

The Waldensian Cemetery



A Guide to Selected Gravestones

The group of 49 settlers that arrived in Barry County in July 1875 became the nucleus of the first Waldensian colony west of the Mississippi River. They came from a region in Europe that is in Italy today. At that time it was the Duchy of Savoy and French was the language. All of the names of the first immigrants were French and the liturgy of the church by which you are standing was conducted in French until the early 1890s.

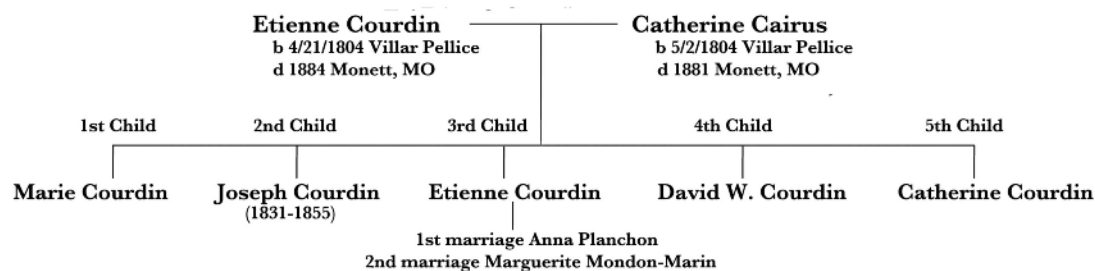
Twenty of the original immigrants and scores of their progeny are buried in this cemetery. This pamphlet will serve as a guide for viewing the gravestones of some of these personages. The cemetery is divided by walkways into 4 quadrants. When you enter the gate you will be facing north and the area on the left is the Southwest quadrant. The viewing order of the graves has been designed to keep your walking at a minimum while still keeping family continuity.

The graves of two of the principal members of the 1875 immigration, Etienne and Catherine Courdin, are under the two trees on your left.



Their baptismal names were Etienne Courdin and Catherine Cairus. Stephen (the English equivalent of Etienne) was born on April 21, 1804 in Villar Pellice. Catherine was born in the same village less than two weeks later on May 2, 1804. Playmates as children they married on November 20, 1828 and became the parents of 3 sons and 2 daughters. The eldest son Joseph was impressed into the army and died in the Crimean War.

Family of Etienne Courdin and Catherine (Cairus) Courdin



The parents and the 4 surviving children emigrated to Uruguay in 1858 to evade the dire economic situation brought about by overpopulation of the Waldensian valleys. Their new farm was west of Montevideo in the Waldensian agricultural colony of Rosario Oriental.

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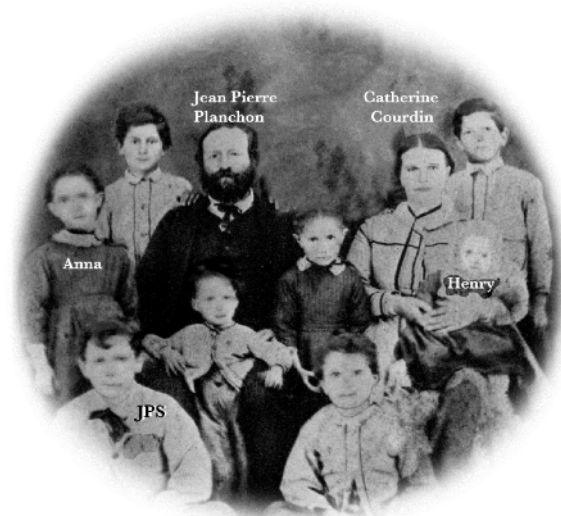
5th Child – Catherine Courdin

It was in this colony where the youngest daughter, 15-year-old Catherine Courdin, married Jean Pierre Planchon. Jean Pierre Planchon was arguably the most important person in Waldensian immigration. He was the first Waldense to go to South America and due to his exhortations was soon joined by others. Today thousands of descendants of these immigrants of the 1850s live in Uruguay and Argentina. He was also most influential in the 1875 immigration from Uruguay to Missouri.

This is a photograph taken in 1875 of the Planchon family just prior to their departure from Uruguay to the USA. The parents and six of their eight children head the 1888 church roster shown below. Those identified by name in the picture are buried in this cemetery.

Liste des membres de l'Eglise vaudoise.

Noms	
1 Jean Pierre Planchon	29 Jacques Long
2 M ^{me} Planchon	30 M ^{me} Jacques Long
3 Joseph Planchon	31 M ^{me} Francois Raymond
4 Paul Planchon	32 M ^{me} Francois Raymond
5 David Planchon	33 Eugene Cuendet
6 Anna Planchon	34 Jacques Bouvier père
7 Catherine Planchon	35 Jacques Bouvier fils
8 John Planchon	36 Lelia Bouvier
9 M ^{me} John Planchon	37 M ^{me} Bouvier
10 Emile Amaraud	38 David Laupa
11 Emeline Amaraud	39 M ^{me} D. Leco
12 L...	40 M ^{me}



This distinctive bifurcated stone marks the graves of Jean Pierre and Catherine and is only a few feet from where you are standing.

The grave of Henry, killed in a hunting accident at the age of 15, is in this plot and that of JPS (John Peter Stephen) is in the adjacent plot. The only other Planchon child buried in this cemetery is Anna. She married Henry Malan and died shortly after giving birth to her fifth child. Her grave is between the senior Courdins and the fence corner. The grave of her first-born child, Wilma, is nearby.



Fig. 3



As a lad of seventeen, and before he went to Uruguay, Jean Pierre Planchon married Jeanne Janavel who died shortly after her sixteenth birthday. Therefore he had been a widower for fourteen years when he married Catherine. As may be noted on the stone Catherine died in 1888. Three years after Catherine died Jean Pierre went to California to visit relatives. The widow Caroline Botta was living there and was an old friend of Jean Pierre. This chance reunion resulted in a whirlwind courtship and the newlyweds returned to Barry County. Their wedding picture is shown as Fig 1. Caroline is buried in the Planchon plot and her nearby stone is shown as Fig 2. Two years after this wedding Caroline's daughter (Aimee Rose Botta) married John Peter Planchon who was a son of Jean Pierre.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Slightly to the north there are two more plots with Planchon names. These Planchons came directly from the Waldensian valleys and are not directly related to those buried here.

3rd Child– Etienne (Stephen) Courdin

Notice in the Courdin tree on the first page that the third child was also christened Etienne. He likewise was known as Stephen. In Uruguay he married Anna Planchon who was a niece of Jean Pierre Planchon. Anna died in Rosario in 1862 one month after giving birth to a son. This son was the third Etienne in as many generations and also known as Stephen. He became the first mayor of Monett in 1888 and married Dorcas Jaques the following year. The tragic results of Dorcas's first pregnancy were stillborn twins. This poignant marker is by the fence. Mayor Stephen Joseph Courdin died in California in 1945 and is buried there.



After the death of Anna there was an arranged marriage for Etienne (3rd child) with Marguerite Mondon – Marin Pontet. Marguerite was a young widow living with her small daughter in the Cottian valleys. She left from Genoa in June 1864 and after a voyage of three months arrived in Uruguay where she married Etienne. Her daughter, Madeleine, who was known to everyone in Barry County, as "Aunt Medley" never married. The stones for these three are shown in Fig. 3 and are near where you are standing.



Fig. 3

Results of the marriage as of 1898 are shown on the right. Marguerite, now widowed for seventeen years, is in the center with "Aunt Medley" by her side. By her right side is David Paul Courdin who was the first of the six children born to her and Etienne. David was sixteen when his father died and family lore has the story of David leading two mules pulling a plow that was being guided by his mother. Her other five children with spouses and grandchildren are also in the picture. Twenty more grandchildren would be born before 1912 and all but nine of the thirty-eight are buried in this cemetery.



Fig. 4 Etienne Courdin family July 1898

David's sister Marguerite married Emile Combe. They are on the right side in Fig. 4 and six of their children are in front. The tombstones for Marguerite, Emile and three of their nine children are between those of Anna Malan and the Courdin infants in the southwest corner of the cemetery.

The Paul Francois Reynaud family arrived in Barry County from the Cottian valleys in 1881. Three of the Reynaud youths married Courdins in the 1890s. In Fig. 4 Jim and Susanne (Courdin) Reynaud are in the center back. Paul and Marianne (Courdin) Reynaud are on the far left. Standing next to Paul Reynaud is John Courdin who was the only Courdin child not born in Uruguay. Less than a year after this photograph was taken he married Mary Reynaud, a sister of Paul and Jim.



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

The house in Fig. 5 was built by Etienne Courdin (3rd child) when the family arrived from Uruguay. It was about one third of a mile southeast of this cemetery and was the home of Etienne, Marguerite Mondon-Marin and their five children. Their last child, John, was born in the house in 1877 and lived there his entire life. The photograph (Fig. 5) of him with his wife Mary Reynaud and two of their three children was taken in 1904. He was killed in the house by a lightning strike to the telephone wire. The marker (Fig. 6) for John and Mary is in the plot with the senior Courdins

The two sisters who married Reynauds are buried in the southeast quadrant. If you cross over the path to this quadrant you will see several Reynaud gravestones. Fig. 7 is the headstone for James and Susanne (Courdin) Reynaud. Their graves are directly behind the headstone. The headstone for Paul and Marianne is in the adjacent plot.



Fig. 7



The eldest daughter of Etienne and Marguerite was Catherine. In Fig. 4 she is sitting next to "Aunt Medley". She married Henry Long and they are holding the twins, James and Neva. To view their graves it will be necessary to walk north on the main path to the northeast quadrant. Shortly after crossing the East-West path look to your right and you will see the stones in Fig. 8. They are easily located because of the concrete border. Henry and Catherine were the parents of Alfred, Clement, Henry, James, Neva, Winifred, Cecil, Christine and Percival. Incredibly, all nine of the children are buried in this plot.



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

David Paul died in 1945 and is buried by his wife Clementine Gaydou on the left side of the walkway to the West gate. Three of their children (Lawrence, Harry and Helen) are also buried in the plot seen in Fig. 9.

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1st Child – Marie Courdin (1829-1866)

Marie Courdin was the eldest child. She married David Lautaret in Rosario Oriental, Uruguay in 1862 and gave birth to Jeanne Marie in January 1863. Their second child, Daniel, was born in 1864. Marie died in March 1866 one month after giving birth to their third child Stephen.

Jeanne Marie Lautaret married Alexandre Bounous and their stone (Fig.10) is located near the West Gate on the right side. Their son Arthur is the only one of their seven children buried in this plot.

Stephen Lautaret married Alice Combe and they are buried nearby (Fig. 11). Of their ten children only Fannie and Emma, both of whom died as infants, are buried in this cemetery.



Fig. 10



Fig. 11



Fig. 12

David remarried not long after the death of Marie. His new wife was Marguerite Maurin who in 1875 refused to accompany him and his three children to Missouri. Several years later she relented and came to Barry County. In order to see the other Lautaret stones you must return to the central path and go south toward the entrance gate. Just before the gate the gravestone in Fig. 12 will be on your left. This is the marker for David and his second wife, Marguerite Maurin.

There are two Daniel Lautarets buried in this plot. The Daniel that died in 1916 was David's nephew and the Daniel L (1864–1955) was his son. Daniel Lewis Lautaret married Jennie M Bounous and many of their progeny reside near Monett today. Dan and Jennie are in the 1942 photograph on the last page.

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4th Child – David William Courdin (1839–1915)

David William was the fourth child and the youngest son. He did not marry until his childhood sweetheart arrived in Missouri.

Mary Marie Carius was 14 years old when the Courdin family left the Cottain valleys and when she arrived in 1878 it was first time they had seen each other in 20 years. They are shown with their four children on the right.

When you are standing by the Lautaret markers the tombstone (Fig. 13) for David William and Mary (Carius) Courdin is across the path and slightly to the right. Their only son, Stephen (1882-1924), is also in this plot.

Catherine married John Peter Balmas and they are buried in the adjacent plot with 4 of their 11 children: Orval, Ula, Mildred and Charles.

There are a number of Planchon markers between the Balmas plot and the fence. As mentioned earlier these Planchons are not directly related to Jean Pierre. Magdelaine Courdin married John Planchon of this family and you will find their stones in this area.

Mary was the youngest and the only Courdin grandchild that did not marry someone with a French name. Her husband was Frank Snyder and three of their children are buried in the Snyder plot adjacent to the Balmas. They are Marie Snyder Bowman, Wilma Snyder Worley and James E. The parents, Mary and Frank, are buried in California.



Fig. 13

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This concludes the viewing of some of the 535 gravestones that are in the cemetery. All of which, save a very few, are for the descendants and spouses from the Waldensian emigrations of the late 1800s. Our tour today focused on the family of Etienne and Catherine Courdin who left Europe in 1858 with 4 children. The third generation consisted of 22 grandchildren and the fourth was comprised of 140 blood descendants, 68 of whom are buried here.

Henry Malan	John Mourgliia	Alex Bounous	Emile Balmas	David Paul Courdin	Henry Avondet	John Cairus	Paul Reynaud	Jim Reynaud	Pete Planchon	Daniel Lautaret
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Susanne (Courdin) Reynaud	Madeleine Pontet	Jennie (Bounous) Lautaret	Josephine (Reynaud) Mourgliia	Martha (Reynaud) Planchon	Jenny (Avondet) Malan	Victorine (Avondet) Bounous	Rachel (Avondet) Negre	Anna (Planchon) Courdin	Pauline (Barriquand) Arnaud	Julia (Cuendet) Magnin
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This photograph was taken in 1942 of the eldest members of the Waldensian church. Four of whom arrived as children from Uruguay in 1875. Today all are buried here and you have seen several of their gravestones. With your new familiarity of the cemetery you may wish to locate the markers for some of the others.

Thank you very much for your interest in these remarkable people and it is hoped that this pamphlet has been helpful in your visit.

The complete story of the immigration of the Waldenses from the Cottian Alps in Europe to Uruguay and then to Missouri is related in detail in *The Courdins of Val Pellice*.

On the Internet at: www.courdins.com