

Hd. SW $\frac{1}{4}$  S27 T7N R27W filed Feb.14/17, 1879, receipt #1057.

Pre. SW $\frac{1}{4}$  S27 T7N R27W filed Sept.12, 1882, receipt \$639.

V.69, p.177

Beauvais, Edward C., 43, stockgrower, b.Mo., pts.b.same  
    , Mary J., 35, b.Mo.; f.b.Mo., m.b.Ky.  
    , Edward C., 13, att.sch., b.Mo.  
    , Estella S., 10, att.sch., b.Mo.  
    , Mollie Eugenia, 7, att.sch., b.Neb.  
    , Nellie I., 2, b.Neb.

1880 Cen. Neb. Frontier Co., T7&8N R27W, p.4

## Geminien P. Beauvais

by CHARLES E. HANSON, JR.  
*Chadron, Nebraska*

On May 18, 1813, Jeminien Beauvais, the son of Pierre Beauvais and Marie Brosseau, and a native of the Parish of the Nativity of Notre Dame in Canada, married Placide Aubuchon, a native of the Parish of St. Genevieve in Missouri, the daughter of Auguste and Therese Aubuchon. Witnesses were Auguste Aubuchon, Jean St. Gemme Beauvais, Parfait Durfor, Pierre Aubuchon, Pierre Menard and J. Baptiste Janis.<sup>1</sup>

Both families were already well represented in St. Genevieve. The Beauvais family is believed to have descended from Jacques Beauvais dit St. Jeme, who came to Montreal in 1653 from Perché and was married to Jeanne Solde from Anjou. This Jacques was a member of the militia regiment organized at Montreal in 1663. Some of his descendants were in Kaskaskia as early as 1725 and they were in St. Genevieve by 1754. Several of them operated lead mines or became wealthy merchants and landowners with numerous slaves.<sup>2</sup> Later some of them settled in Florissant and Carondelet.

The Aubuchons were also early settlers in St. Genevieve and were apparently relatives or descendants of Joseph Aubuchon who was syndic of Kaskaskia in 1739.<sup>3</sup>

Jeminien was a blacksmith. He and Placide settled down in St. Genevieve and it came to pass that the local parish register of births and baptisms carried this entry:

<sup>1</sup> Information supplied from St. Genevieve Church Records through courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis.

<sup>2</sup> Louis Houck, *A History of Missouri* (Chicago, 1908), 1, pp. 352-3.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 354.

On the 10th of December 1815, I, the undersigned, baptised Pierre Geminien, born on the sixth (6) inst. of Geminien Beauvais and Placid Aubuchon. Sponsors were Pierre Menard and Pelagie Aubuchon.  
HENRY PRATTE, Priest <sup>4</sup>

This simple certificate recorded the beginning of the career of G. P. Beauvais, mountain man, trader, and Indian Commissioner. (His portrait appears herein at page 13.)

The easy going Frenchmen worried little about spelling, and "Jeminien" and "Geminien" seem to have been used interchangeably by both the father and son. They weren't too formal about names, either. Young Pierre Geminien began early in life to use the name "Geminien Pierre," often with a "Junior" after it.

Geminien, Jr., had a sister Julie Marie, born in 1817 and a brother Renaud Bazile, born in 1820.<sup>5</sup> Renaud, or Reno, set up business as a gunsmith and silversmith in St. Louis in 1838 and maintained a close association with his brother throughout his life. Geminien also had another brother who handled some of his affairs in St. Joseph.<sup>6</sup> This was apparently Francis Augustin Beauvais who married Joseph Rubidoux' daughter in 1847.<sup>7</sup>

Life was serene and simple in old St. Genevieve. Visitors were impressed with the amiability and refinement of its people. Theirs was a democratic society with little emphasis on political power or manifestations of wealth. As an example, Brackenridge described old M. Beauvais, one of the wealthiest men in upper Spanish Louisiana, as

dressed in the costume of the place . . . with a blue handkerchief on his head, one corner thereof descending behind and partly covering the eel skin which bound his hair, and a check shirt, coarse linen panta-

<sup>4</sup> Claim no. 7097 by Estate of Geminien Beauvais, Records of U.S. Court of Claims, National Archives, Washington, D.C. <sup>5</sup> St. Genevieve Church Records.

<sup>6</sup> Letter from Beauvais to P. Chouteau, Jr., June 30, 1855, Chouteau Papers, Missouri Hist. Soc.

<sup>7</sup> Orral Robidoux, *A Memorial to the Robidoux Brothers* (Kansas City, 1924), 287.

loons on his hips, and the Indian sandal or moccasin, the covering to the feet worn by both sexes.<sup>8</sup>

However times changed rapidly as the Beauvais boys grew up. Missouri was becoming a populous state devoted to the pursuit of commerce and agriculture.

Geminien, Senior, became the gunsmith and blacksmith for the Delaware Indians in 1822<sup>9</sup> and had frequent dealings with B. Pratte & Co. and the Chouteaus.<sup>10</sup> His son was thereby introduced early to Indians and the fur trade. It was only natural that he took the first opportunity to sign on with Chouteaus and make a trip up the Missouri River in 1831.

He worked on the steamboat "Yellowstone" and it was her maiden voyage up the Missouri. The steamboat returned in July but Geminien came down much later in a Mackinaw boat full of robes.<sup>11</sup> In the spring of 1833 he signed on as a member of Lucien Fontenelle's brigade for the mountains.<sup>12</sup> They trapped and traded in the Great Salt Lake valley and then went down to the rendezvous on Green River in July.

After this brief break in routine the winter trapping season began. There were brushes with the Blackfeet and there was much hard work before they could relax at the rendezvous on the Green River in the summer of 1834. After the rendezvous the party came in to Bellevue and many of them went on to St. Louis. Beauvais settled his accounts for eighteen months of service and was again on his own.<sup>13</sup>

He was glad to get out of the mountains for a while and he was lonesome too. Romance was the obvious result and

<sup>8</sup> Houck, *op. cit.*, II, p. 269.

<sup>9</sup> Richard Graham Papers, Frost Collection, Missouri Hist. Soc.

<sup>10</sup> Chouteau Accounts, Missouri Hist. Soc., H-127, M-113, M-135.

<sup>11</sup> News story in *St. Louis Republican*, Nov. 18, 1878, p. 8.

<sup>12</sup> Chouteau Accounts, V-143.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, W-295 and T-564.



on August 17, 1835, the big dashing Mountain Man, not yet twenty, stood before the curé of St. Genevieve with Marie Louise Montardy of Independence, Missouri. Witnesses of the marriage were Pierre Bolduc and Eli Janis.<sup>14</sup>

There is a family tradition that Beauvais had taken up teaching in the local seminary he had attended as a youth and that Miss Montardy was one of his pupils. In any event, a son Edward Colliste was born in 1837 and the young wife died soon after.<sup>15</sup> This unfortunate event made Beauvais restless again. He finally joined the St. Louis police force in 1844. However, the routine and regimentation were too much for him and he soon quit in disgust to head for the mountains again.<sup>16</sup>

From then on he trapped, guided, and traded all over the West. In 1846 Lewis Garrard met him going west with St. Vrain's caravan for Bent's Fort: "Mr. Beauvais was a Frenchman, employed to trade with the Sioux Indians."<sup>17</sup> In 1849 he was noted in Fort Pierre correspondence as bringing a letter there from Fort John (Laramie).<sup>18</sup> He was still with the Upper Missouri Outfit in 1850.<sup>19</sup>

However, things began to change rapidly along the Platte after the gold rush. There was still trade to be made with the Indians but the real money now lay in the emigrant trade. Beauvais saw the possibilities and set up a road ranch five miles east of Fort Laramie in 1853.<sup>20</sup> He was a genial host and ran a good establishment. Travelers often mentioned him in complimentary terms. Best of all, business was good and Beauvais began to enjoy some of the better things

<sup>14</sup> St. Genevieve Church Records.

<sup>15</sup> J. Sterling Morton, *Illustrated History of Nebraska* (Lincoln, 1906), II, p. 584.

<sup>16</sup> *St. Louis Republican*, Nov. 18, 1878.

<sup>17</sup> Lewis H. Garrard, *Wah-To-Yah and the Taos Trail* (Norman, 1955), 14.

<sup>18</sup> Drips Papers, Missouri Hist. Soc.

<sup>19</sup> Chouteau Accounts, NN-7.

<sup>20</sup> Deposition of Magloire Mosseau, Depredation Claim no. 7099, Records of the U.S. Court of Claims, National Archives.

of life. He even flew a flag with the words "Lone Star" over his headquarters.<sup>21</sup>

He was rated as one of the big traders on the upper Platte and kept up friendly communications with Pierre Chouteau, Jr., even to the extent of assisting in the collection of debts owed Chouteau. Some of his merchandise came directly from Chouteau but much of it was picked up at St. Joseph. His robes and furs were hauled overland to St. Joseph and then shipped by steamer to Chouteau in St. Louis.<sup>22</sup> A typical shipment in August 1856, included 1830 buffalo robes, 126 beaver pelts and 125 other skins.<sup>23</sup>

The Indian trade continued to prosper. Beauvais had traders with wagonloads of merchandise working in many directions. They traded with the Crows at Platte Bridge, the Cheyennes on Powder River, and the Sioux north of the Platte.<sup>24</sup> Like most of the other traders, Beauvais had a Sioux Indian wife and a family of carefree, half-breed children who were far removed from his interests in St. Louis. In fact, it was during this period that he married Miss Adrairie Lee and began his second family of five children in St. Louis.<sup>25</sup>

About 1859 Beauvais opened another road ranch lower down on the trail to reap the new harvest from the emigrant trains to Colorado.<sup>26</sup> It was located on the South Platte about twenty-five miles east of Julesburg and fifteen miles south of Ash Hollow, at the "Old California Crossing" of

<sup>21</sup> Eugene Wells, "Kirk Anderson's Trip to Utah, 1858," in *Missouri Hist. Soc. Bulletin*, xviii, no. 1, Oct. 1961.

<sup>22</sup> Letters to P. Chouteau, Jr., & Co. from Beauvais, 1853-6, Chouteau Papers; and Chouteau Accounts, ww-38; *Missouri Hist. Soc.*

<sup>23</sup> Chouteau Accounts, xx-50.

<sup>24</sup> Chouteau Papers and Depredation Claim no. 6498, Records of U.S. Court of Claims.

<sup>25</sup> Morton, *op. cit.*, II, p. 584. There were apparently four sons including Frederick J. and Reno B. The daughter became Mrs. Placide M. Tinsley.

<sup>26</sup> Affidavit of William Lee, Depredation Claim no. 6498, Records of U.S. Court of Claims.

the Oregon Trail.<sup>27</sup> This ranch was then called "Star Ranch" and the upper ranch was generally referred to as "Five Mile Ranch." Beauvais' operations by this time required a sizeable staff. Samuel Deon was usually in charge of Five Mile Ranch. Halfbreed Thomas Dorian was one of the traders. Leon Pallardy was a clerk. William F. Lee, a brother-in-law, and Peter Farlie were steady hands at one ranch or the other.<sup>28</sup> Beauvais' son Edward attended the Christian Brothers Academy in St. Louis and then came out to manage Star Ranch.<sup>29</sup> Charley Elston herded stock for Beauvais in the sixties and later wrote that he had between six and seven hundred head of cattle and horses at that time.<sup>30</sup> A retinue of Indian relatives also helped with the herding.

It was, of course, too good to last. Indian hostilities broke out furiously in 1864. Trade, both White and Red, came to a virtual standstill. In fact, one of the buildings at Star Ranch was given over as barracks for a small detachment of the First Nebraska Cavalry.<sup>31</sup>

Disasters now rained down on Beauvais in rapid succession.<sup>32</sup> A party of Sioux hostiles swooped down on Five Mile Ranch on November 12, 1864, and took three horses and five mules. On January 25, 1865, the Sioux took fourteen cattle from Star Ranch and the Cheyennes ran off twenty-nine horses, six cows and a mule from Five Mile Ranch. In the same month one of his traders named Edward Cloude had started north to trade with the Brules on Cheyenne River. A large war party of Cheyennes killed Cloude,

<sup>27</sup> Captain Eugene F. Ware, *The Indian War of 1864*, ed. by Clyde C. Walton (New York, 1960), 242.

<sup>28</sup> Affidavits for Depredation Claim no. 6498, Records of U.S. Court of Claims.

<sup>29</sup> Morton, *op. cit.*, II, p. 584.

<sup>30</sup> Affidavit of Charley Elston on Depredation Claim no. 732, Records of U.S. Court of Claims.

<sup>31</sup> Ware, *op. cit.*, 311, 362, and 466.

<sup>32</sup> Abstract of Testimony on Depredation Claim no. 7105, Records of U.S. Court of Claims.

burned the wagons and carried off all the merchandise, making a total loss of over \$15,000.

Sioux raiders again took twenty-two cattle, two horses and a mule on February 1, 1865. Worst of all they intercepted Tom Dorian on February 15, 1865, while he was trying to move two large wagonloads of goods eastward to safety and took property valued at \$94,000.

In an attempt to clear the decks for action against the hostiles, the army started a convoy of Sioux Indians and their local traders to Fort Kearney under an escort commanded by Capatin Fouts. On the morning of June 14, 1865, the Indians rebelled, killed Fouts and several soldiers, and escaped with a large amount of livestock, including sixty-seven cattle, seven horses and a mule belonging to Beauvais. The Five Mile Ranch was sold to Ecoffey & Cuny that summer but a valiant attempt was made to keep the Star Ranch in business.<sup>33</sup> However the livestock still melted away. The Sioux got forty-three head of cattle on November 2, 1865, and a fine black horse on May 24, 1866.

Discouraged and financially shaken, Beauvais filed claims with the government for his losses and went back to Missouri. In 1865 he already had a fine home on Second Carondelet Avenue in St. Louis and he was listed in the directories as a resident there from 1871 on.<sup>34</sup> His son Edward married Mary Robidoux, a great-granddaughter of Joseph Roubidoux in 1862, and moved out to a ranch in Frontier County, Nebraska, in the 1870s.<sup>35</sup>

His Sioux wife and children moved north with their peo-

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, Statements on Depredation Claim no. 2141.

<sup>34</sup> *Edward's St. Louis Directories* for 1865-71. The funeral story in the *St. Louis Republican*, Nov. 18, 1878, termed the residence "elegant."

<sup>35</sup> Census Records for Frontier County, Nebraska, 1880; correspondence from E. C. Beauvais on Depredation Claim no. 6498, Records of U.S. Court of Claims; Morton, *op. cit.*, II, p. 584. Edward died in Nebraska in 1901.



ple and appeared on the first Spotted Tail Agency census in 1875.<sup>36</sup>

Beauvais' long acquaintance with the Indians was not forgotten and his assistance was solicited several times by the government. He appeared as a witness to the treaty with the Sauk and Foxes in 1867 and that same year he was a member of the Sanborn-Sully commission to investigate Indian troubles.

Young reporter Henry M. Stanley was intrigued by Beauvais' appearance at the Fort Laramie council on November 12, 1867: "Behind these commissioners and towering high above their heads, was the gigantic form of Beauvais, the special Indian Commissioner, appropriately termed by the untutored savages, 'Big Belly'."<sup>37</sup>

In the spring of 1870 he went to Washington with Red Cloud as a result of the latter's request to Commissioner Parker. While in Washington, Red Cloud urged the appointment of Beauvais as Indian Superintendent, but the Board of Indian Commissioners did not agree. Robert Campbell particularly opposed the idea.<sup>38</sup>

His last important appointment was as a member of the Allison Commission which tried unsuccessfully to buy the Black Hills from the Sioux in 1875. In his press conferences, after the stormy sessions with the Sioux in 1875, he stated that it had been a mistake not to schedule separate meetings with the river Indians and the western bands. The *St. Louis Republican* for November 1, 1875, gave him full credit for paving the way to cession of the Black Hills:

<sup>36</sup> She is listed in Agent Howard's 1875 census as "Mrs. Beauvais" with two daughters. In his report on Depredation Claim no. 6498 by Beauvais' estate, Special Agent Poole said: "A numerous progeny, having claimant's name and reputed to be his children, are now living at Rosebud Agency."

<sup>37</sup> Henry M. Stanley, *My Early Travels and Adventures in America and Asia* (New York, 1895), 263.

<sup>38</sup> Letters Received by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Upper Platte Agency 1870, National Archives.

Mr. Beauvais in subsequent interviews with the leading chiefs ascertained where the trouble lay, and he now has assurances from the Indians themselves that if brought to Washington they will readily accede to a treaty by which the Black Hills will be relinquished.

His claims totaling \$45,945.00, were still pending and two trips to Washington did nothing to shake them loose.<sup>39</sup> Pretty soon it didn't matter. Beauvais contracted blood poisoning and died at his home in St. Louis two days later on November 15, 1878.<sup>40</sup> The newspapers gave his funeral prominent mention, stating that he had been twice married and left a widow, four sons, a daughter and three grandchildren.<sup>41</sup> Among the pallbearers were ex-Governor Thomas C. Fletcher and former Sioux Indian agent D. R. Risley. Most significant of all, the accounts pictured one old fur trader whose last ride was made in a silver-mounted coffin followed by a cortege of at least fifty carriages, far from the barren plains of the North Platte.

<sup>39</sup> See correspondence from E. C. Beauvais, Depredation Claim no. 6498, and *St. Louis Republican*, Nov. 18, 1878.

<sup>40</sup> *St. Louis Republican*, Nov. 16, 1878, p. 5.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*, Nov. 18, 1878, p. 8.



# The Indian Trader

Edward Coleste Beauvais, Indian trader - Peace Commissioner - Scout, was born April 1, 1832. Being the son of Geminian (James) Pierre Beauvais, who was born Dec. 6, 1810, of Canadian French and Indian. He entered the Indian fur trade connected with American Fur Company in the late 30's, establishing trading posts at Ft. Laramie, Wyo., which was called Lone Star Ranch, and the Star Ranch at Old California Crossings. He lived his life among the Indians having wives among the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Osage.

Edward Coleste Beauvais was brought up on his father's trading post at Old California Crossings. The ranch was also used as one of the early stations of the Jones-Russell Pike's Peak Stage Line in 1859, and at the crossing, the John Hockaday mail and express coach, drawn by six mules, between Atchison and Salt Lake City also forded in the late 50's and early '60's. It was also a station for the pony express, and it finally became one of the most widely known ranches on the overland route of the Oregon Trail. It was located four miles west of the present town of Brule, Nebr. In 1858 he took charge of this post which he continued to operate until 1868. He lived his entire life to 1868 among the Indians and as an Indian at California Crossings, (Except time he was receiving his education at Christian Brothers Academy in St. Louis, and six months in the Confederate Army) having only one full sister, and many half brothers and sisters among the Sioux-Cheyenne, also half brothers and sisters living in St. Louis, Mo. His father retired in 1873 and moved to St. Louis where he died in 1878. His estate listed Edward C Beauvais, his son, whose residence was unknown, living on the frontier. It was several years before he learned of his father's death.

His life life as a member of Brule Sioux, under Spotted Tail, who was known as a true friend of the Whites, became acquainted with many of the Indian customs and ways of life.

It was thought by most of the white traders that Cheyenne women were usually better looking than the Sioux and that they seemed much more like white women, in being neat in their work. These squaws usually had their relatives around, and when the men were off trapping would get a chance to get acquainted with the other squaws. They were very good cooks of every kind of wild meat and flavored it nicely. They cooked every kind of game including beaver, antelope, buffalo, etc. They refused to live in any kind of a house, and in winter as well as summer, lived in a teepee and while at times they would come into the house at the trading post, would never eat in one, and always preferred to eat meat which was cooked over an open fire on a stick, or else ate dried strips of buffalo. The Indians did not raise potatoes, but they used to dig several kinds of wild roots, which they would eat, and would also eat all kinds of wild fruit. They traded their hides for tobacco, flour, ammunition, beans and sugar

and sometimes firewater.

Indian babies, or papooses, never cried very much, were very little trouble to take care of, never seemed to get sick and made no trouble as compared with white babies.

Most all of the meat of buffalo, deer and elk was cut into strips and dried by the squaws, and would keep almost indefinitely: That they used practically no potatoes and put up no kind of pickles or jams, and that one caught for their furs, the Indians ate the meat every meal.

## MARRIAGES

The courtship consisted of throwing his blanket over the head of his loved one, when she went down to the river for water in the evening and telling of his love for her. This was repeated on ten consecutive nights. Then he sent a present of ponies over to her father's tent. In case the ponies had been sent back and tied with his other ponies then he must do it all over again and send more ponies. If the ponies were accepted and he saw his ponies taken out and tethered with her father's ponies, then the next afternoon while he was out hunting, the intended and her mother came over and fixed up his teepee and installed the new bride in it before he returned.

## INDIAN DIVORCE

In every encampment there was a soldiers' lodge in which the young bucks and the bachelors lived together; all the squaws cooking for these soldiers, who live as in a club. At night the soldiers had a program like a sun dance and at the proper time that night, he took the drum stick and gave a hard blow. All became silent. Then he announced in brief, "My squaw has gone. I have done forever with my wife." The gift of a horse with this announcement terminated all connection with his wife and he now became a bachelor again.

In 1858, G.P. (James P.) Beauvais had a trading post five miles east of Fort Laramie, called Lone Star Ranch which he established in 1844. He engaged in fur trade and established a ranch and trading post in 1849 at California Crossings, also called Beauvais, four miles east of present Brule, Nebr, which he called Star Ranch. In 1858, he put his son, Edward C. Beauvais in charge of Star Ranch at California Crossings, and another son, Joe Beauvais, at Long Star Ranch at Laramie, Wyoming. Their father, G.P., helped at both ranches. He had eleven sons who worked on the wagon trains between St. Joseph, Mo. and Ft. Laramie. He had three wives, one Sioux and two Cheyenne.

In 1868, with the coming of the railroad and the Indians being sent to the reservations, plus the profits they lost through no wagon trains, Mr. Beauvais left the Trading posts and established his one son, Joe Beauvais, on a ranch on the Stinking Water river northeast of where Trenton, Nebr. is now located. He died in the early 1870's. Edward C. Beauvais was established on a ranch at Red Willow, Nebr. The balance of his half brothers and sisters of Edward C. are living today as Indians on reservations. Edward C. had only one full sister and no brothers.

Edward C. Beauvais attempted to convert to the new way of living, moving first to North Platte, where he tried ranching and raising cattle, and later to Frontier County, Nebr., where he again tried the cattle business. Still not being able to adjust, he went to work with the railroad as train dispatcher. He moved to Phillipsburg in the later 80's, being one of the first on the new Rock Island Railroad, which reached Phillipsburg in 1887. He moved back to Stockville, Nebr. in 1898, where he died in 1901 and is buried in the family lot at such place.

He never completely adjusted to the new way of life, and at one time considered the possibility of living on the reservation, but gave that up after finding the way of life as reservation Indians miserable.



E. C. BEAUVAIS



MARY J. ROBIDOUX



He was married in 1862 to Mary J. Robidoux, a granddaughter of Joseph Robidoux, the founder of St. Joseph, Mo., whose father was French Canadian, Cheyenne, Iowa and Sioux. She died in 1933 and is buried at Belle Fouch, South Dakota.

Their children being G.P. Beauvais, born 3-28-64, died 1864; C.C. Beauvais, Jr., born 5-22-67, died 10-12-78; Franklin Sylvester Beauvais, born 11-18-69, died, 1869; Estella Beauvais, born 8-16-70, died in Nebraska; Mollie Eugene Beauvais, born 9-28-73, married Wm. Kingery, died. Albert L. Beauvais, born 12-10-77, died, 1877; Helen Irene Beauvais, born 9-30-78, South Dakota, died in Bellefouch South Dakota; Birdie Belle Beauvais, born 1-22-82, died 12-17-54; Josephine Beauvais, born 9-21-85, died in Denver, Colo.

One cousin of Cecil Kingery, a Mr. John Lee, whose mother was Molly Beauvais, was born at Fort Laramie, Wyoming in 1865. Her father was Joe Beauvais, a French Canadian trapper, and her mother was a full blooded Brule Sioux, whose older sister was one of the two wives of Spotted Tail, the Brule Chief. Joe Beauvais' father was G.P. (James P. Beauvais), a great grandfather of both Cecil Kingery and John Lee. Mr. Lee now lives at Olathe, Colo. and is a writer whose stories are of our Indian heritage entitled, "We, the Original Sioux", a little Indian history from the other side of the teepee. He was born on the Pine Ridge Sioux Indian Reservation of So. Dakota Jan. 26, 1904, and his writings tell of the Indians' side of history in the winning of the west. The events may be familiar but the point of view is radically different. His latest story was published in September, 1971 issue of Golden West.



PHOTO OF AUTHOR JOHN LEE AND HIS MOTHER TAKEN IN PARIS, FRANCE IN THE SUMMER OF 1911.

## HORSE STEALING

It was true all Indians were not looking forward to lusty battles and vice versa, as when not fighting or when in between battles, they engaged themselves in horse stealing from each other in the darkness of the night. If they were successful it was considered a great honor to bring home a big fast, good looking horse from the enemy camp. It usually called for a big feast, hosted by the parents of the new horse owners, as these night marauders were made up mostly of the younger bucks. The theory of this horse stealing from the enemy is, of course, the more good horses you take away from the enemy, the more famous and popular you become to your own people.

Lee says it was told by her own mother that, during the Sioux War of 1868 and the famous crossing of the Platte River, she was bundled and strapped to her mother's back along with the other camp necessities of those days, and when she had some difficulty in getting her horse into the river to swim across, some of the other Indians shouted back at her to "throw that white child into the river and come on", she refused to do so and obviously that is why I am here today."

Mr. Lee's grandfather, Joe Beauvais, was murdered at his ranch on the Stinking Water river in Hitchcock County, Nebr. after he left Lone Star Ranch at Ft. Laramie, Wyoming in 1868.

## Fort Bissell

1872 -- 1878

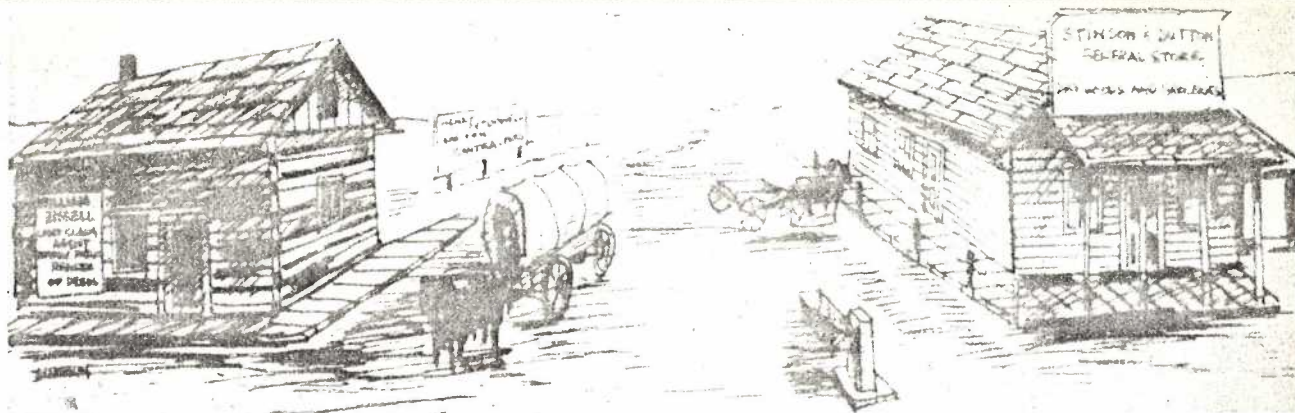
By Cecil Kingery

Named in honor of John Bissell, upon whose ranch the fort was located (In NW 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec. 29-3-16). Two and 1/4 miles west of Co-op Refinery, on a bend of Bissell Creek, with steep banks of the creek on three sides. Evidence and outline of the fort can still be seen. Property now owned by Lyle Davis.

This was never a Federal Military Post, but was made up of early homesteaders. Most of these individuals had just gone through four years of the Civil War. They were rugged individuals and in the operation of the fort, used military tactics in throwing out their picket lines and advance scouts. As in the Civil War Volunteer Regiments, they elected their officers from the ranks. They kept provisions at the fort at all times and the fort was manned. In case of Indian scares, riders would notify all the homesteaders and ranchmen who would come running to the fort until the dangers had passed. There are many today, such as E.J. Close, who was born in 1872, who remember the later days of the fort. I have personally gone over this site with the late I.C. McDowell who went into great detail showing me the corners of same and the ditch they had dug for water from the fort to the creek where the shelters inside the fort were located and where the permanent storehouse was located. The Cheyenne Indian Massacre in Decatur County in 1878, at which time about 40 settlers were killed, was the last chapter relating to Indian scares in Phillips County.

Names of those first settlers in establishing and maintaining Old Fort Bissell is more or less a matter of memory, but as near as I.C. McDowell and E.J. and Theo Close could ascertain, the following gentlemen and their families claimed an undivided interest with the Indians: Charles Fredericks, John Costello, Wm. Booze, J.N. McIlvain, M. Hemrick, C. Hemrick, John Mercer, Cass Leonard, James Roberts, Freeman Evans, E.E. Murphy, Edward Carman, Jacob H. Close, E.A. Parsons, Samuel Plotner, E.S. Dean, Samuel Rooney, R.C. Davis, Less Carpenter, C.W. Caswell, F.M. Chapman, Jeff Overlander, J.H. Kurts, George Plotner, O.S. Plotner, Henry McDowell, I.C. McDowell, John Bissell, W.H. Boughton, F.A. Dutton, F. J. Dutcher, Philetus Townsley, M. Mann, Wm. Bissell, A.W. Tracey, C.H. Leflingwell, A. Hitchcock, I.N. Lee, G.L. Dustin, Ame Cole,

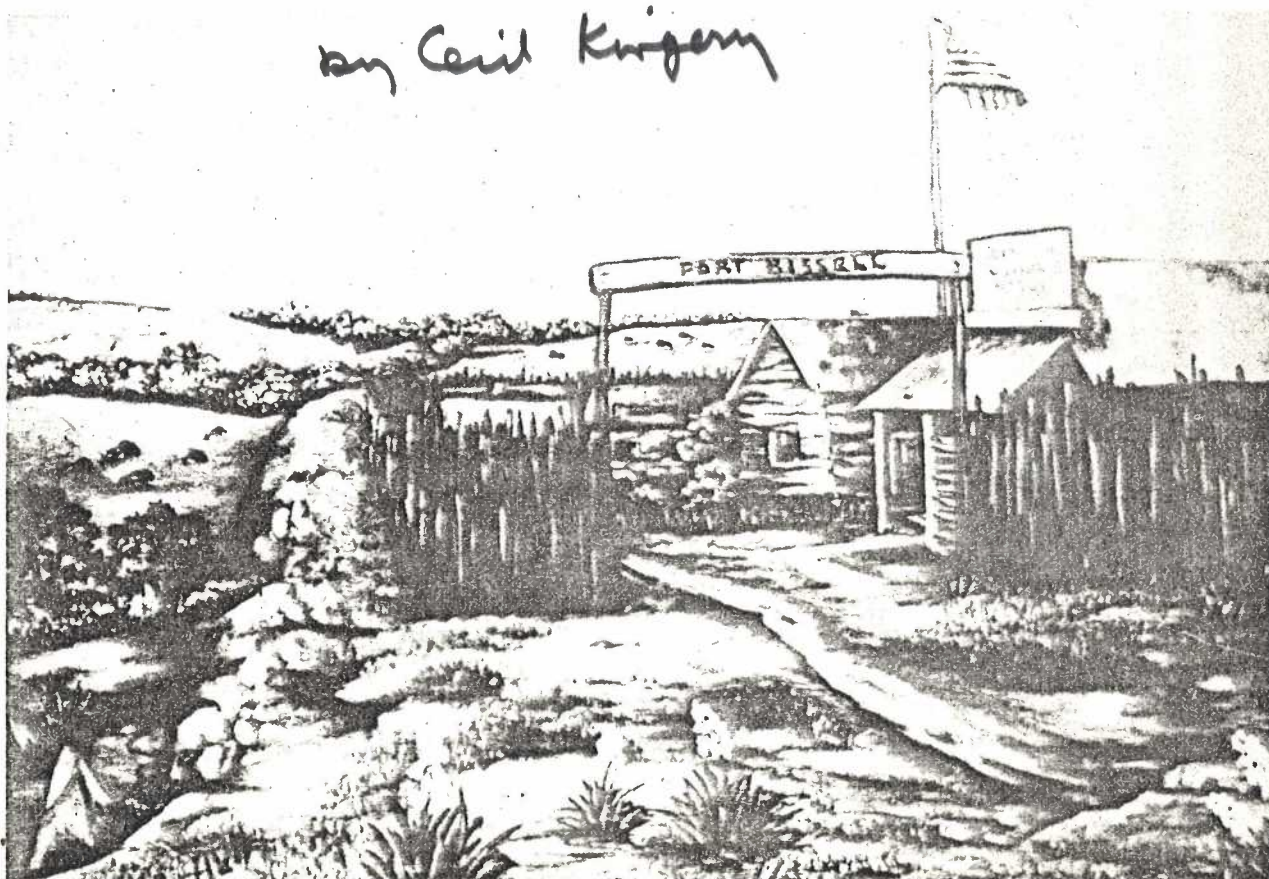




PHILLIPSBURG AS IT LOOKED ON JULY 26, 1872 WHEN IT WAS NAMED COUNTY SEAT

# Phillipsburg & Phillips County Centennial 1872~1972

by Cecil Krugem



FORT BISSELL IN 1872

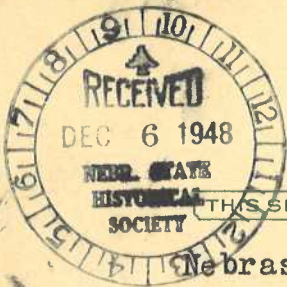
Black Hawk, Colorado, December 3, 1948    Gentlemen:  
Here is some historical news for you:

Edward Colliste Beauvais, Jr. who was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on May 22, 1867, passed away in Denver, Colorado on October 12, 1948. He was the grandson of Geminian Pierre (James Peter) Beauvais, who founded the Beauvais Ranch on the Old California Trail at the Lower California Crossing of the South Platte, about three miles west of the present town of Brule, Nebraska, on the south side of the South Platte, in 1849. He was the son of Edward Colliste Beauvais, Sr. who assisted in the organization of Frontier County, Nebraska in 1872, and who passed away at Stockville Nebraska in 1901.

Very truly yours

Clarence Reckmeyer





THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Nebraska State Historical Society

Lincoln

Nebraska

Fort Mitchell 8<sup>th</sup> July 1865

Capt Palmer,  
Ft. Saramie  
D. T.

Dear Friend  
Your favor of yesterday came  
to hand this morning, and I trust I noted  
in reply would say, that I have no Beaver  
skins, and no possible chance of obtaining  
any, and I regret very much not being  
able to accommodate you. But I will re-  
commend you to Mr. James Bourdieu who  
has a fine lot of Beaver skins, he left  
here this morning for Saramie, and think  
he will reach the Fort on this reaches you  
trusting you will be accommodated by this  
gentleman - I remain Very Respectfully yours

A. T. Beauvais



COPY OF AUTOGRAPH LETTER

Fort Mitchel  
8th July, 1865

Capt. Palmer  
Fort Laramie  
South Dakota

Dear Friend:

Your favor of yesterday came to hand this morning, and contents noted in reply would say, that I have no Beaver Skins, and no possible chance of obtaining any, and I regret very much not being able to accommodate you. But will recommend you to Mr. James Bourdeaux who has a fine lot of Beaver Skins, he left here this morning for Laramie, and think he will reach the Fort when this reaches you. Trusting you will be accommodated by this gentlemen, I remain

Very respectfully yours,

G. P. Beauvais

Beauvais

November 12, 1941

Request of Dr. Margaret Long

2070 Colorado Blvd

Denver, Colorado

For information as to the location of the Beauvais Ranch on the Oregon Trail.

Beauvais Ranch, famous road ranch and Pony Express station on the Oregon Trail, was located near the fording point on the Platte River known as Lower California Crossing. Sometimes this ford was called Old California Crossing. Root and Connelly, in Overland Stage to California, place it very definitely at this site. An excerpt copied from their book is attached to this report.

Mildred Krouch in "Geography of the Oregon Trail Across Nebraska," a thesis, University of Nebraska, 1933, makes on pp; 116-167, the following mention of Beauvais Ranch.

"The usual crossing and the one which came to be known as Lower California Crossing, is west of the present town of Brule, Nebraska, about four miles, and about 63 miles from the forks (of the Platte) This places the ford somewhere along the west side of R. 40 W or the east side of R. 41 W. Near here was established the Beauvais Ranch on the south side of the stream."

A number of other sources locate the Lower California Crossing with more or less agreement, as being between three and four miles west of Brule.

#### Bibliography

Breeze, Floyd E. "Overland Freighting in the Platte Valley 1850-1870."

M. A. Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1937.

Krouch, Mildred, "Geography of the Oregon Trail Through Nebraska."

M. A. Thesis University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 1933.

Nebraska, A Guide to the Cornhusker State, American Guide Series Viking Press, N. Y. 1939.

Root, Frank A. and Connelly, William W., Overland Stage to California, Topeka 1901.

Research by

Myrtle D. Berry

Library Assistant

## BEAUVAIS RANCH

The oldest and one of the best-known ranches on the South Platte, in the later '50's and early '60's, was BEAUVAIS. It was located on the old overland route, a few rods from the river, about 428 miles northwest of Atchison. The place in early days was known as "Old California Crossing." It was thus named because nearly all the travel overland after the California gold discoveries of 1848 that went west on the south side of the Platte crossed the great stream at that point. During the immense travel occasioned by the gold excitement, however, the place was known as "Ash Hollow Crossing." Some of the Mormons also forded there when they emigrated to "Zion," in the early days. In fact, nearly all the travel to Utah, California and Oregon forded at this point, there being no other crossing known on the South Platte west of there at that time.

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, when he took his army across the plains from Fort Leavenworth, in the summer and fall of 1857, to put down the Mormon rebellion, also forded at this crossing. Subsequently the late Gen. F. W. Lander crossed there on his return from an expedition overland late in the fall of 1858, in charge of a Government party sent out to look up and locate a military wagon road from some point on the upper Missouri to Oregon. The ranch was also used as one of the early stations of the Jones-Russell Pike's Peak stage line in 1859, and, at this crossing, the John Hockaday mail and express coach, drawn by six mules, between Atchison and Salt Lake City, also forded, in the later '50's and early '60's. It was also a station for the pony express, and it finally became one of the most widely known ranches on the overland route.

The South Platte, at Beauvais, was just half a mile across from bank to bank. Fifteen miles north of this is Ash Hollow, where General Harney slaughtered the Brule Indians in 1855. It is a mile through that memorable hollow to the north fork of the Platte; thence the road ran up the south side of that stream, via Court-house Rock, Chimney Rock, Scott's Bluffs, and the mouth of Horse creek, to Fort Laramie.



by

Mr. Cecil Kingery  
Box 147  
Phillipsburg, Kans.

Phillips County  
Abstract  
Company, Inc.

### Early French settlements.

Several of the old Colonies urged vague claims to parts of the Northwestern Territory, basing them on ancient charters and Indian treaties, but the British heeded them no more than the French had, and they were very little nearer fulfilment after the defeat of Montcalm and Pontiac than before. The French had held adverse possession in spite of them for sixty years; the British held similar possession for fifteen more. The mere statement of the facts is enough to show the intrinsic worthlessness of the titles. The Northwest was acquired from France by Great Britain through conquest and treaty; in a precisely similar way--Clark taking the place of Wolfe--it was afterward won from Britain by the United States. We gained it exactly as we afterward gained Louisiana, Florida, Oregon, California, New Mexico, and Texas; partly by arms, partly by diplomacy, partly by the sheer growth and pressure of our spreading population. The fact that the conquest took place just after we had declared ourselves a free nation, and while we were still battling to maintain our independence, does not alter its character in the least; but it has sufficed to render the whole transaction very hazy in the minds of most subsequent historians, who generally speak as if the Northwest Territory had been part of our original possessions.

The French who dwelt in the land were at the time little affected by the change which transferred their allegiance from one European King to another. They were accustomed to obey, without question, the orders of their superiors. They accepted the results of the war submissively, and yielded a passive obedience to their new rulers.

All public transactions were recorded in French by notaries public, Orders issued in English were translated into French so that they might be understood.

The original French commandants had exercised the power of granting to every person who petitioned as much land as the petitioner chose to ask for, subject to the condition that part of it should be cultivated within a year, under penalty of its reversion to "the King's demesnes". A large quantity of land was reserved in the neighborhood of each village for the common use, and a very small quantity for religious purposes. The common was generally a large patch of inclosed prairie, part of it being cultivated, and the remainder serving as a pasture for the cattle of the inhabitants. The portion of the common set aside for agriculture was divided into strips of one arpent in front by forty in depth, and one or more allotted to each inhabitant according to his skill and industry as a cultivator. The farms held by private ownership ran back in long strips from a narrow front that usually lay along some stream. Several of them generally lay parallel to one another each including something like a hundred acres, but occasionally much exceeding this amount.

The French inhabitants were in very many cases not of pure blood. The early settlements had been made by men only, by soldiers, traders, and trappers, who took Indian wives. Their children were baptized in the little parish churches by the priests, and grew up holding the same position in the community as was held by their fellows both of whose parents were white. There were many freedmen and freedwomen of both colors, and in consequence much mixture of blood. They were tillers of the soil, and some followed in addition, the trades of blacksmith and carpenter. Very many of them were trappers or fur traders. Their money was composed of furs and peltries, rated at a fixed price per pound; none other was used unless expressly so stated in the contract. The pursuits of the fur trader and fur trapper, were very adaptable to the early french and it was upon these that they chiefly depended. The half-savage life of toil, hardship, excitement, and long intervals of idleness attracted them strongly. That was perhaps one among the reasons why they got on so much better with the Indians than did the American, who wherever they went, made clearings and settlements, cut down the trees, and drove off the game.

The trader having obtained his permit, built his boats, whether light, roomy, bateaux made of boards, or birch-bark canoes, or pirogues, which were simply hollowed out logs. He loaded them with paint, powder, bullets, blankets, beads, and rum, manned them with hardy voyageurs, trained all their lives in the use of pole and started off. It took him weeks, often months, to get to the first trading point, usually some large winter encampment of Indians. He might visit several of these, or stay the whole winter through at one, buying the furs. They lived with them as members of the tribe, marrying squaws and rearing children. When the trader had exchanged his goods for the peltries of these red and white skin hunters, he returned to his home, having been absent perhaps a year or eighteen months. It was a hard life; many a trader perished in the wilderness by cold or starvation, by an upset where the icy current ran down the rapids, by the attack of hostile tribes, or even in a drunken brawl with the friendly Indians, when voyageur, half-breed, and the Indian alike had been frenzied by draughts of fiery liquor.

Bonded  
Abstracter

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas

Sheet  
No. 1



Bauvais dit StJeme or StGemme, Father of G.P. Beauvais also known as P.G. Beauvais, and as James P. Beauvais. This was one of the Wealthiest and most important families in Kaskaski. The members of the family were descendants from Jacques Beauvais who emigrated to Canada in 1653. In 1725 they came to Kaskaskia (now in Ill). The Bauvais family were not counted among those favorable to the American cause. For some reason no representative of the family was elected at the first election of judges, but that was corrected in the second election, after which a member of the family was always in the magistracy. The Bauvais family held on to the possessions in Kaskaski as long as possible but finally like their associates they were driven to the Spanish side. Their descendants are living to-day in SteGenevieve Mo. The men of this period always wrote Bauvais not Beauvais. The Family name has been spelled Bauway--Beauvais--Beauvaix. The family name in France being StJames.





Abstracter

Phillips  
County

Geminian Pierre Beauvais, whose name in Baptismal Records of Church of SteGenevieve, is listed as Pierre Geminien Beauvais, Child of Geminien Beauvais and Placide Aubuchon, later going by name of Geminian Pierre Beauvais and the Edward C. Beauvais heirs as James P. Beauvais, was born on the 6th day of December 1815 and was Baptized in the above named church on the 10th December 1815 by the Reverend Henry Pratte, the Sponsors being Pierre Menard and Pelagie Aubuchon. The Church records of SteGenevieve shows he was married to Mary Louise Montardy by the Rev. Francis Xav Dahmen in the presence of Pierre Bolduc and Eliz Janis as Witnesses, on the 17th day of August 1832.

He entered the Indian fur trade in the later 30's and in the early 40's establishing trading posts on the South Platte and Republican Rivers in Nebraska, wherever the business seemed most profitable. He operated one post near Julesburg Colorado, (Old California Crossing, 3 miles West of the present town of Brule Neb.) Also one in the Northern part of Hitchcock County Nebraska on the Frenchman Creek, being north of the present town of Trenton Nebraska, and ~~another~~ one a short distance Southwest of the present town of North Platte Neb. and one for a short time near the present town of Kearney Neb.

Family tradition has it that in order to carry on a successful Indian trade it was necessary to have or support a family taken from each tribe in which they did business with and at one time it is said he was keeping as high as 17 Indian families.

The following stories have been handed down through the family.

A young Indian around 18 years old and one of the men on the Wagon trains stoping over for provisions got into an argument over something or other and proceeded to fight it out during which fight the white man was killed. Mr. Beauvais took custody of the Indian and in a short time Chief Spotted tail came to the post and requested he take charge of the Indian for punishment for the crime which he had committed. He was tied to a post before witnesses at Old California Crossing and they proceeded to whip him until no life was longer left in the body.

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas

Another story is that G.P. Beauvais took his son Edward C. Beauvais to Spotted tails camp who was chief of the Brule Sioux tribe so that he might better learn the customs of the Indians the better to fit him for the Indian trade. Spotted tail insisted they stay for dinner which they did and while they were talking the squaws prepared the meal which was before them. They all partook of the food and G.P. asked his son how he liked the meal which he informed him he never tasted anything better. Before they had finished their meal one of the squaws took a sharp stick and sticking same hard into the kettle pulled out a dog, it is said while he was skinned his tail, head and legs were still intact to such an extent there could be no doubt about what it was.

Mr. Beauvais had in his employ several Frenchmen, who made regular trips with mules from StJoseph Mo. to his trading post. That on one of these trips, hostile Indians attacked the wagon train and burned all the wagons, taking around 100 mules and horses as well as all the supplies, as a small boy I remember well the family talking of this and of how the Government would not pay the loss for which they held government insurance. For some reason G.P. Beauvais apparently never tried very hard to collect this insurance but after he died in 1878, an action was had in the Court of Claims of the United States Washington D.C. listed as Chas M. Napton Adm'r of the estate of G.P. Beauvais Dec. filed on the 13th Jan. 1892 for recovery of this loss. This action was kept alive for a number of years and finally was Dismissed for want of prosecution, October 17, 1910. In this action Frederick J. Beauvais, was plaintiff for said estate in March 1892.

Sheet 3  
No. ....

Company, Inc.

The records in StLouis Mo. shows Mr. Geminien P. Beauvais died in StLouis ~~maxike~~ in November 1878, and listed as his heirs Placide M. McGindley, a daughter, residence City of StLouis Mo. Frederick J. Beauvais, son, residence City of StLouis Mo. Reno A. Beauvais, Son, residence City StLouis Mo. Pierre A. Beauvais, Son, residence StLouis Mo. Edward C. Beauvais, son, whose residence was unknown to the petitioner.

*(There was a Mollie Eugene who was Born 1865 + Died 1879)*



Bonded  
Abstracter

The oldest and one of the best-known ranches on the South Platte, in the late '50's and early '60's, was BEAUVAIS. It was located on the old overland route, a few rods from the river, about 428 miles northwest of Atchison. The place in early days was known as "Old California Crossing." It was thus named because nearly all the travel overland after the California gold discoveries of 1848 that went west on the south side of the Platte crossed the great stream at that point. During the immense travel occasioned by the gold excitement, however, the place was known as "Ash Hollow Crossing." Some of the Mormons also forded there when they emigrated to "Zion," in the early days. In fact, nearly all the travel to Utah, California and Oregon forded at this point, there being no other crossing known on the South Platte west of there at that time.

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, when he took his army across the plains from Fort Leavenworth, in the summer and fall of 1857, to put down the Mormon rebellion also forded at this crossing. Subsequently the late Gen. F.W. Lander Crossed there on his return from an expedition overland late in the fall of 1858, in charge of a Government party sent out to look up and locate a military wagon road from some point on the upper Missouri to Oregon. The ranch was also used as one of the early stations of the Jones-Russell Pike's Peak state line in 1859, and, at the crossing, the John Hockaday mail and express coach, drawn by six mules, between Atchison and Salt Lake City, also forded, in the late '50's and early '60's. It was also a station for the pony express, and it finally became one of the most widely known ranches on the overland route.

Phillips  
County

The South Platte, at Beauvais, was just half a mile across from bank to bank. Fifteen miles north of this is Ash Hollow, where General Harney slaughtered the Brule Sioux Indians in 1855. It is a mile through that memorable hollow to the North fork of the Platte; thence the road ran up the south side of that stream, via Court-house Rock, Chimney Rock, Scott's Bluffs, and the mouth of Horse creek, to Fort Laramie.

The river was always fordable at Beauvais, but difficult to cross in the Spring, from the annual rise caused by melting snow in the mountains. Usually there was not much trouble in fording except from quicksands. During August, September, and October, 1857, Hon. P.G. Lowe, of Leavenworth, a pioneer Kansan and a veteran frontier plainsman, was wagonmaster, and camped at Beauvais and escorted most of the troops and trains that went out with General Johnson on the Mormon expedition, in the fall of 1857. Mr. Lowe was familiar with every rod of the river in that vicinity, having frequently measured the fording places and safely piloted the train over.

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas

Beauvais's Name was known on the plains all the way from the Missouri river to the Pacific. He was a Frenchman, from St. Louis, who went on the frontier among the Indians at a very early day, and traded with them wherever the business proved profitable. He finally settled on the South Platte, after the breaking out of the Pike's Peak gold excitement, and put up his trading post at that crossing in 1859. This was ten years after the date of the California gold excitement. When he settled on the Platte he was about forty years of age; a large, fine-looking man; very reticent, even to moroseness. Though intelligent and pleasant with his friends, he was sullen when bored by emigrants. He was on the plains, as those who frequently met him could see, for business only. He took the leading St. Louis papers, and fully intended to close his life in the great metropolis, after accumulating a fortune on the plains. He succeeded in the latter, and returned to his old home after the completion of the railroad to the Pacific, which had ruined his trade of pioneer days along the Platte. He may have been a Mormon and a polygamist, for he appeared to be a much married man, and no less than three squaws and a large number of half-breed papooses running about the premises indicated that he had accepted the Mormon faith as to plurality of wives.

The immense travel to Denver and other points in Colorado, as well as the vast immigration that had set in for the great Northwest, was the opportunity for this pioneer trader of the South Platte to amass a considerable fortune. His building as originally put up was a square, hewn-log structure, but in the early '60's it had been considerably enlarged, to meet the increasing demands of his trade. In it was a large stock of buffalo robes, elk and antelope skins, furs, and such other goods as he could get by trading coffee, sugar, blankets, tobacco, beads, trinkets, etc., with the various tribes of Indians that roamed up and down the Platte and occupied the gulches and canons some distance away from the river. His was one of the most prominent trading posts in the Platte valley, and in it he kept one of the best stocks to be found along the overland route. He was well equipped for trading with the Indians, as well as for supplying the needs of parties on the plains.



Nearly all the crossing of the overland emigration and freighting was done at Beauvais until Lieutenant Bryon, of the United States Topographical engineers, was sent out and went up the Lodge Pole Creek route, in 1857; and but very little travel went the new route until 1861, when Government established the first daily overland mail on the central route, and it ran for a time over this road.

While crossing the South Platte near O'Fallon's Bluffs, some miles below this point, early in the summer of 1852--seven years before Beauvais established his trading post--John H. Clark (Late citizen of Clay County, Kansas, and postmaster at Fancy Creek,) in charge of a company of twenty men from Cincinnati, whom he was taking overland to California, wrote in his journal as follows; "There is perhaps more fun, more excitement, more whipping, more swearing and more whisky drank at this place than at any other point on the Platte river. Many head of cattle were being driven over when we crossed, and the dumb brutes seemed to have an inclination to go any way but the right one. Loose cattle, teams, horses, mules, oxen men and boys all in a muss; the men swearing and whipping, the cattle bellowing, the horses neighing and the boys shouting made music for the multitude. it was an interesting scene."

## CHURCH OF STE. GENEVIEVE

49 DuBourg Place  
Ste. Genevieve, Mo.

AUTHENTIC COPY

Taken From The

### Baptismal Records

*The Records of This Parish Certify:*

That..... Pierre Geminien Beauvais

Child of..... Geminien Beauvais

and..... Placide nee..... Aubuchon

was born on the..... 6th...... day of..... December..... A.D. 19 <sup>XX</sup> 1815

and was BAPTIZED in this Church  
on the..... 10th...... day of..... December..... A.D. 19 <sup>XX</sup> 1815

According to the rite of the ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

by the Reverend..... Henry Pratte

the Sponsors being:..... Pierre Menard

and..... Pelagie Aubuchon

as appears from the Baptismal Register of this Church.

issued by:..... Reverend..... F. E. Sommerhauser

Pastor

Dated..... December 13th.

19 <sup>XX</sup> 48

Church

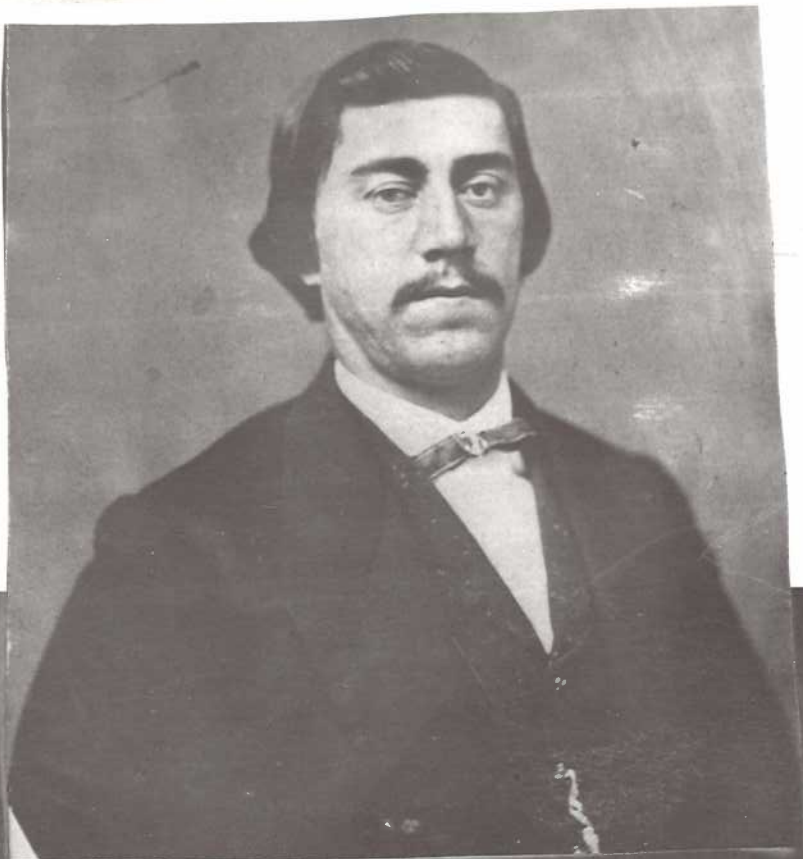
Notations: (Ca. 470-2)

Seal

Confirmation: .....

Marriage: .....





Phillips County  
Abstract  
Company, Inc.

Bonded  
Abstracter

Edward Coleste Beauvais, Oldest son of Gemenien P. Beauvais, was born in 1832 at Fredrick Town, Madison County Mo. and Died in 1900 at Stockville Neb. He was married to Mary J. Robidoux, daughter of Parrie Isadore and Nancy Robidoux, nee Langston in StJoseph Mo. on Dec. 20th 1862. As a boy he helped his father G.P. Beauvais at his trading post, and was for a time a driver with the Wagons between StJoseph Mo and his trading post. He took charge of his father's ranch and trading post at Old California Crossing in 1858 and continued to operate same until 1862 at which time he worked on the Wagon trains for a number of years. He and his family moved to RedWillow Neb. where Mollie E. Beauvais was born Sept. 28th 1873 and said to be the first white child born in the County. That Edward C. Beauvais was at least part Indian comes from a fact that some 50 years ago he went to Kansas City and on down among the Osage Indians in order to find some of his old friends who could prove this fact in the form of an affidavit but due to the absence of some 60 years they were all gone, so this proof has never been definately established.

About the year 1878 he purchased a Ranch just North of Stockville Neb. on Medicine Creek where he died in the early 1900's. Names of their children are

G.P. Beauvais, born March 28, 1864 in StLouis Mo. Died in 1864.

E.C. Beauvais, Jr. born 22nd May 1867 in StJoseph Mo. Died 12th Oct. 1948, in Denver Colo.

Franklin Sylvester Beauvais, born 18th Nov. 1869 in StJoseph Mo. Died in 1869.

Estella Louisa Beauvais, Born in StLouis Mo. 16th Aug. 1870, married J.E. Williams of Stockville, Neb. now living at ~~Red~~ Bladen, Neb.

Mollie Eugene Beauvais, born Sept. 28th 1873 at RedWillow Neb. Married Wm Kingery, now living at Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Albert L. Beauvais, Born. 10th Dec. 1877 at RedWillow, Neb. Died. 1877

Helen Irene (Nelle) Beauvais, Born 30th Sept. 1878, Frontier Co. Neb. Died at Belle Fouch, S.D. Married W.T. Wyckoff.

Birdie Belle Beauvais, born 22nd Jan. 1882, Frontier County Neb. Married C.A. Craig, Living in Denver, Colorado.

Josephine Beauvais, Born Indinaola Neb. 21st Sept. 1885, Married S.B. Robertson Living in Denver, Colorado.



Geminian Beauvais.  
also known as StJeme Or  
St Gemme Bauvais.

Geminian P. Beauvais.  
Born. 10th Dec. 1815.  
StGenevieve Mo.  
Married. 17th Aug. 1832  
in StLouis Mo.  
Baptismal records shows  
Pierre Geminien Beauvais.

Placide Aubuchon.

Edward C. Beauvais.  
Born. 1833  
Fredrick Town Mo.  
Married. 20th Dec. 1862.  
Died Stockville, Neb. 1900

Calliste Montardy.

Mary Louise Montardy.

Mary Ann Valle.

Pierre Isidore Robidoux.  
Born 1791

Franklin Robidoux.  
Born StLouis. 1822.  
Died 1/16/1847, 25 yrs.  
Married 12/14/1843 at  
StJoseph Mo.

Julie DesJarlias.

Mary J. Robidoux.  
Born. Dec. 1, 1844.  
StLouis, Mo.  
Died. 1933.  
BelleFouch S.D.

William Langston.

Nancy (Baily) Langston.



JOSEPH ROBIDOUX.

Born. 1750  
 Died. *Mich* 17, 1809, 60 years.  
 Married Sept. 21, 1782 to Marie Rollet.  
 Went to St. Louis 1770 with Father also named Joseph.

<u>Joseph. Robidoux.</u>	<u>Francois.</u>	<u>Pierre Isidore.</u>	<u>Antoine.</u>	<u>Louis.</u>	<u>Michel.</u>	(Two children <del>is</del> Lewis & Marguerite, died young)
Born 1783	Born 25 Sept. 1788	Born Nov. 6 1791	Born Sept. 24, 1794	Born July 31, 1796	Born Aug. 8, 1798	
Married Eugene Delise.	Married Clarrisa Delisle.	Married Oct. 17, 1815 to Julia Desjarlais	Married Julie Benavides.	Married Guadalupe Garde.	Married Suzanne Veudry.	
<u>Farron H.</u> 1816-1840	<u>Julius C.</u> 1814	<u>Messanie.</u> 1814.	<u>Francis B.</u> 1818	<u>Sylvanie A.</u> 1827.	<u>Edmond</u> 1825	<u>Felix.</u> 1820
						<u>Charles.</u> 1831
		<u>Mary.</u>	<u>Sellico.</u>	<u>Louis.</u>	<u>Therese Eugenie</u>	<u>Celina (Cecile)</u>
				<u>Louis</u>	<u>Franklin.</u> 1822-1842	
					Married Nancy Langston. Parents of Mary who married E.C. Beauvais, <u>Carmelete</u> Adopted girl.	
						<u>Frederic, Abundo. Adelaide, &amp; others not known.</u>
						<u>Octavia, Sofa.</u>



COPY.

CLARENCE R ECKMEYER  
BLACK HAWK, COLORADO.  
December 28th 1948.

Phillips County  
Abstract  
Company, Inc.

Mr. Cecil Kingery.  
Phillipsburg, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Kingery.

Bonded  
Abstracter

My typewriter is out of kilter and if you will excuse lead pencil I will take up our Beauvais Trading Post history. I have not heard from Mrs Brown or from two Ogallala Nebraska pioneers, or from the County Clerk at Stockville Nebraska. As the cost of printing books at present is Terrific, I may for the time being, content myself with writing the story for the Omaha World Herald. I don't know about the Nebraska Historical Magazine. I have from 30 to 50 personal letters concerning historical matters of the West which Luther H. North Captain of the Pawnee Indian Scouts and former ranch partner of Buffalo Bill, wrote me in the years that we cruised the old western trails together. I think considerable of them and would consider no cash offers for them, but I wrote the Neb. State Historical Society that I expected to give the letters to them for preservation as soon as I could make copies. The Superintendent wrote me that they would send me copies if I would send them the letters. I sent them nine and instead of sending me copies he is trying to me out of all of them. It looks as if I would have to write the Governor about it. Anyway I am going to go ahead and write the Beauvais story.

I wish had met your or E.C. Beauvais Jr. 20 years ago. I am enclosing a copy of what Morton's History of Nebraska says of Geminian Pierre and Edward Colliste Beauvais, copy of letter of Andrew Carpenters of 1930, which will explain themselves, together with a rough map of the Beauvais Post and Overland Trails. There are a few conflictuns in the Morton story and "Root and Connelly's Overland Trail" which I will have to work out. Morton says the Trading Post was established in 1849 while Root and Connelly indicate 1859. I imagine 1849 is correct; Aint Sure. I think it was the California 1849 gold excitement that first lured your great grandfather, as well as the fur trade, to the west, and then the Colorado gold excitement of 1859, right here at Black Hawk, helped him afterwards.

In your first letter you said you thought the Trading Post was near Julesburg, but I guess they called 19 miles east "near Julesburg."

The Land where the Beauvais Trading Post was located was always in Keath County and the Keath County records do not record that anyone named either Beauvais or Robidoux ever owned any land in the County. Must have held it by squatters right, but I can't understand why Beauvais did not file on the land as he was there until 1867. Can you tell me to whom I would write in Washington D.C. to learn if your Beauvais ancestors had government permits to trade? As my father owned Frontier County land since 1885 and I still own land there I am quite familiar with the Medicine Creek land that your grandfather owned North of Stockville. I feel certain that land is now owned by Fred Whipple who owns and operates the Lakeview Hotel in Curtis, Nebraska. I stayed with him one month about a year ago.

I have a very fine picture of Geminian Pierre Beauvais, which was reproduced from Morton's History about 20 years ago and would like to have a good one of Edward C. Sr. for use with a story.

I wish to get more details of the ranches that G.P. (Jim) and or Edward C. Sr. owned near Trenton, and will write County Recorder there.

I guess this about all now, may write more when I study over the "Beauvais Abstract" that you sent me.

I have several extracts that I copied from "Root and Connelly's Overland Trail" but none so complete as what you sent me. Root & Connelly are O.K..

My friend Captain Luther North, who died in 1935 knew the last word about firearms, but I know practically nothing about them.

In addition to what "Root & Connellys Overland Stage says about Beauvais Trading Post "Crofuts New Overland Tourist and Pacific Coast Guide" of 1882 says:

"Brule-Near the Old California Crossing. On the south side of the river, opposite in plain view, is the old ranche and trading post of the noted Indian trader and Peace Commissioner-Beauvais-Now deserted."

I guess I have written enough for once-and it is mail time.

Very truly yours  
Clarence Rickmeyer.

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas



Copied by Clarence Reckmeyer, Black Hawk, Colorado.

Letter in the Omaha World Herald July 13, 1930.

"THE OREGON TRAIL".

Bonded  
Abstracter

"Rock Springs, Wyo. July 9. To the Editor of The World Herald. The Oregon Trail was on the South side of the Platte River from North Platte to Old Julesburg, then it kept on the south side of Pole Creek until it reached about four miles east of Sidney, then it went Northwest and crossed Punkin Creek on the east side of Court House Rock, then North to the North Platte River and kept on the south side of the river until it reached Fort Laramie. Even the Mormons went that way to Salt Lake, but in 1854 and 1855 a few crossed the South Platte about three miles east of where the city of Big Springs is now then went on the North side of that river until they made a junction at Fort Laramie, but after a few trains went that way they found the said so bad that hundreds of horses died, as the roads were so bad, and in 1856 no Mormons went that way but kept on the Old Oregon Trail.

A big camping ground was just South of Lodge Pole station on the Union Pacific railroad and it was between two creeks. One was known as Pole "Lodge Pole Creek and the other was a large spring and a man named Coulter had a small ranch there. The ranch was about three fourths of a mile south of the depot and the trail was over 400 feet wide and was on the south side of the Spring.

The ranch four miles east of Sidney was run by a Frenchman named Louie, who run a very rough joint, and it is claimed there were many people killed there.

I worked mule skinning for a man named George Jackson who hired me in Nebraska City, and made two trips to Montana with him, then during the building of the Union Pacific railroad I drove team for Jim Holiday, who was working for the government, and then got a job with the government at Fort Sedgwick driving mules, and came to Sidney station on the Union Pacific where two troops of United States cavalry were stationed on a high hill, which was called Fort Lookout, for you could see up and down the Pole "Lodge Pole" Creek valley for miles. This was in 1867 or the spring of 1868.

Andrew Carpenter.

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas

FROM PAGE 584 of Volume 2, Morton's History of Nebraska.  
Geminian Pierre (James Peter) Beauvais, commonly known as Jim Beauvais was a pioneer Indian Trader on the Nebraska plains. He was born in Ste Genevieve, Mo. on December 6, 1815. He was graduated from the Jesuit college and studied theology with the intention of enter in the priesthood, but left college and engaged in teaching School. He married one of his pupils, Marie Louise Montardie. His wife died two years later, leaving one son, Edward Colliste Beauvais. Mr. Beauvais then entered the employ of the American Fur Co. to trade with the Indians. In 1849 he located at the Old California Crossing on the South Platte, where he built up an immense trade with the native red men. The Indians would never molest him or any of his property on his own premises, but his wagon trains were never safe when on the road. There is now (1906) pending in the Court of claims at Washington a claim filed by G.P. Beauvais, amounting to \$40,000. for loss of property caused by Indian depredations. He always had trains of wagons on the road, 15 or 20 at a time, each capable of hauling 3000 or 4000 pounds, and drawn by 10 or 15 yoke of oxen. His freighting operations were principally from StJoseph Mo., and Atchison, Kan. and he employed from 30 to 40 men. He would load his trains at the river with provisions, blankets and other goods for the Indian trade, and on the return trip they would be loaded with buffalo robes and other furs. At times he would have on hand 40,000 or 50,000 robes which he had bought from the Indians at a cost of \$1.00 to \$2.00 each. These were sold in New York City from \$10.00 to \$15.00 each. Mr. Beauvais also had a large trading post at FtLaramie called the Lone Star Ranch. The one on the South Platte at the California Crossing was called the Star Ranch; his son Edward C. Beauvais, always managed the latter. Sometime in the 50ties he married Miss Adrain Lee, by whom he had five children, three of whom are now living in StLouis. Mrs Placide M. Tinsley, Frederick J. Beauvais and Reno B. Beauvais. Edward Colliste Beauvais, born April 1, 1837, was educated at the Christian Brothers academy in StLouis, and migrated west in 1858 to take charge of his fathers ranch at the old California crossing. He was married in 1862 to Mary J. Robideaux, a granddaughter of Joseph Robideaux the founder of StJoseph Mo. In 1872 he moves to Stockville, Frontier County Neb. and engaged in cattle raising. He died there in 1901, leaving a widow and six children, Edward C. Beauvais, Jr. train dispatcher, Cripple Creek Colo. Stella Louise, Now Mrs. J.A. Williams, Stockville, Neb. Mrs Marie Kingery, Phillipsburg, Kans. Mrs. Helen Hanson, Stockville Neb. Bertha Now Mrs Oscar Craig, Stockville, Nebr. and Josephine Beauvais, Phillipsburg, Kan. The widow. Mrs Mary J. Beauvais.



Now (1906) resides in Stockville Nebr. When the U/P. R.R. extended as far west as Star Ranch the business became less profitable and G.P. Beauvais closed out his interests and went to StLouis with a fortune of nearly \$1,000,000.00 He built a fine mansion, intending to reside there the rest of his life. He soon tired of the City, however, and was making arrangements to remove to Frontier County Nebr., and engage in the cattle business, when death overtook him in 1874. Mr. Beauvais was a Roman Catholic in religion and is said to have been a good man, a fine scholar and a friend to all".

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Birth date of Edward Colliste Beauvais given as April 1, 1837, when in fact he was born in 1833, Fredrick Town Mo. Nearly 12 years older than his wife Mary J. Robidoux. Mary J. Robidoux, listed as being a granddaughter of Joseph Robidoux. Records shows she was the Granddaughter of Pierre Isidore Robidoux a brother of the Joseph Robidoux the founder of StJoseph however her parents died when she was very young and she was adopted by this Joseph Robidoux and educated in a Convent. It was while at this convent she became acquainted with Edward C. Beauvais, whom afterward she married, in 1862. This was not the first Beauvais to marry into the Robidoux family. A sister of Edmond Robidoux named Sylvanie A. Robidoux married Francis A. Beauvais, a cousin of G.P. Beauvais. Article states Geminian Pierre Beauvais was married to Marie Louise Montardie and that his wife died two years later, leaving one son Edward Colliste Beauvais, and further shows a daughter as Placide M. Tinsley. Our records shows her name should have been Placide M. McGindley and that she was the only other child born of Geminian Perre Beauvais and Marie Louise Montardie, the others listed being all half brothers of Edward C. Beauvais. Edward C. Beauvais was the only son who would or did go west and engage in the Indian trade with his father. For this reason it appeared he was the favorite son, and after the profit went out the Indian trade, he furnished the money to establish him in the cattle business. Mr. Beauvais spent considerable time while located in Frontier county running trap lines and fish lines. At one time he had several hundred head of cattle, and besides raising cattle they would go on buffalo drives and get calfs to run with the cattle. This took place on ranches on Stinking Water and the Frenchman in Northern part of Hitchcock Co. Neb. While living on a Ranch and trading post near NorthPlatt Neb. I have heard my grandmother Mary J. Beauvais tell a good many times of their experiences on the frontier. One of the stories was of the card games the men folks would have. On one of Mr. Beauvais trips to StJoseph he returned with a large silk stove pipe hat, and the next morning after the games you could allways tell the winner by who was wearing the hat which was a custom to pass around to the winners Bill Cody (Later known as Buffalo Bill) also operated a ranch as a neighbor and was in on most of these card games. He also worked for G.P. Beauvais for a time on the wagons, and as a scout. Article states G.P. Beauvais died in 1874, when in fact copies from his estate show he died in StLouis Mo. in November 1878.

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas



Sheet  
No. 11

Top Left to right.  
Mollie Eugene Beauvais. Helen Irene (Nelle) Beauvais. Estella Louise Beauvais.  
Birdie Belle Beauvais.  
Bottom row. E.C. Beauvais, Sr. Josephine Beauvais. Mary J. Beauvais.



(Tanguary-Dictionnaire Genealogique Francais-Canadiennes et Missourians.  
Volum 1 and Volum 6 from 1608)

Robidoux-Variations et Surnoms, Robidou--Robidout--Robidoux.

Andre Robidoux of StGermain, Paris, France, Son of Manuel Robidoux, Paris France and Catharine Allue of StMarie deGalice, eveche of Burgoes, Spain, married leduc Jeanne, fifth daughter of Antoine and of Catharine Denote of StGermain of Auxerre, eveche of Paris. They came to the concession of St Lambert in the Parish of Lepraire, Quebec in Canada, June 7, 1667 and took up farming. From their issue is four generations of Joseph Robidoux through Canada to Missouri, and many Francois-Antoine--Louis among the numerous other family names.

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Abstracter

IV. Joseph Robidoux, Born 1722. Maitre Cardonnier et Marie Anne Leblanc born 1724. This father and son came to StLouis 1770. Son. Joseph Robidoux born 1750. Married on Sept. 21, 1782 to Cathrine Rollet. Theirs were the Missouri issue came the six sons that blazed the Western trails to civilization.

V. Joseph Robidoux, born 21st Sept. 1750, born of Joseph Robidoux the IV and Cathrine Rollet born 1767.

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Joseph Robidoux, born in Montreal, Canada in 1750 was the son of Joseph Robidoux, Maitre Cordonnier (Dealer in Shoes) born in 1722 and Marie Anne Leblance, born in 1724 in Canada. The father and son came to StLouis in the year 1770 from Montreal. The father died September 12th 1771, at the house of Kiery Denoyer. An Inventory of his effects was taken and placed by the governor in possession of his son.

Joseph married Catherine Rollett (dit Laderoute) September 21, 1782, also Canadian descent. He had embarked in the fur business, which he prosecuted for over thirty years quite successfully and prosperously, having acquired a handsome fortune. He died March 17, 1809 at the age of 60 years leaving a widow and six sons, all grown to manhood. The children of this union were as follows. Joseph Born August 10th 1783. Lewis 1785 and Francis 1788 and Margaret 1790 and Pierre Isidore Born 1791, Antoine 1794 Louis 1796, Michel 1798. Eulalie 1880 and Pelagie 1802. Colonel Auguste Chouteau was appointed his executor and closed up the estate.

Joseph Robidoux's estate was probated in August 1810. His slaves were listed as follows. Felecite, with child at breast, 200 piastres; her daughter of 8 years at 150; a girl of 6 years at 125, and une autre petite negrette, 100 piastres. It was exceptional indeed when a negro brought over \$500.00 before 1850.

When Auguste Chouteau's negroes were appraised in 1829 the eleven men among them who were between the ages of 16 and 35 averaged \$486.35 each, the highest being worth \$500.00 and the lowest \$300.00 The eleven women between the ages of 16 and 39 averaged \$316.35 the highest valuation being \$350.00 and the lowest \$130.00 Men brought considerably more in the late thirties.

The first General Assembly, of the new territory met on December 7, 1812 at StLouis in the house of Joseph Robidoux. (The father of the six sons that blazed the western trails, returning to the old house in StLouis each year from their long voyages into the primitive wilds.

In 1779 and for a number of years thereafter Joseph Robidoux, was listed as a Lieutenant in StLouis Militia Company, was one of the principal merchants of Old StLouis and extensive fur traders and was interested in the Spanish Commercial Company as Stockholder.

Journalism was Born in 1808 in the North room of Joseph Robidoux's house on the 12th July. The Missouri Gazett by Joseph Charless, had come into existence. In the year 1822 the Missouri Gazette was changed to StLouis Republic. His home was a large mansion located between Walnut and Elms, where he died in March 1809.

All the Robidoux are related, as only one came over from the old country to settle in Nouvelle France. His name was Andre Robidoux son of Manuel Robidoux St.Germain France and Cathrine Alue of Saint Marie deGalce Diocese of Burgois Spain. This son, Andre married LeDuc Jeanne the fifth daughter of Antoine & Catherine Denote of StGermain de Auxerre of Paris. They came to the consession of StLambert in the parish of Laprairie Quebec in Canada June 7, 1667 & took up farming. One of their sons called Guillanne was married to Marie Guern in

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas



Montreal on July 11th 1697. They had a son called Joseph who married Anne Fontenau in Laprairie on January 7, 1721. One of their children called Joseph was married to Marie-Anne Leblanc on February 3, 1749 at Sault Au Recollet near Montreal. They had a son called Joseph who was married to Marie Rollet at StLouis, Missouri on September 21st, 1782. From this issue the six sons that blazed the Western trails to civilization. The names of their children. Joseph Robidoux, born 1783. Francois Robidoux born 1788. Isidore Robidoux born 1791. Antoine Robidoux born 1794. Louis Robidoux born 1796. Michel Robidoux born 1798. Eulalie Robidoux born 1800. Pelagie Robidoux born 1802.

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Pierre Isidore Robidoux.

Pierre Isidore (Son of Joseph Robidoux who was born 1750 and his wife Cathrine Rollett) was born 6th Nov. 1791 and married October 14th 1815 to Julia Desjarlais at Cahokia. <sup>1787-1820</sup> The sons of Joseph Robidoux kept their business in StLouis as well as the post on the Upper Missouri, (Now StJoseph Mo) Joseph Robidoux, was at StJoseph. Louis and Antoine Robidoux went to Santa Fee New Mexico and Michel trading at Fort Laramie in Wyoming. Isidore Robidoux went to Santa Fee and Francois attended the business in StLouis. StJoseph was the business center for the whole river district and from here supplies were sent all over the western mountains and plains that Michael and Francis and Isadore Robidoux had traversed to and from Fort Laramie trading with the Indians in the thirties. It was here too, that most of the California pioneers of 1849-1851 and 1860 were supplied with outfits for the long journey to the Pacific coast. The six brothers were all interested to the best advantage in the American Fur Company until the company quit business in 1833. All returning each year from their long voyages into the primitive wilds to the old house in StLouis. Francis and Isidore Robidoux, traded principally on the plains of Northern Kansas, and upon the Yellowstone River. When they arrived at StJoseph they would transfer to a steamboat for transportation to StLouis. From 1820 to 1840 the trade from StLouis to the West had developed to such an extent that pack mules and wagons were no longer regarded as sufficient means of transportation to meet the needs of the growing commerce of the middle west. ~~As the furs~~

Phillips  
County

As the furs were purchased and had to be transported where river transportation was not available, The use of the horse and mule pack trains were used to convey the furs to the trading posts and settlements with the recurring trouble with the Indians along the trails, The caravans were organized for the purpose of transporting persons and property along these trails and these caravans consisting of long lines of deep wagon beds with heavy canvas covers stretched over them, were frequently seen winding their weary way over the great American desert in the past century.

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas

The caravans, if large, were organized into divisions, each under charge of a sub officer, whose duty it was to superintend the details of the march, select the best creek crossings and look after the arrangements for the evening camps. The vehicles consisted of heavy wagon carts and light carriages. The draught animals were horses, mules and oxen. There were always a large number of saddle horses. The progress of these huge caravans was always slow and rarely averaged more than fifteen miles a day.

Isidore's route from StJoseph with his caravan of Wagons was over the Oregon trail route up the North Platte to where the North and South Platte joined, where the trappers come in from Old Taos, thence northward for the rendezvous at FtLaramie and Ft. Platte below. The country was wild and the Indians plentiful. The fan shape trail to Santa Fee and Taos north to Robidoux post on Robidoux River to the Platte and Ft. Laramie, the Yellowstone back to the Missouri River, in the '40's.

We have read with delight the expeditions and travels to the mountains and the Pacific ocean, the difficulties and dangers to be encountered, the perilous advantages and hairbreadth escapes of which we have read and heard, and the hunters themselves we have looked upon as most daring, ~~intrepid~~ If there is any merit in untiring, perseverance and terrible suffering in the prosecution of trade, in searching out new channels of commerce, in tracing out the courses of unknown rivers and discovering the resources of unknown regions. There is no reflection on the character of the Robidoux merchants and trappers.



Bonded  
Abstracter

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas

They were exact in their requisitions of duty, determined and persevering and always confident of success. When their affairs were in danger they were always among the foremost to meet its difficulties. In all their dealings with the Indians they were strictly honorable and always endeavored to give them favorable ideas of the whites. They never molested them except in their own defense.

From the Robidoux objective points in the Northwest were the three forks country of the Missouri River, the North and South Platte River and Yellowstone River; to the Columbia and Oregon region on the other side of the mountains, to the Southwest, the metropolis of the Spanish settlements that Pike had reported upon in 1806. Antoine Robidoux, first fur trader out of old Taos, whose post in the Southwestern Colorado was the pioneer trading post beyond the Continental Divide of the Rockies, going up White River to the Unintah River where he established a post, now White Rocks, Utah.

The intrepid traders and trappers who first explored the wilds of the West, who traced the streams which flow through Missouri to their source, who sealed the mountain passes, and who first laid out and established the routes of travel which now are avenues of commerce, were the real "Pathfinders of the West."

It was the trappers and traders of the early portion of the eighteenth century who first took their perilous voyages into the heart of the savage wilds of the unexplored West.

The pioneers of science went venturing, hand in hand, with the pioneers of trade in the early explorations into the western wilderness. It was thus the combined knowledge of the traders and the maps of the explorers that aided the emigrant in the great movement to the West. The maps, many of which were made by Joseph Robidoux and his six sons are still to be found in the Astor Library in New York and the archives of the government of France.

Antoine Robidoux's trading post was located just below the junction of the Uncompahgre and Gunnison Rivers in Delta Country of western Colorado. The town of Robidoux and Robidoux River commemorate the Antoine Robidoux old trading post, which was on the point between the Grand and the Uncompahgre Rivers. This was the Ute country, and the Ute Indians were friendly with the trader. On the right bank, in latitude 40 degrees, 27 minutes 45 seconds north, longitude 109, 56 minutes, 42 seconds west, was located Robidoux Fort, or Fort Unintah. Here was established the veteran Antoine Robidoux from Santa Fe, where he, and his brothers had their headquarters. In the fall of 1832 the place was the headquarters of some twenty men, trappers and traders. Kit Carson spent the winter 1832-33 at Robidoux Post.

He died leaving two sons Louis Robidoux who was baptized at StLouis August 12, 1820. and Franklin Robidoux who married Nancy Langston Baily

#### FRANKLIN ROBIDOUX,

Franklin Robidoux, son of Pierre Isidore Robidoux, was born 1822 and Married Nancy Langston Baily on 14th Dec. 1843, she being the daughter of William Langston of StJoseph Mo. originally coming from Kentucky. Franklin Robidoux died on 16th January 1847 at the age of 25 years leaving one child called Mary J. Robidoux, who married Edward Beauvais, son of G.P. Beauvais. Nancy Langston had a son William T. Bailey by a former marriage. During the War W.T. Bailey was a Lieutenant under Price in the Confederate Army. After the war he moved to California where he worked on most of the old time journals in Oakland. For some time he was foreman of the Vidette and he also ran the West Oakland Star. When he died he was 56 years of age and left a wife and grown family.

Franklin Robidoux, often went on the freighting trips to Santa Fee and Taos, etc. to be with his uncles Antoine and Louis.



FIRST WEDDING SOLEMNIZED IN STJOSEPH, BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI.

Mr. Franklin Robidoux, son of Pierre Isidore Robidoux and a brother of Joseph Robidoux, the founder of the city of StJoseph, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony on December 14, 1843, to a young widow, Mrs Nancy Bailey, daughter of an old citizen, William Langston. Being the first wedding, the boys wanted to have fun and frolic. A great many were invited to the wedding. The House was entirely too small to accommodate the parties invited. The ceremony was performed by a Cumberland traveling preacher, and a large ball and supper was prepared on the occasion. The only musicians or fiddlers in the country at that time were Julius C. Robidoux and Isidore Robidoux, sons of Joseph Robidoux, who did all the fiddling for the cancing during the night of the wedding.

A man named Scott, a brick layer and a very good man, took in his head to get up a charivari. He soon succeeded in getting a squad of men and boys to the scene of the wedding equipped with horns, tin pans, cowbells, sleight bells, etc and made a considerable show and they came to the house of William Langston, where the parties were enjoying themselves in dancing, and commenced their music. With all their noise everything turned into confusion and excitement and a general row was anticipated. William Langston and his son Jake took it as a great insult to them and the company present, and was about to stop their proceedings.

Julius and Isidore and Mitchel Robidoux and others informed Mr. Langston that it was all in fun and frolic and for him to treat the company, giving them cake and so forth, and the disturbers would quit and go off peacefully, for the Robidoux's were acquainted with these charivaries as they were quite common in StLouis and other places when a young man married a widow. He could not see it in that light and was determined to break it up. Things became worse and no compromise could be had upon any terms. There was kept a dram shop on the same street below the premises where the wedding took place and both parties frequented very often to drink and cut up. About twleve o'clock at night a party from the wedding and a party of the charivari, met in said saloon and a general row commenced. All the lights from the saloon were blown out and a general fight took place, which caused quite an excitement in our little village and everybody was on the alert to what had been done. As soon as the excitement subsided, the saloon was lighted and a man was found lying upon the floor. Upon examination, Mr. Scott, the captain and ringleader was found stabbed in the abdomen and his life was extinct.

The scene that followed was very great and excitement prevailed. The question was, "Who had committed this awful deed?" It was generally understood that a plot had been made to capture the captain. The next day several men were arrested. They were William Langston and Jake Langston. Isidore Robidoux and several others. Jake ran off. The other parties were examined before a squire of Buchanan County and Isidore Robidoux was acquitted with two others. Wm Langston was bound over with some other men to appear before the circuit court of Buchanan for trial. Wm Langston and others took a change of venue to another county for trial and the case was sent to Platte City, Missouri. After a long and prolonged trial the parties all came clear and free.

It was quite a lessor for the young people of the town and it broke up all charivaries for some time.

Franklin Robidoux, son of Isidore, died in StJoseph January 16, 1847, age 25 years. he left one child Mary who married Edward Beauvais.

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Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas



MARY J. ROBIDOUX.

Mary J. Robidoux was born Dec. 1, 1844 in StLouis Mo. the daughter of Franklin Robidoux and Nancy (Baily) Langston. Both her parents died when shewas young and she was educated in a Convent, and married Edward Coleste Beauvais, son of G.P. Beauvais on 20th Dec. 1862 in StJoseph Mo. and died at her daughter's home Mrs. T. Wyckhoff, at Belle Foyrche, So. Dak. Dec. 14, 1933. She was among the very earliest settlers in Frontier County and lived near and in Stockville until 1927, at which time making her home in Phillipsburg with her daughter Mollie Eugene (Marie) Kingery, later moving to Denver Colorado with her daughter Josephine Robertson, and still later with her daughter Helen Irene (Nelle) Wyckoff, at Belle Fouch S.D. where she died and is burried. After she was married in 1862 she made several trips to the Beauvais Ranch and trading post, and spent most of her life on the frontier. Those who knew her and had the pleasure of listening to her stories of life on the frontier, and who have heard her relate the thrilling adventures, romantic episodes and hairbreath escapes through which she passed, will ever carry in their memories the pleasant recollections of her. Following is copy of notice put in the Curtis Neb. paper at the time of her death.

"

ONE OF COUNTY'S EARLIEST PIONEERS PASSED AWAY AT DAUGHTER'S HOME  
IN SO. DAK.

News has been received here of the death of Mrs. E.C. Beauvais at the home of her daughter, Mrs T. Wyckhoff at Belle Fourche, So. Dak. Thursday Dec. 14.

Mrs Beauvais was among the very earliest settlers in Frontier county and lived near and in Stockville until 1927, Mr. Beauvais died in the early 1900's. Mrs. Beauvais was born in StLouis Mo. and was 89 years old Dec. 1, 1933. She was educated in a convent in that section. Her father was active in the first white settlements west of the Missouri river in Nebraska. His trading post at Julesburg, Colo., prior to the building of the Union Pacific railroad in mentioned prominently in historical accounts of the west. Mrs Beauvais was the first white woman to ride on a Union Pacific train from Omaha to Julesburg, Colo.

The Beauvais established ranches in the vicinity of Stockville, among the earliest in this section, one of them being the farm now owned and occupied by Earl Watkins, one mile north of Stockville on the Medicine.

Mrs Beauvais was the mother of six children, all of whom are living. They are: E.C. Beauvais, Pueblo, Colo. Mrs J.E. Williams, Bladen Neb. Mrs Wm Kingery, Phillipsburg, Kans. W.T. Wyckoff, Belle Fourche, So. Dak. Mrs C.A. Craig, Denver, Colo. and Mrs S.B. Robertson, Denver Colo.

In addition to her six children, Mrs Beauvais is survived by twenty-five grand children and fourteen great grand children. Among the grand children is K.F. Williams of Curtis.

Since 1927 Mrs Beauvais had made her home with her daughters at Denver Colo., and at Belle Fourche. Death was attributed to heart trouble and old age. While Mrs Beauvais had not been in good health for about a year, she was up and around until the day before her death. She passed away in her sleep some time between midnight and early morning.

The funeral services were held from the daughter's home in Belle Fourche Friday afternoon at 2:30 Burial was in Pine Slope Cemetery. Rev. Tracy conducted the services. The pall bearers were the grandsons, two great grandsons and son-in-law of the deceased.

Mrs Beauvais retained remarkable command of her faculties for one of her age and was interested in all that was going on in the world today. But she never lost interest in her Frontier County friends and was much interested recently in the historical and biographical accounts recently prepared by Judge Bayard H. Paine.

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Bonded  
Abstracter

Phillips  
County

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas



Fort Laramie - about  
20 miles northwesterly  
from Nev.-Wyo. line

Julesburg in 1867 - end of U.P. track  
Temporary population 4000

Fort Sedgwick

Julesburg in 1865  
Beaumont Trading Post

Cash Hollow

Overland Trail

# NEBRASKA.

## RAILROADS.

- 1 Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe. Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Exp.
- 2 Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. Adams and W. F. & Co.'s Exp.
- 3 Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. U. S. Exp.



Bonded  
Abstracter



*Felix Robidoux*

Born 1818, St Louis  
married Cathrine Jane Smith  
1847. Died Aug 11. 1873  
Only Father & mother which  
sister J. remembered:



*Cathrine Jane Robidoux  
nee Smith:*

Born Nashville Tenn. Feb 10.  
Died 20 Dec 1895

Phillips  
County



*Josephine A. Robidoux  
Daughter of Felix & Jane.  
married Frank Corby:*



*Mary J. Robidoux  
1864 20 yrs.*

Phillipsburg,  
Kansas



*Mollie E. Beauvair  
Age 18 yrs + 7 months:*



*1879. 6 yrs  
Mollie E. Beauvair:  
as Child:*



No. ....

ABSTRACT  
OF  
TITLE

TO

FOR

COMPLETE ABSTRACTS OF TITLE TO  
ALL LANDS AND TOWN LOTS IN  
PHILLIPS COUNTY

Compiled By

Phillips County Abstract Co.

Box 147  
PHILLIPSBURG, KANSAS