



## GOLD STAR MOTHERS

Barbara Pio Gorney

Grace Seibold whose son died in WWI organized a group of women for the purpose of comforting each other on the loss of their sons and to give loving care to hospitalized veterans. The organization was named after the Gold Star that was hung in windows in honor of the deceased veteran. This national organization was established June 4, 1928 as the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. and incorporated into law Jan. 5, 1929.

Thus the Gold Star and term Gold Star mother as applied to mothers whose sons or daughters died in WWI was accepted. The term has continued to be used in reference to all American military engagements since that time.

On January 12, 1984 congress granted the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. a charter of which the original was placed in the Archives of Congress. Some of the objects and purposes are to:

Perpetuate the memory whose lives were sacrificed  
Maintain allegiance to the United States of America  
Inspire respect for the stars and strips  
Extend assistance to Gold Star mothers  
Assist veterans  
Promote peace and good will

A book was written that names the WWI gold star veterans in Indiana. The book is called Gold Star Honor Roll 1914-1918 and the veterans are listed according to the county they lived in. There were two veterans from Jefferson Township: Joseph A Girard and Charles F. Huguenard and both are buried at Besancon. This is the information given in the book.

GIRARD, JOSEPH A.....Private

Son of Louis and Theresa Girard; born August 30, 1891, Jefferson Twp, Allen County, In. Farmer. Enlisted in U.S. regular army May 26, 1917, Fort Wayne, In. Sent to Fort Thomas, Ky; assigned to Company B, 35th infantry; transferred to Nogales, on Mexican Border. Died of disease June 30 1917. Buried in cemetery near his home, Besancon, Allen County, with military honors. ( See obit from Fort Wayne Daily News 6 July 1917)

HUGUENARD, CHARLES F. ....Private

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Huguenard; born July 15, 1896, Jefferson Twp, Allen County, In. Farmer. Called into service July 30, 1918, Fort Wayne, In. Sent to Bradley Polytechnic Institute, Peoria, Il; assigned to Company D, Training detachment. Transferred to Michigan where he was accidentally killed January 17, 1919. Buried with military honors in cemetery of the St. Louis Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, In. (See obit from Fort Wayne Sentinel 20 January 1919) **Continued on page 3**

***President's Message ... Barbara Gorney***

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A July meeting of the historical society was held at Besancon. This was the same Saturday that the Lincoln Highway members were meeting at Besancon to take the driving tour of the famous highway. The church was open so that all could see the start of the restoration project. The pews had been moved to the hall and at the front of the church all the windows with the family names are now visible! It was strange seeing an empty church with many changes being made but the results should be enlightening as to the earlier days of the church.

The archives are open by appointment only. Most people buy pictures or the "Windows of the Past" book but some are not so generous. The members voted on charging for opening the archives. The fee is to be \$20 for the appointment and this would include a membership to the historical society for a year.

An idea was presented at the meeting to put a small box in the cemetery (like a realtor's info box) containing information on the building of the present church and how to join the historical society. This project is being considered since many visitors have been seen in the cemetery.

In order to keep the stories alive of our ancestors, a school project for the Besancon school children is still being researched. This would start with a family tree of the child which he or she would gather from family members. The archives' books and pictures would be made available to the children for research with a researcher on hand to help guide the students.

The historical society welcomes any queries, donation of old photos, additional family information or remarks.

**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**

**All Officers are on the Internet**

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**LOOK FOR BHS ON INTERNET**

[www.Besanconhistory.org](http://www.Besanconhistory.org)

## GOLD STAR MOTHERS—CON'T

There is a website for more information: [www.GoldStarMothers.com](http://www.GoldStarMothers.com). Some information from this site shows a memorial statue donated by the New England Gold Star Mothers. It is a statue of a mother with her finger touching her chin as in wondering the fate of her son. The dedication of the statue was in 2011 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Also the WWII memorial received a sign in 2011 explaining the meaning of the Wall of Stars.

New Jersey in 2011 has a gold star license plate which has an American flag with a gold star in the center and a large HERO on the plate. Gold Star Family is printed at the bottom.

Fisher House Foundation has established a Hero's legacy scholarship. The program honors those who have died or become disabled in active military service since 2001. This program is open to their dependent unmarried children under 23 years old. The grants are principally underwritten by the author's proceeds from the book "Of Thee I Sing" written by President Barak Obama for his daughters.

This article was started after I found the book Gold Star Honor Roll at the library. I was astounded to find an organization and the work it has done. I knew from my great aunt that her brother Fred Skinner had died in 1918 of pneumonia after he had enlisted in the army. He was in Ohio when he died. A gold star was put in the window of the parent's house to denote this.

## OBITUARIES:

### **Girard** Ft. Wayne Daily News July, 6 1917

The body of **Joseph Girard**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Girard, of Jefferson township, has arrived at the home of the parents and funeral services will be held at 9 o'clock Saturday morning at St. Louis catholic church at Besancon.

Mr. Girard's death occurred at Nogales, Ariz., several days ago, following an attack of spinal meningitis. He enlisted in the regular army five weeks ago and was a member of the 35<sup>th</sup> Indiana infantry.

The decedent was 26 years of age at the time of his death. He is survived by the parents and two sisters, the Misses Mary and Clementine Girard.

### **Soldiers Body Arrives** Ft. Wayne Sentinel January 20, 1919

NEW HAVEN, Ind. The body of **Charles Huguenard**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Huguenard, residing east of town arrived home last evening at 10 o'clock. The young man was killed in a railroad wreck in Detroit last Friday while en route to his home after serving some time in a training camp in Michigan. Funeral services will be held from the family home Tuesday at 10 a.m. and later from the church at Besancon. The services will be held with all military formalities, a firing squad from Company B, Indiana national guard having been detailed, and Bugler Englehart, of the Boy Scouts, having volunteered to be present.

The joint flag services of the G.A.R. and Spanish war veterans will also be held at the grave in the Besancon cemetery.

## Jefferson Twp. #4



### Jefferson Township School #4 Carrie Behrman, Teacher

This picture was donated to the archives by Diana Galligher. There is no date on it.

At this time the children identified are top row, far right: Gladys Gremaux

Second row, third from the right: Clifford "Kingfish" Gremaux

And seated first on the right: Wilmer "Boomer" Gremaux

Can you recognize anyone else?

School #4 was in the NE corner of Edgerton  
and Rousey Roads on land owned by F. Rousey.

\*Linda Churchward, from the Allen Co. GerWeb sent the information that in 1898, there were 10 schools in Jefferson Township.

## *Friends of Besancon.....*

### **A Big Thank-you . . . .**

To All who have contributed to the Cemetery Project so far. This project is just about complete. A few more tombstones in the back section of the cemetery and a few tombstones in the front half still need to be righted.

**Any donation would be appreciated!!!**

### **Another tidbit about Bishop John F. Noll (1875-1956):**

#### **“Bishop’s Island”**

Lake Sylvan in Rome City, is a remnant of the 1830’s Erie & Michigan Canal project, at the time, it was intended to be a source for canal water. There is a four acre island in the lake which a stone vacation home was commissioned and completed by Bishop Herman Alerding, (1845-1925). Fort Wayne architect Charles Weatherhogg designed the 2,780 square-foot home, which was completed in 1902.

Bishop John Noll (1875-1956), used this home as a summer retreat, every July spending a month there. He conducted business there and diocesan activities. Also a pleasant summer meeting place for priests, professed religious and laypeople. Bishop Noll celebrated Mass on the front porch. Being a place for reflection, prayer, and conducting business, along with fishing and boating, the bishop never had installed a telephone.

*The editor used a short article “Summertime on Bishop’s Island” by Tom Castaldi found in TODAY’S CATHOLIC LIFE magazine for above note.*

### **100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Father Robert Traub, retired diocesan priest Aug. 23 2013:**

Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception honoring Fr. Robert Traub’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and 74 years of priestly service. A large crowd of friends, well wishers, and priests heard a brief lesson of history as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades explained that at the time Father Traub was “baptized at St. Laurence Church in Muncie, St. Pius X was pope, Bishop Herman J. Alerding was bishop in the Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend, and Woodrow Wilson was in the White House.” Also, Fr. Traub was confirmed and years later ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop John F. Noll. He grew up in Muncie, IN, the parish of St. Lawrence. He resides at St. Anne Home and Retirement Center in Ft. Wayne.

*Taken from an article in TODAY’S CATHOLIC newspaper of Sept. 8, 2013*

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

## Weddings

**BESANCON,Ind.** Journal Gazette June 27,1913 , pg. 15

Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock at the St. Louis church at Besancon occurred the wedding of **Miss Bernadette Huguenard**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Edward Huguenard**, to **Mr. Louis Pabst**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. E. Pabst** of Woodburn, Rev. M.P. Lonen officiating. The bride wore a very becoming gown of body Irish embroidery and the veil of tulle was fashioned in a cap style and was held in place by orange blossoms and lillies of the valley. Miss Bertha Kennerk was the bride's only attendant and also wore embroidery and carried white carnations. Mr. Pabst was attended by the bride's brother, **Mr. Chas. Huguenard**. Immediately after the ceremony the wedding company repaired to the home of the bride's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Huguenard, of New Haven, where the wedding dinner and supper was served. The rooms were beautifully decorated in pink and white cut flowers, and the table was decorated in green and white with an elegant wedding cake as a center piece. Those present were Mr. & Mrs. E. Pabst of Woodburn; Mr. Pabst and Miss Sophia Fritche, of Gar Creek; Mr. W. Humpke, of Woodburn, Miss Laura Barrow, Mr. & Mrs. Herschel Jacquay,

of New Haven; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Jacquay and sons, of German, and Ernest of Besancon; Mr. & Mrs. John Ternet, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Boitel, Mr Leslie Ternet, all of Besancon; Mr. and Mrs. C. Keys, Miss Bertha Daniels, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Small, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Barrow, Mrs. Tristison, Mr. & Mrs. Kollmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Girardot and sons, Herbert and Cletus, all of New Haven. In the evening a dance and reception was given in Hillren hall and besides the guests of the day there were present the following: Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Lomont, Miss Rosalie Lomont, Mr. Clarence and John Lomont, Misses Eva and Mae Dodane, Mr. Joseph Dodane, Julia and Edith Ryan, Miss Rose Rorick and Mr. Frank and J. Rorick, Miss Frances Pepe, Mr. Clarence and Raymond Pepe, all of Besancon, and Mr. & Mrs. Henry Mason, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pranger, of Fort Wayne, Mr. Christ Wiesie, and Bernard Henry, Mr. Cletus Ternet, Mr. Willie Ternet, Mr. Ed Renille, Mr. Wm. Girardot, Miss Gertrude Girardot, Mr. Arthur Girardot, also of Besancon, Mr. & Mrs. Solomon Stauffer and Mr. & Mrs. B. Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Londen, of Woodburn. The music was furnished by the Woodburn orchestra

*\*\*See pages 1 and 3 of this issue about Mr. Charles Huguenard*

## Weddings—Con't

### Havert---Kennerk

*Ft. Wayne Weekly Sentinel Oct. 6, 1909*

The marriage of Miss Nellie Kennerk, daughter of Mrs. Margaret Kennerk, of Chicago, formerly of this city, and Mr. Charles A. Havert, of Fort Wayne, took place in Chicago on October 2, at 4 o'clock, in St. Malachi's church. Rev. Luttrell, an old friend of the family, pastor of St. Joan of Arc church, of Austin, officiated. Miss Blanche Kennerk, sister of the bride, was maid of honor and Mr. L. Havert, brother of the groom, was best man. Messrs. Frank Goodwin and George Kennerk were ushers. Prof. Hitchcock played the wedding march and Miss Josephine Rice, a soprano of note, sang "Oh Promise Me." A reception was held at the bride's home. Among the guests from out of town were Mrs. E. Driscoll, Miss Margaret Driscoll and Ed Driscoll of Fort Wayne; Mr. and Mrs. Cleland and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Driscoll, of Pittsburg; Mr. Otto Reese, of Fort Wayne; Mr. and Mrs. George Jones, of Detroit. After a short wedding trip Mr. and Mrs. Havert will make their home in this city.

### Girardot---Roy

Journal Gazette May 15, 1906 submitted by Barb Gorney

(Special to the Journal Gazette)

### TILLMAN STATION, Ind., May 14

There was a very pretty wedding here today when Miss Lena Roy became the bride of Clem P. Girardot. The ceremony was performed at the St. Louis church at Besancon by the Rev. John Noll. The bride looked charming in a gown of white trimmed with white lace. A wedding dinner was served to the guests at the home of the groom's parents near Dawkin's station, which was attended only by immediate friends and relatives of the bride and groom. A reception was given in the evening at the bride's home, where nearly one hundred guests were present. Mr. Girardot is a son of Julian Girardot, a prominent farmer of Jefferson township. Miss Roy is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Roy of Pleasant Grove.

***FOR THOSE FEW WHO HAVE NOT YET PAID . . . . .***

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Payable, first of January**

**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*

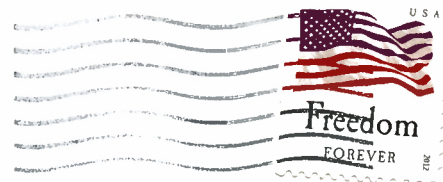
*Please Call*

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