



## St. Michael's Church and Cemetery (Pierre Settlement)

St. Michael's Cemetery is located presently behind the Calvary Baptist Church at the corner of Hazlett and St. Joe Center Road, on the southeast corner of the intersection. There are 17 marked graves and one unreadable stone presently identified and they all lay adjacent to the playground behind the church. The head stones all lie flat and were probably once upright stone markers and the grass is mowed as a part of the playground. It is not a maintained cemetery, and rather is in a dangerous situation of being lost if the headstones are moved or in any way misplaced. This may already have taken place for some of the entombments.

Details of the history of this St. Michael's parish, also known as the Pierre Settlement, are practically non-existent. It was built on land deeded to the Diocese in 1874 and was never a resident parish. It was a mission attended parish probably from Leo and later from St. Vincent's Church (Auburn Road), being attended four times a year. Fr. M.J. Byrne attended both Leo and the Pierre Settlement for a short time while resident at the Cathedral in Fort Wayne. Services were apparently discontinued by 1913 when furnishings were donated to the new St. Joseph's Church (Taylor Street), Fort Wayne, predecessor to the present St. Joseph's Church. The building stood for a number of years more and was finally torn down. In 1936 the land, except for the cemetery land, was deeded back to the heirs of the original grantors.

The existing cemetery laid behind the original St. Michael's church, cared for by the Pierre family who are now buried there. Burial records have been found but are incomplete, making it difficult to account for all possible persons buried in this cemetery. Those persons whose headstones are present and readable are listed below. (**page 2.**)

Presently, the cemetery is not in danger of being destroyed except by vandals, but it has no perimeter outline by fence or any other marking to identify it. It seems to be at the mercy of the owners of the property and any legal and human concern for its future safety and preservation, not to mention its upkeep.

*This above history was prepared by the Knights of Columbus, Council 11353, St. Vincent's Church by James M. Cox, Trustee, in May, 1995 in preparation for the sesquicentennial celebration of St. Vincent's Church in 1996.*

More history of this Cemetery is continued on Page 2.

*The following history of the Pierre Settlement Cemetery is from the "Allen County's Cemetery Project" found on their website, along with photographs.*

The Pierre Settlement Cemetery, Saint Joseph Township, Allen County, Indiana, is located in St. Joseph Twp. Section 23, on the south side of St. Joe Center Road, east of Hazelet Road, directly behind Calvary Baptist Church. The cemetery is adjacent to the church property on the north and west sides and confined by housing editions with tall blockade fences on the south and east sides. It is being maintained by the Catholic Cemetery on Lake Ave. The cemetery is named after Michael Pierre, an early French settler from Bettng France who was interred in this cemetery in 1871. The gravestones are difficult to locate as they were laid flush in the ground about 1980 (or so) to keep children from Arlington elementary School who traverse through the area going to and from school, from damaging them; and at the request of the nearby residents as they did not want to view the gravestones. A wrought iron fence that once surrounded the cemetery was so badly distressed, it was taken down. At one time there was also a low cabin that served as a church for the Pierre Settlement on the site, which was known as St. Michael's. The cemetery was photographed in September 2009. The cemetery is no longer in use.

**Those 17 persons with readable headstones in St. Michael's Cemetery**

NAME	BIRTH DATE	DEATH DATE
Frank DuPont		1873
Peter Rothman		1894
Mary Rothman		1894
Cathirena Pierre		1891
John Pierre	1836	1901
Lorinda Buhr		1880
Mary Valdinaire	1811	1888
John B. Bobay		1910
Tracy Roy		1873
Sophia J. Sarrazine	1885	1903
John P. Bobay		1901
Raymond Kaliker	1898	1901
Julie Bobay		1892
Victor G. Bobay		1896
August Sarrazine	1838	1900
Louisa M. J. Sarrazine		1898
Iva M. Shuler		1874

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

**Joan A. Monnier**, 89, passed away Thursday, Sept. 8, 2016 of Fort Wayne at Hamilton Place. Born June 24, 1927, she was the daughter of the late Herman L. and Juanita (Roussel) Jacquay. She was a homemaker. Survived by four daughters: Anita (Glenn) Cooley of Delevan, N.Y., Cheryl Lowe of Palmentto, FL, Christine Hancock of Pekin, IL and Sandra Monnier. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger Daniel Monnier and a son, Kevin Monnier. Private services were held. Joan was a noted genealogist and researcher dealing in French history and research, also a part of BHS.

**Robert E. "Bob" Curts**, 80, passed away Thursday, Dec. 1, 2016 of Fort Wayne and FL., at the Sarasota Memorial Hospital. Son of the late Jessie A. and Clestes (King) Curts. Worked at Tokheim for 30 yrs., retiring in 1989. A U.S. Army veteran, member of American Legion Post 499, a couple baseball leagues, and Radio Clubs of Fort Wayne. Also a member of the Allen County Genealogy Society and BHS. Surviving are his wife of 60 yrs., Arlene L. Curts; son, Robert M. (Carol) Curts of Greenwood, IN; daughter, Connie Curts of Columbus, OH; 4 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. Interment at Covington Memorial Gardens.  
His wife Arlene is past secretary of BHS.

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**

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

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

**August Sarazine (see cover story)**

Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, 30 July 1900

August Sarazin, aged 62, for thirty years a resident of Allen county, died at his home in St. Joe township Sunday of Bright's disease. He had been ill a long time. He leaves a widow and the following children: Julius, John, August, Mary Charles, Sophia, Sylverster, Mrs. Charles Rosenberger

The funeral will be held Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock from St. Michael's Catholic church, in St. Joe township.

**Father LaBonte**

**Well-known Catholic "Divine" Passes Away Today.** Ft. Wayne News, 21 March 1907

Bishop Alerding received a telegram from Lafayette, Ind., this morning announcing the death of Rev. F.X. LaBonte, a prominent Catholic priest, which occurred at St. Elizabeth's hospital, Lafayette, at an early hour this morning. Death was due to an abscess on the brain.

Father LaBonte is well known in this city and has been stationed at Oxford, Ind., for a number of years. Before going to Oxford he had charge of a flock at Besancon. The telegram contained no announcement as to the funeral arrangements, but it is believed that interment will be made in Connecticut, where he had charge of a flock at one time.

**Mary Dodane Delagrange**

Fort Wayne News, February 3, 1908

As a result of a gradual decline, following an operation for gallstones, which was submitted to two months ago, Mrs. Mary Delagrange, died at 11:53 o'clock Saturday night, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Frank Hath, 432 Buchanan street.

Mrs. Delagrange was fifty-three years of age and had lived in this city many years. She was a devout Catholic and was highly esteemed.

Surviving are the bereaved husband and eleven children: Louis C., Eugene F., Clarence J. Delagrange, Mrs. Louis Banet, Mrs. Frank Huth and the Misses Laura, Florence, Nora, Rosa, Dorothy and Blanche Delagrange. Two sisters—Mrs. John Langard and Mrs. Henry Beurelle—and three brothers—Frank, Edward and Joseph Dodane also survive.

The funeral will be held Wednesday morning at 8:45 o'clock from the residence, 432 Buchanan street, and at 9 o'clock a chartered car will meet the funeral party at Hanna and Lewis streets and the church services will be held at 10 o'clock at St. Louis Catholic church at Besancon.

**GIRARDOT Submitted by Barb Gorney**

Ft. Wayne Sentinel, Mon. July 4, 1910

Frank Girardot, a well known resident of Jefferson township, died at 2:30 o'clock Sunday morning at St. Joseph's hospital, following an operation for appendicitis. Mr. Girardot was 36 yrs. of age, and had been seriously ill since Friday evening. The deceased was a member of St. John's Catholic church at

## YESTER-YEAR . . . CONT

### GIRARDOT, Cont.

New Haven, and is survived by the widow and six children. Funeral services Wed am at 8:30 o'clock from the home in Zulu and 9:30 from St. John's church. The deceased was a member of French-American society of Allen county.

### Jean Claude Begue

Find A Grave Memorial #38514505

April 11, 1827—Oct. 2, 1880

Jean Begue arrived in America from France in 1844 through the port of New Orleans. He was one of the few French settlers who came to the Besancon area in eastern Allen County who did not establish himself as a farmer. He quickly saw the opportunity to make money by harvesting and processing the lumber products from the Great Black Swamp. He started a cooperage (barrel-making shop) in the New Haven area in the 1850's. In 1862 this business had grown large enough that he took in the Beugnot brothers (his wife's brothers) as partners. At this time they added a stave manufacturing factory. Begue's name is on the 1868 list of members of St. Louis Catholic Church at Besancon near New Haven. His name is on a window in the sanctuary there. By 1879 he had three factories in New Haven and one in Fort Wayne and had added two members of the Schnelker family to the partnership. During this time he also formed a partnership with L.M. Rogers and Levi Hartzell to start up the Maumee Valley Flouring Mill in New Haven. He was also active in community affairs. He served on the school board of the district school in New Haven in 1856. He was one of the organizers of the drive to have New Haven incorporated in 1866 and was one of those chosen to present the

incorporation petition to the Allen County commissioners. From 1868 to 1873 he served as an Allen County Commissioner.

After living in the New Haven area for many years, in the 1870's the Begues moved to the new fashionable neighborhood of Fort Wayne on East Wayne Street. Begue Street in this area is named for Jean Begue.

Jean and his wife, Marie Beugnot had four daughters;

Alice b. ca. 1857 m. William Schoenbein died 1926\*

Pelagia b. 6 Jan. 1858 d. as infant

Clementia b. 6 Jan 1858 d as infant

Emmaline b. ca. 1859 m. John G. Baker Died 1934.\*

Parents:

Jean Claude Begue (1804-1864)

Spouse: Marie Beugnot Begue (1830-1902)\*

Siblings:

Joseph Begue (1835-1915)\*

Jean Baptiste Begue (1848-1917)\*

Eugenie Begue Berger (1851-1920)\*

**\*= Calculated relationship**

Burial of Jean Claude Begue:  
Catholic Cemetery

***IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR ONCE AGAIN.....***

**PLEASE PAY BY END OF FEBRUARY  
MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**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

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