

Dear Members of The Belgian Researchers:

In our last newsletter I mentioned that the Red Star Line was most commonly used by Belgian immigrants, however other lines like the White Star Line (which originated in Liverpool) and the American Line also stopped at Antwerp.

Ports other than Antwerp could have been used like Le Havre in France (Compagnie Generale Transatlantique) or Rotterdam in Holland (Holland-America Line). The Red Star Line had ships sailing from Antwerp to NY, to Boston, to Philadelphia. The Red Star Line also ran from Danzig (now Gdansk), a port in Northern Poland, to Philadelphia. The names of the Red Star ships were: Belgenland, Finland, Gothland, Kroonland, Pennland, Rhymland, Samland, Southwark, Vaderland, Zeeland, Lapland, Marquette, Manitou, Menominee, Mississippi.

It's worth to try to locate the date of arrival of your ancestors if you don't know their place of origin in Belgium. Once you know the name of the ship and the date of arrival, you can order the form GSA 7111 (rev-72)

from Passenger Lists (NNCC)
National Archives (GSA)
Washington DC 20408

and complete the form and return it to them, they might have more information than what you have.

The lists of passengers arriving in the US are available on microfilms from the LDS library or if you live close-by a National Archives branch library, you can view these films there at no cost.

I cannot print those microfilms call numbers they are too numerous there is an alphabetical list of passengers arriving at NY for 1820-1846, by dates of arrivals from 1820-1876, also by years beyond that.

There is an alphabetical list of passengers arriving at Philadelphia for 1800-1906, by dates of arrivals 1800-1882, for Boston, alphabetical list 1848-1891, arrivals 1820-1891.

If you are interested in searching the naturalization papers of your ancestors, I have previously stated that they intend to become a citizen gave more information than the naturalization papers themselves; however I was ignorant of the fact that prior to 1906 there was no law which required an alien to declare his intention to become a citizen.

The National Archives has abstracts of naturalization proceedings for the New England States (1787-1906) and for the District of Columbia (1802-1926); for elsewhere before September 27, 1906, send inquiries to the clerk of Federal, State or other court that issued the naturalization certificate. No reproduction of naturalization papers can be made, the clerk will copy the information desired for \$300.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service – Washington DC 20536 can furnish information that occurred after 1906, fill out Form N585 for a search of the records of the Immigration and Naturalization, Emigration, Immigration, by Olga Miller; published by the Everton Publ. PO Box 368 Logan UT 84321.

Worth reading.

I have been trying without success to find where the applications for passports are kept in Belgium, one answer said that they are kept in the Provincial Archives, the others said that they just don't know.

I will find out for sure one day, but it might take longer than expected.

Margot Hykes reports that while traveling to the West Coast, she stopped for 2 days in Salt Lake where she enjoyed the genealogical Library and found a very interesting film (# 618677) for the city of Namur in 1804. It is a census record of the population of that city; it lists occupation, year of birth, names of children, street where they lived etc. I am very surprised that such an early census gave so many details.

Dorothy Reed's daughter, Jeanette, is now on a Mission in Massachusetts, Carol Freedourn is the new secretary for The Belgian Researchers, Denise Thirion being in California enjoying her work as a gun engraver.

Please share with us your experiences in doing research in Belgium, also far from genealogy, if you have stories or recipes that come from your Belgian ancestors, we will be glad to publish them in our newsletter.

A Message from Rita Cousins

In 1980 the US Census will no longer list a "head" of household. This according to an article in the Time magazine (July 1977). The reasons: People's reaction to the last census. The influence of women's liberation movements. Mostly a major change in the make-up of the family.

Today, a good portion of people live together without marrying:

- 50% of our marriages end in divorces while the rest are not necessarily headed by a patriarch.
- A recent Church News article indicates that 20 million Americans are homosexuals.
- In CT a marriage license no longer holds the words "man" or "woman" but rather "person".
- A pamphlet by a small political party interested in Women's liberation says "billions wasted on destruction should be used to build child-care centers, abortion clinics, etc..."
- Children are not allowed to be born. They lose their own chances to contribute and achieve at this time here on earth. They are not sealed now, nor do they have a spouse and children to love and be loved by.

In contrast, the well-known words about Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6) "And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers..."

Spencer W. Kimball's statement in his book Marriage and Divorce: "Divorce is one of the principal tools of Satan to destroy faith, through breaking up happy homes and bringing frustration of life and distortion of thought."

You may ask: "What does this all mean in term of Genealogy?"

In this insanity of life style for many, the sacredness of the gospel and its ordinances is a tremendous comfort.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to be baptized and confirmed for some of my ancestors. They were a necessary cooperation in the divine plan for my benefit. A link of life.

Although I've had no confirmation on their acceptance, the knowledge that these ordinances are available to them and that I have been blessed in providing for them is delightful to me.

There are some major advances on one hand in our records. The church through the Genealogical Society is planning to make names available almost at the touch of a button. All the modern technology of the computer systems is coming to us while with sadness our latter-day records show in their contents the sad conditions of many 'families'. We can benefit so much from our exposure to the gospel principles. It keeps couples and children intact and upholds the organization so dear to us: the Family.

The Franks

350 AD: The Roman Empire was crumbling, unable to withstand the pressure exerted on its borders by the Franks, the Romans are forced to permit them to establish themselves in the scarcely populated area of Northern Belgium and France. The Franks were Germanic tribes from the Rhine and Danube regions, they were related to the Celts, and their codes of law were based on the same principles that the Celts had prior to their romanization. There were other Germanic tribes that settled in the North of Belgium like the Frisians, the Saxons, but none marked the history of Belgium like the Franks did. They didn't confine themselves to the North and were soon found in the other parts of Belgium. The Franks spoke a Germanic language from which Flemish derives; they kept that language in the North where it's still spoken today, but the Franks who settled in the Southern parts of Belgium adopted the vulgar latin spoken there by the population, this 'commun latin' was to become Walloon and French.

Around 425 AD Clodion the Chevelu, a Frank leader, captured the city of Tournai, (there were a few fortified places in Belgium like Tournai, Namur, Arlon, Tongeren, etc...), his son Merovee succeeded to Clodion in 447 AD and in 457 AD Childeric succeeded to Merovee and made Tournai the capital of his kingdom; during the 17th century the grave of Childeric was found in Tournai, it contained many artifacts of gold and silver that still can be seen in a museum in Paris.

Clovis (King from 480 to 511) the son of Childeric was able to establish a powerful Frank kingdom; in 506 AD Clovis promised to become a Christian if he won the battle he was fighting against the Alamans. He did win, and he did keep his promise and was christened with 3,000 of his warriors by St Remi. He died in 511 AD in Paris which he had made his capital. Already he and his ancestors were accustomed to spending the summers on the 'Littoral' (name given to the beaches and dunes areas of Belgium bordering the North Sea). Clovis' Kingdom was divided according to the Frank tradition between his sons, Clothaire, Thierry, Ghildebert, Clodomir.

In 555 Clothaire alone became King but again at his death his kingdom was divided between his 2 sons: Chilperic inherited the kingdom of Neustria, Sigeshert that of Austrasia of which Belgium was part.

The administrative abilities of these kings and their descendants was less than remarkable and for over 100 years the real power was held by the "Maires de Palais", who were a kind of overseers. Here now is the genealogy of the Maires de Palais.

Pepin de Landen married:

1. Alpaide
2. Plectrude

Charles Martel married

1. Chlotilde
2. Senihilde de Baviere

Charles Martel was the winner of the battle of Poitiers known in America as the Battle of Tours.

Pepin le Bref son of Charled Martel is the one who wrestled the crown from the last king Childeric. He was married to Bertrade de Laon.

We are now in 768, year that will see the beginning of the reign of one of the greatest rulers of Europe:

- Charlemagne, son of Pepin the Short.

He married:

1. Himiltrude
2. Desiree de Lombardie
3. Hildegarde
4. Fastrada
5. Leutgarde

Charlemagne and his ancestors came from the Liege region; we don't know exactly where he was born, but his deep affection to his home town (Herstal) and the devotion of that town to the memory of Charlemagne, make of Herstal a good contender to the honor counting him among its children.

Legend says that Charlemagne's mother "Berthe au long pied" (Bertha Long Foot, because one of her feet was longer than the other!) was born in Herstal also.

Charlemagne has always fascinated me, perhaps because so many legends, stories about his reign (Roland de Roncevaux, the horse bayard, the 4 Aymon brothers, etc...) are part of the Belgian folklore and thus have marked my imagination.

A monk contemporary to Charlemagne describes him as short, beardless, with abundant hair and a weak voice.

Charlemagne's empire cannot be compared with the early Frank Kingdom, he is indeed the master of the region between the river Elbe in the Eastern part of Europe to Spain. His empire is well organized, he sees that the arts and the schools flourish, he protects the monasteries, introduced christianity to the people that he conquered, reopens and extends the commercial exchanges with the East.

Charlemagne was born in 742, he became king of the Franks in 768 and emperor in 800, he died in Aachen, Germany where he had been residing for 20 years. (He died in 814). I understand that some people are able to trace their ancestry to Charlemagne, it must be almost impossible to prove. Charlemagne had only one son, Louis le Pieux, and numerous daughters, at the death of Charlemagne Louis le Pieux became the head of the empire. In 840 at the death of Louis, the empire was divided between his 3 sons, most of Belgium became part of Lothier or Lotharingie, except for a part of Flanders which was included with France.

In my humble attempt to explain a little bit of Belgium's history I realize that I am not even scratching the surface, the history of Belgium by reading is also the history of your people, where your ancestors play an important role, learn more about the history of Belgium by reading books on the subject; I found most the books I use in the library of the University of Massachusetts.

Next newsletter:

Baudhuin Bras de Fer or the birth of Flanders.

(Don't worry the duchies of Brabant, Luxembourg, Limbourg, the counties of Hainault, namur and the Principality-Bishopric of Liege will each have their turn).

If we are not acquainted with the language used in the records we are researching, we should try to recognize the basic words and terminology used in the records, it's not easy. It seems that each clerk or scribe had his own verbiage; but as a rule in civil registration you will find that I usually goes like this:

- first the date,
- then the town officer introduces himself, states the office he holds
- which community, located in which province,
- then he introduces the people who came to him,

Example:

In the case of a birth,

- usually the father's name, his age, profession, the place where he lives, the sex of the child, when born, the name of the mother – using maiden name – her age, if the couple is married, where she lives, then the name(s) given to the child, the name is often repeated in the margin of the page.
- Then the officer introduces the witnesses, their names, age, profession, where they are living, and if any their relationship to the child.
- If they can sign their names, the father and witnesses will do so, if not the officer will state so.
- Signature of officer

Can you test yourself in Flemish this time?

Maria Murphy provided this sample:

In het jaar achtienhonert dertig, is voor mij, Johannes Hendrik Baertens, burgemeester van het dorp Veldwezelt, Provincie Limburg, gekomen, Wilhelm Peter Moors, 23 jaar, boer, woont, Dorpstraat in Rosmeer, die een kind van het mannelijks geslacht voorgesteld heft, die gisteren om 3 uren o namiddags geboren was, van hem en van maria Isabella Nelissen, zijn vrouw, 21 jaar, die bij jem woont. De vader verklaarde her kind den naam te geven van Herman hodewijk. Dit was geddan in tegenwoordigheid van Jan Mullens, 32, schoolmeester, oom van, het kind, Jaak Van Noorden, 40 jaar, bakker en Daan Vos 35, machinist, allen leven in Riemst.

Na het geboorte akte gelezen was hebben de vader en de getulgen met my getkend.

Wilhelm Peter Moors

Jan Mullens

Johannes Hendrick Baertens

Dutch genealogical Terms

List provided by Ardiena Stegen

English	Dutch
Father	Vader
Mother	Moeder
Child	Kind
Children	Kinderen
son	Zoon
Daughter	Dochter
Born	Geboren
Husband	Man
Wife	Echteenote
Boy	Jongen
parents	Ouders
Relatives	Familieleden
Relationship	Verwantschap
Pedigree	Stamboom (Geslachtsboom)
Family group sheet	Familie lijst
Birth	Geboorte
Confirmation	Aanneming
Catholic confirmation	Vormsel
Illegitimate	Onecht kind, buitenechtelijk
Legitimate	Echt kind
Marriage	trouw, huwelijk
Married	gehuwed
Death	overlijden, dood
Burial	Begrafenis
Wedding	Huwelijksfeest
Bethrothal	Verloving
Day of baptism	Doopdag
Day of burial	Beraatdag
Buried	Begraven
Day of confirmation	Aannemingsdag
Christened	Doopen, noemen
Day of marriage	Trouwdag, huwelijksdag
Christening witness	Getuigen (doop)
Marriage witness	Getuigen (huwelijk)
Emigration records	Emigratie papieren
Civil registers	Bevolkinregister
Civil registrar	Ambtenaar of bevolkinregister
Birth certificate	Geboortebewijs
Confirmation Certificate	Bewijs van aanneming
Family Certificate	Trouwboekje
Parish registers	Parochieregisters
Death certificate	Bewijs van Overlijden
Burgher registers	Poorterboeken
Family history	Familiegeschiedenis
Village	Dorp
City	Stad
Cousin 9(female)	Nicht
Niece	Nichtje
Unmarried	Ungehuwed (ongetrouwd)
Granduncle	Oud - oom
Grandaunt	Oudtante
Gr. Grandfather	Overgrootvader
Aunt	Tante
Testament, will	Testament
Friend	Friend
Wife	Vrouw

State Archives	Rijksarchief
Emigration file	emigranten register
Lineage books	stamboeken
Real Estate registers	makelaar registers
Census records	volkstelling
Occupation	beroep
Christening certificate	bewijs van doop
Residence	woonplaats
Twin, twins	tweelig(s)
Day	dag
Month	maand
Year	jaar
Girl	meisje
Laborer	workman
Farmer	pachter, boer
Teacher	onderwijzer
Smith (black)	smid
Sex	geslacht
Burgermaster	burgermeester
Minister	dominee (pastor, cath.)
Parish	parochie (Gemeente)
County	Provincies
Country	Land
Stillborn	Doob geboren
Gr-granddaughter	achter-Kleindochter
Gr-grandson	achter-kleinzoon
Evening	avond
Baby	zuigeling
Aged, old	bejaard, oud
2 nd gr-grandfather	bet-overgrootvader
3 rd gr-granfather	bet-over-overgrootvader
brother	broeder
sister	zuster
husband	echtgenoot
died	gestorven
died without issue	gestorven zonder nageslacht
grandmother	grootmoeder
grandfather	grootvader
youngest	jongste
church, parish	kerk
marriage certificate	bewijs van trouwen
granddaughter	kleindochte
grandson	kleinzoon
age	leeftijd
over legal age	meederjarig
minor	minderjarig
morning	morgen
night	nacht
male cousin	neef
nephew	neefje
about	omstreeks
uncle	oom
eldest	oudste
gr-grandmother	overgrootmoeder
dead	overleden
burial	teraardebesteding
ancestor, forefather	voorvader
widow	weduwe
widower	weduwenaar