

# BESANÇON, INDIANA CHRONICLES

Issue 16

Spring, 2001

## A Family, A Church, A Community

Come with me, it will only take a few minutes of your time. Share with me a story of a woman like many women you know, a strong woman devoted to family, her faith and a lifetime of giving to her community. The drive is not long, down a fast moving highway; on each side old farm homes, standing proud and tall. The newer, smaller homes seem to be out of place in the corners of the rich farm land of the county. The church steeple of Saint Louis Catholic Church leads the way, the sign points to Besançon, you know you are almost there. The road sign says Girard Road, and you see the trees, the farm buildings, and the great two story house. The drive way is short, tall trees, grass clipped neat. The barns are new, equipment and men busy. The house sits quiet. One side is evidence of last year's garden. In back, rows of peonies will soon be pushing through the Spring's warm soil, tall lilac bushes, bird feeders, a clothes line. Listen, can you hear the voices? Long ago voices, over a hundred and fifty years ago, family voices of the **Lomonts** who have lived on this land.

Open the door, a long family room, obviously added on with a fireplace at one end. A huge easy chair, books, and pictures. Another door - to the kitchen. The heart of this woman. A table in the middle, always with flowers. The refrigerator covered with pictures - baby pictures, wedding pictures, family pictures. In the corner a small chair, by the window, and here sits the woman: **Gladys Nail Lomont**. A ready smile, a warm greeting: somehow she makes you feel like you have 'come home'. That you are the most special person she will meet that day.



Gladys Nail was born on August 7, 1903 near the railroad town of Maples, Indiana. The fourth child **John W. and Juliette Coulardot Nail**, Gladys came from a busy and loving family. Her father had taught school for two years, then in 1892 bought the general store with the post office in Maples. He continued this business for some thirty-two years. Gladys has related some of the stories of growing up, and working in the little country store in one of our issues of the Chronicle and gives a true picture 'into days gone by'.

GENEALOGY DEPT.

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## President's Message

**To: GLADYS NAIL LOMONT (BHS Lifetime Member)**

**From: Eugene E. Yoquelet (BHS President)**

Gladys, we the members of the Besançon Historical Society, wish to dedicate this issue of the "Chronicle" newsletter to you and the LOMONT family. The members wanted to do something special to honor you for all your work, efforts, dedication, interest and support to help bring the society into a reality and functional as a group of people who has the desire and interest in preserving the histories and genealogies of our east Allen County families particularly, those of "French" descent.

We honor you and all the early founders of the society for making it the type of organization it now is. We have grown from one room to four rooms which includes a photo gallery to two libraries and a office/computer room. We now have a large audience of subscribers to the "Chronicles" and people making inquires regarding research. Our main focus is on the early families of St. Louis Catholic Church, Besançon. This is what makes the society so special and unique. We are truly the "ARCHIVES" for preserving the history and genealogy of our French ancestors.

Some years ago when I decided to do the genealogies of the early French communicates of the parish church, I got in touch with **Mr. A. Rondot**. He said, "get in touch with Gladys Lomont, she is the historian out there". How fortunate I was! Thanks for her help and encouragement, and those of you have help and contributed towards this goal - it is now completed. I have recently approached the board members of the society to consider compiling these genealogies into a book to be published by the Besançon Historical Society.

I wish to thank the St. Louis Catholic Church and its families for accommodating the space on the second floor of the parish office building for our use and needs. This is truly appreciated by the society.

So, may I salute the oldest member of our society;  
it is a great honor to do so!

Love and Prayers - for my truest friend: Gladys

*Gene*

*Editor's Note: A great deal of material has been collected on the rest of Claude Francois and Angelique Verdy Lomont's descendants. We will be presenting more of this family in further issues. In this issue we honor Gladys and Allen Lomont.*

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In 1904, Gladys' parents bought a large farm (465 acres) near Maples, and continued to operate it until Mr. Nail's death in 1953. He became interested in the First Citizens Bank in Monroeville, and later became the bank president.

Gladys started school at age five, with a love of learning that has followed her to this very day. Her curiosity proved her a natural student. She graduated from grade school at age twelve and attended New Haven High School that fall. During the cold winter months she lived with a aunt and uncle, **Jacob and Lydia Fry**, walking the three miles to school, following the old inter-urban, on Monday mornings and back on Friday evenings. In good weather she did it daily!! Gladys held a class office in each of the four years of high school. It was a simple life compared to today, with a ten cent movie a real event. But her life was never dull with friends and family and chores. In her biography she relates many stories of those times - she played basketball on the first girl's team at New Haven High, she learned to knit wash cloths for the soldiers in World War I. Bob sled rides, square dances, taffy pulls made memories to this day.

The family shared hardships too, many of them personal. Gladys' Grandmother Nail came to live with the family in 1915 and shortly there after, died. Less than six months later, **Geraldine**, her sister was to die tragically when her apron caught fire while drawing some gasoline. Gladys tried valiantly to put out the fire, slapping at the flames, and helping her sister to roll in the grass. In 1922, after the death of **Juliette Nail**, the family grew closer, and Gladys became stronger, assuming a place in the family that would carry her into the future as a caring, giving person.

After graduating at age 17, she suddenly found herself as a substitute teacher that fall, she did not have a license, but the trustee let her take over and she found a love that would take her to first teachers training in Fort Wayne, then to Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana. Beginning in the fall of 1921, she taught for ten years, all eight grades, with enrollment ranging from fifteen to forty-two. She is proud to be a third generation teacher, both her father and grandfather before her, and now to see two daughters and granddaughters following in her lifetime career.

This 1920 photo shows students in the Jefferson Township School in Allen County near Maples. First row: **Carl Peck, John Ladiq, Glenola Weilerman, Paul Nahrwold, William Peters, Alma Schwehn**. Second row: **Lawrence Nahrwold, Luella Peters, Earl Maples, Noble Bell, Thelma Ulrey**. Third row: **Lila Peck, Helen Ulrey, Emma Ladig, Amy Schlup, Robert Peters**, and top row: **Clara Peters, Anna Ladig, Florence Maire, Gladys Nail (teacher), Freida Nahrwold, and Lola Peck**.



*The picture is the property of Alma L. Schehn.*

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If you ever read the book, by Dr. Seuss, "*Oh, the Places You'll Go!*" you would think of Gladys Lomont. Oh, the places she went, the people she meet, the things she did!! She loved to travel, and in 1925, she and a friend, **Carrie Behrman** (a cousin and as close as a sister) went West!! Traveling by train they spent several weeks enjoying many sights from the top of Pike's Peak for a sun rise to swimming in the Great Salt Lake! Another trip in her first car, a 1928 Durant, with friends she took Route 66 to the Grand Canyon and points West! A picture of her on a mule at the bottom of the Grand Canyon shows the spirit and adventurous loving young woman that would continue to go through life each day, appreciating the gift of health and life that she was given.

On August 7, 1930 **Gladys Nail** and **Allen Johannis Lomont**, son of **Francois Emiel and Francisca Thilian Maire Lomont**, were married at St. Louis Catholic Church, Besançon and a commitment was made that was to last for over fifty -nine years. A commitment to family, church and community.

Times were not easy, work was hard. Almost everything was done by hand. Husking corn and shocking wheat, plowing by horses and milking cows. Scrubbing dirty farm overalls on the scrub board, carrying water for drinking, making homemade noodles, and butchering. Canning: apple butter, catsup, mincemeat and dried corn. Raising chickens and geese, stocking the cellar with apples, potatoes and pumpkins. Somehow, the work did not seem as hard, when the family shared the duties and seven children added to the love felt around the big table in the house on the original homestead of **Claudia Francois and Angelina Lomont** who had settled there in 1850.

The children: **Gary Francis**, born Sept 11, 1931, **Barbara Ann**, Nov 1, 1932, **James Allen**, Sept 23, 1934, **Marshall Pierre**, Aug 22, 1936, **Michael (Mick) Nail**, Aug 4, 1939, **Annette Ellen**, Sept 26, 1941 and **Joan Elise**, July 17, 1944 brought to Allen and Gladys the joy and heartaches that every parent knows. In May, 1942 their oldest son, Gary was fatally injured in a tractor accident. Gary loved farm life and tagged along after his dad as soon as he could.

As the family grew, so did the community and Allen and Gladys gave of their hands and souls. The father, tall and strong, proud to accept the responsibility that the community asked of him and raising the children with the same values to become caring citizens. The mother, loving, reaching out to give more of herself of her time, devotion, and interest to all who came into her presence.

The children attended Saint Louis Academy and were raised with the work ethics of their parents and their parents before them. Participating in school, 4-H, and church affairs the parents were supportive of the children, encouraging them to be good citizens not only in the neighborhood, but also for their country. The three sons: Jim, Marsh and Mick all served time in the National Guard. One by one, the family left home - going on to lead productive lives and to assume responsibility for themselves and for their community. The love and respect the family had at home has served them well in their own lives.



Allen and Gladys Lomont  
25th Wedding Anniversary  
1955

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In 1958 Allen was asked to go with **Wayne Rothgeb**, Director of Farm Services, to Russia and the World's Fair in Brussels. This was one of the first attempts of a cultural and educational exchange between the two nations, and Allen was able to bring much of his expertise to the tour. Allen was chairman of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation for 30 years, and served on various committees at St. Louis. Gladys joined a national organization of home extension, and was honored with membership of over 60 years. She became a charter member of the Old Ridge Road Chapter DAR in 1971. While in that, she was the Good Citizen judge of East Allen High School seniors for several years.

*Oh, the things she has done! driven a horse and buggy, husked corn by hand, cranked an old model T Ford, rode horseback in Yellowstone National park. Carried mail bags from the store to the RR depot to meet the trains twice daily, drove a mule on the hay wagon, built an outdoor fireplace, helped Allen saw a beam with a cross-cut saw, nailed floors, cleaned stables, saw the **Haley's Comet** in 1911, rode in her first car when she was 6 years old, flown in a two-seater and a 747 and a lot in between, took part in the New Haven Centennial Play in 1966, shook hands with **President Lyndon Johnson**, stood within 3 feet of **Queen Elizabeth** at Jamestown, Virginia when she dedicated three replicas of Columbus's ships in 1957, visited castles in England and Scotland (but she would rather live where she does, then anywhere else in the world!) celebrated her 86th birthday in Skagway, Alaska eating a halibut burger and drinking Chinook beer on a cruise ship!*

On August 7, 1980 Gladys and Allen celebrated 50 years of married life, sharing with them were family and friends at an open house. In February of 1989 Allen died, and Gladys lost not only her husband but her best friend. Together, they had shared much heartache, and incredible joy.

With her time and interest Gladys compiled the necessary history and details of the land they, and their son, Jim, live on and the farm was recognized with the *Hoosier Homestead Farm* award in 1987: given to Hoosiers who have actively maintained a farm in the same family for more than 100 years. Without Gladys Nail Lomont there would be no '*Records of St. Louis Catholic Church - 1865-1907*' copied by Gladys Lomont, **Mildred Perl Van Horn**, and **Margaret Hahn**; compiled and indexed by **Virginia F. Bloomfield** on file in the Allen County Public Library. **Mrs. Carl (Sandy) Frecker** and Gladys compiled the historical sketch of the St. Louis parish (1946-1983) that can be found in booklet form. In 1992 Gladys was one of the leading members of a committee to establish the Besancon Historical Society, realizing the history, heritage and culture of the area and willing to work to preserve it for generations to come.

Late in 1993 she and **Phyllis Brockmyer** and a committee of 9 dedicated people which included: **Michael Bowers, Charlotte and Carlton Giant, Helen Jacquay, Rev. T. Lombardi, Joan Monnier, Mark Robbins, Ralph Violette, and Diana Voors** worked many hours, writing and re-writing the application for the inclusion of the Besancon district to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. She is also the one who spearheaded the effort to get the stained glass windows restored in the beautiful old church; the windows were rededicated on February 11, 1996 with a new window, The Holy Ghost window at the back of the church being added - by Gladys Lomont - in memory of Allen Lomont. In 1996 she established *The Gary Francis Lomont Memorial Scholarship* at St. Louis Academy in memory of their son; providing deserving students a chance of further education.

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The Besançon Chronicles is richer each time with the fantastic bits and pieces she has stored, not only in her memory, but in her files. Visitors are able to ask her where long lost relatives might of lived, or if she knew a grandparent! Her interest in the out-side world would amaze you. A recent discussion of Tom Brokaw's best selling book, "*The Greatest Generation*", made it only richer because of her experiences and comments.

Gladys faced the loss of their son, Marshall in October, 1997, after he lost a valiant battle. The family reached out to share with her in their sorrow, and once again their faith gave them comfort. Today, the descendants of Allen and Gladys include 22 grandchildren, and 37 great-grandchildren.

*Oh, the places she has been! The 1934 World's Fair in Chicago, California, Oregon, Kansas, New York, Maine, all the states West, all the states East, and back again! New Brunswick, Canada, fishing trips at Blind River and Neebish Island, Canada. Vancouver, Baniff, Lake Louise by train, the World's Fair in Montreal in 1967, San Francisco, England, Scotland, Germany and the highlight of the trip - Besançon, France where Allen and Gladys were guests of **Raymond Dodane**, whose ancestors settled in Jefferson Twp in 1837.*

Leaving the big house, I am reminded of a fairly well known interview that has been published time and time again. It is from a **Nadine Stair**, age 85. In it she is quoted "If I had my life to live over". Mrs. Stair looks back over her daily life, and lists things she wished she had done; it sends us a message, not to waste our precious life. I cannot help but think each time I leave the kitchen of Gladys Nail Lomont she has never had the regrets to live her life over. There is a quote by **Mother Teresa**. It might have written for and about Gladys Nail Lomont:

*Spread love everywhere you go: first of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to the next door neighbor.....Let no one ever come to you without knowing better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting.*

Our visit is over, but before we go, stay here just a minute by the garden. Look around - seeds are stirring, even now in the cold, March wind. Across the field, the steeple of Saint Louis stands tall. The peonies will be pushing up, up through that rich soil, very soon. They are old, planted years ago by a young woman, a sturdy plant that brings forth a blossom of such beauty we marvel. It is a plant that has been know to live a hundred years, giving joy to all who see it. Somehow, Gladys is like that flower. Giving of herself, asking nothing in return, placing her faith in each day.

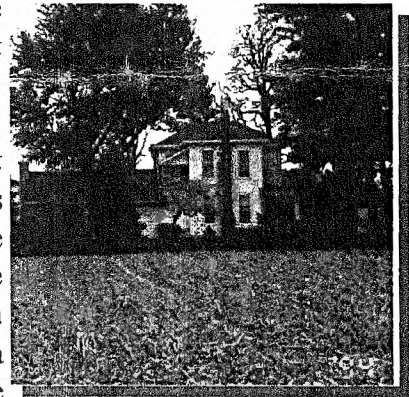


## Lomont History: A Brief History and Origin of the Family

The "roots" of the Lomont family may be found in Department of Doubs, and near the capital city of Besançon, France. It is where all the children of **Claude Francois and Angelique Marie (Verdy) Lomont** were born. The family sailed from LeHarve, France on the ship, *St. Nicholas*, reaching our shores on April 13, 1850. Claudia Francis and Angelique with their ten children ranging in age from one to nineteen years were friends of the **Dodanes** who arrived in the year 1838.

The land terrain north of Besançon is a low mountain chain called "Montagnes du Lomont" and stretches northeast along the Doubs river toward Switzerland; this is the beginning of the Jura Mountain Range. The village of Lomont, population 150 in 2001, is located northeast of the Besançon. It has been called Lomont since 1424, but in 1923 the name was change to Lomont sur crete. This name means "Lomont on the crest". There was once a nobleman by the name **de Lomont** who lived in the area in the 12th century. Also, a fort du Lomont is listed. The Lomont name is tied to the noble families of de Vesoul; the city of Vesoul is located north of Besançon. The name of Lomont is apparently first recorded in the year of 1150, when reference is made to a **Pierre de lomont**. The names of **Simone and Auguste Lomont** are on record in the year 1847. Today, there two Lomont names in the Besançon telephone book. (from the family history of **Ursula Lomont Sockrider**, 1989 via **Father James Lothamer**, on a visit of his to France).

The family settled on the farm now owned by **Allen and Gladys Lomont** in a log house and as the children grew up and married many settled in this area. Francis bought the place now owned by **James A. Lomont**, while **Seraphin** settled on the farm where **Norman and Florence Sarrazine** currently live. **Alphonse** owned the acreage where **Joe and Monica Knecht** now live. **Stephen and Virginia Lomont Coulardot** lived on a farm near Howe and Sampson Roads. They later moved about 1/2 mile west of St. Louis Catholic Church. **Francis and Mary Lomont Gladioux** lived near Tillman on the farm owned by **Warde and Jeanne Kelly**.



Note: It is not know just why there is no window with the name Lomont or Gladioux in Saint Louis Catholic Church today; since they both were prominent parish families. The necessary funds required to build one of the first churches was donated by the Dodanes and Lomonts.

When the present church was ready for final decorating, an artist from Italy was engaged and he stayed with **Francis and Cecelia Lomont**. During the summer months he loved to sit on the back porch and watch the peat soil burning in the "Bear Marsh" in Jackson Township; to him it was a most intriguing phenomenon. Because Father Julian Benoit was so revered, the artist was asked by the parishioners to incorporate his face among the angels in the sanctuary ceiling of the new church.

*notes from Gladys Nail Lomont as presented to Eugene Yoquelet (1995)*

## *Descendants of Claude Francois Lomont*

### *Generation No. 1*

**1. CLAUDE FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup> LOMONT** was born March 18, 1808 in Dept. of Doubs, Besancon, France, and died May 14, 1877 in Jefferson Twp, Allen Co., Indiana. He married **ANGELIQUE VERDI**. She was born May 1, 1801 on the Island of Corsica, France, and died April 25, 1873 in Jefferson Twp, Allen Co., Indiana.

Notes for **CLAUDE FRANCOIS LOMONT**: Allen County, IN. Immigration records list Claude F. Lomont, Book 1, page 354. 1860 CENSUS Jefferson Twp p.629 #1332 line 1 Notes for **ANGELIQUE VERDI**: Angelique Verdi Lomont is not listed on the ship's passenger list. Also, the eldest son of the family, Francois Theophile indicated on this "Immigration Record" that his arrival date was August 4, 1847. It is a possibility that we have two arrival dates for the Lomont family, and the mother and son came a year earlier then the rest of the family. Angelique is not buried in the St. Louis cemetery with her husband, but is buried in the New Haven St. Johns' Cemetery.

Children of **CLAUDE LOMONT** and **ANGELIQUE VERDI** are:

- i. **FRANCOIS THEOPHILE (CHAUFFIELD)<sup>2</sup> LOMONT**, b. December 11, 1828, Dept. Doubs, Besancon, France; d. December 23, 1888, Auburn, DeKalb Co. Indiana; m. (1) **MARY JOSETTA LABBE**; b. December 11, 1828, France; d. March 19, 1871, Massillon, Ohio. Notes for **MARY JOSETTA LABBE**: The surname of "LABBE" may be found in the "Courchaton Register" under the villages of Villafans, Dept. Haute Sanone and Clerval, Dept. Doubs, Fr./Starke Co., Ohio
- ii. **FRANCOIS LOMONT**, b. November 11, 1830, France; d. February 28, 1891, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; m. **CECILIA JEANPIERRE(PETERS)**, July 07, 1851, St Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, Allen Co. IN.; b. November 01, 1833, France; d. December 02, 1902, Jefferson Twp., Allen Co., Indiana. Daughter of **Francis J. and Catherine Jean Pierre**, French immigrants of Allen Co.
- iii. **ADOLPHUS (MICHAEL) LOMONT**, b. 1833, France; d. January 26, 1895, Washington Twp., Allen Co., Indiana; m. **MARGARET (PEGGY) LAMBOLEY**. (Soldier in the Civil War with Indiana 11th Batt'y) Interment: St. Louis, Besançon.
- iv. **VIRGINIA LOMONT**, b. 1835, Besancon, France; d. June 07, 1894, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; m. **ETIENNE STEPHEN COULARDOT**, January 20, 1851, Jefferson Twp., Allen Co., Indiana; b. January 29, 1820, Besancon, France; d. April 02, 1878, Allen County, Indiana. Interment: St. Louis, Besançon.
- v. **VIRGIL PETER LOMONT**, b. 1839, France; m. (2) **EMILE PETIGNY**, January 24, 1868, Allen Co., Indiana; b. 1840, France; d. April 12, 1872; m. (3) **LOUISE FRANCOISE ALBROCKSICHT**, June 10, 1873, Cathedral, Ft Wayne, Indiana.
- vi. **HONORENA (NORRINE) LOMONT**, b. October 19, 1838, Broun, France; d. December 29, 1932, Ft Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana; Interment: Academie Cemetery, m. **AUGUSTUS C. LALLOW**, May 10, 1857, St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, IN; b. 1828, (it is thought he was born while family was on ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean) d. October 02, 1900, Allen Co., Indiana, Interment: St. Vincent Catholic Cem, Washington Twp., Allen Co. IN.
- vii. **SERAPHINE AUGUST LOMONT**, b. 1841, France; d. June 04, 1884, Allen Co., Indiana; m. **PAULINE CONSTANCE E. LAMBOLEY**, November 22, 1866, Allen Co., Indiana; b. 1848, France; d. January 13, 1927, Allen Co., Indiana. Interment: St Louis, Besançon.
- viii. **MARY LOUISE LOMONT**, b. 1842, France; d. 1922, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; m. **CLAUDE FRANCOIS GLADIEUX**, August 21, 1860, Allen County, Indiana; b. October 08, 1837, France; d. October 17, 1916, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana. The family name of GLADIEUX derives from the area of ST. GERMAIN; HAUTE SAONE, FRANCE
- ix. **ALPHONSE LOMONT**, b. April 01, 1845, Dept Doubs, France; d. January 25, 1926, Allen Co., Indiana; m. (1) **VICTORIA GLADIEUX**, April 10, 1866, Allen Co., Indiana; b. October 24, 1848, Stark County, Ohio; d. May 21, 1901, Allen Co., Indiana; m. (2) **MARY PIO**, November 10, 1917; b. August 12, 1862; d. January 06, 1953, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana.. Interment:, St Louis Cath Cemetery, Old Besançon



I wish to include some 'personal' notes on this family that has been discovered in more recent times. My friend, **Joan Monnier** has diligently gone over the 'ship's manifest listings and the names of **Angelique Marie Lomont** and son, **Francois Theophile** is not to be found. This could be an oversight, but it seems more likely that they came at an earlier date. While attending the Ohio State Genealogical Association, Joan discovered an early census for Massillon, Ohio listing a "**Frank Lomont**". It is known Francois came to Allen County with his family for a few years, he then disappeared from records. (census records: 1850, p. 359, #1472 In 26) It is believed Francois (Frank) married while in Massillon, but no marriage records are to be found to support this. We also know Frank, his wife and a young child left Allen County and went back to Massillon. Marie Josetta Labbe died and is buried there. What is the attraction to Massillon? Perhaps his wife's family? We know his wife is buried there. Frank did return to Allen County, later with his children and is found in county records. We know he re-married, but no records are found of his second wife. On my recent trip to the French Comtè regions of Haute Saone and Doubs Departments, I re-visited the city of Besançon, 2000. I did not find the surname Lomont listed. However, my group visited a small village nearby, "Onans" and found the name in a local cemetery.

*Gene Yoquelet.*



the inscription on this marker reads:

LOMONT  
CLAUDIA FRANCIS  
1808 - 1877  
Born in Besançon France  
ANGELIQUE VERDY  
1801 - 1873  
Born in Corsica  
In loving memory of  
our Pioneer French Ancestors  
who were among the pioneers  
of Saint Louis Parish

Angelique Verdy Lomont is  
buried in  
Saint John' Cemetery  
in  
New Haven, Indiana



# *Descendants of Francois Emiel Lomont*

## *Generation No. 1*

**1. FRANCOIS EMIEL<sup>3</sup> LOMONT** (*FRANCOIS<sup>2</sup>, CLAUDE FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup>*) was born April 01, 1866 in Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana, and died 1950 in Allen Co., Indiana. He married **FRANCISCA THILIAN MARIE** August 31, 1892 in Saint Louis Catholic Church, Besançon, Allen Co. IN., daughter of **JOHN MAIRE** and **MARY VINLLEMAN**. She was born February 23, 1873 in Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana, and died March 27, 1961 in New Haven, Allen Co. Indiana. Interment: St Louis Catholic Cemetery, Besançon

Children of FRANCOIS LOMONT and FRANCISCA MARIE are:

- i. **ARTHUR FRANCISCUM<sup>4</sup> LOMONT**, b. December 27, 1892, Allen Co., Indiana; d. July 1954, Allen Co., Indiana; m. **VIVIAN LAWHEAD**, August 05, 1919. Interment Lehman Cemetery, Benton Twp., Paulding County, Ohio
- ii. **CHARLOTTE MARY LOMONT**, b. August 19, 1897, Allen Co., Indiana; d. 1979, New Haven, Allen Co. Indiana; m. **S. GLENN ISENBARGER**, 1917. Interment: St. John's Catholic Cemetery, New Haven, Indiana
- iii. **ALLEN JOHANNIS LOMONT**, b. September 11, 1904, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co., New Haven, Indiana; d. February 26, 1989, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co., New Haven, Indiana; Interment: St. Louis Catholic Cemetery (new) Besançon. Married **GLADYS D. NAIL**, August 07, 1930, St. Louis Rectory, New Haven, Indiana, daughter of **John Wesley** and **Juliette Coulardot Nail**, b. August 07, 1903, Maples, Allen Co. Indiana.
- iv. **MANFRED MAURICE LOMONT**, b. January 17, 1907, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; d. October 20, 1960, Ft Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana; m. (1) **GLADYS ANDREWS RICKENBACH**; b. September 06, 1907, Monroe, Indiana; d. September 07, 1966, FT Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana; m. (2) **MILDRED MCCALL**, May 17, 1933, New Haven, Allen Co. Indiana; b. May 17, 1910; d. February 22, 1942, Allen Co., Indiana..
- v. **EVELYN LOMONT**, b. November 1910, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; d. October 18, 1988, Paulding, Ohio; m. **COLLIE LAMB**, February 22, 1935, New Haven, Allen Co. Indiana.
- vi. **NORBERT JOSEPH LOMONT**, b. April 02, 1913, New Haven, Allen Co., Indiana; d. November 21, 1995, Fort Wayne, Indiana; m. **DELORES CECILIA GERARDOT**, October 03, 1936, Besançon, Jefferson Twp. Allen Co. Indiana; b. March 23, 1915, New Haven, Indiana; d. November 21, 1995, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana.
- vii. **AILEEN LOMONT**, b. June 18, 1916, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; m. **KENNETH DAVIS**, February 17, 1939



Seated: Frank Lomont, Arthur Lomont, Francisca "Tillie" Lomont, Cecilia JeanPierre Lomont, Charlotte Lomont, and Laura Lomont Henry with Bernard Henry. They are in front of the home now of James Allen Lomont. Abt: 1900

***Descendants of Herman Louis Lomont***  
*Generation No. 1*

**1. HERMAN LOUIS<sup>3</sup> LOMONT** (*FRANCOIS<sup>2</sup>, CLAUDE FRANCOIS<sup>1</sup>*) was born February 15, 1872 in Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana, and died January 07, 1940 in Clear Lake, Steuben Co, Indiana. He married **SARAH AMANDA (Rausis)ROSE** February 03, 1891 in St Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, daughter of **MORRIS RAUSIS and ELIZABETH SNIDER**. She was born March 04, 1872 in Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana, and died August 17, 1952 in Clear Lake, Steuben Co, Indiana. Notes for HERMAN LOUIS LOMONT: Married by **Rev. Father P. F. Veniard**, witness: **Francis Lomont and Emma Joly**.

Herman was a carpenter by trade, many of the homes he built are still standing today (2001). One of more lovely homes is the former home of Gladys Nail Lomont in Maples, IN. Another home he built stands right across US 30 from Allen and Gladys Lomont's home. After the family moved to Clear Lake, Indiana from New Haven, he continued to build homes and cottages in the area. Notes for SARAH AMANDA ROSE: Sarah was baptized 2/1/1891 St. Louis Catholic Church, by **Rev. Father P.F. Veniard**, Witnesses: **Francis Lomont and Laura Lomont**

Children of HERMAN LOMONT and SARAH ROSE are:

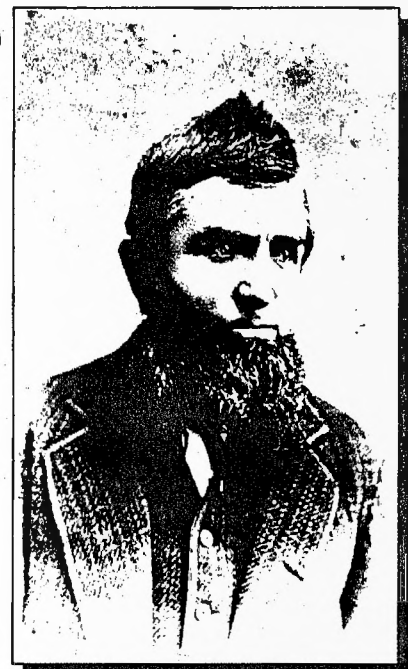
- i. **LOTTIE PEARL<sup>4</sup> LOMONT**, b. March 12, 1892, Allen Co., Indiana; d. July 05, 1957, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana; m. **EDWARD LINGLE**, June 03, 1913; b. May 08, 1885; d. July 1967.
- ii. **HARRY MANFORD LOMONT**, b. September 02, 1893, Jefferson Twp, Allen Co. Indiana; d. December 21, 1956, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana; m. **ETTA H. LINDEN**, September 03, 1919; b. 1894; d. 1968, Fort Wayne, Allen Co., Indiana..
- iii. **MAURICE LESLIE LOMONT**,\* b. November 13, 1901, Jefferson Twp., Allen Co., Indiana; d. June 25, 1980, Angola, Steuben Co., Indiana; m. **MILDRED LUCINDA GARD**, December 14, 1930, Andrews, Indiana; b. July 08, 1908, Huntington Co., Indiana; d. April 25, 1996, Clear Lake, Steuben Co, Indiana. Notes for MAURICE LESLIE LOMONT: Baptized 11/13/1901 by **Father Labonte**, Witnesses: **Edward Dodane and Julia Malcuit**

\*“(parents: Maurice L. Lomont and Mildred L. Gard Lomont to Joyce Lomont Crowl, editor of the Besancon Chronicles, 2000-2001)

**FRANCOIS LOMONT**

November 11, 1830 - February 28, 1891

Son of Claude Francois and Angelique Verdy Lomont and father of 9 children including Francois Emiel (Frank) and Herman Louis Lomont



Dear Friends, It is a small world! I recently received a letter in the mail and family information which was originally sent to one of our members, **Ralph Violette**. He was kind enough to forward it on to me. I wanted to publish this, it makes great reading plus it holds a wonderful story. My thanks to **Michele Stone Echnoz** for sending it.

Our trip/tour to the French Comté last June 2000 certainly did make the news in that area. A few days ago I received the same news article which was published in the EST Magazine edited by the same person that interviewed our group in Besançon. **Georges Jeanney** who was our host during our stay in Besançon took great pleasure in sending the article along with a nice letter. The article is now nicely framed and hanging in the archives for all to enjoy.

Shirley, my wife, and I did make a trip out to Meadville, PA. and visited "Frenchtown" last summer. Also, I was able to copy and bring back the early records of St. Hypolyte Church that the Meadville Historical Society has on file in their archives. "Frenchtown" is a very interesting little settlement which reminds you of "our" Besançon. A number of the early French immigrants got off the Port of Erie and moved on down to Crawford County, Meadville and settled in Frenchtown. From Meadville, these Frenchmen moved over to Stark County, Ohio, Louisville, Ohio and then across Ohio and into Allen County, Indiana.

*Sincerely,*  
*Gene*

January 5, 2001

Mr. Violette -

Enclosed is the article about the visit from members of the Besançon Historical Society to Besançon, France last June. I am also enclosing a translation/reproduction of a French passport that was found in a family Bible. (I thought you might enjoy it since it belonged to a Besançon from France). I would have sent a copy of the original French passport, but it does not reproduce very legibly.

Let me introduce myself. My father-in-law is Bob Echnoz, originally from Meadville, PA. All his ancestors originally emigrated from the Franche-Comté between 1833 and 1869 to the area around Frenchtown, Crawford County, PA. Like many French immigrant groups, they mainly married among themselves, so even Bob's parents were French descendants.

I should tell you the two instances that caused me to send this article to you. Bob Echnoz's cousin, Bob Popeney, was a pilot during WWII. He knew that their great-great-grandparents, Nicolas Poupney and Jeanne-Claude Jacquot lived in the village of Montbozon (near Vesoul) before emigrating to Pennsylvania. Somehow, he arranged to fly over the village of Montbozon in the spring of 1945 - he circled low over the town and dropped a letter which had his address in Pennsylvania and detailed his ancestors who came from there. The letter was picked up by a policeman who went to the town hall, looked through the civil records and found descendants of Jeanne-Claude Jacquot's brother. They wrote letters back and forth in 1945 - the letters are quite touching since this was just after the liberation. The French relatives expressed their gratitude to the Allies and their pride that one of their relatives was part of the war effort.

Last year another cousin sent me some material she had, which included a 1990 letter from a Pierre Jacquot of Montbozon. I wrote to him, mainly to see if he still lived at the same address. It turns out he lives in the house his family has occupied since 1620! (He was 13 years old when Bob Popeney flew over his town, and he remember it well). We started a nice little correspondence and he was kind enough to send the article about the visit from the Besançon Historical Society.

Sincerely, **Michele Stone**

7354 Verdugo Crestline Drive, Tujunga, CA 91042

<p>GENERAL POLICE. OF FRANCE</p>	<p>(P.E.)</p>
<p><b>Pass-Port</b> to go abroad good for one year</p>	<p>THE FRENCH EMPIRE <del>THE FRENCH REPUBLIC</del> — LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY —</p> <p><b>PASS-PORT TO GO ABROAD</b> good for one year:</p>
<p>DEPARTMENT of Doubs Register B. No. 18.</p>	<p><i>The Emperor</i> <b>IN THE NAME OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE,</b></p>
<p>DESCRIPTION Age 24 years , height in meters . — 50 centimeters hair Blonde forehead covered eyebrows blond eyes blue nose large mouth medium beard Blonde chin round face oval color ordinary</p>	<p>We, <i>The Prefect of the Department of Doubs,</i> <i>the Empire</i> require that the civil and military authorities of the <del>Republic</del> of France, and beg the civil and military authorities of the States friendly to or the allies of France, give free passage to Mr. <i>Besançon (Claude François), farmer, accompanied</i> <i>by his wife and his infant child</i> <i>born at Vergranne, county of Baume, department of Doubs,</i> <i>living in Vergranne, ditto ditto</i> <i>going to Meadeville (United-States of America)</i> <i>and give him aid and protection in case of need.</i> This Pass-Port is valid for one year — to leave France.</p>
<p>IDENTIFYING FEATURES: A small scar on the left side of the forehead.</p> <p>Signature of the Bearer</p>	<p>Made in <i>Besançon, the second of february</i> 1853 <i>The Prefect of Doubs,</i></p> <p>By the Prefect:  <i>The Counsellor of the Prefecture - Secretary General.</i></p>
<p>Price of the Pass-Port TEN FRANCES</p>	

Copy of a French passport submitted by Michele Stone dated the second of February, 1853  
The Prefect of Doubs

## friends of Besançon

A welcome to new members: **Clara Sarrazine**, 4427 South Ryan Road, New Haven, IN. 46774; **Ronald Venderly**, 1528 Shingle Oak Pointe, Fort Wayne, IN. 46814-9012. **Nancy (Giant) Canull**, 6514 C Park Centralway, Indianapolis IN. 46260 An address change to note: Lothammer Family Newsletter, **Rev. James W. Lothamer**, s.s., Editor, Vatican II Institute, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA. 95024. . . Please note: the Email address for **Joan Monnier** is jajm@hotmail.com, and her address is 1634 N. Highlands Blvd. Also, **Sandra Monnier**'s zip code is 46808 and she is a descendant of the **Monnier** and **Jacquay** families. Please note in your BHS membership address book: **Annette Raaberg** would like to include her maiden name in the address, making it: **Annette Lomont Raaberg** Latest donors to the Archive Library Fund: **Eleanor VanHorn**, **Mary J. Novosee**, **Phillip & Tamyra Jauregui**, and **Rev. James Lothamer**.



## Did you know?

.....when Father Noll (later Bishop) was here, he had a groomsman for the horses who stayed in the loft of the old barn (site of the parking lot now). His name was Stephen Bott. He was from France and is buried in our cemetery.....at one time there was a tavern where the convent is now, operated by a man named Stutz.....sometime after 1900 the roof at St. Louis Church had a weather vane with a rooster on it.....shortly after Father Holsinger came, he had the fence in front of the rectory moved to the east side of the cemetery.....the spire of the main altar at one time came within 12 to 18 inches of the dome ceiling.....Father Hession had a German Shepherd and an Irish setter. On Sunday bulletins, he would have pictures of hunters and dogs. Father also had a small fish pond filled with goldfish behind the rectory. During the winter months, he would put the goldfish in a bathtub in the school basement.....when Father Allgeier was pastor the monthly contributions were read out loud in church always starting with Jule S. Voriol - \$1.25, and going through the children's part of giving.....the picture in the booklet dated 1953 shows draperies in the sanctuary. They were maroon velvet and were designed by Cliff Coulardot, a member of the parish. Since the material was not acceptable according to the fire code regulations, they had to be removed. They were less than two years old.....in September, 1979 the first parish picnic had Blue Grass music.....the baptism font was given to St. Louis Parish, during Father Kever's pastorate, in memory of Jerome Bowers.....the youngest parishioner to attend the One Hundredth Anniversary in 1946 was Judy Barelay Messman.....in September, 1935 the parish had a chicken dinner that served over 2000 meals, proceeds were \$2500.00

*contributing to this article are Gladys Nail Lomont and Barbara Gorney. Excepts taken from The Catholic Diocese of Ft. Wayne. Allen County Public Library Roll #8, and Family History Library, Roll #1503359.*

The following are just a few of the surnames that I recorded last year on our trip to France. This is the oldest cemetery in Besançon, France according to records.

*Gene Yoquelet.*

### CHAPRIS

#### BESANÇON FRANCE CEMETERY

GIRARDOT, Louis b: 1925 d: 1983  
 EME, Hubert b: 1882 d: 1915  
 BENOIT, Gabrielle b: 1903 d: 1996  
 MAIRE, Jules b: 1881 d: 1952  
 JACQUEY, Roland b: 1938 d: 1954  
 ROUSSEL, Damien b: 1920 d: 1992  
 JOLY, Pierre Jos. b: 1833 d: Juillet 26, 1903,  
 LAMBLIN, Louis b: 1884 d: 1942  
 LAMBLIN, Georges b: 1875 d: 1947  
 LAMBLIN, Felix b: 1843 d: 1913 68y  
 LAMBLIN, Louise nee PAPE b: 1853 d: 1921  
 MONNIER, Ulysse Honnore b: 1817 d: 1879  
 BLANC, Pierre b: 1829 d: 1900 71 y  
 BOITEUX, Jules b: Jun 20 1854 d: Nov 28 1944  
 BOITEUX, Blanche nee WINCKLER (wife)  
 b: Mar 29 1864 d: Mar 17 1955 pl Paris

MONNIER, Claude b: 1906 d: 1996

GIRARDOT, Jos. Albert b: 1848 d: Sep 23 1929  
 81 y

GIRARDOT, Jeanne Marquerite Celine

nee ANCEY b: 1855 d: Feb 24, 1929 74y

ROUSSEL, Louis b: 1877 d: 1960

ANDRE, Leon b: 1819 d: 1865

DUPONT, Eugene b: 1885 d: 1964

LeFAIVRE, Leon b: 1881 d: 1963

POUX, Paul b: Jan 16 1866 d: Feb 11 1919

CLERC, Francois b: 1870 d: 1936

JOLLY, Gustave b: 1888 d: 1949

JOLLY, Marie nee JEANNERAT (Wife) b: 1893  
 d: 1973



*"Remember me in the family tree -  
 my name, my days, my strife;  
 Then I'll ride upon the wings of time  
 and live an endless life".*

Goetsch

## The French in Indiana in the 19th Century by Jeff Hoffman

French contributions to Indiana history begin with the early French explorers, settlers, and missionaries of the 17th and 18th centuries who filtered in through the French colony of Canada. They would lay the foundations for those arrivals to Indiana from France in the mid-1800's.

Many of the French immigrants to the United States in the 19th century came from the historic provinces of Alsace, Lorraine, and Franche-Comte. Because of its proximity to the German states, German was spoken in the eastern part of Lorraine, and all of Alsace, except for the region around Belfort. Aurele Violette, in *PEOPLES OF INDIANA*, sees immigration from this region of eastern France as part of a broader immigration wave in Europe that included Switzerland and the southwestern German states. In the early 1800's many Swiss and Germans passed through the eastern France on their way to disembark from La Havre.

Why were people choosing to leave Europe at this time? Although there were periodic famines, continued fragmentation of the farmland, low wages in the factories, and high unemployment, Violette, sees emigration from France had less to do with economic conditions in France than in the prosperity in the United States.

He cites the fact that periods of economic depression in the US resulted in a downturn of immigration from France. He sees reason for later emigration from eastern France as a result of letters written by family, friends, and former neighbors who had filtered into Indiana earlier.

These earlier French arrivals in Indiana were the result of the role of the Catholic Church. During the French Revolution the Catholic Church was under persecution, and many clergy and religious fled France and came to the New World. Some of the clergy would later become bishops. Due to the large number of Catholic immigrants arriving in the United States, bishops would make trips to Europe in order to obtain clergy and religious to mission to the new arrivals. One important trip for the Catholic Church in Indiana was one made by **Simon Brute de Remur**, first Bishop of Vincennes, in 1834. His trip yielded twenty priests and seminarians. These included **Celestine de la Halandiere** and **Maurice de St. Palais**, both of whom would follow Brute as Bishop of Vincennes. **Julian Benoit** was another recruit who would play an important role in the development of the Catholic Church in northeastern Indiana.

Many French religious groups also served the Catholics in Indiana. The Sisters of Providence from Ruille-sur-Loir sent a group to found the community at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana in 1841.

*continued on page 16*

**AUGUSTYNIAK GENEALOGY**

**BEAUCHAT GENEALOGY**

**BEURAT GENEALOGY** by Charles Banet

**ISABEY GENEALOGY**

**SINGER FAMILY HISTORY** by Karen D. Singer

**SODELET GENEALOGY**

**URBINE FAMILY HISTORY** by Sandra Waldron

**ANCESTORS OF SOCRATES BACON** by LeDonna G. Warrick

**DESCENDANTS of PROSPER MONNOT and JOSEPHINE GUIGON** by

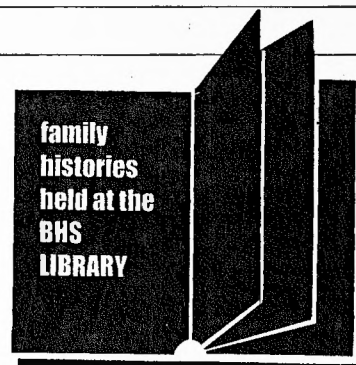
Richard Shrader

**DESCENDANTS of FRANCOIS XAVIER MONNOT and MARIE CLEMENCE VUILLAUME** by Richard Shrader

**DESCENDANTS of FRANCOIS JOSEPH MENEGUAY and JEANE CLAUDE VOURON** by

Richard Shrader

**DESCENDANTS of JOSEPH VIOLAND and ELZABETH MARCHAND** by Richard Shrader



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Fort Wayne, IN. 46802-3966

in This Issue...

THE LOMONT FAMILY HISTORY GENEALOGY

*continued from page 15*

This group was led by **Mother Theodore Guerin**, who has recently been declared Blessed by **John Paul II**. **Father Edward Sorin** led a group of Holy Cross brothers to Ste. Marie des Lacs, near South Bend, to start a foundation that was to become the University of Notre Dame. The Holy Cross Sisters followed in 1855.

These are just a few examples of the history of the French in Indiana. I will go into further detail on some of the people and places covered in this article in later editions of the Chronicle. Information for this article came from **Aurele J. Violett's** article "French" in the book, *Peopling Indiana, the ethnic experience*. This was one of the books that has been purchased for the archives library through the generous donations of our members.

*Jeff Hoffman*

#### MISSION of The Besançon Historical Society

##### ARTICLE II - SECTION 2:

The mission of the Besançon 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 know as Besançon, Indiana, generally located in Jefferson Township, Allen County, Indiana, and which has as its central focus,  
Saint Louis Catholic Church.  
Established: 1994