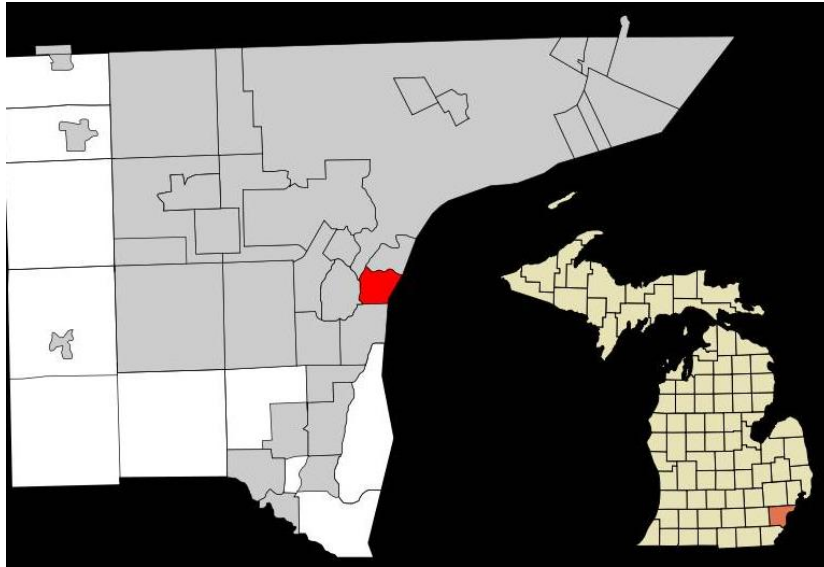


Chapter 3 - Ecorse



[City of Ecorse Website](#)

During the presidential term of John Quincy Adams between 1825-1829, Congress divided the Michigan Territory into townships. In 1827, Ecorse Township was formed, but years before that a small fishing and farming center had sprung up along the Detroit River.

In 1836, Simon Rousseau, A. Labadie, L. Bourassa and P. LeBlanc made the first plat of the village and officially named it Grandport. At that point in its history, the village of Grandport had 800 people, 152 homes and four businesses. It became the hub of the neighboring sprawling farm lands and the site of a shipyard as well as Raupp's Lumber Mill.

An 1830 map shows the Village of Grandport and the streets named on the map still exist in present day Ecorse, some showing the same names as they did over a century and a half ago. Streets in the village of Grandport were named for historical figures including Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster and James Monroe. Webster and Monroe Streets still exist in Ecorse today. High, Labadie, Bourassa and White Streets still exist in their original location in Ecorse. What was then State Street is now Southfield Road and Lafforter was renamed LeBlanc Street.

Grandport continued to be the center of Ecorse Township for many years, but the little village never incorporated. As the years passed, people stopped calling the commercial center Grandport and started calling it Ecorse, after the Township's name. Gradually, the name Grandport faded into Ecorse history.

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, Grandport-Ecorse was a resort area and one of the early commuter suburbs of Detroit. In 1903, the unincorporated village of Grandport became a "general law" village, the largest village in the United States. It was officially named

Ecorse from the original French Ecorces, river of bark, and A.M. Salliotte became its first president.

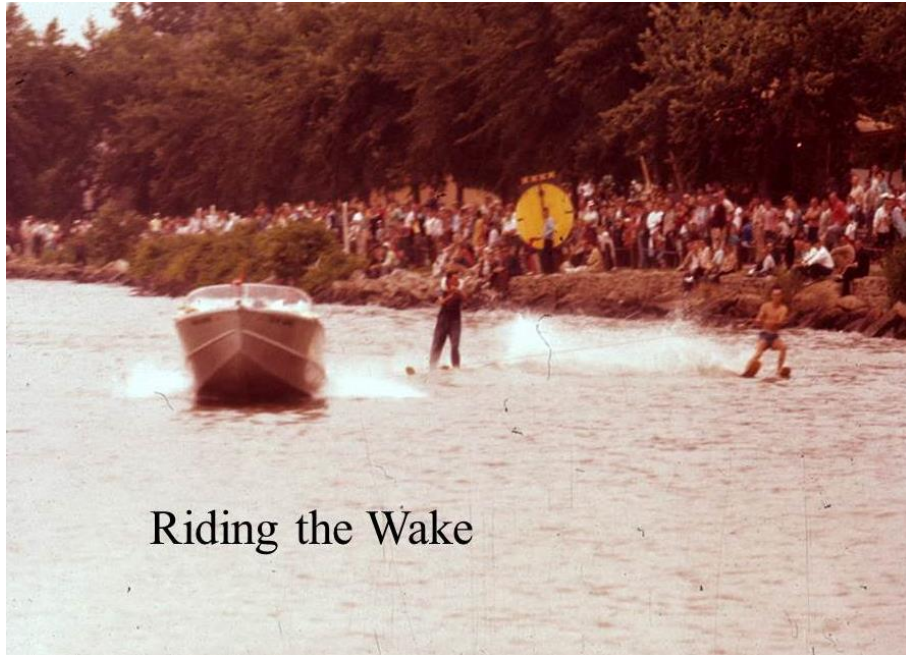
By the 1930s, Ecorse had become the largest village in the United States. In May 1936, William W. Voisine was president of the village. Other village officials were Don H. Beckman, clerk; Paul Vollmar, treasurer; Earl E. Montie, attorney; Thomas J. Weber, assessor; Prescott J. Brown, engineer; and Oliver Raupp, James Morris, William Born, Paul Movinski, James Hardage and Francis Labadie, trustees.

In 1942, the village of Ecorse was incorporated as the City of Ecorse and the 1956 census revealed that 21,000 residents lived in a 2 ¾ square mile area and enjoyed the second lowest tax rate of \$12.50 per thousand of the entire Downriver area. Ecorse continued to prosper into the 1960s, but by the end of the 1960s, civil unrest in neighboring Detroit and a population shift to outlying suburbs as well as corrupt politics brought economic decline to the community. In December 1986, the Wayne County Circuit Court issued an order appointing a receiver for bankrupt Ecorse. The receivership lasted until August 1990, but the state of Michigan monitored Ecorse finances for another ten years.

Over the next nearly two decades Ecorse struggled to correct its finances and its politics, but by 2009, the city again faced a 14.6 million cumulative deficit and a \$5 million structural deficit. An FBI corruption investigation also led to a prison term for former Mayor Herbert Worthy and former city controller Erwin Hollenquest. The mayor and City Council tried unsuccessfully to formulate a plan to eliminate the deficit during the summer of 2009, and by October 2009 Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm had declared a financial emergency and appointed Joyce Parker as emergency financial manager.

During the summer of 2009, the City Council and mayor tried to come up with a plan to eliminate the deficit but could not agree how. By September 2009, Governor Granholm declared a financial emergency. In October 2009, Governor Granholm appointed Joyce Parker as emergency financial manager. Although Darcel Brown was elected mayor of Ecorse, [Joyce Parker](#) remained as the Ecorse emergency financial manager until the end of April 2013.

In April 2013, Joyce Parker returned control of the city to Mayor Brown and its other elected officials, but the state retained an advisory committee to oversee Ecorse finances. In November 2013, Lamar Tidwell, a former police officer and local philanthropist, was elected Ecorse mayor.



Ecorse-1959

In 1959, an Honors English Class at St. Francis High School in Ecorse researched and wrote stories about each Downriver community. Only the paper about Great Lakes shipping featured the name of the student who wrote it. The student writing about Ecorse is anonymous, but he or she was a thorough reporter.

Ecorse has blossomed into an efficiently-run community, trying valiantly to convince citizens of other communities that it can and will have good government under law and order. Today Mayor Eli Ciungan, aided by a council of six, is assisted by the City Clerk Pat Trondle and a City Treasurer, Paul Vollmar; all are elected by the 19,000 registered voters annually.

The 1956 census credited Ecorse with 21,000 residents living in an area of 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ square miles and enjoying the second-lowest tax rate (\$12.50 per thousand) of the whole downriver area. The assessed valuation of Ecorse is over \$122 million. One bank, the Security, has deposits of over \$51,000,000.

Education, too, had advanced with the years. Although Ecorse has but one public high school, its whole school system educates 3,400 pupils under one hundred forty-four teachers. St. Francis Xavier High School, with twelve grades, takes care of over 600 pupils from many different areas, particularly those with no high school (parochial) of their own.

Ecorse is fortunate in having a modern branch of the Wayne County Library, centrally located at the corner of Southfield and Outer Drive. Twenty-four thousand volumes make this branch one of the best in the area.

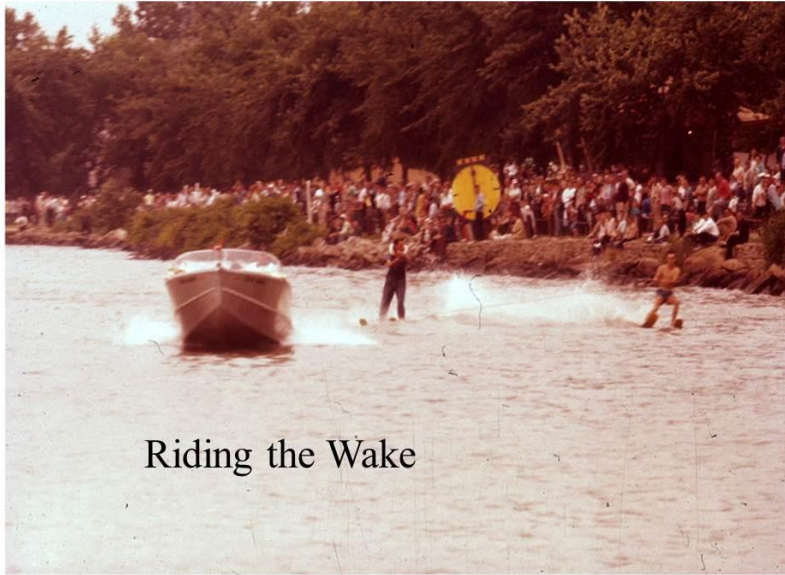
The city is proud of its efficient Sanitation Department and its regular services. Police and fire officials are ever on the alert to serve citizens in need; the ratio of these public servants to the general population is very high, making for quick and well organized service.

The main reason for the economic and population growth of Ecorse is its industries. Great Lakes Steel, on the riverfront, out producing eighty-three national competitors, employ 10, 4000 local people.

Schwayder Brothers, on High Street, produces Samsonite luggage and furniture; smaller plants produce machinery and metal fittings.

What the future of Ecorse will be, no one knows for sure. However, if the determination of its citizens is any yardstick, we can judge that this little community will progress rapidly.





Thomas J. Anderson's 1976 speech about Ecorse history, presented to the Ecorse Woman's Club.

Thomas Jefferson Anderson was the last Ecorse Township supervisor and the first mayor of Southgate. He was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on November 21, 1919 and he served in the United States Army during World War II and later in the Korean War. He was an engineer and a supervisor of publications and automotive assembly problem control at the Ford Motor Company. He was director of the Southgate Bank and mayor of Southgate, Michigan from 1958-1961. A Democrat, he served as a member of the Michigan state house of representatives 28th District from 1965-1982 and he was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention from Michigan in 1984.

Thomas Anderson was Protestant. He was a member of the Kiwanis and American Legion. He died in Lansing, Michigan on September 18, 1994 at age 74.

Good afternoon, ladies! First of all, I must use the old cliché, "unaccustomed as I am to public speaking"---I love to talk but strictly on a social basis, so please bear with my shortcomings.

I want to say that I don't feel really qualified to speak on the history of Ecorse from a truly professional standpoint. My only qualifications are those of a personal interest in the city and a desire that the citizens should be aware of the rich historical background that is theirs, especially in view of the unfavorable publicity so often given Ecorse.

Now with the advent of the country's Bicentennial year, that goal seems more important than ever. It is very sad to me that as the oldest Downriver city, it is also one of the very few not yet designated a Bicentennial city. Attempts were made to set up a program but failed for lack of citizen interest.

Our city of Ecorse is an industrial town with a population of nearly 18,000 and an area of about three square miles. There is recorded history of the area dating from 1763, when it was a favorite rendezvous for Pontiac, Wyandotte, and other Indian chiefs who met to plan attacks against Fort Detroit and to try to prevent further white settlement. It was also the scene of Pontiac's famous conspiracy.

"Riviere aux Ecorces" or "River of Bark" was a popular gathering place for local Indian tribes. According to legend, it was so called because the Indians stripped bark from the trees to make their canoes and because they made old fashioned bark grave wrappings for their dead and buried them there in the sands at the mouth of the present Detroit River.

However, the French laid claim to the territory quite early. French fur traders and Jesuit missionaries moved freely in the area and it was inevitable that settlers would cross the river from Canada to claim the virgin territory. It is a matter of record that in 1776 the Potawatomie tribes deeded a tract of land to Pierre St. Cosme "for love and affection." The tract included not only Ecorse but the present cities of Allen Park, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, Wyandotte and a portion of Detroit. His sons divided the huge plat after his death and sold the land to other French settlers. These subdivisions were in long narrow strips extending back from the river and approximately 400 yards wide so that settlers were nearer one another for protection from Indian raids. Because of this, land value and wealth were determined by the amount of waterfront property owned.

There were also many land grants from the French crown in the Detroit area and it is likely some of them were not recorded to make a source of accurate history. In 1795, however, the early personal records of the Labadie family show their ancestors may have settled near the mouth of the Ecorse River in 1764. In the closing of the 18th Century and the early 1800s, many other French settlers established here and the names such as Salliotte, Cicotte, Champaign, LeBlanc, Bourssa, Riopelle and Roussea have been prominent Downriver since.

With the shift of command from the French to Major Robert Rogers in 1760, the influence of the English increased, continuing through the skirmishes of the French-Indian War and the Revolution itself, until Fort Detroit was released to the Americans in 1796. In addition, after the Revolution, there were growing numbers of land seekers from the northern and eastern sections of the country. However, the development of the Downriver area remained primarily French until the early 1800's. Then the influence of the English became more noticeable and the first "foreigner" recorded as settling in the Ecorse area as Elijah Goodell in 1818.

The settlement at Ecorse became basically an outgrowth of the communities of Detroit and Sandwich, Ontario. In the early years there was close contact with the two towns as Ecorse consisted mainly of farms fronting on the Detroit River, and any supplies had to come from those cities.

One of the landmarks of the day was the Raupp sawmill, a popular gathering place, both for commerce and social events. As time passed and families intermarried, there were nearly equal numbers of French and English settlers. The first such recorded marriage was that of James Goodell and Angelique Salliotte. At that time all such records were kept at the parish of St. Anne in Detroit. Ecorse had only a small mission where Father Gabriel Richard preached once a month and which became the nucleus of the present St. Francis Xavier parish. A visit to the old St.

Francis cemetery on Third Street is like a trip through history with old names and dates on every headstone. Most records have been destroyed, but it's easy to visualize what it must have been. Life was not easy but they were resourceful people and bound closely by common needs.

The United States Congressional Ordinance of 1787, establishing the Northwest Territory, had set forth procedures for land measure and for the recognition of old French land grants. By 1827, the scatterings of settlers had developed into a small community and the Territorial Legislature created the Township of Ecorse, consisting of 54 square miles, running from the River to what is now Pelham Road, as well as two small islands in the Detroit River itself. The first township meeting was held in the home of Daniel Goodell and John Cicotte was named supervisor with duties which included protection of public health, spokesman for the township, and arbiter of all disputes. Fewer people at a vast difference in size from Ecorse today!

In 1834, because of its rapid growth, the township became the village of Grand port with the plot of the village laid out and recorded in 1836. It had 800 people, 152 homes, and 4 businesses. It was to become the hub of the neighboring sprawling farmlands and the site of a shipyard as well and Raupp's Lumber Mill. Ecorse was also a religious center with the foundation of St. Francis Xavier as a parish in 1845. It served the communities of Fort Wayne, River Rouge, Wyandotte, Oakwood and Delray. (Ecorse is still a religious center with 28 churches of record.) Facts concerning the earliest school are not available, but it is certain more French than English was spoken in the first schools established. In most cases, the French culture and customs predominated even in homes where one partner was English or some other nationality.

Older inhabitants recall being told of a log school, near the shore of the river at the foot of what is now Labadie. Some also recall a small building on the corner of Jefferson and White that served as a school in the 1860s. Later classes were held in the band building and in the council chambers of the old City Hall.

From such small beginnings, the Ecorse school system now has six elementary schools and a high school, as well as pre-school classes and special education programs. There are presently more than 3,500 children enrolled and Dr. Huston, Supt. of schools, plans to enrich and expand the program and facilities offered to Ecorse children.

By 1873, the business directory listed 15 establishments and in 1903 the unincorporated village of Grandport became a general law village, the largest "village" in the United States. It was also renamed Ecorse from the original French "Ecorces." Its first president was A.M. Salliotte. At this time, Ecorse was a resort area and one of the early commuter suburbs, and, as always, in its history, geography played a part.

Its geographical location on the river and yet near a busy city made the village most popular and it became known as the "Little Venice of the West End." As such it attracted the middle class and many owned cottages where they could relax and enjoy the pleasures of a more exclusive colony but at a lesser cost. The Detroit Free press in 1905 said of Ecorse that it was "truly a colony of resorters distinct in itself... There they may have the air and cool of the river; in fact, all the real luxuries." Cottages were built with boathouses and the men commuted while their families vacationed.

Thus Ecorse had a pleasant, friendly image at the turn of the century, but sadly the same geographical location that created it was also instrumental in changing it. The passage of the Volstead Act in 1919 turned Ecorse into a boom town. Located as it is on the river and directly across from Canada, Ecorse was an ideal rum running center. The comfortable cottages became notorious as “Rum Row” and illegal liquor and alien trade made this once peaceful place a scene of violence and gang wars. From dawn to dusk, Ecorse appeared to be a normal quiet community. At nightfall it changed, became almost literally “sin city.” The bootlegging industry was only profitable to those who participated and the bootleggers paid little attention to the local people unless they interfered with smuggling operations. The citizens, in turn, felt the less they knew or appeared to know, the better, but many participated for a great deal of easy profit.

At one time there are three banks operating in this community of about 20,000 people. Untold millions changed hands and people made fortune overnight and lost them as rapidly. The boat houses once used for pleasure craft were renovated as warehouses and boat walls for high speed boats. The summer cottages became gambling houses. Private bars or “blind pigs” thrived on a small side street called “Hogan’s Alley.”

Anything and everything went in Ecorse and it was considered by some the toughest territory in the country. I’m told its reputation as a wide open town even spread to Europe.

Mud Island, formed by logs from a nearby saw mill, made a perfect screen for tunnels built by the bootleggers. Strong men with row boats were replaced by sleek motor boats that could cover the distance in a quarter of the previous time. As cargoes grew bigger, these too were replaced by flat-bottomed hulls called “luggers.”

Canadian law required that boats be free of their shores by nightfall, so rum runners were free to load contraband liquor during the day and bring it back across the river under the cover of darkness. Only two minutes of running the gauntlet of the semaphore light in the channel and the speed boats slid into the hidden boat wells, a heavy gate closed behind them, and five minutes later the unloaded cargo was on its way across the country. More than 500 boats crowded the river front and intricate signals were devised, with the river a dangerous place at night, regardless of the side you chose. Once a transaction was made – cash paid and liquor delivered – it made no difference to the Ecorse runners if a load was hijacked before it reached Fort Street and it frequently was. Cash was the rule and failure to present it often resulted in murder. False labels or cheaper liquor presented as a better grade had the same result.

Where was the law in those days? Official eyes were often blinded and police officers paid off. Sometimes the law ignored the bootleggers out of fear, or, family loyalty where relatives might be ranged on either side. Local law enforcement officers seemed powerless. An establishment could be raided, equipment destroyed, and yet back in operation within a matter of hours. Federal prohibition agents finally moved in and it became a matter of open warfare and suddenly, the rum runners began to show signs of fear. They attempted to dynamite, burn, and destroy a bridge leading to the boat wells and storage room to destroy evidence. At the peak of the violence a handful of federal agents held the bridge against more than a 1000 bootleggers.

Delos Smith, United States District Attorney, called Ecorse “one of the two black eyes for Detroit.” He warned the mayor he would send in the State Police and did. After a month of bitter warfare, the smugglers had to move their operations to Lake St. Clair on the north and Lake Erie

on the south, but it took four years to capture and convict the bootleggers and a permanent blot was left on the city's reputation.

When Jefferson Avenue was widened in 1929, Hogan's Alley was torn down and that strip of land became a park. With the repeal of the Volstead Act in 1933, an infamous era was ended, but old timers still recall the days when life was a 24 hour holiday!

Geography, as always, continued to play an important role in shaping the future of Ecorse. A steel salesman from Pittsburgh, George Fink, saw Ecorse as an ideal location for a steel plant. Iron ore and limestone were already being shipped down the Detroit River and coal could easily be brought in.

In 1922 George Fink founded Michigan Steel Corporation and the first steel rolled off the line in 1923, but he looked to greater things and by 1929, \$20,000,000 was raised for expansion and Great Lakes Steel Corporation was organized. Today it is the largest of the Downriver industries and a major employer of Ecorse residents. As well as attracting other industry to the area, it is a source of large tax revenue to the City. Thus you could say Great lakes Steel and the community Ecorse have grown and prospered together.

As Ecorse developed as an industrial center, it was obvious a different type of government would soon be needed. On September 15, 1941, the voters incorporated the village of Ecorse into a city, adopting a City Charter in 1942, with a mayor council government.

A city is first of all, people and as such the government and quality of service must reflect the ethnic, economic and overall social status of the residents. Ethnically Ecorse is a reflection of the national 'melting pot' as well as an integrated city. It has native born Americans along with residents of such varied extraction as French, Indian, Hungarian, Greek, Polish, English, Mexican, Italian, German, and others. The majority of the citizens is upper lower or lower middle economic class and as such would like a low level of city expenditure while wanting to also maintain a semblance of status, personally and for the city.

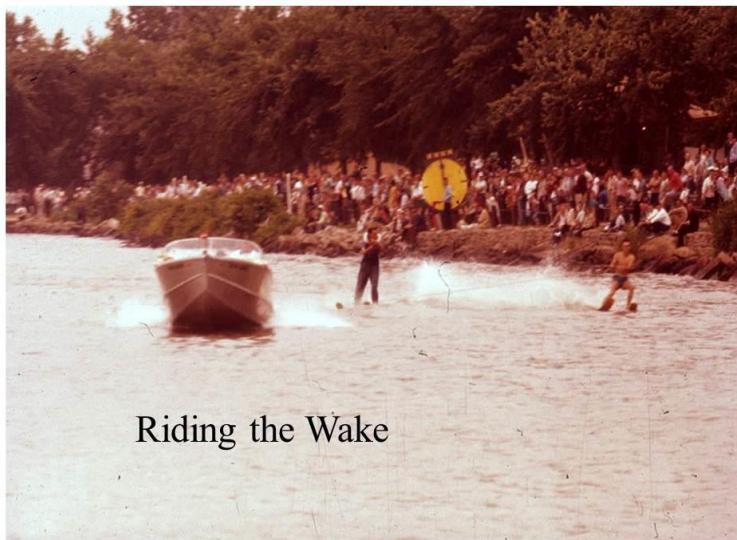
From the beginning Ecorse local government was stormy and scandal ridden. To the present day local politics is the favorite "sport" of Ecorse citizens, a sport full of cruel and often untrue charges and counter charges. In addition the city is liable to pressure from industry with its large tax base and from local power groups. Unfortunately, the reputation acquired during the Prohibition era has made Ecorse fair game for rumor mongers and muck rakers. There is no question there have been some illegal practices, but what most people aren't aware of are the forward strides the city has taken despite these setbacks and the future it could have with the interest and cooperation of its citizens working as a unit. Nor are they aware the lawbreakers don't represent all the citizenry or necessarily the local government. Its future problems will be those of needed urban development with an economic future almost wholly dependent on the steel and automotive industries.

The days of the copper hued Indian creeping along a tree shaded path, hiding from and plotting the downfall of the white man, are gone. Today there are no Indians, no French rappers or hardy settlers, no bark canoes. The sawmills and river boats have disappeared. Today huge factories and mammoth freighters serve the area. Dirt roads and pathways have been replaced by paving

and sidewalks. The city has grown up, progressed, but must yet go a long way. Today must be a time of careful planning to secure the final product, tomorrow for Ecorse.

For any of you who'd like to do further research, we do have some compiled histories at the library – mine has been a composite of them and I am doing a reference packet for Wayne County on the City of Ecorse.

Now I'd like to thank you all for inviting me here today and also a special thanks to Mrs. Coman who provided me with the information on Prohibition days in Ecorse.



Ecorse Lighthouse.

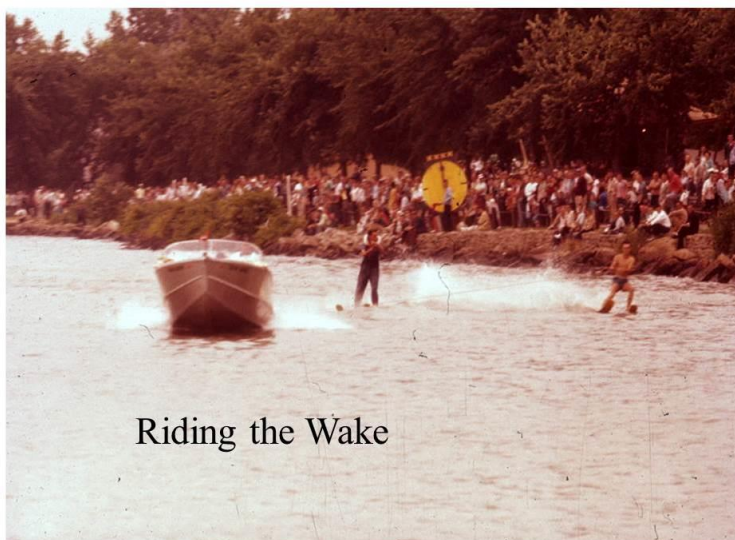


The Ecorse Lighthouse stood on the marshy shores of the Detroit River, north of Mud Island, where the mainland curves east, narrowing the channel. Built in 1895, the 41 foot tall wooden tower held a fixed red light that guided boats around the bend in the Detroit River. The lighthouse was remodeled in 1917 and 1936, and it still appeared on 1942 maps. Gus Gramer was one of the Ecorse Lighthouse keepers. Before he came to the Ecorse Light, Gus began his career in New York City, his birthplace, when he joined the crew of an Arctic whaler when he was just fifteen. He spent many years in the whaling service, but ended his whaling career after

he and his crew members were shipwrecked in the South Pacific. Gus spent twenty years in the Navy and then joined the government lighthouse service.

Gus Gramer, Ecorse Light Keeper.

Newspaper reporters in Detroit and Toledo liked to write stories about Gus Gramer, lighthouse keeper. He made headlines by rescuing boaters from the Detroit River, pulled an oar with some of the first Ecorse Boat Club crews, and served on the Ecorse Fire Department for a time.. During his years in the lighthouse service, Gus tended the lights on Grassy Island, Monroe, Ecorse, Lightship 64, and Toledo Harbor Light. While he was keeper at the Toledo Harbor Light, Gus feuded with his boss, Roscoe House, and quit the Lighthouse Service.



Ecorse Business Growth and Change

[Michigan State Gazetteer](#)- 1867-1868

Ecorse. A township and post village called Grand Port, five miles below Detroit. It has three stores, one shoe shop, one butcher shop, one saw mill, one potash and soap factory. A.M. Salliotte, Postmaster.

Township Officials

Supervisor – James A. Visger. He is buried in Mt. Elliott Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Clerk – Moses B. Widner. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit

Treasurer- A.M. Salliotte. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Business Directory

John Copeland, saw mill

George Clark, fisherman. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Joseph Cicotte, grocer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Ecorse, Michigan.

H.H. Emmons, lawyer. He is buried in Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

John Labadie, saloon keeper. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

David LeBlanc, potash and soap factory. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Mitchell Roulo, hotelkeeper. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

H.F. Riopelle, justice of the peace. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

A.M. Salliotte, general store. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit, Michigan.

Michigan State Gazetteer – 1881

ECORSE. Is situated on the Detroit river, in the township of Ecorse, Wayne county, 9 miles below the city of Detroit and 3 above Wyandotte. The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern (Detroit branch) and the Canada Southern Railways pass through the village. It has a sawmill, a handsome graded school building, a Catholic church, and some smaller interests. The village, which was formerly known as Grand Port, dates its existence from 1840, although the locality was settled over a century ago. It has a population of 300—including the school district, perhaps a hundred more. The country in the vicinity is level and somewhat low, but rich and fertile. Grain, hay, lumber, staves, wood and Whitefish are shipped. Mail, daily. G. R. Goodell is postmaster.

Business Directory

B.E. Abbott, justice of peace. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Reverend Charles L. Baroux- Catholic

Alexander Bourassa, constable. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Abraham Brisbois, constable. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Archibald Campau, saloon, one mile east. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

George E. Cicotte, grocer, boots and shoes, crockery, glassware, patent medicine, hardware and provisions. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Louis Cicotte, proprietor, Farmer's Home. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Mrs. Rebecca J. Clarke, fish. She is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Moses W. Field, manufacturer barrel hoops. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Elijah J. Goodell, surveyor, flour and feed store. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Gabriel R. Goodell, grocer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Michael Kilcline, manager M.W. Field, Hoop Manufacturer. He is buried in Mt. Elliott Cemetery, Detroit.

Charles Labadie, constable. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Noah L. Leblanc, grocer, one mile west. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

William E. McLeod, agent
Canadian Southern Railroad

Joseph Morris, carpenter

John B. Montie, blacksmith. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Montie & Campau (George Montie & Richard Campau) proprietors 8 mile house

Mrs. Odett, dressmaker

Louis Odin, shoemaker

Otto & Boelter, wagonmakers, 2 miles west

Hyacinth E. Riopelle, justice, 2 miles west. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Simon W. Rousson, lawyer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Alexis M. Salliotte, general store. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Detroit.

Salliotte & Raupp. Alexis M. Salliotte & Gustavus A. Raupp, lumber, hoop, and stave manufacturers. Gustavus A. Raupp is buried

in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

John R. Seavitte, agent Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad. He is buried in St. Mary Cemetery in Wayne, Michigan.

Thomas H. Sommers, restaurant. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

Casper Specht, saloon, two miles northwest. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Albert Elliott Wright, physician. He was born on March 17, 1844 to Thomas and Abigail Wright. He married Louisa H. Goodell on May 18, 1874 in Ecorse. He died on November 28, 1914 in Ecorse at age 70. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit.

[Michigan State Gazetteer](#) – 1887-1888

Ecorse is situated on the Detroit River, in the township of Ecorse, Wayne County, 9 miles below the city of Detroit and 3 above Wyandotte. The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern (Detroit Division) and the Toledo Division Michigan Central Railroad pass through the village. It has two saw and two stave mills, a brickyard and other industries, a handsome free school building and a Catholic Church. The village, which was formerly known as Grand Port, dates its existence from 1840, although the locality was settled over a century ago. It has a population of 450. Grain, hay, lumber, staves, wood, and ice are shipped. George E. Cicotte, postmaster.

(Benjamin) Ephraim P. Abbott, justice of peace. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Louis J. Beaubien, barber. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Richard B. Beaubien, ice.

Bouchard & Son (Constant and Alfred), proprietors, Ecorse hotel. Constant is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Alexander Bourassa, constable. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Frank Cicotte, saloon.

George E. Cicotte, general store.

Joseph Cicotte , meat market. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Louis Cicotte , Proprietor Farmers' Home. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Ecorse Hotel, Bouchard & Son proprietors

Farmers' Home, Louis Cicotte Proprietor

Henry F. Furgason, town treasurer

Henry W. Gerlach, railroad agent.

Henry Haltliner, justice of peace.

Mrs. James Heintzen, grocer and saw mill 3 miles southwest

Charles Labadie, saloon and grocer, 1 mile south. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

E. Lampman, railroad agent.

Antoine Le Blanc, fishery. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Noah L. Le Blanc, grocer, 1 1/2 miles west. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John Morris, carpenter.

Louis Odin, shoemaker.

Robert S. Osborne, druggist.

William J. Palmer, carpenter.

Penny & Monte (James Penny, Albert Monte), blacksmiths.

Charles Riopelle II, Brick manufacturer and General Contractor.- Hyacinthe F. Riopelle, supervisor. Charles and Hyacinthe are buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John Riopelle, mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Cleophus Salliotte, mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Joseph Salliotte, general store. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Salliotte & Raupp (Alexis M Salliotte, Gustave A Raupp), lumber, staves, etc. Gustave Raupp is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Gideon Sanch, meat market. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse

Henry Senecal, painter. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Thomas H. Somers, justice and insurance. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Joseph Tourango, grocer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Reverend John Van Ginup -Catholic. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Albert E. Wright, physician. Albert Elliott. Wright, physician. He was born on March 17, 1844 to Thomas and Abigail Wright. He married Louisa H. Goodell on May 18, 1874 in Ecorse. He died on November 28, 1914 in Ecorse at age 70. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit.

Michigan Gazetteer -1891-1892

ECORSE. A village on the Detroit river, in the township of Ecorse, Wayne County, 9 miles below the city of Detroit, and 8 above Wyandotte. The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad (Detroit Division) and the Toledo Division of the Michigan Central Railroad pass through the village. It has a saw and stave mill, a brickyard and other industries, a handsome free school building and a Catholic church. The village, which was formerly known as Grand Port, dates its existence from 1840, although the locality was settled over a century ago. It has a population of 450. The country in the vicinity is level and somewhat low, but rich and fertile. Grain, hay, lumber, slaves, wood and ice are shipped. Joseph Salliotte, post master.

Edmond Beaubien, saloon.

Louis J. Beaubien, barber. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Richard B. Beaubien, ice.

Alfred E. Bouchard, town treasurer.

Bouchard & Son (Constant and Alfred C.) hotel. Constant is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Reverend Raymond Champion – Catholic.

George E. Cicotte, general store. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

George Clark, fisherman. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Furgason Bros (Richard F. and Christopher A.), masons.

Furgason F&G (Frederick and Geneva), real estate. Frederick and Emma Geneva are buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Henry W. Gerlach, agent, Michigan Central Railroad and American Express Co.

Elijah J. Goodell, civil engineer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John Haltliner, justice of peace.

Return P. Hawes, agent, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railway and U.S. Express Company

Mrs. James Heintzen, grocer. 8 miles southwest

Charles Labadie, saloon. 1 mile south. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Labadie & Reaume (Charles A. Labadie & Alexander Reaume). Fishermen. Charles Labadie is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Dr. J. Albert McMichael, druggist.

John Morris, carpenter.

Louis Odin, shoemaker.

Alfred W. Payne, meat market.

George Perr, grocer. 1 mile south

Reverend John Reichenbach -Catholic.

Charles H. Riopelle, brick manufacturer and justice. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Hyacinthe F. Riopelle, justice of peace. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John Riopelle, mason.

Cleophus Salliotte, mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Joseph Salliotte, general store. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Salliotte & Raupp, lumber staves, etc.
(Gustav A. Raupp is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.)

Gideon Sanch, meat market. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Thomas Saunders, supervisor

John Seibert, township clerk.

Henry Senecal, painter. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Albert E. Wright, physician. Albert Elliott. Wright, physician. He was born on March 17, 1844 to Thomas and Abigail Wright. He married Louisa H. Goodell on May 18, 1874 in Ecorse. He died on November 28, 1914 in Ecorse at age 70. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit.

[Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory](#) - 1893-1894

Ecorse. A village on the Detroit River, in the township of Ecorse, Wayne County. 9 miles below the city of Detroit, and 3 above Wyandotte. The Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad (Detroit Division) and the Toledo Division. of the Michigan Central Railroad pass through the village. It has a saw and planing mill, a brickyard and other industries, a handsome free school building and a Catholic church. The village, which was formerly known as Grand Port, dates its existence from 1840, although the locality was settled over a century ago. It has a population of 500. The country in the vicinity is level and somewhat low, but rich and fertile. Grain, hay, lumber, fish, wood,

and ice are shipped. Joseph Salliotte, postmaster.

Louis J. Beaubien, grocer and barber. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Richard Beaubien, ice

Bouchard & Son (Constant and Alfred C.) hotel. Constant is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Reverend Raymond Champion-Catholic

George E. Cicotte, general store. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

George Clark, Fisherman. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Furgason Bros. (Richard F. and Christopher A.), masons

F & G Furgason, (Frederick and Geneva), real estate. They are buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

William A. Furgason, supervisor

Henry W. Gerlach, agent Michigan Central Railroad and American Express Company

Elijah J. Goodell, civil engineer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Mrs. James Heintzen, grocer, 3 miles southwest

Alexander Labadie, saloon. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Charles Labadie, saloon, 1 mile south. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery/

Labadie & Reaume (Charles Labadie, Alexander Reaume), fish. Charles Labadie is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Dr. J. Albert McMichael, druggist

Pete McQuade, township clerk

Francis J. Montie, town treasurer

John Morris, carpenter

National Loan and Investment Company of Detroit Michigan. Officers of the Ecorse Advisory Board:

A.M. Salliotte, President

Reverend R. Champion, vice-president

T.E. Haskins, secretary and treasurer

Joseph Salliotte, attorney. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Louis Odin, shoemaker

Alfred W. Payne, meat market

George Perry, grocer, 1 mile south

Peter W. Reeves, justice of the peace. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Charles H. Riopelle, brick manufacturer and justice. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Hyacinthe F. Riopelle, justice. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John Riopelle, mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Cleophus Salliotte, mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Joseph Salliotte, general store. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Salliotte & Raupp (Alexis M. Salliotte, Gustav A. Raupp), lumber. Gustave A. Raupp is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Gideon Sanch, meat market. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Thomas Saunders, grocer

J.D. Shipman, agent, Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad

Curtis E. Small, grocer

William Solo, saloon, 1 mile south

Albert E. Wright, physician. Albert Elliott. Wright, physician. He was born on March 17, 1844 to Thomas and Abigail Wright. He

married Louisa H. Goodell on May 18, 1874 in Ecorse. He died on November 28, 1914 in Ecorse at age 70. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit.

Michigan State Gazetteer and Business Directory -1907-1908

Population. 1,000. Incorporated as a village in 1902, is located on the Detroit River on the "Wyandotte Division of the Detroit United Electric Railway, (connecting with Detroit every 20 minutes) and on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, on the Michigan Central Railroad and to the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad and in Ecorse Township, Wayne County, eight miles below Detroit and three above Wyandotte. It was formerly known as Grand Port and dates its existence from 1836, century ago, although the locality was settled over a century ago. It is supplied with water from Detroit and has a driving park, a handsome free school building, Catholic and Presbyterian Churches, and saw, salt, and planing mills and other industries. The country in the vicinity is level and somewhat low, but rich and fertile. Grain, hay, lumber, salt and ice are shipped. Tel. W. U. Exp., and U. S. Telephone Am. National and U.S. Telephone connection. Mrs. Clara M. Beach, postmaster.

Abeare Joseph, saloon.

American Express Co. Roy E Helfrich, agent

Mrs. Clara M. Beach, Postmaster, dry goods, notions, cigars, and confectionary

Beaubien Ice and Coal Co of Detroit, Michigan, Francis B. Montie mngr.

Anna M. Beisell, teacher

Albert J. Bouchard, hotel.

Alfred Bouchard , carpenter.

Stephen Bouchard, grocer

Alexander I. Bourassa, constable. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Michael C. Bourassa, proprietor, Hotel St. Cosme

Andrew Bruce, keeper Grassy Island Range Light

William Champaign, gardener

Reverend Raymond Champion – Catholic

George Clark, boat builder. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Rail road, Richard C. Montie, agent

Joseph Drouillard, gardener

Thomas Drouillard, saloon

Joseph Dufour, carpet weaver

Francis J. Durocher, Village Health Officer, Physician and Surgeon. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Ecorse Band Hall, William A. Furgason, proprietor

Ecorse Driving Club, Michael C. Bourassa, manager

Edward J. Fox, principal of school

Richard F. Furgason, contractor

William A. Furgason, President of Village and Proprietor Ecorse Band Hall

Eli Gignac, apiarist. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Samuel Gignac, saloon

Reverend Emanuel Glemet- Catholic

Alexander W. Goodell, grocer

Frederick P. Goodell, gardener

August Gramer, keeper Ecorse light

Henry Grant, gardener. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Haynes Hotel, William Haynes, Proprietor

William Haynes, proprietor Haynes Hotel. Choice wines, liquors and cigars. Stroh's beer on tap chicken, fish, and frog dinner a specialty

Hotel St. Cosme, Michael C. Bourassa, proprietor

Adam Kramer gardener. He is buried in St. Francis Cemetery, Ecorse.

Charles Krause, gardener

Antoine Labadie, fruits

Elmer R. Labadie, deputy sheriff

Florence Labadie, assistant postmaster. She is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Frank Labadie, dairy

Sarah J. Labadie, dressmaker. She is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Francis X. Lafferty, general store

Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway, Roy E. Helfrich, agent

Alfred LeBlanc, choice wines, liquors and cigars

John Leverance, gardener

John Maurice, carpenter. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

William Meissler, gardener

Michigan Central Rail Road, Roy E. Helfrich, agent

Vital Monchamp, shoemaker

Montie Brothers (John B. and Albert L.) coal. John Montie is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Elijah Montie, saloon

Francis Montie, Manger, Beaubien Ice and Coal Company

Richard C. Montie, agent Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Rail Road and village clerk. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

George A. Moore, barber

Edward Neubauer, gardener

William Neubauer, gardener

William N. Nichols, painter

George Ormsby, carpenter

Peninsular Salt Co. (of Detroit) F.J. Riopelle, superintendent. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Herman Quandt, saloon. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit

Charles Ranson, grocer. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

G.A. Raupp & Co. (Gustav A. and Matthias Raupp, Jr., John Seavitt) Wholesale and Retail Lumber and Coal, corner of Mill and River. Tel Wyandotte, Exchange 109. Gustav Raupp is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Joseph Reno, house mover. He is buried in Mallett Cemetery, New Boston.

Sylvester Reno, confectioner

Frank X. Richards, grocer. He is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit.

Charles H. Riopelle, real estate. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Frank J. Riopelle, superintendent of Peninsular Salt Company. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John Riopelle mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Louis Riopelle, grocer. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Cleophas Salliotte, mason. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Eleanor Salliotte, teacher. She is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit.

Gertrude E. Salliotte, teacher. She is buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, Michigan.

Joseph Salliotte, real estate. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse

Levi Salliotte, village treasurer

Gideon Sanch, meats. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

William R. Schmidt, gardener

Rudolph Schonscheck, saloon

Curtis E.. Small, village marshal

Thomas H. Somers, justice

Charles J. Tank, saloon. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Rockwood, Michigan.

Frederick Tank, gardener

Edward Van Etta, keeper Mama Judy Range Light

Nellie Vincent, teacher

Western Union Telegraph Company, Roy E. Helfrich, agent

Albert E. Wright, physician. Albert Elliott. Wright, physician. He was born on March 17, 1844 to Thomas and Abigail Wright. He married Louisa H. Goodell on May 18, 1874 in Ecorse. He died on November 28, 1914 in Ecorse at age 70. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit.

Michigan State Gazetteer and
Business Directory -1921-1922

Population 4,394 (U. S. Census, 1920).
Incorporated as a village in 1902, is located on the Detroit River on the "Wyandotte Division of the Detroit United Electric Railway, (connecting with Detroit every 20 minutes) and on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad, on the Michigan Central Railroad and to the Detroit, Toledo & Ironton Railroad and in Ecorse Township, Wayne County, eight miles below Detroit and three above Wyandotte. It was formerly known as Grand Port and dates its existence from 1836, century ago, although the locality was settled over a century ago. It is supplied with water from Detroit and has a bank, two handsome free school buildings, Catholic and Presbyterian churches, electric lights, etc. Two weekly newspapers, the Review and Tribune are published. The country in the vicinity is level and somewhat low, but rich and fertile. Grain, hay, lumber, salt and ice are shipped. Telegraph, express and telephone connection. Has mail delivery from Detroit.

Edward F. Abes, garage 3656 W Jefferson Avenue

Acme Machine Co (Alfred Robinson).
Machinists

George M. Adams, publisher Ecorse Weekly Review

Robert Ahern, hoisting contractor

James Aird, dry goods and men's furnishings

ALLOR'S REALTY EXCHANGE (Jesse A Allor). General Real Estate, Farms,

Subdivisions, Improved and City Property, Contracting and Building, General Insurance, 4098 West Jefferson Avenue. Tel Cedar 768

Frank Baklarz, grocer and meats

Otto Bauer, cashier Ecorse State Bank

Frank A. Beaker, cement block manufacturer

Joseph C. Beaubien, billiards

Frank Brandstatter, grocer

Mrs. Sara Comer, confectioner

George Counter, confectioner

The Detroit Edison Company, Levi Leblanc, manager, electric light

Ida M. Dion, grocer

Joseph Diskin, hardware

Dollarhite & Merritt (Alexander Dollarhite, Norman Merritt), real estate and insurance

Down River Realty Co. John Banyai, manager

Thomas R. Drouillard, real estate

Edward J. Dufour, local rep Ecorse Tribune

E. J. Durocher, physician

W. J. Eberts & Co W J Eberts, president. W L Eberts secretary-treasurer, coal and builders supplies

Economy Bakery, George Dietz manager

Ecorse Artificial Ice Company (J E and A J Montie)

Ecorse Concrete Block Co (William and Stephen Oroaz)

Ecorse Electric Store (Edward M Wardell,
Roy B Cicotte)

Ecorse Garage (Joseph Harider. Wm Born)

Ecorse Hotel, George Merzewski proprietor

ECORSE STATE BANK (Capital \$50,000;
Surplus and Undivided Profits \$14,500),
James H Means Pres, George H Kirchner V-
Pres, Joseph Salliotte V-Pres, Otto C Bauer
Cashier, corner W Jefferson Avenue and
State, Tel Cedar 756

Ecorse Theatre (Andrew Bzovi)

The Weekly Ecorse Tribune, E. J. Dufour
representative

Ecorse Weekly Review, George M Adams
publisher

Albert Fekete, soft drinks

Gartner Hardware Company

Gabriel B. Gillman, men's furnishings

Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co, grocers

Stephen Gruszko, meats

Aaron W. Hart, tailor

Lewis Hawkins, lawyer

R.T. Hoffer, railroad and express agent

George Hothan, bicycle repairer

William Hunter, electric contractor

Willis O. Jones, auto accessories

John Kotchen, billiards

Kalman Krajzler, tailor

JOSEPH C. LABADIE, Exclusive
Distributor in Ecorse of Philadelphia
Diamond Grid Battery, Goodyear Tires and
Tubes, Full Line of Accessories for All

Cars, Vulcanizing and Battery Repairs 4465
W Jefferson Avenue, Tel Cedar 2016

Labadie & Labadie (Florence and Sarah),
dry goods

Frank X. Lafferty, meats

Lajoie & Dorkey (William Lajoie, John
Dorkey), soft drinks

William H. Leverenz, general contractor

James Lezotte, soft drinks

Roy A. MacDonald, grocer and meats

V.C. Meade, plumber

Leo R. Merrill, grocer

John Merritt, village clerk

Arthur L. Mesler, boat livery

John B. Montie, produce and grocer. He is
buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery,
Ecorse.

Joseph E. Montie, billiards

Richard C. Montie, real estate. He is buried
in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

MONTIE & DROUILLARD (Richard C.
Montie, Thomas Drouillard), Real Estate,
Subdivisions, Rentals, Improved and Farm
Property 4461 W Jefferson Avenue, Tels
Cedar 3224 and 1958-R

James F. Morris, cartage

Frank A. O'Boyle, lawyer

Edward A. Ouellette, dry goods

Papas & Jamison (Sam Papas and William
Jamison), soft drinks

George R. Payne, plumber

Walter Pusey, building contractor

Fred J. Pilon, grocer and meats

Arthur J. Plourde, hardware

RAMSEY'S GARAGE, Robert E Ramsey
Propr. Auto Repairing, Accessories,
Gasoline and Oils 4629 W Jefferson
Avenue, Tel Cedar 205

G.A. Raupp, lumber and coal

RUPP'S GARAGE, Oliver Raupp
Proprietor. Expert Auto Repairing,
Columbia Sales and Service, Day and Night
Taxi Service, Battery Recharging 4534
Monroe, corner White, Tels Cedar 1361,
Wyandotte 150-M

Antoine Reno, confectioner

John L. Riopelle, real estate

River View Hotel, John Beaton proprietor

Maggiore Riviera, soft drinks

William Roback, express

Emanuel Roth, dry goods

Royal & Rice (A F Royal, W M Rice),
restaurant

Theodore R. Rushlow, mason contractor

D J Ryan Foundry Co, L J Feltes, vice-
president and treasurer

Ignatius Salliotte, lawyer. He is buried in
Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock

Gideon Sanch, meats. He is buried in St.
Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

L.A. Seavitt, drug store

Mrs. Anna Seech, grocer

Joseph E. Sharon, grocer

Gabriel Sitas, grocer

C.F. Smith Co, Emmett Calvird, manager,
grocers

Fred W. Smith, shoes

Mrs. Mary Starwas, dry goods

A. Roy Taylor, confectioner

THIES & EBERTS (Wm F Thies, Joseph
Eberts), Cement Block Manufacturers, 4554
Monroe, Tel Cedar 2124-M

Lawrence Torango, grocer and notions

Universal Auto Repair (C F C Mellin)

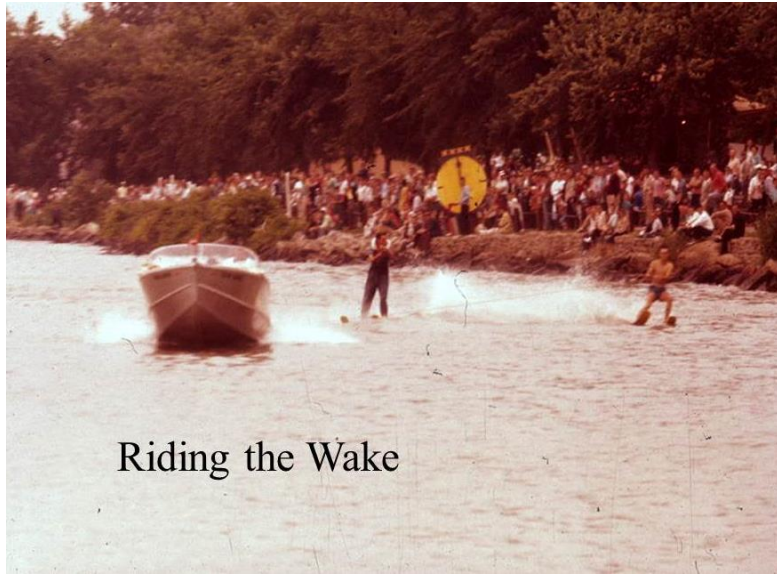
Lawrence H. VanBecelaere, physician

Henry E. VanCanneyt, florist

John Violet, confectioner

Abel Voisine, fish

Mrs. Algin Wardell, confectioner



St. Francis Xavier (Ecorse) Cemetery



In 1986, Marge Emery, then the President of the Downriver Genealogical Society, narrated some of the history of St. Francis Xavier Church and St. Francis Cemetery. She wrote:

Saint Francis Xavier was mentioned in 1839 Almanacs. A deed for the church property was signed by Bishop Lefevere on July 30, 1845. Not until 1847 was the church given the name of Saint Francis Xavier. The first house of worship in Ecorse was the old LeBlanc homestead, a log house situated on what is now Jefferson Avenue in the middle of the block between LeBlanc and White Streets.

Saint Francis Xavier had been started by Father Gabriel Richard as a mission of Saint Anne's Detroit, for the early Catholics of the Downriver area. Father Charles DePreitre was the first resident pastor, a nephew of Bishop Lefevere who had come to Detroit as a seminarian and had been ordained on May 31, 1848. Father Charles DePreitre was pastor until 1870. He also was the mission priest for parishes in Wyandotte and Trenton in Wayne County and for Newport in Monroe County. In 1871, Father Louis Baroux became pastor and he remained until 1882.

The old church on High Street was built in 1882 during the pastorate of Father John Van Gennip. Not until 1882 is it recorded that the parish had blessed the Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery, also known as the Ecorse Cemetery. In the parish record it states:

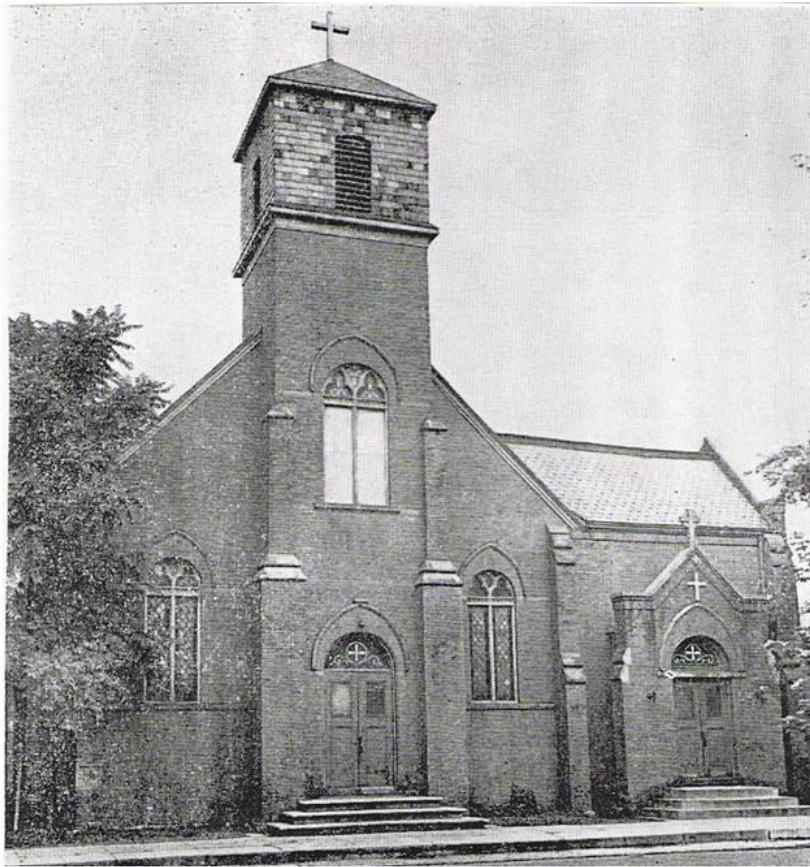
Die 20 Maji 1882 faculate ab III' Dem Caspere Henrita Borjess ablenta, Cemeterm Solemnetur benedicturm est per Rev. J.T. V. Gennip, excdp the northeast corner, destined as potters field in Ecorse. Sign J.T. VanGennip

On September 7, 1848, Charlotte Cook, wife of Moses Salliotte was buried in Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery. The oldest tombstone still standing today. (1986) although some say the cemetery wasn't started until 1882, the church records date from 1848.

A FINAL NOTE: It should be remembered that if an ancestor is buried in Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery, it does not necessarily follow that the death record is held in Saint Francis church records. If a family holds a plot, they can permit anyone of their choosing to be buried there, even if they live out of the parish.

Marge Emery, President

Downriver Genealogical Society



Old St.
Francis
Church
Ecorse
Advertiser

A story by Sandy Blakeman in the April 18, 1963, Ecorse Advertiser, highlighted the fate of some of the markers in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery which regrettably is the fate of old and new markers in many cemeteries across the country.

April 18, 1963



Kids Vandalize Old Cemetery

Wreck Historic Markers in St. Francis Graveyard

By Sandy Blakeman

To most in Ecorse Easter week end meant a time for spiritual rejoicing in church services or in home observances. But to a number of Ecorse children between the ages of seven and 16, it meant a shameful act of vandalism which hardly could have been further from the spirit of Easter.

Sometime between Saturday morning and Monday morning, they managed to damage or destroy scores of historic gravestones, markers, and headstones in the old St. Francis Xavier Cemetery on Third Street just off Southfield.

Enio Snellman, caretaker of the cemetery where members of many pioneer Ecorse families are buried discovered the senseless damage Monday morning when he arrived to cut the grass. He called police. They found a shambles in one end of the cemetery, where monuments had been uprooted, markers, many of which had been a source of interest to historians, broken and scattered. Marble slabs were scarred by pieces of red brick which the vandals apparently had brought for that purpose.

Police at first were led to believe that the mischief was the work of older persons because they found some large sized footprints at the scene. It developed, however, that the culprits were

neighborhood children who accomplished their work during several periods over the holiday weekend. Detective Lieutenant Conrad Swearingen said Tuesday that several children had admitted the vandalism, giving no reason for it, and that he expected several others to be identified within the next 24 hours. He said that although parents are liable for such damage caused by their children, it would be difficult to estimate cost in such a case. Swearingen said that children and parents were being ordered to report to juvenile officer John Jacobs.

While the damage is difficult to estimate in dollars and cents, the cost in historic and sentimental terms is high. Patrolman Elwyn DuHadway, unofficial Ecorse historian, since described the cemetery as the oldest in the Ecorse area. Many of the tombstones are dated more than a century ago.

Seldom used today with the exception of a few reserved spaces in family burial plots, (space is nearly filled), the cemetery was referred to by DuHadway as “a goldmine of data for Downriver historians and genealogists.”

Most markers bear the names of old French families whose names today are given to streets throughout the Downriver area: Bondie, Salliotte, Champaign, Cicotte, LeBlanc.

Burden of the punishment of those responsible for the vandalism probably will probably fall on their parents. Most in Ecorse hope it won't be light.

Ecorse historian Elwyn DuHadway wrote his own story about St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in a 1970 Mellus newspaper column. He wrote that St. Francis Xavier Cemetery was probably the oldest graveyard in the area served by the Mellus Newspapers. He said that existing records do not reveal the age of the tree shaded burial ground, but many of the tombstones are dated more than a century ago. Although the cemetery is on church property, Ecorse officials, aware of its importance, have for years assigned city workers to keep the grounds in condition.

He wrote, “Nearly 20 years ago I talked with the late Frank LeBlanc – past 90 at the time – who recalled helping remove the remains of many early settlers to this location. They previously had been interred in another graveyard, which had been vacated some 60 years earlier for the building of what is now the Detroit, Toledo and Irontown Railroad.”

The old cemetery seldom is used today for, with the exception of a few reserved spaces in family burial plots, it is almost completely filled. Most of the markers in the burial ground bear the names of predominantly French families, which have been given to streets throughout the Downriver area – Champaign, Montie, Goodell, LeBlanc, Cicotte, Labadie, Salliotte, and Bondie, to name a few.

As Ecorse aged and changed through the years, so has St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Combined with human vandalism, the eroding of time has erased some of the historical and genealogical record of the cemetery. Many of the early Ecorse stones still stand upright, including LeBlanc on the left, Salliotte on the right, sentinels to time. Other stones lie crumbled and others have disintegrated into the mists of time and memory.

A visit to St. Francis Xavier Cemetery is not scary, morbid, or living in the past. The veterans and their families, friends, and neighbors have stories to tell. A visitor stands in the stream of time with the past, present, and future ripples merging to create a mighty current of memory,

awareness and opportunity. This current swirls like a Detroit River current with memories of past people, awareness of our place in their lives and the opportunity to shape our future as custodians of the community. Can we honor them with anything less?



St. Francis Xavier Cemetery

Surveyed & Compiled by Leonard Montie in 1979

Published by Downriver Genealogical Society

Lincoln Park, Michigan

March, 1986

(Genealogists from the Find A Grave –Ancestry.com site have photographed and recorded St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, allowing comparisons of the two sets of data to give a more complete picture of the cemetery burials.)

A

Abeare, Josephine	Mother	Born-1856	Died-1908	
Adam, Estella C.	Mother	Born-1869	Died-1958	
Adam, Charlotte		Born-1872	Died-1904	
Adam, Geraldine		Born-1901	Died-1922	
Adam, James R.		Born-1866	Died-1945	
Airola, Joseph P.		Born-10-1895	Died-4-4-1955	
Mich., Pfc., Co. L. 333Inf. World War I				
Airola, Loretta E.		Born-1910		
Allain, Mary S.	Mother	Born-1873	Died-1958	
Allain, Zacharie	Father	Born-1871	Died-1953	
Allen, Arnim		Born-1896	Died-1929	
Mich. Sgt. 5, Trench Motor Btry. 5 Div.				
Allen, Earl			Died-5-10-1909	
Son of W. & H. Allen				
Allen, George			Died-11-26-1891	Age 39 years
Allen, Helen		Born-1872	Died-1962	
Allen, Helen			Died 8-4-1915	
Allen, Lottie			Died-6-9-1898	
Dau. of W & H Allen				
Allen, Robert J.		Born-1906	Died-1928	
Allen, William H.		Born-1876	Died-1927	
Allen, Willie			Died 1-29-1895	
Son of W. & H. Allen				
Antaya, Albert		Born-1865	Died-1935	
Antaya, Mary		Born-1869	Died-1953	
Antaya, Pearley			Died-6-25-1904	

age 1 yr. 4 months

Antaya, Walter A.

Born-1893

Died-1967

Augustine, Julie

Born-5-22-1897

Died-3-25-1935

B

Babik, Elizabeth

Mother

Born-3-19-1895

Died-7-11-1967

Babik, George J.

Born 2-16-1923

Died-11-13-1977

U.S. Army, WWII, ETO

Babik, George J.

Father

Born-5-17-1887

Died-6-9-1935

Barron, no name

Died-5-25-1887

age 58 years

Barron, no name

Died-2-13-1901

Age 64 years, husband of Caroline Barron

Barron, no name

Died-7-30-1905

age 78 years

Barron, Caroline

Died-10-11-1904

age 62 years

Barrow, Josephine

Born-1870

Died-1931

Bauley, Clara

Died-1-27-1898

Beaubien, Charles

Died-3-30-1874

Age 75 years, 11 months, 23 days

Beaubien, Louis E.

Born-5-20-1863

Died-11-08-1918

Beaubien, Louis L.

Born-4-7-1822

Died-6-3-1911

24th Michigan Graves Registration, Co. F 24th Michigan. Civil War.

Beaubien, Martha E.

Born-3-14-1869

Died-11-26-1910

wife of Louis E. Beaubien

Beaubien, Noman B. Father

Born-1905

Died-1954

Beaubien, Rachel A.

Born 7-14-1842

Died-7-29-1913

Wife of Louis L. Beaubien

Beaubien, Susan A.	Wife		Died 10-01-1888
Age 74 years, 7 mos. 21 days			
Berry, Donald		Born-1932	Died-1940
Belair, Fannie		Born-1876	Died-19
Belair, Peter		Born-1848	Died-1929
Belair, Phyllis		Born-1850	Died-1904
Belisle, Francis Leo		Born-11-29-1818	Died-2-20-1908
Belisle, Louis Henry		Born-3-4-1858	Died-1-29-1899
Belisle, Mary E.		Born 9-24-1864	Died-1-12-1950
Belisle, Mary Louise		Born 7-31-1822	Died-1-15-1900
Blair, Julia	Mother	Born-1868	Died-1943
Blair, Oscar J.		Born-1894	Died-1915
Bocgsawicz, Mary	Mother	Born-1893	Died-1933
Bolton, George S.		Born-1893	Died-1946
Antoine Bondie	Father	Born-1852	Died-1922
Dewey Bondie			Died-10-17-1903
Elizabeth Bondie		Born-4-22-1842	Died-1-15-1923
Ellen Bondie	Mother	Born-1862	Died-1943
Francis Bondie			Died-7-10-1944
James Bondie		Born 5-15-1816	Died- 1-10-1888
Louise Bondie			Died – 8-11-1993
Peter Bondie		Born-1-19-1844	Died-3-25-1932
Philip J. Bondie		Born-1879	Died-1941
Robert Bondie			Died 7-12-1941
Theodore Bondie			Died-6-1-1955
Gilbert Borio	Father	Born-1889	Died-1940
Mae Borio		Born-1918	Died-1943

Nettie Lebeau Borio		Born-1897	Died-1942
Constant Bouchard		Born-8-27-1918	Died-2-4-1899
Evelyn C. Bouchard		Born-1900	Died-1970
Orilla Bouchard		Born 2-27-1833	Died-5-12-1905
Albert Bourassa		Born-1890	Died-1921
Alexander Bourassa		Born-11-18-1842	Died-1-23-1902
Augusta Bourassa		Born-1881	Died-1943
Clement Bourassa		Born-1880	Died-1945
Eli P. Bourassa		Born-1883	Died-1957
Elizabeth Bourassa		Born-1-27-1846	Died-10-6-1929
Florance Bourassa		Born-1884	Died-1913
Joseph Bourassa	Father	Born-1844	Died-1907
Martha Bourassa		Born-1849	Died-1926 Wife of Joseph Bourassa
Philip Bourassa		Born-1855	Died-1933
Phyliss Bourassa		Born-1854	Died-1898
Sophia M. Bourassa		Born-8-7-1862	Died-4-25-1926
Thomas Bourassa		Born-9-19-1887	Died-5-17-1911
Frasie Bourdeau		Born-1861	Died-1939
Katherine Brannigan		Born-1914	Died-1920
Joseph Brisbois			Died-7-17-1898 Age 83 years
Mary Brisbois			Died-6-5-1898
age 77 years, wife of Joseph			
Matilda Brisbois		Born-2-17-1859	Died-10-29-1885
Harriet LeBlanc Brown		Born-3-9-1876	Died-9-12-1941
Sarah Buboltz	Mother	Born-1881	Died-1929
Margaret Eberline Buck		Born-1853	Died-1928
Felix Buford			Died-10-14-1868 age 18 years

Isaac Buford		Died-4-2-1868 age 5 years
Joseph Buford		Died-10-21-1868 age 2 days
Taday Buford		Died-12-1-1871 age 26 years
Nathan Burkey	Born-1831	Died-1915
Tracy Burkey	Born-1833	Died-1910

C

Arthur E. Cadarette		Born-2-19-1897	Died-6-1-1970
Florence B. Cadarette		Born-8-5-1893	Died-11-16-1975
Helen A. Cadarette		Born-3-18-1930	Died-3-7-1970
Martin J. Cain	Father	Born-1883	Died-1944
Evelyn M. Callahan	Mother	Born-1909	Died-1976
Francis J. Callahan		Born-1898	Died-1939
James F. Callahan	Father	Born-1902	Died-1962
Florence Callendar		Born-1906	Died-1931
Ades Campau		Born-5-14-1844	Died-2-28-1923 wife of Alexander
Alexander Campau		Born-9-7-1843	Died-8-24-1940
Archibald Campau		Born-1808	Died-10-26-1897 age 89 years
Bettie Campau		Born-10-6-1923	Died-3-10-1924
Daniel J. Campau		Born-1891	Died-1910
Edward R. Campau		Born-1904	Died-1960
Louis Campau		Born-1867	Died-1939
Sarah Campau	Mother	Born-1873	Died-1956
Francis Campau			Died-10-8-1959
Age...stone broken off in ground			
Moses Campau		Born-1861	Died-1916
Leonard Campo		Born-8-29-1932	Died-10-31-1932

Lawrence Canuelle		Born-1902	Died-1904
Arthur Carmody		Born-1915	Died-1936
Catherine Carmody	Mother	Born-1886	Died-1944
John Carmody	Father	Born-1885	Died-1945
Leon Cazabon		Born-1898	Died-1899
Louis E. Cazabon		Born-1910	Died-1914
Adolphus Champagne		Born-1839	Died-1928
Eliza Champagne		Born-1863	Died-1928
Joseph Hubert Champagne		Born-1868	Died-1938
Louis Champagne		Born-1874	Died-19---
Mary Champagne		Born-1872	Died-1928
Philomene Champagne		Born-1846	Died-1896
Edward Charboneau		Born-1873	Died-1947
Grace C. Charboneau		Born-1886	Died-1965
Dorothy Charboneau		Born-1921	Died-1923
James Charron		Born-1871	Died-1943
Oliver??Charron	Mother		Died-3-11-1917
Age 75 years (first name in question)			
Ronald Charron	Father	Born-7-14-1924	Died-4-4-1960
Mary F. Chevalier		Born-1870	Died-1937
William H. Chevalier		Born-1860	Died-1925
Betty Jane Childs		Born-1923	Died-1926
Samuel F. Chinavare	Father	Born-8-11-1864	Died-1-4-1931
Adeline LeBlanc Cicotte	Mother	Born-8-24-1847	Died-5-2-1915
Charles Cicotte		Born-12-18-1832	Died-8-15-1915
Served in 24 Michigan Infantry, Co.F. Civil War			
Clara Cicotte		Born-12-29-1939	Died-7-3-1915

Edward Cicotte		Died-6-7-1883 age 65 years, 9 mos.
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Elizabeth E. Cicotte		Died 8-27-1881
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Age 27 years, 3 months, 18 days, wife of Frank Cicotte

Elmer F. Cicotte	Born-1895	Died-1960 "Felix"
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Isaac Chas. Cicotte	Born-1865	Died-1947
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Joseph Cicotte	Born-11-15-1820	Died-3-27-1893
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Josie M. Cicotte	Born-1858	Died-1921
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Lillie E. Cicotte	Daughter	Died 5-22-1881
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Age 19 years, 3 mos. Daughter of Edward and Julia Cicotte

Louis Cicotte		Died-9-29-1889 age 71 years
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Mathilda Cicotte	Mother	Born-1823	Died-1910
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Susan Cicotte	Born-1856	Died-1922
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Clark (no first name)		Died-7-16-1904
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Age 5 months, daughter of Henry and Lucy Clark

Henry Clark	Father	Born-1873	Died-1917
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George Coman	Born-1911	Died-1932 Son-Brother
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Charlotte Cook		Died-9-7-1848
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Age 33 years. Born in Yorkshire, England. Wife of Moses Salliotte

Dorothy M. Cooney	Born-1885	Died-19----
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James C. Cooney	Born-1879	Died-19----
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Caroline Crouse	Born-1908	Died-1946
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D

Joseph Dahm		Died-1917
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Rest of inscription buried in ground.

Bessie Daugherty	Born-1903	Died-1959
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Oliver Delisle	Co. M....rest is buried in ground.	
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Catherine Demay	Born-1847	Died-1923
Edith Iva Drouillard	Born-10-2-1894	Died-6-8-1903
Florence R. Drouillard	Born-1874	Died-1960 nee Campau
Frank L. Drouillard	Born-8-25-1874	Died-5-19-1931
Julia Drouillard	Born-1862	Died-1944
Rosalie Drouillard		Died-12-25-1884
Age 77 years. Wife of Simon Drouillard		
Simon P. Drouillard	Born 1862	Died-1940
Albeme Dufour	Born-1872	Died-1933
Eddie Duncan		Died-12-27-1896 age 17 years
Bridget Dunn	Born-9-15-1843	Died-6-10-1908 wife of M. Dunn
Edward J. Dunn	Born-7-8-1863	Died-6-7-900 son of M&B Dunn
Ignatus Dunn	Born-8-12-1834	Died-3-6-1928
Son of John & Elizabeth Lawless		
Joseph M. Dunn	Born-12-4-1878	Died-5-21-1939
Son of Michael C. Dunn & Bridget O'Brien		
Lucy A. Dunn	Born-2-9-1877	Died-1-6-1957
Daughter of Michael C. Dunn & Bridget O'Brien		
Margaret Dunn	Born-6-15-1863	Died-12-17-1944
wife of Ignatus Dunn		
Mary Jane Dunn	Born-1-18-1868	Died-1-30-1925
Daughter of Michael C. Dunn & Bridget O'Brien		
Michael C. Dunn	Born-11-1-1832	Died-2-3-1913
Rose E. Dunn	Born-1-6-1870	Died-7-3-1965
Daughter of Michael C. Dunn & Bridget O'Brien		
Steve Dura	Born-1879	Died-1921
Emil A. Durant Father	Born-1892	Died-1954

Pearl Mary Durant	Mother	Born-1895	Died-1969
Samuel A. Durant		Born-6-16-1892	Died-3-17-1960
Mich. 2 nd Lt., 146 th Infantry, World War I.			
Charlie Duroche		Born-9-12-1859	Died-12-18-1901
Francis J. Durocher		Born-1911	Died-1922
Francis J. Durocher		Born-1872	Died-1912 Doctor
Isabell Durocher		Born-1882	Died-1977

E

August Eberts		Born-1861	Died-1938
Elizabeth Eberts		Born-1856	Died-1917
John Eberts		Born-1801	Died-1890
Louise Eberts		Born-1820	Died-1901
Mary Eberts		Born-1874	Died-1965
Sarah Eberts			Died-10-11-1980
Daughter of Joseph & Mary Eberts			
Cyril J. Emery		Born-1863	Died-1933
E.S. Emery			Died-11-3-1918
Edna Beaubien Eyles	Mother	Born-1906	Died-1974

F

Joseph Farrand		Born-1874	Died-1960
Sybra Farrand	Mother	Born-1881	Died-1936
Frank Fersttl		Born-1868	Died-1929

Phillis Ferstl	Born-12-28-1870	Died-7-29-1922
Daughter of W. & H. Allen		
Lorraine Fischer	Born-1928	Died-1940
Lillian Fitzpatrick	Born-1928	Died-1929
Arthur J. Flanagan	Father Born-1913	Died-1950
Elsie Flanagan	Mother Born-1887	Died-1935
Michael Flanagan	Born-1920	Died-1942 "Mickey"
William Paul Flanagan Sr.	Father Born-1882	Died-1956 Senior
Louise Frankhouse	Born-1889	Died-1918
Mary M. Frankhouse	Mother Born-1882	Died-1964
William H. Frankhouse	Born-1881	Died-1945
Marguerite Frasier	Born-3-28-1909	Died-12-25-1916
Emma G. Furgason	Born-1866	Died-1872
Frederick Furgason	Born-1854	Died-1854
Mary Furgason	Born-1866	Died-1883
Peter L. Furgason	Born-1857	Died-1860
Rosetta E. Furgason	Born-1875	Died-1930
Wife of Richard F. Furgason		
Seline Furgason	Born-1861	Died-1964

G

Mary Gerou		Died-4-9-1926
Arthur J. Ghedotti	Born-1913	Died-1950
Arsene H. Gignac	Father Born-1896	Died-1938
Eli Gignac	Born-1833	Died-1911
Josephine Gignac	Born-1840	Died-1932

Lillian Gignac	Born-1874	Died-1958
Francis B. Gillman		Died-1-19-1889 age 74 years
Eliza Gillman	Born-1843	Died-1927
Frank Gillman	Born-1845	Died-1909
John Glen	Born-1880	Died-1930
May Gloadt Sister	Born-1887	Died-1926
Clemer Gray Mother	Born-1857	Died-1897
Leo F. Gonja	Born-5-16-1905	Died-5-9-1912
Agnes Montry Goodell	Born-1890	Died-19-----
Cleophus T. Goodell	Born-1830	Died-1915
Elijah J. Goodell	Born-1832	Died-1909
Sgt. 5 th Michigan Cavalry- rest buried in ground		
Josephine Goodell	Born-1853	Died-1919 wife of Elijah
Philomene Goodell	Born-1851	Died-1926
Alvia A. Grant	Born-1879	Died-1942
Alvia C. Grant	Most of marker buried	
Harry J. Grant	Born-1892	Died-1895
Harry R. Grant	Born-1912	Died-1914
Henry A. Grant Father	Born-1850	Died-1914
Laura Grant	Born-1887	Died-1902
Mathilda Grant	Born-1850	Died-1948
Edmund Gregory	Born-1898	Died-1934
Joan A. Gregory	Born-1927	Died-1938

H

Victor Haener	Born-10-2-1862	Died-8-3-1915
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Elsie E. Hammes	Born-1891	Died-1976
Felix P. Hammes	Born-1889	Died-1960
Alexander Harbart	Born-1906	Died-1939
Alexandra Harbart	Born-1892	Died-1943
Benjamin Harbart	Born-1878	Died-1952
Rilla Harmon Mother	Born-1920	Died-1943
Oscar M. Haury	Born-1891	Died-1924
Marie Ann Hebert	Born-1849	Died-1913
Theodore Hebert	Born-1848	Died-1937
Arthur M. Helle	Born-1894	Died-1939
Eldridge Helle	Born-1896	Died-1939 My Mother
Mary Heyart Mother	Born-1859	Died-1936
Nicholas Heyart	Born-1854	Died-1934
Margaret Hink Mother	Born-1860	Died-1916
Valentine Hink	Born-1868	Died-1933
Grace Hoganson Mother	Born-1887	Died-1935 Labadie
Walter W. Holzhuetter	Born-8-11-1920	Died-2-10-1959
Mich. 52 U.S.N.R., WWII		
Norman L. Hunter	Born-10-21-1931	Died-5-19-1966
Leona Hurst Mother	Born-1898	Died-1938

J

Julia A. Jager	Born-2-16-1834	Died-10-26-1901
Peter Jager	Born-3-23-1827	Died-5-19-1898 Born in France.
Joseph Jaros	Born-3-22-1898	Died-7-14-1934
Frank Jarvis	Born-1878	Died-1958
Josephine Jarvis	Born-1872	Died-1937

Fletcher Jones		Died-12-??-1899 age 43 years
John B. Julien	Born-1852	Died-1923
Mary L. Julien	Born-1850	Died-1923

K

Helen Kapetan	Born-10-5-1913	Died-5-16-1920
Leo Kauffman Father	Born-1905	Died-1956
Robert L. Kinney	Born-8-9-1915	Died-8-8-1927
Harriet C. Koch	Born-1869	Died-1948
Louise Koch	Born-1903	Died-1916
Daughter of William & Harriet Koch		
William D. Koch Father	Born-1875	Died-1962
Adam Kramer	Born-3-18-1865	Died-5-17-1954
Born Germany, died Dearborn. Husband of Eva, Father of George & Lucy.		
Eva Kramer	Born-12-19-1863	Died-3-26-1939
Born Germany, died Ecorse. Wife of Adam. Mother of Elizabeth, Delia, Charles, Nicholas, George, & Lucy.		

L

Albert Labadie	Born-1877	Died-1900
Alex Labadie	Born-1873	Died-1926
Alexander Labadie	Born-1848	Died-1906
Alvin M. Labadie	Born-3-10-1901	Died-9-17-1962
Sadler Troop F. 16 Cav. World War II.		
Annie M. Labadie Mother	Born-1862	Died-1940
Charles Labadie	Born-4-26-1822	
Died-6-22-1892 age 70 years, 1 mo., 27 days.		

Eliza Labadie	Born-1879	Died-1905
Elizabeth M. Labadie	Born-1881	Died-1960
Florence Labadie	Born-1863	Died-1950
Henry C. Labadie		Died-2-17-1881
Marker very worn. Date in question.		
John Labadie		Died-5-12-1871 age 42 years
Michael Labadie	Born-1884	Died-1960
Peter Labadie	Born-1875	Died-1892
Sarah Jane Labadie	Born-1860	Died-1953
William A. Labadie	Born-11-27-1875	Died-1-19-1908
William E. Labadie		Died-6-29-1882
Age 21 years, 5 mos., 27 days		
Emma Labeau	Born-1886	Died-1911
George Labeau	Born-1895	Died-1926
Harry C. Labeau	Born-9-1-1888	Died-1-2-1917
Woodman of the World Memorial		
Mary Labeau	Born-1860	Died-1953
Peter Labeau	Born-1856	Died-1933
Richard Labeau	Born-5-30-1883	Died-10-28-1916
Woodman of the World Memorial		
Catherine Labelle	Born-1846	Died-1931
Florence Labelle	Born-1896	Died-1915
William Labelle	Born-1842	Died-1928
Thomas LaBlanc		Died-7-16-1887
Age 71 year, 8 mos, 18 days		
Mathilda LaBlanc		Died-5-21-1927 age 86 years
Peter Geo. LaBlanche		Died-5-15-1911 age 75 years

Frank J. LaClair Died-10-28-1886

Age 7 years. Son of Dennis & Ellen LaClair

Peter LaClair Died 5-15-1896.

Age 15 years. Son of Dennis & Ellen LaClair

Walter LaClair Died-10-28-1904

Age 11 years. Son of Dennis & Ellen La Clair

Frederick Lafleur Born-1844 Died-1908

Loretta A. Laginess Mother Born-1909

Milford P. Laginess Born-1905 Died-1961

Julia LaLonde Born-1886 Died-1946

Emma Lapham Died-3-29-1885 Wife of Benjamin

Joseph J. Laplant Born-4-25-1861 Died-11-18-1940

Born Canada. Died River Rouge. Beloved husband of Carrie Dufresne LaPlant. Dear Father of Cora Alvina, William J., George Earl.

Theresa Larabell Mother Died 5-11-1915 age 78 years mother

Iserial Laturneau Born-11-1-1863 Died-11-30-1938 age 75

Mary Lavigne Died- 1932

Abraham LeBlanc Born-10-17-1820 Died-8-18-1905

Anna LeBlanc Born-1866 Died-19—

Antoine LeBlanc Born-1834 Died-1903

Archangel LeBlanc Died-8-13-1975 age 70 years

Edmund LeBlanc Died-6-30-1886-age 3 years

Edward LeBlanc Died 2-22-1892 age 2 years

Emily LeBlanc Died-2-2-1902

Francis LeBlanc Born-2-7-1842 Died-12-2-1911

George LeBlanc	Born-5-4-1844	Died-11-10-1914
Henry LeBlanc	Born-9-17-1844	Died-4-21-1910
Joseph LeBlanc		Died-8-13-1886 age 10 years
Julianne LeBlanc		Died-7-9-1895
Kenneth LeBlanc	Born-1924	Died-1927
Leo LeBlanc		Died-7-17-1902
Mae V. Riopelle LeBlanc	Born-1890	Died-1949
Marian R. LeBlanc	Born-3-12-1926	Died-6-20-1929
Mary LeBlanc		Died-3-25-1882
Age 20 years, 11 months, 18 days. Wife of E.P. LeBlanc		
Mary A. LeBlanc	Born-7-10-1842	Wife of George LeBlanc
Mary D. LeBlanc	Born-1864	Died-1946
Mary F. LeBlanc	Born-1891	Died-1899
Mary L. LeBlanc	Born-5-10-1846	Died-10-6-1917
Wife of Francis LeBlanc		
Odrien LeBlanc		Died-6-27-1886 Age 7 years
Phillip LeBlanc	Born-1860	Died-1938
Phillis LeBlanc	Born-5-20-1830	Died-6-12-1920
Philomene LeBlanc	Born-4-6-1859	Died-3-27-1893
Wife of Henry LeBlanc		
Philomena Campau LeBlanc	Born-1839	Died-1900
Richard C. LeBlanc	Born-1865	Died-1927
Samuel LeBlanc		Died-8-13-1888
Age 58 years, 6 months, 10 days		
David LeBlenc		Died-7-18-1867
Age 41 years, 9 months		
Anna LeDuc	Born-1882	Died-1937

Aurelia LeDuc	Born-1854	Died-1936
Jacob LeDuc	Born-1854	Died-1942
Josephine LeFleur	Born-1847	Died-1903
Caroline Lemanski Mother		Died-2-28-1906
Michael Lemanski		Died-2-1-1945
Daniel Lemarond	Born-1881	Died-1906
Bernard Louria	Born-1941	Died-1947

M

Grace Roulo Macleod	Born-1884	Died-1958
Joseph I. Macoit	Born-1872	Died-1924
Alex M. McQuade	Born-9-19-1904	Died-8-26-1960
Maxinette McQuade		Died-10-28-1911
Michael McQuade	8-25-1883	Died-11-23-1955
Adeline McQuillen Mother	10-7-1825	Died-4-13-1905
H.L. Riegue Mailloux	Born-1883	Died-1901
Mary Matulewicz Mother	Born-1862	Died-1941
Columbus Maul		Died-3-28-1907 Age 42 years
Celine Maurice	Born-1-25-1833	Died-2-9-1918
Joseph Maurice	Born-3-19-1833	Died-12-2-1904
Willie Mayatte		Died 5-15-1888
Son of T & T Mayatte age –rest buried		
Eli Mayhew Husband	Born-1879	Died-1953
Lena Mayhew Wife	Born-1883	Died-19----
Telesphore Mayhew	Born-1873	Died-1937

Zoe Mayhew	Born-1878	Died-1930
Telesphore Mayotte	Born-1847	Died-1923
Adalore Mayrand		Died-8-21-1916
Age 14 years		
Anna Melagi	Born-9-3-1918	Died-1-6-1919
Frank Metty	Co.D. 11 th Michigan Infantry	
Michael Mikulka		Died-4-15-1931 age 52 years
Axie A. Montie		Died-8-31-1916
Age 92 years, 3 months		
Benjamin C. Montie	Born-1889	Died-1924
Cora T. Montie	Born-1890	Died-1947
Eliza Montie Mother	Born-12-25-1857	Died-2-9-1931
Gabriel Montie	Born-1871	Died-1942
Helen I. Montie	Born-1916	Died-1934
Ida P. Montie	Born-1875	Died-1963
John A. Montie	Born-1866	Died-1932
John B. Montie		Died-1-28-1888
Age 65 years, 10 months		
Lloyd R. Montie	Born-9-29-1895	Died-11-15-1895
Louis Montie		Died-5-13-1891 Age 71 years
Richard C. Montie	Born-1881	Died-1927
Richard A. Montie Father	Born-2-6-1855	Died-7-4-1946
Archie Montroy	Born-1854	Died-1922
Emelia Montroy	Born-1858	Died-1935
Leona Montroy	Born-1904	Died-1939
Angeline Montry Wife		Died-8-29-1852 Wife

Charles L. Montry	Born-1874	Died-1944
Francis E. Montry	Born-1879	Died-1955
Francis P. Montry	Born-1923	Died-1934
Helen C. Montry	Born-3-12-1890	Died-4-4-1918
Louis Montry	Born-8-22-1845	
Louisa Montry		Died-1-15-1900 Age 22 years
Samuel Montry	Born-1885	Died-1945
Frank A. Mruzek	Born 1917	Died 1930

N

Anna Nagy	Born-1879	Died-1961
Mariette Navarre	Born-1888	Died-1927
Celia North		Died-11-22-1885
Age 31 years, 2 months, 20 days. Wife of David H. North		

O

Agnes K. O'Connell	Born-1916	
Robert P. O'Connell	Born-1915	Died-1974
Eli Odette	Born-1854	Died-1938
Frances Odette	Born-1889	Died-1974
Joseph Michael Odette	Stone buried in ground.	
Lavina Odette	Born-1886	Died-1944
Mary Odette	Born-1859	Died-1947
Michel Odette Husband	Born-1840	Died-1916
Orrie Odette	Born-1900	Died-1958

Pascal Odette	Born-1815	Died-5-22-1881 Age 66 years
Vetline Odette	Born-1848	Died-1933
Herbert A. Ormsby	Born-1892	Died-1930
Stephan Orosz	Born-1898	Died-1938
Wendel Orvan	Born-4-18-1869	Died-12-6-1919
John E. Ouellette	Born-1884	Died-1926
Philomene E. Ouellette	Born-1849	Died-1927
Deliase Oulmann Mother	Born-7-8-1853	Died-5-15-1906

P

Lawrence Paquette	Born-4-6-1924	Died-5-6-1924
Emmanuel J. Pare	Born-1883	Died-1931
Sarah Pare	Born-9-15-1885	Died-10-10-1974
Emma A. Patterson	Born-1880	Died-1936
Loena M. Pelon	Born-5-23-1909	Died-7-22-1916
Oliver Pelon		Died-1926 Age 89
Rose Pelon		Died-1923 Age 82
Annie Peltier	Born-8-6-1849	Died-5-27-1907
James Pendergrass	Co.D. 100 th New York Infantry	
Anton Perne		Age 71
Gordon Perry	Born-1902	Died-1913
John B. Perry	Born-1876	Died-1914
Mary L. Perry	Born-6-5-1801	Died-10-19-1883
Max Perry	Born-1861	Died-1903
Peter Perry Sr.	Born-10-18-1790	Died-4-30-1882 Senior
Phyllis Perry	Born-1865	Died-1935

Celina Philippart	Born 2-17-1852	Died-3-13-1907
Bartholomew Polk	Born-1841	Died-1918
Emma Potvin	Born-1877	Died-1969
Henry L. Poupard	Born-1884	Died-1932 Husband, father
Stella Poupard		Died-8-1-1914 Age 13 years
Thelma V. Poupard	Born-1915	Died-1933 Sister, daughter
June Pulk	Born-1919	Died – 1921

R

Francis Ransom	Co. K, 1 Mo. L.A.	
Charles M. Ranson	Born-1876	Died-1955
Francis B. Ranson	Born-1878	Died-1900
Josephine Ranson	Born-1878	Died-1931
Margaret Ranson	Born-1906	Died-1966
Mary Ranson	Born-1850	Died-1911
Gustav A. Raupp	Born-1848	Died-1923
Lenora J. Raupp	Born-1899	Died-1919
Leonard C. Raupp	Born-1892	Died-1939
Adeline Reaume	Born-1873	Died-1935
Arthur W. Reaume Husband	Born-1878	Died-1942
Elroy R. Reaume	Born-11-29-1905	Died-5-30-1959
Neills Reaume	Born-1869	Died-1920
Sarah G. Reaume Wife	Born-1881	Died-1966
Ida Renaud	Born-1869	Died-1947
Irene Renaud Baby		
Minnie Renaud	Born-1888	Died-1919

Tillie Renaud		Died-3-22-1905
Age 28 years . LeBlanc family monument.		
Victor Renaud	Born-1875	Died-1940
Anthony Reno	Co. F. 24 th Michigan Infantry	
Genevieve Reves	Born-1901	Died-1903
Mary Reves	Born-1869	Died-1895
Peter Reves	Corporal, U.S. Army, World War I.	
Peter Rickle Father	Born-1879	Died-1933
?????Riopelle Mother	Born-1830	Died-1919
Alexander J. Riopelle	Born-5-6-1867	Died-10-1-1894
Alvin Riopelle	Born-1910	Died-1914
Anna A. Riopelle Wife-mother	Born—2-24-1886	Died-1-31-1961
Anna J. Riopelle	Born-4-18-1840	Died-12-19-1928
Beatrice A. Riopelle	Born-1886	Died-1967
Catherine Riopelle		Died-9-6-1912 Age 88 years
Charles D. Riopelle	Born-1886	Died-1961
Charles H. Riopelle	Born-9-19-1860	Died-7-14-1931
Edward C. Riopelle, Sr.	Born-3-22-1886	Died-2-5-1954
Husband-Father-Senior		
Edward C. Riopelle, Jr.	Born-1911	Died-1950 Junior
Eliza J. Riopelle	Born-1862	Died-1950
Elizabeth G. Riopelle	Born-1866	Died-1940
Wife of James F. Riopelle		
Emily Riopelle	Born-1842	Died-1915
Wife of John Riopelle		
Frank J. Riopelle Husband	Born-1883	Died-1950
Hyacinthe F. Riopelle	Born-8-8-1835	Died-7-31-1898

Hyacinthe Riopelle	Born-8-15-1807	Died-3-18-1885
John Riopelle	Born-1839	Died-1910
Leah E. Riopelle	Born-1896	Died-1961
Madeline M. Riopelle	Born-5-28-1904	Died-7-14-1916
Mary Ann Riopelle		Died-1-4-1877
Age 65 years, 4 months, 12 days. Wife of H. Riopelle		
Angelique Rivard		Died-5-26-1968 Age 81 years
Louise H. Rivard Mother	Born-1873	Died-1956
Paul J. Rivard Father	Born-1872	Died-1935
Josephine Robert	Born-6-21-1841	Died-10-30-1909
Bernard Roberts Father	Born-1890	Died-1957
Daniel M. Roberts	Born-3-14-1893	Died-9-29-1970
Michigan PFC. Co. L. 39 th Infantry, World War I.		
Ellen Roberts Mrs.		Died-8-18-1896
Rest of stone buried.		
George T. Roberts	Born-12-16-1887	Died-7-6-1912
Age 24 years, 7 months, 10 days		
Lillian Roberts	Born-1919	Died-1931
Lillie Roberts Mother	Born-1895	Died-1950
Martha A. Roberts	Born-5-10-1895	Died-12-17-1914
Age 20 years, 7 months, 7 days		
Olive Roberts	Born-1921	Died-1934
Frank Rosenick	No Dates	
Mary Rosenick	No Dates	
Alesium Roulo	Born-1-28-1861	Died-3-25-1899
Bernadette Roulo	Born-9-12-1895	Died-8-15-1901
Caroline Roulo	Born-11-25-1858	Died-12-26-1861

Charles L. Roulo	Born-8-4-1851	Died-8-20-1880
Francis X. Roulo	Born-9-14-1865	Died-9-23-1880
George Roulo	Born-11-30-1889	Died-7-26-1897
Madeline Roulo	Born-8-10-1854	Died-8-27-1867
Mary Roulo	Born-9-10-1825	
Mary E. Roulo	Born-5-24-1851	Died-4-7-1886
Beloved wife of Charles Roulo		
Michael Roulo	Born-9-28-1822	Died-3-29-1882
Michael P. Roulo	Born-1-12-1847	Died-2-17-1905
Clarence Rousson	Born-1857	Died-1908
Simon B. Rousson	Born-1797	Died-1875
Simon W. Rousson	Born-1854	Died-1894
Velera J. Rousson	Born-1816	Died-1903
Maurice Roy	Born-1910	Died-1939
Betty Rushlow	Born-1930	Died-1931
Shirley Rushlow	Born-1938	Died-1939

S

Cead St. Amant	Born-1850	Died-1936
Reverend Charles J. St. Amant	Father Born-1876	Died-1922 Reverend
Elizabeth St. Amant	Mother Born-1862	Died-1929
Albert J. Salliotte	Born-1875	Died-1943
Anna Salliotte	Born-2-1845	Died-2-22-1930
Anna O. Salliotte	Born-1875	Died-1931
Antoine Salliotte Co. H. 14 th Michigan Infantry Civil War		
Charlotte Salliotte	Born-9-6-1872	Died-12-6-1904
Cleophus Salliotte	Born-2-1-1837	Died-12-4-1915

Gilbert Salliotte	Born-1842	Died-1922 Civil War Veteran
Julian Salliotte		Died-8-28-1882
Age 38 years, five months		
Lottie Salliotte	Born-3-19-1868	Died-3-23-1869
Age one year, four days. Daughter of Alexis M. and Mary S. Salliotte		
Mary Salliotte	Born-11-14-1834	Died-10-30-1906
Wife of Antoine Reno		
Mary Salliotte	Born-1835	Died-1910
Moses Salliotte	Born-1807	Died-3-9-1892
Age 85 years. Born in Ecorse, Michigan.		
Oliver Salliotte	Born-4-1-1838	Died-5-24-1911
Richard Salliotte		Died-4-17-1872
Age 4 month, 15 days. Son of C & J Salliotte		
Theodore W. Salliotte	Born-1867	Died-1933
Gideon Sanch	Born-1848	Died-1926
Louisa Sanch	Born-1849	Died-1926
Samuel Sanch	Born-1852	Died-1925
Willie Sanch	Inscription Illegible	
Jennie Sanfilippo	Born-2-6-1916	Died-5-8-1923
Columbus San Souci Father	Born-1870	Died-1955
Ida San Souci	Mother Born-1878	Died-1952
Edsel Arthur Sans Souci	Born-1-1-1928	Died-7-28-1933
Harriett Sans Souci	Born-1834	Died-1924
Mary Ann Sans Souci	Born-1938	Died-1940
Bertha Nolan Schimmel	Born-1889	Below Ground
Margerthe Schimmel	Born-1896	Died-1905
Mary Schimmel	Born-1862	Died-1932

Micheal Schimmel	Born-1849	Died-1923
Frank Schlanhart	Born-1877	Died-1942
Treca Schlanhart	Born-1877	Died-1954
Jeanne Sehoyan	Born-10-19-1893	Died-12-30-1939
Peter Joseph Sehoyan	Born-10-12-1876	Died-6-9-1954
Corp. Hq. Det. 12 Eng. WI		
Senecal		Died-6-6-1870
Age 10 months, six days. No first name		
Senecal		Died-5-9-1886
Age 18 years, 8 months, 21 days,. No first name		
Henry A. Senecal	Born 6-6-1834	Died-12-13-1904
Sarah E. Senecal	Born-12-21-1842	
Stanley Serowek	Born-8-21-1920	Died-1-13-1921
Andrew Sierota	Born-1905	Died-1946
Lawrence Sinkovits	Born-8-8-1887	Died-11-29-1942
Kenneth J. Sisco	Born-11-12-1913	Died-11-8-1950
Mich. Tech 5, 1623 Service Unit, World War II		
Kadia Slebodnik Mother	Born-1890	Died-1932
Peter J. Smith	Born-12-8-1882	Died-1-29-1972
Frances Solo	Born-1905	Died-1927
Maline Boursaw Solo	Born-1879	Died-1924
Mary D. Somers	Born-8-31-1842	Died-3-2-1909
Thomas H. Somers	Born-11-25-1834	Died-9-11-1913
Captain 41 st Ohio Vol. Infantry		
Mathew John Spillane		Died-2-26-1941
Ohio Pvt. 308 Am.Tn. 83 rd Div.		
Michael Steffes	Born-1878	Died-1932

Rose Steffes Mother	Born-1879	Died-1954
Mathew J. Stone		Died-8-1968
Plaque from Ridge Funeral Home		
Ida Rivard Suhr	Born-1888	Died-1927
Benjamin Sutherland Father	Born-1895	Died-1969
Cora Sutherland Mother	Born-1896	Died-1970
Alfred Sylvain	Born-1892	Died-1916

T

Thomas Torango	Born-3-12-1853	Died-11-11-1916
Mike Tarasess	Born-1872	Died-1937
John A. Theisen	Born-8-16-1901	Died-6-9-1959
Nellie I. Theisen	Born-11-7-1903	
Agathe Therrien	Born-11-25-1854	Died-7-18-1926
Wife of John B. Hillman		
Francis X. Thibeault Father	Born-1853	Died-1937
Mary B. Thibeault Mother	Born-1852	Died-1930
Catarina Tola		Died-7-11-1927
Delia Topin		Died-10-30-1912 Age 51 Years
Torango no 1 st name		Died-12-27-1904
Age 11 years, 7 months. Son of Fred & Fannie Torango		
Archangel Torango Mother		Died-2-24-1917 Age 72 Years
Frank Torango Father	Born-1863	Died-1944
Hazen B. Torango	Born-1905	Died-1939
Joseph Torango	Born-1865	Died-1945
Mary Torango	Born-1873	Died-1945
Mary Torango Mother	Born-1876	Died-1970

Richard Torango		Died-10-5-1885 Age 23 Years
Tillie Torango		Died-6-18-1891
Age 27 years, 2 months and 14 days		
Sara Tremblay		Died-6-3-1907
Age 53 years. Wife of Louis Crenon.		
Emma Trombley	Born-1867	Died-1910
Leander Trombley	Born-1858	Died-1950
Lydwyn Trombley		Died-10-17-1906
Age 40 years. Wife of Thomas Mayrand		

U

Ellis S. Underill	Born-1892	Died-1973
Ferne U. Underill	Born-1898	Gone Fishing

V

Fr. J.T. Van Gennip	Born-7-2-1818	Died-9-3-1889
Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church. Born in Heeze, Holland, July 2, 1818. Died in Ecorse September 3, 1889.		
Clarissa Vellmure	Born-1841	Died-1932
Nelson Vellmure	Born-1845	Died-1905
Arthur Viger	Born-1891	Died-1943 Husband-father
Noah Vigneau	Born-1835	Died-1908
Rose Vigneau	Born-1837	Died-1910
Phillis Visger	Born-1831	Died-10-25-1864
Age 33 years. Wife of Edmund Visger		
Phillisa Visger	Born-1846	Died-1901
Wife of Edmund Visger		

W

Carol E. Wordick

Died-1935

Catherine Wuk

Born-1883

Died-1934

Josef Wurmlinger

Born-1849

Died-1916

Z

Joserina Zolynska

Born-1892

Died-1920

A Few Ecorse Veterans

Revolutionary War

Elijah Goodell fought in the American Revolutionary War on the side of the Americans. He and his family came to Michigan and settled on Grosse Isle in 1797.

office of Justice of the peace and other local offices.

Sergeant John Goodell was killed in Amherstburg, Ontario, during the War of 1812.

War of 1812

Elijah Goodell's sons, Daniel and John Goodell, fought the British in the War of 1812. Daniel Goodell, one of Elijah Goodell's eight sons, was born in New York in 1794. He served as a private in Major Witherell's Detachment of Michigan Volunteers and Militia in the War of 1812. Daniel was captured when General Hull surrendered Fort Detroit to the British on August 16, 1812.

For military service in the War of 1812, Daniel Goodell received land warrant #2225 for 160 acres of land in Wisconsin, but he didn't move to Wisconsin. On August 10, 1818, Governor Lewis Cass commissioned Daniel Goodell a lieutenant in the Militia of the Territory of Michigan. He married Susanne Baron, daughter of Antoine Baron on July 18, 1820.

Daniel was a farmer and a Democrat in politics. As early as 1829, he became a Wayne County Supervisor and held the

Civil War

Moses Baron. Co. C, 15th Michigan Infantry- Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse

Richard Barrow, 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H. He is buried in Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Wyandotte.

Corporal Henry Beaubien, 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H. He is buried in St. Patrick Cemetery, Bay City, Michigan.

Louis L. Beaubien. Civil War Veteran, Company F., 24th Infantry and Company II Twelfth-me Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse

Alexander Bondy, 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H.

Augustus C. Bordino, Sergeant, First Michigan Cavalry, Co. D.

Joseph Borran, 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. C.

Joseph Bragensen, 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H.

(Ludwig) Emanuel Brest, 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H.

John Brest, 41, Pvt. 14th Infantry, Co. H.

Charles Brock, 5th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

Charles A. Brown, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

Leon Cady. Co. C. 27th Michigan Infantry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

John Canaday, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C

Charles Cicotte. 24th Infantry, Company F. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

David Cicotte, Jr., Company C. 1st Michigan Cavalry. Died in Regimental Hospital on February 20, 1865.

Richard N. Collins, 5th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

Moses Cowell, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C

Oliver Delisle. 1st Michigan Cavalry, Company C. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, (1979 Survey)

John P. Demay, 1st Michigan Cavalry, Co. G.

Gregory Drouillard. 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H.

Solomon Drouillard. 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H.

William A. Dunkin. 4th Michigan Infantry. Co. B. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Joseph Fountain, 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H. Died in Mackinac Michigan. 1919. Lighthouse keeper.

Andrew J. Fox, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

William R. Frasier, Corporal 5th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

Christian Freese. 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H.

Sgt. Elijah Goodell, Co. C. 5th Michigan Cavalry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Gabriel R. Goodell, Sergeant Co. K. 1st Michigan Cavalry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Martin Goodell, Pvt. Fifth Michigan Cavalry, Co. C. He is buried in Andersonville National Cemetery in Andersonville, Georgia.

Peter Jager, 1st Cavalry, Company K. Born March 23, 1827 in France. Died May 19, 1898. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse. (1979 Survey)

Joseph D. Kilson, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, Co. D.

Jacob Kuntz, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

Joseph La Duke, 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H

Fred K. LaFleur, Co. C, 5th Michigan Cavalry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.(1979 Survey).

Richard Loranger, Co. G, First Michigan Cavalry

Francis Metty. Co. D. 11th Michigan Infantry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

August Misch. 5th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

Louis Montry. Co. G, 15th Infantry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Henry Myer, 23rd Michigan Infantry, Co. I.

Pascoh Odette, 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H. He enlisted in Company H, 14th Michigan Infantry on December 30, 1861, at age 18. He reenlisted as a Veteran Volunteer on January 4, 1864 at Columbia, South Carolina. On August 7, 1864, he was killed on the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia.

Francis Payette. 1832-1864. Died from injuries sustained in Civil War. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Samuel Pearce, 1st Michigan Colored Infantry

James Pendergrass, Co. D 100th New York Infantry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Joseph Polts, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C

Peter Rabideau, 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H

Francis Ransom, Co. K., 1 Mo. L.A Battery.. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

William Raupp. William enlisted in Co. H, 6th Michigan Infantry, reenlisted in First Artillery Regiment Co. F. Accidentally killed August 15, 1863 near Port Hudson, Louisiana. He is buried in Port Hudson National Cemetery.

Anthony Reno, Co. F. 24th Michigan Infantry. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Franklin Rhodes, 2nd Michigan Infantry.

Antoine Salliotte. Co. H 14th Michigan Infantry. He campaigned with General Sherman in his march through Georgia and was twice wounded in action. Buried in St. Francis Cemetery, Ecorse.

Gilbert Salliotte. 1842-1822. Company I, Fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Taken prisoner in the Wheatfield at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863 and he returned to his regiment at Annapolis, Maryland on December 10, 1863. He was wounded in action at Wilderness, Virginia on May 5, 1864. On September 16, 1864 he enlisted in Company E of the 11th Michigan Cavalry and he transferred to Company K of the Eighth Michigan Cavalry on July 20, 1865. He mustered out of service on September 22, 1865 at Nashville, Tennessee. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Samuel Salliotte. 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H.

Thomas Seymore, 1st Michigan Colored Infantry

.John Short, 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H

Christian Smith, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. C.

.Samuel Smith, 14th Michigan Infantry, Company H.

Thomas H. Somers. Capt. 1st Ohio Vol. Inf. Born November 25, 1834. Died September 11, 1913. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Wyandotte Herald. Friday September 19, 1913

Ecorse Pioneer is Dead at 79

Captain Thomas H. Somers, a veteran of the Civil War, died on Thursday of last week at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Edward Ouellette in Ecorse. Deceased was 79 years of age, had lived in Ecorse Township for 50 years, and was commander of A.W. Brindle Post, GAR. He leaves two children: Mrs. Ouellette and Herbert Somers of Cleveland, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Deceased was born in New York and served with credit in the Civil War, being promoted to captain for gallantry in action. After coming to Ecorse, he engaged in bridge building for awhile and later served as a school teacher. He was a justice of the peace for 24 years, and was Deputy Customs Collector at Ecorse under the Cleveland Administration.

The son of Henry and Anna McGovern Somers, Thomas was born on November 25, 1834, in New York. He married Mary Adelaide La Croix. He died on September 11, 1913 in Ecorse and he is buried in St. Francis Xavier, Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan.

James Streeter, 14th Michigan Infantry. He is buried in Oakland Cemetery in Peterson, Iowa.

Andrew Tabater, 17th Michigan Infantry, Co. B

Hazel Terrell, 9th Michigan Cavalry, Co. K.

Frank Valkenstine, 16th Michigan Infantry, Co. K.

William Young. 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. H.

Spanish American War

Charles S. Eddy, corporal, 35th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. A

Antrim (Arnim) Allen. Michigan. Sgt. 5th Trench Mortar Division. World War I. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

World War I Veterans

Joseph Airola, Mich. Pfc, Co. L 33 Inf. WWI. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

John J. Bauer served as Second Gunner in Field Artillery. His outfit was part of the 85th Division and it fought overseas for nine months, participating in some of the most desperate fighting of the American campaign.

Don Dodge fought in the U.S. Army tank division under Lt. Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Lt. Samuel Abel Durant. 2nd Lieutenant, 146th Infantry, World War I. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Emmett Fuller-Emmett was born on September 16, 1896 in Perry, Georgia. He came to Ecorse in his younger years and enlisted when the United States entered World War I in 1917. He was a member of American Legion Post #352.

Dr. S. Lee Hileman-Dr. Hileman served with the Army in France for 22 months.

Alvin M. Labadie. Sadler Troop F 16th Cavalry. World War I.

Harry C. Labeau. Died 1-2-1917. Woodman of the World Memorial. St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. (1979 Survey).

Richard Labeau. Died 10-28-1916. Woodman of the World Memorial. St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. (1979 Survey).

Eli "Peck" LeBlanc

Dr. Arthur Payette. Dr. Payette served with the Navy Medical Corps in World War I.

Peter Reeves, Corp. U.S. Army. World War I. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Judge John L. Riopelle. Judge Riopelle served with distinction in World War I in the 32nd Red Arrow, 199th Field Artillery. He

was a member of the Roy B. Salliotte American Legion Post .

Daniel M. Roberts, Mich. Pfc, Col L. 39th Infantry. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Pvt. Roy B. Salliotte was killed in action in the battle of the Meuse-Argonne in France in 1918. He was the son of Civil War soldier Antoine Salliotte. The Roy B. Salliotte American Legion Post in Ecorse was named for him. He is buried in Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery and Memorial in Lorraine, France.

Peter Joseph Sehoyan, Corp. Hq. Det. 12 Eng. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Kenneth J. Sisco. Michigan Tech 5 1623 Service Unit, World War II. Buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. (1979 Survey).

Ellis S. Underhill He served with the Marine Corps during World War I. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

World War II



George J. Babik. U.S. Army, World War II. E.T.O. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse, Michigan. (1979 Survey).

Morris “Sandy” Blakeman. Morris “Sandy” Blakeman was drafted into the Army in October 1941. He was transferred into the U.S. Army Air Corps which became the 8th Air Force and served in Texas and England. In June 1944, Sandy found himself in Normandy and served there and near Paris until 1945. He was stationed in Florida and New Jersey from 1945 until 1946, when his received his honorable discharge. While Sandy served in Europe, he took many photos that illustrated the experiences of American soldiers.



Sandy Blakeman Photograph featuring Sandy Blakeman (right)

Miss Garlington Served in World War II. Miss Helen Garlington graduated from the University of Michigan with a Master's Degree in 1948, majoring in dramatics and musical education. During World War II, she spent much time with the armed forces in North Africa arranging and producing plays and skits for the soldiers and sailors.

Ruth Busher Grier served as an Army X-Ray technician.

William C. Hague. During World War II, William Hague served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

W. Newton Hawkins was elected first mayor of Ecorse in 1942. He served a stint in the Army and returned to Ecorse to again be elected mayor.

Walter W. Holzhueter. Mich. S2 U.S. N.R., World War II. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse. (1979 Survey).

Alvin M. Labadie. Sadler. Troop F. 16 Cavalry, World War II. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse. (1979 Survey).

Dr. Lawrence Lackey won Silver and Bronze stars for his bravery during World War II. During the Italian campaign rescued seventeen wounded men, carrying them a mile and a half to safety under the noses of the Germans. This rescue earned him the Silver Star. He won the bronze star for leading the rescue of wounded men trapped in a hedge under German fire.

William Fergus McMurdo. July 1949, Reverend Leonard Duckett, pastor of the Ecorse Presbyterian Church, officiated at the reburial in Michigan Memorial Cemetery of Pfc. William McMurdo, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George McMurdo of Ecorse. "Fergus," as his friends and family called him, was killed in action on November 15, 1944 at Graylotte, France, after just fourteen months of service.

He was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star. According to the citation issued by the War Department, McMurdo voluntarily made three trips through barbed wire entanglements to get grenades for his comrades who were trapped in advance trenches outside fortifications in the face of enemy fire. Later that day he was killed by enemy fire as he attempted to set up a machine gun.

Claude Monroe fought for two years in Germany during World War II. When the war was over and he had returned to Ecorse, he helped found the Dumas Post of the American Legion.

William N. Nagy, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Nagy of Seventh Street in Ecorse, volunteered to join the Air Corps on December 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor. Just 22 years old when he joined the Air Corps, he served as a flight engineer on one of the battered C-46 transport aircraft that were used to maintain the threadlike supply line from India's Assam Valley to the Allied fighting forces in China.

Nagy, who had earned the rank of technical sergeant, died when his plane crashed into the side of a mountain on April 4, 1944, just three months after he arrived in India. When he was still stateside, he married his wife Alice, and his son Michael was 17 months old when he died.

In January 1949, Nagy was reburied at the Michigan memorial Cemetery with full military honors.

Three Pappas Brothers

Word came from the South Pacific that Corporal George Pappas of Ecorse had been awarded the Silver Star Medal. George was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Pappas of 4678 West Jefferson Avenue. He enlisted in the Marines on January 26, 1942, and after two months training on Paris Island was on his way to the South Pacific where he saw continuous action. The Silver Star medal was inscribed with his name and reads "Corporal George Pappas for Gallantry in Action."

George had two brothers also in the service. Nick Pappas was a radio technician in the Marine Air Corps and had been in the South Pacific since February and Gus Pappas was a seaman second class in the Navy.

Lt. Colonel Carl Rhodes helped rebuild Okinawa, Japan. He served as Military Government Officer in the Okinawa campaign and was occupational team leader governing Taira, Okinawa, and several surrounding communities. He was among the first troops to fly up to Korea to accept the surrender from the Japanese.

Charles Sarazin Served in Sicily, Anzio, North Africa, Austria. Charles H. Sarazin, Jr. of Ecorse joined the Navy in 1929 and served for four years as shopkeeper at the Brodhead Armory. In 1941, he reenlisted in the Army and during World War II was awarded 16 citations for heroism. He served with the third division in French Morocco and Tunisia. He landed in Sicily and saw action in Palermo, Naples, Casino and the Anzio beachhead. He continued with the march through Europe and saw action in Strasbourg and Alsace Lorraine and Frankfurt. When the war ended he was in Salzburg, Austria.

He was awarded the Silver Star, the second highest medal which can be awarded; three Bronze Medals, three Purple Hearts, three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Good Conduct Medal. He was also awarded the French Croix de Guerre, a French decoration for the Army of Occupation. He also won service ribbons for the African and European campaigns. He is buried in Woodmere Cemetery, Detroit.

Albert "Zuke" Zukonik, World War II Marine. He served two years and four months in the Pacific as a seagoing marine. During his six years in the Marines, Zukonik became light heavyweight boxing champion of the Canal Zone forces.

While serving aboard the cruiser Erie, he swam two miles through shark-infested waters when it sank in the West Indies in 1942. He later was head drill instructor for Navy aviation cadets at the University of Georgia.

Korea

Pvt. Edward R. Crouse of Ecorse served with General Douglas MacArthur's Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. Private Crouse, son of Marion Crouse, of 17 Sunnyside, Ecorse, is a member of the General's handpicked Honor Guard in the Japanese capital. A 1948 graduate of St. Francis High School, he enlisted in the army the same year and has been in Japan since March 1949.

Pfc. Walter Crouse, a brother of Edward, is also on duty in Japan. He enlisted in August of 1948.

Richard Gerstner, 19, of 21 Applegrove, Ecorse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Gerstner, was killed in action in Korea in August 1950. He had been an infantryman for two years and was stationed with the Army in Japan for a year before the Korean War broke out. Richard attended St. Francis High School in Ecorse.

James W. Jones served as a gunner in the 171st Field Artillery Battalion. His unit captured "T-Bone" hill in June's see saw hill battles.

Frederick A. Lackey, 22, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Lackey of Twelfth Street in Ecorse, died in a U.S. hospital in Tokyo on February 3, 1953, of wounds suffered on the Korean battle front. He served with the 45th Infantry Division, 189th Artillery Battalion.

Pfc. Chester G. Pendred . Army Pfc. Chester G. Pendred, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Droulliard, of Bell Street in Ecorse, was a gunner in the 9th Infantry Regiment's Company F. He received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Korean Service Ribbon and the UN Service Medal.

Pfc. Fred H. Schallhorn, eighteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schallhorn, 72 W. Woodward, Ecorse, was wounded twice in the Korean fighting.

Ecorse Sergeant to Leave Korea. Specialist First Class Raymond Tandle, of the 25th Infantry Division in Korea, whose wife Dorothy Jean lives at 4534 Fifth Street, Ecorse, is returning to the United States from Korea under the Army's rotation plan. He was a member of the 25th Infantry Division, one of the first U.S. units to fight

on the peninsula. A supply sergeant with the 65th Engineer Combat Battalion, SFC Tandle entered the Army in February 1951.

Private First Class Allen A. Wilson, served in the Air Force in Korea.

Vietnam

A story in the Ecorse Advertiser of May 20, 1973 reported that following the traditional Memorial Day waterside services at the foot of Southfield in Ecorse, representatives of veteran's organizations dedicated a memorial to six Ecorse men who were killed in Vietnam.

They are: Sp 4 Lewis Roy Kirby; Sgt. Jamie Villabos; Sp 4 Martee Bradley, Jr; Pfc Philip Tank; Pfc. Charles Tank; and Sp 4 Floyd Richardson.

Also honored was Sgt. Gary LaBohn of South Lyons who is missing in Action. LaBohn was adopted by members of Ecorse VFW Post 5709 who have long been active in the POW-MIA program.

Members of the VFW and American Legion Posts 272, 319 and Dumas and the Peter Reeves Women's Relief Corp attended the dedication that was made by Denise Rebhalm, president of the VFW Junior Girls Unit. Chaplain Terri Vasquez closed the ceremony with a prayer for the souls of the departed comrades and for the safe return of Sgt. La Bohn.

Gary Russell LaBohn was listed as missing in action on November 30, 1968 when a North Vietnamese anti-aircraft fire shot

down the South Vietnamese CH 34 Helicopter he was riding in with other soldiers during a special operations team mission. On March 20, 1979 his status was changed from missing to died. His body was not recovered.

SP4 Martee Bradley Jr. On December 11, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Martee Bradley of 18th Street in Ecorse received word that their son Martee Bradley, Jr., had been killed in Vietnam. On December 9th, the Army had informed them that he was missing in action. A 1967 graduate of Ecorse High School, Martee played first trombone in the high school band during his high school years. He was drafted into the Army in March of 1968, took basic and advanced training and was home on leave this summer before going to Vietnam. He is buried in Westlawn Cemetery, Wayne, Michigan.

PFC. Joe D. Johnson, Jr. Joe D. Johnson, Jr., is Second Ecorse Soldier Killed in Vietnam U.S. Army Private First Class Joe D. Johnson, Jr., 20, of Sixteenth Street in Ecorse, was killed in Vietnam on January 2, 1967 by fragments from a Viet Cong mine. He was a member of Company A, 196th Infantry in the Second Battalion. Drafted into the Army in May 1966, he entered Fort Knox, Kentucky for his boot training. He obtained his advanced training at Camp Polk, Louisiana and came home on furlough during Thanksgiving 1966 to visit family and friends in Ecorse and South Carolina. He let for Vietnam on December 3, 1966. Joe Johnson Jr. graduated from Ecorse High School with the class of January 1966. He was a member of the baseball and basketball teams, varsity football, and also spent two years as a member of the Ecorse High School Choir. He was employed at the Ford Motor Company and was a member of the Union Second Baptist Church in River

Rouge. He is buried in Union, South Carolina.

SP4 Louis Roy Kirby. Ecorse soldier Lewis Roy Kirby of the 14th Infantry, 25 Division was killed in combat with small arms fire on November 19, 1966 in Vietnam. He was the first Vietnam War casualty from Ecorse. He is the son of James Kirby of Labadie Court, Ecorse. He attended Ecorse High School for one year and Lincoln Park High School for two years. He enlisted in 1964 and received basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky and more training in Georgia before he went to Vietnam. He is buried in Lakeview Cemetery in Bellaire, Michigan.

SP4 Floyd Richardson, Jr. Floyd Richardson, Jr. Killed in Vietnam. Ecorse soldier Floyd Richardson, Jr., 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Governor Elias, 3820 Seventeenth, died in Vietnam February 2, 1971. A 1968 Ecorse High School graduate, he had been in Vietnam since December. He had served in the Army for 2 ½ years and was scheduled to be discharged in June. He was buried at Westlawn Cemetery in Wayne.

CPL. Charles Louis Tank. Corporal Charles Louis Tank E3A was killed in the Province of Tay Ninh in Vietnam on April 19, 1969. He was born in Ecorse on September 14, 1943. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Rockwood. He was the son of Louis Joseph Tank. And Mildred Davis Tank.



PFC Philip Leonard Tank. Philip L. Tank, 20, of West Westfield in Ecorse, was killed in Vietnam on September 12, 1968. He had been in Vietnam since July 4 with the First Infantry Division. Born November 27, 1947, Philip was raised in Ecorse and graduated from St. Francis Xavier High School in June 1965. He attended Northern Michigan University at Marquette before joining the Army in January. After prayers at Ballheim Funeral Home on September 26, a funeral Mass was sung at St. Francis Xavier Church and he was buried at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. He was the son of Leonard and Martha Tank of 714 West Westfield Street in Ecorse. Awards: Purple Heart Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal with One Service Star, Vietnam Campaign medal, National Defense Service Medal.

SSG Jaime Villalobos. Sergeant Jaime Villalobos Dies in Vietnam Ten-year-old Belinda Villalobos accepted the Bronze Star for her father, Army Sergeant Jaime Villalobos of Ecorse, who was killed in May 1968 in the Vietnam fighting. Belinda, the oldest of five children surviving Sgt. Villalobos, received the medal from Major General Shelton E. Lollis, Commanding General, U.S. Army Tank Automotive Command, (TACOM), Warren

Dan Lafferty, Mike Pongracz, and David Trevino, all from Ecorse, returned from Vietnam.

Veterans

William H. Allen. 1870-1927.

Daniel Charboneau. 1875-1922.

Hayward Moon, U.S. Army. 1960s.

Thomas A. Weber. PFC U.S. Army, 1939-1983.

Operation Signpost

Four Ecorse Soldiers Take Part in Army Exercise Four soldiers from Ecorse participated in the exercise, "Operation Signpost" which ended July 28, 1951. Pfc. Arthur Mays, gun loader, 4129 Eighteenth; Pfc. Henry Gordy, switch board operator, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Gordy, 4004 Eighteenth; Pfc. James D. Carter, chief machine gunner, whose parents live at 3841 Nineteenth; Pfc. Carl Salley, cannoneer whose parents live at 3982 Twelfth.

All four men entered the Army in February 1951. Mays and Carter attended Ecorse High School. Gordy studied at Michigan State Normal College and Salley was graduated from Cass Technical High School. Their anti-aircraft unit worked jointly with the Air Force Canadian air defense and a major portion of the Civilian Ground Observer Corps to guard the Pacific Northwest during Operation Sign Post.

Ecorse WAC Reports for Active Duty

September 1955

Loretta Cameron of Ecorse was one of a group of women reservists from twenty four states to report to the WAC Center, Fort McClellan, Alabama, for two weeks active duty. A private in the reserve group, Private Cameron is assigned to the 323rd General Hospital Unit, and is employed at the Michigan Bell Telephone Company. As a reserve, she is one of sixty-two enlisted WAC Reservists from all over the United States, who on August 14th converged on the WAC Center for training. She is the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Cameron, 4304 Beech Street, Ecorse.

Liz Salas, 1st Wave Aboard the Telfair

April 1956

Liz Salas, Ecorse native and journalist third class USN, a WAVE, stepped off the gangway onto the quarterdeck of the USS Telfair and shot a snappy salute at the officer of the Deck. She asked permission to come aboard and submitted her orders to report for duty. With these actions, she was the first WAVE to serve on a U.S. Navy fleet ship.

When Liz reported to the Navy's attack transport ship in April 1956, the Telfair had no precedents to fall back upon. Military Sea

Transport Service and hospital ships often carry WAVES, but not ships of the combatant fleet.

The Telfair's crewmen were astonished and fumbled for the right words of greeting for their new shipmate. Captain Charles E. King, commanding officer, declared "The Telfair is honored to have the fleet's first WAVE aboard; it marks another first for the Telfair,"

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dionisio Sales of Sixth Street in Ecorse, Liz enlisted in the Navy in October 1953 and received her recruit training at Bainbridge, Maryland. After 18 months of duty at Great Lakes, Illinois, she was sent to Pearl Harbor duty in July. Mother was terrified when she heard about me going to sea. She never even let us kids go near water," Liz said.

Charles W. Embry, Known as the "Black Jesus"

The Ecorse Advertiser of October 3, 1973 reported that Charles W. Embry, a thirty year old Ecorse man, died September 25, 1973 in Oakwood Hospital from injuries suffered when he apparently lost control of his motorcycle. A witness told police that Embry swerved to avoid hitting the rear of a tanker-trailer truck and skidded off the I 94 freeway near the Rotunda Drive exit in Dearborn. A witness said that Embry was thrown from his motorcycle, but was not struck by another vehicle. The accident happened shortly before midnight. Police said that Embry was rushed to Oakwood Hospital where he died at 1 a.m.

Charles Embry moved to Ecorse when he was two years old. He attended Ecorse High School and graduated with the class of June 1961. He joined the Armed Forces and he served from November 1962 through November 1966. He

St. Francis Xavier People



Eli Bourassa

The Bourassa family first came to Ecorse in the early 1800s and settled on a farm along Ecorse Creek. Eli was born on August 2, 1883, in the original family home.

As a young man he went to work in the office of the Michigan Steel Corporation and the Great Lakes Engineering Works. Later he worked as a bookkeeper at Kramer-Eberts, Inc. in River Rouge. In 1931-1932, Eli served a term as village clerk in Ecorse and later worked for several years a clerk in the city treasurer's office. He retired from the treasurer's office in 1952. On July 1, 1902, Eli married Augusta Movinski, a member of another old Ecorse family. The couple had no children and Augusta died in 1943.

A leading Catholic layman, Eli was a member of the Holy Name Society of St. Francis Xavier Church, serving the organization as president for several years. He also belonged to the Catholic Order of Foresters.

Eli suffered a fatal heart attack on April 6, 1957, when he drove from his home on High Street to visit Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schneider on Cicotte Street in River Rouge. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Abraham Brisbois

Abraham Brisbois was born in Wayne County in 1846 and he died on September 19, 1881. Abraham married Domitila LeBlanc Riopelle-1845-1926- and they had four children: Elizabeth Gertrude Brisbois Rioeplle , Mary, Sylvester Abraham Brisbois and Edward Brisbois.

A story in the Wyandotte News Herald of September 23, 1881 provided the details of the death of Abraham Brisbois.

Abraham Brisbois Shot Dead in the House of Andrew Beaudrey

Sometime last Sunday night between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. on Monday, Abraham Brisbois, a farmer of Ecorse Township, living 1 ½ miles north west of Ecorse village, was shot in the head and instantly killed while sleeping at the house of Andrew Beaudrey, a farmer living about four miles south of Brisbois.

Brisbois is a thresher and had gone to Beaudrey's Sunday night with his men and machine to commence threshing Monday morning. His men slept in the barn, but Brisbois was shown to a back upper chamber in the house by Beaudrey, at about 10 o'clock. No one else slept in the second story and only Beaudrey and his wife slept on the first floor of the house. The next morning Brisbois was found dead in his bed lying on his back in a pool of blood, with bullet wounds on the right side of his nose. It has seemed to be almost impossible to invent a reasonable theory to account for this cold blooded murder. The murderer is yet undiscovered, and the inquest is in progress (Thursday).

Although many theories have been broached and rumors set afloat, there seems to be no clear chain of evidence pointing in any direction. Brisbois was a genial, easy man, who was not supposed to have any enemies. Beaudrey has always borne a good character and been respected, and suspicion is not fastened yet, as far as we can learn, with grounds anywhere.

A singular circumstance seems to be that no one was awakened by the shot, and nothing was known of the deed till Brisbois was found the next morning. Mrs. Beaudrey says she heard someone in the house and in her room while her husband was showing Brisbois to his room, but supposed it to be her husband. The post mortem examination on Tuesday last, held by Dr. Walker of Detroit and Christian of Wyandotte, revealed the fact that the ball entered on the right side of the nose and passed through the brain and was found on the left side of the back of the head.

The testimony taken at the inquest held by Justice Salliotte of Ecorse has not yet been made public. The trouble is to find a motive sufficient for the committing of such a deed. It was not robbery, as nothing was disturbed about the house.

It is said, with how much truth we do not know, that Brisbois was thought to be on too intimate terms with women, and that someone, to avenge a real or fancied injury in this direction, committed the atrocious deed. The event has caused great excitement in the community, as it is the second murder committed in the vicinity in the short time of about fifteen months, and in

both cases the author of the villainy is yet undiscovered. Every effort will be made to unearth the author of the crime and bring him to justice. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Alexander Campau and Ades Salliotte Campau



Alexander Campau Alexander Campau was born on September 7, 1843, back in the days when Indians still inhabited Ecorse and its neighboring region and the stagecoach was making its first

run between Detroit and Monroe. The second child and oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Campau, he came into the world in a small frame house with hand nailed walls located on Jefferson Avenue in Ecorse.

As a child, Alexander attended a little frame schoolhouse on Salliotte Road with a handful of other boys gathered to learn the three "R"s" with the guidance of a patient teacher. His father died when he was just eight years old and Alexander helped his mother in the fields and in the house as well. To make ends meet, Mrs. Campau rented rooms in her house to men who had come to the area to work on the first railroad in the area, the Lakeshore Railroad. One of her boarders working on the railroad was a stalwart Indian who took an instant liking to Alex. The Indian and Alex shared a bed for most of the time that he boarded at the Campau home and Alex learned firsthand the "true, friendly nature: of the Indians living around Ecorse."

Alex also enjoyed the boyhood adventure of riding from Detroit to Monroe and back on the stagecoach which a distant cousin of his drove. He loved the adventure of pulling into Monroe at night, not, dusty, and wary and listening to the travelers spinning tall tales as he ate supper. The next day arising at dawn to catch the stage home, he felt a renewed sense of adventure as he headed home to Ecorse along the River Road. As he grew older, Alex worked with his brother and took his threshing machine to a neighboring farmer who had none. He truck farmed for himself and sold his produce to neighbors and to people around the area. When the Tecumseh Salt Works was founded in Ecorse, Alex was one of its first employees, helping to clear away the marshlands.

On July 24, 1866, when he was 23 years old, Alex hitched up his horse and buggy and picked up Ades Salliotte who lived a half mile away from the Campaus. They drove all of the way to Wyandotte and were married. Returning to Ecorse they worked together to build their farm and their lives. The Campaus had five children and Ades died in 1923. Lillian and Agnes never married and Alex lived with them in his old age. Florence married into the Drouillard family and they lived close to Alex. His son Ernest lived near him. Alex died on August 24, 1940, and he was buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery as is his wife Ades.

Louis Cicotte

Louis Cicotte, merchant and manufacturer of flour at Ecorse was born in 1812. His parents were born at Detroit and settled in Ecorse in 1815. They had a family of ten children. His father served in the War of 1812. In 1847, Louis married Fanny Beaubien who was born in Detroit 1826. They had seven children. Mr. Cicotte was a supervisor for seven years and constable, and custom home officer for twenty years. He erected his hotel in 1866 and owned a farm of 37 acres of land which he purchased in 1840 at \$10 per acre. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Florence R. Campau Drouillard

The Detroit News of Sunday, December 18, 1960 printed the obituary of Mrs. Florence Campau Drouillard, 86, who was the last descendant of a branch of the Campau family. She was one of the four living children of Alexander Campau and Ades Salliotte Campau. The 1900 United States Federal Census shows Alex and Ades living in Ecorse with their four children: Lilian Campau, 31, Agnes Campau, 29, Florence Campau, 24, and Ernest Campau, 21. The Campaus lost a child according to the Census. Florence was born on the old family homestead at 3859 West Jefferson Avenue, Ecorse and she died on the same family homestead.

Mrs. Drouillard's attorney, Earl E. Montie, himself an Ecorse pioneer, said Mrs. Drouillard lived alone in the shadow of the Great Lakes Steel Corporation plant since her brother Ernest died six months ago. She owns most of the land that her ancestors settled, including 650 feet of frontage on Jefferson directly south of the main entrance of Great Lakes Steel. The land once was woods and farm fields but time transformed it into used car lots parking areas, and buildings. Part of the land still was cultivated as truck gardens, but the Campau family had given up farming long ago.

"The house she died in is still a farmhouse," Earl Montie said. "The old barn was torn down only a few months ago."

During her marriage to Frank Leander Drouillard- 1872-1931- Florence lived on Salliotte Street in Ecorse, but she returned to the family homestead after Frank died.

Earl Montie said that Florence's father Alexander Campau died in 1939 at the age of 96. Alexander was born in a log cabin about 50 feet from the present home and he could recall firsthand the Indians who hunted and fished in the region. He remembered shooting deer where Great Lakes Steel now stands and he recalled Jefferson Avenue as a mud trail called the River Road.

Alexander passed on to his children the stories he heard from the soldiers of skirmishes on Fighting Island during the war of 1812.

According to Attorney Montie, the historical memories died with Mrs. Drouillard who had no children of her own, or nieces or nephews to continue the thread of history.

After a Requiem Mass at St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, Florence Campau Drouillard was buried in Ecorse Cemetery.

Abraham LeBlanc

Abraham LeBlanc, a general farmer, was born at Ecorse, Michigan, October 17, 1820. His parents, Peter and Theresa Bourassa LaBlanc, settled at Ecorse in 1800. His father was born in France, was an extensive fur dealer, and fitted out for trading vessels. Abraham married Phyllis Perry in 1851. She was born in Canada. They had eight children. He owned 300 acres of fine farming land, and he was one of the active farmers in the Ecorse of his time. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Peck LeBlanc's Front Porch



Eli "Peck" LeBlanc lived at 4560 West Jefferson in a home built on the site of the original farm that the Potawatomie Indians had deeded to his great grandfather Pierre in 1790 when he came to Ecorse from France.

Peck was born August 10, 1888 and by 1904, when he was sixteen, he worked in an ice house on the Detroit River, cutting huge blocks of ice which were stored in sawdust to use during the summer months. At this time he was attending the old school which was razed in 1910 to make way for the "new" school, which was Ecorse School Two.

When he was a young blade of seventeen, Peck decided it was time he had a “regular” suit. He got a job at the Great Lakes Engineering Works in Ecorse as a fitter’s helper and worked for five months until he had enough money to buy his new suit.

“I remember I paid \$15 for a blue serge suit and then shopped around a bit before buying my first watch. It was a \$25 gem,” he recalled.

Trained as a railroad telegraph operator in 1906, Peck spent most of his adult working life following the trade. Lured by the call of the clicking key, he travelled most of Michigan finding jobs as a telegrapher at stations in Vanderbilt, Mackinaw, Roscommon, Indian River, and many other pales before settling down at the Michigan Central’s Wyandotte station.

In 1908, he transferred to the Ecorse station on Southfield and remained there until 1915, shortly before the station was closed to make way for the Southfield viaduct. After a short stay at the Rockwood station, he changed careers for a time and served as timekeeper in the old Ecorse Foundry and Detroit Brass and malleable in Wyandotte. During World War I, he worked as a time keeper in the Wyandotte shipyards.

For years Peck spend most of his free time sitting on the front porch of his home on Jefferson Avenue gazing through his binoculars at the mighty ships that passed back and forth on the Detroit River. All of the freighter captains knew him.

The Stewart Court Through Peck’s Binoculars.

In May 1972, the *Stewart Cort*, at the time the largest ship ever to sail the Great Lakes on the Detroit River, made a pass up the Detroit River right by Peck’s house. She was up bound on the River on her maiden voyage from Erie, P., where she was built to Lake Superior to take on nearly 52,000 tons of iron ore. Her regular route was scheduled to run between Taconite Harbor, Minnesota, north of Duluth and Bethlehem’s Mill at Burns Harbor east of Gary, Indiana. It was unlikely that she would ever again pass through the Detroit River.

To make the occasion more special for Peck, the *Court* blinked a special “Hi Peck,” as the ship passed his house. When the public relations people at Bethlehem Steel heard that Peck would be watching for the ship, they agreed to a request to blink “Hi Peck,” as they passed his house. With his telegraphy training, Peck had no trouble understanding the message.

Peck is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Benjamin Montie is Killed in a Gun Battle with Bank Robbers

About 1922, two years after he was installed as Ecorse’s first fire chief, Village President Fred Bouchard made Albert Jaeger acting chief of police and he held the two offices jointly until 1926. His joint chiefship provided material for local jokesters. One story had it that Jaeger

always worked bareheaded in his office until a call came demanding his services as one department head or another. Then he would grab the correct hat, jam it on his head and run out of his office to whatever challenges lay ahead.

Holding the joint office was difficult in the turbulent days of bootlegging and rum running in Ecorse. Several underworld hideouts sprang up along the Detroit riverfront, huddled beside the river below Southfield Road. One of them known as “Robbers Roost,” often sheltered notorious lawbreakers.

One March day in 1924, Chief Jaeger and one of his men, Benjamin Montie, a fire truck driver and auxiliary policeman, who lived on Goodell Street, one block from High Street, went down to Robbers Roost to investigate a case of petty larceny. Inside Robbers Roost, two bandits who had just raided the Commonwealth Bank in Detroit and escaped with \$17,000 were counting their money. Chief Jaeger and Benjamin Montie took the men to police headquarters for questioning and then Chief Jaeger, Benjamin Montie, and two deputy sheriffs returned to Robbers Roost where they found two more of the bandit ring in hiding.

The two men jumped out of a window into the river. They swam back to shore and were captured just as two others drove up in a car. The men were Bernard Malley, Leo Corbett, Elza Meade and Tim Murray. Meade and Corbett were in the car and Corbett drew a gun and killed Ecorse patrolman-fireman Benjamin Montie. Chief of Police Jaeger drew his gun and killed Corbett.

During the scuffle, Meade drove away in the car and a statewide hunt failed to find him. Later he was arrested in Arizona and sentenced to 20-40 years in Marquette prison. As the bank robbers attempted to get away, they threw the \$17,000 all over the streets and waterfront. Finders did not return their spoils.

Benjamin Montie is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery along with his wife Cora.

After Milton’s father, Benjamin, was killed in a shoot-out with bank robbers at Robber’s Roost on the Ecorse waterfront in 1924, his mother raised him with the help of her father, Frances X. Thibeault and her sister, Ida Thibeault, along with the friendly support of Chief Albert Jaeger. “Chief Albert Jaeger killed the bank robber that shot my father,” Milton recalled, reciting details down to the names of the robbers.

Milton Montie had the distinction of being the last person to be employed by the Village of Ecorse. He was appointed to the Fire Department on January 19, 1942 and Ecorse officially became a city on January 27, 1942, when the city charter was adopted

A year after he joined the Ecorse Fire Department, Milton enlisted in the Army on March 18, 1943, where he was one of a 37 man detachment that landed in Italy with the infantry. For nearly two years he served as senior officer of a group that extinguished fires at major seaports and

supply depots throughout Italy and North Africa. Milton served in the Army until December 1, 1945, and then returned to his job with the Ecorse Fire Department.

During the next decade, Milton moved up the ranks in the Ecorse Fire Department. He became sergeant in April 1950; lieutenant in May 1957; acting assistant chief in February 1964 and assistant chief in April 1964. On September 3, 1974, he became fire chief. In 1966 Milton received the distinguished service award for civic services from the Ecorse Kiwanis Club. He could usually be called upon to head up functions and civic activities, including serving as team coordinator on the Ecorse Rowing Club. In July 1977, he was chairman of the successful Ecorse Water Festival.

In 1977, Milton decided to retire, since the Ecorse Fire Department required firemen to retire at 60 and his 60th birthday was on September 3, 1977. "I was thinking about retiring July 11, then decided against it. I decided to hand in my resignation today," he said in the third week of July 1977.

The day of Milton's retirement, Roosevelt (Rudy) Lackey, an Ecorse Police and Fire Commissioner, reminisced with the chief in his office. Lackey said, "He will be missed by many. I hope we can fill the position with a man in his footsteps."

Milton Montie is buried in Pioneer Cemetery, Crawford County, Michigan.

The Montie Brothers Help Grow the Ecorse Boat Club



Pictured are the original members of the Wah-Wah-Tah Shee Boat Club, the forerunner of the Ecorse Boat Club, that was organized in the early 1880s. The Montie brothers, who brought fame and glory to Ecorse through their championship performances in both barges and shells, are included in the picture. These men represented Ecorse in the old Northwestern regattas held in the central states and regularly won championships. Front row left to right are William Montie, Joe Sauch, T. Bondie, D. Osbourne, Charles Tank, Charles Montry, Alf Beaubien, Elmer Labadie, Alex Beaubien.

Back row: Frank Montie, George Clark, William Champagne, Frank Salliotte, and Ted Ferguson.

For a number of years the Wah-Wah-Tah-Shees rowed on the Detroit River in an eight oar barge. The Montie brothers-Will, John, Lige and Frank- practiced with and apart from the rest of the Wah-Wah-Tah Shees. They were sawmill workers at the mill of Salliotte and Raupp and they worked twelve hour shifts as raftsmen, riding the Rouge River outside of Detroit. Every day, dressed in their working clothes – red shirts, blue jean overalls and heavy boots-they wrestled logs into the Rouge River, created timber rafts, and shoved and guided them to their destinations up and downstream. They floated logs to the Raupp sawmill on Ecorse Creek. The brothers earned an area-wide reputation for their strength, endurance and love of French songs and French partying. They were so widely respected for their skill that the members of the Ecorse Rowing Club implored the Montie brothers to come and row with them permanently. Such founding members of the Wah-Wah-Ta Sees as Charles Tank, the Beaubien brothers and Frank Salliotte convinced the Montie brothers that their strength and skill would make the club a winner. The Montie brothers did not know anything about strokes or the science of rowing, but their hands-on rafting experience had helped them develop great stamina. They could row all afternoon without getting out of breath and still sing their French songs, tell stories and celebrate their victories. When General Russel A. Alger presented the Wah-Wah-Ta-Sees with the best shell obtainable, the Montie brothers and other members spent many long afternoons rowing on the Detroit River.

As far back as 1875, the Montie boys began rowing on the Detroit River in a ten oar barge. Winning from all other teams in the neighboring country villages the four brothers rowing in a shell, began to look around for larger game. They raced the Northwestern and National teams at St. Clair in August 1888, and made a mile and a half straight away in 6:32. The Montie team won the Russel House Cup in 1881. The first real race that the Montie Brothers rowed took place at the Aragon Club in New York. They competed in a four oar shell that was extremely popular at the time and they won. Later they acquired a ten oar barge and this is the barge that the Ecorse men used to enter and win the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association race at Bay City in 1880. The winning crew consisted of Will Montie, bow; John Montie; G. Beaubien; G. Sanch; Bob Montie; H. Seavitt; W. McLeod; M. Bourassa; H. Labadie. E.J. Montie pulled oars in the race and W.A. Ferguson served as coxswain.

From this crew the Montie brothers organized the legendary four oar crew that went on in later years to defeat all competition. In 1882, the Wah-Wah-Tah-See Club entered the six oar barge race held in connection with the Northwestern Regatta and they won this race also. The winning crew included Phillip LeBlanc; G. Reach; Louis Seavitt; M. Bourassa with Ted Ferguson as coxswain. They covered the two mile course in the extraordinary time of 13 minutes, 57 ½ seconds.

Also in 1882, the Montie's Wah-Wah-Tah-Sees teammates Charles Tank, Frank Seavitt, Lou Champaign and Elmer Labadie organized a crew and from 1882 until 1887, they rowed and won several races. Other Ecorse men who rowed during these years and established records for the Ecorse Club included Theodore Bondie, Alfred Beaubien, Charles Sesyer, Bill McGullen, Bill Clement, George Clark, Alex Beaubien, Henry Lange, Gus Gramer, at times keeper of the Mamajuda and Grassy Island lights, and Mark Bourassa. These men rowed in fours barges and entered both junior and senior races.

In 1884, the Montie brothers rowed in the Regatta against such experts as the Excelsiors and the Minnesotas. After being beaten the first day of the Regatta when a broken rudder made their boat unmanageable, they came back on the second day to win the Regatta with a time of six minutes and 57 5/8 seconds for a one and one-half mile straightway course, nearly one minute faster than the record.

The Hillsdale Club having won all the championships of the East had come to London and cities of the old world where they took first prize in all races. When they returned to the United States they were challenged by the Montie Four. The next year on July 29, 1885, the Monties pitted their rowing skills against the Hillsdales in the Belle Isle Regatta. The Hillsdales had just won the Canadian Henley Regatta held at St. Catharines, Ontario, and crowds cheered them all along the Detroit River. The Wah-Wha-Ta-Sees nominated the Montie brothers to row against the retuning champions. The three contenders lined up at the starting line-the Montie brothers, the Hillsdales and the Centennials. The starting gun retorted and the Monties shot their Alger shell ahead of the Hillsdales, leaving them trailing ten feet.

At the turn in the course, the Montie brothers were two lengths ahead and rowing at the unprecedented stroke of sixty to the minute. The endurance of the Frenchmen enabled them to hold that phenomenal stroke to the end of the race. They finished four lengths ahead of the

Hillsdales and nearly a half mile ahead of the Centennials. Lige Montie summarized the race in his own words when he exclaimed that he and his brothers ha “beat de Hillsdales dat was just back from Hingland.”

One person on shore had no doubts about the One person on shore was certain as fog on the Ecorse, Rouge and Detroit Rivers about the outcome of the race. Old Alec Cicotte, John’s father-in-law (John married Eliza Cicotte and raised a family of three sons and two daughters) who had almost reared the boys from babyhood knew how strong and skillful they were. The story, probably embellished from telling and retelling but containing a kernel of truth, has it that when the Montie brothers won, old Alec sang and danced on the shore of the Ecorse River until he dropped from exhaustion.

On the day after the race, the four Monties were back on the Rouge River, wearing their blue-jean overalls and attending to their logging. On Sundays they would sit around old Alec Cicotte’s place near the Rouge River, wearing their Sunday clothes, their coats covered with medals. They won many other races, but they enjoyed talking about the one where they beat the Henley champions who had just returned from “Hingland” the most.

The Montie brothers traveled all over the United States and out of 33 races, lost only twice.

John Baptiste Montie, 57, worked as a blacksmith. He and his wife Axie, 56, had a large family. According to the 1880 census they had five sons and a daughter. Elijah, 27, William 23, John, 21, and Francis J. 19, and Albert, 15. Emma was 17. The Montie sons were pioneers in the Ecorse Boat Club. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Gustav Raupp

Gustav August Raupp was born on August 2, 1847 in Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany. His father Matthias and his mother Celina Ellen Piette Raupp, came with his family to America in 1851, and settled at Brooklyn, New York, where his wife died in 1870, leaving four children, William, Mathias, Gustave, and Herman. William enlisted Co. H, 6th Michigan Infantry, reenlisted and died in Fort Donaldson in 1864. Gustave married Selina Peyette in 1884. They had two children. He held the office of town treasurer one term and supervisor, two terms. In 1877 he established the business firm of Salliotte & Raupp, lumber dealers and manufacturers of stave and hoops. Salliotte & Raupp did an extensive shipping business, employing some 100 to 150 persons.

Many of the older houses in Ecorse, Wyandotte and the rest of the Downriver area feature huge timbers and intricate wood floors that would cost thousands of modern dollars to duplicate. The wood for these century-plus old houses came from Michigan’s north woods where husky lumberjacks felled virgin white pine trees and floated the logs down streams and rivers to the

Detroit River and up Ecorse Creek to the Salliotte& Raupp saw mill.

Ecorse historian Al DuHadway wrote a column about the Salliotte&Raupp mill for the Mellus Newspapers in the 1970s. He said that Oliver Raupp, one of Gustave's sons lived in Wyandotte and showed him four photographs that an obscure, talented photographer who called himself W.J. Watson had taken in the 1880s. Using the cumbersome camera and glass negatives of the time to make pictures of the mill operation, Watson produced clear images of a long forgotten Ecorse industry.



Alexis M. Salliotte and Gustave Raupp joined forces in the 1880s to run the Salliotte& Raupp mill at a profit. The mill was strategically located on the banks of Ecorse Creek. From after the Civil War until about the 1880s, Michigan enjoyed a timber boom, supplying almost all of the lumber used in the United States.

After lumberjacks cut down the trees, they were loaded on huge log rafts that were towed down Lake Huron from Alpena and Bay City into the Detroit River and up Ecorse Creek to Salliotte&Raupp's saw mill. Men worked the saws continuously to fashion the pine logs into finished lumber. This gigantic lumber production resulted in equally gigantic piles of sawdust and wood shavings along the banks of Ecorse Creek. DuHadway talked to veteran employees of the Evans Motor Sales Auto Dealership that occupied a sales room on Jefferson. They recalled that the Dealership had been built over mounds of sawdust from the mill.

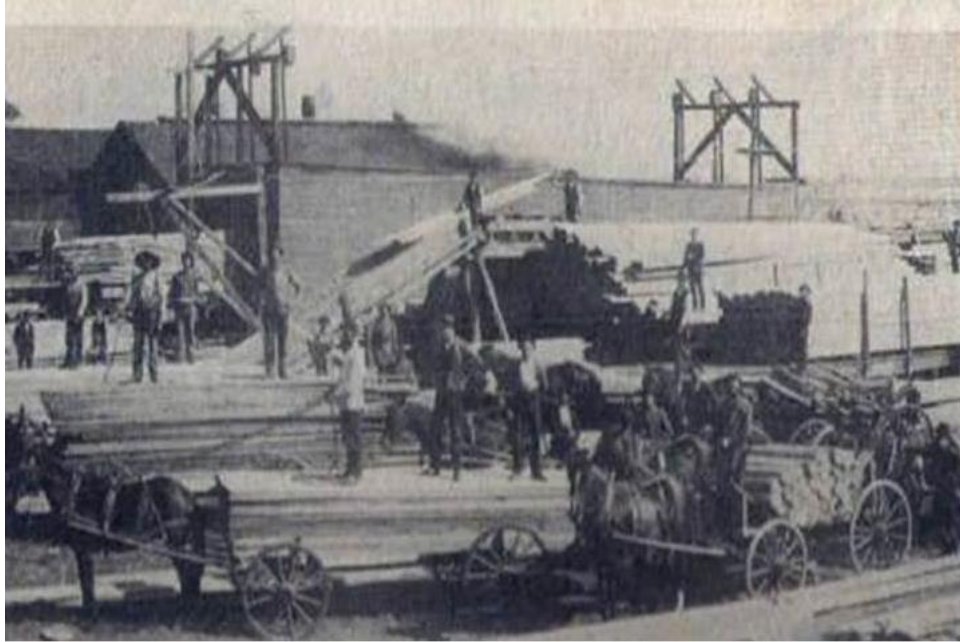
After the lumber was sawed and smoothed into logs, it was loaded onto boats and shipped to

Detroit. In Detroit the lumber was loaded onto railroad freight cars and sent to communities all across the country. If the timber was consigned to local communities, it was loaded into wagons pulled by teams of horses and oxen and hauled out onto the Mill road into present day Lincoln Park, Southgate, Allen Park and Taylor to be used in constructing homes and businesses.

In his column DuHadway said that the old Mill Road came to be called Mill Street because of these lumber days and not because of the Michigan Steel Corporation which wasn't built on Mill Street until 1924.

Gustave Raupp was not a wealthy man when he emigrated to Ecorse from Germany, but he was far-sighted and ambitious enough to establish a sawmill on the banks of Ecorse Creek during the Michigan timber boom. He was also astute enough to enter a partnership with Alexis M. Salliotte. In today's dollars Alexis Salliotte would be a millionaire and by 1870's standards he was a wealthy man. He owned extensive timber stands near Ashley, Michigan and took full capitalistic advantage of the lumber boom. When the boom ended in the late 1880s, Salliotte and Raupp dissolved their partnership, but Gustave Raupp continued to operate the mill. After he died in 1923 his sons ran the business for several years. Then in 1929, a spectacular fire that burned out of control for nearly 24 hours destroyed the mill.

Besides the houses that their timber built, street names in Ecorse and Lincoln Park are visible survivors of Salliotte and Raupp's legacy. For many years the home of Alexis Salliotte with its round-towered rooms, cupola, and Victorian gingerbread stood as an Ecorse landmark on the corner of Southfield and High Streets, but it was torn down in the 1970s and replaced with an apartment complex. Two Ecorse streets – Alexis and Salliotte-were named in memory of Alexis Salliotte, who also served as the first village president of Ecorse when it was incorporated in 1902. There is a Raupp Street in Lincoln Park and Gustave Raupp is also remembered as a founding member of the Ecorse Boat Club. Mill Street which runs through Ecorse, crosses River Drive and continues into Lincoln Park is a reminder of the days when horses pulling heavy wagon loads of wood for houses plodded down its length to new home and business sites.



Michael P. Roulo

Michael P. Roulo was born January 12, 1847. He married Annie Peltier in 1869. When he died on February 17, 1905, his obituary read:

Michale P. Roulo of Ecorse Died Yesterday. He filled Many Public offices.

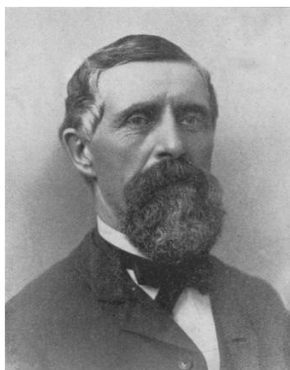
Michael P. Roulo, 57 years old, a well-known resident of Ecorse died at his home early yesterday morning after a lingering illness of about a year. An autopsy performed at his request, revealed that death was due to kidney and liver trouble. Mr. Roulo formerly conducted a livery business at the corner of Woodward and Selden Avenues in Detroit, but was forced to give it up several years ago on account of failing health. He then took up his residence in Ecorse where he was prominent in Democratic circles and he held every office in the Township. He served two terms as Registrar of Deeds in Wayne County.

He leaves besides his mother who is over 80 years old, three daughters , Mrs. Mary Chevalier of Detroit; Mrs. Walter Perry of Wyandotte; and Grace who resides at home. He leaves one son, Stanley, of Ecorse.



His funeral took place at St. Francis Xavier Church of Ecorse and he is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, Ecorse.

Alexis M. Salliotte



Alexis M. Salliotte was born in Ecorse Township in 1837. His father, Moses Salliotte, was born at Ecorse in 1806. His mother Charlotte Cook Salliotte was born at Yorkshire, England. They had seven children. The grandparents settled at Ecorse in 1800. Alexis married May Rousson in 1867, who was born at Ecorse. They had nine children. Mr. Salliotte, in 1845, kept a grocery

and general supply store. In 1859, he manufactured boots and shoes. In 1877 he became a member of the firm of Salliotte & Raupp, engaging in lumbering and the manufacture of staves. In 1879 the mill was destroyed by fire, and a new steam saw and planing mill was erected with capacity of 50,000 feet in ten hours. They also had mills at Ashley and Lansing, Michigan, and were extensive shippers of pine lumber. Mr. Salliotte served as town treasurer one term, town clerk two terms and postmaster 16 years.

Joseph Salliotte

Joseph Salliotte, merchant and proprietor of the Ecorse flour mills, was born in 1840. He was the son of Moses and Charlotte Cook Salliotte. His mother died in 1856; his mother was born at Yorkshire, England. Joseph's grandparents settled at Ecorse in 1800. His grandfather died in 1816, his widow in 1862. Joseph married Mary Moran, in 1862, who was born in Ireland. They had five children. He engaged in the butchering business in 1862, and in 1882 opened a general grocery and supply store. In 1884 he built his steam flour mill, roller process and was also engaged in farming. He served as the Justice of the Peace for eight years.

Ellis "Duke Underill- the Good Will Ambassador of Ecorse



Ellis “Duke” Underill loved life and its many activities, but above all he loved Ecorse. When he died on Sunday, July 15, 1973, at age 81, his family honored his last request and buried him in tiny Ecorse Cemetery, owned by St. Francis Xavier Church.

Duke founded Underill Associates in the early 1920s, was a former official of the village and township of Ecorse and through the years served as the official Goodwill Ambassador of Ecorse, an honor conferred by the mayor and city council.

Active in many organizations, he was a charter member and past president of the Ecorse Kiwanis Club, member of the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club, Ecorse Rowing Club, American Legion, Marine Corps League, Zion Lodge One, F. and A.A. Detroit Consistory Mosel Temple, Downriver Shrine Club. As a charter member of the Ecorse Kiwanis Club, Duke was one of its organizers in 1927.

For more than two decades he was known for his hunting and fishing explorations and appeared on the George Perriot and Mort Neff television shows to describe his world travels.

He was often described as the most avid fisherman in Ecorse, who would travel to the ends of the world to fish for fighting trout. He and fifteen fellow fishermen went to the Bear Lakes area of the Arctic Circle in Canada’s Northwest Territories in 1963 to hunt and fish and he and Mort Neff went fishing in Chile. Trophies from his hunting and fishing expeditions decorate the walls of Underill Associates.

In 1939, after four terms as treasurer of the township and two years as treasurer of Ecorse village, Duke retired. He said at the time of his retirement from public office, “I am retiring from public

office but not from public life. Ecorse and Ecorse Township will always remain for me a mighty fine place to live and work.”

Duke was born in Syracuse, New York on July 10, 1892, and came to Ecorse as a boy. He served with the Marine Corps during World War I. After the War, he returned to Ecorse and worked in the real estate and insurance fields. Around 1920, he founded Underill Associates and operated it until his retirement in 1968. From that office over the years, Duke and his associates handled the insurance needs of banks, corporations, municipalities, and school districts. When he retired, he sold his business to his brother-in-law and longtime associate Frank Butler, but continued to visit the office.

Mayor William W. Voisine first gave Duke the title of Goodwill Ambassador for the city of Ecorse and he held that title until he died. Many times as he appeared on television to talk about his hunting and fishing experiences, he would also boast about Ecorse, calling it “the greatest little city in the world.”

Before he died Duke requested that he be buried in Ecorse Cemetery. His family granted his request. His tombstone reads: “Gone Fishing.”

Silent Story Tellers- St. Francis Xavier (Ecorse) Cemetery
By Kathy Covert Warnes



St. Francis Xavier Cemetery is a prime example of a cemetery that began its life far out in the country, but after years of Ecorse village and city growth, people and houses eventually surrounded it. Today it is a square of grass and grave markers in the middle of rows of houses and between two busy city arteries, Jefferson Avenue and Southfield Road.

Father Gabriel Richard founded St. Francis Xavier parish as a mission of Saint Anne's Church in Detroit for the early Catholics of the Downriver area. The only Catholic priest in Michigan Territory from 1806 to 1821, Father Richard pastored about 500 families spread out along the eastern shores of the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and Lake Huron from Ecorse to Port Huron.

When he was not saying Mass and fighting sin, Father Richard explored Wayne County. In fact, he was one of the earliest explorers of Wayne County. On January 15, 1818, Wayne County was platted and by 1826, Governor Louis Cass had divided it into townships. In 1827, Detroit, Springwells, Hamtramck, Monguagon, Brownstown, Plymouth, Huron, Bucklin and Ecorse Townships were created. For generations, the French and Native Americans had called a small river flowing into the Detroit River, Ecorces, after the white birch and other bark of the trees along its banks. Ecorces means river of bark and soon the township and the small village adjoining the creek were called Ecorse. Another part of the Ecorces story says that the Huron Indians wrapped the bodies of their dead in white birch bark and set them adrift toward paradise

in their bark canoes.

As one of Detroit's early historians, Clarence Burton noted in his *The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922*, that the first settlers in Ecorse Township were French. For many years before the first white settlers came to Ecorse and Wyandotte Indian villages occupied the banks of Ecorse Creek. Important Indian trails intersected where Ecorse Creek meets the Detroit River and they led from the village of Ecorse in various directions. Indian tribes, including Huron and Ojibway, held councils on the banks of Ecorse Creek. Pontiac called several Indian tribes together near Ecorse Creek in the spring of 1763 to plan his war against the white man, and the echoes of war drums from this council reverberated far beyond the small village and township of Ecorse.

Michigan histories state that Ecorse was established on a Wyandot (earlier called Huron by the French) Indian camping site and burl ground at the end of the War of 1812, but Father Richard's records indicated that Ecorse began nearer to Cadillac's founding of Detroit in 1701.

Clarence Burton compiled a list of men who came to Detroit with Cadillac and rented land from him. Cadillac's rental land included tracts extending as far as fifteen miles down river as well as within the city limits. This range included the present day Downriver communities of Ecorse, Wyandotte, and Trenton. Historian Burton titled his list "Detroit's Original Colonists." Number eighteen on the list is Michel Campo (Campau) who rented land from Cadillac on March 10, 1707, for five livres (worth about twenty cents) and six sols and paid ten livres for other rights. Number sixty on the list is Jacques Campo, who on March 1, 1709, rented land from Cadillac at four sols and paid ten livres for other rights. The Campau name occurred frequently in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Number 22 on the list is Francois Bienvenue, dit De L'isle, who on March 10, 1707, rented land for three livres and paid ten livres for other rights. Burton noted that "many descendants of De L'isle still live in and around Detroit and that they generally go by the name of Delisle."

A walk through St. Francis Xavier cemetery reveals that the Delisle family has a military representative there. Oliver Delisle's stone says that he was a member of Company C, but the rest of the information is buried in the ground. The historical record shows that Oliver Delisle, age 36, was a member of the First Michigan Cavalry from Monguagon – Ecorse-Trenton.

Number 38 on Cadillac's list is Martin Srier, who on March 10, 1797, paid three livres rent and ten livres for other rights. Nicholas Rivard afterwards bought his parcel of land from Srier. The Rivard family is represented in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery as well. Angelique Rivard died in 1968 at 81 years of age. Louise Rivard, mother, was born in 1873 and died in 1956 and Paul Rivard, father, was born in 1872 and died in 1935.

The history of St. Anne's Parish in Detroit emphasized the intermingled American-Canadian nature of the settlements along the Detroit River. The settlers arriving after 1749 "were granted strips of land along both sides of the strait. There was no distinction then between the Canadian and American sides of "Le Detroit."

In a 1749 Proclamation, Governor Galissonniers of New France referred to the Canadian side as

the south side and the American side as the north and the literature of the period reflects this distinction. Soon, Detroit began to resemble an agricultural community. The land grant terms and settlement prefigured the Homestead Act of the Civil War era in America by a century and was mostly responsible for the rise of Detroit's population to about 500 by 1755.

By the mid- 1770s, some 400 mostly French families lived on "French ribbon farms" extending Downriver to Ecorse and beyond. The farms were called ribbon farms because everyone's land started at the Detroit River and extended back so that each farmer could take advantage of the water frontage. Ribbon farms also provided land owners mutual protection for the Indians and their raiding parties. When Father Richard took his census in 1808 and again in 1832, Ecorse was a thriving farm village. French descendants of Cadillac's company lost their control of the fur trade, but these families – including the Labadies, Campaus, Rosseaus, Bondies, Goodells and Riopelles- remained the chief landlords and founding families of Ecorse.

French Land Claims in Ecorse

The French land claims of Wayne County illustrate that many French and a few other ethnic pioneers were settling in Ecorse several years before the War of 1812. Andre Visger filed Claim 121 of 250.82 acres on June 8, 1808 in Ecorse. Arthur Visger, possibly his grandson, who was born in 1891 and died in 1943, is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Louis Leduc filed Claim 496 for 221.72 acres in Ecorse in 1808. His descendent Anna, Aurelia and Jacob repose in St. Francis Cemetery.

Charles Labadie filed Claim 25 for 197.80 acres on July 16, 1807 in Ecorse.

On November 26, 1807, Ambrose Riopel filed Claim 61 for 430.26 acres of land in Ecorse.

On December 26, 1807, Marianne Delille filed claim 74 for 106.67 acres of Ecorse land.

Charles Campeau filed claim 84 for 169.44 acres of Ecorse land on December 30, 1807.

The heirs of Joseph Bondi filed Claim 92 for 68.33 acres of Ecorse land on January 29, 1808.

All of these families are represented in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Father Richard's pioneer worshippers at St. Francis Xavier met in the home of the Leblanc family which was located between what is now Leblanc and White Streets on present day Jefferson Avenue in Ecorse. Father Charles DePreitre, the first resident pastor, was a nephew of Bishop Lefevere who had come to Detroit as a seminarian and was ordained there on May 31, 1848. Father DePreitre served as pastor of St. Francis Xavier until 1870, and also acted as a mission priest of parishes in Wyandotte and Trenton in Wayne County and Newport in Monroe County. Father Louis Baroux became St. Francis Xavier pastor in 1871 and remained there until 1882.

Father Richard had the last ecclesiastical laugh on one of the French families represented in St.

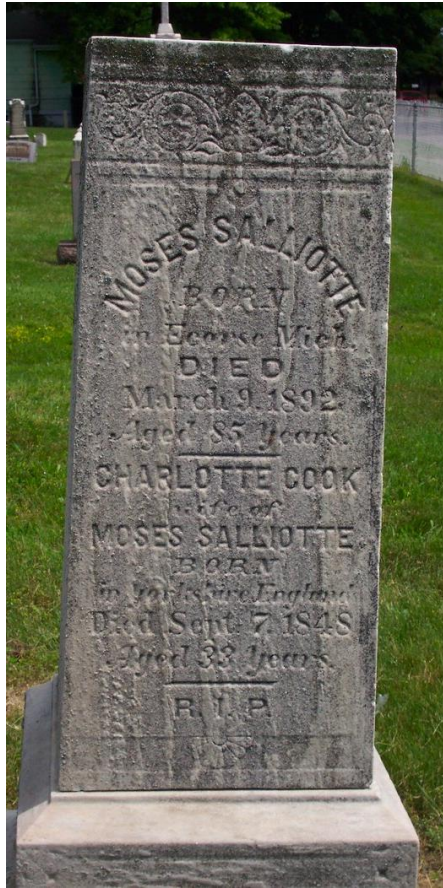
Francis Xavier Cemetery. On December 8, 1820, during the presidency of James Monroe, Father Richard took his seat as the delegate from Michigan to the Eighteenth Congress. He was the first priest ever elected to Congress, but that distinction did not prevent him from becoming embroiled in a complex court case when he returned to Detroit.

The suit involve one of his parishioners, Francois LaBadie, who had divorced his first wife living in Montreal and remarried. Father Richard considered this second marriage adulterous. With the blessing of his bishop, Father Richard excommunicated Francois LaBadie. LaBadie sued and the court decided against Father Richard who was fined 1,116. Father Richard refused to pay and a long series of legal entanglements continued for years, ending only when Father Richard died.

Although Father Richard is not buried in the churchyard of his mission church, the descendants of Francois Labadie repose there. The Labadie family is one of the founding families of Ecorse and Charles, Henry, John, Alexander, Elizabeth, Florence and Michael are just a few of the Labadies in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

Louis Bourassa filed Claim #83 for 68.88 acres of land in Ecorse on December 30, 1807. At least fifteen of his descendants are buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Baptiste Rousson filed claim #85 for 70.68 acres in Ecorse on December 30, 1807. His descendants Clarence, Simon, Simon W. and Velera are buried in St. Francis Xavier. Angelique Cicot and children filed claim #114 for 385.82 acres in Ecorse on May 26, 1808. At least thirteen of her family rest in the cemetery.

The first St. Francis Xavier Church, the one originating the pioneer cemetery, was built on High Street in 1882. Father John Van Gennip served as a pioneer pastor and the parish record states that on May 20, 1882, Reverend J.T. Van Gennip blessed a cemetery known as Ecorse Cemetery, with a potter's field in the northeast corner.



Even though the cemetery wasn't blessed until 1882, church records indicated that the first burial in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery took place in 1848, when Charlotte Cook, wife of Moses Salliotte, was laid to rest on September 7, 1848. Only 33 years old when she died, Charlotte was born in Yorkshire, England. Moses Salliotte also rests nearby. His epitaph reveals that he died on March 9, 1892, at age 85 years. He was born in Ecorse, Michigan, and was one of the earliest settlers in the territory.

Father Van Gennip's tombstone can be found in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. His stone reveals that he was born on July 2, 1818, and he died on September 9, 1889. It is noted on his tombstone that he was pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church. He was born in Heeze, Holland, on July 2, 1818, and he died in Ecorse on September 3, 1889.

The Bondie or Bondy name is also prominent in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Antoine Bondie and a host of other Bondy names appear on weathered markers. According to the historical record, Teresa Saliot Bondy should be there, but her marker has not survived. Perhaps weather or vandalism have shattered or buried the traces of her tombstone. Teresa Saliot was the daughter of John Saliot and Mary Magdelene Jourdain. She was born on September 9, 1782, and she married Dennis Bondie who was born on January 26, 1779, in Sandwich, Ontario.

Teresa was buried on February 9, 1858, at St. Francis Xavier Cemetery in Ecorse. Teresa's sons and daughters married into the Navarre and Leblanc families who are also well represented in St.

Francis Xavier Cemetery.

The Campau family might have originated in LaRochelle, France, before early Campaus immigrated to Canada and then to Detroit. A June 1750, document describes Jacques Campau Senior as “a habitant living at Detroit.” The History of Wayne County states that Jacques’ children were “respectable citizens, honest and industrious people who left good names behind them when they died.”

Nicholas Campau was born to Jacques and Cecilia at the Niagara portage in July 1710. He became known as Nicholas Campau dit Niagara, because he was born at Niagara. Nicholas Niagara took charge of the Jesuit Mission’s farm on September 1, 1748, agreeing to share all produce with the mission fathers. In exchange, the mission furnished the seed, livestock and 150 livres to build a house and stable.

On July 11, 1751, Father de la Richardie wrote that “Nicholas Campeau, otherwise called Nigara, shall at the end of his lease return the seed which Father de la Richardie and he have agreed upon consisting of 15 minots of wheat, 6 of oats, and 5 of pease, less a quarter of a livre. The whole is to be taken from the share of the said Niagara.”

In September of 1751, a man by the name of Mr. James took over the mission farm, but the mission farm was not the only land that Niagara owned. On May 28, 1759, his widow, Agathe, as her children’s guardian, sought permission to sell land from Nicholas’ estate. His daughter Angelica Campau married Anthony Louis Decomps dit Labadie. After Angelica died, Anthony took a Chippewa consort, and later married Charlotte Barthe Reaume. From these relationships Anthony fathered 23 children.

The Campau plot in St. Francis Xavier is well populated. Louis Campau, 80 years old, died in July 1850 in Ecorse Township of old age. One of his descendants, another Louis, born in 1867 and died in 1939, rests in St. Francis Xavier. Ades was the wife of Alexander and came to the cemetery in 1923.

Alexander Campau, born on September 7, 1843, lived to a respectable age. He died on August 24, 1940. Archibald Campau died on October 26, 1897, at the age of 89 years. Bettie Campau was only a year old when she died on March 10, 1924, being born on October 6, 1923. Francis Campau is one of the older generation. Her stone is broken off, but it records her death date as October 8, 1859.

The Reaume branch of the Campau family tree is also represented in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Arthur and Sarah Reaume as well as Nellis, Elroy and Adeline Campau repose there.

The date disparity between the first burial in St. Francis Xavier-Charlotte Salliotte in 1848- and Father Can Gennip’s blessing of St. Francis in 1882- indicated that Saint Francis Xavier was growing along with Ecorse. Although St. Francis Xavier Cemetery had been established primarily as a church burial ground, if a family owned a plot in St. Francis, the family could permit anyone to be buried there even if they lived out of the parish. This paved the way for as diverse a cemetery population as existed in the living population of the village of Ecorse.

Multi-Cultural Population

The families of St. Francis Xavier and of Ecorse at large did not escape the reality of the Civil War and these families are also well represented in the cemetery. Louis L. Beaubien does not have a Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) marker on his grave, but he belonged to the 24th Michigan Infantry, Company F. His wife, Rachel A., 20 years younger, is buried beside him.

Elijah Goodell, son of another of the founding families of Ecorse is also a Civil War veteran. He is buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery and so is Frank Metty of Co. D., 11th Michigan Infantry. Pascal Odette was 24 years old when he joined Co. H of the 14th Michigan Infantry and Antoine Salliotte also fought with Company H of the 14th Michigan. Anthony Reno served with Co. F of the 24th Michigan Infantry.

After the Civil War as America bustled toward the Twentieth Century, the population of St. Francis Xavier Cemetery reflected the ethnic diversity of the village. French, English, Polish, Scottish and other immigrants replaced the simple wooden crosses of the church graveyard with more substantial brick and marble markers and family plots as their footholds in America grew firmer.

The ethnic mix of Ecorse changed from mostly French families with a sprinkling of Irish and English to a potpourri of European flavorings with a foundation of French families. This change is evident in the family plots of Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery with late Nineteenth Century dates. A sampling of the names include George and Elizabeth Babik and family, Albert and Mary Antaya, Mary Bogswacz, John and Catherine Carmody, Flitzpatricks, Flanagans, Adam and Eva Karmet, Benjamin and Cora Sutherland, Josef Wurmlinger, Catherine Wuk and Joserian Zolynska.

French and other ethnic families still came to decorate graves and to pay yearly pilgrimages to the memories of their ancestors. As they picnicked on benches, lounged on blankets spread of the carpet of green grass and soaked up sunshine, visitors in 1881 may have gossiped about A.E. Riopelle and Mrs. Lambton. Riopell's wife and children and their families rest under cemetery monuments, but A.E., suitably perhaps, does not.

Around November 12, 1880, A.E., who operated a grocery business in Ecorse until a fire burned him out, disappeared into the wilds of Detroit. Local newspapers reported that people from Wyandotte and Ecorse spotted him, but he did not come back home to his wife and three children. A woman by the name of Lambton also left town and did not return, and rumors circulated around town that the two had run away together.

Mrs. Riopelle and her children moved from Wyandotte to her father's house on a farm about three miles from Ecorse. The newspaper concluded the story by saying: "For the sake of decency and good morals as well as the good name of both parties, we hope there is not truth in the report, but it is a rumor nevertheless which circumstances at present seem to corroborate."

On November 19, 1880, the local newspaper noted that Mr. Richard Montie had taken in a good

many borders since keeping the Eight-Mile House – eleven last week. Richard A. Montie was born on February 6, 1855, and was about 25 years old when the newspaper recorded his boarders and the fact that he operated an inn. He had many years of inn keeping ahead of him because he didn't die until July 4, 1946. Richard C. Montie, his son, born in 1881, died in 1927, nineteen years before his father died. Richard's mother, Eliza, was born on Christmas Day 1857, and died on February 9, 1931, according to their St. Francis Xavier tombstones.

The 1870 Census Index of the Library of Michigan shows that Emanuel or Edmund Visger, a fifty year old farmer, lived in Ecorse Township. Living with him were 24-year-old Philisa, keeping house, Charles 11, and Henry 9, at school. Another Visger, Jame, 44, is listed as a farm laborer. Just to confuse matters, it appears that he has a forty-year-old wife, Philis, keeping house, and several children, including sixteen year old Caroline. The St. Francis Xavier Cemetery records a Phillis Visger, who died on October 25, 1864, at age thirty-three years.

St. Francis Xavier Cemetery is the final resting place of several veterans of World War I and World War II. Joseph P. Airola, who was born in 1895 and died in 1955, served as a private first class in Company L of the 333th Infantry in World War I. Arnim Allen was a sergeant in the Trench Mortar Battery of the 5th Division, and Daniel M. Roberts was a private first class in Co L of the 39th infantry. Peter Joseph Sehoyan was a corporal in Hq Det. 12 Eng. in World War I.

Second World War veterans include George J. Babik who served in the Army, Walter Holzhueter who served in the Navy, and Alvin M. Labadie who was a saddler in Troop F of the 16th Cavalry. Kenneth Sisco was a TECS 1623 Service Unit in World War II and Mathew John Sillane died on February 26, 1941, when he was a private in the 308 Am. Tn. 83rd Div.

Dates on a few other stones indicate that the men buried there could have died in Vietnam and Korea, but there are no flags or markers to affirm this, and there are no records to check for accuracy. In the 1970s, St. Francis Xavier Church decided to turn over the maintenance of the cemetery to the City of Ecorse and also surrendered the cemetery records. In the 1980s, during a time of severe financial problems, the city stored records in the basement of the municipal building and they were destroyed in a flood. The lost records did leave the statistical legacy that there are approximately 2,500 burials in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, but when Leonard Montie read and transcribed the surviving stones in 1979, only 600 remained.

St. Francis Stories

Jo Santoro Cialkowski grew up in Ecorse and graduated from Ecorse High School in 1936. She also grew up in St. Francis Xavier Church and recalled Memorial Days in Ecorse. "We children were given flags to place on the servicemen's graves in the ancient St. Francis Xavier Cemetery," she recalled. She remembered the long walk of twelve blocks from her home to the church and the long walk from the church to the cemetery.

Checking the newspaper file of the Ecorse Advertiser in the Ecorse Public Library is a fascinating, although painstaking way of discovering the dates and stories of some of the people in Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery. The Ecorse Advertiser of Thursday, October 5, 1950, carried the obituary of Eliza J. Riopelle, widow of Charles Riopelle. They both rest in St. Francis Xavier

Cemetery. Eliza died at her home on Jefferson Avenue at the age of 88 and funeral services were held at her home. Although she was born in River Rouge, she had lived in Ecorse for over sixty years.

Eliza had not been well for a number of years and ill-health prevented her from attending the funeral of her son, Frank, in July 1950. She also outlived another son, Joseph, and a daughter May LeBlanc. Frank and May are also buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

The gravestones of Arthur, Elsie, and Michael Flanagan pose some puzzles. Michael or “Mickey” Flanagan was born in 1920 and died in 1942, when he was twenty-two years old. It is possible that he died in World War II, but since there isn’t a flag on his tombstone, there is no way to tell that for certain without tracing him through military records. Arthur J. Flanagan was born in 1913 and died in 1950. An obituary in the Ecorse Advertiser noted that Arthur Joseph Flanagan (spelled with an i instead of an a) 36, of White Street in Ecorse, died on June 8, 1950, in Spokane, Washington, where he had gone a month before for his health. He was an inspector at the Murray Corporation.

His funeral services were held from the Gallagher Funeral Home and St. Francis Xavier Church and he was buried in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery.

His wife, Elizabeth, survived him as did three sons, Arthur, David, and Michael and two daughters Ceclia Ann and Patricia. Four brothers: Paul, Victor, Cletus and Patrick, and three sisters out lived him as well. Arthur was the son of William Paul Flanagan who is also buried in the family plot.

The same issue of the Ecorse Advertiser sheds some light on the legacy of an Ecorse citizen whose parents Clariss and Nelson Vellmure are buried in St. Francis Xavier. Ecorse became an incorporated village in 1903, and in 1914, Fred Vellmure was elected to the Ecorse School Board. For thirty six consecutive years until he retired in June 1950, he played a central role in the development of the Ecorse school system.

When Fred Vellmure was elected in 1914, Ecorse had a single school building which in 1950 was known as School Humber One. During his long tenure in office, he witnessed the construction of four additional school buildings and an extension of school facilities which brought the Ecorse school system to a high standard.

The Ecorse Advertiser said of him: “His wise counsel, his keen interest in education and his ambition to provide Ecorse children with the best possible educational opportunities have had a profound effect on the community.”

Always keeping the expanding needs of the Ecorse school system in mind, Fred prepared to meet any of these needs. He believed in economy, but not at the expense of education. The Ecorse Advertiser concluded: “His presence and advice on the school board will be greatly missed. Probably never again will a man in Ecorse serve longer than Mr. Vellmure. Few will surpass his love of achievement. No one will ever gain greater respect. His was a job well done.”

Father Gabriel Richard's Legacy

The descendants of Francois Labadie who had won the court case against Father Gabriel Richard, represented the Labadie family in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery throughout the Nineteenth and into the Twentieth Centuries. A Twentieth Century Francis Labadie served on the Ecorse City Council the 1950s. One night in June 1950, he proposed a smoke abatement ordinance to correct a situation in the north end of the city. Labadie as chairman of the Ordinance committee conferred with City Attorney Earl Montie in preparing an ordinance. The Ecorse Advertiser said that a uniform smoke abatement ordinance for the entire metropolitan area had been under advisement for a long time. Labadie felt that the time had come to take some action and true to his family tradition, he acted for the betterment of Ecorse.

Both Harry and Richard Labeau have Woodman of the World Memorials in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. These monuments alert historians to the fact that these relatives, perhaps brothers, were members of this Fraternal Organization and were buried in the prescribed Woodman tradition. Harry C. Labeau was born in 1883 and died on October 28, 1916. The Woodman markers are distinctively engraved and set apart from the markers of the rest of the Labeaus in their plot.

The LaClair monument in a nearby square of plots has lambs and hearts carved on the tombstone. These illustrate the point that tombstone art for children is especially poignant. Frank J. LaClair was born in 1879 and died on October 28, 1886 at the age of seven. A cherub points to heaven from the front of his grave stone.

Peter LaClair was born in 1881 and died on May 15, 1896 at age fifteen. Walter LaClair was born in 1893 and died on October 28, 1904, when he was just eleven years old. He died on the same day, seven years later, as he brother Frank. On each of their tombstones is etched the message: "Son of Dennis & Ellen LaClair."

The tombstones of Frank, Peter, and Walter do not tell any more details of their lives, but the lambs and the stark dates illustrate the tragedy of their deaths.

The Bufords also have symbols carved on their tombstones. Isaac who was born in 1863 and died on April 2, 1868, at age five, has a praying angel. Felix Buford who was born in 1850, does not have an angel, but he was only eighteen when he died on October 14, 1868. Joseph Buford who does have an angel was only two days old when he died on October 21, 1868. Taday Buford, born in 1845, was just 26 years old when she died.

The cluster of deaths suggests that perhaps Taday died in childbirth, along with her baby. Or perhaps the Bufords died in one of the periodic epidemics of fever or contagious diseases like typhoid or measles. The Mortality Schedule of 1850 deaths in Wayne County shows that 1850 turned out to be a deadly disease year for Ecorse Township. William Allen, 50 years old, born in England but now living in Ecorse Township died in September 1850 of bilious fever. Daniel and Michael Beclair, both born in Canada but living in Ecorse Township, died within a month of each other in 1850. Twenty five year old Daniel died in September 1850 of bilious fever and twenty year old Michael died in August 1850 of cholera. Angel Bourassa, 22 years old, of

Ecorse died in June 1850 of enteritis. The next generations of her family are buried in the Bourassa family plot in St. Francis.

Helena Clark, 37 years old, died in Ecorse Township in March 1850, in childbirth. Later generations of the Clarks are represented in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery, including a five month old anonymous Clark who was the daughter of Henry and Lucy Clark.

In January 1850, Joseph Goodell died in Ecorse Township of whooping cough when he was just three years old. In February 1850, Felix Leblanc died in Ecorse Township of diarrhea. One month old Julia M. Comfort of Ecorse Township died in September 1850 of diarrhea and Francis Delisle, one year old, also died of diarrhea in September 1850. Joseph Mortulan, three years old, died of brain fever in September 1850 in Ecorse Township.

A video memoir called “A Day in Ecorse 1947,” also highlights the St. Francis Xavier families. The Rotary Club of Ecorse produced the video in 1947 as a business promotion and longtime Ecorse residents Andre Mourguet and Morris “Sandy” Blakeman narrated it. Some of the people, places and things captured in the video are Tommy Salliot’s Band, Eberts Bar and Underill Insurance Agency. A glance at the St. Francis Xavier Cemetery Record reveals at least 15 Salliottes and generations of the Eberts family. August and Elizabeth Eberts died in 1938 and 1917, respectively. John Eberts died at age 89 in 1890, and Louise Eberts lived from 1820 to 1901. Mary Eberts lived from 1874 to 1955 and Sarah, the daughter of Joseph and Mary Eberts, died on October 11, 1880.



Ellis “Duke” Underill of Underill Insurance Agency rests in St. Francis Xavier. Duke was born in 1892 and died in 1973. His wife Ferne Underill was born in 1898. For forty years Duke operated an insurance agency in Ecorse. He belonged to the Ecorse Businessman’s Association and contributed heavily to the health and wealth of the community. The “Gone Fishing” inscription on his tombstone testifies to his love of the outdoors and outdoor sports like fishing and hunting.

“A Day in Ecorse, 1947,” preserved a picture of Butch Montroy on film. Montroy was a fireman whose family is well represented in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Jean Maurice, fire chief, stands in the Ecorse fire station and his parents, Celine and Joseph, rest in St. Francis Xavier. Duke Underill is also pictured in the video in one of the natty suits that were his trademark.

Ormel Goodell is also represented in the video. Born in Ecorse in 1897, Ormel was the son of

Sophie and Frederick Goodell and a grand grandson of Civil War veteran Elijah Goodell, who rests in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery. Elijah settled in Ecorse in 1797 when the area was still known as New France. He and his descendants established two sizable farms in Ecorse and several in other Downriver communities.

Saint Francis Xavier Cemetery is part of Father Gabriel Richard and the French, English, and other ethnic families who built Ecorse. It is part of the little girl who used to walk by the cemetery on the way to her grandmother's house in the late 1950s. It is part of her memory of standing at the fence and reading the names and inscriptions on the tombstones and wondering about the people and their stories and the history of Ecorse.

Sandy Blakeman interviewed Ecorse real estate developer and insurance man Don Dodge in the 1950s. Don Dodge traced the history of Ecorse back to the early French settlers. He said that "it was no accident that the pioneer Frenchmen selected Ecorse as a site for settlement some 250 years ago."

The Detroit River offered the only means of transportation for these early settlers and they were the first to see the River's potential that has since made the Downriver area one of the greatest industrial centers in the world. Dodge prophesied for Ecorse, "I can visualize ships from the far corners of the earth loading and unloading at our waterfront. I can see the manufactured products made by our neighbors being shipped from our own port to every country of the world."

His prophecy has come true and the pioneers resting in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery built the foundation for the growth and endurance of Ecorse.

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