



## JURA CHURCHES & COUNTRYSIDE



The above pictures and following article was taken from the websites:  
[www.jurachurches.net](http://www.jurachurches.net) and [simonknott.co.uk/jurachurches/jursindex.htm](http://simonknott.co.uk/jurachurches/jursindex.htm)

The church above is Saint Jean Baptiste, in Vevry, a little hilltop village on the road between Lons and Lac do Chalain. A magnificent 19<sup>th</sup> century urban church, which has been maintained, restored and reordered. It was built in 1860 on the site of a ruined 14<sup>th</sup> century church. *(This is just one example of many beautiful churches featured on the website, and the editor found a lovely and striking resemblance to St. Louis)*

The Jura is one of the most easterly departements of France. It sits on the Swiss border to the north of Geneva, and is the most southerly of the four departements that make up the region Franche-Comte.

It is a gentle land of meadows and forests, set in a landscape that climbs from below 300meters (1000 ft.) in the northwest to above 1200meters (4000 ft.) in the southeast. It is a rural department – the area is 5000 square kilometres (1946 square miles) and there are just 230,000 people. (In comparison, “rural” Suffolk in England is less than two thirds the size with three times the population).

*Continued on page 3. . .*

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

Wishing all a happy new year and prosperity for the coming year.

The society had a meeting in September and the accounts are in good standing. Another donor's plaque has been started for the donations to the library fund.

The niece of Father Banet brought the papers she had to Besancon. Pat lives in Washington State. Gene delved through the "bags" (they were garbage bags) to find a few articles on the French-American Society. There was not much else that was useful.

Alice Brinker donated George Jeanney's book to the library. It had belonged to her mother. The book is in French and Don Lomont translated it. The problem is the publisher in France wants \$3000.00 for the rights. So the English version is unavailable.

Dan White and Jerry Begue are willing to work on putting the archive pictures on a CD or flash drive. This will be a large project which should get underway in the summer. I found a poem on the Campbell County Tennessee cemetery website which seems appropriate with the cemetery restoration project.

### DEAR ANCESTER

Your tombstone stands among the rest;

Neglected and alone.

The name and date are chiseled out

On polished, marbled stone.

It is too late to mourn.

You did not know I exist

You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you

In flesh, in blood, in bone.

Our blood contracts and beats a pulse

Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled

One hundred years ago

Spreads out among the ones you left

Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,

I wonder if you knew

That someday I would find this spot,

And come to visit you.

Author Unknown.

BARBARA

## JURA CHURCHES & COUNTRYSIDE—CON'T

The villages of the Jura tend to be close together; it is hard to cycle more than three miles without coming to another one. Wide empty roads connect them, perfect for cycling.

The villages are small, and intensely agricultural. Shops, cafes and bars are few and far between outside the towns and tourist areas.

Most villages are clustered around their church, and the church is usually at the highest point in the village. Many of the churches have pretty domes, similar in style to those of neighbouring Bourgogne: the Burgundy churches tend to be set in a harsher landscape.

The Jura is *le pays qui respire* –the richness of the land is there for all to see. The height of the ground and its distance from the nearest sea mean that a heavy dew falls every morning, and the grass is rich and green even after months without rain. The slopes are heavily wooded; you climb up through forests, and then cycle out into wide, gently undulating alpine meadows. There are harsh winters, and baking summers.

Because there is so little traffic away from the main roads, the Jura has a soundtrack all of its own. As you cycle between the villages in the high heat of the summer, the buzzards cry out as they spiral above you, and through the forest come the cowbells from a distant meadow.

Above all else, the brown and white cows symbolize the Jura, lazily grazing their way across the sloping meadows, their bells a languid serial cacophony. Their milk goes to the village *frutières*, who turn it into the famous Comté cheese.

The Jura has no towns of any size. The largest is Dole, up in the north which has about 30,000 people. The departmental capital, Lons-le-Saunier, is near the center, and has about 24,000 people. Champagnole has about 8,500. In the countryside, the tourists tend to congregate around the lakes of the south-east. At lower altitudes, vines cover southern slopes; higher up, the forests become thicker and the air is full of the heady scent of pine, gentian and myrtle. The land becomes mountainous on the Swiss border.

The churches of the Jura tend to have few Romanesque or Gothic survivals. Many were heavily restored in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. They have escaped the worst excesses of Baroque, and are generally rural and charming.

*Note: Another example of a Jura church see ISSUE 45, Vol. 3 Autumn 2010 left side of the front photo.*

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

**The last 2 Letters of Thanks to Julie Nolan & Gene Yoquelet** for giving 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students tour of BHS Archives, cemetery, and church-Oct.,2013.

**Dear Mr. Yoquelet and Mrs. Nolan,**

Thank you very much for taking us to the cemetery and you two are the best couple in the whole. And thank you for taking us to the Art room (upstairs) to see all the history behind the school. And I did see the Fitzgerald binder below from the Oberley up top of the binder and the history was very interesting. Also thank you for taking us to the church, which we haven't been there for a year ago, the inside of the church was all white how it's yellow and purple but thank you for all of that. Senerly, **Parker Fitzgerald**

**Dear Mr. Yoquelet and Mrs. Nolan,**

Thank you for giving us the great tour of the convent. I now know the history of St. Louis Besancon. Also, thank you for telling about all the families that came here. I also thank you Mrs. Nolan for giving us a tour of the cemetery. It was very fun trying to find people who were buried there. It was very interesting finally knowing what was upstairs of the Art room. I can't thank you enough for filling me with all this knowledge. I may be new here, but now I feel like I've been here for a long time. Sincerely, **Khalil Smith**

*Editor's note: I copy just as was in above letters or from the newspaper articles of Yesteryear*

#### 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)

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

**TILLMAN'S STATION NEWS**

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette March 18, 1909

TILLMAN STATION. March 17.

Henry Gerardot, of Dawkins station, has accepted a position with C.F. Gladieux as a farm hand for the summer.

Burt and Frank Shirley, formerly residents of this vicinity, but now residing near Antwerp, O., were here Tuesday and Wednesday the guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Shireley.

Edward Laure, of Ft. Wayne, spent a portion of last week the guest of Louis C. Gerardot and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Lesh, of Ft. Wayne, were here a few days ago the guests of the latter's parents Emanuel Lesh and wife.

The many friends here of Mr. Herman A. Bauchot, a sailor in the United States navy, will be glad to learn that he will be home in a few weeks to see his friends. Mr Bauchot left here four years ago to-day and was with the fleet which recently made a trip around the world.

Miss Etta Whitney, of Central Jefferson, has been here the past week spending a vacation with her sister, Mrs. Ellsworth Snyder.

Frank and Anna Shireley were visitors at the home of their sister, Mrs. May Gerardot, of Monroeville, Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gerardot had the following people as their guests Sunday: Mrs. Martha Jacquay, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fuelling and Chester Gerardot.

Orie Miller, of Wall street, spent the forepart of this week at the home of her brother, E. W. Miller, and family near Pleasant Grove.

Lucy Jacquay and Carrie Berhman, of the Ft. Wayne high school, were home the latter part of last week the guests of their parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Dager, of Townly, Carl Scott and George Shireley were visitors at the Emanuel Lesh home Sunday.

The Red Men of this vicinity, members of Pocasset Tribe No. 304, of Monroeville, are anxiously awaiting the big time to be held at Ft. Wayne in a few weeks by the tribe of that city. A large number of members will attend from here and Monroeville. From reports a good time is expected.

Eli giant spent Sunday with his sister Mrs. Recca Lesh, of Ft. Wayne.

George Johann, of Ft. Wayne, and Joseph Girard, of Besancon, were guests at the August Jacquay home Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin, of Besancon, were called to New Haven Sunday to be at the bedside of their son Charles, who is confined to his home by illness.

Charles Yoquelet, of Dawkins station, accompanied by Miss Anna Shireley, were in Ft. Wayne Thursday attending the play at the Majestic.

Charles Miller, teacher of school No. 8 in Jefferson township, is out of school now on account of having a very severe attack of the mumps.

Louis C. Gerardot, a well to do farmer of this place, has purchased the Steinman farm near Monroeville. His son-in-law Mr. Thomas Fuelling will move at once to the new farm.

Miss Mannie Havard, of the Summit City, was here Sunday spending the day with her cousin, Miss Ella Martin.

Word has been received here from Theo Miller, who left here some time ago that he enlisted in the navy and at present time is at the training school at Norfolk. Va. In a few weeks Mr. Miller will be given a place on the United States Montana.

IT'S THAT TIME ONCE AGAIN.....

**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*

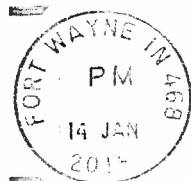
*Please Call*

Barb Gorney (260)490-6725

Or

Gene Yoquelet (260)622-4067

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