

# BESANÇON, INDIANA CHRONICLES

GENEALOGY DEPT.

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Allen County Public Library

## *New Officers Elected*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! To each and all of you we wish you and yours a great new year! A New Year and new officers for Besançon Historical Society. In this first issue of 2002 we would like to take the time to introduce you to the new officers of the Besançon Historical Society.

Our new president, **Barbara Pio Gorney**, is a familiar face, being the Vice President of BHS for the past four years. She first became involved in 1994 when the Historical Society organized the project for the restoration of the leaded glass windows in Saint Louis Catholic Church. Barb said "genealogy is my addiction and volunteering in the genealogy section of the Allen County Public Library feeds it". She works on indexing which started with the Civil War national project. A great deal of BHS research is done by Barbara and she adds much to this newsletter!

A born and bred Hoosier, she likes Indiana University and of course, basketball!! Barb is a member of AVA (American Volkssport Association) which sponsors 10K (6.2 miles) walks that can be done world wide. She has done over 50 walks which she never dreamed she ever would or could do! Her full time occupation is a medical technologist at Lutheran Hospital for 43 years and yes, she was born there, too!

Barbara is a 6th generation descendent from **Jean Baptiste Pailloz** (now **Pio**), and **Marie Roussey**, who came from Bournois, France and settled in New York and then in 1850 came to Allen County, Indiana.

The oldest tombstone at Besançon that is still standing is Jean's who died in 1868. The Pailloz' name came be found on a stain glass window at St. Louis Catholic Church.

Barbara has been past regent and vice president of Old Ridge Road Chapter of DAR, and is a life time member of OGS (Ohio Genealogical Society) and the Descendants of Hartford. She is also a member of Paulding County, Ohio Genealogical Society for the past 10 years, First Families of Ohio, Civil War Families of Ohio and the Allen County History Center. If that is not enough to keep her busy, she loves to travel within the United States and has made four trips to Europe; One of which was for the **Lathrop** family tour. Oh, yes, Barbara has three children and four grandchildren. Her daughter, Terri is also a member of Besançon Historical Society.

The new Vice President: **Gerald W. "Jerry" Begue** has only been a member of BHS for two years, but his enthusiasm and interest has added much to the society. A graduate of Columbia City, he is married to Pamela. They have one son, Kurt. His hobbies include canoeing and kayaking, golf, power boating, hiking, travel and genealogy. Don't think Jerry plays all the time, he is a member of the Society of Plastic Engineers, serving on the National Council and has worked in the Plastic Industry for 40 years. He formed a Plastic Service & Equipment Co that sells to manufacturing companies throughout the world with the help of the world wide web.

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## President's Message.....

*Happy New Year!* Besançon Historical Society has elected new officers for the next two years. They are: President: **Barbara Pio Gorney** (BandTGorney@aol.com), Vice President: **Jerry Begue**, (JerryBegue@Hotmail.com), Secretary: **Arlene Dodane Curts**, (Bobka9z@aol.com) and Treasurer: **Eugene Yoquelet**. **Joyce Lomont Crowl** (jjcrowl@c3net.net) will remain as editor of the Chronicles. Keep up the good work. A big Thank You to **Carlton Giant** and **Theresa Martin** who served the Society as treasurer and secretary the last two years. Thank you, **Gene**, for the enormous amount of time you gave as President. A large welcome to the new board. We are open to suggestions for meetings, news articles, family histories and anything you want to ask. Please call or E-mail.

One major change in the coming year will be the number of meetings. There will be only four (4) meetings in 2002. Tentative dates are March 30, June 29, September 21 and November 23. The time is 9:30 A.M. at the Besançon archives located in the parish office building. The speakers will be one and all. Bring photos, an interesting story of your family, maps or research questions.

Now, to bring you up to date on a couple activities the society has been involved in. December 9, 2001 the adult choir of St. Louis Church presented songs of Christmas. The choir was directed by **Rita Brueggeman**, with organist, **Jane Lomont**. The Historical Society provided the refreshments in the school cafeteria. **Joan Johnston** organized the refreshments. This was the second year for the choir and the society to present this wonderful program.

The "Album in the Attic" project was started by **Father Tom Lombardi** and **Diana Voors** in order to gather pictures of families, farms and villages in this area. As to date, we have over 1000 pictures in our collection. We have had several open houses for people to view these pictures. Many have found pictures of relatives and farms which they did not have. The society also participated in Monroeville days by showing our notebooks which have photocopies of the pictures (all are indexed) and by using large frames that hold 9 x 15 pictures. Last summer we laid out the pictures on tables at the Heritage Hall in Monroeville. New Haven has started up their own historical society and our pictures have been on display at the the old city hall the last two Decembers. By word of mouth our "attic pictures" have been acquired by the Trion Restaurant in New Haven and Hall's Restaurant which is to be built in the area. Most people like the 5 x 7 pictures which sell for \$5. Yes, there are pictures that have not been identified, which is truly sad. So, all of you pictures takers out there, make sure your photos have names and dates for future researchers.

The archives are open on Wednesday mornings or by appointment. **Jeff Hoffman** has staffed the archives and helped organize our books. He has also been promoting our pictures and is in charge of the new cemetery reading. Thanks, Jeff!

### Barbara

Barbara Pio Gorney, President

*\*A bit of trivia:*

*Saltine crackers have 13 holes, based on the original 13 states.*

*Three fruits are native to the United States: cranberries, blueberries and concord grapes.*

## *New officers....continued*

Jerry's interest in BHS began about two years ago after starting his research for the Begue family history. One of his goals is to visit France, and perhaps meet distant cousins. He had a fascinating experience several years ago when by chance he noticed a bistro in a village in Germany with the same name: Begue. Look for that story in an upcoming issue! His ties with the St. Louis Besançon Church include his gggrandmother, **Marie Louisa Jeudy Begue Didier, Jean Claude Begue**, both made their residence within eyesight of the church and contributed to the building of the present church structure.

His ggrandfather, **Jean Claude Joseph Beegue** and wife, **Anna Adeline Clossen Begue**, and grandparents **Frank Joseph and Louise V. Reffelt Begue** and their children also lived in the Besançon area and some of them were baptized at St. Louis Catholic Church. Jerry's father, **Ralph Joseph Begue** received First Communion at St. Louis in 1914 and attended school there.

Jerry's hope for the society is to help preserve the history of our ancestors and promote the preservation of the St. Louis Besançon Church so future generations can enjoy the experiences that he has found here already.

**Arlene Dodane Curts** is taking the position of secretary of the society and has been an active member since 1997, along with her husband, Bob. She was raised in Fort Wayne, and attended St. Mary's Catholic Church and school. She graduated from Central High School.

Her ancestral family is one the first families of St. Louis Besançon Church, arriving here before the church was established. The Dodanes came to America from Morteau, France, which is not far from Besançon, France. They originally settled in Canton, Ohio, but soon after **Joseph Dodane** married **Caroline Pinguenot** they moved to this area.

Joseph Dodane's log cabin was one of the first homes used to say mass in until a church was built. His wife, Caroline, died in 1867 giving birth to their 8th child; who also died soon after. Joseph was left to raise the remaining children. He never remarried.

Arlene's interest is, of course, genealogy. She enjoys reading and is addicted to attending garage sales. Arlene and Bob have 2 children: Bob who lives in Greenwood, IN and teaches health and science at the high school and coaches track. He is a runner and does stair step climbs and won many races, including the Mile High in Detroit, MI. Their daughter, Connie lives in Columbus, Ohio and has 4 children. Bob has 2 children.

Arlene is a member of the Allen County Genealogy Society, American Legion Auxiliary Post #82, and the New Haven Eagles Auxiliary. the couple love to travel: Hawaii, Cancun, Jamaica and the Caribbean Islands, plus a couple times a year you will find them in Florida. She hopes to visit France some day and all the countires surrounding it.

When asked what her hopes were for the historical society, Arlene said: "My hopes for Besançon is we continue to grow in membership, attracting new members and instilling in them the desire to know where and whom their heritage is. I would like to see less meetings and more group workshops, so we can share how we are all connected. Here is hoping for a good year in 2002".

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The Besançon Historical Society  
15535 Lincoln Highway East  
New Haven, Indiana 46774-9679

Barbara Gorney - President  
Jerry Begue - Vice President  
Arlene Curts - Secretary  
Gene Yoquelet - Treasurer  
Joyce Lomont Crowl - Editor of Chronicles

## Cemeteries of Jefferson Township

With the interest being shown in the 'reading' of the new cemetery at St. Louis, Besançon we thought we would include some interesting facts and notes contributed over the years by **Gladys Nail Lomont**. At various times I have included quotes from people that Gladys noted. Most burials in family cemeteries were made between 1830 and 1850. *A map on page 6 shows the location of some of these old cemeteries.*

### GERARDOT CEMETERY - Alexis Gerardot, Jr.

Located 3/8 th miles from Tillman Road, 1/4 the mile from Gerardot Road, a little south of center of Gorden place.

Burials - Early Gerardots.

"Grave stones have been removed" - **Lillian Barkley**

"There were quite a number of tombstones marking graves of the Gerardot family" - **William Gerardot**

"When we bought 40 acres along Fackler Road south of Tillman road, know as the Monnier place, the former owner, **August Lomont**, told **Allen Lomont** that there was a small grave yard on the ridge separating that acreage from the farm to the west bordering the Gerardot Road" - **Gladys Lomont**

### THE PLATT CEMETERY

Located on the west side of **Jacob Platt** farm about 3/8th miles from Paulding Road and 1/4th mile from Snyder Road.

Known Burials:

**Jacob Platt** 1816 - 1857

**Rebecca Castleman**, his wife 1829

**Abraham Platt** 1823

**Matilda Castleman**, his wife 1829

**Peter Platt** 1814 - 1855

**Jacob Martin**

**Jacob Lamblin**

and Children of **George Snider and Elizabeth Platt**

**John Anderson Snider** b: 10 April 1838 d: 16 March 1855

**Rebecca Snider** b: 21 April 1841 d: 30 April 1860

**Adolphue Snider** b: 6 Feb 1849 d: 7 Oct 1854

**Amanda M. Snider** b: 10 May 1851 d: 3 Sept 1854

**James P. Snider** b: 3 Sept 1858 d: 23 May 1860

*(Editor's note: A page found on the Allen County InGen Web featuring Jefferson Township gives a description of where some of the older cemeteries can be found. One did not have a name, but the location seems to be very close to the Platt Cemetery. Does anyone have any idea about this? I quote: "It is noted an unknown cemetery was located near Snyder and Paulding Roads. Early settlers. This cemetery was described in a farm deed. No longer exists. No markers remain."*

### The cemetery on the Koehlinger Farm

Located on the SE corner of U.S. 30 and Green Road - The Standard Station now occupies this land.

**Rosalie Ruger** said her father, **Albin Schnelker**, found stones on hunting trips. **Oscar Koehlinger** said he does not remember stones.

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### **Maples Cemetery**

Located in the middle of a field, south of Maples, on the east side of Franke Road. Originally Boole Cemetery on the land of the Boole family. Earliest date September 11, 1861. Some graves were removed to Wiltsy Cemetery, Antwerp, Ohio. Some Civil War Veterans are buried here. Records no longer exist. Abandoned. When **Lewis Maples** bought the farm, the name was changed to Maples Cemetery.

### **The Main Cemetery - Private**

Located Section 4, Corner of Doyle Road and Edgerton Road. This farm is now in the Casad Depot. The cemetery was located on the old Main farm, it was sold to the government at the time the Casad Depot was built.

*"In the trucks of sand taken from the area of the cemetery, bones were seen. However, this was used as fill dirt for the Depot"* **Edward Ulmer**.

Another version: *"Sand was used (from the farm) on fill dirt for the trucking company on the Dr. Coroan place, people were incensed"*. This was thought to be about the old **Emmet Bandelies** place near **Fred Londen**.

### **Doyle Cemetery**

Located on the north side of U.S. 30, east of Doyle Road. No longer exists and records have disappeared.

### **The Armitage Cemetery**

Located 1/4th mile from Tillman Road and 1/4th mile from Frackler Road on west side of **Wm. Armitage** farm. **Albert Bacon** signed papers to abandon the cemetery in the early 1930s'.

### **The Gerald and Ray Melcher Farm**

Located in Jefferson Township on the 1880 Platt map, Harper Road

Burials: **Bill Van Horn** remembers two boxes of stones and the name **Harper** on them. The stones were located beside the mill house which was behind the old homestead. When the house burned, the boxes were put in a large hole made by a bull dozer along with other trash before the new house was built. **Gerald Melcher** remembers bases but no inscriptions.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery** - Located on the north side of Edgerton road, between Linden and Doyle Roads. In use. Earliest date 1853-1855.

### **Whitney Family Burial**

Located on the south side of Edgerton Road, between Linden and Doyle Roads. Formerly the northwest corner of the Ulmer farm. Earliest date 1838. Today the cemetery belongs to the Township. Records destroyed by fire. *"The cemetery is on a sand hill, which makes it difficult to keep the stones upright"*. **Edward Ulmer**. Some of the names found in this cemetery beside **Whitney** are: **Stark, Boseker, Savage, Bentley, Bell, Telfer, Miller, Rothgee, Nesbite, Main, Doyle, Sternbery, Bilderback, Richard, Rorick, Powers, and Mackity**.

**Helmrick (Helmick) Cemetery** - Located on Old US 30 - now abandoned. No information on this.

*(Editor's note: Dear Readers, there is mention of a Ridge Cemetery, but I cannot find any thing on it if any of you are aware of this cemetery OR can add to this article will you please contact me?)*

# BESANÇON, INDIANA CHRONICLES

Important Dates and Events in Besançon Parish and  
Jefferson Twp. History  
compiled by **Gladys Nail Lomont**

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

T. 30 N., R. 14 E.

**1833 - Jared Witney**, possibly first white settler arrive.

**1834 - First orchard** planted by **Jared Witney**

**1838 - First cemetery** was on land donated by Jared Witney. First schoolhouse was built on land donated by **Christian Wolf**. Sustained by **Jared Witney, Aretas Bowers, William Harper, Joseph Gronauer** and others.

**1840 - George Snider** purchases land grant, signed **President Martin Van Buren**. **Jacob Platt**, also receives a land grant from the President.

**1846 - Area Catholic families** gathered in homes to celebrate Mass. **Joseph M. Dodane, Frederic Kline and Henry C. Bowers** came to Besançon.

**1847 - Havert and Joly families** arrive in Jefferson Twp. **Constant Pernot** married **Julie Meunier**

**1849 - Francois Dodane** married **Justine Monnot**

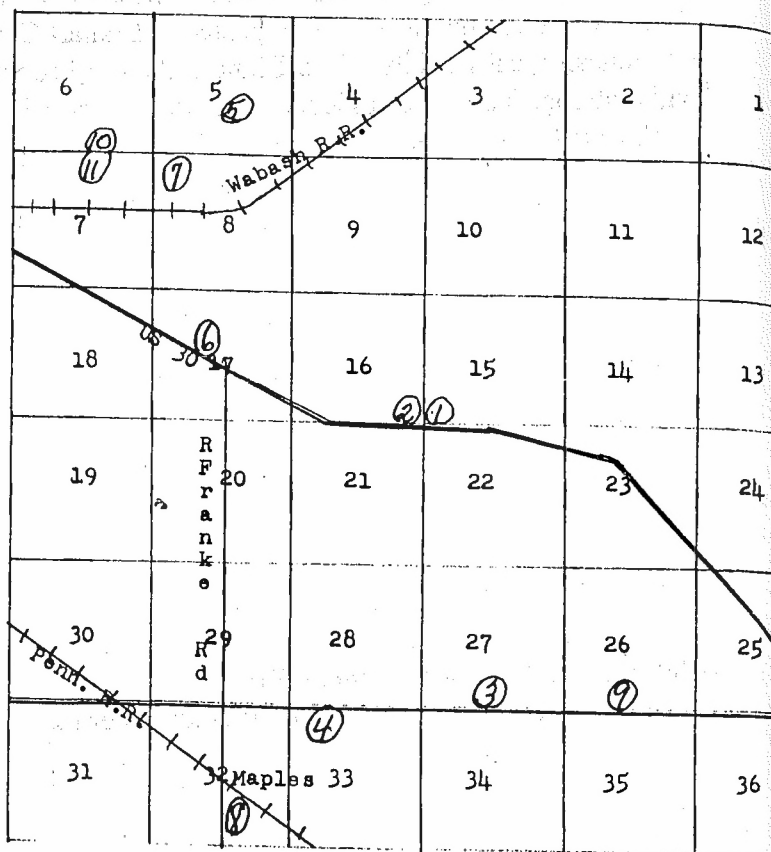
**1850 - U. S. Census** show 18 French families in Jefferson Twp. **Felicia Dodane Bardey** born.

**1851 - Gideon Dickerson** donated 4 acres of land for church. **Joseph Reuille's son, Henry** was born.

**1852 - John Baptiste Roy** applies for U. S. citizenship in Allen County court. **Francois Frene** family arrives. **Adolph Rueille** moves to Jefferson Twp.

**1853 - Gladioux family** arrives in Besançon area. **Joseph Girardot, Alexis Gerardot, and Constant Pernot** family arrive. **Henry C. Bowers** marries **Catherine Coorod**.

**1854 - Marie Jospheine Chevillot Kline** born.



CEMETERIES

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. St. Louis Besancon-Old | 7. Main Family            |
| 2. St. Louis Besancon-New | 8. Maples/Boals Family    |
| 3. Armitage Family        | 9. Platt Family           |
| 4. Gerardot Family        | 10. Whitney Burial Ground |
| 5. Harper Family          | 11. Emanuel Lutheran      |
| 6. Helmick Family         |                           |

**1855 - Adele Urbine Gerardot** born. **Marie Rose Dodane Delagrance** born.

**1857 - Diocese of Fort Wayne** founded. **Rev. Bessonies** left area. **Dupeyron** family arrive in area.

**1858 - Joseph Cochoit** marries **Hortense Rondot**. **Edward Dodane** born. **Francois Frene** and **Marie Odile Gremauz** married.

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## Bits and Pieces...

Two Delayed Birth Registrations with a Besancon Connection.....by **Terri Gorney, CGRS**

These delayed registrations were located in Elkhart County, Indiana by **Pat Johnson** of the Elkhart County IN Genealogical Society. The Elkhart County Probate Office was going to destroy 1500 delayed birth registrations. The genealogical society took possession of these birth registrations.

Birth Certificate Record: **John Ernst Ternet**

Filed date: 6 Apr 1943; Elkhart, Indiana

Born: 17 Mar 1885 Place: Paulding County, Ohio

Color: White

Father: **Francis Ternet** Born: Allen County, Indiana

Mother: **Mary Socie** Born: Paulding County, Ohio

Number living at the time of birth, including his birth : 3

Birth Certificate Record: **Olive Beerbower Tyndall**

Filed date: 6 Nov 1942; Elkhart, Indiana

Born: 4 Jan 1898 Place: Allen County, Indiana

Color: White

Father: **Albert Beerbower** Born: Allen County, Indiana

Mother: **Clara Donat** Born: Paulding County, Ohio

Midwife in attendance: **Phoebe Donat**

Number living at the time of birth, including her birth: 2

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**1859 - Rev Julian Benoit arrives to attend to St. Louis Parish. Constant Pernot moves to Jackson Twp. Warren N. Bowers born.**

**1860 - U.S. Census show 64 French families in area. Marriages include: Charles Girardot and Anne Francoise Converset, George Townsend and Josephine Gladioux, and Francois Gladioux and Marie Francoise Lomont. Those born: Peter Dodane, Joseph Charles Dodane. The Huguenard family move to Jefferson Twp.**

Member of St. Louis Parish, Besancon



**Clarence E. Roy**

Democratic Candidate

**County Commissioner**

For First District

(Subject to Primary May 5, 1936)

*This was taken from a page of The Echo a publication of Central Catholic High School - April, 1936 -*



Lest we forget....



Mrs. Eleanor Van Horn wrote to tell us we had miss her husband in the last issue of the Chronicles regarding the veterans buried in the church's cemetery:

**Robert Eugene Van Horn**

Born: Aug 8 1921

died: Sept 17, 1963

Robert served in the Sea Bees in the Pacific during World War II.

## *New officers....continued*

*continued from page 3*

Last, but not least, **Eugene Yoquelet** really needs no introduction to anyone who has attended meetings in the past years. Now, treasurer and 'keeper of the archives', Gene continues to spend countless hours in research, exploring new ideas for the society and developing a rapport with other organizations.

President for 5 years, his dedication and vision for the society has carried us to this point in 2002. Without Gene, the archives as we know them today, would be little more than bare rooms. He is the one who almost single-handedly remodeled the upstairs of the parish office.

Gene was born in Wells County, IN to **Glen E. and Mary A. (Osburn) Yoquelet**. The eldest of three siblings, he grew up in N. Indiana between LaGrange and Shipshewana and attended Lima Twp High School in Howe. He has spent all of his working life in a service related position, mostly in sales. He has held positions in management with Richman Bros. Co., in Fort Wayne for a number of years which at one time had three clothing stores in the city which included the old downtown store on Calhoun. Gene is presently with Marshall Fields Co in sales and will soon be retiring by February of this year.

The 'rocking chair' is not for him! He will be entering the funeral business part time; a profession which he went to school and studied for before he was drafted in the Armed Forces, serving two years in the Army. He plans to spend more time being involved with the Besançon Historical Society. He and his wife, **Shirley**, plan to take two major trips; one through the New England States, up into Canada and the other driving the Blue Grass Parkway. And, yes, a trip back to Switzerland and France will be scheduled some time soon. One of Gene's great accomplishments was when he organized a group of members on a two-week dream trip to Besançon, France two years ago.

Gene's love, passion and interest in the French history and the genealogies of the French community of St. Louis Parish led him to establish the archives of the society, and he will continue with this project. He has made many friends within the Besançon community and also with those who are descendants of the early pioneers. When Gene started to do the history and genealogy of these early families, his motivation and interest was kept alive by the encouragement of a few people he wishes at this time to acknowledge. They are: **Gladys Nail Lomont, Theresa Martin, Joan Monnier, Terri Gorney** - author of "The Paillozs of Besançon", and **Michael Roy Morow/Alyce Jane Morow**, authors of "Reuilles of Old Besançon".

In his own words, Gene Yoquelet, reveals his commitment to the society. "We are the caretakers of our family genealogy and history; the next generation and the one after that depends on us. This is what the Besançon Historical Society is all about. This is why we maintain three archive rooms for research. We are truly a unique society!"

*The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more.*

*Jonas Salk, MD*

### 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 known as Besançon, Indiana, generally located in Jefferson Township, Allen County, Indiana, and which has as its central focus,  
Saint Louis Catholic Church

Established: 1994