Annotated Bibliography – The Navarre family: The possible first biracial couple to permanently settle in St Joseph County, Indiana

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Part 1: Overview

Pierre Navarre is cited as being the first white (of European descent) settler in St Joseph County, Indiana (having settled in South Bend, Indiana, in 1820), and his log cabin is cited as being the first permanent home erected in the county. In 1824, Navarre married Kechoueckquay (also spelled variously in the historical record as Keshawaquay, Keshewaquay, Kes-he-wa-quay, Kis-naw-kwe, Kish-wa-qua, Kiskwalka, Kish-wa-quah, and Kichoueckouay), a daughter of a chief from the Potawatomi tribe, whose territory in the Great Lakes Region included St Joseph County. Upon their marriage, she took the anglicized name Angelique. They were possibly the first biracial couple documented to have permanently settled in St. Joseph County. Navarre died in 1864 and was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery, located on the grounds of the University of Notre Dame, also in St Joseph County. His log cabin is still standing today in South Bend and is actively used by the local historical society as an educational history site available for both tours and school field trips. This annotated bibliography includes numerous sources that are useful to explore the significance of both Pierre and Kechoueckquay's marriage and their log cabin.

This annotated bibliography is relevant to the local history of St Joseph County, Indiana, including the culture of the original Potawatomi residents, the arrival of white settlers, and the architectural significance of the log cabin. Additionally, this annotated bibliography is relevant to the Navarre family genealogy, as sources are included related to Pierre and Kechoueckquay's marriage and information about their 10 children.

Personal Research Process

My research process occurred in multiple steps. I first conducted an internet search for sources about Pierre and Kechoueckquay, their children, their log cabin, and the Potawatomi Nation. For my research, I used search terms including *Pierre Navarre, Angelique* (Kechoueckquay's anglicized name), all spelling derivations of her Potawatomi name that I encountered in the historical record, *Navarre cabin, Potawatomi tribe, Potawatomi Nation,* and *Trail of Death.* This initial research identified a book, several websites, a few blogs, several newspaper articles, and two doctoral thesis papers to include in this annotated bibliography).

I then conducted an in-person interview with Travis Childs, who is both the St Joseph County historian and the Director of Education at The History Museum in South Bend, Indiana. I also corresponded by email with both Joe Smith, assistant archivist at the University of Notre Dame Archives, and Lynn Reaume, historian at the Monroe County Museum System. Based on my inquiries, these contacts gave suggestions for additional sources, provided copies of sources I requested, and/or provided copies of new sources of which I was not aware.

I then conducted another smaller, more detailed internet search for specific sources on the Navarre's children (including obituaries, photographs, newspaper articles, etc.). I also conducted an internet search for background information on the history and culture of the Potawatomi Nation for historical context and the historical significance of the Navarres' biracial marriage.

While locating resources for my collection, I did not need to change course during my research process. Yet I encountered difficulty locating sources that were accessible online

(which is often expected by the general public and casual researchers), as many sources were not digitized. Additionally, because my collection focused on older topics, more recent research and sources were limited. This assignment confirmed that the "old fashioned" and "boots on the ground" research skills of pre-internet days are still very much necessary and valuable. I also attempted to contact the Genealogical Society of Monroe County by email to a general inquiry email box (the only contact method available), as well as Blaire Topash-Caldwell, the archivist for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, by phone (the only contact method available), but I never received responses. So while these two sources may well have very useful information for my collection, I was never able to learn what they have.

Glossary

Following is terminology associated with some of the resources in this annotated bibliography. New World Encyclopedia (<u>https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Great</u> <u>Lakes region (North_America</u>), St Joseph Health System's "About Michiana" webpage (<u>https://www.sjmed.com/about-us/about-michiana</u>), Free Dictionary (<u>https://www.thefree</u> <u>dictionary.com/Potawatomi</u>), and Legends of America (<u>https://www.legendsofamerica.com</u> /<u>na-potawatomitraildeath/</u>) were referenced for these definitions.

- Great Lakes Region the region of North America encompassing much of Ontario, Canada and eight U.S. states that border the Great Lakes (New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota)
- Michiana seven counties of northern Indiana (Elkhart, LaPorte, Marshall, St. Joseph, and Starke) and southern Michigan (Berrien and Cass)

Potawatomi – a member of a Native American people variously located in Michigan,

homeland near Plymouth, Indiana to present-day Osawatomie, Kansas

Wisconsin, northern Illinois, and northern Indiana in the 1600s-1800s, with presentday populations in Oklahoma, Kansas, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Ontario (Canada) Trail of Death – the forced removal of hundreds of Potawatomi tribal members from their

Excluded Resources

1. Genealogical Society of Monroe County, MI, Inc. (n.d.). The genealogical society of Monroe County, Michigan. https://gsmcmi.org Based in Monroe, Michigan, the Genealogy Society of Monroe County, MI, Inc.'s website includes links to the Monroe Research webpage (which includes sub-links to regional and national libraries and archives, obituaries and newspapers (including the Monroe County MI Obit Index), church records, very early and more modern probate records, military records, vital records, local histories, maps and atlases, cemeteries, land records, census records, deeds, and unidentified photos), some useful genealogical resources outside of Monroe County, the Surname Research webpage for many Monroe County families, indexes for local family genealogy information found in The Betty Gay Collection or The Martha Churchill Collection, and the Miscellaneous Monroe Newspaper Items webpage. Although many of the above links are searchable online, none of them contained any reference to any member of the Navarre family (including Pierre Navarre, his siblings, or his parents). Although I attempted to contact this source by email to a general inquiry email box (the only contact method available). I never did receive a response. So while this source may well have very useful information on the

Navarre family, I was never able to verify for sure what information (if any) this source has.

2. Pokagon Band of Potawatomi. (n.d.) Culture. https://www.pokagonband-

nsn.gov/government/departments/culture Based in Dowagiac, Michigan, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi is a federally-recognized tribal government representing over 5,200 tribal members. The *Archives* section of the *Culture* page on the tribal website states that the tribe's online digital archives is called **Wiwkwebthegen** and contains historical photos of ancestors, lifeways, and traditional objects; important documents; video and audio recordings of tribal citizens; and recordings of hundreds of Potawatomi words and their pronunciations. However, the page also notes that the archives are secure and intended for citizen use so an account must be requested for access. Although I attempted to contact Blaire Topash-Caldwell, the archivist for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, by phone (the only contact method available), I never did receive a response. So while this source may well have very useful information on the Navarre family, I was never able to verify for sure what information (if any) this source has.

Part 2: Resources

The following resources are sorted alphabetically by resource type and then alphabetically by author name within each resource type.

Blogs, Forums, and Podcasts

- Citizen Potawatomi Nation. (2019). News. <u>https://www.potawatomi.org/news/</u> Based in Shawnee, OK, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a federally-recognized tribal government representing over 36,000 tribal members. The website provides links to numerous tribal resources and information, including the **Hownikan** blog. Although the View Archive link for the blog was not working when accessed today (May 23, 2021), recent volumes/editions can be accessed individually, and the blog webpage can also be searched via keyword.
- 2. Genealogy. (2001). Genealogy.com user.

https://www.genealogy.com/forum/users/450468563/ This forum on the genealogy research website Genealogy.com includes numerous forum posts that occurred between April and July 2001 to various inquiries regarding a brief biography of Angelique (referred to as Kes-he-wa-quay), as well as her 10 children with Pierre Navarre.

3. Pokagon Band. (n.d.). Yathmownen. <u>https://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/our-</u> <u>culture/yathmownen</u> Based in Dowagiac, Michigan, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi is a federally-recognized tribal government representing over 5,200 tribal members. The website provides links to several tribal resources and information, including the **Yathmownen** podcast. To access podcast episodes, download and subscribe to the

podcast from iTunes or Google Play, either by searching "Yathmownen" or following the links on the webpage

Books

- 4. Howard, T.E. (1907). A history of St. Joseph County, Indiana (two volumes). Lewis Publishing Company. This two-volume book covers the history of St Joseph County, Indiana, and includes biographical sketches of prominent citizens and illustrations. There is no copyright on this book, so it can be accessed freely online through several digitization projects (including Indiana State Library's Digital Collection and The Internet Archive), as well as borrowed/checked out through the St Joseph County Public Library.
- 5. Stoll, J.B. (Ed.). (1922). An account of St Joseph County from its organization. Dayton Historical Publishing Co. This book covers the history of St Joseph County, Indiana, and includes biographical sketches of prominent citizens. There is no copyright on this book, so it can be accessed freely online through several digitization projects (including Indiana State Library's Digital Collection and Google Books).

Miscellaneous

6. Childs, T. (2021, May 24). Personal communication – personal interview. I interviewed Travis Childs, Director of Education at The History Museum and county historian for St Joseph County, Indiana. He noted that Pierre Navarre regularly served as intermediary and translator between the white settlers and the Potawatomi in Michiana, due in part to Navarre being conversational in the Potawatomi language, being married to Kechoueckquay, and being considered very trustworthy and fair in his dealings with people from both cultures. Mr. Childs also noted that the Navarre cabin is thought to have originally been located on a hill in the area immediately south of Angela Blvd. and west of IN-933 in South Bend, essentially making his nearest neighbor the University of Notre Dame. Mr. Childs noted this is possibly why the University of Notre Dame Archives holds some primary materials on the Navarre family (as well as possibly because of the French and Catholic connections between the Navarre family and the university and because no county historical society yet existed at the time of Pierre's death). Mr. Childs noted that the historical record is conflicting on whether the Navarres had 6 children or 10 children, as various sources cite one number or the other. Mr. Childs also noted that the Navarre cabin was later relocated to Leeper Park West (on the west side of N Michigan St) in South Bend in 1907, after it was rescued from its service as a cow barn, and then was again moved to Leeper Park East (its current location, on the east side of N Michigan St) in South Bend in the 1950s. Mr. Childs recommended the following sources for information on the Navarres and their cabin: University of Notre Dame Archives; Pokagon Band of Potawatomi in Dowagiac, Michigan; and Thomas Howard's 1907 book A history of St. Joseph County, Indiana (two volumes).

7. Kasper, S.E. (2012). *The emigrant metis of Kansas: Rethinking the pioneer narrative*. [Doctoral dissertation, University of Colorado].

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&ua ct=8&ved=2ahUKEwjbnNipiubwAhWHB80KHXEyDC04ChAWMAd6BAgKEAM& url=https%3A%2F%2Fscholar.colorado.edu%2Fdownloads%2Fv979v317j&usg=AOv Vaw1H_SSKEBksJ3ArFCL_dUf- (then select the *Open File* link that appears in the *Downloads* modal window of the internet browser to open the PDF file). This doctoral dissertation explores the Potawatomi settlement of the American West (namely Kansas and Oklahoma) years before white settlers did so. It also discusses prominent "mixed blood" descendants of unions between white settlers and Native Americans. An entire chapter is dedicated to the Potawatomi, their history and culture, and their early contact with Europeans. Five paragraphs (four adjoined together and then one separately in footnotes) are dedicated to Pierre Navarre, his family lineage, and his immediate family (referring to his wife as Kish-wa-qua and their 10 children).

- 8. Lamirand-Young, K. (1995). Never 'quite' white Never 'quite' Indian: The cultural dilemma of the Citizen Band Potawatomi. [Doctoral dissertation, Oklahoma State University]. ShareOK. <u>https://shareok.org/handle/11244/34532</u> This doctoral dissertation explores the Potawatomi and French blended heritages of the Citizen Band Potawatomi residing in Oklahoma and Kansas, including early interactions between them in the Potawatomi's ancestral territory in the Great Lakes Region, the Trail of Death, the original families from whom the Citizen Band Potawatomi descend, and historical and modern tribal identity and sovereignty issues the Citizen Band Potawatomi have faced. This dissertation includes detailed information about Anthony Navarre (one of the Navarre children). It also includes a single paragraph that briefly mentions Pierre's father and grandfather, as well as Pierre, his wife (referred to as Keshe-wa-quay), and their children. Interestingly, this source only mentions the Navarres having only six children.
- 9. The History Museum. (2020, February). *Navarre cabin homestead project*. <u>http://historymuseumsb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/PACKET-FINAL.pdf</u> This

booklet was written as an application attachment for a Certificate of Appropriateness to relocate the Navarre cabin from its current location in Leeper Park East to property adjoining The History Museum's campus, with the goals of improved interpretation, maximized visitor exposure, and increased security for the property. This booklet contains a detailed history of the cabin and several pages of black-and-white and color historical and modern images of the cabin (with the earliest being circa 1900), as well as briefly mentioning the Navarre family's history in South Bend.

Newspaper and Newsletter Articles

- 10. Ray, R. (2019, January). A look back: Navarre cabin is oldest residence in St. Joseph County. https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/history/a-look-back-navarre-cabin-is-oldest-residence-in-st-joseph-county/article_3faf5ed7-81af-5235-996b-9e8b470b3912.html This newspaper article was written by the current executive director of The History Museum. Although it mentions Pierre and Kechoueckquay's marriage (referring to her as both Angelique and Keshewaquay), their forced relocation, and their deaths, the article's focus is on the Navarre cabin. This article details how the cabin was used after the Navarre family were forcibly relocated, how it came to be in possession of the Northern Indiana Historical Society (The History Museum's parent organization), and how it was restored.
- 11. Renshaw, M.E. (1998, August). Settling in the bend in 1820, Pierre Navarre came to St. Joseph County, married, and established a fur trading post. <u>http://mlloyd.org/gen/navarre/links/pdserv.html</u> This is a brief newspaper article written by the then-St Joseph County, Indiana county historian and archives employee

at the Northern Indiana Center for History (now The History Museum). This article provides an overview of key moments and details of Pierre and Kechoueckquay's life together, including details and dates (marriage, children's births, forced relocation, and deaths). Interestingly, this is the only source located that noted Kechoueckquay (referred to as Angelique) was "part European" as well as Potawatomi.

- 12. South Bend Tribune. (2015, February). A look back: The lasting impact of Pierre Navarre. https://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/a-look-back-the-lasting-impact-ofpierre-navarre/article_25090549-a8ad-5bca-a3ef-18fe9c2cebcd.html This short newspaper article focuses on Pierre's life, although it briefly mentions Kechoueckquay (referred to as Angelique), their children, and their cabin. Interestingly, it is the only source noting Pierre was born in Monroe, MI, rather than in Detroit.
- 13. Swintz, R. H. (1915, May). *The cabin of Pierre Navarre*. The Notre Dame Scholar, 48(33). <u>http://archives.nd.edu/Scholastic/VOL_0048/VOL_0048_ISSUE_0033.pdf</u>
 This college student newsletter article focuses on the Navarre cabin. It is written with a storytelling tone, but this article details Pierre's settling in South Bend and building of the cabin, as well as mentions his marriage to Angelique and six of their children.

Curiously, the article states that Navarre's exact date of death is unknown, although he is buried at Cedar Grove Cemetery on the University of Notre Dame's grounds.

14. Willard, S. (1997, September). *The Navarres: From European kings to Potawatomi chiefs*. The Rochester Sentinel. <u>http://mlloyd.org/gen/navarre/text/navarres.htm</u> This newspaper article gives a brief overview of Pierre's lineage (going back to his French royal ancestors), his family of origin, and some of his notable descendants. It notes the 1834 Catholic marriage ceremony of Pierre and Kechoueckquay (referred to as Angelique), and it lists the names and years of birth of their 10 children. It also mentions Pierre's 1820 settling in northern Indiana, going west with the Potawatomi after the Trail of Death, and later returning to South Bend to live until his death. It further notes a brief history of the Navarre cabin and its use as an educational history site.

Websites

15. AccessGenealogy. (n.d.). Potawatomi Indian research.

https://accessgenealogy.com/native/pottawatomie-indian-research.htm This webpage provides links for historical information, including links to biographies of chiefs and leaders, Bureau of Indian Affairs resources, cemeteries, census, culture and customs, the Trail of Death, genealogy, land and maps, language, military, rolls and reservations, schools, and treaties.

- 16. Ancestry: Library Edition. (n.d.). Ancestry library home. www.ancestrylibrary.com. This genealogy website provides biographical information and digital images of historical documents for Pierre, his immediate family (wife Angelique and their children), and his family of origin (his parents and siblings). A login is required, but a free account option is available through many public libraries with a library card.
- 17. Citizen Potawatomi Nation. (n.d.). People of the place of the fire. www.potawatomi.org Based in Shawnee, OK, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a federally-recognized tribal government representing over 36,000 tribal members. The website provides links to the Nation's Collections and Research Division of cultural and historical collections, among which is the Navarre Family Manuscripts, Navarre Family History, and

Navarre Genealogy (all of which have very detailed finding aids that are viewable online, and some of which include online images).

18. FamilySearch. (n.d.). Pierre Freschutz Navarre.

https://ancestors.familysearch.org/en/KPHT-BDP/pierre-freschutz-navarre-1787-1864 As part of the genealogy website maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, this webpage lists biographical information for Pierre, his immediate family (wife Kechoueckquay and their children), and his family of origin (his parents and siblings). A login is required, but a free account option is available.

19. Indiana Public Library. (n.d.). Indiana Memory hosted digital collection.

https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/ Based in Indianapolis, Indiana, the digital collection includes digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, maps, and other media related to the history of Indiana. There are separate category links for *Arts and Architecture*, *Historic Newspapers*, *Local History*, and *Maps and Atlases*, among others. The main page of the website lists the digital collections in alphabetical order, and the website can also be searched via keyword. Many of the digital collection items have also been transcribed, allowing for easy keyword searching within a particular item.

20. Jackson County Historical Society. (n.d.). History page.

https://www.jacksoncountyks.com/history.html Based in Jackson County, Kansas, the Jackson County Historical Society's website includes links to 12 volumes of death notices that span from 1872 to 1923 (including information about two of the Navarre children, Judique and Mary Francis, who both died there), a digitized *Bride and Groom Marriage Index* that spans 1855 to 1884, information about military members

and veterans connected to the county, three digitized chapters from a book on life in Jackson County as told by resident Moses Beck, and a digitized book about Mayetta, Kansas.

21. Kaw Valley USD. (n.d.). *The founding of Rossville*.

http://www.kawvalley.k12.ks.us/rossville_kansas/history/founding_of_city.htm Based in St. Marys, Kansas, the Kaw Valley Unified School District (USD) wrote this webpage about the history of the founding of nearby Rossville, Kansas. The second paragraph of this webpage details that Anthony Navarre (one of the Navarre children) and his wife were among the founding families of Rossville. Although it does not appear that this source has any additional information on Anthony, it is was included in this annotated bibliography because it includes the name of his wife and because it documents a key piece of his personal history.

22. Miami County Historical Museum. (n.d.). Trail of Death.

http://www.thinkmiamicountyhistory.com/trail-of-death.html This webpage by the Miami County Historical Museum (based in Paola, Kansas) provides historical information about the Potawatomi Trail of Death, as well as numerous journal entries of witnesses (one set of entries was from a white artist and friend of the Potawatomi who witnessed the removal, and another set of entries was from the U.S. Enrolling Agent who was present during the removal).

23. Monroe County Museum System. (n.d.). Monroe County museum system.
<u>https://www.co.monroe.mi.us/officials_and_departments/departments/museum/index.p</u>
<u>hp</u> Based in Monroe, Michigan, the Monroe County Museum System's website
includes links to archives and collections, programs, *Territorial Park on the River*

Raisin (which includes historic and replica buildings), *Vietnam Veterans Museum*, regional historical associations, a newsletter, and obituaries. The only resource available online is the *Obituary Search* available through the *Online Services* link on the *Archives and Collections* webpage. However, an email inquiry to the county historian verified the museum's collection contains several items that detail Navarre genealogy and Pierre and Kechoueckquay's life together: newspaper and magazine articles, a letter by a 20th century researcher, and pages from a 1987 revision of Fr. Christina Denissen's 1937 book *Genealogy of the French Families of the Detroit River Region 1701-1936*.

- 24. National Archives and Records Administration. (n.d.). American Indian records in the National Archives. https://www.archives.gov/research/native-americans Also known as NARA and the National Archives, the National Archives and Records Administration is the nation's record keeper, maintaining and preserving documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the U.S. federal government. It holds historical records relating to the federal government and American Indians from 1774 through the mid-1990s. Although it is based in College Park, MD, there are National Archives offices across the U.S., each of which may hold various records related to Native American history. This website notes that many of its historical records have not been digitized, although some of the most commonly requested documents have been digitized and are available online.
- 25. New World Encyclopedia. (2019, June). *Potawatomi*. Retrieved May 27, 2021, at https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Potawatomi This webpage provides historical information about the ancestral lands, populations, names, language, sub-

nations, villages, groups, and culture, and a detailed history of the Potawatomi. It also explains that the Potawatomi were among the first Native Americans to intermarry with Europeans in the 1700s and that intermarriage between the French and Potawatomi was quite common in the 1800s. This may suggest that Pierre and Angelique's biracial marriage was commonplace and therefore perhaps did not receive any negative attention from either white settlers or Potawatomi at the time.

26. Rossville Kansas Genealogy. (n.d.). Angelique Kechoueckquay Navarre.

http://genealogy.rossvillelibrary.org/getperson.php?personID=I9863&tree=tree1 The town of Rossville, Kansas, is built on land that once belonged to Anthony Navarre (eldest son of Pierre and Kechouckquay, referred to as Angelique on this webpage). On the genealogy website maintained by Rossville Kansas Community Library, this webpage lists Angelique's biographical information and that of her immediate family (husband Pierre and their children). Interestingly, this webpage is the only source located that lists 11 children.

- 27. St Joseph County Public Library. (n.d.). Michiana Memory digital collection. <u>https://michianamemory.sjcpl.org/digital/</u> Based in South Bend, IN, this digital collection includes digitized books, photographs, pamphlets, and documents of the history of Michiana. There are separate links for Arts and Architecture, Historic Newspapers, Local History, and Maps and Atlases, among others. The website can also be searched via keyword. Included are images of Pierre Navarre and the Navarre cabin.
- 28. Stutzman, L. (1998, December). *Potawatomi history*. Retrieved May 25, 2021, at www.tolatsga.org/pota.html This webpage provides historical information about the

ancestral lands, populations, names, language, sub-nations, villages, groups, and culture, as well as detailed history, of the Potawatomi. Paragraphs 66-70 give detailed historical information about the Trail of Death and the events immediately leading up to it.

- 29. The History Museum. (n.d.). *The History Museum*. <u>www.historymuseumsb.org</u> Based in South Bend, IN, The History Museum's website provides a brief historical overview of Pierre, including his status as the first white (of European descent) settler in South Bend, his marriage to Kechoueckquay (referred to here as Angelique), their log cabin, their travel west as part of the Trail of Death, an overview of the Trail of Death, and Pierre's final years.
- 30. University of Notre Dame Archives. (n.d.). University of Notre Dame Archives.

https://archives.nd.edu In addition to collecting, preserving, and making accessible the official records of the university, the University Archives also collects and maintains records, documents, photographs, and printed and audio-visual materials dating back to the nineteenth century which document "the Catholic Church and her people" in the American context. Many links are available on the Archives website, including information for researchers and about the collections, research resources, a blog, and a digital collections search feature. The Archives' collection includes transcriptions and translations (from French to English) of the baptismal records for three children of Pierre and Kechoueckquay. Interestingly, Angelique's name is listed as "Angelique Kichoueckouay", although the Navarres had been married for 18 years at that point (indicating perhaps she didn't use the Navarre surname). Although these records are not among the digital collections that can be viewed online, they can be accessed either in-person at the Archives or by emailing the Archives.