

"The Spirit of The American Doughboy" statue and its creator E. M Viquesney

Those who want to know more about the Doughboy statue and sculptor who created the statue are directed to the following website which contains a wealth of information on this topic. THE E. M. VIQUESNEY, DOUGHBOY DATABASE, <https://doughboysearcher.weebly.com/>

Some believe that our statue is the either the only one of its kind or the first one erected or dedicated. Others have heard that the sculptor E. M. Viquesney was born in Barbour County. Neither report is accurate. It is fair to say that our statue, which received a thorough cleaning and preservation treatment in the summer of 2023, is perhaps the best preserved of all of the 140 or so statues still standing across the county, according to the contractor who restored our Doughboy and who has worked on many of them.

Although E. M. Viquesney wasn't born here, there is a Barbour County connection. His grandfather was Charles Alfred Viquesney, a stonecarver who came to the United States from France in 1842, "establishing a farm near what is now the city of Belington, Barbour County, West Virginia. Charles returned to France in the 1850s or '60s with his wife and youngest son, leaving his other four sons in the U. S. One of the sons was Alfred Paul Viquesney, who moved to Indiana in the late 1860s. Alfred Paul eventually settled in Spencer, Indiana around 1874, where he set up a stonecarving and monuments business. It was here that his son, Ernest Moore Viquesney, learned the trade early on." <https://doughboysearcher.weebly.com/e-m-viquesney-sculptor.html> It appears that one or more of the other sons remained in Barbour County. The Visqueney name appears frequently in Barbour County deeds and court documents in the late 19th and early 20th century.