

# THE CHRONICLES

## BESANÇON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 2      SUMMER, 2007

### *Search for Besançon ... Visit to the Home of Ancestors*

*Editor's Note: The April 8, 2007 issue of TODAY'S CATHOLIC featured an article written by Michelle Lomont-Castleman. We are please to present a great portion of it to you. Georges Jeanney, Jane and Mick Lomont are members of the Historical Society.*

Georges Jeanney, an influential industrialist from the Village of Besançon, France, knew there had to be a 'Besançon' somewhere on the map of America because so many people from his area had come to America so many years ago. When his work took him to Chicago for various trade shows, he often inquired among people from the Midwest if they had heard of this name. One man he spoke to, told him no, he had never heard of any town's name Besançon.

Then on one of his next trips in November of 1997, the same man told Jeanney he had good news and that he had found a Besançon on the map in nearby Indiana. When Mr. Jeanney found out he could drive there, he postponed plans to return to France that night and set out to find the Besançon of America.

His trip led him to the very doorsteps of St. Louis Academy where he found the former principal, Miss. Agnes Hart, working away in her office. Hart was delighted to meet the French vistor and gave him the grand tour. Jeanney was expecting to find 'a town' and was surprised to discover just a few brick buildings in the middle of an open field.

During the same visit, Jeanney connected with Ralph Violette, (another Besançon Historical member) who at the time was a professor of history at Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne. He was able to do much research at the Allen County Public Library and our own archives. His goal was to write a book. He already had a title: "Our Cousins from America".

Mr. Jeanney returned several more times to the Fort Wayne area to gather more data for his book . In October, 2006 he met Jane and Mick Lomont who assisted him with his many questions on agriculture in eastern Allen county, mainly Jefferson township. Jeanney was very interested in anything to do with farming and especially the concept of 'no-till', which is just becoming popular in the Paris area. He was thrilled to receive a PBS-Channel 39 film all about the Great Black Swamp, courtesy of the society. Julie (Pequinot) Nolan, another member of BHS, remembers how Mr. Jeanney wanted to learn everything he could possibly find out about farming practices from the early times to the present day, during a dinner the group hosted while he was here.

*Continued on page 5 ...*

## The President's Message ...

The Ohio Genealogical Conference (OGS) was held in Columbus, Ohio in April. A wide range of subjects was covered in two days. Anywhere from migration to War of 1812, DNA, computer use, photo restoration with your computer, land records, National Road, GPS and more. Last year I took two seminars on DNA which was worthwhile since I proved my Jones family were really Ensleys. More on this story to come. (See page 10). This year when I saw Dr. Freed (who teaches genetics) I told him how much I appreciated his lecture and why. He was almost as excited as I was and gave me his Email address so I could give him the particulars. He asked to use my success story in his next lecture, which of course, I said yes.

The global positioning satellite system (GPS) which is in cars are also hand held units which are used by hikers, hunters, fisherman, and genealogists. This is a good way to hunt for cemeteries. Finding coordinates—degrees, minutes, seconds—can be found at [www.geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic](http://www.geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic). The Ohio Cemeteries 1803 2003 book has these coordinates listed with each cemetery. Do you want to find a homestead? Find the location based on a historical map or deed, plot the approximate location. Place the coordinates in the GPS device and it will help you find your destination.

More people are using this tracking device. Geocaching is a fun thing to look for a hidden object. Find the object, write your name on the paper provided and then hide all of this again for the next person.

Attending lectures can be very useful and thought provoking.

The Paulding County Ohio Jail is moving out of the building that has been in use since 1880. It is possibly the oldest building that has been known as a jail in Ohio. Not only is it crowded with no room to expend, but it is also very outdated. It does not meet the building code standards of today.

The Paulding Genealogy group is planning on touring the old jail. Dave Harrow, the Paulding county sheriff, gave a talk on the old jail last year and he showed slides of the building. No ghost has been reported.

Wishing everyone a happy and restful summer.

... *Barbara*

The archives are now closed on

Wednesday mornings

Please call Barb Gorney

(260) 490-6725

OR

Gene Yoquelet

(260) 622-4067

To make an appointment.

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 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

# *Friends of Besançon ...*



A special Thanks to all those who have made extra donations this year to both the Society and the Archive Library Fund. Your support and interest is greatly appreciated. Thank You! From **Gene Yoquelet**, Treasurer.

Please note a new address for **Marti Schmitt**, 313 Kimbrough Drive, Greenwood, IN. 46143. ...

*WELCOME:* **Lynne Steele**, 4097 Conway Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL. 33952

## *Bits 'n Pieces ...*

### **Allen County, Indiana Applications for Naturalization, 1844-1906**

[http://friendsofallencounty.org/search\\_naturalizations.php](http://friendsofallencounty.org/search_naturalizations.php)

#### **About this Database:**

The original books recording the applications for naturalization were located in the clerk's office on the second floor of the Allen County Courthouse, Fort Wayne, Indiana when the indexing was done. While there are microfilm copies available at the county level, the original books are now housed at the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis, Indiana. Information from the first ten books was copied by members of the D.A.R. Mary Penrose Chapter.

The books are numbered and dated as follows:

Book 1: December 16, 1844- December 17, 1853

Book 2: January 19, 1854 - August 27, 1856

Book 3: August 27, 1856 - October 8, 1860

Book 4: October 8, 1860 - October 10, 1870

Book 5: January 13, 1871 - November 4, 1884

Book 6: October 10, 1870 - October 8, 1884

Book 7: August 28, 1883 - November 1, 1892

Book 8: November 1, 1892 - September 26, 1906

Book 9: November 5, 1888 - September 26, 1906

Book 10: September 2, 1886 - October 27, 1892 [On inside page of book listed as number 8 rather than 10; copied in the compilation as Book 10]

Although the dates are not in chronological order and overlap, the original record can be located by following the book and page number which appears with each name in this database.

The books are numbered and dated as follows:

Book 1: December 16, 1844- December 17, 1853

Book 2: January 19, 1854 - August 27, 1856

Book 3: August 27, 1856 - October 8, 1860

Book 4: October 8, 1860 - October 10, 1870

Book 5: January 13, 1871 - November 4, 1884

Book 6: October 10, 1870 - October 8, 1884

Book 7: August 28, 1883 - November 1, 1892

Book 8: November 1, 1892 - September 26, 1906

Book 9: November 5, 1888 - September 26, 1906

Book 10: September 2, 1886 - October 27, 1892 [On inside page of book listed as number 8 rather than 10; copied in the compilation as Book 10]

## *“Yester Year” ... copied and submitted by Jane Morow*



*Fort Wayne Sentinel, May 17, 1910 ...*

**“Only Trouble Come In Unexpected Quarters”.  
School Teacher Denied Information to Census Man.**

That troubles of the enumerator in taking the census develop in the most unexpected quarter is demonstrated by the experience of **J. J. Peters**, of Monroe township, who says that the only difficulty he encountered in his work in the entire town of Monroeville and one-half of Monroe township, was in the refusal of three public school teachers to give the census man the necessary information without the formality of more drastic action than the usual call.

Mr. Peters, who was in the city a few days ago making his returns to Supervisor Sale, talked interestingly of his work. Regarding his experience with the teachers, Mr. Peters says the effort to see them was futile and it became necessary to mail them the individual blanks, prepared by the government. One indicated her intention of being enumerated by her father at her home in Illinois, which is against the census law; the others protested that they “did not have time” to fill out the blanks. The matter was put before Supervisor Sale, who hesitated at drastic action, though he has the power to send a United States marshal after those who refuse to give necessary information. Finally a portion of the return was made after much pressure had been exerted by friends who realized more thoroughly than did the teachers the risk they were running in their refusal to answer the questions.

“The census-taking task was a pleasant one, although difficult,” said Mr. Peters, “for the attitude of the people was for the most part, cordial and courteous. I found very few persons who could not read, or write, and in many instances children of 5 years could read and write intelligently. The census did not require an answer to this question of ability to read or write unless the person was above the age of ten years

*The telephone came happily to our rescue in saving time.* For instance, if no one in the family knew when and where Mary Jane was born, the telephone was used and communication with relatives often at a distance of ten miles secured the information. The enumerator was not looked upon as an affliction, he was welcomed, and in some places almost the entire family would be called together for the ceremony. Even, at times, the hired man would be called in to witness the taking of the Thirteenth census, for they declared it a more interesting event than Hailey’s comet.”

“One can note the marked progress that has been made, especially in the rural districts of Allen county,” continued Mr. Peters. “The people are more sociable than they used to be. They are more systematic in their methods. Many are keeping regular accounts of the doings of the farm. Financially, the farmer is prospering, adding to his bank account or his domain, and he is happy.” Mr. Peters attributes much of the farmer’s contentment and progress to the installation of the telephone, to the perfect system of drainage, to good roads, and to the free rural mail delivery. Incidentally, he said, he found the Sentinel in almost every home in his district.

“As far as facts and figures are concerned,” said Mr. Peters, “we can divulge nothing, for Uncle Sam elected to make the first official announcement himself.” In his field work, which covered a large section of one of the wealthiest townships in Allen county, Mr. Peters was occupied for a total of 192 hours.

**SHIP MANIFEST ... French Steamer: “Europe”,  
Port of departure, LeHarve, France. Port of arrival,  
New York. Date of arrival, May 15, 1865**

**Page three: Francois Lomont, Adolph Parnin and  
Ferdinand Eme.**

**Gene Yoquelet** found this manifest with the above names. He wondered: Did the three young men make a trip back to their homeland and ancestral villages of their parents to visit or to settle estate?

*Continued from page 1 ...*

Before returning to France this time, Jeanney left an open invitation to the parishioners of St. Louis Besançon Parish and to the people of the surrounding community that he had met to visit his village of Besançon, France, at the time his book was to be unveiled.

Mick Lomont decided to take Jeanney up on his offer. It had been a life long dream of his to visit the place of his ancestors. Claude Francis Lomont, his great-great grandfather, came to America from Besançon, France and settled just over a mile from where Mick and Jane live now. With other families from Besançon they held their first church services in the home of Joseph Dodane until a log cabin could be built. As the parish grew, the need for a bigger church was addressed. The St. Louis church of today was built around that log cabin and stands proudly serving the community all these years.

The Lomonts' and their son, Bart corresponded by E-mail almost weekly planning a full itinerary. In March of this year, they were able to be part of the unveiling of Jeanney's book. Lomont was very impressed with the author's vigor and enthusiasm, another reason he wanted to be present for this important occasion.

Mick was asked to make a presentation at the beautiful ceremony in the grand city building in Besançon. Lomont told a little about his family. He has been a life long member of St. Louis Besançon, and Jane, his wife, has played the organ for 40 years there. Their farming operation consists of about 2,000 acres of no-till beans and wheat and corn grow with minimum tillage. Lomont quoted their Swedish agricultural exchange student from the early 1970s. 'Ah, good land, good machines, and good people', which he felt summed up the area around Besançon very well.

The morning after the unveiling, the local paper gave a full account of the event with a photo of the Lomonts accepting a gift copy of the book from Mr. Jeanney and also the Lomonts being presented with a medallion of the city of Besançon from its assistant mayor.

While in Besançon Mick, Jane and Bart toured the city, a blend of modern and ancient architecture. They saw all the local attractions, including the Citadelle, a military masterpiece used by the Nazis in World War II and the impressive St. John's Cathedral, that was started in the 12th century, which houses a round, white marble altar, a number of paintings and an astronomical clock in its bell tower. "We were treated like royalty and received such a warm welcome from everyone we met", said Jane. But even more than the scenery, Jane enjoyed interacting with and being in the homes of the French people. A former French teacher herself, Jane said "I could not believe how much the French language came back to me".

Mick said he will never forget the beauty of the countryside as they traveled by high speed train from Paris to Besançon. "It was breathtaking." They also attended Sunday Mass at St. Louis Church.

"Our Cousins From America" is completely written in French, but one can piece together parts of the journey from the various chapter titles, photos, maps and headlines. There is one section titled "Windows of the Past", which gives a brief description of the family names that are displayed on the stained glass windows of St. Louis Church, Besançon, Indiana. Jane and Mick brought back several copies of the book for friends and family.

Mr. Jeanney has donated one of his books to the Allen County Public Library and one to the archives of Besançon Historical Society. "Our Cousins From America" is not in any book store in the area at this time, he is hoping to find an outlet soon, the publisher is CABEDITA. You can contact Georges Jeanney, 14 Rue Isenbart, 25000 Besançon, France. His Email is: [Georgesjeanney@hotmail.com](mailto:Georgesjeanney@hotmail.com).

---

*Editor's Note: While cleaning out files (and files) I came across this delightful letter dated 1881 sent to me from Pat Comiskey in 2004. Pat sent us a query in 2005 while researching the PEPE family from Geney, and was looking for information about Josephine Gamet who married Charles M. Joly. Pat found the letter using Ancestry.com, in the periodical source index. It can be found in the HIDDEN VALLEY JOURNAL. The Schmucker name can be found on page 66 in "The Windows of the Past."*

*The letter is from Michel Joly, living in Paris in 1881 to his sister, Elisabeth, living in Ennis, Texas, after the death of her husband, Sebastian Schmucker.*

64 Turenne St.

Paris, March 14th, 1881

Madame Elizabeth Schmucker nee Joly,

My Dear Sister,

It was with great pleasure that I received your wonderful letter. I am furthermore delighted to know that you are all happy, at least materially. I learned from Charles about the tragedy that has befallen you, the death of your husband. But you still have a large family, which is a great consolation. It is only in adversity that we appreciate our relatives. Courage then! And remember that such sad events are not mended by murmuring and sadness. I would have been glad to have met your husband. Had I foreseen what actually happened to me after the war and civil revolution, instead of spending seven years in England, I would have visited you. Probably I would still be there, considering that I am able to work after these nine years.

I have also had my share of troubles. It would be very long to tell you my ups and downs. You know that Clemence had a job with a big income. I daresay you also know that she is now totally deaf because of which she is losing all her customers. The money put aside was spent on doctor's care and on medicine; we wanted desperately to combat the affliction. But we failed, and we must say Amen to our cross.

Realizing that her business was failing, I plucked up determination and began a development of my own work, not realizing at the time that external circumstances would make it exceptional. As most people were anxious about the defense of our Country, now seized by the Germans, I joined the army. But we were defeated by the treachery of those who sold our Fatherland to Prussia.

You know that parts of Loraine and Alsace became a Prussian province. I joined the revolutionaries. We were defeated, as in the first instance, by traitors. We had to abandon our house where business had been flourishing. I had credit, but now having no security I couldn't maintain it. In a word, I am back in Paris this past year. Again, I must start building up my work, which wouldn't be difficult if there were money available. I am striving hard at present, and I hope to succeed. But it is difficult.

*Continued on page 12*

*More "Yester Year" ... copied and submitted by Jane Morow**Ft. Wayne News ... September 19, 1917***11th INDIANA BATTERY.****Annual Reunion at Home of Charles P. Roy,  
North of City Tomorrow.**

Mess at 11 o'clock served on the lawn under the trees in army fashion and a program of patriotic songs and exercises will feature the annual reunion of the Eleventh Indiana Battery at the home of **Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Roy**, seven miles north of this city on the Coldwater road, Thursday. The reunion is in observance of the anniversary of the battle of Chickamauga in which the old Eleventh helped to keep the old flag floating. All members of the battery, active and honorary with a few invited friends will attend the reunion. They will meet at the court house at 9 o'clock from where they will be transported to the Roy home in automobiles furnished by county officials and other citizens. The election of officers will take place the morning session of the reunion.



*Ft. Wayne News March 3, 1915 ...* The Misses Genevieve and Bernadette Gladieux, Bertha Vanderly, Cecelia Mourey, Emma Voirol, Agnes Vanderley, Hilda Coular-dat, Blanche Banet, and Amelia Mourey have organized a social sewing circle which will hold meetings regularly to sew and enjoy a visit and dainty refreshments. The first meeting was held Saturday at the home of the Misses Mourey.

*Ft. Wayne, Weekly Sentinel, 03/17/1915, New Haven News* Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Nail, of Maples, are now occupying their new home on West Main Street. ... Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Behrman entertained the following guests at their home south of town Thursday evening. Fred Banker, of Indianapolis, Misses Amelia Schultz, and Maimie Gable, Messrs. Harmon Gable, and O. Krose of Fort Wayne. ... James Nail has returned to Custer, Okla., after spending a few weeks here with his brother, D. B. Nail and family.

**PUBLIC SALE**

I offer for sale at my residence on the **Old Monnot** farm one half mile south of Stop 62, three and one half miles southeast of New Haven, Indiana, commencing at 10 o'clock, a. m. on

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1911

**HORSES:** Eight head consisting of 1 grey mare 9 yrs old, 1600#, in foal; 1 bay mare, 9 yrs, 1200#, in foal; 1 bay mare, 13 yrs, 1300#, two 2 yr bay geldings; one match team of sorrel spring colts; one 3 yr sorrel driving mare.

**CATTLE:** Four milk cows, 2 will be fresh in February and 2 in September; 3 heifer calves ten months old.

**HOGS:** Two brood sows, 1 with 6 pigs; 1 Berkshire boar; 6 shoats weighing 125 # each.

**FARM IMPLLEMENTS;** One Milwaukee binder, 1 Milwaukee mower, 1 Thomas hay loader, 1 Thomas tedder, 1 Deering rake, 1 Hoosier grain drill with 10 discs, Gale 2-horse corn planter, a disc harrow, Deering corn binder, 2-horse corn plow, Scotch Clipper riding breaking plow, walking plow, side jumper plow, 3-inch tire farm wagon, 2 3-inch tire steel wheel wagons, spring wagon, top buggy, 1-horse corn cutter, hay ladder, gravel boards, fanning mill, mud boat, hay fork, rope, pulleys and carrier, 2 sets heavy harness, set single harness, Justright cream separator, 4-horse gasoline engine, ST. Mary's make, 60 egg incubator, hot water brooder, wood rack.

**THRESHING OUTFIT:** Consisting of 18 horse-power Port Huron engine, J. I. Case separator 32-54 with latest attachments, McCormick shredder, 4 roll; 15 barrel tank and wagon and wood, saw.

**TERMS OF SALE:** All sums of \$5.00 and under, cash on day of sale. On all sums of \$5.00 a credit of 9 months will be given, the purchaser giving note with approved freehold security. A discount of 4 per cent, will be given for cash on sums over \$5.00. No goods removed until settled for either by cash or note. Notes not paid at maturity will draw 6 per cent interest from date of sale.

**FRANK KLINE**

**E. Sturm, Auctioneer.**

**Clement Evard, Clerk**

## Family Cookbook, Anna Ryan Townsend abt: 1900

Submitted by Sue Downey, great granddaughter of William and Anna Ryan Townsend. William was the son of George W. and Josephine C. Gladioux Townsend.

### Butter Scotch Pie

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup water

Butter (size of an egg)

3 eggs

1 tablespoon flour

Boil sugar, butter, and water together.  
Add flour.

Etta Townsend

### Brine for Sausage

1/2 cup salt

1/2 brown sugar

1/2 Gall water

Boil 1/2 hour.

Mrs. Orpha Voirol

### Devil's Food Cake

2 cups granulated sugar

1/2 cup cocoa

2 teaspoons soda

3 cups flour

2 cups sour milk

1/2 cup melted lard

Vanilla

Susan Falls Ternet

### Tomato Soup

1 quart tomatoes

1 quart sweet milk

1 tablespoon flour in milk

1 pint water

1 teaspoon soda in tomatoes

Put tomatoes in a pan and cook by itself.  
Season like Oysters (sic). Mix befour (sic)  
putting on the table.

Lorinda Harris Chausse "Aunt Rin".

### Sugar Cure for Meat

1/2 pound Saltpetre

1/2 pound black pepper

1/2 pound brown sugar

5 quarts salt

500 pounds meat

Let stand 14 days, then smoke

A. E. Gerardot

### Meat

Brown meat in skillet and boil 1 1/2 hour  
in oven. Pork or Beef can be all cooked  
this same way.

Medereth Giant

Editor's note: Thanks so much, Sue for sharing  
this...what a treasure. Other names mentioned in  
recipes Sue sent were: Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Buffington,  
Edna Bunner (2709 Chestnut St), Mrs. Fork, Mrs.  
Frintine, Mrs. Passwater, Mrs. Stump and Ruth Ro-  
denbeck.

*OBITUARIES ... copied by Jane Morow**Ft. Wayne News ... Aug. 26, 1913***CAESAR BERTHAND****Death Called Member of Family Leading Unique Life**

Caesar Berthand, aged sixty-four years, for forty-eight years a resident of Jefferson township, died Monday night. He was the first of three brothers and three sisters who had resided together during many years to die. The surviving brothers and sisters are Jane, Josephine and Amiel, Amable and Leon. Funeral services will be held Thursday morning at St. Vincent's Catholic church.

Caesar and his brothers and sisters were born in Onan, Department DuBois, France, and came to this country together, settling in Jefferson township. They decided to stick together and make their way in this country, and this plan they carried out to the letter. Not one of them ever married, and all lived together as a united family until the death of Caesar Monday night.

*Ft. Wayne News ... March 9, 1906*

Edward C. Banet, age 20 years, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Banet, 89 Elizabeth street, died at 8:30 o'clock this morning after an illness of two years of pulmonary trouble. The surviving relatives include the parents, four brothers, and three sisters as follows: Frank, James, Henry and Clarence Banet and the Misses Marie, Rosalie and Blanche Banet. The deceased was a member of the Cathedral and the Young Men's sodality. The funeral will be held Monday at 8:30 from the residence and at 9 o'clock from the Cathedral.

*Ft. Wayne Weekly Sentinel ... March 12, 1902***John Langard Passes Away****Death claims Widely Known Citizen****Was a member of Prominent Pioneer French family****Had Many Friends.**

John Langard, for many years a prominent Fort Wayne business man and one of the best known citizens of Allen county, died shortly after 8 o'clock Wednesday evening at his home, Columbia and Barr streets, at the age of forty-three years.

Mr. Langard's illness had extended over a period of several weeks and for several days his condition had been so critical that friends realized the end could not be long delayed.

He had never fully recovered from an attack of typhoid fever in November. A few weeks ago he suffered an attack of liver complaint and dropsy followed. Early in the present week there was a marked change for the worse and the patient steadily declined until the end came. His death will come as a personal sorrow to thousands of friends aside from immediate relatives, for Mr. Langard was widely known and as widely esteemed.

He was a lifelong citizen of Allen county, born in Lake township, February 23, 1860, the son of **Louis Langard**, one of the most prominent of Allen county's early French settlers. The family removed to the city more than thirty years ago and for several years the father conducted a boarding house. Later, in 1881, with his son, the elder Langard embarked in the grocery business on East Columbia street. This was continued by the son after his father's death until six years ago, when he sold out to **Frank Joly**. Shortly after this Mr. Langard embarked in the saloon business at Columbia and Barr streets, which he conducted until his death. Mr. Langard was scrupulous in his observance of the liquor laws and his place was always conducted in strict accordance with his contention that the saloon business could be conducted as respectably as any other line of trade.

Mr. Langard was united in marriage nineteen years ago to Miss **Rosa Dodane**, of Jefferson township, who survives him with three children—**Lillie, Joseph and Rosella**. Mrs. Langard, worn with anxiety and watching at the bedside of her husband, was completely prostrated by his death and has been in a very critical condition. Mr. Langard's aged mother also survives.

**Louis Langard**, a night clerk at the police station, is a brother and **Mrs. George E. Parrott, Mrs. Frank Joly and Mrs. Elton Faust** are sisters of the deceased.

Mr. Langard was a careful business man and had accumulated a comfortable competence, both in real estate and personal belongings. He was acquainted with perhaps as many people in Allen county as any other resident of the city, and every acquaintance was a friend. He was cordial, kindly, and honorable and his death will be sincerely mourned. He took an active interest in political affairs and was a man of much influence, though he never sought preferment for himself. But a few weeks ago he was urged by a strong following of friends to permit his name to go before the coming democratic convention as a candidate for county auditor, but declined the honor.

Funeral services were held from the Cathedral Monday morning.

*Editor's Note: Jane Morow has found many interesting articles in her timeless search for information for the Chronicles. This is one of the most detailed obituaries and was so personal. A hundred years ago, the press was very explicit about many things, and some of these articles we chose not to publish, but it does make for interesting reading! jlc*

## DNA TESTING WORKS!

By Barbara Pio Gorney

**THE PROBLEM:** Proving the real surname of William Nathan Jones.

My mother's maiden name was Jones. However, the name was supposedly changed due to an ancestor being a "horse thief." When Terri (my daughter) asked her great grandmother what the real name was, her answer was "it has always been Jones." My grandmother was born in 1892 and she had that Victorian mind set. Don't relate any bad things that are in the family. My grandfather was William B. Jones. My great grandfather was William Nathan Jones who was born in 1842 in Tennessee. This is from the census.

**FIRST CLUE:** In 1995 we had a cousin contact us who was from the first marriage of Nathan Jones. Now this was a surprise. Nathan had a first wife! The cousin knew from his family history that the name had been Ensley.

**WHAT NEXT?**—which Ensley line? A long dry spell occurred with no new info.

In April of 2006 at the Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) conference, I attended two DNA lectures given by Dr. James Freed a genetics teacher. He recommended Family Tree DNA company to trace families.

2006 September- I contacted FamilyTree DNA and a swab was sent to my cousin so she could swab her Dad's mouth. (my uncle- William B. Jones Jr. ) Also they had Ensley's-Ansleys listed on their DNA list. I opted for the 37 markers instead of 12 or 25 in order to be able to say "this is my line." One Ensley had 12 markers which matched. In January 2007 Rupert Ainsley matched all 37 markers. This means that there is a 99.9% probability that we have a common ancestor. And a 90% that it was no longer than 5 generations. I e-mailed him and he e-mailed how his line descended from Solomon Ansley in N.C. early 1700's.

**NOW** I have Solomon, who comes between him and Nathan??

**COLLECTING INFO** I had already collected info on the descendants of Solomon, and the Ansley family, checked the early census records in NC, and looked at queries.

Also I checked census records for Ensley in Tennessee, because the families that moved to TN. seem to spell the name ENSLEY. In the 1900 census Nathan Jones said he was born in TN. Also the death certificate said his father's name was Thomas. This was a problem because I couldn't find Thomas with a Nathan. Hint:Remember the death certificate is filled out by a someone other than the deceased!

In the 1860 census for Nashville, Davidson Co. TN, there was a Nathan who was 18 (right age) with father Charles Ensley. There is a Nathan Ensley in the Confederate cavalry 4<sup>th</sup> reg. From Tennessee. I checked Ensley again on RootsWeb and came up with an Enoch in Davidson county. TN. SOOOO I checked all the Davidson Co. books. Enoch was definitely a well to do person with fingers in everything. And then there was Charles P. Ensley with son Nathan.

**MORE CENSUS** Back to checking census records. In 1880 Charles has lost his wife and is living with Bettie his daughter who is married to Andrew Kennedy. BINGO! In the papers and letters that had been saved by our family, I remembered that a Kennedy had written to the Jones'. The letter was started by saying "cousin." William H.E. Kennedy wrote in 1910 from Nashville that he was coming to visit with his wife Kate. He must have known of Nathan and sons who lived in Mount Vernon, Posey Co. IN. The one son being my grandfather William born 1887 to which the letter was addressed. The 1900 census shows a son Wm H. age 15 with Andrew Kennedy. In 1910 Wm is married to Catherine. Now, I'm on a roll.

*Continued on page 11 ...*

Barb Gorney ... Continued from page 10,

**THE STORY OF THE HORSE THIEF:**

The story in our family was the name was changed because of a horse thief. Into the internet again. 2 volumes had been published of Tennessee convicts. These books were at the library. (Yea for ACPL) VOL 2. 1850-1870 had an index with W.N. Ensley. 22 yrs old (right age) Sentenced to 4 ½ years for larceny Dec 1863. Born and raised in Tennessee. Parents living in Nashville.

ESCAPED: June 1865. Nathan was in the Confederate cavalry! I believe this is the "horse thief" who changed his name to Jones. Nathan's father Charles died in 1892. Nathan Ensley was listed in the will. I contacted the Nashville Archives and for \$3 I was able to get Charles Ensley's will. There are 2 generations between Charles and Solomon.

I have some leads which I am working on. DNA testing works as long as you have others who are willing to share their family information and DNA studies. I was ecstatic when all the info started to come together to prove the Ensley-Ansley-Ainsley lineage.

The House of Annesley began in the village of Annesley England, so named for the Celtic chief (Anna or Annah) who owned a meadow (lea). Thus Anna's lea. After William the Conqueror came to England in 1066, this land was given to Ralph Fitz-Hubert. Eventually the family took the name de Annsley. #



**AN INCENDIARY.**

Fort Wayne Sentinel ... Aug 15, 1895

Yesterday morning about 3 o'clock some one set fire to a straw stack about forty feet from the fine barn on the premises of August Chevillot, in Jackson township. Mr. Chevillot is an early riser and discovered the straw stack on fire. He hastily summoned his neighbors and after considerable difficulty succeeded in putting out the fire. The barn had a narrow escape.



**BESANÇON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CALENDAR FOR 2007**

All meetings are held in the parish office of  
St. Louis Catholic Church

9:30 A. M.

February 24, 2007

April 28, 2007

July 21, 2007

October 27, 2007



**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**payable, first of January**

Individual - \$15.00

Family - \$20.00 Lifetime - \$200.00

send a check attn.:

Treasurer, Besançon Historical Society



All officers are on the Internet:

*Let us know how we are doing!*

**Barbara Pio Gorney ... [BandTGorney@aol.com](mailto:BandTGorney@aol.com)**

**MaryJane Morow Novosel ... [novoseljoef@cs.com](mailto:novoseljoef@cs.com)**

**Ariene Dodane Curts ... [Bobka9z@aol.com](mailto:Bobka9z@aol.com)**

**Gene Yoquelet ...**

**Joyce Lomont Crowl ... [joycejeancrowl@wowway.com](mailto:joycejeancrowl@wowway.com)**

*Continued from page six ...* You ask if I have some news about Vahl and Montedier. I haven't had any direct news for some seven years. John Mathiel wrote me a letter from London, but it was so absurd that I did not reply it.

I've been told that Dede is dead, so also his sister, Catherine. John Mathiel lives in Valhrade and is doing well, though I believe he has trouble with his children. I've no news from Vahl. It's 18 years since I was there, and I have exchanged letters with no one. But I plan to write soon and I'll let you have the news.

You realize that we lost our Gabriel. It's a long time now, August 4th, 1866. That loss is the affliction of my life. My wife almost lost her mind on account of it, which I could understand. He was the one I loved most here on earth. He was so good and smart, especially honest; he grew up as I hoped he would. All my happiness was there. But we had to leave him. It is almost 16 years since we suffered this cruel loss, and not a quarter of an hour passes that I don't recall him. My Dear Sister, life is a bitter deception.

Have you seen my brother, John? Were you still in Fort Wayne when you visited him? Charles tells me that he is doing little, which doesn't surprise me considering that his son Leon died. He was a good boy. He married in Conner, Bourgogne, and worked as a mechanic at the railway Paris-Lyons line. His Mother lived with him, but since his death she has returned to Paris and works to make a living. Since coming back I haven't had opportunity to go see her; during the week she works out, and on Sunday I haven't time. I hope to visit her tomorrow or later. She has no more children. Celine, a daughter-in-law of 18 1/2 years old, died a year after Gabriel because of a severe cold, and Leon died 2 years ago. We were still in London and would have remained there had not my wife been sick most of the time because of the fog which is there 8 of the 12 months. As for John, he was mean to her, likewise to the children and me, because he owes me some money. I'd appreciate it if he sent it to me right now. This is the reason he hasn't written me since 1867. There are some who think they have no duty to fulfill, but possess the right to take advantage of others. We must not be ashamed to admit it, but it exists among us; hard to say, but it is true.

I haven't told you about Clemence. It has been over 30 years since her illness began. She was hurt when her son was born and hasn't completely recovered yet. And now all is lost. We are old, and her affliction returns; it is incurable. Besides, I must let you know that we lost her Mother last January 5th. She was 94 years old. My father-in-law died five weeks later, February 11. I was telling Charles that the Joly family would die out. He told me not to be anxious, but that it will last for thousands of years. To my calculations, I have found 23 nephews and nieces. I see you have admirably fulfilled your duties as far as this is concerned. I am proud.

I saw Madame Thomas, sister-in-law of Charles, and she received me kindly with her son-in-law, Mr. Lempquet. If you write to Charles, please mention this. I'd like to have your picture when next you write, if this is possible. I'll send you mine later. At present, I have none of myself. I'd like to have a complete collection of the family. I saw that of Madame Chordon and her husband.

I must tell you it is expensive to live in Paris. Everything is costly, especially rent. For 800 francs you get a small apartment. Four pounds of bread cost 90f. Meat is beyond price. Since this horrible war all necessities have been highly taxed. What deepens our misery is the fact that business is in the hands of the great capitalists who have workers in their grasp. If the Republic continues, as is probable, within a few years the situation will differ, with no war and revolutions.

All conquest and welfare of the people will be determined by voting. As you know, everyone has the right to vote, and this year the Chamber of Deputies will be renewed completely.

Try to understand me if you can. I finish with the hope that my letter will find you in good health. I will be glad to see you again, but there is little hope of this till my business improves. Much water will flow beneath the bridge before then. My wife joins me in a fraternal embrace.

Your brother, M. Joly

P. S. We are going to move, but this won't prevent you from writing to the above address. I cannot give you my new address as I haven't found a place yet. Sincerely Your's M. Joly