



OLD CEMETERY PROJECT 4 TOMBSTONES RESTORED



Early in November, Scott Brickley & crew restored 4 stones. The work involved removing 4 stones, dug out old footing debris, and reset the stones on crush rock foundations. Also moving 1 grave stone and placing it on the existing cement pad. The total cost came to \$925.00. This takes care of the entire back north section of the cemetery.

Names on Markers:

Frank Humbert

Justin Humbert

John B. Lorbain

B.....Didier

With more funds, the next project will start in the front south section. That will involve digging out more individual stones and resetting the stones, as these last ones have been done.

President's Message ... Barbara Gorney

More work has been done on the old cemetery at Besancon .

The old cemetery has had 4 tombstones repaired . Scott Brickley and crew worked on them in November. Thank you Gene for getting this project done and for being at the cemetery to instruct the crew.. Four stones were removed in order to dig out old footing and debris. The stones were then reset on crushed rock foundations. The fifth stone was placed back on the existing cement pad. Some members are redoing their ancestor's stone. Joan (Gladieux) Johnston and her brothers Michael and Marshall are restoring Phillip Gladio's marker. Scott poured the foundation and a new marker has been ordered. The children of Allen and Gladys Lomont are replacing the tombstone of their great grandfather John Pierre Maire who was also known as "California John." By this writing the tombstones should be done and in place. Thank you all for helping keep the old cemetery looking respectable and honoring our ancestors.

With another new year arriving, I wish all a good and prosperous one. Remember it is also time for dues.

Barbara.

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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www.Besanconhistory.org

FRENCH IMMIGRATION

Researched & Compiled by Barb Gorney

HISTORY

The stage was set for French immigration to North America in the early 1500's during a religious movement known as the Reformation. At this time, many citizens of France and other European nations protested against some of the doctrines and corrupt practices then prevailing in the Roman Catholic Church. The Reformation caused conflict throughout Europe, eventually dividing the church into two separate factions, Catholics and Protestants. John Calvin, a French priest, was instrumental in the spread of Protestantism. His followers, called Huguenots, built 2000 churches in France by the mid-1500's though they also became the targets of persecution by French Catholics during 30 years of civil war. King Henry IV, who was born a Protestant but converted to Catholicism, stopped the conflict temporarily in 1594 by enacting the Edict of Nantes, which granted political rights and freedom of religion to French Protestants. One of these rights was free exercise of religion in 20 specific towns. After spending several years unsuccessfully pressuring Protestants to convert, however, King Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This sudden loss of rights and status caused thousands of Huguenots to leave France for North America. The majority of Huguenot immigrants were skilled, well-educated, and prosperous.

Another important event in French history that affected immigration to North America occurred in 1763, with the conclusion of the Seven Years' War (also known as the French and Indian War) between France and England. These two countries had clashed repeatedly over expansionist policies and colonization in Europe, North America, and India. After losing this conflict, France relinquished to England control of its colonies, though the Treaty of Paris. This marked the end of French political power in the land that would become the United States.

France became embroiled in its own revolution in 1789. As the French middle class, or bourgeoisie, became more prosperous and powerful, they began to resent the feudal system and demanded equal rights and tax reform. King Louis XVI accepted some of the people's demands, but later brought troops into Paris to try to crush the rebellion. On July 14, crowds of protesters destroyed the Bastille, a fortress that was used to hold political prisoners that had become a symbol of oppression. This event marked the end of the old regime and the beginning of the French Republic.

Napoleon Bonaparte gained prominence as a French military leader and then overthrew the government of France in 1799, granting himself dictatorial powers as Emperor Napoleon I. Napoleon initiated lasting reforms to the French educational and legal systems. He also severely limited individual rights. His rules made it virtually impossible for French citizens to emigrate until the end of his reign in 1815.

Continued on next page. . . .

French Immigration continued. . .

The U.S. claimed neutrality during the French Revolution. Negative attitude toward France peaked in 1797, with the XYZ Affair, when three unnamed French diplomats demanded a huge bribe before they would agree to speak with American delegates about a new treaty. This perceived insult caused the U.S. to prepare for a war with France. During this time, French Americans-especially those who had come to the U.S. as refugees from the French Revolution-were viewed by some American leaders as a potential threat to national security. In 1798, the U.S. government passed the Aliens and Sedition Acts, which were intended to monitor and limit the power of immigrant groups. For example, The Acts increased the residency requirement from 5 to 14 years before immigrants were allowed to vote, forced ship to compile dossiers on immigrant passengers, and granted the government the power to deport anyone it considered "dangerous." The Acts were allowed to expire 2 years later. In 1803, the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon helped relax the tension over immigration.

PATTERNS

Typical French immigrants came as individuals or families seeking change or economic opportunity. Some analysts say this lack of group movement was due to the humane climate of France or the reluctance to organize into groups.

The earliest flow of French immigrants began around 1538 and consisted of Huguenots and peaked after King Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes in 1685, outlawing Protestant religion and forcing the Huguenots to convert to Catholicism or face death. Albert Robbins in *Coming to America: Immigrants from Northern Europe*, the king's official decree gave orders to "kill the greatest part of the Protestants that can be overtaken, without sparing the women." Huguenots who managed to leave often had to pay bribes or use connections to acquire false passports. As a result, the majority of the 15,000 Huguenots who arrived in North America were wealthy and skilled. Huguenots settled in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina and Massachusetts.

With the beginning of the French Revolution, Roman Catholic refugees emigrated from France to the U.S. Many were either wealthy or working-class. Another important group included 100 priests. There were only 25 priests in the colonies prior to their arrival, these immigrants had a strong influence on the development of the American Catholic Church. About 10,000 political refugees left France during the French Revolution. Following Napoleon's defeat in 1815, a large wave of French immigration began, which lasted through the start of the American Civil War.

Do any of these facts seem to have a connection to your family?

One of my ancestors from France was Fillow, which has many spellings and in our family was Philo. John Fillow was presumed to be a Huguenot from southern France. He was born circa 1667 and came to America about 1700. His occupation was probably a weaver. He lived in Norwalk, CT.

<i>Friends of Besancon.....</i>
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A Big Thank-you

Robert & Jane Dager for their generous donation to the Cemetery Restoration Fund.

Joan (Gladieux) Johnston and her brothers, **Michael & Marshall Gladieux** are in the process of restoring the “Phillip Gladio” marker. A new foundation was recently poured by Scott and the marker ordered. Delivery of the marked will be within 2 months and placed on the foundation. Phillip Gladio is thought to be the 1st. burial and oldest grave in St. Louis Cemetery. He is the father to Jean Pierre Gladieux who also is buried in the cemetery.

ST. LOUIS CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT

Note from **Darryl Dodane**:

The Church renovation project is moving forward. What started out as a meeting in the parish hall in 2011, has become a reality. We have raised our goal of \$675,000 through the generosity of many parish member, former alumni, and friends.

The actual construction phase will begin around April 20th, 2013 when all the pews and other necessary items are removed so contractors can begin working on the interior of our church. Mass will be said in the parish hall during this phase of construction. A completion date of Thanksgiving 2013 is our goal.

The exterior construction projects like a new roof and shamrock of the outside wall will occur as weather permits.

We want to thank all who participated in this very worthy project. After all, it is the house of our Lord.

Onward and Upward

Note from Mary Jane Novosel:

St. Louis Parish started in 1846. The first church was originally built 1850-1851 with a wooden frame or rough-hewn log. The present rebuilt was 1869-1870 in brick around the old wooden frame church. The old church was carried out in pieces. The brick church was later covered by a process called “shamrocking” which gave the building its present appearance of stone.

Info from books—*Windows of the Past* and *St. Louis Parish, Besancon*.

FRENCH TRADITIONS AT CHRISTMAS

By Mary Jane Novosel

Christmas in France is a family holiday, a religious celebration and an occasion for merrymaking. In cathedral squares, the story of Christ's birth is re-enacted by both players and puppets. Puppet shows are popular in France, especially in Paris and Lyon for the coming of Christmas.

The fir tree was first presented as the holy tree of Christmas in the French city of Strasbourg in 1605. It was decorated with artificial colored roses, apples, sugar and painted hosts. Though the Christmas tree has never been particularly popular in France, nearly every French home displays a Nativity scene or "creche" which originated in the 12th century. These displays have little clay figures "santons" or little saints, which represent the usual Holy Family, shepherds, and Magi, also included are characters of the village: the mayor, priest, policeman, baker, and farmer. Throughout December these figures are sold at annual Christmas fairs, "marches de Noel: Alsace holds much of this tradition, with the true capital of the world of "santons" is the town of Aubagne.

Another popular tradition is the making of the "Buche de Noel" Christmas Log. This cake, among other foods in great abundance is served at the grand feast of the season, which is the "Le Reveillon" This is a late supper held after Midnight mass on Christmas Eve. The menu for the meal varies according to regional culinary tradition. In Alsace, goose is the main course, in Burgundy, it's turkey with chestnuts, and the Parisians feast upon oysters and pate de fois gras. And of course, a wine is served with *each* course.

On Christmas Eve, children leave their shoes by the fireplace to be filled with sweets, nuts, fruit and little gifts from "Le Pere Noel", father Christmas, or "Le Petit Jesus". In northern France, children are given gifts on December 6, St. Nicholas' Day, instead of Christmas Day. The adults give each other presents on New Year's Day.

GENEALOGY HUMOR

My family coat of arms ties at the back. . .is that normal?

My family tree is a few branches short! All help appreciated.

My ancestors must be in a witness protection program!

Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!

My hobby is genealogy; I raise just bunnies as pets.

How can one ancestor cause so much TROUBLE?!

I looked into my family tree and found out I was a sap. . . .

I'm not stuck----I'm ancestrally challenged.

I'm searching for myself; have you seen me?

If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more!

It's 2013. . . Do you know where your G-G-Grandparents are?

A family tree can wither if nobody tends its roots.

A new cousin a day keeps the boredom away.

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

French-American Society Will Hold Ceremonies.

Jan 14, 1918 News Sentinel

The French-American society installed new officers at the meeting yesterday. The annual dance and pedro party, at Trier's Minuet hall, will be held on the evening of Feb 5. The new officers are as follows: President, John J. Lanternier; vice-president, August Bobay; financial secretary, Frank J. Manuel; corresponding secretary, Joseph Girardot; treasurer, Frank Bobay; trustee for three years, Constance Joly.

A large crowd is expected at the meetings and an enjoyable time is looked forward to.

Officers Elected

Dec. 16, 1919 Ft. Wayne News & Sentinel

The Officers elected to serve the French-American Society for the coming year are: president, Frank Joly; Vice-president, Jerome Griard; recording secretary, Joseph Girardot; financial secretary, Frank Manuel; treasurer, Frank Bobay; trustee for three years, Louis Gladieux; dance committee, John Lanternier, Edward Corde Courdevay, Virgil Roy, Carl Bobey, Ray Pegriguey, Frand X. Didier; committee on cards, Julian Perry, Charles Roy, Jerome Girard, August Bobay, and John Nikole.

Jan. 21, 1914, Journal Gazette

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Vanderley gave a delightful party in honor of their daughter, Miss Bertha, who recently

celebrated her twentieth birthday. A delicious supper followed an informal dance, and the following guests were present: The Misses Nora Voirol, Amelia Maurey, Bertha Vanderley, Lucy Gladieux, Blanche Banet, Edna Monnot, Agnes Vanderley, Cecelia Maurey, Gertrude Girardot, Zelma O'Shaughnessey and Belzona Kever, and Messrs. Julian Gremaux, Joseph Reuille, Leonard Maurey, Frank Voirol, Arthur Oberley, Clem Girardot, Jesse Gladieux, Edward Oberley, Clarence Lamont, Frank Romick, Simon Girardot, Arthur Vanderley, Edward Reuille, Jay rorick, Martin O'Shaughnessey, Arthur Gladieux, Elmer Oberley, Henry Reuille, Charles Gibson, Henry Grieser, Arthur Banet, Philip Bellis, and Simon Gibson.

Pleasant Country Party

Jan. 12, 1914 Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette

A jolly crowd enjoyed a sleigh ride to the home of Mr. and Mrs. August White Thursday evening last. The evening was spent playing progressive euchre. Prizes were won by Mrs. Celia Bobay and Mr. John Grosjean. Those who enjoyed the ride were: Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bobay, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pepe. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Pepe, the Misses Veronica and Ivon Pepe, Josephine and Julia Grosjean, Thelma and Viola Pepe, Erma and Marcella Bobay, the Messrs. Raymond and Oscar Bobay, John Grosjean, Joseph and Wilfred Pepe, Vrigil and Harley Bobay and Rudolph Olson.

MEMBERSHIP DUES**Payable, first of February****Individual---\$15.00****Family-\$20.00 Lifetime-\$200.00****Send a check Attn:****Treasurer, Besancon Historical Society****15535 Lincoln Hwy East****New Haven, IN 46774***The archives will be open by appointment only**Please Call*

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