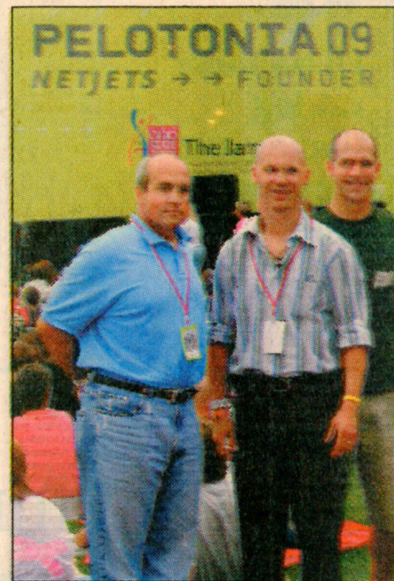


www.putnamvoice.com

PUTNAM Voice



**Local men
ride with
Armstrong**

Page 4

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

175 years

Glandorf village,
church celebrating
anniversary

By **NANCY KLINE**
nkline@putnamvoice.com
419-615-4152

GLANDORF — Bishop Leonard Blair will be the celebrant during the outdoor Mass on Saturday in Glandorf. He will be helping the church and community celebrate their sesquicentennial anniversary.

Glandorf has planned a special three-day celebration to remember their 175 years of history and the history of their church. Events will begin on Friday and continue through Sunday when a parade is planned at 2 p.m.

Glandorf was begun in the year 1834 by a group of men, natives of West Germany, under the direction of Fr. Johann Wilhelm Horstmann. Two years prior, Fr. Horstman had decided to found a counterpart of his German community in America.

These men came on foot to the present site of Glandorf. Upon their arrival Fr. Horstman had a log house erected that could be used as both a church and rectory. He placed his new parish under the patronage of St. John the Baptist.

As more people arrived to the settlement, the log cabin also served as a school with Fr. Horstmann as the teacher. High Mass was offered for the first time in "Neu-Glandorf" on Easter Sunday, March 30, 1834.

In 1835 the log structure erected by Horstmann was replaced by a church proper. The church boasted a steeple and sometime later a bell. The first pulpit was a hallowed-out sycamore log and Indians helped in the construction of the church.

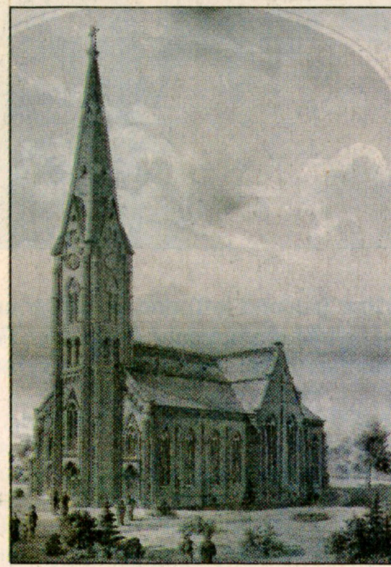
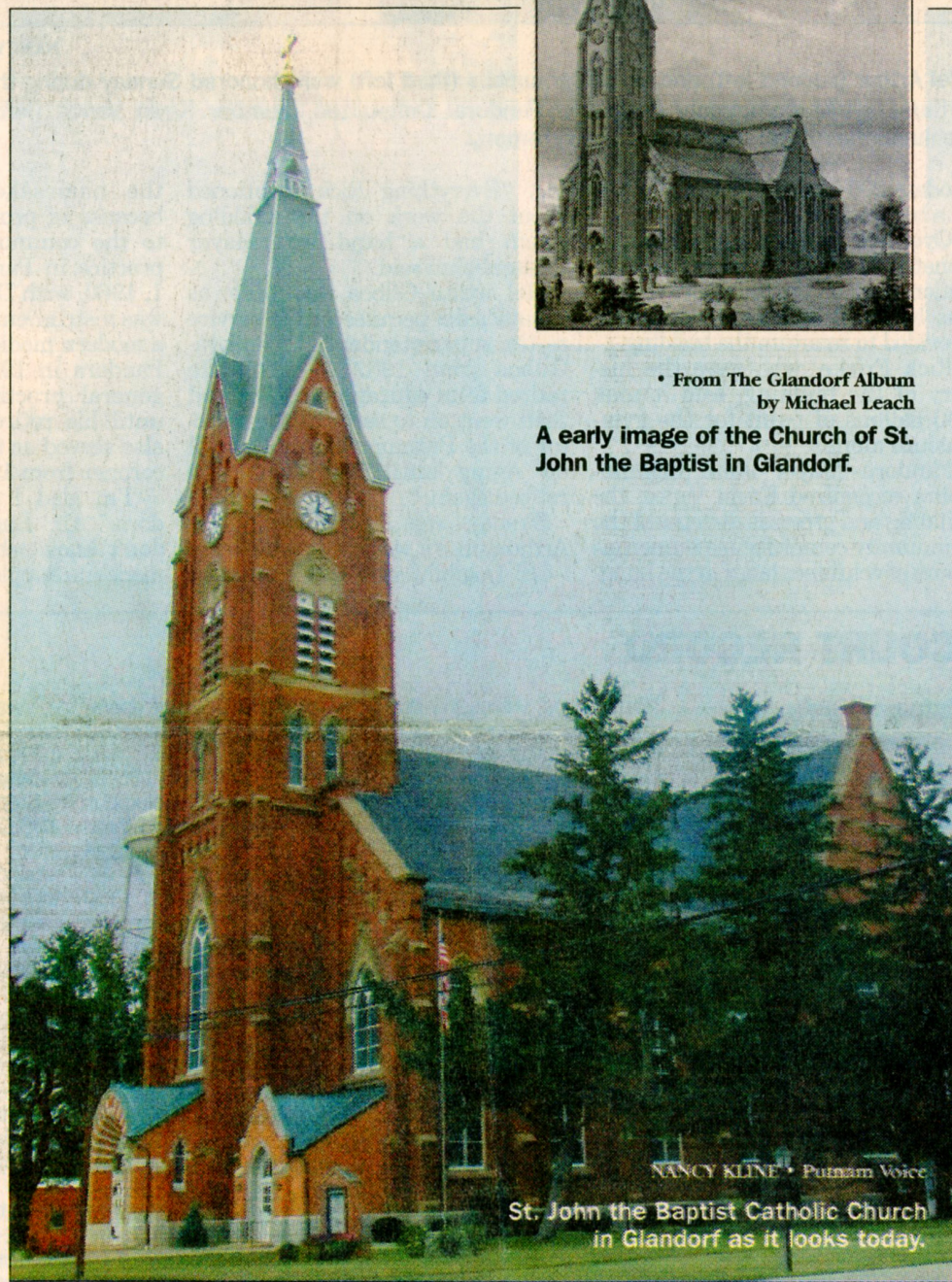
In 1837 Fr. Horstmann built the first gristmill in the village for the accommodation of the early settlers. Previous to this, grain had to be transported to Findlay, Defiance or Sidney for milling unless hand methods were used.

In 1847 the Glandorf parish was entrusted to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

In 1848 Sisters of the Precious Blood community came to Glandorf to serve as teachers. The convent of The Sisters of the Most Precious Blood remained in the village from 1849 to 1917 as they worked on behalf of the church and provided services to the community.

By 1844 the parish had grown to 151 families.

By 1846 the parish community had grown to such a size that another church was necessary.



• From The Glandorf Album
by Michael Leach

A early image of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Glandorf.

NANCY KLINE • Putnam Voice
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
in Glandorf as it looks today.

It was begun in 1846 and completed in 1848.

The cornerstone of the present structure was laid in 1876 and the church was dedicated in 1878.

In 1888 a new school building was built of brick in Glandorf.

The town grew as farmers and shopkeepers established themselves.

Glandorf had the county's only woolen mill and the first flooring mill.

The Glandorf Tile Yard was founded in 1877.

Glandorf was not incorporated until 1891. William Altekruise served as the first mayor. Previous to incorporation, leadership

resided primarily with the priest and township trustees. Altekruise owned a store that consisted of dry goods, notions, groceries, glassware, boots, and shoes

A corner lot north of the church was purchased in 1893 to be used later as the site of the town hall. It was erected in 1901.

In 1934 the town continued to grow. A four-day celebration was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the parish. A parade with 60 entries was held with nearly 12,000 people attended.

In 1950 Glandorf dedicated their new school building which combined the parish

See **GLANDORF 175th** • PAGE 2

Nancy Kline

Putnam Voice
nkline@putnamvoice.com
419-993-2500



Plenty to do in county

Get out your calendar folks. We're in the midst of festival time in Putnam County. Last week was the Columbus Grove Fest.

This weekend you will have your choice of two parades on Sunday in Ottoville at 1 p.m. and Glandorf at 2 p.m. You can also visit both communities to enjoy food, cornhole tournaments, music and games.

Glandorf will celebrate the 175th anniversary of their community and church with numerous activities. The ceremony will kick-off this Friday at 6 p.m. with a ceremonial keg tapping with their visitors from Germany. Turtle races, band performances and an auction on Sunday of anniversary souvenir items are included in the Glandorf Labor Day Weekend events.

In addition to an OSU tailgate party, Ottoville's activities on Saturday will include a battle of the businesses, wing cook-off, and lip-sync contest. On Sunday the king and queen will be crowned followed by the parade.

The Fall Festival in Leipsic is the following weekend on September 19 and 20.

This will feature a car and tractor fun show, 5K run/walk, kiddie tractor pull and garden art charity auction.

Challenged Champions, east of Ottawa, will offer a Fall Fun Festival on Sept. 19 for the young and young at heart. Pumpkin painting, hay rides, pony rides and food will be among the features of the event.

Ottawa will celebrate their 175th anniversary with their Main Event Celebration of Progress in the Ottawa Memorial Park on Sept. 26.

This will feature an Indian wigwam, Indian artifacts display, 175th memorabilia sale, living history display, and 'mock movie theater set up featuring History of Ottawa. Ongoing musical entertainment will be provided at the caboose. Food will be offered for sale throughout the day.

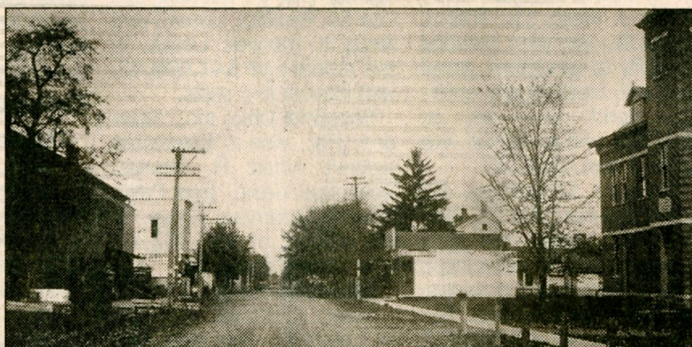
The Continental Fall Festival is Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26. The Sons of the American Legion will host a parade 1 p.m. on September 26. On Saturday featured activities will include a cornhole tournament, game show contest, talent competition and karaoke contest. A flea market parade, car show and corporate challenge in addition to the parade will be featured on Sunday.

Looking for something to do? Take a stay-vacation in Putnam County.



• Photos from The Glandorf Album by Michael Leach

South Main Street looking south in 1950. The building to the right is the former Nienberg Furniture Store. Farther down the street is Major Edelbrock's Creamery and Car Kuhlman's Restaurant. Across the street is the Glandorf German Building and Loan.



Main Street looking north from the Town Hall. To the left is the Fischer Hardware Store. North of Fischer's is the A.V. Bormann Saloon and Restaurant. Directly across the street, the frame building housed the William Hoffman Shoe Store, and a barber shop operated by Herbert Horstman and Micke Roof.

GLANDORF 175th

• from PAGE 1 —————

hall and the junior and senior high schools in a modern, one-story, L-shaped structure. The cafeteria, assembly hall, library, kitchen, home economics rooms, laboratories, gym-auditorium and dressing rooms belonged to the parish and were rented to the public school system.

In 1954 a shrine to Our Lady of Grace was built on the Pioneer Cemetery in town using the old tombstones to call to mind the sacrifices the forefathers endured.

William Gulker, a descendent of one of the earliest settlers designed and constructed the shrine with the help of Leo Ellerbrock and Norbert Sager.

The year 1964 marked the end of the Glandorf schools. Thereafter due to consolidation, the school became Ottawa-Glandorf.

In 1992 a fire started in the sacristy of St. John the Baptist Church. The sacristy and its contents were a complete loss. The entire interior was repainted and the altars were washed, regilded and polychromed.

During 1996 the parish also saw the departure of the Sisters of the Precious Blood from active ministry in the parish. With the retirement of Sister Noreen Jutte, the parish saw the end of 148 years of at least one member of the Sisters of the Precious Blood engaged in educational ministry in Glandorf.

During 1998 a Sesquicentennial Committee celebrated 150 years of Precious Blood Ministry in Glandorf including a jubilee during the summer at the church.

Information for this article was obtained from "A Glandorf Album" by Michael Leach; "Picturing Putnam County's Past" by Randall Basinger and Roselia Verhoff; Laborers in the Vineyard by Michael E. Leach and "St John the Baptist Church, Glandorf, 1984."