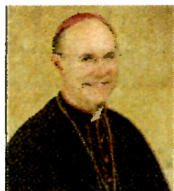




Visit to rural parishes enjoyable and educational



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY By Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades climbs aboard a John Deere combine as corn is harvested in a nearby field at St. Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven, on his Oct. 10 visit to the parish. Bishop Rhoades, with a John Deere cap and St. Louis Academy T-shirt, is shown with St. Louis Besancon Parish farmer Greg Lomont.

Photo by Michelle Castleman

Monroeville and Besancon

On this beautiful Sunday, which feels more like summer than fall, I celebrated Masses at two historic parishes of our diocese. The first, Saint rose of Lima Parish, is located at Monroeville, a small town in southeastern Allen County. It was founded in 1868, during the episcopate of our first Bishop, Bishop John Luers. The second, Saint Louis Parish, is located east of Ft. Wayne in an area called Besancon because of the French immigrants who settled in the area from Besancon, France. In fact, the parish is commonly called "Saint Louis Besancon." Of course, it is named in honor of the holy king of France, Saint Louis. This parish was founded in 1848, eleven years before the Diocese of Ft. Wayne was established! I noticed the many French names on the tombstones in the parish cemetery. I also learned the many present-day parishioners are descendants of the original French settlers of the area.

I have mentioned before in this column how much I enjoy these visits to our rural and small-town parishes. The churches are lovely and there is a family-like atmosphere in the parish communities. After the Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church, I enjoyed meeting the parishioners in the school cafeteria for refreshments after Mass. The children of the

parish school, named Saint Joseph School, sang a beautiful prayer of blessing at the gathering.

After the Mass at Saint Louis Besancon Church, I enjoyed a huge potluck dinner with many parishioners of both parishes. There, the children of the parish school, Saint Louis Academy, also sang a few beautiful songs. Then I experienced a few activities that I day never done before. First, I was a judge in a pie contest. Five of us ate slivers of eleven delicious pies and then we had to judge them on taste, crust, and appearance. I wish I had not already eaten full meal before the contest, but I managed to enjoy all eleven pieces!

After the pies, I was treated to a ride on a huge combine harvester. I had never been on a combine nor did I know how they worked. Many of the parishioners at Saint Louis Besancon have farms or work on farms. I was happy to ride on the combine and watch the harvesting of the corn. It was amazing to see the threshing mechanism of the combine as the corn stalks were cut and the corn separated. When the combine was full, the corn was transferred into a truck that rode beside us. The speed of the whole process was amazing to me. After this most interesting and educational experience, I joined the children of the parish for a truck ride to a nearby pond where we saw geese and fish and a variety of plants and trees. All in all, it was a fun afternoon, a great opportunity to meet people and to learn about their lives.

I wish to thank Father Stephen Colchin, the pastor of both Saint Rose of Lima and saint Louis Besancon, for his devoted priestly ministry and for his kind hospitality to me on Sunday!

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MISSION OF
THE BESANCON HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

ARTICLE 11 - SECTION 2

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

Established 1994

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LOOK FOR BHS ON INTERNET

www.Besanconhistory.org

President's Message ... Barbara Gorney

February first and I am waiting on the snowstorm to hit. By the time you are reading this, I hope winter has hit its peak and spring is around the corner.

The Internet has proven its resourcefulness in finding families. There are new websites springing up on every phase of finding a connection to our roots. Findagrave.com is devoted to cemeteries that have Internet caretakers for the graves. These caretakers are volunteers who have placed as much information they have from the tombstones, such as name and dates, on the web. Some have added family histories and pictures of the tombstones. If a cemetery is listed but does not have your family information, just write a note; to the caretaker on what you know. They will be glad to add it. Terri Gorney did this for one cemetery and the caretaker added her as a volunteer. Terri now has the privilege to add the information herself. She has also added other graves that have not been listed. If you want to leave flowers, you can—virtually. You may find a “living” relative contacting you if you leave flowers or add names to a cemetery.

The old and new St. Louis Besancon Cemetery is listed on this website. Allen County has volunteers that are taking pictures of all graves in all the cemeteries. Quite an undertaking!

I didn't know where my gg grandfather Charles Ensley was buried in Tennessee in 1892. I put his name into findagrave and there he was, in Nashville City Cemetery with his wife and a son. Someone had taken their time to enter this cemetery on the Internet. Hooray!

Worldcat is a database, which is a valuable resource in finding information. It is one large catalog of more than 1.5 billion items. Research can be by surname, cities, countries, publications, maps, manuscripts, etc. The information comes from many repositories. Check one that is close or has interlibrary loan or a reference service for look ups and photocopying.

Footnote.com is a great source for finding names in the early Fort Wayne newspapers. Footnote is fairly new, but is expanding their data constantly. Some military records are available, 1860 census records, other city newspapers, Revolutionary War pensions, and the information on the colonies. Also, information is grouped under eras such as 1880-1920, 1920-1935, and after 1950. However, a membership is needed to access these records.

Wishing all a great year.

Barbara

Friends of Besancon.....

Special note: (see cover story), October 10, 2010 was a special Sunday for the parishioners of Saint Louis, Besancon, as the new Bishop of Ft. Wayne-South Bend Diocese, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, led the Mass along with Rev. Stephen Colchin, Pastor of St. Louis and Saint Rose of Lima. All participants in the service did an outstanding job. It was a beautiful Mass and one, which will become a part of the church history. Attended by Gene Yoquelet, representing the Besancon Historical Society.

Welcome new members: **Paul R. Morow**, (Reuille, then Roy), 14039 Honey Tree Dr. Carmel, IN 46032. E-mail: pkc.morow@sbcglobal.net

Michael R. Morow (Reuille, then Roy), 1225 Frederick South Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46260. E-mail: portia@indyweb.net Michael was co-author of the book The Reuilles of Old Besancon, and has given the BHS Archives 3-1 hour lectures of the late Fr. Charles Banet on researching church records in the U.S. and France.

Thank you for donations to the Archives: **Joan Johnson, Judith Schroff, and John & Roseann Schreiber.**

Thank you for donations to the Society: **Michael Biesiada, Fr. James Lothamer, Rita Scheel, Judith Schroff, and Margaret Venderley.**

Gene and Shirley Yoquelet made a gift from the Society to Fr. Steve of \$49.95.
(for Christmas)

Yester-Year... .copied and submitted by Jane Morow

SOCIETY'S PICNIC

Ft. Wayne News July 11m 1905

The French-American society of Allen county will enjoy its third annual picnic at Centlivre's Park next Sunday. Casso's orchestra will furnish music and an elaborate program has been arranged.

SOCIETY MEETS

Ft. Wayne News Jan. 24, 1910

The annual smoker of the French-American society was held Sunday afternoon in Langard's hall on Columbia street. The event was particularly delightful. About one hundred members of the organization were present and a charming program of music was rendered. No preparations were made for the annual celebration at Centlivre's park in the summer time. A. Girardot is the president of the society.

NICHOLAS SORDELET GENEALOGY

Researched and compiled by Gene Yoquelet

NICHOLAS SORDELET born, 11/23/1793, pl Courchaton; Dept. Haute Saone, France. D., 4/6/1875, pl Allen Co. son of JEAN FRANCOIS and ANNE FRANCOISE (BERTENAND) SORDELET, natives of Courchaton, France.

JEANNE CLAUDE CHIQUELIN born, 4/12/1790, pl. Courchaton; Dept. Haute Saone, Fr. D., (chr. Rec., burial 3/22/1879, 90yr, St. Louis Chr.), pl Jeff. Twp. Daughter of JACQUES and MARIE FRANCOISE (SAUCY) CHIQUELIN, natives of France.

Marriage date, 2/24/1813, pl. Courchaton, Fr. St. Madeleine

Interment, St. Louis Catholic Cem., Besancon.

Children:

JEANNE PIERRETTE VIRGINIA

Born, 8/8/1813, pl Courchaton, Fr. D., __/__/__, pl _____ married PIERRE JOSEPH HUGUENARD, M/D 2/23/1845 PL. Courchaton, Fr. PIERRE JOSEPH born, 11/12/1808, pl Courchaton, son of PIERRE JACQUES AND JEANNE FRANCOISE (DUPONT) HUGUENARD, natives of Courchaton.

AUGUSTIN JACQUES

Born, 6/13/1815, pl. Courchaton, Fr. D., 6/16/1875, pl. Allen Co., IN. married CATHERINE DRUEX, m/d ca. 1853, pl _____
(See: AUGUSTIN J. SORDELET and DRUEX Genealogy)

LOUIS

Born, 2/9/1818, pl. Courchaton, Fr. D., 6/24/1885, pl Allen Co., IN married PAULINE SOIGNET, m/d 4/15/1858, pl Erie Co., N.Y.
(See: LOUIS SORDELET and SOIGNET Genealogy)

JEANNE AUGUSTINE

Born, 7/21/1821, pl Courchaton, Fr. D., 10/14/1822, burial in Courchaton.

CLAUDE SERAPHIN

Born, 1/22/1828, pl Courchaton, Fr. D., __/__/__, pl _____

JACQUES

Born, 4/8/1830, pl Courchaton, Fr. D., 11/15/1910, pl Allen Co., IN married AUGUSTINE HUGUENARD, m/d ca. 1853, pl Tonawanda; Erie Co., N.Y.

Cont. page 6

JACQUES SORDELET second marriage to ARMONCE DUPONT, 3/4/1856, pl St. Vincent Catholic Chr.; Allen Co., IN

(See: JACQUES SORDELET Genealogy which immediately follows)

JACQUES SORDELET HISTORY/GENEALOGY

JACQUES SORDELET Born, 4/8/1830, pl Courchaton, Fr. D., 11/15/1910, 80yr. 6m, 5d, pl Jeff. Twp.; Allen, Co., IN son of NICHOLAS and JEANNIE CLAUDE (CHIQUELIN) SORDELET, French immigrants to Jeff. Twp., Allen Co.

JACQUES SORDELET arrived in America, 5/1/1847, Port of New York and Citizenship declared, 5/25/1866, Allen Co., IN

First settled in Erie Co., NY, Tonawanda, and is found listed in the 1850 census of Erie Col

Jacques Sordelet migrated to Allen Co., IN and was first recorded in the 1860 census of Perry Twp. He relocated to Jeff. Twp. and found listed in the 1870 census of that township.

On Oct. 20, 1860, Jacques and Armonce Sordelet purchased from the Parrot family a forty-acre tract of land, the southeast quarter of Section Eleven in Jeff. Twp. Allen Co. This became their permanent home of their remaining years.

AUGUSTINE HUGUENARD Born, __/__/__, pl. Fr. D., __/__/ca. 1855, pl Erie Co., NY Daughter of _____ and _____ (_____) HUGUENARD, residents of _____. Marriage date, __/__/ca. 1853, pl Tonawanda, NY. Interment, Tonawanda, NY Augustine (Huguenard) Sordelet

Children:

MARY

Born, 1/1/1854, pl Tonawanda, NY, D., 3/30/1934, pl rural New Haven, IN Married WILLIAM RORICK, m/d 9/24/1878 (B13-P41), pl Allen Co. Interment, St. Louis Catholic Cem., Besancon.

JACQUES SORDELET second marriage to ARMONCE DUPONT, m/d/ 3/4/1856, pl St. Vincent Catholic Church, Wash. Twp.

ARMONCE DUPONT Born, 9/23/1837, pl Fr. D., 6/9/1910, 71yr 9m 15d pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. daughter of PIERRE and MARIE (PEQUIGNOT) DUPONT, French immigrants of Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN

Cont. page 7

JACQUES SORDELET/DUPONT GENEALOGY

Children of JACQUES and ARMONCE (DUPONT)

FRANCIS L.

Born, Aug. ca. 1858, pl Perry Twp., Allen co. D., 4/17/1921, pl. Chicago, IL Married
EMMA ROUSH, m/d 7/25/1883, pl. Allen Co. Interment, Chicago, IL

JACQUES

Born, 9/7/1859, pl Perry Twp., Allen Col D., (church rec., burial, 3/7/1878, 18yr 6m) St.
Louis Cemetery.

CLARA M.

Born, ___/___/ca. 1862, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. D., 5/24/1936, pl Mentone, IN Married
WILLIAM C. CLUTTER, m/d 3/20/1884 (B15-p177), pl Allen Co.
Interment, Huntertown Cemetery, Allen Co.

LOUISE A.

Born, ___/___ca. 1864, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. D., burial, 3/12/1938, pl _____ Married
HUBERT YOQUELET, m/d 1/25/1883 (B15-P177), pl St. Louis Catholic Church,
Besancon. Interment, IOOF Cemetery, New Haven.

(See: HUBERT YOQUELET and SORDELET Genealogy)

LOUISE A. SORDELET YOQUELET second marriage to PETER S. HAINES,
m/d 2/7/1901, pl Allen Co. (residents of Aboite Twp., Allen Co.)

CHARLES P.

Born, 8/___/1866, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. D., 2/___/1947, pl Pueblo, CO Married
ISSABELLE BROWN, m/d 11/9/1892 (B20-P132), pl Allen Co.
Interment, (see: obituary) (last residence was Pueblo, CO

IDA

Born, 11/___/1868, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. D., 11/___/1943, pl Allen Co. Married
FRANCIS PAILLOZ (PIO), m/d 11/24/1885 (B16-P430), pl St. Louis Catholic Church,
Besancon (chr. Rec., 11/21/1885) Rev. P.J. Veniard

Interment, Hobart, IN (residents of Hobart, IN, 1900)

(See: PAILLOZ Genealogy)

EDWARD A.

Born, 7/7/1871, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co., D., 6/20/1959, pl Allen Co. Married FLORENCE
HOLMES, m/d 7/16/1895, pl Allen Co.

Interment, Riverview Cemetery, Allen Co.

EDWARD SORDELET second marriage to JESSIE A. McDUFFEE, m/d 4/25/1906, pl
Allen Co.

Children of JACQUES and ARMONCE SORDELET-cont.

JOANNIS B. (John)

Born, __/__/1873, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. d., 9/28/1947, pl Allen Co. Married
MELANIE (Emma)KLINE, m/d 8/22/1899 (B23-P423), pl St. Louis Catholic Church,
Besancon by Rev. F.X. Labonte.

Interment, Catholic Cemetery, Ft. Wayne (Sec. C-In 381)

(See: JOHN SORDELET and KLINE Genealogy)

ALLENE

Born, __/__/1876, pl Jeff. Twp., Allen Co. D., __/__/__, pl ____ Married JOHN D.
BICKEL, m/d 12/29/1897 (B22-P518), pl St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon.

NOTE:

The Courchaton Register by Rev. Chas. Banet, gives the birthdate for "Jacques Sordelet"
as Apr. 8, 1830. However, his tombstone reads, May 10, 1830. Perhaps this is the
Baptismal date.



Portrait of Jacques and Armonce Sordelet



St. Louis Cemetery Besancon, IN

Yester-Year.. . . .copied and submitted by Jane Morow

OBITUARIES

SORDELET

Ft. Wayne Sentinel, 11/16/1910

Jacques Sordelet, a pioneer resident of Allen county, died Tuesday at his home in Jefferson township at the age of 80 years. He was widely and favorable known. Mr. Sordelet did not long survive his wife, whose death occurred in June last.

Mr. Sordelet was born in France May 10, 1830, came to America in 1847, and settled near Buffalo, N.Y. A few years later he removed to Allen county. He was united to marriage in 1849 to Augustine Huguenard, whose death occurred in 1855. In 1856 Mr. Sordelet was again married, his bride being Miss Armonce Dupont, of Perry township, whose death occurred but a few months ago. Surviving relatives include these children: Mrs. Mary Rorick, of Jefferson township; Frank Sordelet, Columbus, Ohio; Mrs. Clara Clutter, Ft. Wayne; Mrs. Louise Haines, Aboite township; Charles Sordelet, Pueblo, Col.; Mrs. Ida Pio, of Hobart; Edward Sordelet, of Eel River township; John Sordelet, of Jefferson township, and Mrs. Aliene Bickel, of Huntington.

Funeral services from St. Louis Catholic church at Besancon Friday morning at 9:30

Young Man Meets a Sudden and Painful End in the Pennsylvania Yards Many Funerals

Ft. Wayne News 12/28/1897

Emil Sordelet, died last night at St Joseph hospital from injuries received earlier in the evening in the Pennsylvania down town yards. The young man was 25 years of age and the chief support of his mother and sisters. He was helping to make up a train, when he fell from the top of a boxcar and was rolled under the brake beam for some distance before the accident was discovered. At the hospital it was found that he had sustained a broken back and other internal injuries. He survived in great agony until 11 o'clock, when he expired. The remains were taken to Peltier's morgue where they were prepared for burial, and this morning they were removed to the home of the family, 69 McCulloch St.

LOUIS BERCOT

Ft. Wayne News 1/2/1900

Louis Bercot, probably the best known farmer in Allen county and one of the oldest residents, died very suddenly at his home at the end of South Hanna street this morning, the result of a blood clot on the brain. Mr. Bercot is 66 years of age. He seemed to be as well as usual this morning until he was attacked with a slight headache. He complained to his daughter and a moment later, while walking from one room to another fell to the floor and died immediately. Physicians were summoned in haste, but his spirit had already fled and medical aid could do nothing.

OBITUARIES CONTINUED...

Mr. Bercot was born in Belford, France, and came to the United States and Allen county in charge of his parents when he was 13 months old. He has lived on the farm where he died since he first came to manhood, purchasing the land from the government and clearing it himself. He came here while the old fort was still in existence, and was always willing to recount the reminiscences of when Fort Wayne was an unimportant village. He was a man of large and generous charities, ruggedly honest and respected by all who know him.

The funeral will take place next Friday afternoon from the Grace Reformed Church.

MARY COUR

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette Feb. 28, 1905

The funeral of Mrs. Mary Cour, the wife of Amos Cour, a prominent businessman of New Haven. will take place at 9 o'clock this morning at St. John's Catholic church, New Haven. The death of Mrs. Cour is unusually sad, for she leaves, besides her husband, one little girl and four little boys, the eldest nine and the youngest two years of age. Mrs. Cour, who was thirty-four years old, was the daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Stephen Beckenrach of whom died about two years ago. She was married to Mr. Cour eleven years ago. Mrs. Cour was a woman who was beloved by all who knew her. She possessed a sweet and amiable disposition and she was devoted in all unusual manner to her home, her husband and children. Aside from her immediate family, Mrs. Cour is survived

by two brothers—Frank and Jacob Becker of New Haven.

GENEVIEVE DUCOT, Was Nearly Fifty Years Resident of Allen County

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette 12/21/1907

Mrs. Genevieve Ducot, widow of Felix Ducot, died Friday morning at a local hospital at the age of seventy-seven years after a long illness. Death was due to the infirmities of old age.

The deceased was one of the best known residents of Allen county and was at one time an inmate of the old people's home at Avilla. She was born in France and came to this country in 1860, locating on a farm in Allen county, where she spent her entire life. Surviving her are her nephews and nieces as follows: Frank J., Edward F., Julian J., Hyppolite A., Felix E. and the Misses Clementina and Flora Perrey, of Fort Wayne; Mrs. A. F. Jourday, Mrs. Joseph Converst, of Maples, and Mrs. Henry Lothamer of Baldwin.

The funeral services will take place Sunday morning at 7 o'clock from the Schone undertaking rooms and at 9 o'clock from St. Louis Catholic church at Besancon.

FRANK GIANT

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette 12/29/1911

Frank Giant, aged 72 years, died Thursday evening at 8:15 at the county infirmary, where he had lived since March, 1909. Giant was formerly employed by Esquire Roy, in Jackson township. The body was brought to the Scheumann & Ulmer morgue last night and the funeral services will be conducted from that place at a time to be announced later.

Facebook of yesteryear . . . copied and submitted by Jane Morow

ZULU NEWS

Journal Gazette Dec. 7, 1912

Zulu , Ind. Dec. 6---

Frank Gladieux, Clem Girardot, and Frank Oberly rode to Fort Wayne last Friday with Sheriff-elect A.C. Gladieux.

Mrs. John Murry was visiting with her sister, Mrs. James Perl, Friday afternoon.

Louis Gladieux buzzed wood Friday and shredded corn Saturday.

Louis Venderly went to Fort Wayne on business Saturday.

Emile Ternet is having a well drilled on his farm. He contemplates building a house in the spring.

Eugene Bonjour shredded corn Saturday. Mrs. Louis Bonjour, Mrs. Frank Oberty and Mrs. Edward Monnot assisted in the cooking.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beckman and daughter and Chester and Eugene Comment spent Thanksgiving with their parents.

Miss Lucy Gladieux was at Monroeville last Friday.

Floyd Ort met with a painful accident last week while operating his ditching machine. He severed the ends of two of his fingers.

James Perl gave a dance Saturday night in honor of their son Ervin, who is employed at the Centlivre brewery. All who attended report a fine time.

Chester Comment and Earl Henderson spent Sunday with the former's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. William Whitney spent Sunday in Fort Wayne visiting their daughter.

Charles Frane shredded corn Tuesday.

Frank Oberly is erecting a vestibule for George Townsend.

August Converset, who has been making his home for sometime at the

poor farm, died Thursday. The body was brought to the home of his sister, Mrs. Frances Girardot.

William Tatmon is operating Mr. Ort's ditching machine until Mr. Ort's hand gets well.

Mr. and Mrs. George Townsend spent Sunday with F.C. Gladieux and family and in the evening, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Gladieux, they saw "The Traveling Salesman" at the Majestic theatre.

Miss Ernestine Bonjour, of Chesaning, Mich., is visiting her brother and family.

The stork made a visit to the Eli Gremaux home and presented Mr. and Mrs. Gremaux with a little girl.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ternet were invited guests at Saul Ternet's last Sunday, it being christening day for the little son of Mr. and Mrs. Saul Ternet. The sponsors were Frank Ternet and Eugene Socie, of Payne, O., and the name chosen was Robert Joseph Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Monnot and daughters attended the dance at James Perl's Saturday evening.

Nora Voirel is employed at the Eli Gremaux home.

Henry Minnich of Chesaning, Mich. was calling on friends. Mr. Minnich formerly lived here.

Mrs. Louis Venderly and children were Saturday evening visitors at Celestin Gladieux's

August Pepe was shopping at the N.A. Coulardot store Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Townsend motored to Payne, O., last Sunday.

Louis Voirel had a husking bee Thursday.

