

# TRACKS OF TIME

Monthly Publication from the Zephyrhills Historical Association

Volume 22 – Number 7

July 2020

## There will be NO scheduled meeting in August.

*At the present time Zephyrhills Public Library is closed, and meeting rooms are not available due to precautions concerning Covid19. We will continue to publish a newsletter each month, so you will be notified in plenty of time whether we do or do not have a meeting in September.*

### Future Meetings

I am in close communication with the Zephyrhills Public Library staff, and I can assure you they are looking forward to getting back into full operation. Given the current situation with the virus, however, it looks like it could still be awhile. We have already cancelled two Library Board Meetings, and those only involve five members and the Director, so we are being extremely cautious. I doubt seriously that we can schedule a regular meeting of the Zephyrhills Historical Association any earlier than October 6<sup>th</sup>. I have not spoken with any other members of the Board at this time, but I'm going to suggest that we have a Board Meeting only sometime in September. Such a meeting could be done at someone's home, preferably outside. I am willing to have it here at my home on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, but parking could be a problem. Clereen will send out the notice if and when a decision is made. I may have to chair the meeting as I know Rod is particularly busy right now taking care of Carol. If we have this meeting we will publish the minutes in the newsletter. Keep your fingers crossed!

## There will be NO fundraisers for the time being.



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**Jeff Miller**  
**Pasco County Historian**

For a walk down memory lane visit  
[www.fivay.org](http://www.fivay.org)

Please consider contributing old photos  
for the website.

My email address is on the opening page

### ZHA Mission Statement

The mission of the Zephyrhills Historical Association is to research, gather, and share local historical information with all generations, through our literature, programs, and scholarships, and to volunteer assistance to the Zephyrhills Depot Museum and WWII Barracks Museum.

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 <p><b>Clereen Morrill Brunty</b>                  ZHS Alumni Contact</p> <p><b>clereen@tampabay.rr.com</b></p> <p><b>813-782-8763</b></p>	 <p><b>chalet flowers</b></p> <p>Kim   Tim   Maryann Sanders                  owners</p> <p>Ph: 813-788-2874      5002 7th Street                  chaletflowersfl.com      Zephyrhills, FL 33542</p>
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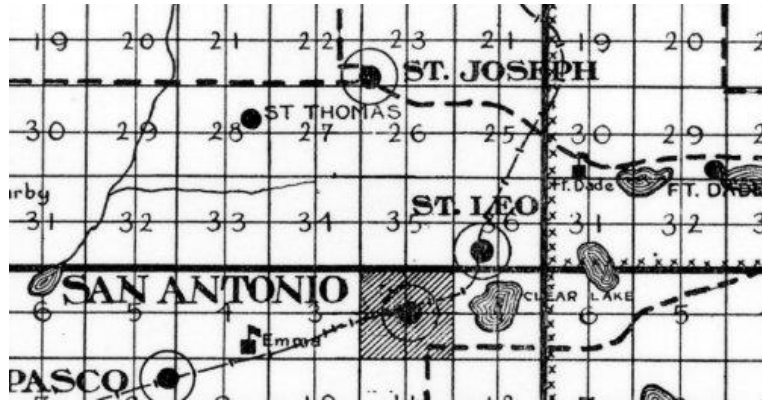
**HISTORY OF PASCO COUNTY**

*Jeff Miller's fivay.org site*

**St. Joseph (1914)**

*The following article appeared in The Catholic Church in the United States of America (1914).*

SACRED HEART, St. Joseph, Fla. — Andrew Barthle, the founder of St. Joseph, Pasco Co., Fla., arrived in March, 1883, and, after three months, returned to Minnesota to tell his friends the wonderful things of "The Land of Flowers." His brother, Bernard A. Barthle, settled in St. Joseph with his family in June, 1883, and Andrew and his family in January, 1885. Others soon followed, and the place became known as "Barthle Settlement" and later as "St. Joseph." At that



period San Antonio, Fla., was the nearest post office and place of worship. In 1888 the settlers were numerous enough to have a church, and on July 1, they requested the Rev. Gerard M. Pilz, O. S. B., who came to San Antonio on May 12, 1886, to sanction their project. He did so, and the parishioners then acquired five acres of land on which to erect a German

Catholic school or a church. The school was completed on September 30, 1888, and dedicated on Oct 1 by Father Pilz. It is a frame structure, one story high, with a bell tower n the rear, and served as a church until 1892. In it the first Mass in this settlement was celebrated by Father Pilz.

On Sunday, November 13, 1892, the church was dedicated by Bishop Moore of St. Augustine, assisted by the Benedictine Fathers Charles, Roman, Benedict, and James of St. Leo College, Saint Leo, Fla. The school and church were built and paid for by the parishioners, and never carried a debt; neither did the small rectory which the faithful erected themselves. All the buildings are of wood.

The parish societies were organized as follows: Sacred Heart Church Male Choir (1888); St. Joseph Acolythical Society (1888); Confraternity of the Scapular (1892); Trustees of the Sacred Heart Church (1892); San Pepi Arborists (1892); Chrislicher Muetterverein (1893); Holy Childhood (1893); Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1893); Altar Sodality (1893); League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (1893); Sacred Heart Church Library (1894).

Since its foundation the parish has been in charge of the Benedictines from St. Leo Abbey, the pastors succeeding Father Pilz being: Revs. Roman Kirchner (1889-90); Benedict Roth (1890; 1892-1901; and again in 1910); Basil Siger (1891); Leo Panoch (1891-92); Albert Schaller (1901); Alexander Fink (1902-05); Augustine Feller (1905-09); James Schabaker (1910); and Benedict Roth.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WATSON CLINIC</b> <small>LLP</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dermatology at Zephyrhills</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rick L. Moore, M.D.</b> Dermatology</p> <p>6901 Medical View Lane Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 www.WatsonClinic.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Office: 813-788-7867 Fax: 813-783-7187</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Artistic Expressions</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">5906 7th Street Zephyrhills, Florida 33542 813 783-7731</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Custom picture framing Prints Needlework Photos Paintings Computer photo editing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Beverly Koehler Barnett, Owner <span style="float: right;">aeframer@gmail.com</span></p>
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The church has all the advantages of a city parish. Not only are there services on Sundays and holydays, but the devotions proper to the different months and feast days are celebrated with becoming ceremonies. Catechism classes are conducted by the pastor after the Sunday Mass. This is the only German congregation in the Diocese of St. Augustine; but twice a month there is an English sermon preached for the benefit of the several English-speaking members. All the members of the parish receive Communion frequently, and to this fact is attributed the piety and wholesomeness of their lives and the special blessings vouchsafed them.

In 1889 Father Pilz brought the Benedictine Sisters from Allegheny, Pa., to take charge of the San Antonio missions, and though the distance from San Antonio to St. Joseph is four miles, over bad roads, two Sisters conduct the school, which has 35 pupils. The Faribault-Stillwater plan is followed in the school.

Although some parishioners died as early as 1883, the deceased members of the parish are buried in the cemetery which was donated in 1891 by August Gerner. Of those who entered religious orders, Wenzeslaus Kindel (now brother Killian, O. S. B., St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn.) and Antoinette Buttweiler (now Sister Aria, O. S. F., Milwaukee, Wis.) were the first.

The population (100) has shown no increase since 1890, owing to emigration to Tampa or Jacksonville. The parish has never received benefactions from the outside world, the church furniture being made or bought by the parishioners, who also made the school benches. Recently the church and school had to be re-shingled. On such occasions the pastor has but to announce what is needed. Nor is his presence required to see that he work is properly done. Thus the church and school lot was fenced into a ark with beautiful trees after the announcement was made that "A new fence is needed around the church property." The parish celebrated its silver jubilee in October 1913.

### The Town Built by Barthle's

*This article appeared in the Tampa Tribune, date unknown.*

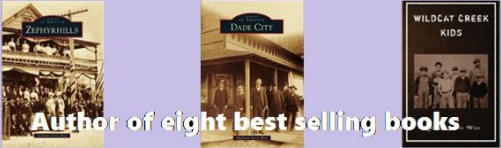

By CAROL JEFFARES HEDMAN

County Road 578 stretches west from Dade City, carrying the traveler from the bustling city into a quiet community plush with rolling hills and grazing cattle.

It's a tranquil place where generations of families have lived on land homesteaded by their forefathers. And it's a place that has remained basically unchanged in the 100-plus years since Andrew Barthle arrived from Minnesota to explore the countryside.

Barthle stayed in the area for three months, then returned to his family and friends in St. Joseph, Minn., according to Sister Dorothy Neuhofer, O.S.B., who has researched the history of the small east Pasco community.



 <p><b>Author of eight best selling books</b></p> <p><b>Madonna Wise Books</b>  <b>Author, Research &amp; Consulting</b>            Madonna Jervis Wise <b>813-469-8627</b>            Zephyrhills, Florida            Murphy, North Carolina            MadonnaJWise@gmail.com  <a href="http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com">http://madonnawisebooks.wordpress.com</a></p>	<p>License # GDI 09084</p>  <p><b>Garage Doors, Inc.</b>  <b>Kerry Ryman</b>  <b>Owner</b></p> <p><i>Residential/Commercial            &amp; Gate Openers</i></p> <p>4622 Gall Blvd. • Zephyrhills, Florida 33542            Telephone: 813-782-5926 • Fax: 813-322-8343            kerry@3rgaragedoors.com</p>
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Barthle's reports of the sunny southland were apparently encouraging to his family. Shortly after his return to Minnesota, his older brother, Bernard A. Barthle, moved to the area with his wife and eight children. In June 1883, they established the first permanent home, located on what is now County Road 578, just west of Scharber Road, in what became known as St. Joseph.

When Bernard Barthle died in 1900, his youngest son, John B. Barthle, inherited the land and maintained the original family homestead until his death, said Neuhofer, the granddaughter of John B. Barthle.

In 1885, Andrew Barthle returned with his family and settled on 40 acres opposite his brother's home. Another brother, Charles, the youngest of the clan, came to the community a short time later and acquired a 40-acre section just east of Andrew Barthle's property. The northeast corner of this land later became the site of the first general store in the community.

In later years, Andrew Barthle relocated to the corner tract of land west of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and Charles Barthle eventually moved to San Antonio, where he founded the St. Charles Hotel.

According to family tradition, Andrew Barthle Sr., father of the three Barthle brothers, also settled in the area, which was first known as "Barthle Settlement" or "Barthle crossing."

By 1888, the community became known as St. Joseph, presumably after the town in Minnesota where the original settlers had migrated from.

The Barthles were German Catholic immigrants who came to the United States in the mid-19th century to settle in Ohio. They later moved to Minnesota and finally to Florida.

Other families, many from Minnesota, also came to the community, and by 1888 the area had grown considerably, necessitating a church and school closer than those located about four miles south in San Antonio.

A group of pioneer settlers obtained approval from the pastor in San Antonio to build their own German Catholic school and church on five acres of land acquired from the Plant Investment Co. A small frame building served as the church and school. A single-story structure known as Jubilee Chapel was designed with a bell tower in the rear and a platform inside in front of the school hall on which the altar for worship was placed.

The chapel was completed in September 1888. But by 1892, the community had outgrown the structure and construction was begun on a church to accommodate about 100 people. This structure, dedicated as Sacred Heart Catholic Church, was also a frame building with a steep gable roof and was placed to the west of the Jubilee Chapel.

The school also opened in 1888 with Bernard Barthle as the first teacher. But in September 1889, the Benedictine Sisters were put in charge of the school, enrolling 35 pupils.

The school originally was organized as a parish school. But around the turn of the century, a devastating freeze left the people poor and without money to continue supporting the school. The county then assumed financial responsibility for the school.

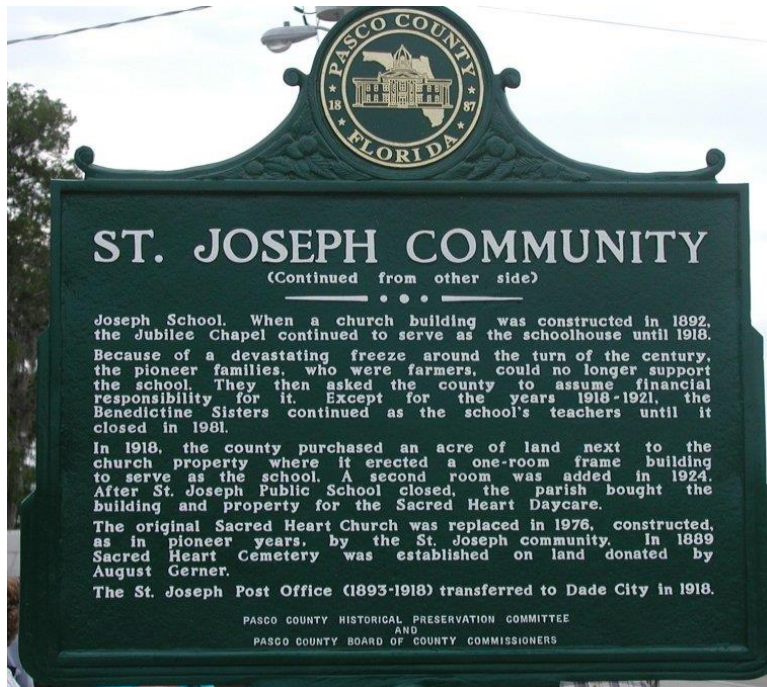
The Benedictine Sisters continued as teachers until 1918, when the county school superintendent issued an order prohibiting the sisters from teaching in public schools in their religious habits.

In 1921, when a new county superintendent took office, the board of trustees of the St. Joseph School submitted the name of Sister Annunciata Newman, O.S.B., to be approved by the School Board as a teacher. Since then sisters have remained as teachers. In the 1960s they were joined by lay teachers.

Until 1918, the county rented the old chapel schoolhouse from the parish. But that year, the county bought an acre of land next to the church property and built a one-room frame building as the school. A second room was added in 1924.

The school remained open until 1981, when the nearby San Antonio Elementary School was opened. Since its founding, many families have come to live in St. Joseph. Some have left, seeking a more metropolitan lifestyle. But many remained to spend the rest of their lives and leave behind their descendants.

Among the names of pioneer families still remaining in the area are Barthle, Blommel, Petters, Gude, and Nathe. Since the community is unincorporated, the population today can only be estimated at about 400. Many things have changed in the past 103 years, but many have remained the same.



From a St. Joseph column published between 1896 and 1900 in the San Antonio newspaper, Neuhofer determined that the main industry of the settlement in those days was agriculture—growing strawberries, citrus and vegetables, and raising hogs and chickens. It remains so today.

The concerns of the pioneer farmers were also much as they are today—whether there would be enough or too much rain and whether winter would bring freezes.

The farmers also were concerned with building roads

to get their crops to town and with the constant threat of decreasing farm prices. In 1898, according to one of the St. Joseph columns, the price of strawberries that had been selling for 35 to 40 cents a quart was dropping to 20 and 25 cents. The farmers had to make 18 cents a quart to break even.

Gertrude Gude, granddaughter of founding father Bernard Barthle, said in a 1983 interview when she was 91 that she had seen many changes in her lifetime.

“We didn't have all the conveniences, and people did a lot of visiting,” said Gude, who had lived most of her life on the same 40 acres that had belonged to her father, Joe Nathe.

“Visiting” was the primary source of entertainment, she said. “I really miss that. It seems people today are working all the time. And we had a lot more fun playing with broken dishes and sticks and strings than kids do today with all those expensive toys,” she said.

Gude said her family raised all its food and sold the excess to obtain other needed items.

“Every time you'd go to the store, you'd take syrup, chickens or eggs to buy flour or things like that,” she said. “We'd drive a horse to Dade City and always take something you grew in there to trade for whatever you needed. It'd take several hours—most of the day—to go to town because we had to go on sand roads through the woods.”

And, Gude said, “I raised eight kids, and none of them ever rode a school bus. We walked barefooted to the St. Joe School.”

Gude sewed all the clothing for her family and did laundry with a washboard until her eighth child was born. When asked what makes people stay in St. Joseph, Gude said she didn't really know. “But I've never been anywhere else—never spent any time on vacations. I thought it was a waste of money,” she said.