

# Belgian Laces



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## **BELGIAN LACES**

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**THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS**  
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Keep the Belgian Heritage alive in our hearts and in the hearts of our posterity

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# BELGIAN LACES



## The American Descendants Of Francois ANRYS Of Waterloo, Belgium

by Micheline Gaudette

### Acknowledgment

The search for the American descendants of Francois ANRY was undertaken at the request of Mr. Lucien GERKE, curator of Waterloo Museum. Mr. GERKE was most helpful in providing background information, pictures and copies of records. I wish to thank him for his help, and also LeRoy Debast Pierre INGHELIS.

Bob REID, Elaine SMITH, and Howard Thomas without them the ensuing article wouldn't have been possible.

Many thanks also to the Kansas State Historical Society and the Clark County (Washington) Genealogical Society for their help. Note that researching and writing about a family are never—ending endeavors and that any additional information and corrections that anyone might have will be gratefully accepted.

### **Part I**

Francois Alexandre Anrys de la MOUILLERIE had many reasons to be satisfied with his life, he came from a prominent family of the area whose roots could be traced back to Waarmarde, West Flanders, where Willen Anry their first known ancestor, died in 1379. Francois had been married for ten years and had 5 children: Omerine Edmond Juliette, Achille, and Marie. His wife, Marie Florentine 'Flora' Van der DER OOST) was expecting their 6th child (to be named 'Francois'). He ran a brewery, was a road contractor, and had been elected Waterloo burgomaster for a second time. Sadly, the bright future that one could foresee for Francois Anrys didn't materialize as he died in 1852 at the age of 36, before the birth of his last child. A few months later another tragedy befell on the Anry's household when Marie, the youngest daughter died at the age of two.

Francois's widow, Marie Florentine Van DER OOST remarried ca. 1856 a farmer from Lembeek by the name of Charles Stanislas Wanty with whom she had 4 children: Camille, George, Marie and Helene. The ANRY-WANTY family resided in Lembeek. In April 1868, Edmond, Achille and Francois ANRYS emigrated to the United States, and six months later, Marie Florentine VAN DER DOST ANRYS WANTY widowed again, left Belgium to join her sons with Omerine and Juliette ANRYS her daughters by her first marriage, Camille, George, Marie and Helene WANTY her children by her second marriage, and Omerine's daughter Marie PARMENTIER. Despite numerous hours spent searching New York and other passengers lists we have been unable to find the ANRYS emigrants on any passenger rolls.

Omerine ANRYS had married Pierre PARMENTIER from Braine—le—Chateau in Lembeek, on 15 Sept. 1863, (one of the witnesses was Adolph. ANRYS Omerine's uncle and Braine—le—Chateau tax collector). Unfortunately, when Marie was born on 19 Dec 1864 in Lembeek, the birth record shows that the young couple was already separated with Pierre living in Braine—le—Chateau and Omerine in Lembeek. It is assumed that Omerine was divorced when she emigrated to the United States.

There has been some confusion as to where exactly the ANRYS-WANTY people settled first. According to the Neosho Co., Kansas Census, they were living in Ladore Township in 1870. Ladore is very close to Osage Mission, Kansas. Or Osage Mission, now called St. Paul, was no stranger to Belgians, in 1822, Father Charles DE LA CROIX, S.J., visited the small school for Indians and baptized 2 children. Father DE LA CROIX was born in Sint Kornelis Horebeke, East Flanders, in 1792, and spent at least 17 years as a missionary in the United States. Was Father SCHOENMAKERS who came to the Osage Mission in 1846 a Belgian? Father John BAX, S.J. who joined him in 1847 and remained in Osage for 5 years, was born in 1817 near Turnhout, Belgium, he died at Fort Scott, Kansas in 1852. Was there a connection between the Osage missionaries and the ANRYS family?

Ladore Township doesn't exist anymore, it was a rough town, and at the time the ANRYS family was living there in 1870, 5 bandits passed through town, robbing, beating people and raping 3 girls. They were caught, and lynched by the local citizens. The demise of Ladore was caused by the greed of its people who demanded exorbitant prices for the land that the railroad needed, the railroad decided to deal with another town, bypassing Ladore, which quickly faded away.

LADORE TOWNSHIP Neosho CO., KANSAS 1970 US CENSUS

DEBAST (spelled DEBANST Felix, farmer, born Belgium, RE: (real estate value): \$500. PE (personal estate value): \$400. DEBAST Julietta, 23, born Belgium, house Keeper. DEBAST Ella 4/12, born Kansas March 1870.

WANTY Flora 45, born Belgium, keeping house, RE: \$3000, RE \$2400. WANTY Camille 14. WANTY George 13. WANTY Marie 10. WANTY Helene 6.

ANRYS Edmond, 25 born Belgium, farmer, RE: \$500

ANRYS Achille 21, born Belgium, farmer, RE: \$500. ANRYS Frank 17, born Belgium, farm laborer. PARMENTIER Omerine 26, born Belgium, housekeeping.

PARMENTIER Mary 5, born Belgium.

Juliette ANRYS the youngest of the ANRYS girls, had married Felix DEBAST on 19 July 1869 in Neosho Co. Kansas. The following letter written in French by Juliette ANRYS DEBAST to a friend (or relative) in Belgium reveals her thoughts and feelings and what her life was during her first few years in America She must have been very distracted when she wrote the letter because she forgot to sign it! The "28 Dec 1870" date might be wrong since she mentioned 2 children in the letter, or when the 1870 census was taken in June, she had only one four-month-old daughter, and the 'Osage Missouri' letterhead was most likely 'Osage Mission'!!

'Osage, Missouri, 28 December 1870 My Dear Josephine, You will probably be very surprised to receive news from me, but don't be upset at me for waiting so long before writing. I am over my head in work. Since I came here, it's always the same, never one minute of rest. Back home, farmwives complain that they have so much work to do, they should come to America, and then would have more ground for complaining. Here it's not just part of the work that we do, but all of it, and always alone at harvest time like at any other time, milking, washing, butter churning every two days, during the summer cooking every day, cleaning, mending, taking care of animals and the house, taking care and keeping an eye on the children, etc..etc.. Last year, our oldest daughter was sick during the whole summer, this year for a few months, the two little ones and I had sore eyes and I couldn't do anything. It's a sickness very common in the Prairie. It's probably caused by the wind that's always blowing here, combined with the heat of the sun. During the winter the cold is terrible. During the summer we boil! The Americans' customs and mores are very different from ours. They can be summarized in 2 words: business and money. They don't know how to have fun, I don't like them and I avoid them, which means that I still don't know much English. At Mother's, there are always many visitors, but Omerine and Mother don't go out more than me. They like

it here very much and don't seem to want to return to Belgium. As for me, I am not willing to finish my days here, I kind of like it here, but I feel that a woman with children to raise is too much of a slave. And I wouldn't want my children to

receive an American education. Girls have full and complete freedom, and in some way court young men. Regardless of this, there is less misbehavior here than in Belgium. One marries young here, but it should be said that because of the weather one ages fast. Well, here like everywhere, there is good and bad. It's easier for one without anything to acquire something. But one needs a good dose of uncommon courage. And much work and persistence. Money here is not a necessity like back home. Most often rich farmers don't have a penny at home. Bartering goes on continually in the stores. One exchanges his butter, eggs, wheat, etc. for merchandises that is needed. If you request cash, you will be given a lower price. If you have 50 dollars, instead of keeping it for living expenses, you buy a beehive or something else that pays like they say. And they live by what it produces. No one is ashamed to say that they don't have any money. Here there is no false pride nor make-believe to be richer than one is. The farmer is usually quite 'in rags' at home and even in the city during the week. Here it doesn't matter. Women are dressed in cotton which is very inexpensive. Houses are clean, but luxuries and even some essentials are unknown. For all that America is a good school that some Belgians are in great need of. We have not received news from Waterloo people because Jean never talks about them. And so Felix and I would like to know what's happening because we haven't forgotten anyone. How are our relatives, Josephine, Pierre—Louis, Fannie, Annette, etc. I wrote once to Mrs. P.L., but never received a reply. I don't know what is the cause of her silence. When you see her, give her my best. How is Fannie coming along with Georges BRASSEUR And how about you? Marie NICAISE, does she have children? Is she happy? As for me I couldn't have found better (than Felix) for character and courage. I wish you as much'.





Felix DEBAST was also born in Waterloo (on 17 March 1845) and there is a strong possibility that he emigrated to the United States with the ANRYS brothers. According to Waterloo population register #1, 1846—1865, Felix's parents were Jean Joseph Felix DEBAST (born Lembeek 26 April 1805) and Marie Josephine LOIR (born Lembeek 3 Dec 1801., he was <sup>the</sup> youngest of 6 children, his siblings were: Marie Therese, Maximilien Auguste, Thomas Joseph, Henri Joseph, Marie Joseph. The family had 2 servants:

Louis BRINNARD and Jeanne DUBUQUOI and a mill worker, Louis POULAERTE, who helped the DEBAST family with their gristmill business.

Waterloo had only one gristmill prior to 1838 when the DEBAST family received permission to build another one. In 1855, the gristmill was sold to Fidele a farmer, and the DEBAST family moved to Rhode—Saint—Genese.

In 1859, the gristmill burned, but not the house which became a 'cafe' known as the 'Moulin brule' (burned mill).

Jean Joseph Felix DEBAST and Marie Josephine LOIR returned to live in Waterloo on 5 Dec 1871, they died there on 29 Jan 1881 and 2 May 1884 respectively. Mr. LeRoy DEBAST (Felix and Juliette's grandson) remarked that most of Felix's siblings had died in an epidemic. Mr. Lucien GERKE confirmed that indeed there had been a cholera epidemic in the Brabant region around 1868.

Sometime around 1873 and in Kansas, Omerine ANRYS married Victor FIEVEZ who was born in Waterloo on 23 Feb 1846, son of Florian FIEVEZ (joiner born ca. 1810) and Ludgarde LAURENT (born ca. 1805). Achille ANRYS also married in Kansas ca. 1873, Mary A. DUNNIGAN who was born at Springfield, Ohio, on 2 Sept 1853.

The ANRYS-DEBAST-FIEVEZ-WANTY families left Kansas ca. 1875, and were found on the Rainier Precinct, Columbia Co., OREGON 1880 US census !!!

Achille ANRYS was listed as a shingle maker, with his wife Mary, their children: Edmond, 6, (in 1880) born in Kansas, Andrew, 3, born Kansas, and Frederick 1, born Oregon, they had 2 boarders Ant. HERMAN and Carl FRIMWABLE Victor FIEVEZ was working in a sawmill and was listed with Omerine and their children: Flora 6, born Kansas, Victoria 4, born Oregon, and Lucy 1, born Oregon. Where was Marie PARMENTIER Omerine's daughter by her first marriage? She was not listed in the Rainier 1880 census, and there is a strong possibility that Marie was already married at that time, but that's another story to which we will go back later.

Francois ANRYS now known as 'Frank' was making shingles, he was married to Mary (SHINTAFFER) who was born in Iowa, and they had one son:

Henry, 3 (in 1880) born in Oregon. They had one boarder:

James SHINTOFFERT from Iowa (Mary's brother?)

Edmond ANRYS (spelled ANDRYS on the census) was a shingle maker, and still single at the age of 35. James GRAY who was born in South Africa was boarding with him.

The DEBAST family had grown since 1870, Felix, also a shingle maker and Juliette had:

Eva, 9, born Kansas, Etta, 8, born Kansas, Jennie, 5, born Kansas, Maggie, 4, born Oregon, Felix Jr. 1, born Oregon. (Ella is missing from the 1880 census, she would have been 10 years old).

Camille WANTY their half—brother was boarding with them, he was also a shingle maker.

George WANTY was working in a sawmill and was single, he boarded with Ellen PERRY from Missouri.

Florentine VAN DER OOST ANRYS WANTY simply listed as 'Flora WANTY was living with her daughter 'Ellen' (Helene WANTY who was married to Smith (yes, that's his first name') KISTNER also a shingle maker.

There is no mention of Florentine's daughter Marie WANTY who was 10 in the 1870 Kansas census.



The DEBAST and the KISTNER families including Florentine stayed in Rainier (and to this day the DEBAST homestead remains in the family). The Achille ANRYS family along with Edmond ANRYS left for Cedar Creek, Clark Co., Washington where they were listed in the 1900 US census, living with them were: Harry, 23, born Kansas (was that the child listed as 'Andrew' in the Oregon 1880 census?), Fred 21, born Oregon and Walter 14, also born in Oregon. Victor and Omerine FIEVEZ and family left Rainier for Clark County, Washington. Frank ANRYS and his wife and 5 children left for San Francisco, California.

Marie PARMENTIER, Omerine's daughter by her first marriage, married Marion RIGGS while in Oregon. In 1920 the childless couple left for Florida, where in 1955 the 90-years—old widow Marie PARMENTIER RIGGS was interviewed by a local newspaper. What follows was extracted from a copy of this interview which was kindly provided by Bob REID.

Hollywood, Florida SUN-TATTLER Thursday May 12, 1955  
TRIP TO THE STARS IS GOAL OF 90—YEAR—OLD RESIDENT  
By Frank NAGLER Sun-Tattler Staff Writer

A frail wisp of a woman with 90 years behind her, but with her bright eyes fixed on the stars, is Mrs. Marie Riggs, 2117 Polk St. Born in Waterloo, Belgium in December 1864, she has been a resident of the U.S. since 1868, and a Florida resident since Christmas Eve, 1920.

'I read every scrap of material I can lay my hands on about travel to the stars,' Mrs. Riggs said. 'Someday I would like to go there but I'd also like to come back. Because when God calls me I want to be ready to go where my husband and loved ones are.' Mrs. Riggs at 90, has no one here she can call kith or kin, though there is a half—sister in Oregon and an assortment of second and third cousins scattered over the face of the earth.

She then went on to clearly and lucidly describe the latest published reports about travel to the stars.... Coming from a woman who helped chop down the logs for her honeymoon cabin in the frontier wilderness of Oregon at 17 years of age, it is all the more remarkable.

Marie Riggs' story began in Belgium, when she was 4 years old. Members of the family were attempting to save remnants of the family fortune by investments in Kansas farmlands and livestock.

As she tells it, the proud family had a ne'er—do—well relative who had dissipated most of the family inheritance. They were urged by the grandmother to attempt to recoup their fortunes in that panacea of all ills, the United States of America.

'My great—grandfather once helped save Belgium when it was being invaded by Hollanders. They had breached a hole in the wall leading to our frontier town. Great—grandfather and a friend stood at the hole and shot down so many the enemy had to hold off. By the time they got started again, more help had arrived and we won.'... 'We came to a place called Parsons, Kansas., It was the first place the railroad came to.... 'However our family wasn't a farm family and we ran into difficulties, so we left for Oregon where an uncle lived. He told of the wonderful opportunities and my stepfather and mother decided to try their luck there,' Mrs. Riggs said. She recalls the awful blizzards which swept across the Kansas plains.... However, we fell in love and were married.'...Neighbors helped in the 'log raising' for their first home, and life was happy and content. Marion loved to hunt and fish and Marie shared his liking. She learned to shoot — she doesn't remember when — and helped him supply the table. They never killed game unless for food. Target practice was an unusually tricky thing. Empty cartridge boxes were tossed on swift moving streams and used as targets. 'I hit them too,' ....She still keeps in excellent condition the big pistol her husband gave her many years ago with the admonition 'never to give it away or sell it.' It is under her pillow and she sleeps on it at night. 'keeps it from getting rusty,' she said.... In 1920 she and her husband arrived in Fort Lauderdale on Christmas Eve.... Eighteen years ago her husband died, and since then she has been on her own. 'You need young thinking and young interests if you want to stay young. I look to the stars and the future. That's my secret.' And in these final words of wisdom culled from a lifetime of experience, the lovely lady expressed her entire philosophy.

(to be continued)



## 1871: EMIGRATION OF THE GLASSMAKERS FROM HAINAUT.

by Jean Ducat.

Together with coal, it was iron, textiles and glass that had allowed Wallonia to become one of the main industrial poles of Europe in the XIXth century. The glassmaking industry, concentrated in the Charleroi region, and heir of a tradition that was already old, could count on the extraordinary skill of its workers and on the discoveries of some men of the region. In 1812, Drion discovered white glass, and in 1836 colored glass. Less than a century later,

E. Fourcauld and E. Gobbe invented a mechanical process for manufacturing plate glass, which is also called the “Belgian Drawing Process”.

Between 1870 and 1872, the glass industry was to pass through a major crisis. Forced to throttle the rise in selling prices which had been caused by a growing need for coal and an increase in the price of this fuel, the master glassmakers took measures which were going to strike a blow at the well-being and secular liberty of the glassworkers: reduction of wages, training of a larger number of apprentices, increasing the period of apprenticeship from 3 to 7 years, introduction of modern techniques of production such as the basin furnace. Most of them gave way to the employers’ demands, but some decided to expatriate to the United States.

In 1882, the resistance of the glassworkers was expressed in the creation of a society “Union Verriere” which was to establish close contacts with the “Federation Universelle des Verriers” and to affiliate with the “Knights of Labor of America” under the name of “Assemblee des verriers a vitres Belge Eureka # 3683”. The great strike of 1884, called by the Union Verriere, was not enough to improve the social situation of the workers: wages continued to fall, working conditions deteriorated, and many workers swelled the ranks of the unemployed. It was then that emigration to the United States, and more particularly to Pennsylvania, promoted by the Union Verriere and by the American recruiting agents looking for skilled workers, was considerably extended. Dampremy, Jumet and even Lodelinsart were rapidly to become important sources of emigration.

A fresh round of wage cuts during the winter of 1885—1886 and growing unemployment were to serve as detonator of popular anger in Wallonia. It burst out at Liege on 18 March 1886, and rapidly spread to Hainaut where mineworkers, metalworkers and glassworkers left their jobs, and took to the streets. Full scale riots broke out in the Charleroi region. In Jumet, the glassworks of Eugene Baudoux was burnt down and several employers’ houses were looted. Police repression was to be sanguinary. At Roux, on 26 and 27 March, 12 demonstrators were killed and dozens others were wounded. Accused of being the instigators of these days of tragedy, the leaders of the Union Verriere, Xavier Schmidt and Oscar Falleur, were sentenced, and some of its members, including Falleur had to seek exile in the United States.

Finally, during the first decade of the XXth century, the crisis of overproduction multiplied and resulted everywhere in reduced wages and lost jobs. Once again, in this deteriorating context, there was a recrudescence of the emigration of glassworkers to the United States. So it seems that transatlantic emigration was perceived by many as one of the solutions to the “social question”. Now, most of the candidates for emigration could not be ignorant of the severity of the American Laws voted in 1885 and 1887 hostile to foreign workers. The first banned the hiring of foreign workers, while the second was to prevent them from entering the United States territory. Benefiting from the protection of the “Knights of Labor”, and in particular of its Pittsburgh section, and even from the intervention of personalities who were influential in the trade union world — Oscar Falleur, for instance, who from the moment of his arrival in Jeannette, in 1888 became the indispensable link between American and Belgian trade union associations — many succeeded in getting around the obstacles of American legislation.

Pennsylvania very soon became the main pole of attraction for the Belgian glassworkers. They were hired in Pittsburgh and its surroundings: centers such as Floreffe, Charleroi or Jeannette, as the names indicate it, owe a great part of their development and their prosperity to the presence of the Walloon workers.

According to contemporary accounts, the industrial complex of Jeannette, established alongside the Pittsburgh—Greenburg railroad, and its urban center were set up in 14 months. Even before the official recognition of the township, 246 families of Walloon glassworkers were recorded there, soon to be joined, between 1889 and 1904, by 360 of their compatriots. In 1889, Walloon glassworkers who were specialists in sheet glass, founded at Point Marion, PA., a branch of the “Jeannette Glass Company”.

In 1908, 60 families who had first settled in Indiana or in Pennsylvania moved to Salem in West Virginia. Each of them invested a hundred dollars to found the Societe Cooperative de Verre et de Vitre. Salem prospered up to 1925, but was not able to prevent the departure of many glassworkers attracted by the more economic methods of the industrial manufacture of glass.

Notes from the Editor: We should not forget that during the XIXth century, the Belgian glass industry was the most important of Europe. If at certain times, many glass workers moved to the United States, many also moved to Germany, Sweden, England, Russia, France and other countries. From everywhere recruiters came to Belgium to attract and hire the skilled Walloon glassworkers for their own economies.



The windowglass industry in Belgium, was located along the Sambre, where coal, sand and special silicate were easily available. In 1846 there were 46 glass manufactories. In the following years, because of the industrial consolidation, this number was to decrease although most plants extended largely and became more important. At the start of the XXth century, the American glassmaker Lubbers invented the mechanical blowing, and this new system almost ruined the Belgian glass industry. But at about the same time, a Walloon glassmaker Fourcalt, born in Lodelinsart, saved the industry by inventing a new method of stretching and elongating glass, a method that was rapidly adopted in most European countries and even in the United States. The Belgian windowglass industry was saved.

On the other hand, plate glass first appeared in 1836, when a first plant was built at Aiseau. Another one was started at Floreffe in 1853, followed by a new one at Auvelais in 1875 and at Moustier in 1883. Plate glass production that was of 70,000 square feet in 1851, attained the eight million square feet in 1906.

One of the most important and most renowned crystal and hollow—glassworks (cristallerie et gobeleterie) in the world is the Cristallerie du Val St Lambert. Founded in 1825 by Lelievre and Kemlin near Serain g—Liege — Belgium, in the former Cistercian Abbey of Val Saint Lambert, it produces the best and finest crystal art pieces available anywhere.

We should write  
Tips for staying in touch with a far-flung family.  
by Lucille de View. CSM

*It is* easy to *say* letters are an effective way for family members to stay in touch when the children go off to school and jobs or begin families of their own.

But what if you think letter writing is not your strong

\* Begin a post—card exchange. The message space is point? And your long—distance phone *bill* imitates the national debt? Here are some thoughts: small but it truly is the touch of home that counts. And it can be fun. Cards range from the silly to the poetic; from seasonal scenes to famous paintings from art museums.

A grandson at boarding school keeps a special bulletin board for his collection from his grandparents, and his classmates contribute cards from across the country for him to send in return.

\* Operate a clipping service. Envelopes bulging with news items and cartoons are a very welcome sight at mail call. Watch newspapers and magazines for articles that amuse and inform. You might make a few brief comments in a note — and soon you might be writing a whole letter.

\* Send greeting cards which say “Thinking of You”. Busy young people find this an especially helpful way to fill the spaces between long, catching—up—on—the—news letters. The artwork on such cards may be sweet or funny, but the message is clear.

\* Use little note papers instead of letter—size. Some papers fold into their own envelopes. Again, the writing space is small, but your thoughtfulness will be appreciated.

\* Send mementos from things you do. A theater program, a movie review from the newspaper, the menu from the restaurant on your last trip — they can put into words what you want to say.

\* Begin a photo of the month exchange. Dig into the family album or take pictures of familiar faces and places. A mother sent her son some of his childhood photos and found herself writing memories she had never shared. Her son, deeply touched, replied: “Send more of my life history

\* Keep a diary. An executive wrote a paragraph a day before leaving his office and mailed off the paragraphs at the end of the week to his daughter. “At first it was pretty mundane”, he said, “but soon I was looking for interesting things to write about and it became a real dialogue between us

\* Share your letters with others. When the family gathers or you are with friends, pass the letter paper and let each write a greeting. The page will fill up fast.

Remember, it is not a skill with words that counts; it is the sight of an envelope from home or from the child away from home that brings a smile and a warm, loving touch across the miles.

Note from the Editor: For us, interested in family history, and hoping to pass on this interest to our descendants, this simple practice will add a special dimension to the “name” in the family tree. There will be a real person behind it.

Belgian or French Canadian?

Recently, this columnist wrote an article with the reverse title for the Newsletter of the French-Canadian/Acadian Genealogists of Wisconsin.

It is thought that Belgian genealogists may be having the same problems in doing their research in Wisconsin, or may not even be aware that these similarities exist. The earlier article is hereby revised to be pertinent to Belgians.

Northeastern Wisconsin has long been known as a treasure box for French-Canadian genealogical researchers. The early settlers---voyageurs, fur traders, and military personnel---populated the area from the early 1700's. There are many records in the Green Bay area and at the State Historical Society Library in Madison to assist in the research.

The grand influx of Belgian immigrants in the mid-to---late 1850's, particularly those from Wallonia, brought a new dimension to the genealogical picture. The ability to converse in their native language was one of the reasons the first Belgians chose to locate near Green Bay after having made attempts to settle at Sheboygan and Kaukauna. Some of that group, and many who followed, carried the same surnames as their French-Canadian predecessors. Researchers must be aware of this when beginning their work here.

Despite the fact that Belgian and Canadian spellings often differ, the pronunciations are, for the most part, the same. Thus, we find the spellings used interchangeably on documents and Census records. If country of origin is not given on a record, it's impossible to tell by the spelling alone whether the person was Belgian or Canadian. Using first names is not a helpful clue, either, as French-speaking people seem to have the same affinity for naming their children Jean, Joseph, Marie, and Therese---most often as Jean---Joseph, Jean---Baptiste, Marie---Therese, and Marie---Joseph.

Here we are listing some surnames found in northeastern Wisconsin. The spellings we know are Belgian are underlined; the others, Canadian. Many are the same, and some are variations or misspellings found locally:

Allard Boulanger/Belanger/Belangia/Belongie/Belongeay; Baudhuin/Baudoin/Bodwine/Bowdwin/Boudin; Bertrand Boucher/Bouche/Bushey/Bouchie; Charles/Challe/Charle Danhieux/Daniels; Duchene/Duchesne/Deschane/oeChaine; Denys/Deneys;De Jardin/Du Jardin/Des Jardins Dion/Dahin/Dionne; Daoust; Dubois Dumont/Doumont;Dupont; Dupuis Fontaine/Fontaine; Gaudette Gauthier/Gauthy/Gochee/Gotchie;Gerard/Girard/Girouard; Gregoire; Hardy; Henri; Jacques Legreve//LaGrave; Lecomte/Lecompte; Lambert Lumaye/Le May May; Lefevre/Le Febvre/LeFave; Ledocq/Leduc/La Duke; Marchand/Marchant; Martin Massey/Masse; Mercier; Meunier; Michel Moreaux/Moreau/Moureau/Moriaux; Noel; Nolet/Nollet; Petit Prevot/Prevost/Provost; Renier/Regnier;Rondou/Rondeau; Rousseau Thirion/Thyrion/Terrien/Therian; Tremblez/Tremble/Tremblay; Vincent Willems/Swillen/Swille/Willame/Guillaume/Williams.

On Census records, Belgians first appear in 1860 in the Townships of Allouez, Bellevue, DePere, Scott, Preble, Humboldt, Fort Howard, Green Bay, and the City of Green Bay. You must also remember that during the winter months, and particularly after the Great Fire of 1871, many Belgians went to work in lumber mills in Oconto, and Marinette Counties of Wisconsin and Menominee County, Michigan. They often remained there as residents. Those counties, too, had large populations of French---Canadians; so, again, care must be taken in your research.

Happy Hunting!

June-July Visitors

With the end of the Gulf war, plans are going ahead for the biennial visit of members of the Wallonie-Wisconsin Society of Namur, Belgium. This year they will spend a week in Canada before arriving in Green Bay on June 28, by way of Detroit, Michigan. During their 10-day tour of northeastern Wisconsin, they hope to visit Door County, the Oneida Indian museum, a northern lumber camp, and the settlement of Belgium in Ozaukee County. This latter place was founded by Belgians from Luxembourg Province. Our friend, Father Jean DUCAT, is presently writing a history of this area.

Belgian Emigrants - 8th of a Series

These lists were made up, primarily, from Population Registers in Belgium. Many, but not all, of the people came to Wisconsin. Sometimes additional information is available which is not published here.

Contact the column writer or make use of the LOS Family History Center microfilm. (Mary Ann Defnet)

**Boneffe** --- continued

Joseph FRONVILLE, born Boneffe 1807; his wife Marie Catherine THIRY, born Jandrain---Jandrenouille; and their children Albertine, born Tavier, Florent, Jean Louis, and Marie Therese, all born Boneffe. Left 3 April 1856; settled in L'Erable, Illinois;

Constant GODFRIND, BERN Boneffe 1819; his wife Clementine DOUNNAI, born Boneffe 1820; and children Alphonse Dieudonne, Theodule, and Francois Constant; left 21 June 1856.

### **Bolinne -Harlue**

Barthelemy BERGER, born Harlue 1847; left 26 April 1880;

Joachim BIAMONT, born 14 April 1857; and his brother Auguste BIAMONT, born 10 December 1862; left circa 1880; settled in L'Erable, Illinois;

Francois Jos. DEGRANGAGNAGE, born Bolinne 23 December 1807; his second wife Marie Josephine CHERON; and children Alexandre and Pascal (from first wife) and Victor, Jean Baptiste, Dieudonne Jean, Francois A., and Felicien, all born Bolinne; left 23 April 1856;

Jean Baptiste DENIS, born Bolinne 1857; and his brother Joseph DENIS, born Bolinne 1864; left 20 June 1882;

Auguste DEVILLERS, born Eghezee 1828; his wife FeliciteA DORE, born Bolinne 1825; and their son Emile Joseph; left 1857;

Leonie PIRE, born Bolinne 1853; left after 1870;

Ferdinand ROGER; and his wife Marie Virginie PIRE, born Bolinne 1847 (sister of Leonie and widow of Sebastien DOCQUIR); left after 1878.

### **Mehaigne**

Clement BAUGNIET, born 1821 Mont-St.Andre; his wife Augustine PAQUET, born 1822 Mehaigne; and children Francois, Florent, and Frederic, all born Mehaigne; left 28 February 1856

Felix Joseph LESUISSE, born Mehaigne 1844; left December 1871;

Melchior LATOUR, born Mehaigne 1825; his wife Marie Joseph SARTON; their children Louis, Antoinette, Ferdinande, Charles, Seraphine, and Felicee, and a grandson, Edmond (son of Antoinette); left 1871;

Florent DENIL, born circa 1839 Mehaigne; left 1880.

With deep sorrow we learned of the recent death of our good member Helen Kerscher—LeFevre of Green Bay Wisconsin, who died at her home on the 26th of March 1991. Helen was a very active member since March 1985, and always ready to help others.

From Mary Ann Defnet we received this letter: "The death of Helen Kerscher LeFevre was a real shock to family and friends. Helen was of German ancestry, but was born in the "Belgian Area" of Kewaunee County. Her father was a family physician and delivered 5000 babies during his long medical career. Perhaps 75% of them were of Belgian descent.

With her vast knowledge of the area families, Helen tried to help others with their genealogies. She was not physically able to do a lot of "pavement pounding", but through letter-writing and telephone conversations, she accumulated a lot of material. I think she knew who lived in every farm in western Kewaunee County. She will be very missed. She always considered her membership in the Belgian Researchers as very worthwhile".

The following obituary was published in the Green Bay News Chronicle

Mrs Harold (Helen) LEFEVRE, 69, died unexpectedly Tuesday, March 26, 1991 at her home. The daughter of the late Dr. and Mrs Edward J. Kerscher was born in the town of Lincoln on Aug. 26, 1921. She married Harold LEFEVRE on Dec. 6, 1944 in Palo Pinto, Tex. The couple had been residents of Green Bay since 1951. *She* was a member of St Matthew's Church. Her special interests were genealogy and gardening.

She is survived by her husband Harold of Green Bay; four sons and three daughters—in—law, James and Jane LeFevre of Oneida, Dave and Mary Lee LeFevre of De Pere, Joe and Kay LeFevre, and Dan LeFevre all of Green Bay; three daughters and sons—inlaw, Jayne and Chuck Schwenner of Marquette, MI., Joan and Milian Mitchell, and Jean and Don Peters, all of Green Bay; 10 grandchildren, Luke, Dave, Erie, Adam and Cary LeFevre, Tom Ryan, Ben and Kathy Mitchell, and Jean and Don Peters; one brother and sister—in—law, Edward and Lorna Kerscher of Milwaukee; and her mother—in—law, Grace LeFevre of Green Bay.

In a letter to the Belgian Resarchers dated February 1991, Helen wrote:

"I sent for the special offer of Frommer's A Masterpiece called Belgium, it's a great little book to own. I recommend everyone to send for it. I really enjoy it."

The *staff* and members of the Belgian Researchers send their sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to the Lefevre and Kerscher families.

## IK WOONDE IN VLAANDEREN

Hildegardis VanGendt

*Ik lee leefde, waar de Herfsten s ten grootser waren  
dan ruisend orgelspel en kat h edralenpracht, en waar de  
glans van gouddoorvlamde bla ten steeds weer de rijpe rust  
van traag verbloeien bracht.*

*Ik woonde, waar de Lenten lie flijk speelden in  
avondhovingen, met sterren en ;asmijn; waar de luwe winden  
't pril ontwaxen sreelden van kersenbloesems en van kleine  
rosemarijn.*

*Ik juichte, waar de zomerbossen brandden van laai end licht,  
en waar de heldere wiewaalaal zi jn lokkend lied vervlucht in  
stralende gierlanden van bloemen, blauw en wit en wui vend  
allemaal.*

*Ik droomde, wyl de hoge winters waarden  
random 't vrouwde huis, waar 'k veili g luisteren mocht  
naar aude sagen, levend in de gloed der haarden, naar  
sledebell en rinkelnd voor de Kerstmistocht.*

*Van waar de Herfs ten groots en gouden waren kreeg ik mijn  
liederen en prankelende sterren mee. Te Lente gaarde ik  
bloesems, 'k won er binnen vree, 'k werd mild en ri jk er, lijk  
de Zomers waren... ik woonde in Vlaanderen... zacht reuzelen  
de blaren.*

## I LIVED IN FLANDERS

translation Leen Inghels

*I lived where Autumns were more pervading than rollin or  
and play and cathedral splendor and where the of golden  
flaming leaves brought the quiet of ripeness and slowly  
I dwelled, where Springtime gently played in evening gardens  
with stars and jasmine; where lukewarm winds caressed the  
Eresh awakening of cherry blossoms and of young rosemary.*

*I cheered, where the Summer forests blazed with glowing  
lights and where the golden oriole interwove its luring song in  
shining strands of blossoms, blue and white and swaying all  
I dreamed, while the high Winters weathered around the  
family house, where I could safely listen to old legends, alive  
in the glow of the hearth and to sleighbells ringing for the  
Christmas ride.  
From where the Autumns were grant and golden*

*I brought along my songs and sparkling stars.  
In Spring I gathered blossoms, and found the inner peace;  
I became generous and rich there, like the Summers were:  
I lived in Flanders... softly sigh the leaves.*



## GENTSE VATERZOOI - Specialty of Gent

Chicken in Lemon/Cream soup

Serves 4 to 6

### Ingredients:

½ c chicken or good vegetable broth  
2 fryers (2lbs each) cut up or chicken breast or thighs  
4 to 6 leeks (white parts only)  
1 celery stalk  
5 sliced carrots  
1 big onion with 3whole cloves  
butter  
4 to 6 bunch scallions  
1 tsp thyme / 1 bay leaf  
2 Tb potatoes  
a hand full of chervil (optional)  
1 1/2 cups of whipping cream  
2 well beaten eggs  
2 quarts butter / 1/2 cup flour melted and mixed  
pepper and salt to taste; finely chopped parsley

### Preparation :

Cook chicken broth; let the broth simmer for about 15min.  
In the meantime saute the white parts of the leek, the  
scallions, the rest of the celery and carrots in 2 Tbsp of butter.  
Add some of the broth and simmer until barely done. Keep  
warm.

Strain the green parts of the leeks, 2 of the carrots, half the  
celery, the thyme, BAY leaf and the clove-studded onion in  
the broth; bring back to a boil and add the chicken parts; add  
the sauteed vegetables and simmer all very.

To serve Take slowly until the meat is done (about 20  
minutes). Do not overcook -the chicken meat will be Juicy.  
Boil the potatoes. In a sauce pan, take 1 1/2 cups of the broth,  
add the butter/flour mixture and bring to a boil. Simmer 5  
minutes stirring constantly out the chicken parts and arrange  
on a platter. Surround them with the vegetables and the boiled  
potatoes. Keep warm. Add the sauce made of the broth and the  
flour/butter mixture to the soup and bring to a boil. Add the  
cream and heat through; add the beaten eggs; Heat the soup  
but do not let come to a boil. Add the chopped chervil and  
parsley. - ENJOY!!

## GALETTES de NAMUR

### Ingredients:

2 1/2 cups flour  
2cups fine sugar  
1tsp vanilla extract or 3 pck. vanilla sugar  
(available in specialty stores)  
5well beaten eggs  
2cups butter (melted and cooled)  
a little salt

### Preparation :

Mix flour, sugar and salt (and event. vanilla sugar) in a deep  
bowl. Make a well; add the beaten eggs and gradually work  
them into the flour ; add the butter; work the dough until it is  
satiny and homogenous. Let the dough rest in the refrigerator  
at least two hours. If you want round gallettes, roll the dough in  
little balls +/- 1 inch diameter. If you prefer oblong gallettes,  
roll the same amount of dough in little sausages. Bake in the  
galette iron until nicely browned.

William Fletcher:

## **TapeRecord Your Family History - It's Easy**

Recording your family history is a powerful way to create continuity in these times of tremendous change. Many people would take to record their family history. . . but few actually do it. *Here's how:*

### **PREPARE FOR THE INTERVIEWS**

\* Don't try to talk to everyone in the family. Some people will feel awkward discussing personal matters with a tape recorder running. Others, however, will embrace the idea—these are the people to interview.

\* Prepare a list of topics you want to cover (a thorough list is included in my book). It's best *not* to tell the interviewee what you'd like to discuss in advance because many people get nervous merely thinking about what they want to say and don't give as good an interview.

\* Let the interviewee choose the time and place for the interview. He/she should be as comfortable as possible. *Also important* Set aside at least two hours for each interview so you can give the person as much time as he needs.

\* Use a good cassette tape recorder. If you get one that plugs in, you won't have to worry about your batteries going dead. *Also recommended.:* A tape recorder with internal noise control—a circuit that diminishes the clicks and whirrs made by the moving parts of the recorder.

\* Use good-quality 90-minute cassettes. You'll want them to last for years. And the longer cassettes will mean fewer interruptions to change the tape during the interview.

\* Always have a couple of extra blank cassettes with you. This will cover you if the interview goes very well . . . or very slowly.

\* Do a 30-second trial before starting the real interview. Make sure that the tape recorder is working. You don't want to finish a two-hour session, and find that the tape isn't audible.

\* Label each tape as soon as it's finished. Include the date, place and person's name. This will keep you from getting the tapes out of sequence. *Helpful:* Also list the topics discussed on that tape.

*Strongly recommended:* Do at least one interview session (or part of each interview) on *video*, which has tremendous emotional power and is a lot of fun to watch. Video cameras are easy to use and inexpensive to rent (about \$100 for a weekend).

### **ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS**

\* Life-cycle and life-crisis questions.

Ask the person to recount memories of his parents, grandparents and other family members. Ask him to tell you about specific events concerning childhood, adolescence, courtship and marriage, births and child-raising, work and career, family life, middle age, retirement and aging.

\* Historical questions. Ask how the person was affected by important events—the Depression, World War II, Vietnam, the rapid technological changes of the twentieth century, etc.

\* Questions about values, attitudes and philosophy. Ask about the person's religious experiences and his attitude about the world. Ask him what he has learned from the high and low

points in his life.

### **AFTER THE INTERVIEW**

Make and distribute duplicates of the tapes to members of your family only after receiving permission from each interviewee (people often say things during interviews that they don't want others to hear).

Duplication can be done easily if you or someone you know has a dual-cassette tape recorder. If you can't or don't want to duplicate the tape yourself, look in the *Yellow Pages* under *Recording Service—Sound and Video* to find a company that will do the duplication for you. *Cost.*- \$10- \$15/audiotape ... \$35/videotape.

*About editing:* You can't know what kinds of information will be important to family members 50 years from now so don't edit the original tape.

Store audio- and videotapes *vertically*, out of direct sunlight and away from magnetic fields (created by speakers, televisions, vacuum cleaners, etc.), at temperatures as near 70F and relative humidity as near 50% as possible. Be sure to play (or fast forward and rewind) each tape once or twice a year to keep the proper tension.

Information from the Electronics Industries Association. For a free copy of the booklet *How Co Choose, Use, and Care for Audio and Video Tape*, send a self-addressed, business-size envelope to the Consumer Electronics Group, Audio and Video Thpe, Box 19100, Washington. DC 20036.

Bottom *Line/Personal* interviewed William Fletcher, an anthropologist and author of *Recording Your Family History* Ten Speed Press, Box 7123, Berkeley, California 94707. \$11.95.

### **FROM AND TO:**

**From Henry A. VERSLYPE.** Just a short note to let you know about a new book that just came off the press : **SERVANTS OF THE LAND** by Joseph A. Amato. 1990 by Crossing Press. ISBN 09614119—2—9. \$9.95. 80 pages.

It is an excellent book very well written and factual. I can only recommend it to all our members.

**From Pierre L. Inghels.** We bought the book a few months ago, and can only confirm what Henry said about it. One of the critics, Professor R. Vecoli, Director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota writes the following comments: "Joseph A. Amato has written a perceptive and provocative account of the Belgian Farmers in Lyon County in SW Minnesota. In answer to the question why they succeeded in 'getting and keeping the land', much more so than their neighbors, Amato convincingly delineates their ethos as peasant—capitalists'. This ethos consisted of a single-minded devotion to the trinity of land, family and church. Drawing on a variety of sources, including oral histories, Amato tells the story of real persons and real families that lived this ethos. Laced with humor and drama, it makes for interesting reading... and is also an important contribution to both immigration and rural history.

**Louis Van Den BRANDE.** 15 Rue Fleurbeek, B 1620 Drogenbos, Belgium, is offering to do research in Belgium. Write to him (French, Flemish or English) with your problems, and ask for conditions. (He is very reasonable and efficient). Check with him also if you need maps of Belgian

cities, new or old. In one of his letters, he wrote:” Sorry I don’t have any relatives in North America. Only my grandfather’s brother went to Argentina about the years 1900 and became a “Gaucho”. I saw him once when he came back in 1947, dressed in his Poncho and Sombrero. He was 76 years old and died blind here in Brussels in 1949. Genealogy often proves that reality is more unusual than fiction: for instance, my grandmother who died at age 96 moved 42 times in her life”!!!

(Pierre’s comment : I don’t know if this is an exception, but I know a young lady with two children, she is only 33, lives here in Oregon, and moved 14 times in the last 8 years, 11 times in the same city).

**To William and Shirley A. BROOKS.** The Staff and the members of the Belgian Researchers wish William a speedy recovery from his fourth open heart surgery, which took place November 29th. Shirley writes “God answered our prayers and after bypasses #11 & #12 he is doing fine again. Needless to say things have been in quite a turmoil around here for several months but are smoothing out now

I can surely understand, Shirley ... Here too things have been going in all directions since Pierre’s surgery. We wish you both a stiff upperlip...

**From Sue LANCELLE :** Thank you for sending the list of Lancelles, who emigrated from Beauchevain. Included in this list was my great—great—grandfather Simon Joseph. My father had always thought that Simon had come from Namur, so this was an interesting discovery. — Thanks for sharing this information with us, Sue. It’s always rewarding to hear that The Belgian Researchers are successful in their efforts.

### QUERIES:

Here at the Office, we open a file for each query. When you send an answer to a member, may we ask you to send us also a copy of your answer, so that we keep informed about the status of the research: update or close the file.

If someone answers your query, be sure to acknowledge receipt by a card or note as a matter of courtesy. With the deteriorating mail situation, members need to know that their

response got through to you.

**91/125. ROMEDENNE/ROMDENNE.** Victor ROMEDENNE came in this country in 1856. His Father was John and his Mother Julia . . .?. I would like to correspond with any descendents or other people familiar of this name in Belgium or in the USA.

Myra MICHALETZ, 1278 Ridgedale Court, GREEN BAY WI 54304-2322.

**91/126. BAIVIER.** We are searching for the descendents of Joachim BAIVIER, son of Pierre, born 6 May 1829, landed in New York in August 1856. Please write to this office.

**91/127. VAN KEMPS/KEMPS.** I am searching for data on Francois /Frank van Kemps or Kemps, who arrived in the States in the year 1882, with his wife and son Louis. He remarried a few years later as his first wife passed away shortly after their arrival. P.M. VAUGEOIS, 17 Madonna Drive, St Albert-CANADA-T8N 1G9

**91/128. SEERDEN.** We are searching for the descendents of Francois SEERDEN, born August 10, 1820; He emigrated to the USA around 1840. Please write to this office.

**91/129. CUMPS/KIMPS/Catherine MEULEMANN family.** Coming from Belgium, they settled in Duck Creek (Green Bay), WI, approximately 1859. Their son Ferdinand was my grandfather. Please write to Shirley Brown. 8576 NE Duddleson Portland, Or 97220.

**91/130. WHITE/DE WITTE/WITTE.** I’m trying to trace my grandfather Peter White -or Pieter de Witte -or Peter Witte, born 1832 in Belgium. We have no record of his immigration. He was living in Nebraska in the 1860’s. JOANNE JANSEN. 753 Manbrin N. Salem, OR 97303.