



Besançon Historical Society
The Chronicles

ISSUE 56
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SUMMER 2014

WORLD WAR I---100 YEARS AGO
Young Men of Allen County Took Part

Mary Jane Novosel

The sinking of the *Lusitania* in 1915 increased the probability that America would enter the war, along with Germany's sinking of U.S. merchant ships crossing the Atlantic. Congress passed the Declaration of War on April 6, 1917. President Wilson wanted the creation of a selective service system. Following the War Declaration, the rush of patriotic feeling among the Fort Wayne area men would enlist 3000 men between April 6- May 23- 55% of Indiana's initial quota of 5,500 troops.

Two local troop units formed were Battery D, First Regiment, Indiana National Guard, and Company E, First Infantry, Indiana National Guard. The later, Company E, was one of two that had served in the Mexican War-dispatched to the border and had just returned to Fort Wayne in the spring of 1917.

A total of 12,000 men from Allen County joined the armed forces. From that total 131 died—94 from Fort Wayne, and 37 from the surrounding areas. Most of the men died from disease (74), with 49 killed from enemy action. The war ended in November 1918 and the city of Fort Wayne celebrated with an Armistice Day parade.

, *History of Fort Wayne and Allen County, Indiana Volume 1* Evansville, IN. M.T. Publishing Company, Inc. Copyright 2006. Pages 83 and 86

Pages 3-5,7 and 9 include information of the local young men who served, newspaper articles and letters, along with pictures of the servicemen and gravestones.

St. Louis Besancon Catholic Church Parishioners of World War I

Bacon, Benny	Lothamer, Oscar	Rose, Frank
Bacon, Harvey	Marthey, Rayamend	Rose, Jesse
Boitet, Eugene	McCormick, Samuel	Roussey, Ernest
Cheviolet, Julian	Moorman, Rev. George	Roussey, William
Comment, Chester	Mumper, Albert	Roy, Francis
Girard, Joseph(died in service)	Mumper, Charles	Ryan, Norbert
Giant, Lansing	Mumper, John	(died in service)
Girardot, Simeon	Nalpret, Frank	Schearshal, Louis
Gladieux, Jesse	Oberley, Elmer	Sordelet, Louis
Gremaux, clem	Pepe, Raymond	Ternet, Clarence
Henry, Felecian	Reuille, Ceril	Ternet, William
Huguenard, Charles(died in service)	Reuille, Clarence	Venderley, Arthur
Kennerk, Frank	Reuille, Henry	Venderley, Clestine
Lesh, Clarence	Reuille, Louis	Voirol, Eugene
Lothamer, Carl	Rorick, Frank	Voirol, Herman

Above list is from BHS website

<i>President's Message ... Barbara Gorney</i>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Besancon Historical Society meeting was June 21st. The next meeting will be September 13th. Several projects were discussed at the meeting in June. The September meeting will determine where we stand on accomplishing these goals. The meeting will be held in the old office even though it is being renovated for use by the school. The archives is still on the second floor and the doors have been kept closed to block out all the dust (at least the majority of dust) that has occurred.

Julie Nolan mentioned that the Besancon school will be 100 years old in 2015 . She would like to have a celebration to commemorate this event. One suggestion was to open the round school house which is in front of the new cemetery and have a person speaking about one room school houses. Children and adults could get a feel of the days of yore. Deb Eiden who has written a book on the one room school houses in Allen County was to be contacted for more information. Bring more suggestions to the September meeting.

The old cemetery still has tombstones that have fallen over. Gene Yoquelet is contacting Scott Brickley who did the previous work on the back portion of the cemetery. There are about 7 or 8 stones that should be raised. Hopefully, this work can be done this fall.

The trimming around the tombstones needs to be done. The society voted to hire a teenager to perform this work for July, August and September. Jacob Castleman was hired for this project.

A suggestion was made for a box to be set at the front of the old cemetery to hold information on the church and the Besancon Historical Society. This idea was presented to Father Steve and he did not believe it was necessary.

Don Didier gave the society a copy of an 1898 plat map of Allen County, It is 16 inches by 20 inches. This will be framed and placed in the archives.

BARBARA

Felicien J. Henry

DOB: April 13, 1895 DIED: May 11, 1978 Enlistment Date: Aug. 5, 1917 Release Date: Aug. 6, 1919
 BURIAL: Saint Johns' Catholic Cemetery, New Haven, IN

WAS MACHINE GUNNER IN FOURTH DIVISION

New Haven Boy Who Took Part in Many Battles and Escaped Without Scratch.
Journal Gazette May 4, 1919

Mrs. Eugene C. Martin, 1332 Spy Run avenue, has received the following letter from her brother, Private Felicien J. Henry, of company C, Eleventh machine gun battalion, of the Fourth division.

Antweiler, Germany.

Dear Sister and Family:

In answer to your letter received some time ago, will say that I am feeling fine. You asked about my experience on the front. Well, here are a few things that happened while at the front. The bunch that came from Camp Shelby together were quite lucky. There were about fifteen of us. We had some real action for our first experience. The shells were dropping very thick. I was hit on the back by a piece of shrapnel, but it didn't hurt a bit. It was nothing to laugh at at the time, but it is all over with now. The second battle was the battle of the Argonne. We were up at the front again from September 26 to October 18. At 5:30 a.m., September 26 we put over a barrage fire, one of the greatest barrages the world has ever known. About an hour afterwards our infantry brought in German prisoners by the hundreds, with many lying wounded and dead on the ground. Our loss was not heavy; thirteen men killed and about sixty-five or seventy wounded. On the 30th of September we advanced within 200 yards of the German artillery. They were shooting point blank at us. We slipped around and captured their battery the next morning. That same morning at daylight I looked over to the right of my machine gun I was beginning to think he had my number. That night we ran right onto a machine gun nest. Was only about thirty feet from them. They opened fire on us with about eight or ten machine guns, but we managed to get away from them. The next morning we put over a barrage and captured most of the outfit, with about fifty prisoners. I'll never forget the first time I fired at the huns. There were six or eight in the bunch going up a hill about 1,000 meters away. I set my gun on them and pulled the trigger. One dropped and the others scattered out and beat it over the hill. I can see them going yet. They sure went some. It kind of got my nerve or I probably would have gotten more. I wish I could talk to you for a few minutes. I could tell you more and a whole lot easier than I can write, so just wait until I get back to the good old U.S.A. Will close for this time. With love to one and all. As ever.

Your loving brother,
 Felician J. Henry

Felician Henry's newspaper picture and gravestone on page 9.

Louis T. Havert

BORN: 1883 DIED: 1943 Wireless Operator since 1913, Army Promotion Aug 17, 1918 to sergeant

BURIAL: Catholic Cemetery, Fort Wayne

Ancestry.com

IS AN OPERATOR NOW.

A Letter bearing the information that his services were desired by the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton company was received by Lewis T. Havert this morning. The letter also contained transportation from this city to Cincinnati and the instruction that the young man should report at the company's offices next Monday. Mr. Havert has just graduated from the Hartzler School of Telegraphy. He has been studying that trade for nearly a year, while serving in the capacity of messenger, first at the Pennsylvania offices and later at the Nickel Plate. He is said to be a well qualified operator and no doubt will be rapidly advanced on the C.H.&D. The father of the young man was a Pennsylvania employe who lost his life in an accident at the east yards last summer.

short stay with relatives here, Mr. Havert will return to the Pacific coast to follow up his vocation.

HAVERT IS CALLED TO COLORS AGAIN

Ancestry.com and Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette
July 11, 1916

Louis T. Havert, 615 Lasselle street, who was mustered out of the regular army service in January after serving twenty-eight months in the Philippines as a wireless operator, was yesterday ordered to report to Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, where he will go on duty as a member of the army reserve. Havert is an expert wireless operator, but since his discharge as a regular he has been living with his mother, Mrs. Ellen Havert, and his sister. He has been employed with the Fort Wayne Transfer company.

Wireless Expert Home From Orient

Ancestry.com and Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette
January 26, 1916

Louis T. Havert, who has been a wireless operator in the Philippine islands for the past three years has returned to Fort Wayne, to spend a well-earned period of rest as the guest of his mother and sisters at the family residence, 615 Lasalle street. After a

Fort Wayne Weekly Sentinel September 8, 1917

Louis T. Havert, private in the United States signal service, on duty at Fort Benjamin Harrison, is here on a furlough of three days. He is a brother of Henry T. Havert, night baggageman at the interurban station. He and a sergeant are the only two members of signal corps on duty at the camp at the present time.

Editor's note: missed spelled words in newspaper articles were typed as seen from articles.



Charles L. Corneille

DOB: October 8, 1886, Died: February 25, 1942, Date of Enlistment: June 5, 1917.

Burial: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia

FIND A GRAVE, and Ancestry.com

BUSINESS IS PICKING UP

Battery B Gunner, Charles L.

Corneille Says They're

Busy

That business is picking up on the front where Battery B is hammering the boches is certain from a letter received several days ago by Mrs. Charles Pl Sarazin of New Haven from her uncle Charles L. Corneille now on the battle line.

The letter in print is as follows:

On the Line July 8 1918

Dear Niece and All

Your letter of June 4 received and surely was glad to hear from you. I am many miles from where I last wrote you and believe me we are on a real for sure front now and it looks as though business might pick up soon. I hope so for we have all kinds of ammunition and we want to get rid of it. Rest assured that the French and their allies will hold the line. The line may be elastic and stretch at times but the more it stretches the harder it will rebound.

I heard of Marie P's marriage license in the News. Do they live near you?

We are on historical ground and if I get through this scrap o k it will be something to crow about.

Speaking of the customs I have seen here. They are varied and many for we have been in different sections of the country and you've heard the poem by Kipling The east is east and the west is west and never the twain shall meet.

Well the customs differ. In one part of France I saw a Frenchman plowing a field and hitched to the old fashioned walking plow he had a horse and mule and a milch cow. That's the truth. In another part of France I saw a farmer mowing hay with a Deering machine and there good horses. Have seen McCormick machines too. You see most farms are small and machinery on a large scale is out of the question. They certainly believe in fertilization. Speaking of the villagers that we frequently see. On week days they wear plain calico and wooden shoes but on Sunday they come out like Solomon in all his glory. And right here I want to state that I have seen young ladies going to church in small towns of 1,000 population that were dressed as well and as up to date as any that I have seen in New York. It seems strange that they can plod along all week in wooden shoes and calico doing all sorts of menial work in kitchen and barn and then on Sunday they trip down the street as daintily as a fairy.

I attended mass just before we came up here. The priest greeted us in a very friendly manner. He was a grand old man.

Well, I must close and get a little rest for we may fire all night. Talk about airplanes, France controls the air in this sector.

They simply swarm here. They seem to wander around with a chip on their shoulder, dying for a German to knock it off. *Newspaper pic & tombstone Page 9*

UNCLE CHARLES

Friends of Besancon.....

Thanks to Alyce J. Morow for submitting pictures of WWI servicemen and tombstones, etc for this issue from Find a Grave and ancestry.com websites.

Mary E. Dierstein, Lifetime Member of BHS, 80, died March 28, 2014, surrounded by her friends. Born in Ft. Wayne and spent her entire teaching career teaching art & set up Snider HS art department after it was built. In retirement, taught photography at IPFW and traveled a lot, especially to her beloved Ireland.

John L. Stump, Lifetime Member of BHS, 71, died August 23, 2014, surrounded by his wife Denise and family, as a result of a brain aneurysm. He was President of a successful family business, Quality Tool Company, Inc. in Ft. Wayne. Many interests: Collecting and restoring watches and clocks, street rods and antique cars, reading, esp. history, art and design projects. Survived by his wife Denise, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

BHS MEETING: September 13, Saturday, at 9:30 A.M. First floor of the Archive Blvd. 15535 Lincoln Hwy. East, New Haven, IN 46774. (Blvd. in back of St. Louis Rectory)
Come meet officers of BHS and have in-put!

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

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

Joseph Bercot (Josie), DOB: July 24, 1895, Died: Nov. 23, 1971, Date of Registration: June 5, 1918. Burial: Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne, IN

Ft. Wayne News Sentinel June 21, 1918

A very pleasant farewell party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bercot, of Lake township, Wednesday evening in honor of their son, Josie, who enlisted June 6 and left for Indianapolis, June 15. Music, dancing and games were enjoyed by those present, after which a dainty midnight lunch was served by several of the ladies. Those present to with Mr. Bercot good-bye and Godspeed were his aged grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bercot, sr., and his grandmother, Mrs. Louis Sordlet. Other friends and relatives were: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bercot and daughter Madeline, Mr. and Mrs. William Cox and children Eugene, Mabel and Laurel, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Goheen, and daughter Fern, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bercot, jr., and daughter Lucile, Mr. and Mrs. Cris Sutorius, Mr. and Mrs. George Fritz and children Sabie and Laura, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Laney, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mr. William Hagan, and children Dorothy, Madeline and Vivian, the Misses Helen Byerly, Ester Bercot, Bertha Fick, Lena Happel, Estella Bercot, Martha Felger, Grace Sowers, Gladys Kapp, Ruth Bercot, Edith Felger and Vera Bercot; Messrs. Paul Holt, Ernie Felger, Louis Fick, Ray Byerly, Art Happel, Louis Felger, Frank Butts,

Paul Frazier, David Happel, Emil Bercot, John Schickley, Whit Snyder, Gus Bercot and Gus Sordlet.

OBITUARIES

Joseph Girard & Charles Huguenard

(died in service of WWI)

See Issue 53 Vol. 2, Summer 2013

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette May 20, 1912

August Roussey, aged 79, died at his home in Jefferson township last night at 9:40 o'clock, after having suffered for more than a year from stomach trouble. He had lived in Jefferson township since when eleven years old, he came from France to the United States. Three daughters, as follows, reside in Fort Wayne. Mrs. Frank Didier, 1418 Spy Run Avenue, Mrs. Joseph Harkenrider, 78 Prospect avenue, and Mrs. Louise Wolf, Euclid avenue. Other surviving children are Mrs. Amelia Griffith, Detroit, Mich., Laura, Emile and Willie at home, and Louis, of Sharpville.

Mr. Roussey was one of the best-known farmers in Jefferson township and had lived on the farm upon which he died continuously since he came to Allen county.

Funeral services will not be arranged until word is received from the daughter in Detroit.

OBITUARIES—CON'T

Ft. Wayne News Dec. 26, 1914

Reuille

Adolph Reuille, one of the oldest residents of Allen county, died Thursday afternoon at his home in Jefferson township. He came to this country from France sixty-two years ago, and fifty-four years ago moved to a farm in Jefferson township. Five children survive. The funeral was held today.

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette Sept. 9, 1916

Parrant

Mrs. Sophia Parrant, one of Fort Wayne's oldest residents, died last evening at 8 o'clock at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. John Hessler, 1313 East Wayne street, at the age of 84 years. Death was due to apoplexy and came rather suddenly. She was in the best of health yesterday morning and attended mass at the Cathedral as usual. She was stricken in the afternoon.

The deceased was born in France, January 19, 1832, and with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Catte, came to this country in 1853. She was married to France Parrant in the old frame structure where the Cathedral now stands by Rev. Benoit, in 1856. The husband died twenty-four years ago. Surviving are the following children: Mrs. John Hessler, Mrs. John Grund and Frank A., Julius F., Joseph F., and John B. Parrant, all of this

city. There are also four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The deceased was a member of the Cathedral Rosary society and Sacred Heart league.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at the Cathedral at an hour to be announced later.

Ft. Wayne Weekly Sentinel Sept. 8, 1917

LOCAL WOMAN DEAD AT RICHMOND, IND.

Aged Frenchwoman Will Be Brought Here for Burial

Mrs. Marie Rose Peignot, aged 77, of the city, died at Richmond, Saturday morning. The body was brought here Saturday for burial. She had been ill nine years at Richmond.

The deceased was born in France in 1840 and came to this country when a young woman. She married Paul Peignot, who survives her, living at 2524 Chestnut street. She is also survived by two children, Mrs. George Osterman, of the city, and Isador Merlet, of Pittsfield, Mass.: seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. from the residence on Chestnut street, and from St. Andrews' Catholic church at 9:00 a.m. Burial at Lindenwood cemetery.



Felician J. Henry



Charles L. Corneille



Saint John's Catholic Cemetery
New Haven, IN



Arlington National Cemetery
Arlington County, Virginia

FOR THOSE FEW WHO HAVE NOT YET PAID.

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

Barb Gorney (260)490-6725

Or

Gene Yoquelet (260)622-4067

**MARY JANE NOVOSEL
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