



**Joyce Lomont-Crowl's Dream of a lifetime!! - A trip to France!! &
To the very villages my ancestors came from: Branne and Roche lès Clerval!!**



This picture was taken in front of the Church of St. Pierre and Paul, built in 1723 in Roche Les Clerval, and is the church where Claude and Angèlique were married on October 23, 1826. We were there at 12:00 noon to hear ringing of the Angelus. The church and the grounds are well cared for by the people of the village. Front row: L to R: **Jerome Guilloz** (*Mayor of Roche lès Clerval*), **Maryse Motte Baigue**, **Claude Rougeot** (*translator*) **Joyce Lomont-Crowl**, **Bernadetta Verdy**, **Albert Verdy**, **Justie Ragnoli**. Back row: **Martial Baigue**, **Jean Fancois Voynnet**, **Denis Motte**, **Joceline Motte Voynnet**, **Bernadetta Favre Bonnot**, **Christian Lomont** and **Josiane Guilloz**. Not picture the mayor of Branne, **Liliane Guyon**.

It all started when my Granddaughter, **Justie Ragnoli** gave me a Surprise trip to France for my 80th birthday in March of 2014! To say I was surprised is an understatement . Our plans got underway fast when I E Mailed my cousin **Bart Lomont** and asked him about some sort of an itinerary ... he told me the man I really wanted to con-tact was **Don Lomont** (Donald and I are 3rd cousins). He was, oh, so right.

Don Lomont is the son of **Joseph Alphonse and Virginia "Toni" Cecelia (Welling) Lomont** and the grand-son of **Justin Peter and Emma Magdalene (Lothamer)**. Very little was known about our ancestors just two generations back from that of Justin and Emma. Justin's parents were **Juvéna! Alphonse and Victoria (Gladieux) Lomont**. Juvéna!'s parents were **Claude François and Angélique Marie (Verdy) Lomont**. Don had been researching the Lomont family genealogy for several years.

A little history here before I begin to tell you about the incredible day that was planned for us! There has never been any written documents proving that the Lomont family came from Besançon, France. There were only stories handed down through the generations

President's Message ... Barbara Gorney

Finding about our ancestors is sometimes very trying and exasperating. Why didn't they leave letters or a keepsake or maybe a will with pertinent information? How did they arrive in the United States and then to Indiana? Sometimes fate works for you and this happened in our Pio (Pailloz) family. So here is my tale.

I work in a hospital laboratory and there are many different machines. In order to keep up with the demand for more testing and newer machines, the technologists are asked to evaluate the ones that are on the market. When a machine has already been installed in a laboratory, a group is picked to drive to that hospital and check out the machine and how it works. Therefore, I was one of the people picked to go to the Lima, Ohio hospital to view their machine. There were four people driven by the company representative who went. As we were driving east on route 30, we could see St. Louis Besancon Church. Just a short way past the church I pointed out the land that was owned by Jean Baptiste Pailloz in 1865. Rosie Conroy pipes up and says "that is my parents' farm". Her father was Paul Rorick who lived on Webster Rd. Wow! What a coincidence to hear that.

Needless to say my daughter (Terri) and I called the Roricks and were invited to their house. Paul had the original deeds, which he copied the first few pages for us. Jean Baptiste Pailloz bought the land from Balzer Featherspiel and his wife Magdalene. After the death of Jean and his wife Marie, two of their four sons who owned the land sold it to Steven and Rose Girardot in 1874.

All those "hand me down" tales are always questionable. Such as this next one:

There was a story told by my aunt that we were related to Annie Oakley on the Skinner side. The more we researched we found we lived in the same county (Darke) in Ohio! That is our connection to Annie.

Or what about the teacup that came on the Mayflower with Edward and Anne Fuller. Good story but nothing without some proof.

What stories have come down through your family? We would like to hear from anyone that has a story to tell when researching their ancestors.

BARBARA

and only once in any document was there any mention of the family coming from any place else. It was in the obituary of **Honorena Norrine Lomont**, dated December 1932, that stated she was born in Broun, France, and brought to this country when she was 11 years old. It was believed that **Claude Francois** was from the Besançon area of France and that **Angélique Marie Verdy** was from Corsica, an island in the Mediterranean off of southern France. The number of children, dates and places of birth for Claude and Angélique handed down through the family turned out to be wrong also, this often happens when there are no records that can be found.

Don Lomont had made contact with **George Jeanney**, the French businessman and entrepreneur some of us were so honored to meet several years ago. Sadly, George fell ill and died, but an acquaintance of George's, **Pierre Courtois**, got in touch with Don and a friendship that would take Don and his wife, **Jeanne**, to France to spend several weeks in July of 2009 to not only research the origins of the Lomonts and Verdys but to meet many of their descendants.

That dear Friends is just what happened to Justie and me. Don Lomont contacted Pierre Courtois who arranged the most incredible day of September 17, 2014, to be spent in the villages of Branne, Roche lès Clerval, Lomont-sur-Crête, and Crosey le Petit .

September 16, Tuesday. After two days and nights in Paris and one night in Besançon we arrived by high speed train to Clerval and checked into the delightful hotel *La Bonne Auberge*. It is owned and operated by a lovely couple. We had one of the best meals in all of France served here on Wednesday.

September 17, Wednesday. Up bright and early, breakfast and right at 9:00 AM we were met by the Mayor of Clerval, **Jerome Guilloz** and his wife **Josiane**, and our translator, **M. Claude Rougeot**, a retired teacher. We drove to Branne about a mile and half away, It is a beautiful village of about 200, which lies on the banks of the Doubs River and is almost directly across from Roche lès Clerval. There we were met not only by the Mayor, **Lilliane Guyon** but several descendents of Claude Francois and Angélique. It was overwhelming and I must admit the tears began to flow! Lilliane had been working on the Motte family tree and she presented us with a 36 x 24 genealogy chart (fan) hand drawn of the **Lomont-Verdy-Motte-Bonnet-Colardot** with many more names on it. She showed us many birth, marriage and death records of the village that have been well preserved in the office.

Many French records were destroyed during the French revolution (1789-1799) when there was a revolt by the working class against the aristocracy. Don Lomont explained this very well in his works that small villages with populations of less than 90 at that time were not a serious target during the up risings and were kept safe by the village elders. How fortunate for us today. Lilliane also gave Justie and me a copy of Claude Francois' birth records with the date of the recording noting that Claude Joseph Lomont, a farmer in Branne was the father of a



Josiane & Jerome Guilloz Lilliane Guyon , Joyce & Justie

boy born 27 July 1808 to Marie Josephte Motte, mother.

We also received a copy of the marriage of Claude Francois Lomont and Angèlique Marie Verdy . We ex-changed small gifts and I must tell you that the beautiful pictures of our own St. Louis Catholic Church, Besançon, that **Ellen Lomont Oberley** had given to me were graciously received and appreciated

We walked the streets of the village and Justie and I were impressed by how clean and neat the entire village was. We took many pictures not only of the buildings, homes and beautiful flowers, but also of the very home where Claude and Angèlique once lived. It is still inhabited by members of the Motte family. A lovely set up of fresh pasties, home made lemonade and juice and cheese found us gathered in a newly renovated café of sorts all laughing and talking at once

You must know neither Justie nor I speak French and it was not an obstacle during our trip. Not once did we meet a rude person in all of our adventures (and there were several!), there were only those who helped us, laughed with us (or at us), and spent many minutes helping us. We have some wonderful funny stories of us, the American tourists, bumbling our way through the week.

Bernadetta Verdy and Albert Verdy are brother and sister who live together with a garden of delights (see picture), with a passion for flowers and small animals;(yes, those are banana trees in the picture!!). Bernadette particularly loves all birds, considered by her to be “*sky messengers*”. She and Justie quickly bonded and we left them by the fence talking to ducks and each other, neither one speaking the other’s language but



understanding each other. Albert had been the mayor for over twenty years, and I might add here I saw my own Father’s sparkling blue eyes in these two distant cousins!



Then onto the village of Roche lès Clerval where **Jerome Guilloz** is the Mayor. He is such a modest gentleman, little did we know he was a retired Major General in the military, and his wife, **Josiane**, was a former high school teacher and a genealogy researcher extraordinary. (She continues to find more information for us and not only that found that a cousin of Jerome’s mother married a Lomont). At 12:00 Noon we stood in front of the church for the ringing of the Angelus, realizing we were in the very spot

where Claude Francois and Angélique were married. The church is St. **Pierre and Paul** and was built in 1723. It and the grounds are beautifully kept. The church underwent a major internal restoration led by **Bernadette Verdy** and Scouts of Mont-Saint-Aignan, in 1985.

We visited the town hall and found more civil documents and photos to examine and once again there was a delicious display of goodies!! While sharing stories, addresses, stories of family, records, Justie and I were overwhelmed!

From here we went by car back to the hotel in Clerval where **Chantal and Pierre Courtois** of Vercel met us for lunch. Pierre is a retired veterinarian and he and wife have traveled a great deal in the United States and they shared so much with us. I mentioned at the beginning of this article he was the one who organized this entire day for us, one that is never to be forgotten! The lunch was delicious! Did I tell you about the cheese? Everywhere we went we had such delicious cheese.

Then back into the car to the foot hills of the Lomont Mountain range where we walked along ruts and a cow path up a hill to the over look of the two villages; Roche lès Clerval on one side of the Doubs and Branne almost opposite it on the other side. . The view was beautiful and many pictures were taken there. Several people left us after this, but we went on to the village of Crosey le Petit and Lomont-sur-Crête

Crosey-le-Petit was another small village, less than 125 in population and again, we marveled over the cleanliness, not a scrap of paper, not a cigarette butte to litter. This part of France had had quite a bit of rain during the season and everything was in full bloom: hollyhocks, roses daises, wisteria, and a humming bird vine was hanging over many gates and fences. Everything was so well cared for. There were beautiful old buildings, doorways painted many different colors, monuments to fallen heroes, all well kept, so much pride. The church ,St. Etienne, was small with beautiful stained glass windows; three out of the four of the windows had the name Lomont in-scribed on them. The cemetery also was well kept, and we all wandered through reading the inscriptions, noting the dates, wondering about these people of so long ago. We found family names almost everywhere we turned.

This is the church of St. Etienne at Crosey-le-Petit—please note the church bell tower (and on other pictures of the churches) that is an example of the “Clochers Comtois” that is found in Franche-Comté. Again we could not help but notice how much care was taken with everything. Of great interest was a tapestry that dated back to the 17th century! All sorts of stones and mementos graced the cemetery , some particularly large ones (below) which were significant of the Lomont families prominence in the community.





We only drove through the small village of Lomont Sur Crete to take pictures of the beautiful church and, of course, Fromagerie de Lomont, the cheese factory. It is the only cheese factory in the canton that produces Comté, a hard cheese made from cow's milk that is similar to Gruyère. The village has a population of about 200 with about a third of them involved in agriculture.

All together Justie and I spent 3 nights in Paris, two nights in Besancon and two nights in Clerval. Besancon was one of the most beautiful cities, and we enjoyed our adventures there, taking many pictures and meeting people. Everywhere we went on our visit we met nothing but gracious, courteous people. Everyone was so willing to help us, with directions, with our luggage, with tickets at the train station and just in passing on the streets.



I want to thank **Bart Lomont** for steering us in the right direction, **Don Lomont** for arranging this incredible visit, **Ellen Lomont Oberley** for the beautiful pictures of the interior of St. Louis we gave as gifts, cousins **Barb and Annette** for suggestions, and **Barb and Teri Gorney** for ideas.

Fromagerie de Lomont

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the late **Gladys Nail Lomont** who started me on this journey so many years ago, **Monica Lomont Knecht** who documented and researched so much of the materials on the Loments' found in America and **Ursula Lomont Sockrider** who started collecting much of the material and organizing it. Of course many contributions for some of the early history data from records in France, comes from the efforts of **Father James Lothamer**.

And to the dear people of France who gave us a day in our lives never to be forgotten **Thank You! Chantal and Pierre Courtois Jerome and Josiane Guilloz, Liliane Guyon, Claude Rougeot, Maryse Motte Baigue, Bernadetta Verdy, Albert Verdy, Martial Baigue, Jean Francois Voynnet, Denis Motte, Joceline Motte Voynnet, Bernadetta Favre Bonnot, and Christian Lomont . #**

Friends of Besancon.....

Special Thanks to Joyce Lomont Crowl for sharing her wonderful trip to France with us in her own words and pictures as the cover story.(Former editor of Chronicles)

New Lifetime Member: 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 3-1hour lectures of the late Fr. Charles Banet on researching church records in the U.S. and France. Contributed to the Chronicles in Issue 47 & 48-Interview with Fr. Charles Banet.

Thank you for donations to BHS: Judith Schroff

Thank you for donations to the Cemetery Project: LaDonna Warrick, Michael Morow, Monica R. Knecht, Ron & Rita Girardot, Charles & Rose Keys, Gene Yoquelet

Thank you for donations to the Library Fund: John & Roseann Schreiber, Michael Morow, Mary Jane Novosel

Welcome New Member: Marcella Romaneck, (Reuille) 259 Sycamore Dr. Paducak, KY 42001

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

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

OBITUARIES

COUR

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette, April 16, 1905

Mrs. Victorine Cour, widow of Eugene Cour, died Saturday morning at her home on Buchanan Street. Mrs. Cour was born in France seventy-eight years ago, and came to America shortly after her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Cour first settled in Buffalo, where they lived ten years, coming to Fort Wayne nearly fifty years ago. About thirteen years ago Mrs. Cour suffered a paralytic stroke, and never even for an hour since that time was she able to leave her bed. Through all these years of suffering, however, she was patient and cheerful at all times. She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic church and was a woman of the noblest qualities. The following children survive: Mrs. Victoria Schuckman, and Frank Cour of this city: Joseph Cour, of Minneapolis, Minn., and Mrs. George Getty of Chicago. There is also one brother, John Pettit, of Buffalo.

The funeral services will be held Monday morning at 8:30 o'clock from the residence and a half hour later from the St. Patrick's Catholic church.

Former Fort Wayne Man Dead

Joseph Cour, Well Known Here, Passes Away in Chicago

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette October 9, 1906

Word has been received in this city of the recent death of Joseph Cour, of Chicago. Mr. Cour was the son of Eugene and Victoria Cour, and a brother of Frank Cour and Mrs. Josephine Schuckman, of this city. He was a native of Fort Wayne, where he was reared and received his early education, attending the Brothers' school. While in the city he took an apprenticeship at the Pennsylvania shops. He was for many years foreman at the Rock Island shops at Minneapolis, but for the last ten years had been superintendent of the Casteel Roller and Supply company, with headquarters at Chicago. Three children survive, all of whom are grown. Mr. Cour, who is fifty years of age, had many friends in this city.

PETER F. BARRAND

An Old Pioneer of the County Passes to His Eternal Home

The Fort Wayne Sentinel, Tuesday, February 24, 1891 (also submitted by Gene Yoquelet)

The funeral of Peter F. Barrand, whose death occurred last week at his home, in Washington township, took place last Sunday, and was largely attended. Mr. Barrand was one of the pioneers of the county, and had reached the ripe old age of nearly four score years and ten, having been born in the year 1804 in France. He received a good education, and was a teacher in his native land. In 1836 he emigrated to the United States, and came immediately to Allen county. The trip from Toledo to this place he made in a pirogue upon the river as far as the rapids. When he arrived here Fort Wayne was but little other than a trading station, and the population very small. Mr. Barrand's first employment here was with the Indian chief, J.B. Richardville, and afterwards on the construction of the canal. On the 22d day of November, 1838, he was married to Ann J. Poirson, who was born in France in 1820 and immigrated to this country with her parents in 1834. Her family, after spending a few years in New York state, moved to this county and settled on a farm on the old plank road, four and a half miles from Fort Wayne, where they kept what was called in those times "**French Mary's Tavern**," a name given it by the early settlers. After their marriage Mr. Barrand commenced farming on the Penn farm and three years later purchased a

OBITUARIES---CONT.

farm in Washington township on which he resided until his death. In 1888 Mr. and Mrs. Barrand celebrated their golden wedding. Mrs. Barrand and several children survive him, John B. Barrand, of this city being the superintendent of the sash, door and blind factory of Louis Diether & Brother. The deceased was an estimable citizen and left a host of friends to mourn his death.

NOTED BELLE

An Allen County Pioneer Tavern Named in Her Honor FAIR FRENCH MARY

Mrs. Mary Grosjean Dies of Old Age at Her Suburban Home.

Fort Wayne Daily News: Monday, April 12, 1897

One of the most prominent pioneer ladies of Allen county died yesterday at the family residence near Wallen, of old age. She was 74 years old and has been a resident of this county for sixty-five years. In early pioneer days when stage coaches and wayside taverns were at the height of their popularity, the deceased was one of the belles of northern Indiana. Many years ago, when the Poirson tavern was situated three and one-half miles from the city on the old Lima plank road, Mary Poirson was one of the most attractive of the young French girls in that vicinity. She was called "Pretty French Mary," and as she resided with her parents at the tavern, the hotel soon became to be known as "**French Mary**" tavern. Later Miss Mary Poirson became the wife of Mr. John B. Grosjean, yet the early pioneers have known her to this day as "French Mary." Her disposition was always merry and her companionship most charming. Her friends were numbered by her acquaintances. Her home has been blessed by twelve children, and for years the old residence has been the scene of many a delightful society event, as her children inherited her hospitable nature. Her aged husband, also a prominent settler, survives, but for the past few years has been in failing health. His sons are enterprising residents of Allen county. Two are in business at Arcola and two others are manufacturers at Wallen. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon at farm house, the Rev. Cissell, of Fort Wayne, officiating. The interment will be at St. Joe chapel. Mr. Peter F. Poirson, of this city, is a nephew of the deceased.

MRS. MARY HAVERT

Fort Wayne News: March 1, 1899

Mrs. Mary, wife of Theodore Havert, an old and respected citizen of Fort Wayne, died this morning at her home, 119 Holman street. The cause of death was a complication of diseases and infirmities due to her advanced years. Mrs. Havert was 76 years of age, and although born in France, has long been a resident of this city. She leaves several children as follows: Alphonse, Theodore, Louis Mrs. Peter Stein, Mrs. Celestine Gladieux, Mrs. Laurence Hafner, all of this city, and Mrs. Charles Clark, of Chicago.

The funeral will be held Saturday morning at 8:30 from her residence, and at 9 o'clock from the Cathedral, of which congregation the deceased was a member.

COULARDOT

The Fort Wayne Sentinel: Wednesday, May 2, 1883

Mr. Frank P. Coulardot, a nephew of County Commissioner Gladio, and one of the most promising young men of Jefferson township, died of pneumonia last Sunday and was buried yesterday, his funeral being the largest ever held in the township. He was born near Zulu, in Jefferson township, was twenty-five years old and unmarried.

