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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 was to become 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 the mid 1920's. 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. More names will be added to the Jesuits if they can be identified.

There were around 350 ex-students from the General Boarding School of Notre Dame de Bon Secours de Jersey who served during the war, and conflicting references indicate 81-85 of them died. 87 ex-students 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 identified has an individual web page and/or a 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. The Jersey Roll of Honour can be accessed via this link: http://www.greatwarci.net/scripts/db/search_formj.php

THE KNOWN NAMES OF THE EX-STUDENTS 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 MESSUZIERE**, Charles Olivier
8. **AUBIN DE LA MESSUZIERE**, 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. **CRETON**, Piere
20. **D'ABOUVILLE** Xavier Martin Marie Stanislas
21. **D'AMPHERNET DE PONTBELLENGER**, Georges Auguste Marie
22. **DE BENTZMANN**, Gaston Anne Marie Leon Theobald
23. **DE BIZIEN DU LEZARD**, Jean Louis Rene Marie
24. **DE BODARD DE LA JACOPIERE**, Diego Louis Marie Joseph
25. **DE BODARD DE LA JACOPIERE**, Louis Georges Marie Joseph
26. **DE BODIN DE BOISRENARD**, Marie Paul Alain
27. **DE BODIN DE BOISRENARD**, Guy Marie Georges Pierre
28. **DE BODMAN DE LA FREGEOLIERE**, Gonzague Jean Charles
29. **DE CHAMPFEU**, Jacques Ferdinand Emile Marie Xavier
30. **DE CHAMPFEU**, Piere Henri Jean Marie
31. **DE CHASTEIGNER**, Alphonse Ernest Marie Jean
32. **DE GEUSER**, Georges Joseph Lucien
33. **DE GEUSER**, Hubert Marie Andre
34. **DE GOVELLO DE KERIAVAL**, Georges Marie Joseph
35. **DE LESTAPIS**, Bruno Marie Pierre
36. **DE LONGEAUX**, Henri Anne Marie Albert Auguste
37. **DE MESSEY**, Fernand Marie Ernest
38. **DE MONS**, Henri Marie Alfred
39. **DE PRACONTAL**, Francois Marie Jean Gonzague
40. **DE REVIERS DE MAUNY**, Xavier Rene Marie Joseph
41. **DE SARCUS**, Marie Charles Louis

42. **DE VALLOIS**, Henri Georges Marie Joseph
43. **DE VALLOIS**, Henri Guillaume Marie Rene
44. **DE VILLELE**, Guillaume Marie Joseph
45. **DE VILLELE**, Jehan Marie Joseph Pierre Francois
46. **DE VILLELE**, Yves Marie Joseph Alain
47. **DE VIRIEU**, Marie Joseph Gabriel Bernard Jacques
48. **DOUCET**, Jean Raymond Ferdinand Armand
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. **HAUDOIS 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 DR 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. **REILLE SOULT DE DAMATIE**, Charles Honore Germain
73. **REY**, Theophile Marcel Jehan
74. **ROBERT**, Charlemagne Henri Andre Paul
75. **ROLLAND DE RENGERVE**, Jacques Marie Ambroise
76. **ROUXIN**, Gabriel Marie
77. **RUELLAN**, Jean Berchmans Marie Anne
78. **RUELLAN**, Henri Marie Anne
79. **SAVARY DE BEAUREGARD**, Jean Baptiste Marie Augustin
80. **SAVARY DE BEAUREGARD**, Marie Gabriel Hubert
81. **SEGUIN**, Robert Francois Bertrand
82. **TEILHARD DE CHARDIN**, Gonzague Marie Joseph
83. **THIBAULT**, Louis Marie Arthur
84. **TOMBELAINE**, Marie Joseph Martial Albert
85. **TORQUAT DE LA COUERIE**, Paul Francois Marie Victor
86. **VALETTE**, Jean Marcel Alexandre
87. **VITTRANT**, Andre Joachim Marie

**THE KNOWN NAMES OF THE JESUITS THAT LIVED 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. **BURGAUD**, Albert
6. **BURGAUD**, Gaston
7. **CAILLAUD**, Georges Etienne Joseph
8. **CATTA**, Roger Paul
9. **CATTIN**, Marius Francois
10. **CHAIÈNE**, Louis Marie Joseph Emile
11. **COLLAS DE MALMUSSE**, Louis Marie Olivier
12. **DE BOISSIEU**, Joseph Louis Marie Henry
13. **DE DARAN**, Marie Francois Joseph Auguste Pierre
14. **DE GAILHARD BANCEL**, Marie Joseph Roche Andre
15. **DE GEUSER**, Hubert Marie Andre
16. **DE LONGEAUX**, Henri Anne Marie Albert Auguste
17. **DE MOUSTIER**, Marie Joseph Emmanuel
18. **DESGRAND**, Louis Jules Joseph
19. **GAUTIER**, Melchior Paul Marie
20. **GUILLOU**, Henri Armand Colomban Marie
21. **HARDOUIN DU PARC**, Gabriel Marie Joseph
22. **JEANVRIN**, Aime Ferdinand Xavier
23. **JULLIA**, Marie Hippolyte Ambrose Adolphe
24. **LANSARD**, Victor Francois Louis
25. **MACE**, Donatien Etienne Marie
26. **MERCKX**, Henri Antoine Rosalie
27. **NEYRAND**, Charles Jacques Andre Marie
28. **NEYRAND**, Marie Bernard Guillaume
29. **NOIROT**, Paul Marie Henri
30. **PARADIS**, Ernest Marie Louis
31. **PAUL**, Gustave Leon
32. **PAUTREL**, Rene Arsene Victor
33. **POISSON**, Jean Louis Antoine
34. **REGIS**, Gabriel Marie Louis
35. **ROUX**, Maurice Marie Joseph
36. **THELIER**, Leon Lucien Marcel
37. **VITTRANT**, Andre Joachim Marie
38. **VITTRANT**, Joseph Camille