



TIMELINE FOR THE BESANCON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Compiled by Barbara Gorney, December 2023

1992 Organized to establish a historical society for the Besancon area.

1994 First Chronicles in November. BHS organized the project for the restoration of the leaded glass windows in Saint Louis Catholic Church. President Carlton Giant, Secretary Dianna Voors, Treasurer Mark Robbins.

1996 Second issue in May, third in December

President Mark Robbins, Jim Lomont Treasurer, Al Bowers Secretary. Meetings held in the school.

1996 *Album in the Attic* started by Father Thom Lombardi and Dianna Voors. This is a collection of pictures of Besancon families, homes and land. The project was awarded a second Indiana Heritage Research Grant from the Indiana Humanities Council and the Indiana Historical Society. A total of over 1100 pictures were collected. They can be reviewed on the Allen County Public Library Genealogy website.

1997 Fourth Chronicles in June. President Gene Yoquelet, Treasurer Jim Lomont, Secretary Mike Bowers, Directors Ralph Violette, and Dianna Voors, Editor Ralph Violette.

1997 Jim Lomont placed grids for the markers in the old cemetery. Sue Kratzman and Judy Schroff read the tombstones and a book was made. For several years members reset the grids which continue to sink into the ground.

1997 Bylaws revised.

1998 Refurbished rooms on second floor of the old convent for the Society.

1999 Society participated in Monroeville days on July 4th.

1999 Marriage records were copied and alphabetized from 1862-1999 by Judy Schroff and Barb Gorney.

2000 Editor of Chronicles Joyce Lomont Crowl

2000 Booth at St. Louis Craft Fair

2000 Trip to France planned by Gene Yoquelet with society members

2002 Mapping of the new cemetery: Co-chairmen Jeff Hoffman and Duane Sutter, indexer Tamyra Jauregui

2002 New president Barbara Gorney, Vice-president Jerry Bogue, Secretary Arlene Curts, Treasurer Gene Yoquelet, Editor Joyce Lomont Crowl

2003 Lenten service presented by Besancon Historical and the St. Louis choir. Refreshments served by BHS in the cafeteria of the school.

2004 Website started by BHS by Adam Barone.

TIMELINE FOR BHS CONTINUED

2004 Vice president is Mary Jane Novosel

2005 A Christmas concert was presented by the St. Louis Choir and BHS. Refreshments were served by BHS in the school cafeteria.

2005 The Allen County Library has two volumes titled *History of Fort Wayne and Allen County Indiana*. Besancon Historical Society has placed the history of the church in it and of the society.

2009 August. Restoration of the old cemetery was started. Ann Mensch and Eileen and Douglas Sarrazine set up and cleaned two Bower tombstones. Also five tombstones were unearthed, set up and cleaned. Several other tombstones were reset.

2009 September. Five tombstones were unearthed and set up. Also some tombstones were cleaned. The crew was Julie Nolan, Gene Yoquelet, Brent and Jacob VanHorn, Betty Pequignot, Jan Kneuve, Jodi Meyers, Norb Sarrazine, Mick Lomont, Ann Mensch and Barb Gorney.

2010 April. Ten tombstones were unearthed and set up: George Jones, Louis Amiel Boitet, Clara Martin, Howard J. McCormick, Jessie V. Lomont, Charles Jacquay, Mary J. Boitet, Arby Pio, Eugene Pio, Francis Reuille. Helpers were Julie Nolan, Gene Yoquelet, Eileen Sarrazine, Ann Mensch and Barb Gorney.

2011 Mary Jane Novosel is the new Editor of the Chronicles.

2011 A large project was begun in the low area in the rear of the old cemetery. Two loads of top soil filled in the low area so that fifteen tombstones could be installed on two concrete slabs. This work was done by Scott Brickley and crew.

2012 Four tombstones have been reset on crushed rock foundations in the old cemetery. The names on the stones were Frank Humbert, Justin Humbert, John B. Lorbain and B. Didier.

2013 A new tombstone was placed on the grave of Phillip Gladio by his descendants: Joan Gladieux Johnson, Michael Gladieux and Marshall Gladieux.

2013 Julie Nolan and Gene Yoquelet introduced 18 school children to the Archives and the cemetery. They were amazed at the number of pictures in the Archives.

2015 Eight tombstones have been placed on a slab in the back section of the old cemetery.

2022 The Allen County Public Library digitalized the Archives photos and they can be seen on the Allen County Genealogy website.

Autumn of 2023 Dissolution of the Besancon Historical Society.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Vice President (2004) & Editor of the Chronicles(2011). I have very much enjoyed being a part of this Historical Society of my French ancestors (Reuille).

Mary Jane Novosel

President's Message. . . .Barbara Gorney

I would like to thank every member of the Besancon Historical Society for their support through the years. I have put together a timeline of the accomplishments over the years. The timeline is to December 2023. As you read, the beginning occurred because the stain glass windows in the church needed attention. Donations were taken. Then the need for preserving a record of the original families was the start of the historical society.

Many members donated their family history and pictures. All the pictures have been placed on the Allen County Library genealogy website. The pictures are located in the file drawers and the catalog boxes of names are on the table at the archives. There are framed pictures on the walls that were donated. There are two small table size frames that hold a group of pictures and two large floor size frames with pictures. With only two rooms, these picture frames are stored in the hallway closet.

According to the bylaws we sent a questionnaire to 48 members of the historical society. They were asked to vote on the recipient of the archives and the distribution of the treasury. 38 members sent in their votes. **The ACPL** was picked for the histories and the **cemetery committee** was the choice for the historical society's funds. The family histories are being digitalized by the Allen County Library.

This small French community that settled in Allen County, Indiana has been preserved in the histories and pictures that were donated by their descendants. These accomplishments have put the only French settlement still in Indiana in the record book.

Barbara, President of Besancon Historical Society

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..President

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

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Gene Yoquelet Treasurer

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Yester year. copied and submitted by Alyce J. Morow

A Country Party *Ft. Wayne News-Sentinel, October 5, 1909*

A pleasant party of recent date was a trolley company given by Miss Ninette Gladieux at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ternet, of Besancon. A merry company of girls were Miss Gladieux's guests and in the afternoon, after dinner, a hayrack ride was taken about the farm. Ferns and asters decorated the supper table and music was furnished. The guests were Misses Jean Hosey, Hilda McDarby, Helen Pauley, Hilda Pierre, Ruth Overhauser, May Staub, Helen Clifford, Ruth Donahue, Helen Sunley, violet Fields, Bessie Cleary, Ruth Center, Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Gladieux of Fort Wayne, and the Misses Velma Cletus, Leslie Ternet, Jenning Comment, of Besancon. The Misses Helen Pauley, Hilda McDarby, Helen Clifford and Helen Sunley gave piano selections.

FOLLOWS MOTHER IN DEATH *Fort Wayne News June 19, 1919*

Mrs. Frances Fisher Dies Few Hours After Mrs. Barrand.

Mrs. Frances Fisher, aged 37 years, died at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Hope-Methodist hospital, where her mother, Mrs. Pauline Barrand died thirty-seven hours before, at 1:30 o'clock Tuesday morning. Death was due to complications, the deceased having been ill for several years, but seriously sick for only the last two weeks.

Mrs. Fisher was born in Michigan, moving to Fort Wayne at the age of 4 years. She is survived by the husband, Jacob Fisher, and two daughters, Esther, aged 14, and Rosella, aged 16. There are also the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. John fisher and Mrs. Richard Puff, of this city, John Barrand, of Kalamazoo, Mich, Peter, Julian, Frank and August Barrand, of Fort Wayne. Mrs. Fisher was a member of the American Yeomen

AUGUST BARRAND *Fort Wayne News Sentinel, June 25, 1936, p. 8*

Barrand Rites to Be Held On Friday

Resident of Allen County Infirmary, Aged 83, is killed by Switch Engine

Funeral services for August Barrand, aged 83, Allen county Infirmary resident who was killed by a G.R. & I. switch engine near the Irene Byron Sanitorium Wednesday afternoon, when he apparently wandered onto the tracks while picking berries, will be held at the D.O. McComb & Sons' Funeral Home, probably Friday morning. Catholic services will be held and burial will be in the Catholic Cemetery.

Barrand, who was deaf, apparently did not hear the locomotive, witnesses said. Members of the engine crew were unable to stop the locomotive before it struck the man. A wound at the back of the skull was the immediate cause of death, although his body was mangled. The death is being investigated by Dr. Walter E. Kruse, Allen County Coroner.

Barrand, a retired plasterer, had been residing at the Infirmary since May 5, 1930. Before that time he lived in Fort Wayne and Florida. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. W.M. Long, of Tampa, Fla; four brothers and two sisters, Mary Puff and Mrs. Blanche Fisher, all of Fort Wayne.

The French Society *Fort Wayne News, August 14, 1905*

The French society, composed of Allen county citizens of French birth or ancestry has elected officers as follows: President-Jules Simon, Vice Pres.-Frank Jolly, Corresponding Secretary-Charles Marchand, Finance Secretary-Frank Manuel, Treasurer-Charles F. Centlive, Trustees-Florentine Roy, August Lanternier, Joseph Romary. Sentinel-Joseph Toussaint.

There are now two hundred members and the society is making progress in its work of extending knowledge of French history on both sides of the ocean and in maintaining fluency in the use of the language.

ALEXANDER C. PICHON/BARRAND GENEALOGY

Researched by Gene Yoquelet

ALEXANDER CLAUDE PICHON born 12 Sep. 1812, pl Faimbe, Fr. Dept. Doubs d. 6 Feb. 1899, pl Ft. Wayne, Ind. Son of ISIDORE and EVE (BAUMAITHE)PICHON, French immigrants to Allen Co., Ind.

MARY ANNE BARRAND born ca. 1815, pl France d., Nov. 1871, pl Allen Co. daug. of PIERRE FRANCIS and FRANCES (MANDRAN) BARRAND,

Marriage date, 4 April 1842, pl Cathedral, Ft. Wayne by Rev. Joseph Hamion.

Burial, Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort. Wayne.

Children:

FRANCIS

Born ca. 1843, pl Fr. D., 27 Aug. 1924 pl Allen Co., Leo Rd.
Married ELIZABETH BADIAC, m/d 29 Nov. 1867, pl Allen Co.
Burial, St. Vincent Cemetery, Allen Co.

MARY

Born ca. 1843, pl Fr. D., 10 March 1930, pl Ft. Wayne.
Married CELESTINE JOURDAIN, m/d 17 Aug. 1865, pl Allen Co.
Burial, Catholic Cemetery, Ft. Wayne

SOPHIA AUGUSTINE

Born 20 June 1845, pl wash. Twp., Allen Co. D., 4 April 1908, pl Ft. Wayne.
Married NELSON THOMPSON, m/d 12 Nov. 1868, pl Allen Co.
Burial, Lindenwood Cemetery, Ft. Wayne.

JOHN ALEXANDER

Born 7 March 1848, pl Wash twp., Allen Co. D., 6 March 1930, pl Allen Co.
Married AGNES ANDRES, m/d Burial

MARGURITE SERAPHINA

Born 20 Sept. 1850, pl Allen Co., D., 2 March 1923, pl Allen Co.
Burial in Lindenwood Cemetery.

SARAH JOSEPHINE

Born 5 April 1853, pl Allen Co., D., 8 May 1928, pl Allen Co.
Married JOHN STIER, m/d 2 Dec. 1891, pl Grant Co., Ind.
Burial, Lindenwood Cemetery.

**ALEXANDER PICHON, WHO CAME
HERE IN 1834—OTHER DEATHS
AND FUNERALS**

Fort Wayne News, Feb. 7 1899

One by one the pioneer residents of Fort Wayne are passing away, but the absence of none will be felt more keenly than that of Alexander C. Pichon, who died last night. He had reached the good old age of 87 years, was not afflicted with disease, but his powers gradually failed him and, surrounded by his loved ones, he passed peacefully away.

Mr. Pichon was born near Besancon, in the department of Doubs, France, Sept. 12, 1812. His father was a soldier under Napoleon, and had taken part in the awful retreat from Moscow, being one of the few survivors of that great march.

The deceased came to America at the age of 20 years and spent two years in New York and the east, coming to Allen county with his father in 1834. The party of settlers of which these two men were members came down the Maumee river from Toledo in an open boat, landing near the old Wines dam, and sleeping in the open air, on the night of May 1st, of that year.

In April, 1841, Mr. Pichon was married to Mrs. Marian (Barrand) Parrant. To this union eight children were born, of whom six are still living. The survivors are Francis, John, Mrs. Celestine

Jourdaine, Mrs. Nelson Thompson, Mrs. John Stier, and Miss Margaret Pichon. The wife and mother died in November, 1871. In February of the next year Mr. Pichon went to reside with his daughter, Mrs. Thompson, and lived there ever since.

In the early days Mr. Pichon worked on the Wabash & Erie canal. He was a warm friend of Chief Richardson and commanded the respect and friendship of the Miami Indians. Mr. Pichon was an enthusiastic republican in politics, and had a reason for the faith that was in him. At the News office he was a familiar figure several years ago, when his grandsons were carrier boys for this paper. Each afternoon he came to take their school books home for them. He lived a quiet, unostentatious, helpful life, and his death will be sincerely mourned by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

The funeral will take place Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence, 329 East Wayne street, the Rev. Samuel Wagenhals officiating. Six grandsons of the deceased will act as pall-bearers. The interment will be at Linderwood.

Facebook of Yester Year . . . copied and submitted by Alyce J. Morow

ZULU NEWS

Journal Gazette February 8, page 11

ZULU, Ind., Feb. 7. **Edward Mannot** and **the Gremaux brothers** are marketing their corn.

Mr. Arthur Oberly is hauling corn to the Townley elevator.

Mrs. Jestin Lomont and children, accompanied by **Miss Rose Lomont**, left Tuesday morning for Turmbull county, Ohio, their future home.

Miss Amelia Mourey is employed at the **Alphonse Lomen** home until her aunt returns from assisting her brother, **Jestin Lomont**, to move.

At 6 o'clock Tuesday morning occurred the marriage of **John Girardot to Ada Farra** at the St. Louis Besancon church. Immediately after the marriage they boarded a Lima car for Fort Wayne, where they intended to have their photograph taken and then catch the first train for Coldwater, O., where they will spend a short time among relatives and then they will be at home to their many friends at the groom's mother's.

Mr. Charles Miller and Joseph Giant were busily engaged last Tuesday in hauling a car load of clover seed for the Nathan Grain company at Tillman Station.

Mr. Frank Reuille was a business caller in Monroeville Tuesday and says his sick folks are on the gain.

Mr. Frank Roussey is convalescing at this writing and hopes for his speedy recovery are entertained.

Mrs. Peter Urbine was a Zulu caller Tuesday.

Mr. John Lothamer, of the Nathan Grain company at Tillman Station is having a rush of all kinds of grain and is unable to attend to it alone and therefore has to hire help.

The last dance of the season was given Tuesday night by **Mr. and Mrs. Henry Girardot** at their home in Zulu. A goodly number was in attendance and a fine time was had by all as they bid farewell to the dancing season until after Easter.

Mr. Theodore Girardot, of Fort Wayne, was calling on relatives at Zulu Wednesday.

Mr. George Townsend was a shopper at the **N.C. Coulardat store** in Zulu Wednesday.

Mr. Leslie Ternet spent Wednesday at the **Joseph Boitet** home and reports from **Miss Mabel's** bedside is more encouraging. The fever is slowly going down, although she has had a severe case of typhoid fever, good hopes are entertained at the present.

Mr. Henry Girardot, the Zulu saloonist, is busily engaged in putting up ice. He has a large gang of men on the job and will have his ice house filled in a short time. They are getting the ice from the **Oberly** pond and have fine ice. It was thought for a time that the ice houses would have to go empty and it would have meant a great deal to the business men.

Mr. Peter Farra and August Girardot stopped a few hours in Zulu Wednesday on their way to the **Francis Girardot** home where they expected to meet the new bride and groom, who were expected to return some time during the day.

Editor's note: Please excuse any misspellings—this is how it was printed.

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