was born Abt. 1823 in France, and died August 25, 1921 in Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana. Catherine Bouvier 2nd marriage was to **JOSEPH REUILLE**, m: November 25, 1856 in Allen County, Indiana.

Immigration record for MARTIN, NICHOLAS - Native of France arrived New York, May 1835.

Immigrated to Ohio before settling in Jefferson Township, Allen County, Indiana. First listed in the 1850 census of Jefferson Township, page 359, #1466, line 31. Nicholas M. Martin is not listed in the 1860 census for Allen County.

Notes for CATHERINE BOUVIER:

*Obituary for Catherine Bouvier Martin Reuille: (from the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette August 27, 1921)*

Mrs. Catherine Reuille, age 98 years, died at the home of her son, Charles Martin, at Besancon, Thursday afternoon from infirmities of old age. She was born in France and came to America while in her girlhood. She moved to the home of her son near Besancon in 1915 where she has since made her home. She is survived by two sons: **Charles Martin** and **Peter Reuille**, of Besancon; two daughters: **MRS. HONORA MARTIN** and **MRS. MALINDA HUGUENARD** of Ft. Wayne; forty grandchildren and 69 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Funeral services will be held from the Martin residence on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 P.M. and at 2:00 P.M. from the Lutheran Church at New Haven. Burial in the Lutheran Cemetery at New Haven.

Children of NICHOLAS MARTIN and CATHERINE BOUVIER are:

- i. **JAMES EUGENE<sup>3</sup> MARTIN**, b. January 07, 1845, Calmoutier, Holmes County, Ohio; d. December 09, 1879, Allen County, Indiana. Nickname: **Lucien**. Interment: St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, Besancon, Indiana
- ii. **AUGUST C. MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1847, Calmoutier, Holmes County, Ohio; d. May 03, 1911, Allen County, Indiana. m: MARY BARDIN.  
Interment: St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, Besancon, Indiana
- iii. **CHARLES FRANCOIS MARTIN**, b. Abt. 1850, Calmoutier, Holmes County, Ohio; d. February 06, 1929, Allen County, Indiana. m: MARY DIDER, May 01, 1877, St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon.
- iv. **MELANIE MARTIN**, b. 1852, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; m. AUGUST HUGUENARD, June 21, 1870, St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, Indiana.
- v. **HONORA NICHOLAS MARTIN**, b. September 23, 1854, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. April 03, 1936, Allen County, Indiana. m: EUGENIA DODANE, May 22, 1883, St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon. Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana. (Honora and Julian were twins)
- vi. **JULIAN A. MARTIN**, b. September 23, 1854, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. September 03, 1916, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; m. LOUISE HUGUENARD, February 18, 1879.  
Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana.

Generation No. 3

3. **CHARLES FRANCIS<sup>3</sup> MARTIN** (*NICHOLAS MARCEL<sup>2</sup>, JEAN FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup>*) was born Abt. 1850 in Calmoutier, Holmes County, Ohio, and died February 06, 1929 in Allen County, Indiana. He married **MARY DIDIER** May 01, 1877 in St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, Indiana, daughter of **VICTOR DIDIER** and **LUCY BARBARET**. She was born 1858 in Allen County, Indiana, and died 1933.

Children of **CHARLES MARTIN** and **MARY DIDIER** are:

- i. **JULIE LOUISE<sup>4</sup> MARTIN**, b. January 23, 1879; d. May 29, 1951; m. **LOUIS GERARDO**, January 23, 1900, St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, Indiana; b. October 07, 1866, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana.
- ii. **CLARA ALICE MARTIN**, b. November 10, 1880, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana, d. December 1880. Interment: St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, Besancon, Indiana
- iii. **CHARLES LOUIS MARTIN**, b. October 08, 1882, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; m. **ORMA F. ROY**, June 22, 1905, Allen County, Indiana.
- iv. **EUGENE CLARENCE MARTIN**, b. July 07, 1887, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; m. **JULIET E. HENRY**, November 22, 1910.
- v. **LUCY ELLEN MARTIN**, b. May 12, 1893, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. 1969, Allen County, Indiana; m. **F. HERSCHAL JACQUAY**, January 21, 1913, Allen County, Indiana. Nick name: *Ella L.*
- vi. **BERNARD FRANCIS MARTIN**, b. October 16, 1898, Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. December 02, 1962; m. **MARY ELLEN MALOY**, June 07, 1927. Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana.

4. **HONORA NICHOLAS<sup>3</sup> MARTIN** (*NICHOLAS MARCEL<sup>2</sup>, JEAN FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup>*) was born September 23, 1854 in Jefferson Twp., Allen County, Indiana, and died April 03, 1936 in Allen County, Indiana. He married (1) **EUGENIA DODANE** May 22, 1883 in St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, Indiana, daughter of **FRANCOIS DODANE** and **MARY MONNOT**. She was born August 24, 1862 in Stark County, Ohio, and died October 08, 1916 in Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana. He married (2) **MARY J. HANLEY** January 02, 1924. (Honora and Julian were twins.) Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana

Notes for **EUGENIA DODANE MARTIN**:

*Obituary for Thursday, October 12, 1916 (paper not mentioned)*

Mrs. **HONORA MARTIN** Martin, died Sunday at her home in Jackson Township, three miles north of MONROEVILLE, at the age of fifty-three years. The Deceased was born at Arisburg, Ohio, October 20, 1862 and came to Indiana when two years of age. Surviving besides the husband are four sons: **EDWARD, FRANK**, and **HONORA**, at home, and **PETER**, residing near MONROEVILLE; five daughters, Mrs. **JANE BLUST** of Ft. Wayne, Mrs. **SOPHIA URBINE**, of Monroeville, Mrs. **IDA OETTING** of Ft. Wayne, and Mrs. **LENA JOHNELL** of Ft. Wayne; and **ROSE** at home. There are also two brothers, **PETER** and **AMIDA DODANE**, both of Ft. Wayne; five sisters, Mrs. **EMMA BERCOT** of Cleveland; Mrs. **CATHERINE CHOLLEY** of Louisville, Ohio, Mrs. **ELIZABETH AREND** of Cecil, Ohio; Mrs. **LOUISE VUILLEMEN** and Mrs. **FELICIA BARDY** of Sheldon; seven grandchildren.

Funeral was held Wednesday from St. Rose Catholic Church, Monroeville with interment at Catholic cemetery east of the city.

Children of **HONORA MARTIN** and **EUGENIA DODANE** are:

- i. **EDWARD HONORA<sup>4</sup> MARTIN**, b. February 06, 1886, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. April 20, 1944. Nick name: *Louis* Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana
- ii. **PETER ARMAND MARTIN**, b. February 06, 1886, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. March 10, 1974, Allen County, Indiana; m. **MAYME M. MINNICK**, May 09, 1911, Allen County, Indiana. Nick name: *Herman*. Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana



- iii. **FRANCOIS CHARLES MARTIN**, b. April 08, 1887, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. April 02, 1959, Ft. Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; m. **BERTHA ROSE HOFFMAN**, May 30, 1922, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Hessen Cassel, Allen County, Indiana. Interment: St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Hessen Cassel, Allen County, Indiana
- iv. **ELISA MARIAM EUGENIA MARTIN**, b. August 02, 1888, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. May 20, 1977, Ft. Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; m. (1) **FRANK J. BLUST**, August 14, 1909, Ft. Wayne, Indiana; m. (2) **WILLIAM SCHOPPMAN**, 1922; m. (3) **JOSPEH P. PONYARD**, December 02, 1939. Interment: Ft. Wayne Catholic Cemetery, Allen County, Indiana
- v. **ALINE HELEN MARTIN**, b. June 08, 1890, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. July 02, 1978, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; m. **OSCAR LOUIS URBINE**, June 08, 1910, St. Rose Catholic Church, Monroeville, Indiana. Nick name: *Sophia* Interment: St. Rose Catholic Cemetery, Monroeville, Indiana
- vi. **ADELA CLARICA MARTIN**, b. September 01, 1891, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. November 23, 1934, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; m. **HERMAN W. OETTING**, May 02, 1916, Allen County, Indiana. Nick name: *Ida* Interment: Ft. Wayne Catholic Cemetery, Allen County, Indiana More About **HERMAN W. OETTING**: Interment: Concordia Lutheran Cemetery, Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- vii. **HONORA LEON MARTIN**, b. January 14, 1894, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. November 04, 1968, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; m. **URSULA C. HOFFMAN**, June 22, 1921, St. Joseph Catholic Church, Hessen Cassel, Allen County, Indiana. Interment: St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery, Hessen Cassel, Indiana
- viii. **CELINA JUSTINE MARTIN**, b. August 13, 1897; d. July 02, 1981; m. (1) **WILLIAM JOHNNELL**; m. (2) **CHARLES MIRACLE**; m. (3) **KARL H. AUSTRUP**; m. (4) **LLOYD KIMMEL**. Nick name:: *Lena* Interment: Ft. Wayne Catholic Cemetery, Allen County, Indiana
- ix. **ROSE CATHERINE MARTIN**, b. October 10, 1900, Jackson Twp., Allen County, Indiana; d. June 11, 1991, Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana; m. (1) **ELMER ELLET**; m. (2) **FRANK DOWNS**; m. (3) **CLARENCE MEREDITH**. Interment: St. Rose Catholic



MARTIN FAMILY -1897

This picture was taken in front of the Honora Martin home on Martin Road (just off US 30 in Jackson Township.) The house is still standing and looks structurally similar to this picture. Eight of the nine children are in the picture. Rose was not born until 1900.

Honora Leon, Frank Charles, Peter Armand, Honora Edward, Honora Nicholas, Eugenia Dodane, Celine Justine (baby), Elisam Mariam Eugenia, Aline Helena, and Adela Clarica.

*photo courtesy of Theresa Martin.*



**MRS. EUGENIA DODANE MARTIN 1862-1916**  
*(1st wife of Honora) photos courtesy of Theresa Martin*



**Mr. and Mrs. Honora Nicholas Martin (about 1922)**  
**MARY COURDEVEY HANLEY (2nd wife of Honora)**

**Martin Immigrants, date of arrival to America and Country of Birth.**

Name	Arrival date in USA	Birth Date	Country
Nicholas Marcel	05/ /1835	01/01/1817	France
Nicholas	04/05/1842	10/13/1805	France
August Joseph	03/28/1843	1830	France
Claude Charles Joseph	04/22/1843	09/09/1801	France
Anthony	10/29/1860	1838	France
H. W.	09/ /1867	1861	Germany
Paul	02/21/1886	07/19/1867	Switzerland
Terrence	06/29/1868	1850	Italy
Frederick	06/12/1869	1841	Germany

**QUERIES**

*If you have a question about BESANCON or are researching a family member of the area please send all queries to Gene Yoquelet, 15533 Lincoln Highway, East New Haven, IN 46774. Include as much information (names and dates) that you can about the ancestor or ancestors you are researching.*

**FAMILY STORIES**

*Do you have a family story you would like to share? Perhaps a picture of long ago, or a letter written by a great-grandmother? An authentic French recipe? Your connection to Besancon is interesting to all of us. Please send us your story or pictures to: Joyce Lomont Crowl, 5036 Abbey lane, Shelby Twp., MI. 48316*

### "the first day of the census"

It was the first day of the census, and all through the land each pollster was ready...a black book in hand.

He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride, his book and some quills were tucked close by his side. A long winding ride down a road barely there, toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the air.

The woman was tired, with lines on her face and wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place. She gave him some water...as they sat at the table and she answered his questions....the best she was able.

He asked of her children, Yes, she had quite a few - the oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.

She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red, his sister, she whispered, was napping in bed. She noted each person who lived there with pride, and she felt the faint stirring of the wee one inside. He noted the sex, the color, the age....the marks from the quill soon filled up the page.

At the number of children, she nodded her head and saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead. The places of birth she "never forgot" was it Virginia? or Ohio? or not? They came from Scotland.. of that she was clear, but she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such, they could read some...and write some...though really not much.

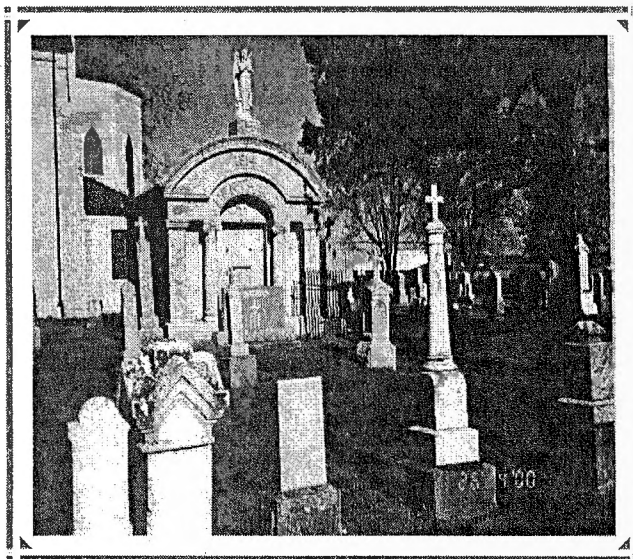


When the questions were answered, his job there was done, so he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun. We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear, "May GOD bless you all for another ten years."

Now picture a time warp...its' now you and me as we search for the people on our family tree. We squint at the census and scroll down so slow as we search for that entry from long, long ago. Could they only imagine on that long ago day that the entries they made would effect us this way?

If they knew would they wonder at the yearning we feel and the searching that makes them so increasingly real. We can hear if we listen the words they impart through their blood in our veins and their voices in our heart.

- Author unknown - received on Internet from Cheryl Arver.



St. Louis Cemetery  
Berthaud Family Mausoleum in background.

ZULU (from the Journal Gazette January 4, 1909)....A great gray wolf terrorizes people in Jefferson township seen by Elmer Urbine.

## *St. Louis Church (cont)*

The bricks were burnt a few rods from where the church stands.

The financial records of the parish at that time gives some interesting facts. Subscriptions were taken up as early as 1868. The July report of 1869 donations for a new church is signed by **F. Lomont, More Pepe, Louis Berthaud, Lester Gladio, Theodore Navert, Nicholas Lorraene**, Secretary: **F.A.Roy** as Trustees . The yearly report, signed November 2, 1869 receipts of \$281.25 and expenditures of \$154.89, and a balance of to which was added a \$10.00 subscription for the new church. The annual report was signed by **F. Lomont, Joseph Dodane, Louis Berthaud, Francis Gladio, J. B. Dupreyron, More Pepe, N. Lorraine**, Secretary: **F. A. Roy** and (at that time) **Father A. Mignault**.

It is noted that **H.C. Bowers** was paid \$22.86 for lumber on October 1, 1869 and the following gifts were received for the new church in 1869. Nov 21, **A. Mignault** (the pastor) \$92.85; Dec 3, **Alpone Lomont** \$10.00; Dec 12, **J. B. Douparon** \$10.00, Dec 19, **John Dinam**, \$12.50; Nov 1, **Lester Gladio**, \$6.19, Father Adam signed the following entry, July 27, 1869 "*Received from Alexis Monnier six dollars and 25/100, being the first installment of his subscription for the new church*".

Father Adam found a unique way to collect funds for the building of the new church. He asked the head of each family to raise a calf until the age of three years with the proceeds going to the church. Father Adam branded each calf at the time of birth, and on a given date a public sale was advertised, and the buyers came from far and wide. The sale of these cattle netted over \$3000.

The cornerstone was laid in 1871, after being built by **Frank Sallier**. It is interesting to note the new church was built around the little log church so the people could continue to attend Mass. When the new building was complete enough for Mass to be held there, the old church was dismantled and carried out in pieces.

St. Louis today looks much the same as it did in 1871. A brick church, it was later

covered by a process called "sham rocking" which gives the building a look of stone.

We can not go any further in our story of St. Louis without mention of the beautiful leaded glass windows. Because the early parishioners thought beauty was important for their place of worship, many people donated extra funds for these windows.

In 1994, The Besancon Historical Society organized the project of the restoration of the windows, the generosity of descendants of the original donors and all people interested was outstanding. A rededication of the windows was held February 11, 1996. A tribute to the families whose faith and spirit carries on today.

St. Louis continues to watch over the small community. It has seen many changes: from the time the early trail in front of the church was once known as Ridge Road/Sugar Ridge Road to Lincoln Highway, and now U.S. 30. The beautiful old trees, the surrounding buildings consisting of the 2 1/2 story Queen Anne rectory, built in 1893, the St. Louis academy, built in 1915. The recreation hall, built in 1948 and the St. Louis convent house built in 1915 provided the viewer with a sense of history. On all sides the rich farm lands extend as far as the eye can see, broken only with the lovely homes of the area.

One of the most interesting sites of the complex is the Old St. Louis Cemetery. It predates the church, and records show some graves were covered when the 1870 church was built. The cemetery sits close to the church, much like you would find in the Old World. Many of the stones are in the French language. The cemetery is no longer used for burials; a "newer" cemetery was opened in 1918 just down the road from the church. A small picket fence, lovely gardens and pine trees give the feeling of a true rural hamlet.

The twilight deepens, a song bird calls, if you wait, quietly, you can feel the strength and faith of these immigrants who traveled so far, and gave so much of their lives for us. The spirit of St. Louis is passed on. (excerpts from: "*The Historical Sketch of St. Louis*" 1948-1983(updated), "*The French in Indiana*" by Aurelle Violette, "*Windows of the Past*", "*The Diocese of Fort Wayne -1857 -1907*" and contributions by Gladys Nail Lomont, Joyce Lomont Crowl and Gene Yoquelet).

**Saint Louis de Besancon 1868**

**Registre des comptes concernant cette mission. NOMS des souscripteurs pour les nouvelles reparation**

BOITEUX, Francois  
BOITEUX, Francois  
BAILLEY, Francois  
BOITEUX, Louis  
BOWERS, Carl  
BOISSENET, Pierre  
BOISSENET, Charles

COCHOIT, Joseph  
COMMENT, Joseph  
CONVERSET, M.  
COLLIN, Joseph  
COULARDOT, Etienne  
CUNIN, Francois

DIGAN, Jean  
DART, Charles  
DODANE, Joseph  
DIDIER, Alexis  
DUPERYON, Bertrand  
DOUSSEAU, Francois  
DUPONT, Laurent  
FEVRIER, Severin  
FRANE, Fr.

GIRARDOT, Charles  
GIRARDOT, Alexis  
GLADIEUX, Celestin  
GIANT, Marguerite  
GALLIPOO, Joseph  
GROSJEAN, Francois  
GAUTHIER, Jean Baptist  
GIANT, Joseph  
GLADIEUX, Francois  
GIRARDOT, Louis  
GIRARDOT, Alexis, Sr.  
GRISEY, Pierre  
GREMEAUX, Ursule  
GIRARDOT, Jules  
HAVERT, Theodore  
HUGUENARD, Jean Pierre  
HUGUENARD, Felicien

JOLY, Charles  
JACQUAY, Jean Baptist  
KREMER, Florent

LORAIN, Jean  
LORAIN, Nicolas  
LAMBOLEY, Eugene  
LOMONT, Alphonse  
LOMONT, Francois  
LOSOTTE, George  
LOMONT, Seraphin  
LOMONT, Claude Francois  
LOSOTTE, Jean Baptist

MALDENEY, Pierre  
MANUEL, Joseph  
MOUREY, Paul  
MOREL, M.  
MONNOT, Pierre  
MARTIN, Auguste  
MERILLAT, Jean  
MAIRE, Pierre  
MONNIER, Alexis  
MONNIER, Jean Pierre  
MONNOT, Eugene

PEPE, Auguste  
PERRIGUEY, F.  
PERNOT, Constant  
PETITJEAN, Jacques  
PIO, Marie  
PIO, Justin  
PEQUIGNOT, Francois  
POIGNET, Joseph  
PEPE, Marc

REUILLE, Joseph  
REUILLE, Jean Claude  
ROY, Alexandre  
REUILLE, Adolphe  
ROUSSEL, Francois  
ROUSSEL, Auguste  
ROUSSEL, H.  
ROSE, Maurice, Sr.  
ROSE, Maurice, Jr.  
RICHARD, Christophe  
REUILLE, Adolph  
ROY, Jean Baptist

STUTZ, Joseph  
SORDELET, Jacques

SAVIO, Michel  
SORDELET, Louis

TERNET, Francois  
TOWNSEND, George

URBAIN, Casiair

VOIROL, Louis  
VENDERLY, George, Sr.  
VILLEMAIN, August  
VIOLAN, Joseph  
VENDERLY, Julian  
VERDEY, Theophile  
VENDERLY, George, Jr.  
VOIROL, Jules  
VOIROL, Florent

Nons concernat les construction:  
1868

ADAM, A. (Rev)  
BERTHAUD, Louis  
COCHOIT, Joseph  
DUPEYRON, Betraud  
DELAGRANGE, Francois  
DODANE, Joseph  
DUPEYRON, Jean Baptist  
FREMIN, Joseph  
FEVRIER, Prospere  
GRISEY, Pierre  
GLADIEUX, Lester  
GLADIEUX, Francis  
HAVERT, Theodore  
LOMONT, Francois  
LORAIN, Nicolas  
MOUREY, Jean Baptist  
MONNIER, Pierre  
MONNOT, Eugene  
MIGNAULT, A. (Rev)  
PEQUIGNOT, Claude Francois  
PEPE, Marc  
ROSE, Maurice  
add: 1870  
CAYOT, Pierre  
SIMMONIN, Jules  
STALDER, Pierre  
SALLOT, August  
SOINET, Jean (Soignet?)

# reflections

from the Journal Gazette - June 3, 1914

## BESANCON NEWS

A large class of children received their solemn and private communion at the St. Louis Catholic Church at this place on Sunday. They are the following: **Loretta Hamman, Pearl Gladieux, Mary Reynolds, Garnet Girardot, Florence Girardot, Blanche Sordelet, Ethel Girardot, Loratta Girardot, Gladys Gromeaux, Florence Converset, Clarabel Ryan, Luetta Bolyard, John Burke, Cletus Reuille, Clyde Gladieux, Raymond Lothamer, Oscar Lothamer, William Girardot, Elmer Girardot, Clement Henry, Cyril Ort, Sylvester Ryan, Cornelius Kennerk, and Paul McCormick**, and the following received their private communion: **Ida McCormick, Clara Burke, Bernadette Girardot, Mildred Girardot, Paulin Murphy, Lucille Rousey, Viola Voirol, Hildred Kennerk, Ralph Begue, Louis Cherillot, Clarence Cayot, Ralph Girardot, Ralph Gladieux, Raymond Murphy, Alton Oberley, Brown Ryan, Theodore Roussey, Narcia Reuille, Floyd Venderley and Florent Voirol**.

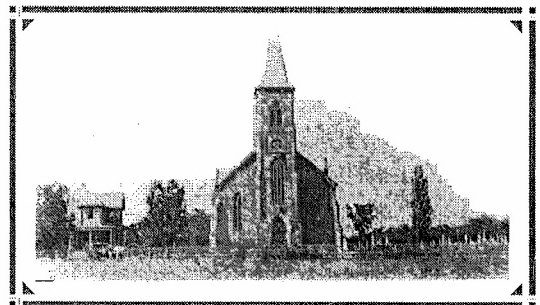
from the Journal Gazette - May 12 1907

## BESANCON NEWS

The following members of St. Louis church at this place were at Hartford City last week attending a fair given by the **Rev. John Noll**, formerly pastor at Besancon: **Anna Voirol, Laura Roussey, Rose Lomont, Rose Rorick, Clara and Lizzie Pepe, Lillie Ternet, and Mary Shloin** of New Haven.

Readers of the past issue enjoyed the article by **Gladys Nail Lomont** on growing up in Maples, Indiana and the description of her father's general store. Her book, "**MY LIFE**", can be found on a shelf in the Besancon Archive library. In it she accounts more of growing up in the small town and one of her greatest fears during those store years was a visit from a band of gypsies. *"How we dreaded to see them come to town, for brother, that meant trouble! The women were usually dressed in loose garments of gaudy colors. They wore lots and lots of jewelry of every description, especially bracelets and necklaces. The problem was you could not trust them and they were everywhere at once - pilfering everything they could get their hands on - candy, tobacco, dried goods, and what have you. If we knew in time we locked the door and hid until they left town!!"* You will enjoy reading more about the **Nail** pioneer family who lived and worked in a small town in Indiana.

Easter held a special meaning for the **Wilbur (Bill) Pepe** and **Allen Lomont** families this year. The old iron kettle owned by two families that for years was used for the butchering now has a permanent place in the St. Louis cemetery. It was filled with wood, and used for the eve of the Easter vigil fire. The rest of the year the kettle will be filled with beautiful flowers in keeping with the seasons.



ST LOUIS CHURCH (brick) about 1900



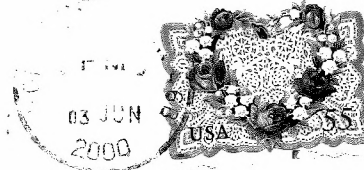
*IN REMEMBRANCE*  
*ALICE GLADIEUX PARNIN*  
*January 5, 2000*

*Alice Parnin was a loyal supporter of Besancon Historical Society. She was proud of her French heritage. She will be missed.*

*Reminiscing about: ...by Alice Gladieux Parnin*

- ♦ *how my younger brother lay down between the tracks of the interurban to see if the train could clear him as it over him...then, how the conductor stopped and chased him half way home....and gave up and went back in order to keep the train on schedule.*
- ♦ *how my sister and I found the keys to one of our brother's new car, a Whippet, while he was out in the fields, disking. Of course, we went by with the horn blowing, as he stopped and we drove into Zulu and back. We were only about 8 and 12 years old, the keys were never left in that spot again!!*
- ♦ *how one of my brothers painted his name on the slate roof in four-foot high letters so the airline pilots could be able to see where he lived. Of course, it was oil-based paint in those days!!*
- ♦ *how my Dad used home made soap to fry the potatoes instead of lard one night when Mother was in the hospital....Yuck!!*
- ♦ *how the fun would go on as we had thrashing and butchering days, and Aunt Jen would come to help from New Haven.*
- ♦ *how the Sunday paper was left at the church shed by the Interurban conductor. My brother, Mike would ride bare-back on our horse "Prince" to get it. One time he brought the neighbor's paper also.....Only he forgot to tell the horse! Prince made a left-hand turn at our road and Mike didn't. He landed in the ditch.*
- ♦ *how the boys would "fish" over the roof of the pigpen with an ear of corn for bait, and the pigs would jump up after it. Luckily, not a pig broke a leg before Dad found out what was going on!*
- ♦ *how one Saturday night the storm blew the stove pipe out of the kitchen and that threw soot all over the white shirts that were ready to be worn for church the next morning!*
- ♦ *how my Mother and Dad lived to a ripe old age with 12 kids to raise I will never know!!*
- ♦ *how much fun we had later on in life at our reunions!!*

Besancon Historical Society  
15533 Lincoln Highway East  
New Haven, IN 46774



Allen Co. Library Historical and Genealogical Div.  
900 Webster Street  
Fort Wayne IN 46802-3966  
attn.: Mary Lou Clegg

*In this issue: "MARTIN History and Genealogy"*

**HIDDEN TREASURES:** On the bottom shelf of the library of the archives of Besancon are two black three-ring binders overlooked by some of the researchers. These have been indexed and are the clippings of births, engagements, weddings, reunions and obituaries of many people associated with Besancon. Collected over the years, or donated by various members they offer a wealth of information for people searching for their roots. The oldest engagement (with picture) is of **Clement J. Lomont** of Ft Wayne and **Emily Allen** of Logansport who were married on May 2, 1906. A 1936 wedding (also with picture) of **Marguerite Dager** and **Homer Stephenson** write-up is just one of the wedding articles. It is fascinating to see the fashions of the day, and read the guest lists of these events. The reunions give us another chance to find names of long-lost relatives. A 1910 anniversary article featuring **Mr. and Mrs. George W. Townsend** of Jefferson Twp who celebrated their golden wedding celebration listed all the people present - over **250 guests!!** A description of the cake and activities are here! If you have a article you would like to have placed in these special files please make a copy and send it to Gene Yoqulete,

*In this issue:*

<i>History of St. Louis Church</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>1862 Allen County Gazetteer</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Martin Genealogy</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>"Reminiscing" by Alice Gladieux Parnin</i>	<i>15</i>