



Father Charles Henry Banet and the Precious Blood

By Michael Roy Morow

During my earlier report of my meetings with the late Father Charles Henry Banet, CP.P.S., scholar of French immigration to Besancon and Allen County, I left out much of a more personal nature. He was frankly a tough character, yet sophisticated to the core. He talked earthily and man to man, saltily and with hard realism. He was a complex man and no sort of caricature of either highbrow seriousness, on one hand, nor of guileless piety, on the other. I cut the more personal matters and observations out of my prior article, for various reasons. But there is now one part of the omitted material that I have come to think is worth reporting.

My second meeting/appointment with Father Banet was sometime in early summer, mid or late June 1991. School was out, and it was a sunny day as I went to his president's office at Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer.

We had been talking about proudly displayed photographs of what he called his "family"—the vocations he had brought into the Catholic Church. He then abruptly changed subject. He started telling me that he had just gotten back from a doctor's appointment which he had much dreaded. The way he told it, this had happened that very morning or within the last couple days. Father Banet said that on a previous visit, he had been diagnosed with a fatal illness, based on blood tests. The doctor had told him that he had not very long to live at all, likely mere months. And there was nothing to be done about it.

Continued on page 3 thru 6

President's Message ... Barbara Gorney

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Queries on Besancon families have become fewer and fewer in the last several years. In July I received a query on the Maldeney name. Rick Maldeney was interested in visiting the Besancon archives. Gene and I set Saturday July 22nd for Rick and his wife Louann to meet us at the archives. Rick's great grandfather Francis Xavier Maldeney Sr. came with his family from France in 1881. Rick's grandfather Francis Xavier Maldeney Jr. was born in France in 1864. Rick's father was Charles B. Maldeney Sr. There is no headstone for Francis Sr. but Jr. is buried in the new cemetery along with Charles. Gene had some information on this family and was able to compare notes because the archives has very little information on the Maldeney's.

Rick grew up in the Besancon area and went to St. Louis grade school. He lived in the area until 1980. He was married to Louann who is from Decatur, IN. Rick and Louann are heading to France in October to meet a cousin who will drive them to the small village of the Maldeney's for more research.

Rick stopped at the Allen County Library and noted a new book was published in February by Martine Copeland. The title is *French Settlers in Allen County*. GC 977.201-AL5cop. This book has the first French settlers coming into Allen County, along with maps of France, areas listed where they came from, short sketches of families, and a few notes. This is a good start for genealogy searches.

While in the racks of books, I noticed *Master Name Index for Allen Co. Cemetery Project Transcriptions Books*. GC 977.201 AL5cm. There are 5 large volumes containing all the names in Allen County cemeteries. If you don't know which cemetery, this is the place to look.

Curt Witcher of the genealogy department has been busy with the Federal Genealogy Society (FGS) national meeting the week of August 20th. Therefore he has not started on the photo collection at Besancon. He has been in touch with me and still very interested.

BARBARA

Next Meeting of BHS is scheduled for September 22, Saturday at 9:30 AM at the Archives

Some more blood tests were to be taken, and after them he had been instructed to come back for a more precise prognosis—not as to any cure, but simply as to how much time he had left.

Shortly after this appointment he was saying late morning Mass. He was of the Order of Precious Blood priests, ordained in 1949, and as part of that order fostered a particular devotional practice to the Precious Blood of Christ. Indeed among his publications are scholarly treatments of Catholic art on that motif. So just after the bad news from the doctor, but before the second tests were taken, he was late in the Mass. He was about to drink the consecrated Blood of Christ. And it suddenly occurred to him to just pray this: “Jesus, I have a lot of work left to do. This *cannot* happen to me now! Why don’t You just, by my drinking this cup, replace *my* bad blood with this, *Your* sacred, spotless blood?”

A few days following this prayer he went in for the second, critical blood test. And then, apparently just before my meeting with him, he had gotten the result: everything which had shown up as fatal, previously, was entirely gone. The doctor had no explanation for it. There was no reported case or medical knowledge to account for the change. Indeed the blood test, after his prayer at Mass, was perfect. He was not in danger of death or even of any illness, whatsoever.

Some years later, after Father Banet had retired as Saint Joseph’s President in July 1993 and moved to Galveston, Texas with his brother Paul, also a priest, he repeated this story to one Joan Carter McHugh. She published it on the internet; I was simply running a scan of Father Banet’s name one day and came up with her account. Of course it was entirely in accord with my own conversation with Father Banet.

Father Banet, then 73, told Mrs. McHugh somewhat more detail. He had indeed suffered from a blood disease since a child, and then in the early 90s had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. But he had to discontinue radiation therapy due to the bad blood test results. He only had a short time to live. The day after his prayer at Consecration, his blood tested perfect for the first time since childhood. Father Banet was completely healthy and cancer free when he spoke to Mrs. McHugh, and no medical explanation had yet ever been given for the healing of his blood. Recounting the healing stories surrounding Christ from the New Testament, Mrs. McHugh added—which I cannot improve upon—“Just as Jesus transforms the bread and wine into His Body and Blood during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, so does He transform our brokenness into wholeness, our sorrow into joy, our darkness into light, our sickness into health!”

Father Charles Henry Banet died at age 80 on June 22, 2003, at the rectory of Holy Rosary Parish in Galveston, Texas where his brother was still pastor. It struck me when I read his obituary that, most extraordinarily, his date of death was a baker's dozen of years, to almost the day, from my last meeting with him when he had reported the just accomplished miracle. This is not the first time I have heard of individuals praying for some lease on life, whether for themselves or for someone else, and in return receiving a set apportionment of years, down to almost the exact day. For time is the dimension in which the eternal intersects earthly life.

Yet how to explain not the miracle, but the openness of this tough-bitten, sometimes cynical, earthy priest to even making such a prayer? True, the charism of his order was centered on the Precious Blood. And true, there was his special personal attraction to Precious Blood devotions plus his writing on the subject. He indeed considered this devotion absolutely central to the Faith: “To understand God and God's

world, we must look at Him and it through the Precious Blood. This is the view that the saints took,” he concludes his pamphlet on the Precious Blood in art, “Above all, it is the way in which God sees it always. All things to Him, good or evil, are tinged with the Precious Blood.”

Yet, I do not believe, are even such opinions and involvements the whole story. For if nothing else, Catholic history of the last 50 years demonstrates that assenting to something intellectually, even to root dogma on the most sublime level, even by the Church’s highest intellects, is quite another thing from living such Truth. In my Besancon researches, however, I have come upon another sort of historical pattern. More than one ancestor from the earliest, simple and pious French generation at Saint Louis, left a strong reputation for saintliness among his or her descendants. And some accompanied by reports of miracles, too.

Father Banet, not born in Besancon, only learned of his father’s connection to this community at his ordination. He then devoted a large part of his life to the study of it. And frankly, in my view, something of the particular, intense, ancient piety of this Besancon community—still to this day much better preserved, in certain individuals, than any merely ethnic identity—rubbed off on him. It leavened his character, even though already a priest—what our Eastern Orthodox friends call theosis, or deification. “Without it,” they will tell you, “without the increasing union of self with Christ, one may not presume to be a theologian.” That union with Christ, in Father Banet’s case, became absolute upon his desperate but confident prayer—the very same life blood.

Genealogy and history are gratifying subjects in their own right. But especially in view of a community such as Besancon, they hardly suffice, in themselves, even to fully accomplish their stated objectives. For family trees do not give one the most essential

truths of human lineage, much less the complete “chronicle” which is the aim of this periodical. There is a whole other dimension. In the end, the sophisticated scholar Father Banet took the leap of his so much simpler, rustic forebears into that dimension. “For those who have eyes to see, let them see, and for who have ears to hear, let them hear.”



References:

Banet, Father Charles Henry, *Our Lady and the Precious Blood in Art*, (Precious Blood Institute, Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana 1962).

McHugh, Joan Carter, *Love the Mass! Live the Mass!* (Witness Ministries, Lake Forest, Illinois 2003)

Morow, Michael and Alyce Jane, *The Reuilles of Old Besancon, A Genealogical and Social History, 1847-1920* (Blue Sea Press, Indianapolis, Indiana 1993).

Morow, Michael, "Notes from a Conference With Father Charles Henry Banet, St. Joseph College, Rensselaer, IN, January 8, 1991" in *Besancon Historical Society: The Chronicles*, issues 47 and 48 (Fort Wayne, Indiana, Summer and Late Autumn 2011).

PAUL EDWARD MALDINEY/FEUVRIER GENEALOGY

Compiled and Submitted by Gene Yoquelet

PAUL EDWARD MALDINEY b. 25 Jan. 1839, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir, France Dept. Doubs d. 24 May 1920, pl Allen Co., IN Jefferson Twp son of FRANCOIS XAVIER and JEANNE JOSEPHINE (FEUVRIER) MALDINEY.

Edward Maldiney arrived in America on board the ship, "Le France" on 23 March 1881 Port of New York. Dec. for citizenship made 8 March 1882, Allen Co., IN Bk 5 Pg 387.

MARIE THERESE FEUVRIER b. 1 March 1840, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir, France. D. 15 Jun. 1917, pl Allen Co., IN daughter of PIERRE JOSEPH and JEANNE DOROTHE (GALLEZOT) FEUVRIER.

Marriage Date, 23 Nov. 1872, pl Vellerot-Les-Belvoir, France-Franche-Comte.
Burial Saint Louis Cemetery, Besancon, IN

CHILDREN:

LOUIS DELPHIN b. 6 July 1871, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir d. 6 Dec. 1944, pl Allen Co., married JOSEPHINE E. BARDEY, on 5 Nov. 1901, pl. Allen Co. Burial St. Joseph Cemetery, Hessen Cassel, IN

XAVIER LEON b. 28 April 1875, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir

DELPHINE LEA (LYDIA) b. 8 Aug. 1876, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir d. 10 Sept. 1955, pl Allen Co. married LOUIS E. ROUSSEY, 12 Oct. 1897 (B22-P447), pl St. Louis, Besancon. Burial, St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon.

MARTHA b. 2 Dec. 1877, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir d. 22 Feb. 1900 Burial St. Louis Cemetery.

DELPHINE CLEMENCE b. 17 Oct. 1880, pl Vellerot-les-Belvoir (infant on ship).

CLARA b. 15 Oct. 1882, pl Allen Co. d. 25 Aug. 1962, pl Allen Co. Married HENRY GERARDOT, on 18 Jan. 1905 (B27-P84), pl St. Louis, Besancon. Burial St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon. (See HENRY GERARDOT and MALDINEY Genealogy)

ELLEN b. 18 Jan. 1883, pl Allen Co. d. Dec. 1908 pl Ft. Wayne Married EDWARD FELIX ROUSSEY, on 29 July 1907 (B30-P408), Burial, St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon

HENRY ERNEST b. 1 June 1884, pl Allen Co. d. 25 April 1950 pl Ft. Wayne Married LUCY M. McCORMICK on 10 Nov. 1909 pl St. Louis, Besancon.

Burial St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon.

(See HENRY E. MALDINEY and McCORMICK Genealogy)

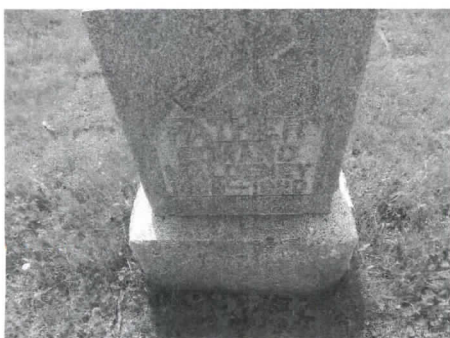
Continued on page 8. . .

*Continue with children of **EDWARD and MARIE THERESE MALDINEY**:*

LOUISE R. b. 6 March 1887, pl Allen Co. d. 28 Sept. 1958, pl Ft. Wayne Married HENRY B. BOWERS on 3 Feb. 1909, pl St. Louis, Besancon. Burial St. Louis Cemetery, Besancon. (See HENRY B. BOWERS and MALDINEY Genealogy)

AMIEL b. 10 June 1889 pl Allen Co. d. 15 Feb. 1901 Burial St. Louis Cemetery.

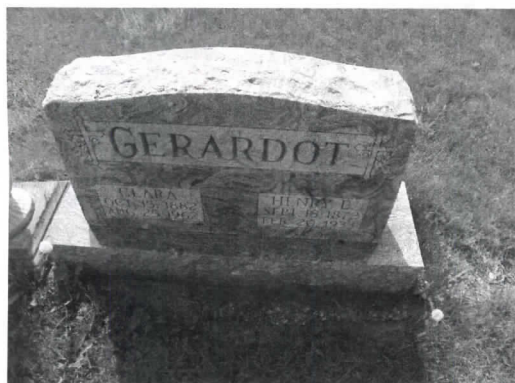
MATILDA b. 1 Sept. 1890 pl Allen Co. d. 6 Jan. 1893 Burial St. Louis Cemetery.



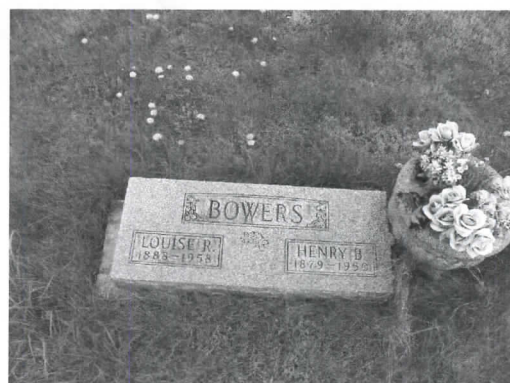
P. Edward Maldeney (1839-1920)



Mary Maldeney (1840-1917)



Clara Maldeney Gerardot (1882-1962)



Louise R. Maldeney Bowers (1887- 1958)

The "French" way of spelling the name was **Maldiney** RE: Gene Yoquelet

The above pictures were found via Find-a- Grave.com

Mary (Marie Therese) Maldeney's was "Added by Tera on 25 Mar 2009

P. Edward's, Clara's, and Louise's were "Added by Michael Fromholt on May 2011

Friends of Besancon.....

THANK YOU to **Michael Morow** for another wonderful contribution about the late Father Banet and his insights about Father's life and personality.

THANK YOU to the following members of BHS for their generous donations:
Michael Biesida, Joan Johnson, Fr. James Lothamer, John & Roseann Schreiber

THANK YOU to **Rick Maldiney** for his donation to BHS after visiting the Archives for research on his family.

Gene Yoquelet's new email address: besancon622@gmail.com

Fr. James W. Lothamer's new address and part of note he sent in May:

"Getting ready to move again-in June- to Baltimore MD, where our retirement home is."
 "I'm celebrating 50 years this June. It will be exactly 50 years this June since Fr. Jesse Lothamer died. He had been ordained I think either 50 or 51 years, the year he died. He was a bit older when ordained. But his mind had pretty much left him the last few years of his life. He was always concerned that the Lothamer name continue in the US Catholic Directory."

New Address: Villa Olier
 603 Maiden Choice Lane
 Catonsville MD 21228

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF BHS: Next meeting will be held Saturday September 22, 2018 @ 9:30 AM at the Archives. **All are Welcome to Attend!!**

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

Barb Pio Gorney..Pres.

BandTGorney@aol.com

**Mary Jane Novosel Vice Pres.,&
 Editor of Chronicles**

jmj.novosel@frontier.com

Julie Nolan Secretary

juliepequignot@aol.com

Gene Yoquelet Treasurer

Besancon622@gmail.com

LOOK FOR BHS ON INTERNET

www.Besanconhistory.org

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

Weekly Sentinel

May 13, 1903

Judge Heaton today refused a divorce to Elizabeth Isaby from Louis Isaby and at the same time dissolved a restraining order enjoining the defendant from using any money he may have on deposit or from disposing of any property he may have. The defendant is seventy-four years of age and the plaintiff is sixty-five. They were married in 1860—forty-three years ago. They have had their spats and quarrels, the defendant, by reason of his years, becoming crabbed and sometimes of mean disposition, during which period the complaint, filed April 30, alleges he refused to provide for plaintiff and that he has abused her for more than two years. The evidence was not sufficiently strong, the judge thought, to justify a legal separation, and he afterwards stated that he did not believe it would have been right for him to step in at this late day and dissolve the ties which had bound them for nearly half a century—a tie which, at any rate, death would dissolve ere many years. Therefore he refused the application and dissolved the injunction.

Country Parties.

Ft. Wayne Journal Gazette July 9, 1906

Miss Catherine Reuille, of Academy Station, entertained a number of her little friends Sunday afternoon in honor of her seventh birthday. Those present were Esther Sordelet, Loretta Duller, Tootsy Bobay, Marguerite, Edith and Viola Martin, Elma Stellhorn, Agnes Derbold, Eunice and Francis Martin, Alfred Sordelet, Monnie Stelhorn, Elmer Bobey, Harry Diebold, William, Claude and Haines Reuille.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Huguenard, who were recently married, were pleasantly surprised at their home in Washington township Saturday evening. Music, cards and dancing were features of the evening, luncheon being served at midnight. Those present were Messrs and Mesdames Francis Huguenard, Julian Barrand, August White and the Misses Ada and Ida Kramer, Laura and Adaling Huguenard, Anna Parnin, May White, Zerola Houser, Blanche Barrand, and the Messrs Edward and Alfred Fulkerson, Julian, Clem and Frank Huguenard. Albert, Clarence and Frank White, Edward and David Rowley, John and William Olneck, John Grosjean, Leonard Roy, George Kahn, August Poirson, Andrew Fritz, Arthur Kramer, Howard Houser and Henry Byerly. Music was furnished by Mr. Clarence White. Everyone enjoyed a good time and wished Mr. and Mrs. Huguenard a happy life.

MONROEVILLE, INDIANA, DECEMBER 6, 1906

Submitted by Barb Gorney

Mr. Louis B. Bonjoir a highly respected citizen of Jackson township met with a very serious and painful accident, last Monday while engaged in helping to bale straw on his farm. The team was making the last pull on a bale when the clevis pin broke and the sweep of the horse power flew back and struck Mr. Bonjoir just below the knees and he received injuries which will confine him to his bed for some time. As we are about to close composition for this week we are pleased to state that he is improving rapidly.

Yester-year continued. . . .

Large Class Received Holy Communion at Besancon, Sunday

Special to Journal Gazette June 29, 1907 Besancon, Indiana June 28th

A class of forty-two pupils received Holy Communion at the St. Louis Church at Besancon Sunday. Rev. Dhe, pastor of the church, had a dinner served to the little folks after the communion services were over. A large number of people from Fort Wayne and Monroeville were present and the large church was well filled with people. The following boys and girls composed the class: Pearl Jacquay, Sarah Gerardot, Ethel Gerardot, Julia Ryan, Rugh Gladieux, Marie Lortie, Edith Ryan, Bertha Kennerk, Ada Ferry, Maud Ferry, Amelia Mourey, Gertrude Girardot, Clara Monnier, Mary Girard, Mary Reiner, and Agnes Bolyard, Felican Henry, Julian Roy, Bernard Henry, Henry Monnier, Elmer Overly, Steven Voirol, Clarence Ternet, Justin Rose, Francis Lomont, Francis Roy, Bernard Synder, Clarence Pope, Charley Hughenard, Walter Bolyard, Sherman Gerardot, Frank Walket, Leonard Banet, Jennings Comment, Chester Comment, Clement Gladieux, Clestine Vanderley, Clarence Gerardot, Harvey Gerardot, Henry Roy, Frank, Kennerk and Voirol.

FACEBOOK OF YESTER-YEAR. . . .

ZULU NEWS Journal Gazette May 19, 1915 Pg7.

Zulu, Ind., Mary 18

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Martin jr., and Mr. Nicholas Martin motored to Cecil, O., last Thursday and spent the day visiting relatives at that place.

Mrs. Joseph Coulardot was a Fort Wayne shopper Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Townsend and Miss Decima Gladieux and Mr. and Mrs. F. Luenenberger, of Monroeville motored to Decatur on Business last Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ternet and son Cletus and daughter Velma spent Thursday in Fort Wayne.

Mrs. John Sordelet, Mrs. Frank Kline, of Garcreek(?) Miss Johanna Dignan, of Maples, Mr. and Mrs. George Townsend, Mrs. Charles Ternet and Miss Decima Gladieux were working on the Besancon cemetery last Friday afternoon.

Mr. Celestine Frane was a business caller in Payne, O., Friday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Vanhorn were callers in Zulu Friday evening.

Mr. Federick Revier was a caller at the George Townsend home last Friday evening.

Mr. Eugene Bonjour accompanied by Mr. Frank Oberley motored to Fort Wayne last Saturday. They were accompanied home by Mr. and Mrs. William Gorver and daughter Geraldine of Ft. W.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Conrad & son Elmer spent Thursday evening with Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Bonjour

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Monnot & daughters Edna & Mildred motored to Payne, O., Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. Eugene Bonjour and sons Louis and Virgil were Friday afternoon callers at the Frank Conrad home.

Messrs. Arthur and Elmer Oberley were callers in Monroeville Saturday morning.

Mr. Clemie Marquardt was a visitor at the Charles Ternet home Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Monnot and daughters Edna and Mildred motored to the home of Mr. Mars. George Venerley Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Edward Gladieux Jr. & Mr. Jan Hulinger were busily engaged in hauling gravel last Monday

Mrs. Ellen Moneysmith passed away at an early hour Sunday morning of complication of diseases at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Stairhime. The deceased had been an invalid for the past few years and had made her home with her daughter ever since her failing health.

MEMBERSHIP DUES**Individual---\$15.00****Family-\$20.00 Lifetime-\$200.00**

**Send a check Attn: Eugene Yoquelet
Treasurer, Besancon Historical Society
616 Highland
Ossian, IN 46777**

The archives will be open by appointment only

Please Call

Barb Gorney (260)490-6725

Or

Gene Yoquelet (260)622-4067

**MARY JANE NOVOSEL
11623 TILLBURY COVE
FORT WAYNE, IN 46845**

FT WAYNE IN 468

28 AUG 2018 PM 3 L



Adam Barrone LFTM
212 S. Cornell Court
Fort Wayne, IN 46807