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**HISTORY OF THE JESUITS OF MAISON ST LOUIS AND THE
STUDENTS FROM THEIR SCHOOL, NOTRE DAME DE BON
SECOURS DE JERSEY, WHO DIED DURING WW1**

The Jesuits came to Jersey in 1880 seeking sanctuary from the increasing persecution they were facing from the French authorities in France. The Jesuits in Laval along with other religious communities had been under increasing restrictions in France, and with the introduction of the Ferry Laws (which sought to secularize education), the Jesuit sailing school, Notre Dame de Bon Secours, that had been in operation since 1874 in Brest, was under threat of closure and so they looked to Jersey for refuge. Foreigners could not purchase property in Jersey but with assistance from sympathetic allies in Jersey, and the Jesuits and Catholic hierarchy in England, they were able to arrange the purchase of the Imperial Hotel in St Helier, the sale of which was ratified by the Jersey Royal Court in June 1880.

The hotel was renamed Maison St Louis Gonzague and became home to the exiled Jesuits. The initial living conditions were cramped as they had to refurbish the building to accommodate and educate the Jesuit students and then the additional students from their sailing school which opened in 1881. In 1881 the Jesuits rented two nearby properties on St Saviour's Road called the Retreat (renamed St Mary's) and Rouge Bouillon (renamed St Joseph's). The Jesuits then purchased a house in Waverley Terrace, St Helier to house and educate the students from the Sailing school and went on to buy Cardwell House in Saint Saviour in 1894, which became the school known as Notre Dame de Bon Secours de Jersey or Highlands.

The Jesuits were regarded by many as "outsiders" and they were not welcomed by everyone on the Island. There are numerous newspaper reports about harassment they received, including one significant case of assault in 1882 which drew the attention of the UK press, where six Jesuits were attacked by a gentleman with a horsewhip. The press described the man's behaviour as "despicable excess courage against unarmed inoffensive refugees". The man was charged, found guilty and fined. There were also State investigations and scrutiny into the Jesuits after lobbying by Protestant factions, but these eventually ceased in 1885. The Jesuits did have their supporters including the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey, Sir Lothair Nicholson who showed his and the Crown's support by visiting the Jesuits in 1883 and the Queen herself who visited a Jesuit house in England.

The Jesuit sailing school was a great success for a number of years and many of the students went on to military colleges in the UK and France. The French authorities then changed the rules of entry to military colleges in France so that students had to come from local training colleges; this change specifically targeted and excluded the Jesuit school in Jersey. With the majority of students coming from France, the Jesuits were left with little option but to close their sailing school in 1900. The Jesuits decided to open a general boarding school instead

and Cardwell House was expanded. In October 1903 they opened their General Boarding School known as Notre Dame De Bon Secours de Jersey (or Highlands) to students.

Further anti-cleric laws in France had seen more religious congregations flee France and in 1902 the Jesuits transferred the whole of their philosophy Scholasticat in Laval to Jersey and their theology Scholasticat in Lyon to Canterbury. The French authorities also kept changing the laws regarding military conscription in France and by 1905 clerics were no longer exempt from compulsory service, even if they lived overseas.

Many of the Jesuits sought exemptions on health grounds, and those that were called up under conscription, were left to negotiate less combative or auxiliary roles. Many of the Jesuit scholastics had to put their studies on hold whilst they served, delaying their advancement and potential ordination as priests. When WW1 was imminent and reserve soldiers were mobilized, many of the Jesuit scholastics and clerics were called back into service, and again had to negotiate their roles. It would seem many of the Jesuit scholastics were combatants during WW1.

The French were an increasingly secularized society, but during the war the Church again found favour with the general population, as many people turned to religion for solace. The French authorities were forced to recognise this turning sentiment and in 1915 they began advertising for Chaplains to support the armed services. Some clerics were already serving as stretcher bearers or nurses in roles they had previously negotiated, and some had been acting informally as chaplains, but they were not generally recognised by the authorities until 1915.

Due to more favourable religious tolerance in France after the war by the general population, and declining enrolments due to the aftermath of war, the Jesuits closed their school in Jersey in 1919 and sold it to the Brothers of Christian Education (from Ploermel) in June 1922. The bulk of the Jesuit Scholasticat eventually moved back to France. A small community of Jesuits remained in Jersey until 1954, mainly to continue their work and study at the weather observatory that they had built on the Island. Fr Charles Rey, who was himself a student at Notre Dame de Bon Secours de Jersey, remained on the Island working at the observatory until 1980 when he retired.

The preface to the French Consul document concerning the names recorded on the French Consulate WW1 Board of Honour in 1919, indicates that there were 81 ex-students from Notre Dame de Bon Secours and 52 Jesuits from Maison St Louis that died in WW1. It would seem a number of the names on the French Consulate Honour Board were Jesuits who died that had been living or studying in Jersey. (There were a few mistakes with names, which is not surprising given the fog of war and the more limited means of finding and collating information 100 years ago.) The Jesuit scholastics have been harder to identify and research as their military records rarely mention their religious affiliation, and they tended to move between Jesuit houses and colleges depending on their areas of study. There are no definitive lists of the French soldiers who mobilized from Jersey in August 1914 or those that left to enlist voluntarily. The names of the Jesuits listed are those that have been identified as having studied or taught in Jersey and who died during WW1.

There were around 350 ex-students from the General Boarding School of Notre Dame de Bon Secours de Jersey who served during the Great War, and conflicting references indicate 81-85 of them died. 90 ex-students and Masters from Notre Dame de Bon Secours de Jersey have been identified (including a few from the pre 1900 Sailing School) and they are now included on the updated Jersey Roll of Honour. These students were previously unacknowledged on the Jersey Roll of Honour and have now been included as they were educated in Jersey.

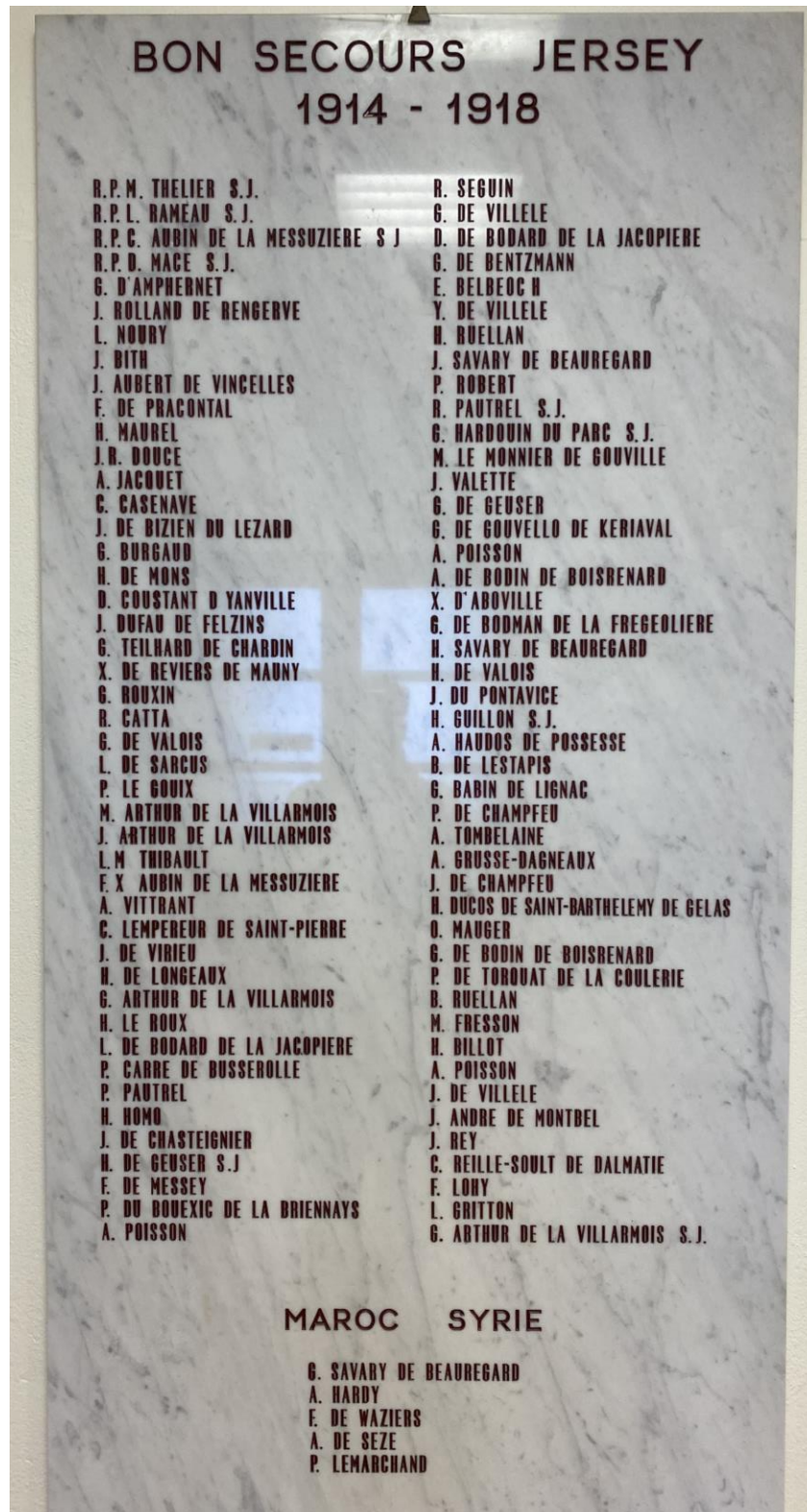
There is some duplication of names between the two lists below, because some ex-students did go on to become Jesuit Scholastics.

Each soldier has a hyperlink to an individual pdf attached to their entry on the Jersey Roll of Honour – which includes details of their family, service, awards, death, grave, and in some cases a photograph. Alternatively (or if there is no working hyperlink) each soldier can be found on the Jersey Roll of Honour which can be accessed via this link:

http://www.greatwarci.net/scripts/db/search_formj.php

The WW1 Honour Board for the Students and Masters of the Bon Secours de Jersey was located at the Institution Notre-Dame Saint-François in May 2021

This photograph has been provided by the Institution Notre-Dame Saint-François and is used on the CIGWSG website with their kind permission.



THE KNOWN NAMES OF THE EX-STUDENTS & MASTERS OF NOTRE DAME DE BON SECOURS DE JERSEY

WHO DIED IN WW1

1. [ANDRE \(DE MONTBEL\), Joseph Paul Leon](#)
2. [ARTUR DE LA VILLAMOISE, Gabriel Antoine Alexis](#)
3. [ARTUR DE LA VILLAMOISE, Guy Marie Philbert](#)
4. [ARTUR DE LA VILLAMOISE, Jacques Marie Xavier](#)
5. [ARTUR DE LA VILLAMOISE, Michel Marie Joseph](#)
6. [AUBERT DU VINCELLIS, Jean Charles Amidee Marie](#)
7. [AUBIN DE LA MESSUZIÈRE, Charles Olivier](#)
8. [AUBIN DE LA MESSUZIÈRE, Francois Xavier](#)
9. [BABIN DE LIGNAC, Gerard](#)
10. [BELBEOC'H, Eugene Joseph Marie](#)
11. [BILLOT, Henri Casimir Marie Patrice](#)
12. [BITH, Marie Louis Jean](#)
13. [BRAULT, Pierre Marie Eugene](#)
14. [BURGAUD, Gaston](#)
15. [CARRE DE BUSSEROLLE, Philippe Andre Gabriel Marie Joseph](#)
16. [CASENAVE, Antoine Marie Maurice Haru Henri Contantin](#)
17. [CATTA, Roger Paul](#)
18. [COUSTANT D'YANVILLE, Daniel Marie Henry](#)
19. [D'ABOUVILLE Xavier Martin Marie Stanislas](#)
20. [D'AMPHERNET DE PONTBELLENGER, Georges Auguste Marie](#)
21. [DE BENTZMANN, Gaston Anne Marie Leon Theobald](#)
22. [DE BIZIEN DU LEZARD, Jean Louis Rene Marie](#)
23. [DE BODARD DE LA JACOPIÈRE, Diego Louis Marie Joseph](#)
24. [DE BODARD DE LA JACOPIÈRE, Louis Georges Marie Joseph](#)
25. [DE BODIN DE BOISRENARD, Marie Paul Alain](#)
26. [DE BODIN DE BOISRENARD, Guy Marie Georges Pierre](#)
27. [DE BODMAN DE LA FREGEOLIERE, Gonzague Jean Charles](#)
28. [DE CHAMPFEU, Jacques Ferdinand Emile Marie Xavier](#)
29. [DE CHAMPFEU, Piere Henri Jean Marie](#)
30. [DE CHASTEIGNER, Alphonse Ernest Marie Jean](#)
31. [DE GEUSER, Georges Joseph Lucien](#)
32. [DE GEUSER, Hubert Marie Andre](#)
33. [DE GOUELLO DE KERIAVAL, Georges Marie Joseph](#)
34. [DE LESTAPIS, Bruno Marie Pierre](#)
35. [DE LONGEAUX, Henri Anne Marie Albert Auguste](#)
36. [DE MESSEY, Fernand Marie Ernest](#)
37. [DE MONS, Henri Marie Alfred](#)
38. [DE PRACONTAL, Francois Marie Jean Gonzague](#)
39. [DE REVIERS DE MAUNY, Xavier Rene Marie Joseph](#)
40. [DE SARCUS, Marie Charles Louis](#)
41. [DE VALLOIS, Henri Georges Marie Joseph](#)

42. [DE VALLOIS, Henri Guillaume Marie Rene](#)
43. [DE VILLELE, Guillaume Marie Joseph](#)
44. [DE VILLELE, Jehan Marie Joseph Pierre Francois](#)
45. [DE VILLELE, Yves Marie Joseph Alain](#)
46. [DE VIRIEU, Marie Joseph Gabriel Bernard Jacques](#)
47. [DOUCET, Jean Raymond Ferdinand Armand](#)
48. [DU BOUËXIC DE LA DRIENNAYS, Pierre Joseph Marie Bertrand](#)
49. [DU PONTAVICE, Jacques Marie](#)
50. [DUCOS DE ST BARTHELEMY DE GELAS, Marie Joseph Claude Hector](#)
51. [DUFAU DE FELZINS, Marie Francois Leon Charles Jean](#)
52. [FRESSON, Max Eugene Marie](#)
53. [GRITTON, Louis Marie Camille](#)
54. [GRUSSE DAGNEAUX, Albert Louis](#)
55. [GUILLOIN, Henri Armand Colomban Marie](#)
56. [HARDOUIN DU PARC, Gabriel Marie Joseph](#)
57. [HAUDOS DE POSSESSE, Antoine Francois Marie](#)
58. [HOMO, Henri Julian Paul Marie](#)
59. [JACQUET, Andre Gabriel Armand](#)
60. [LE GOUIX, Paul Jean Jules Marie](#)
61. [LE MONNIER DE GOUVILLE, Michel Marie Joseph](#)
62. [LE ROUX, Marie Joseph Antoine Henry](#)
63. [LEMPEREUR DE SAINT PIERRE, Charles Remy Joseph](#)
64. [LOHY, Francois Gaetan](#)
65. [MAUGER, Octave Joseph](#)
66. [MAUREL, Henri Marie Louis Emile](#)
67. [NOURY, Louis Marie Alphonse](#)
68. [PAUTREL, Pierre Frederic Celestin](#)
69. [PAUTREL, Rene Arsene Victor](#)
70. [POISSON, Jean Charles Andre](#)
71. [POISSON, Jean Louis Antoine](#)
72. [POISSON, Marie Antoine Bernard](#)
73. [RAMEAU, Léon Auguste](#)
74. [REILLE SOULT DE DAMATIE, Charles Honore Germain](#)
75. [REY, Theophile Marcel Jehan](#)
76. [ROBERT, Charlemagne Henri Andre Paul](#)
77. [ROLLAND DE RENGERVE, Jacques Marie Ambroise](#)
78. [ROUXIN, Gabriel Marie](#)
79. [RUELLAN, Henri Marie Anne](#)
80. [RUELLAN, Jean Berchmans Marie Anne](#)
81. [SAVARY DE BEAUREGARD, Jean Baptiste Marie Augustin](#)
82. [SAVARY DE BEAUREGARD, Marie Gabriel Hubert](#)
83. [SEGUIN, Robert Francois Bertrand](#)
84. [TEILHARD DE CHARDIN, Gonzague Marie Joseph](#)
85. [THELIER, Leon Lucien Marcel](#)
86. [THIBAULT, Louis Marie Arthur](#)
87. [TOMBELAINE, Marie Joseph Martial Albert](#)

88. [TORQUAT DE LA COUERIE, Paul Francois Marie Victor](#)
89. [VALETTE, Jean Marcel Alexandre](#)
90. [VITTRANT, Andre Joachim Marie](#)

THE KNOWN NAMES OF THE JESUITS THAT TAUGHT OR STUDIED AT MAISON ST LOUIS, JERSEY WHO DIED IN WW1

1. [AMOUROUX, Jean Marie](#)
2. [ARTUR DE LA VILLAMOISE, Guy Marie Philbert](#)
3. [AUBIN DE LA MESSUZIÈRE, Charles Olivier](#)
4. [BAUD, Jean](#)
5. [BOISIER, Marie Louis](#)
6. [BURGAUD, Albert](#)
7. [BURGAUD, Gaston](#)
8. [CAILLAUD, Georges Etienne Joseph](#)
9. [CATTA, Roger Paul](#)
10. [CATTIN, Marius Francois](#)
11. [CHABORD, Lucien Pierre Marie](#)
12. [CHAINED, Louis Marie Joseph Emile](#)
13. [COLLAS DE MALMUSSE, Louis Marie Olivier](#)
14. [COURLET DE VREGILLE, Bernard Marie Armand](#)
15. [DE BOISSIEU, Joseph Louis Marie Henry](#)
16. [DE DARAN, Marie François Joseph Auguste Pierre](#)
17. [DE GAILHARD BANCEL, Marie Joseph Roche Andre](#)
18. [DE GEUSER, Hubert Marie Andre](#)
19. [DE LONGEAUX, Henri Anne Marie Albert Auguste](#)
20. [DE MOUSTIER, Marie Joseph Emmanuel](#)
21. [DESGRAND, Louis Jules Joseph](#)
22. [DONIN DE ROSIÈRE, Joseph Marie Louis Pontique](#)
23. [DUREAULT, Pierre Marie Jean](#)
24. [ESTRANGIN, Alexandre Marie Henry](#)
25. [FERRAND, Gustave Marie Pierre](#)
26. [FRANVILLE, Paul Joseph Michel Marie](#)
27. [GAIME, Jean Pierre](#)
28. [GARNIER, Jean Claude Francois](#)
29. [GAUTIER, Melchior Paul Marie](#)
30. [GOUIN D'AMBRIÈRES, Marie Jacques](#)
31. [GUIGUE, Jacques Louis](#)
32. [GUILLOIN, Henri Armand Colomban Marie](#)
33. [HARDOUIN DU PARC, Gabriel Marie Joseph](#)
34. [JEANVRIN, Aime Ferdinand Xavier](#)
35. [JULLIA, Marie Hippolyte Ambrose Adolphe](#)

36. [LAFONT DE CONTAGNET, Marie Henri Frank Freydia](#)
37. [LANSARD, Victor Francois Louis](#)
38. [LIEUTIER, Leon Marie Alfred](#)
39. [LYONNET, Joseph Jean Antoine Marie](#)
40. [MACE, Donatien Etienne Marie](#)
41. [MARTIN DE LA ROUVIERE, Henri Jean Marie](#)
42. [MERCKX, Henri Antoine Rosalie](#)
43. [NEYRAND, Charles Jacques Andre Marie](#)
44. [NEYRAND, Marie Bernard Guillaume](#)
45. [NOIROT, Paul Marie Henri](#)
46. [PARADIS, Ernest Marie Louis](#)
47. [PAUL, Gustave Leon](#)
48. [PAUTREL, Rene Arsene Victor](#)
49. [POISSON, Jean Louis Antoine](#)
50. [RADISSON, Leon Joseph](#)
51. [RAMEAU, Léon Auguste](#)
52. [REGIS, Gabriel Marie Louis](#)
53. [RENEVIER, Philippe](#)
54. [ROUX, Andre Marie Eugene](#)
55. [ROUX, Maurice Marie Joseph](#)
56. [SERIN, Emile Paul](#)
57. [THELIER, Leon Lucien Marcel](#)
58. [VALLIER, Claude Emile](#)
59. [VIMAL DU MONTIEL, Jean Henri](#)
60. [VITTRANT, Andre Joachim Marie](#)
61. [VITTRANT, Joseph Camille](#)