

Belgian Laces



Left pannel
Reaching the Port



Right pannel
Saying Goodbye

Les Emigrants
Triple Pannel
1896
Central pannel: **One Last Look**
by Eugene Laermans

Koninklijk Museum
voor
Schone Kunsten, Antwerp

**Our principal objective is:
Keep the Belgian Heritage alive in our hearts and in the hearts of our posterity**

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS

Belgian American Heritage Association
Our organization was founded in 1976 and welcomes as members Any person of Belgian descent interested in Genealogy, History, Biography or Heraldry, either amateur or professional.

You are invited to become a member and to participate actively in the work of the society. The annual membership fee includes a subscription to the quarterly

BELGIAN LACES

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BELGIAN LACES: Official Quarterly Bulletin of

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS

Belgian American Heritage Association

Dear Members,

*Where to begin?
So much is moving so fast!
The news from Belgium, the Atomium and the new coins was exciting, but so was the news of breakthroughs in the research of many of our members thanks to the help of our friends in Belgium and also here in America. I say America and not the US because it is help from both North and South America we are now getting!*

The internet is beginning to fulfill its potential in enabling researchers everywhere to access information otherwise obscured by distance and lack of understanding. Guy is continuing to add extracted records on the website thanks to those who have so generously accepted to help with the different projects, and Glenn is continuing to add new links which he has organized and made available on the Yahoogroups page.

Thank You! You are proving that the Belgian motto: "Eendracht maakt macht - "L'union fait la force" - "Einigkeit macht stark" - "Unity Makes Us Strong" is alive and well among us.

You are the best!

Régine



Atomium fever

The re-opening of the shiny new Atomium has kicked off a whole new craze for Atomium memorabilia. Crowds have flocked to the impressive monument and the sphere available for private functions is already in great demand.

Romain Coenen from the Royal Mint announced the launch of the new **Atomium** coinage via a press communiqué on Monday. Now everyone can have their own Atomium souvenir for the princely sum of 2 euros.

With the newly renovated Atomium attracting a mass of interest, the Belgian Royal Mint has decided to get in on the action and honour the Brussels' landmark with a series of 2 euro coins. The special 2 euro coins, featuring one of Brussels' most famous landmarks officially rolled out at 2pm on March 29, in the presence of the Minister for Finance, **Didier Reynders**. The Belgian Royal Mint in Brussels will continue with the production of the new 2 euro coins. There will be no limited edition reserved for collectors. The new coins will simply be distributed into general circulation.

A special collectors' edition of the coin will be available later this year. The coin will come in a pack containing the coin and a photo. It will cost 9 euros.

<http://www.vrtnieuws.net>

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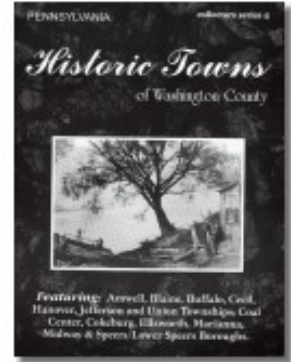
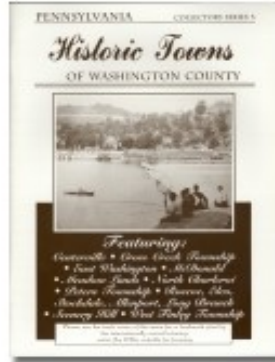
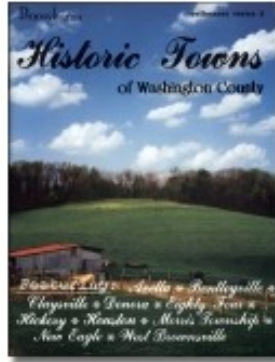
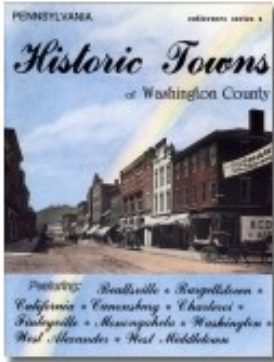
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Pennsylvania Historic Towns of Washington County Collectors Series (books for sale): collection of 7 Books

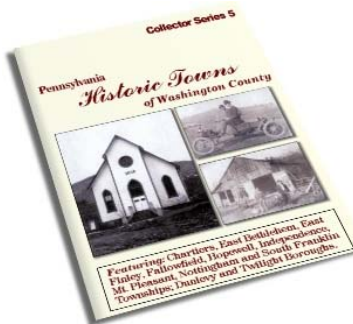


Volume 1 includes the following boroughs; Beallsville, Burgettstown, California, Canonsburg, Charleroi, Finleyville, West Alexander, and West Middletown. Also included in the first book is the only two cities in Washington County, Pennsylvania, Washington and the City of Monongahela.

Volume 2 includes the villages of Avella, Eighty Four, Hickory, and New Eagle. Also the boroughs of Bentleyville, Claysville, Donora, Houston and West Brownsville. The only township in this volume is Morris Township. It includes the villages of Prosperity, Sparta, Concord, Lindley's Mills, and Dunn Station.

Volume 3 features the boroughs of Centerville, East Washington, McDonald, North Charleroi, Elco, Roscoe, Stockdale, Allenport and Long Branch; the villages of Meadow Lands and Scenery Hill; and West Finley Township which includes the villages of West Finley, Good Intent, Beham and Elvilla.

Volume 4 includes the boroughs of Coal Center, Cokeburg, Ellsworth, Marianna, Midway, and Speers/Lower Speers. The townships and their villages are as follows: Amwell Township (Amity, Braddock, Chambers Mill, Harts Mill, Lone Pine and Ten Mile Village), Blaine & Buffalo Townships (Taylorstown, East Buffalo and Finney), Cecil Township (Bishop, Cecil, Coal Valley, Gilmore, Lawrence (Hill Station), Muse, Reissing, and Venice), Hanover Township (Florence, Hamilton, Paris and Purdy), Jefferson Township, (Bertha, Eldersville, Hanlin Station and Jefferson), and Union township (Coal Buff, Cortney, Elrama, Gastonville, Huston Run, Orangeville, Rankintown, and Shire Oaks Villages).



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Brussels Welcomes a Prominent Guest.

By Guy Gallez

On the fourth of March 1877, after two terms as President of the United States, General Ulysses S. Grant is in retirement. After an all around tour of the States, he goes almost immediately on a trip around the world. His journey began in the United Kingdom before going to the continent. American representatives in foreign countries received this official note.

"State Department, Washington, May 23rd, 1877

"To the Diplomatic and Consular Officers of the United States

"General : General Ulysses S. Grant, former President of the United States, sailed from Philadelphia on the 17th of this month, to Liverpool.

"The route and extent of his travels, as well as the duration of his sojourn abroad, were undetermined at the time of his departure, the object of his journey being to secure a few months of rest and recreation after sixteen years of unremitting and devoted labor in the military and civil

service of his country.

"The enthusiastic manifestations of popular regard and esteem for General Grant shown by the people in all parts of the country that he has visited since his retirement from official life, and attending his every appearance in public from then on until his departure for Europe, indicate beyond question the high place he holds in the grateful affections of his countrymen.

"Sharing in the largest measure this general public sentiment, and at the same time expressing the wishes of the President, I desire to invite the aid of the Diplomatic and Consular Officers of the Government to make his journey a pleasant one should he visit their posts. I already feel assured that you will find patriotic pleasure in anticipating the wishes of the Department by showing him that attention and consideration which is due from every officer of the Government to a citizen of the Republic so signally distinguished both in official service and personal renown.

"I am, Gentlemen,

"Your obedient servant,

"WM. M. Evarts"

The American Minister at Brussels sent the following response :

Brussels June 27th, 1877

Hon. W M Evarts
Secretary of State
Washington, DC

"Sirs,

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular letter of the 23rd of May 1877.

"I respectfully beg to assure you, that the instructions and request expressed therein shall be most carefully observed. As it is my duty, so shall it be my pleasure and happiness, to do everything in my power, to add to the comfort, and pleasure, of General Grant's sojourn in Europe.

"I have received a letter from him, stating that he will be in Brussels during July, or August, and I am doing my utmost to insure him a grand and cordial reception in this Capital;

"I have the honor to be Sir,

"Very Respectfully

"Your Obedient Servant

"A . P. Merrill"



From eyewitnesses,¹ here is the day to day account of General Grant's journey to Belgium.

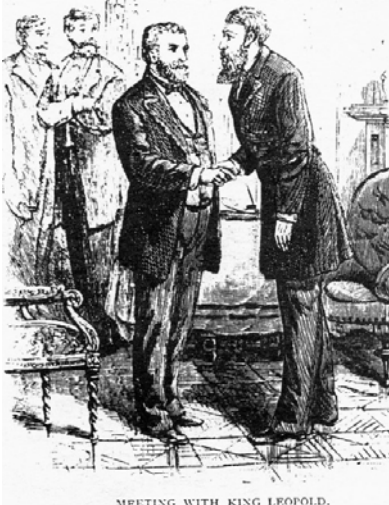
July 5, 1877 (Thursday)

Mrs. Grant : " On the morning of the 5th of July, we left for the Continent. After a pleasant run to Folkestone, where the General was met by and listened to an address of welcome from the Mayor, to which he replied, we took a steamer sent especially by these hospitable Englishmen and steamed to Ostend. "

Newspapers : "The great attraction to the many tourists on holiday at Ostend was the arrival about 6:30 of the steamer « Victoria » waving the American flag and given to the service of General Ulysses Grant, former President of the United-States, by the South Eastern Railway Co. The steamer « Victoria » just touched the bar and immediately returned



under steam to Folkestone. In the absence of the burgomaster [Mr. Van Iseghem] detained in Brussels, the first Alderman Maryssael bid welcome to the famed General. The General responded in English «I am obliged for the sentiment ». Mr. Grant is a middle-sized, sturdy man. He is 50 years old. No decoration hang on his breast. Flowers were given to Mrs. Grant by Mr. Van Iseghem, United States Consular representative. Mr. Grant is accompanied by his son, Mr. Jessie Grant and Brigadier General Badeau."²



Badeau : "Here he was received as an equal by the sovereign. At Ostend he received messages from the King inquiring when he would arrive at Brussels, and the royal railway carriage was placed at his disposal to transport him to the capital".

Newspapers and Young : "General Grant is staying at the hotel « Mertian ». Mr. D. S. Merrill, the son of the American Minister at Brussels Mr. Ayres Merrill, and the American Consul at Brussels Mr. Norton, have had the honor to have dinner with the General "

Mrs. Grant : " The gentlemen walked out, I did not accompany them as I was too tired and preferred to sit at the window and watch the quaintly dressed people as they walked to and fro below me in their wooden shoes and high caps. How the paving stones resounded as they pattered on them in these shoes. The General regretted that I did not go with them on their walk, as this was the first really "foreign" country we had been in, and it was very foreign".

July 6, 1877 (Friday)

Newspapers : " General Grant and family have left Ostend by the train at 11:50 am. The king, who received General Grant at Ostend, arranged for a car from the royal train to take him, his family and followers to Brussels. He has been very delighted by this high mark of consideration".

Young³ : " They stopped on the way at the old city of Ghent, where, accompanied by the American Consul, they examined the main bridges and places of interest of that quaint and venerable city."



Mrs. Grant : " I was shocked to see a woman and a dog harnessed to a cart and actually dragging quite a heavy load, I saw this not only once but many times, Sometimes it would be a man and a dog. I suppose these animals are strong enough, but I did not like to see a man or a woman mated with them as burden carriers".

Newspapers : " The American flag, Stars and Stripes, is flying on the Hotel Belle-Vue, where General Grant arrived in the evening around 6 pm".⁴

¹ Complete references are at the end of the article.

² Translated from Belgian papers.

³ **John Russell Young** : born in Dewington, Pennsylvania, 20 November, 1841. He entered the employment of the Philadelphia " Press" in 1857 as copy-boy, and was promoted to other duties till at the beginning of the civil war he was sent to Virginia as war-correspondent. In 1864 he accompanied General Nathaniel P. Banks on his Red river expedition. He resigned in 1865 and attempted to establish newspapers in Philadelphia and New York without success. He then connected himself with the New York "Tribune," of which he was managing editor from 1866 till 1869. In 1871 he went to Europe as a correspondent of the New York "Herald," In 1877, as commissioner of the "Herald," he accompanied ex-President Grant around the world. After his return to New York city in 1879 he resumed his place on the editorial staff. On 15 March, 1882, he was appointed United States minister to China. He filled that post until the accession of President Cleveland, and then returned to New York and engaged in his former occupation. He has published "Around the World with General Grant " (2 vols., New York, 1879.

⁴ The Hotel Belle-Vue was built in 1776 and was partly standing at the location of the old palace of the DuKes of Brabant. Its owner at the time was Mr. Dremel. Today it is the seat of the Museum of the Dynasty.

July 7, 1877 (Sunday)

Newspapers : "At seven in the morning, the General and his aide General Badeau walked through the prominent districts of the capital".

Mrs. Grant : " the General called on the minister, Mr. A[yers] P. Merrill, whose illness confined him to the house ".

Newspapers : "Mr. Merill, Minister of the United States in Brussels, has recently suffered a stroke, he is in a bad condition. Every morning, the king inquire about his health".⁵

*Badeau*⁶ : " The members of the Government immediately paid their respects, and the royal squires brought invitations for the General and his entire party to a dinner at the palace. The King's carriages were offered to the former president, and an aide was assigned to him during his stay. General Grant, however, availed himself of this courtesy for official visits only: while calling on members of the Government and foreign ministers, and also for visit to the palace, but at no other time. The invitation to dinner was in French, translated, read as follows :



*"By order of Their Majesties,
The Grand Marshal of the Court has the honor to invite
Their Excellencies, General and Mrs. Grant,
to dinner at the palace of Brussels, Sunday, 8th of July, 1877, at 6:30pm.
Casual dress."*

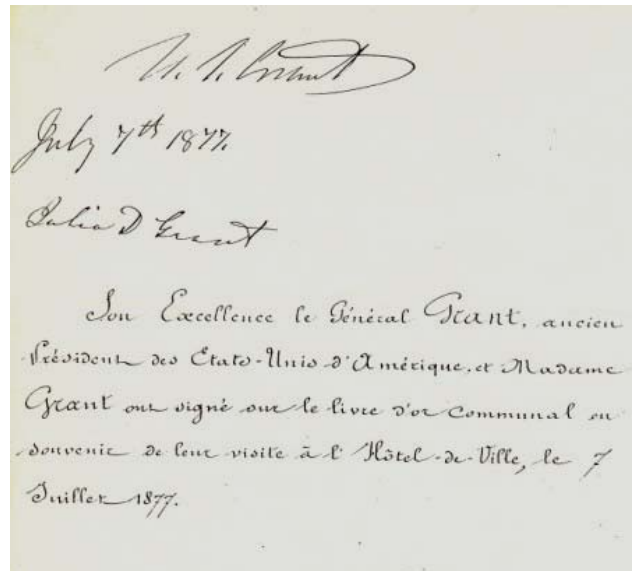
The notification was written, not engraved, on the card, and was doubtless intended to make the etiquette as little onerous as possible for the democratic former President. Invitations were also sent to the American Minister and his wife, and to all the American officials in Brussels, down to the vice-consul, who was an Englishman, and never went to court at home."

Newspapers : " The General went to visit City Hall and the main public buildings of the Capital accompanied by Mrs. Grant and son, His Majesty⁸ and the (*son of the*) Minister of the United States in Brussels, Mr. Merrill. The Burgomaster Mr. Anspach received the former President of the United States and gave the visitors the grand tour of City Hall. He examined the old registers containing liberty charters with great interest and was not less interested in hearing the explanations on the organization of telegraphic service and water supply. Mr. and Mrs. Grant, signed the golden book of the visitors, ended the visit and complimented Mr. Anspach in the most flattering terms giving their fullest appreciation and highest expression of delight.

Newspapers : "Mr. Sanford,⁹ former minister of the United States in Brussels, gave a great dinner in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Grant at his mansion, Rue de la Concorde. Mr. Jessie Grant, Brigadier General



Badeau, General Grant's aide, whose name was mentioned so many times during the American Civil War, have accepted the invitation, as have also a few of the King's ministers and noted people of the diplomatic world. His majesty was still in Ostend and only came to Brussels in the evening".¹⁰



July 8, 1877 (Sunday)

Mrs. Grant : " King Leopold and Madam de Winkersloot called on us at the hotel, the General had a long and interesting conversation with the King and found him both interested in and well

⁵ Merrill healed slowly of his stroke, his resignation due to bad health, sent in August, was withdrawn. He remained at his post in Belgium for some time before officially retiring.

⁶ **Adam Badeau** : born in New York City, 29 December 1831. He volunteered in the military service of the United States in 1862. He served as staff officer in Louisiana until May 1863, when he was severely wounded at Port Hudson. In March 1864, he was appointed military secretary to General Grant. He remained on his staff until March 1869. From May to December 1869, he was secretary of legation at London. During 1870 he was sent to Madrid as a bearer of government dispatches, and in May returned to London as consul-general, retaining that office until September 1881. In 1877 and 1878 he was given leave of absence by the state department to accompany General Grant on his tour round the world. He was consul-general at Havana from May 1882, until April. 1884. He has published "The Vagabond," a collection of essays (New York, 1859); "Military History of Ulysses S. Grant" (3 vols.. 1867-'81); "Conspiracy : a Cuban Romance" (1885); "Aristocracy in England" (1886); and "Grant in Peace" (1886).

⁷ The words "Casual dress" were used to translate "en frac", which really means that court attire, formal dress, was not required.

⁸ There is some doubts about the presence of the King. He is not mentioned in other references.

⁹ Henry Shelton Sanford born in Woodbury, Conn. June 15, 1815. Minister in Belgium from 1861 to 1869. In 1876, he is a member of the executive committee of the « Association for the Exploration and Civilization of Central Africa » founded by Leopold II. He was made « Grand Officier de l'Ordre de Leopold » in 1878 and was one of the signers of de Act for the Establishment of the Congo as a State in the Berlin conference in 1884-85.

¹⁰ The king was for the first time for a few days in his new chalet in Ostend.

informed on our national affairs. The King was absent from the city when we arrived and called on the General first on his return".

Badeau : " The visit had not been pre-arranged and the carriage had already pulled up, preventing the General to go down the stairs to welcome His Majesty, but in every other way the King was received with the usual honors.

He was attended by several gentlemen of his court, who remained standing during the interview, and when they were presented to General Grant, they paid him the same obeisance they were accustomed to offer their sovereign. The visit was short, as such ceremonies usually are among persons of exalted rank. Mrs. Grant was present and the King conversed with her as well as with the General. His Majesty speaks very good English, so that there was no difficulty with the language.

The King's visit took place on the day of the dinner, and as such civilities are to be returned immediately General Grant inquired when he and Mrs. Grant could pay their compliments to the Queen. His Majesty knew that General Grant was to leave Brussels the next day, and accordingly proposed that the former President and Mrs. Grant come to the palace for a few moments before dinner, when the Queen would be ready to receive their formal visit".

Newspapers : " General Grant paid a visit to court, there was a great dinner this evening in his honor".

Badeau : " In the evening the royal carriages were sent for the party, consisting of General and Mrs. Grant, Jesse Grant and myself. On arriving at the palace we were shown through what seemed an never ending flow of lofty rooms and finally entered one where several of the ladies and gentlemen of the court were already present; the other evening guests had not arrived. It was July, and the windows overlooking the park were all open; the sun had not yet set, and, of course, the candles were not lit; the effect of the great rooms in the warm afternoon, with only a few people in evening dress and half costume, scattered here and there, was peculiar. The men were either in military uniform or dress coats, knee-breeches, black stockings, and low shoes, with buckles, chapeaux and swords. Full dress would have required white stockings, gold lace, and embroidery, and other accessories. General Grant and all the American gentlemen wore plain evening clothes.

We remained in this apartment while the company was assembling. No one seemed authorized to receive formally for their Majesties, though the guests greeted each other as they arrived. Everyone remained standing; indeed, I cannot remember that there were any seats in the room. After a few moments the King entered to lead General and Mrs. Grant to the Queen. He offered his arm to Mrs. Grant, the General followed, and they disappeared, but soon returned, the King now coming only to the door, which was immediately closed behind him".



Mrs. Grant : " The next evening, we were entertained at the palace by His Majesty and the Queen, at which time the King said we could pay our respects to the Queen, return his visit, and dine all at once. We passed through a number of salons and corridors and were presented to the Queen who is young and pretty; King Leopold is a tall, noble-looking man. The Queen wore a lovely opal silk with lace. I wore a pretty white silk, I was very fortunate in having several nice dresses with me, for I had no opportunity to have any made until we got to Paris, General Grant and I went early to pay our respects, as His Majesty had suggested. After meeting the Queen, the General, Jesse and I returned to the drawing room, where those invited to banquet was assembled".

Badeau : "Shortly afterward the guests were requested to take position to await the entrance of their Majesties. General and Mrs. Grant stood next to the doors through which they had come in from the Queen's. These doors were now again opened, and a courtier announced in a loud voice: "*le Roi et la Reine*" ("The King and the Queen")

Their Majesties bowed as they entered, every one else, of course, showing reverence. The King was in uniform; the Queen, except for her jewels, was not dressed better than Mrs. Grant. The royal couple spoke first to General and Mrs. Grant, as if welcoming them for the first time, the previous visit being considered a separate occasion from the dinner. Then their Majesties passed around the circle and each in turn addressed everyone of the guests, talking a few moments with each, although the party was large. There were about thirty people present, members of the Government and other high dignitaries, besides the Americans".

Mrs. Grant : " After they had passed quietly around and shared a word or two to each guest, dinner was announced. The King escorted Her Majesty, General Grant escorted Mrs. Sanford, and Mr. Sanford escorted me".

Badeau : " After the sovereigns exchanged a few courtesies with every guest, the King approached Mrs. Grant and offered her his arm, and then requested General Grant take the Queen to dinner.¹¹ The King and Mrs. Grant entered, then the General and the Queen; the other guests followed after them in the order assigned to them. I had the honor of going in with Minister of War's wife, I suppose out of compliment to my military title. An interesting etiquette question arose among the American ladies. The American Minister was ill and his wife was not living, but his daughters were invited to the dinner. Now, according to court etiquette, the daughters of diplomats cannot enjoy the rank of wives, and Mrs. Sanford, the wife of the former Minister, was, therefore, placed ahead of envoy's daughters. The Queen spoke of this to Mrs. Grant. She said she was fond of the young ladies, but the rule was rigorous. I believe there were some hearts aflamed; as Mrs. Sanford is considered one of the most famous beauties of her time. She was then at the very height of her charms, and no American would be unwilling to accept such a representative. I had myself not very long before been appointed Minister to this very Court, ... But I had preferred a lesser rank at a more important place, and remained as Consul-General at London, rather than take the post of Minister to Brussels. I went in to dinner further down the guest line. There was music during dinner, far enough off so as not to interfere with conversation, and as twilight faded, the great chandelier, with its hundreds of candles, that hung

¹¹ *Julia Grant and Badeau disagrees on this point.*

over the table, was lit with a peculiar contraption. A sort of thread of slow match connected the candelabra, and the flame seemed to travel from one candle to another till all were lit".

Mrs. Grant : " General Grant was seated next to the Queen and I next to the King Mr. Sanford on my left. We had been seated a short while when I noticed that not a remark had been passed between her Majesty and the President. In a low tone, I said to Mr. Sanford: "Do send word to Mrs. Sanford not to talk to the General any longer, so that he may turn to the Queen. " "Oh!" Mr. Sanford said, "I dare not. I dare not" Growing desperate, I leaned slightly forward, spoke past the King in a voice subdued but distinct, and said, "Victor" The General did not look around until I said "General Grant." He at once looked towards me; then I said: "Do you know Her Majesty is a fine whip? Yes, "I said, "King Leopold tells me she sometimes drives four-in-hand." After that, I had no more anxiety and thoroughly enjoyed the banquet".

Badeau : " When the dinner was over the whole party arose according to Continental fashion ; the King took Mrs. Grant out, and General Grant, the Queen; the others followed with their dinner partners, and separation that is common in England, and often here, did not occur. The men all accompanied the ladies to the drawing-rooms and remained there.

Again neither the royal hosts nor their guests were seated. The company stood in a circle, and the King and Queen passed around within it, as before. The conversation was now more prolonged and animated, but still there retaining a certain formality. The courtiers did not move about freely in the presence of the sovereigns. All the guests were presented to both General and Mrs. Grant. About half an hour after dinner the King and the Queen retired, taking special leave of the former President and his party, whom they were not to meet again. General Grant left right afterward. He was accompanied to his hotel by a royal squire, in a royal carriage".¹²

Young : " The King of Belgium is a man of more than ordinary gifts, and he impressed the former President with his knowledge, industry, and desire to strengthen his kingdom. The King seemed to be familiar with American affairs, and the subject that interested him most particularly, in his conversation with General Grant was the establishment of lines of ships between Antwerp and American port".

July 9, 1877 (Monday)

Young : " General Grant left Brussels for Cologne, having formed not only a high opinion of the character and intellect of the sovereign of Belgium, but a personal friendship"

Newspapers : "Mr. Grant, Mrs. Grant, their son and Mr. Badeau have left our capital this morning at 9:37 am to go to Cologne. The king put a royal railway car at their disposal".

[General Grant travelled in all the European States including Greece and Russia. After that, he went to other continents and visited among other nations Egypt, India, China and Japan. He finally returned in the United States by way of the Pacific Coast on Sept. 20, 1879, more than two years after his departure. Ulysses S. Grant died on July 23, 1885. Some time later, Julia Dent Grant moved to the home of his oldest son, Frederick Dent Grant, in New York. As Frederick Grant recall "Every day I devote an hour or more to taking down my mother's reminiscences of him. These mostly relate to incidents and events in my father's life during his tour around the world, and which were not embodied in Mr John Russell Young's description of that journey". In 1890, when the "Memoirs" were completed, Julia Dent planned publication, but for many reasons, the project failed. Before her death in 1902, she supervised a typewritten version, so that carbon copies could be distributed to her children and grand-children. It was not before the 1970, that the daughters of General Grant 3rd gave permission to publish the entire manuscript. .]

Appendix :

Dinner Guest List (from the Archives of the Royal Palace)

Le Général Mockel

Monsieur Anspach¹³ (*Burgomaster of Brussels*)

La Comtesse de Moerkerke

Le Baron de Crafsier¹⁴

Madame Thiebault

Monsieur Sanford

Madame Grant

Le Roi

La Reine

Le Général Grant

Madame Sanford

Le Général Thiebault

La Baronne de Crafsier

Le Général Badeau

Madame Anspach

Monseigneur Donnet

Le général Depuydt

Melle Merrill

Mr Pirson¹⁵

Madame de Denterghem

Le Grand Maréchal de la Cour

La Baronne Jolly

Monsieur Vervoort¹⁶

Melle Merrill

Monsieur Grant, fils

Monsieur Merrill, fils

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The American Cultural Center, Bruxelles.

Ulysses S. Grant Association, Carbondale, Illinois, U.S.A.

Archives de la ville de Bruxelles.

Archives du Palais Royal, Bruxelles.

Center for American Studies, Bibliothèque Royale, Bruxelles.

Archives du Professeur Balace, Université de Liège.

¹² There is around 200 meters between the main gate of the Palace and the entry of the Hotel Belle-Vue.

¹³ ANSPACH, Jules (Bruxelles, 1829-1879) – Son of François Anspach, brother of Eugène and Edouard Anspach. Liberal politician, member of the Chambers of Representatives, he was mayor of Brussels from 1863 until his death. He vaulted the Senne (see a future issue of Belgian Laces on this subject), drew the main boulevards and new arteries (Avenue Louise, North-South links), transformed the neighborhoods of Notre-Dame-aux-Neiges, Léopold and Sainte-Gudule, built monumental buildings (Bourse and main Halles).

¹⁴ First President of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

¹⁵ Governor of the National Bank.

¹⁶ Advisor to the Supreme Court of Appeal.

Belgians in the 1901 Canadian Census: Burrard, British Columbia

4.2	LODDGE , Julia	F	29 Sep 1867	Belgium	governess	1896	Vancouver City
5.5	BOEUR , Josephine	F	21 Jul 1882	Belgium	servant	1888	Vancouver City
6.12	BOEUR , Julia	F	7 Jun 1883	Belgium	domestic	1888	Vancouver City
7.15	BOEUR , Karena	F	29 Nov 1852	Belgium	head	1887	Vancouver City
7.15	BOEUR, Joseph	M	25 Apr 1876	Belgium	son	1887	Vancouver City
7.15	BOEUR, Josephine	F	7 Mar 1882	Belgium	daughter	1887	Vancouver City
7.15	BOEUR, Julie	F	10 Mar 1884	Belgium	daughter	1887	Vancouver City
7.15	BOEUR, Alphonce	M	15 May 1886	Belgium	son	1887	Vancouver City
7.15	BOEUR, Mary	F	24 Jun 1889	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
7.15	BENSON , Thomas	M	12 Feb 1858	England	head	1881	Vancouver City
7.15	BENSON, Elisabeth	F	23 Oct 1864	British Columbia	wife		Vancouver City
7.15	BENSON, Francis	M	29 Sep 1886	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
7.15	BENSON, Lelia	F	29 May 1887	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
7.15	BENSON, Maud	F	20 May 1885	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
7.15	BENSON, Margaretta	F	26 Jan 1893	USA	daughter		Vancouver City
11.5	TEELLEY , Cecile	F	17 Sep 1865	Belgium	sister in law	1891	Vancouver City
16.11	DE LUCK , Frank	M	6 Feb 1874	Belgium	Boarder	1893	Vancouver City
17.2	STORME , Frank	M	1 Apr - (32y)	Belgium	lodger	1894	Vancouver City
17.31	DUBOIS , Eugene	M	16 Jun 1865	Belgium	lodger	1899	Vancouver City
17.32	HENNERETTE , Martin	M	22 Dec 1861	Belgium	head	1899	Vancouver City
17.32	DESROSIERS , Magloire	M	22 Feb 1863	Quebec	head		Vancouver City
17.32	DESROSIERS, Mary	F	12 Oct 1871	Belgium	wife	1883	Vancouver City
17.32	DESROSIERS, Areny	M	10 Jan 1892	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
17.32	DESROSIERS, OG	M	7 Nov 1893	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
17.32	DESROSIERS, Mary	F	18 Nov 1895	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
17.32	DESROSIERS, Wilfred	M	18 Oct 1899	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
19.2	SCHWAHN , Charles	M	20 Mar 1856	Germany	head	1888/1900	Vancouver City
19.2	SCHWAHN, Sylia	F	30 Oct 1878	Belgium	wife	1890	Vancouver City
19.2	SCHWAHN, Lily	F	2 Dec 1895	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
19.2	SCHWAHN, Henry Fred	M	8 Dec 1899	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
19.16	BAUTCHIER , Augustus	M	22Mar 1863	Belgium	head	1884/1894	Vancouver City
22.11	GODDYN , Adolph	M	12 Oct 1862	Belgium	head	1888/1889	Vancouver City
22.11	GODDYN, Hortense	F	17 Jun 1865	England	wife	1875	Vancouver City
22.11	GODDYN, Arthur	M	31 Dec 1885	USA	son	1886	Vancouver City
22.11	GODDYN, Adolph	M	23 Dec 1894	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
22.11	GODDYN, Rita	F	12 Apr 1896	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
23.3	FONTAINE , Victor	M	9 Feb 1866	Quebec	head		Vancouver City
23.3	FONTAINE, Clemence	F	28 Feb 1879	Belgium	wife		Vancouver City
23.3	FONTAINE, Wilfred	M	7 Jul 1899	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN , Gus	M	10 Oct 1859	Belgium	head	1888/1896	Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN, Charlotte	F	30 Jun 1866	Belgium	wife	1888	Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN, Carmen	F	26 Apr 1889	Quebec	daughter		Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN, Dulcetta	F	5 Dec 1890	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN, Evanne	F	15 May 1894	Belgium	daughter		Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN, Reine	F	10 Oct 1898	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
23.20	COLASSIN, Franz	M	23 Dec 1899	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
23.27	RADLET , Octave	M	11 Jul 1870	Belgium	head	1890	Vancouver City
23.27	RADLET, Nellie	F	6 Jun 1877	England	wife	1882	Vancouver City
23.27	RADLET, Lawrence	M	21 Aug 1897	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
23.27	RADLET, Albert	M	13 Sep 1898	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City

23.27	RADLET, Nellie M	F	2 Dec 1899	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
23.27	RADLET, Violet	F	14-Mar-1900	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
24.5	VANDARRES , Philip	M	7 Jul 1875	Belgium	head	1898	Vancouver City
24.5	DEPRIE , Victor	M	17 Oct 1872	Belgium	lodger	1900	Vancouver City
24.5	DEBRUIN , Fred	M	23 Feb 1876	Belgium	lodger	1900	Vancouver City
24.6	MILLER , Peter	M	13 Aug 1861	Belgium	head	1881/1890	Vancouver City
28.9	FAIRON , Alphonse	M	14 Jul 1843	Belgium	head	1861/1873	Vancouver City
28.9	FAIRON, Mary Louise	F	6 May 1852	Quebec	wife		Vancouver City
28.9	COMEAU , Frank	M	1 May 1864	Quebec	lodger		Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS , Frank	M	8 Sep 1857	Belgium	head	1884	Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Mary	F	10 Mar 1858	England	wife	1884	Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Frances	F	7 Jul 1883	England	daughter	1884	Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Joseph	M	12 Aug 1885	Ontario	son		Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Benjamin	M	27 May 1887	Ontario	son		Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, William	M	4 Mar 1892	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Hattie	F	24 Feb 1894	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Fred	M	25 May 1896	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
28.17	MOYLS, Gertrude	F	7 Dec 1899	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
28.17	WOOD, Mary	F	20 May 1834	England	mother	1884	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET , Hubert	M	8 Mar 1838	Belgium	head	1890	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET, Josephine	F	13 Jun 1845	Belgium	wife	1890	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET, Fernande	F	27 Mar 1877	Belgium	son	1890	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET, Albert	M	26 Apr 1880	Belgium	son	1890	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET, Leon	M	27 May 1882	Belgium	son	1890	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET, Louise	F	6 Aug 1883	Belgium	daughter	1890	Vancouver City
30.12	RADELET, Julius	M	2 Jun 1887	Belgium	son	1890	Vancouver City
31.15	SWIFT , El..eli	M	23 Aug 1869	USA	head	1891	Vancouver City
31.15	SWIFT, Odile	F	29 May 1873	Belgium	wife	1882	Vancouver City
31.15	SWIFT, Anista	F	20 Nov 1894	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
31.15	SWIFT, Claud	M	19 Sep 1896	British Columbia	son		Vancouver City
31.15	SWIFT, Marie	F	14 Jun 1898	USA	daughter	1898	Vancouver City
31.15	SWIFT, Virginia	F	7-Oct-1900	British Columbia	daughter		Vancouver City
7.2	MOERMAN , Gustave	M	24 Jun 1863	Belgium	head	1895	Thurlow Island
7.2	MOERMAN, Mary	F	17 Nov 1863	USA	wife	1895	Thurlow Island

The Immigration Part 3 by Maria Vanhaelemesch

One year later. After moving from Delhi to this place, 5 km east of Langton, Ontario, about the 1st of March.

Langton, Tuesday 22 March 1955

Dear Sister

Yesterday, Leon went to the post office in Delhi and found a letter from you, also one from mother, from Willy and one from Rosa Devos for A nne Marie. We were busy reading all evening and, of course, there was a lot of talk about Ruddervoorde. The kids are very sorry about Vicky (aunt Bertha's dog) and talked quite a bit about her. The weather here is currently very similar to what it is like over there, constant snow. The snow has been on the ground all winter. Last Sunday we had a bit of a storm and the snow had been blown in banks across the road.

The kids were going to Delhi to the skating, they go just about every Sunday, in a covered building with artificial ice (arena), a lot of people go there, and the kids can skate too already. Sometimes they have skating there just like the ice revues, very nice. A nyhow they started out and about an hour later they were back, they didn't dare go any further. They had to follow a line of traffic and had to stop every so often to wait for the traffic to clear and get across the snow banks. They almost got stuck once so they decided to turn around at the first opportunity. We were glad they were back home safe.

It cleared up later Sunday evening and yesterday and today again, it is nice and sunny. The sun was up this morning at 6 am and the snow is almost gone, just some snow left where it had blown in banks. The snow here is so much drier here than in Belgium and it can blow so hard that you cannot see in front of you. That is what is called a snowstorm. That is what it was like on Saturday and Sunday.

We are now living in the country, with farms all around us. We can see 5 farms here from in the house, and at times we didn't see one, it

stormed so hard. The closest buildings are no more than about 150 meters from the house and we could not even see them at times. The snow is like dust, it is that fine and very dry and the wind just whips it up into a cloud. It is nice to see but very hard and dangerous to drive in.

Last week we had another storm, Leon had to go to his job and it was so windy he could hardly steer the car. Four times he had to come to a stop the wind was blowing so hard it felt as if the car was being lifted up. Our house shook and trembled so hard, the beds were shaking. There isn't any serious damage close by that I know of although our garage fell down. It was just an open shed but we will have to rebuild it. Several km away from here, along the lake, there was a lot of damage. Jules was down there with somebody from his job to repair some of the damage and investigate how much more has to be done. He says you can't believe how much damage there is. Beams, windows, chairs and furniture all over the place. Many homes were totally destroyed. The houses here are mostly wooden houses and I don't think that they are as strong as brick homes. You will probably see reports in the Belgian newspapers too. That storm came across from the States and lasted three days over there, with a lot of damage. They also had many flooded areas. We received just part of that storm. They showed on TV where it went and we just got the tail end and it was bad enough as it was.

I had to go to Tilsonburg, to an auction, where we bought two easy chairs and a chesterfield for \$20. You can't buy 2 chairs here for that kind of money. We now have 5 very soft seats where we can lounge in when we are home. At the start of the winter we bought a used Philips television combination with a radio and record player, one piece of furniture. I didn't want to tell anybody back home, because they would have said that we didn't use our head and wasted our money. But it is not for us but for the kids that we bought that.

It is a very different type of lifestyle here. Here the kids don't stay home much and the parents just allow them to go where they want. The TV keeps the kids busy at home, watching newsreels, movies, opera, theatre, circus programs, etc., especially Saturdays and Sundays they have very nice programs on about wild animals, Friday night is boxing night, Saturday night we watch wrestling. You can get so spoiled from those programs that you would rather stay home to watch them. When we lived in Delhi, Julien Calus, his brother Maurice even Henri A ndries, Jerome Jacobs, and their families, and many more came on a regular basis to watch TV. Especially the Saturday wrestling matches.

We now live close to where we started last year, not far from the farm where Marcel Knockaert lived and we planted tobacco... He has moved now too, went to a larger farm. Between Delhi and Langton.

The first of March is the day of the big move here. Sharecroppers and farmers move to different farms, usually with a better contract. They have to move between the first and the fifteenth of March to start preparing the land and their greenhouses, get fresh soil, steam it and start sowing the tobacco by the first of April. Sometimes they don't get to ship last year's tobacco until the end of March. That means they are stuck on their farms for the whole year.

We are about 5 km from Langton a small town. There are no stores close by where we are. When we need anything we have to go to town and plan our supplies for the whole week. During the week, Jules or Leon have the car to go to work by 6 o'clock. On Wednesday and Sundays the stores are closed. On Saturdays they stay open till 10 pm. At that time everything closes, except the restaurants, hotels and the halls. The Belgians, Germans, Poles, Hungarians and Ukrainians all have halls in Delhi and they stay open till 12 pm on Saturdays.

People here go out a lot more than in Belgium; just about everybody is in town on Saturday nights till 12 o'clock. There seems to be a lot more order here, very seldom is there any trouble, I have not heard of any yet. The men usually go to the bar in the hall, the women to the restaurant or bar, the young people to the dance hall. Naturally the adults can also go dancing there. Kids under 16 have their own room also. I find that very nice. Leon and I have only been to the Belgian Hall twice. The first Saturday we were here with the A ndries families. Andre, Henry and Michel from the states and their wives. And once more with Henri and Irma A ndries. Now we just go do our shopping and return home.

A nne Marie has been hardly any place except to go to school and once in a while to skate. She went to the show about three times this past year on Saturday afternoons. She watches television most of the time, she hardly ever goes outside. She doesn't come to the store with us, but then we lived in town, now that we are in the country, she won't be able to stay home alone in the evening, she will have to go along with us. We can't leave her home alone out in the country, that is not right.

When we went to the store, while living in town, we would only be gone for about ½ hour. Once in a while we took a couple of hours, it depended on where we went, the pharmacy, the grocery store, clothing store or shoe store, then sometimes to visit Caluses, who live in the center of town, visit for about ½ hour and we had soon spent a couple of hours in town, then straight home. We usually went with Henri A ndriesens, they came every Saturday without fail, sat and talked for awhile and then to town. Sometimes Leon would stay home with A nne Marie to watch TV, and then I had to do the shopping by myself.

All winter long, we didn't go to the restaurant more than about 5 times, they don't serve beer or alcoholic beverages in the restaurant, only coke, seven-up and other light beverages. Some of their fare is coffee and bacon and eggs, hamburgers, various types of dinners, ice cream, etc. we would go for a coffee or ice cream and meet some people there. People would then plan what they would be doing after the groceries and sometimes arrange to meet someplace for the evening. Many people would end up in the Belgian Club, or a restaurant.

Artwork is special to Delhi Belgian Hall

Vicki Hartlen - Delhi News-Record - March 24, 2005

Photo courtesy of Paull Callens



The Flemish Emigrant is a piece of artwork created by artist **Patrick Steen**, from Leke, Belgium, which has been generously given to the Delhi Belgian Club.

An unveiling occurred on April 3, 2005 at the Belgian Club beginning at 4:30 p.m.

"This is a great piece of artwork to have," said **Gaston Geysens**, as he explained the importance of the piece. "This sculpture represents everything that emigrants had to face when coming to North America."

Ludwig and Doreen Vandebussche, also of Leke, Belgium, have spent 25 years occupied with the study of Flemish emigration to Nord America (Canada and the United States). The couple thought there was not enough attention given to the Flemish people, who did emigrate, so they set up a private campaign. "They both wanted to see this artwork realized," said Geysens.

With the funding in place the couple commissioned Steen for the job. The end result was a sculpture made of recyclable material and metal, which has been bronzed. It sits 1.55 by 0.9 by 1.5 m and weighs 150 Kg.

"It's not light by any means," said Marc Vandebussche, who travelled to Washington to pick up the sculpture.

The sculpture depicts a family waiting on the Rijnpijp in Antwerp, Belgium, waiting to board a ship from the Red Star Lines. The father has a suitcase, while the mother with her bonnet carries a small child on her hip. A boy stands off to the side with a bag, while girl stands to the other side with another bag.

Beyond the family is a city skyline, that isn't New York or Toronto, but instead represents any North American city. Separating the family and the city is a water tank which represents the ocean. "Imagine what the families would have been thinking at that time," said Vandebussche. "I can't even imagine bringing all your belongings with you in one bag and setting off for the unknown. It must have been a scary time, but they did it."

While Geysens said many Norfolk residents have immigrants in their past, the sculpture should not only appeal to Belgians, but to everyone.

"We were all had to face similar challenges," said Geysens, who himself emigrated at 23 years of age. "We want people to come to the unveiling and share their stories with each other." <http://www.delhinewsrecord.com/story.php?id=151016>

There are 2 hotels in Delhi where beer and alcoholic beverages are served, there aren't any in Langton, and there is no Belgian hall in Langton either. There are a few small stores in Langton, not much, but there is one store where you can purchase almost everything you need except tools and dry goods (a general store). They sell silverware, dinner wares, pots and pans, baking dishes, everything you need for housekeeping, even meats and other groceries. (When we left Belgium, we did not have department stores or general stores in our home town and to have this, even on a much smaller scale than now was very unique. We went to the butcher shop for meat, the bakery for bread, clothing store for clothes, etc. A Iso, in Belgium, we were waited on in all stores, you did not go and pick up your stuff from the shelves and bring it to the cashier.) Shopping here is very easy, you come in, take a cart, walk along the aisles, pick up what you need and when you get to the end, you get to the cashier, pay and carry your stuff out. I find that a very pleasant way of shopping. In most towns there is a five and dime store, they are stores something like the Prix bas, or the L'Innovation in Bruges. We usually walk through the one in Delhi on Saturdays, in one door and out the other.

Delhi is not a big town, they just received their town status last year, but you can find everything there. The stores have a big variety of items to choose from. Langton here is just a small village, but very nice, there are a lot of good tobacco farms here; it is known to have some of the best in the country. Downtown is not very big about the size of Waardamme, but it has 3 or 4 nice stores. It is more modern here than in Belgium. As for in the stores, underwear is mostly nylon, you can get cotton also, most women don't wear undershirts here, just like the rich people in Belgium. The men all wear under shorts and in the winter they wear one piece long johns, they are very warm. The boys each have one and Leon has one in pure wool. Jules and Pierre each have a new winter coat. Pierre has to wear his every day of the week; therefore he did not get as nice a one as Jules. His is a green tartan; Jules has a very nice beige coat with fur collar and sheepskin lining. Pierre's is lined with a quilt like lining, not sheepskin. Pierre's cost \$10.00 and Jules' \$36.00. God willing, Pierre will get a nice one too next winter. Leon has a new work jacket for about \$24.00; it is waterproof, lined with red wool.

We had to buy workpants and 2 shirts for each. A nne Marie wears dresses to go to school and church only. As soon as she gets home she is into her blue jeans. They each have a pair of blue jeans with a tartan type flannel lining. The bottom of the leg is then turned up so you can see the lining, that is the current style here. They wear dress pants on Sunday, but the boys don't have any real good ones yet. Jules has a blue one and Pierre grey one, cheap pants, they will get new pants for this summer. Pierre has a hole in his already. That is about all the clothes we bought so far, except for A nne Marie, she has 2 dresses for school, one in yellow and the other in rose color with yellow flowers. A Iso some of the cheaper ones we could find because she will outgrow them too fast.

I haven't got any new clothes yet, neither has Leon except a new cap. We haven't bought any stockings yet, a few socks for the boys and Leon, I still have a pair of brand-new stockings from yours, they are still in the package, I wore one pair last summer, just to go to church and take them off right away when

ngs from Belgium, at home and in the field A nne Marie and I wear the socks that are too small for the boys and the ones that were yours. I have not bought any new shoes yet. Last summer I wore those lacquered ones from yours and this winter my old black leather shoes. They are hurting my feet a bit, but I don't have to wear them for too long a time. The heels are all wore out already and I am walking on the wooden parts of them. There are hardly any cobblers here and they are very expensive, you're better off to throw the old shoes out and buy new ones. Pierre had to get a pair of new shoes, his old ones were a pair of Jules' shoes and

they were all worn out. His new ones cost \$ 10.00, so about the same as in Belgium.

Your camera gets used quite a bit; we just finished a film on Sunday and will probably take it to Delhi for developing on Saturday. There is no photo shop here in Langton and so no means of getting pictures developed.

Leon still wears his old pants and corduroy jacket. He is wearing them today to go to Toronto, about 150 miles from here. He went with his boss, where he works in the summer, to get some tractor parts. Leon has been working the night shift in the fertilizer plant for a few weeks. Leaves here about 6 pm to start at 7 and then finish at 6 am. Sometimes he gets home earlier, when they run out of material. The trains are sometimes slow at delivering. On Mondays, he usually works for Vandebussche's Irrigation. That is who he went to Toronto with today. Since Leon started in the fertilizer factory, Jules was without a job until about 2 weeks ago. He found a job in a lumber yard (in Langton), where they also build and repair buildings. He has only worked about 6 days in that time because of the bad weather and the snowstorm we had. He goes along with another Belgian (Henri Demeulemeester) who works there and has to drive past here to work, he is a bricklayer. Jules has had to go in a few times when the other guy did not go in. Pierre had to drive him to Langton in the morning and Leon then picks him up at night. When Leon gets home in the morning, Jules leaves for his job.

We struggled a fair bit this past winter to make ends meet. When Jules had a job, Leon did not, or the other way around and sometimes they could not make it to work because of the weather. The winter was not very good here, but we are making it. We don't live like Americans here but as newly arrived Belgians and we don't care what the others are doing. We know why we came and we will try to succeed.

The house we live in right now is a wood frame house, about 100 years old but comfortable. A front room where the TV, chesterfield and chairs are. An orange crate for the coffee table, a wooden rocking chair that we got from Henri Andriesens oil stove for heat and two small crates for additional seating when we have visitors. Beside the living room is a very small bedroom then at the back of the house is a good sized kitchen with one wall full of cupboards, nice and functional, a coal stove for cooking, the fridge, the table and chairs and a wooden bench that we made ourselves. Above the living room and bedroom are 2 more bedrooms for the kids. The trunks are stored upstairs. Behind the kitchen is another small room with an old cupboard with no doors on. We hung a curtain in front of it and are using it as a wardrobe. Our electric kitchen stove sits in that room also, we cannot use it here even though it is cheaper than coal (the wiring was not heavy enough for the stove). Then there is another small room where the backdoor is. On one side is the wash machine and on the other side a bench for the shoes, with room underneath for the work boots and then above, hooks to hang the work clothes on. That is the description of our house. We have been living here for 14 days now and we are all pleased with it.

Last Monday I did the wash, yesterday I went to Loose's place to do some sewing, they live about 2 miles from here. She brought her sewing machine from Belgium. She has been here since April last year. She is the daughter of Maria Denijs, who lives in the turn to go to Veldegem, near Pauline Vanacker. Her husband is a Marcel Loose from Torhout.

I wanted to wash again today. I didn't do the sheets last week and with everything else it was too much. I cannot change the water for every load and to wash too much in the same suds is not very good, everything looks dirty then. But then I started to write after Leon left about 7:45 am. He hadn't even slept an hour yet and then has to go back and do the nightshift again after he gets home. It is about 11:30 am now and I am still busy writing. I guess I will have to do the wash tomorrow. The weather looks so nice though that I might start to warm some water and start anyways.

As far as America (read Canada) is concerned, we like it here, it is always some distance to go somewhere but with a car it works out OK, I find that nice. Marcel Loose lives about 2 miles from here, to get there you first have to go down a deep valley and then up a big hill, and there on the left, on the top is a small wooden house. There are many hills and dales here, some big not quite as big as the Ardennes, some small. It is a beautiful country, much wilder than in Belgium. There are many forests close by and bush lots on just about every farm. As for wild animals, we have mostly rabbits and hares, some foxes and deer. Pier Carels son who is married with the daughter of Miel Denijs lives a few miles from here. We visited there this past winter and in the bush by their farm they saw three wolves. There are also foxes, deer and wild pigs. It depends where these bush lots are and how big they are. Every place we see squirrels, even in the trees in the middle of town.

We are living in the house where Henri Andries lived for 2 years. Henri now lives on a nice farm on the 14th of Langton, on the other side of the town. The farm is in a hollow, you have to cross a bridge to get there. They have a nice house; we will take some pictures this summer and send them to you. There is some nice bush around their place and in the back it looks a bit like a wilderness, very nice. We have a small lot with our house, enough for a garden, with some potatoes.

The house in town (where we lived) is for sale, that is why we moved. The rent here is \$15.00 per month, where on town it was \$40.00. But that will even out when you figure we will be using a lot more gas to get around and the coal for the stove is about \$20.00 for 800 kg. We will probably need that much each month. These stoves have big hearths with a large oven and a water tank alongside for warm water, very functional. The house is heated with the coal stove and oil stove in the living room. That heats the whole house. A lot of houses here have central heating, with the furnace in the basement.

1853 Passenger List (Part 4) - Researched and submitted by Guy Gallez

The following is a list of the passengers declared from Belgium at their arrival in **NEW YORK harbor**. Those lists were often made haphazardly and I'm sure not all of those listed were from Belgium. Also some I found listed as from "Germany" and other countries can be from Belgium. I often found names "sounding Belgian". But, without other information, I cannot put them in that list.

That list is limited to New York, the only harbor with original manifests available. The "Nr" is the serial number given on the manifest. When numbering the passengers was not done, I put a number myself in the order I found the Belgian passengers on the lists. That number is in *italic*.

Medicus, Carl G	25 M		USA	Gand	99	J Z
Metz, Magdalena	54 F		USA	Gand	63	J Z
Meyer, Allice	30 F	Mason	USA	Belgium	36	Princeton
Meyer, Carl	23 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	112	Princeton
Meyer, Elisabeth	29 F	Mason	USA	Belgium	37	Princeton
Meyer, Elisabeth	6m F	Child	USA	Belgium	40	Princeton
Meyer, Frederick	17 M		USA	Belgium	38	Princeton
Meyer, Ulrich	4 M	Child	USA	Belgium	39	Princeton
Michels, Jacques	27 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	181	Art Union
Moller, Emma	21 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	140	Princeton
Muller, Henry	24 M		USA	Gand	101	J Z
Myere, Rosa	0 F	Born in the passage	USA	Belgium	151	Princeton
Nessell, Christian	27 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	136	Princeton
Newsburg, Angela	37 F		USA	Belgium	101	Princeton
Newsburg, Barbara	4 F		USA	Belgium	105	Princeton
Newsburg, Gerhard	43 M	Mason	USA	Belgium	100	Princeton
Newsburg, Leonhard	8 M		USA	Belgium	104	Princeton
Newsburg, Nicolas	11 M		USA	Belgium	102	Princeton
Newsburg, Nicolas	9 M		USA	Belgium	103	Princeton
Niscker, Adam	7 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	149	Princeton
Niscker, Elisabeth	39 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	144	Princeton
Niscker, Heinrich	13 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	147	Princeton
Niscker, Herman	5 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	150	Princeton
Niscker, Marie	21 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	145	Princeton
Niscker, Mina	19 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	146	Princeton
Niscker, Theresa	9 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	148	Princeton
Nullman, Anton	18 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	122	Princeton
Peton, Peter	53 M	Barber	USA	Belgium	203	Jane E Walsh
Pfander, Daniel	59 M	Stone mason	USA	Belgium	48	Princeton
Pfander, Magdalen	54 M	Stone mason	USA	Belgium	49	Princeton
Pins, Peter John	56 M		Belgium	Belgium	1	Atlantic (2)
Portman, Miss	23 F		Belgium	Belgium	2	Atlantic
Pos, Catherine	8 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	177	Art Union
Pos, Marguerite	32 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	176	Art Union
Pos, Nicekel	11 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	178	Art Union
Raiser, Peter	26	Farmer	USA	Prussia	145	Elizabeth Denison
Rampserger, Casper	31 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	123	Princeton
Reguile, Lambert	39	nystiunt???	USA	Belgium	2	Baltic
Rupp, Catherine	25 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	120	Princeton
Rupp, Johann	2 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	121	Princeton
Rusting, Carl	17 M		USA	Gand	84	J Z
Ryll, Adolph	23 M		USA	Gand	53	J Z
Saloman, Calman	59 F	Laborer	USA	Belgium	61	Princeton
Sanders, Peter	42 M	Joiner	USA	Belgium	89	Princeton
Schafer, Andreas	39 M	?	USA	Belgium	66	Princeton
Schafer, Anselon	3 F	Child	USA	Belgium	75	Princeton
Schafer, Antoin	18 F	?	USA	Belgium	70	Princeton
Schafer, Balbine	16 F	?	USA	Belgium	71	Princeton
Schafer, Catherine	11 F		USA	Belgium	65	Princeton
Schafer, Christin	11 M	Clerk	USA	Belgium	72	Princeton
Schafer, Eva	7 F	Child	USA	Belgium	74	Princeton
Schafer, Franz	10 M	Clerk	USA	Belgium	73	Princeton
Schafer, Johann	50 M	?	USA	Belgium	67	Princeton
Schafer, Josephine	6m F	Child	USA	Belgium	76	Princeton
Schafer, Margareth	42 F	?	USA	Belgium	69	Princeton
Schafer, Michel	50 M	?	USA	Belgium	68	Princeton

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Schafer, Thomas	48 M	Laborer	USA	Belgium	64	Princeton
Schodt, Wm	23 F	Clerk	USA	Belgium	1	Baltic
Schuyster, Balthazar	35 F	Servants	USA	Belgium	27	Princeton
Schwabedisser, Albertine	26 F		USA	Gand	82	J Z
Schwabedisser, Carl	27 M		USA	Gand	81	J Z
Schwabedisser, Johann	9m M		USA	Gand	83	J Z
Seibel, Adolph	14 M		USA	Gand	77	J Z
Seibel, Carl	3 M		USA	Gand	78	J Z
Seibel, Dorothea	53 F		USA	Gand	76	J Z
Seibel, Heinrich	56 M		USA	Gand	75	J Z
Sibbern, E	30 F		USA	Belgium	2	Arabia
Sibbern, Edward	35 M	none ?	USA	Belgium	1	Arabia
Sigmund, Catherine	27 M	Laborer	USA	Belgium	58	Princeton
Sigmund, Eva	23 F	Laborer	USA	Belgium	59	Princeton
Sigmund, Martha	30 M	Laborer	USA	Belgium	57	Princeton
Sigmund, Mathias	26 F	Laborer	USA	Belgium	60	Princeton
Smith, Mary	30 F		USA	Belgium	267?	Victoria (2)
Soenan, Hendrick	35 M	Laborer	USA	Belgium	1	Margaret Evans
Spang, Wilhelm	25 M		USA	Gand	55	J Z
Staiger, Christoph	28 M		USA	Gand	60	J Z
Stappaerts, Jean	21 M		USA	Gand	64	J Z
Stebble, Crescenzia	31 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	124	Princeton
Stebbl, Elisabeth	18 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	126	Princeton
Stebble, Joseph	2 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	125	Princeton
Studes, Nicolas	17 M	Stone mason		USA Belgium	50	Princeton
Sutter, Elisabeth	23 F	Servants	USA	Belgium	25	Princeton
Sutter, Pauline	3 F	Servants	USA	Belgium	26	Princeton
Theisen, Catharina	63 F	farmer	USA	Holland/Ohio	150	Elizabeth Denison
Theisen, Francois	23 M	farmer	USA	Holland/Ohio	152	Elizabeth Denison
Theisen, Nicolas	27 M	farmer	USA	Holland/Ohio	151	Elizabeth Denison
Unsens, Camille	0	Born at sea	USA	Belgium	152	Princeton
Valleman, Anna	31 F	Mason	USA	Belgium	35	Princeton
Valleman, Henri	32 M	Mason	USA	Belgium	34	Princeton
Van Dursberg, H	26		USA	Belgium	4	Humboldt (4)
Van Hoof, Lewis	28 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	129	Princeton
Van Hoorebeke, Edmond	19 M		USA	Gand	51	J Z
Vanleekhout, Guillaume	26 M	Brewer	USA	Belgium	?63	Roger Stewart
Velten, Eberhard	26 M		USA	Gand	65	J Z
Vermazion, Jean	29 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	133	Princeton
Verstrepen, Joseph	34 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	132	Princeton
Vineer, Clara	41 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	114	Princeton
Vineer, Francisca	3 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	116	Princeton
Vineer, Johan	22 F	Farmer	USA	Belgium	113	Princeton
Vineer, Salomon	9m M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	117	Princeton
Vineer, Simon	4 M	Farmer	USA	Belgium	115	Princeton
Voght, Adolph	26 M		USA	Gand	52	J Z
Walter, Bonifacius	44 M	Merchant	USA	Belgium	78	Princeton
Webber, Christian	30 M	Laborer	USA	Belgium	24	Princeton
Weiss, Anton	43 M	Joiner	USA	Belgium	90	Princeton
Weiss, Heinrich	7 M		USA	Belgium	93	Princeton
Weiss, Helena	17 F		USA	Belgium	92	Princeton
Weiss, Joseph	3 M		USA	Belgium	94	Princeton
Weiss, Theresa	40 F	Joiner	USA	Belgium	91	Princeton
Werland, Catharina	44 F	farmer	USA	Holland/Ohio	148	Elizabeth Denison
Werland, Henri	66 M	farmer	USA	Belgium/Ohio	147	Elizabeth Denison
Werland, Margaretha	24 F	farmer	USA	Holland/Ohio	149	Elizabeth Denison
Whappers, Henry	18 M		Zerage?	Altert?	106	J Z
Wiederkehs, Johann	24 F		USA	Belgium	51	Princeton
Winkleman, Henry	24 M		USA	Gand	100	J Z
Withneker, Andreas	40 F		USA	Belgium	52	Princeton

Emigration to America – Part 1

Submitted by Guy Gallez

Among the early emigrants to the USA was the twenty nine years old **Charles Louis Desmedt**, who reached Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the winter of 1844. He came from the small village of Woumen in West Flanders and settled at "one hour's distance" from Milwaukee. He wrote a long letter to his brother-in-law **David Jansseune**, a miller of Dixmude. This letter is still kept in the family archives of the descendants of Jansseune.

Desmedt was the son of a well to do farmer who married, according to his family at least, below his status. He married a girl from the "center of the village", which means that she was not a farmer's daughter and probably came from a poor household. This match displeased his parents, and the rest of his family joined in the parents' quarrel. Desmedt opened a textile shop in Woumen and found out that he was boycotted. In five years, no member of his family crossed his threshold. When he went visiting them, they did not even bother to offer him and his wife a glass of water.

He was not penniless, for he spent about \$40 for the trip, and he was accompanied by his wife and a daughter. On arrival, he bought land for \$230. One may estimate that he spent about \$580 in his search for a new home.

Very few of his countrymen could have afforded to pay that amount for the trip to America and to buy land. It is not known when Desmedt died or if he ever returned to "oppressed Flanders".

"Milwaukee, February 24, 1845

Today we are in perfect health and doing well. Our trip took 55 days. On August 14, we boarded the ship Emma, and we left on the 18th. We cruised for six days on the Scheldt. On the 24th, we passed in front of Fort Lillo, and by way of Flushing, we entered the North Sea. On board were 108 passengers, 2 priests, two families from Aalsts and 3 from Cadzand.

We had scarcely been four hours at sea when the ship already looked like a hospital. We had but one ambition to empty our stomach. On the 25th, we attended High Mass aboard in view of the English Coast near Dover. On the 26th, we saw the Isle of Wight, on the 27th, Portsmouth; and during the 28th, 29th, and 30th, we sailed towards the Spanish Sea, and came close to Lisbon, capital of Portugal. That last day was my birthday: we baked pancakes and had a kermis. Next day, the sea also had a kermis: the waves towered like mountains and everything was topsy-turvy. Nobody could stand on their feet and we lost a sail. On September 3rd, we crossed the Spanish Sea and then we went West, and on the 4th, we covered 125 miles. From then until the 15th, we had favorable winds. A storm broke that lasted for 18 hours and that pushed us in a northern direction. A deadly quiet invaded the ship: everybody was praying. One heard but the knell of a sad bell that, according to the movements of the ship, sounded from time to time. The extremities of the masts sometimes hit the water; birds came to rest on the deck; the heaviest cargo shifted from its place; one had to brace oneself in one's bed.

I, alone, was the last to contemplate the waves that now and then covered the deck. We were pushed so far to the North, that we noticed whales and flying fishes. Some of the passengers said that we had drifted to the Gulf of Mexico and that we would be left at Verapaz, a man eating hole. My wife answered to that: "Let the Lord send the ship where He pleases, as long as He doesn't bring us back to oppressed Flanders."

We had to sail for six days to resume our route, until on the 23rd of September, a cry went up from the mast at one o'clock at night. "Land! Land!" All the passengers jumped out of bed, even those who were ill, to see the new world. We stayed for a day and a night in the bay of the harbor. All the passengers said that we were in the Eden of Heaven. The bay has high banks with castles at three different levels: the first one is at the water's edge; the second, above the first; and the third, still above the second. It is the most beautiful sight that one could see in Europe. I have made drawings of some of these buildings. There we were examined by a doctor and by the city authorities. On the 25th of September, at 4:00 P.m., we entered the city of New York with its 400 churches, 22,000 houses, and 400,000 inhabitants. The enclosures around the cemeteries and castles are all in cast iron, much more beautiful and expensive than the one at Mr. de Coninck's place at Merkem. I find it impossible to describe the luxury, the beauty, and the wealth of this city. But amidst all this beauty, there is also dirt to be found, for this city is pestered with lice, which fills every house.

On the 28th, we embarked on the S.S. Colombia which brought us to Albany in one day. From there, we went to Rochester, Utica, Syracuse, Rome. We passed Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Appelhouver, now in Canada. Then came Buffalo, between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. There we boarded another steamship, the most beautiful and the most expensive in all America, that took us on Lake Erie, Lake Huron, and Lake Illinois and which, on its return trip, sank in Lake Erie. On this ship the entire crew consisted of Moors [Negroes], and I was the cook's mate. Fish was cooked in butter: it was baked in sugar and all the bread was also baked in sugar. These lakes are very dangerous. In bad weather, the ships risk damage from the rocky ground in low water.

The main attractions between New York and Buffalo are: the big rocks which in many places are overhanging; the waterfall Ontario or Niagara that has a precipitation of 130,000 tons of water per hour; a bridge half an hour long; the beauty of the buildings of the cities and capitals which are entirely white, standing on white columns. For about 500 hours, I saw no other buildings but these. In the cities, everything is also white and the streets cross at right angles. In the country, the same conditions exist: all pieces of land and domains are rectangular; streets cross at right angles. This is the most beautiful country in the world.

One hour from the city, near Lake Illinois, I bought 99 acres of land for 1200 fr. Expenses for the deed and the stamps were 6.40 fr. It is a beautiful piece of level land and as square as a tile. A brook runs through it and it has beautiful meadows and pastures. It has a lot of sugar trees [maples] so that every year, we'll have a great amount of sugar. This tree looks much like a linden tree, the sugar is tapped from the tree. It is cooked and this brew provides syrup and vinegar as well. I also have various fruit trees like apples, pears, prunes, nuts and a lot of vines. The trees are oaks, elms, ash, linden, ironwood. I have more than 80 oaks more than 15 feet thick and nearly 50 feet tall."

-to be continued-

Pennsylvania and West Virginia Obituaries

Extracted for the PA-SW-OBITS list of Rootswab - by Victoria Hospodar Valentine

Dec. 3, 1909 McDonald PA Record

Romey GERAM, 49 years old, a native of Belgium, died at the south Side Hospital on Tuesday, the result of injuries received by a fall of slate in Cherry Valley mine two weeks ago. He is survived by his wife and six children, residents of Cherry Valley. The funeral took place yesterday morning with services at St. Patrick's Church, Noblestown.

Nov. 13, 1914 McDonald PA Record

Eugene GILBERT, aged 71 years, a well-known resident of Primrose, died at his home there Friday, November 6, following an illness due to pneumonia. He was born in Belgium but came to this section 28 years ago with his wife and had resided here since. He was a member of the French church and one of its most active workers. His wife and one son, Joseph, at home, and three married daughters survive. The daughters are **Mrs. HENNON** and **Mrs. NESTELL** of Primrose and **Mrs. MATTHEWS** of Midway. One son was killed in the mine and another died of typhoid fever within the past year. Funeral services were held at the home Tuesday afternoon in charge of the Rev. Dr. Alexandre MAGE. The interment was in Center cemetery at Midway.

Dec. 11, 1914 McDonald PA Record

Desire GUYAUX, 67 years old, a well known resident of Sturgeon, died at his home on Saturday evening, December 5. Mr. GUYAUX was born in Belgium but had lived in Sturgeon the past twenty five years. His wife died last October a year ago. He is survived by three sons and four daughters. They are: **Leo** and **Michael GUYAUX** of Sturgeon and **Gustave GUYAUX** of Oakdale, **Mrs. Romain DAGUE** of Sturgeon, **Mrs. KENNEY** of Steubenville, Ohio, **Mrs. Mattie PHILLIPS** of Imperial and **Miss Marie GUYAUX** of Michigan. Mrs. GUYAUX's funeral was held Tuesday afternoon from his late home in Sturgeon. Interment was made in Robinson's Run cemetery

Feb. 2, 1907 McDonald PA Outlook

Peter TAZAT, age 82 years and 8 days old, died Tuesday morning, January 29, at 10 o'clock, at the home of his son, **Louis TAZAT**, of Belgian Hill. Mr. TAZAT was born at Dampreny, Belgium, and landed in the United States on Christmas Day, 1880. His wife who survives him is in Belgium. Of their seven children only two remain. They are **Louis TAZAT** and **Clemence**, wife of **Fred. SERVAIS**, both of McDonald. The funeral services were held in St. Alphonsus' church by Rev. J. A. BURGOON on Thursday morning. Interment was made at Noblestown.

July 6, 1918 McDonald PA Outlook

Mrs. Catherine DESCUTNER, aged 76 years and 4 months, died Friday, June 28, 1918, at the home of her daughter, **Mrs. Joseph CUJAS**. Mrs. DESCUTNER was born in Belgium. In 1858 she was married to Mr. **P. J. DESCUTNER**. They arrived in this country March 5, 1885, coming to McDonald, where the family has resided ever since. Mr. and Mrs. DESCUTNER brought with them eight children, and two more were born in this country. Mr. DESCUTNER died March 13, 1907, aged 59 years and three months. The oldest daughter, **Mrs. Maria THIBAUT**, has resided in Seattle, Wash., for over thirty years. She has been visiting here for the past month. The oldest son, **Sebastian DESCUTNER**, died at sea in 1914, on his return to this country from Belgium, following the outbreak of the war. The other children all reside in the McDonald section. They are: **Emma**, wife of **J. B. MASQUELIER**, **F. L. DESCUTNER**, **P. E. DESCUTNER**, **Zefirine**, wife of **Jules HAINAUT**, **E. F. DESCUTNER**, **John DESCUTNER**, **Arthemise**, wife of **Joseph CUJAS** and **Harry DESCUTNER**. Forty grandchildren and six great-grandchildren also survive. Funeral services were held at the French church Sunday afternoon, conducted by the pastor, the Rev. Alexandre MAGE. D. D. Interment was in the Hilldale cemetery.

Aug. 21, 1897 McDonald PA Outlook

Mr. **Hubert HOYAUX**, father of Mr. **Emile HOYAUX** of Liberty Street, died on the 29th ult. at his home in Th___, Belgium, in his 71st year. Mr. H. was superintendent of a large farm. He raised a family of nine children, and gave them a fine education and a good start in life. The old gentleman visited his son Emile here about a year ago

Nov. 16, 1917 McDonald PA Record

Mrs. Clementine VERMER, wife of **John Baptist VERMER**, died at the home of her daughter, **Mrs. James STEVENSON**, in Valley street, on Monday morning, November 12, 1917, at 11:30 o'clock, after sever months' illness. Mrs. VERMER was 62 years of age and was born in Belgium. She was united in marriage with **Gustave ROMAINE**, and to them were born five children, four of whom survive. In 1887 Mr. and Mrs. ROMAINE and their family came to America, locating at Noblestown. Shortly afterwards they

Sept. 10, 1937 McDonald PA Record-Outlook
Twenty Years Ago:

August 31, 1917: **Victor CENIS** had his left thumb injured so severely in the Oakdale plant of the Aetna Chemical Co. that it had to be amputated.

September 7, 1917: The strike of the employees of the South Penn Oil Co. has been settled and the men have returned to work. They have received a 10% increase in salary to be paid twice a month instead of once and a 10 percent bonus to date back tow months.

Fifteen Years Ago

September 8, 1922: **John DESCUTNER**, 5, of Center avenue had his right leg broken, one hip severely cut, and the other badly bruised when he was struck by an automobile; **Peter DRUGMAND** of Imperial had his nose seriously broken and two arteries severed when he was hit with a baseball while playing with the Imperial team at the Fox ball ground.

Five Years Ago

September 2, 1932: **Harry DESCUTNER** has purchased the property occupied by the William NOVAS family and will erect a new home to replace the one that burned several weeks ago.

September 9, 1932: **Billie and Lois Jean MASQUELIER** of Valley street had their tonsils removed in the Washington hospital.

moved to Primrose where Mrs. ROMAINE had resided since. Mr. ROMAINE died in 1895. In 1898 Mrs. ROMAINE was united in marriage with Mr. VERMER. She is survived by her husband, two daughters and two sons: Mrs. **Louis DHANS** of Primrose, Mrs. **James STEVENSON** of McDonald, **Max ROMAINE** of the United States Aviation Corps, and **Victor ROMAINE** of Primrose. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon on the arrival of Max.ROMAINE from Florida. Interment was in the Center cemetery at Midway.

Feb. 1, 1924 McDonald PA Record

John B. GERARD, aged 75 years, died at his home in Valley street at 5:30 o' clock Saturday evening, January 26, 1924 of asthma, after a lingering illness of 25 years. He fell down a flight of steps a week ago and following this accident was confined to his bed until his death. He was born in Belgium March 21, 1848. He is survived by one son, **Michael**, at home. Funeral services were held at his late home on Tuesday afternoon. Interment was in the Hilldale cemetery.

McDonald's French Church¹⁷

From the Feb. 10, 1905 McDonald PA Record, Extracted by
Victoria Hospodar Valentine,

After Twenty-five Years French Congregation Owns Its Own Building After a Quarter Century's Existence.

With appropriate ceremonies and heartfelt rejoicing on the part of pastor and people French Mission of McDonald will dedicate its comfortable and handsome little church building on North McDonald street next Sunday.

The history of the mission dates back over a period of twenty-five years-nearly the entire length of Dr. IRON's pastorate, to whose fostering care the mission owes so much.

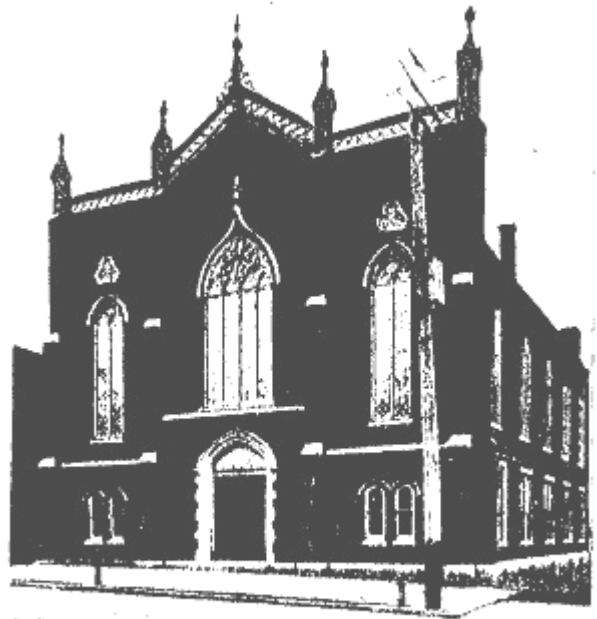
It was in October 1879, that **Jules CHARLIER, Sr.**, and **Ferdinand MARLIER**, both deceased, and **Gregory TOURNAY** and **P. J. CHARLIER**, who still reside in McDonald, together with two or three other heads of families that have long since moved elsewhere first began to hold divine worship in their own tongue. They attended the services of the First U. P. church, the only church in the village of McDonald, on Sabbath mornings and in the afternoons gathered at the various homes and held such services, as they had been accustomed to in Belgium and France as members of the Evangelical Missionary Church. The meetings were usually led by Mr. Jules CHARLIER, Sr. Rev. W. D. IRONS, although not familiar with the language, frequently attended and encouraged the work. As

yet no formal organization was had but in 1887 when **Julian MASQUELIER, Sr.**, **Martin SUPLIT**, **J. B. NIMAL**, **Leopold DELCORD**, **Joseph MASQUELIER, Sr.**, and **Pierre DELIANT** (deceased) and their families came to this country and organization was effected. Divine services and Sabbath school sessions were held in the old U. P. church and also in the old public school house. The late Joseph MASQUELIER, Sr., uncle of the MASQUELIER brothers who are now so active in the work of the mission, assisted Mr. CHARLIER in the preaching and teaching. In May 1897, Mr. **CLAVIR** together with his stepsons, **Emil**, **Omer** and **Leopold** (deceased) **MANANDISE** and his son-in-law **Pierre MORTELETTE** moved here from Brazil, Ind., and Mr. CLAVIR being a zealous and gifted man, became the spiritual leader of the faithful little flock and quite a little progress was made in his time. He was a keen student of Holy Writ and an eloquent and forcible speaker. He still lives, his home being in Charleroi.

Dr. IRONS encouraged the work in many ways and the mission grew so that during the winter of 1896-97 the need of a pastor was urgently felt and **Rev. E. S. LHEUREUX** was called as assistant pastor of the First United Presbyterian church for the purpose of taking charge of the Mission. Much good was accomplished during this the first pastorate. Quite an addition to the membership followed and the people were led to a higher conception of their privileges in the divine life. Rev. Mr. LHEUREUX resigned in April of 1903 to go as a missionary to the Island of Puerto Rico. In June of the same year **Rev. H. GARROU** accepted a call to fill the vacancy. His work here has been markedly successful. A membership of about ninety with an average attendance of 125 at each services peaks well of the interest aroused. Two Elders **Elie MASQUELIER** and **Victor MARLIER** assist Rev. GARROU.

It is estimated there are no less than 2500 French-speaking residents in this vicinity, most of whom are non-church goers. To interest and convert these to Christianity is the work that has been laid out by the pastor of the mission and his corps of earnest workers. No light task this-but their enthusiasm is unbounded and with a large faith much is possible.

The building and lot represent a value of \$5,000 of which \$2,500 remains unpaid. The mission has many kind friends among all the local churches and even outside of these and doubtless there will be a spontaneous and generous subscriptions made on the day of dedication.



FIRST U. P. CHURCH,
WASHINGTON

¹⁷ Known today as the "Irons Memorial Church"

Namur Belgian-American Historic District

Union Township and parts of Gardner Township, Door County - Construction dates of contributing buildings: 1871-1930



Baudhuin Homestead

Namur was settled in 1853 by French-speaking Belgian immigrants. Most of the immigrants farmed in their European homeland and brought their agrarian skills with them. It is the Nation's largest rural settlement of Belgian nationality where the importance of farmsteads and landscape play a key role. Although social and religious centers retain their distinctive role in the history of Namur, the vitality of the district is seen through the area's architecture. The Namur Historic District exemplifies the character of Belgian-American vernacular architecture.

At the time of settlement, the area's abundant timber provided the immigrants with building materials for their log cabin homes. However, the 1871 Peshtigo fire destroyed both timber and many of the wood buildings in the area. As a result, the immigrants constructed new dwellings with red brick similar to the stone houses of the Belgian tradition.

There are a total of 261 buildings within the district built between 1871 and 1930. Typical farmsteads include a red brick farmhouse located near the adjacent road, a log barn and many small outbuildings. The buildings are usually centered on the farmyard and surrounded by fields and pasture land. The district includes Belgian community buildings such as St. Mary of the Snows Catholic Church and cemetery, Fairview Elementary School, the Harold Euclide General Store, and non-farm residences.

These buildings are privately owned and not open to the public.

Wisconsin National Historic Register
Namur Belgian-American Historic District.
Wisconsin National Historic Register. Online facsimile at:
<http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/turningpoints/search.asp?id=1418>

Namur Belgian-American District, Door County, Wisconsin

<http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/shpo/landscape/methods2.html#sec8>

The nomination of the Namur Belgian-American District to the NRHP resulted from William Tishler's careful analysis of the integrity and location of 500 historic sites within a three-county area. Selected as the best concentration of Belgian-American resources, this district retains the overall character of a Belgian farming community. It is significant for its distinctive Belgian architecture and as an example of the establishment and maintenance of a rural ethnic enclave.

Approximate boundaries for the district were selected after more than 500 sites were documented and the integrity of each site was assessed. Intensive on-site inspections of the area helped determine the most suitable edges for the district. The resulting boundaries encompass the largest collection of buildings related to Belgian-American settlement.

The period of significance extends from 1880 to 1930. Buildings constructed outside of this period are considered noncontributing to the district. The district contains 186 contributing properties and 77 noncontributing properties within a 3,500-acre area.

The district is notable for its distinctive architecture, brought to the area from Belgium by settlers. Red-and-cream brick gabled-ell and front-gable houses are common in the district. Some houses feature decorative, brick window hoods and half-circle windows at the gable peak. Each farm is quite small with a few outbuildings, typically including a bank barn. The Namur Belgian-American District has national significance as the largest collection of Belgian-American buildings in the United States and was given National Historic Landmark status in 1989.

Though Goodhue County was largely settled by Norwegians, its buildings are not distinctive to this ethnic group. However, the survey and nomination of the Namur Historic District demonstrate an approach to defining a rural historic district within a large study area of similar resources. Like the Door County Peninsula, southern Goodhue County has numerous similar buildings. The Namur nomination suggested how we could focus our survey efforts on one part of the broader landscape.

Sources: "Namurois au Nouveau Monde" by Jean DUCAT, p4
BAUDHUIN Jean, b in Meux in 1835 – married to **Pauline GILBERT**, b in Meux in 1837, emigrated *abt* 1872 and settled at Union, WI with three children: **Alphonse** (1862), **Victor** (1865) and **Jean Baptiste** (1872). They later had **Marie** (1874), **Jules** (1877) and **Marie L**(1879)¹⁸

A few houses down, **BAUDHUIN, Marcelin**, (29) married to **Catherine GIRONDAL** (26) and their children **Desire** (girl - 8), **Guillaume** (7), **Eta** (5) and **Marceline** (4) lived with his in-laws, **William** and **Julienne GIRONDAL**.

Down the road a bit **BAUDHUIN, Denis** (b Meux 1816 – widower of **Marie LATOUR**, emigrated in 1870 and settled at Union, WI) lived with three of his children: **Josephine** (23), **Jules** (20) and **Hortense** (18)

Then there was **Martin BAUDHUIN** (34), and his wife **Therese** (29) and their children: **Joseph** (6), **Marie** (5), **Leon** (2) and **Edmond** (b Jan 1880)

Further yet lived **BAUDHUIN Jean**, (b in Meux in 1807, - widower of **Anne JANQUART** – married (2) to **Josephine JANQUART**, b in Meux in 1817, emigrated in 1870 and settled at Union, WI)with his children: **Pierre** (42), **Prosper** (39), **Josephine** (29) and **Ernest** (22)

¹⁸ According to the 1880 census, Union, Door, WI

The 18th Century Wool Croppers of the Eupen Area

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/TEXcropper.htm>

<http://www.maggielblanck.com/Land/WE.html>

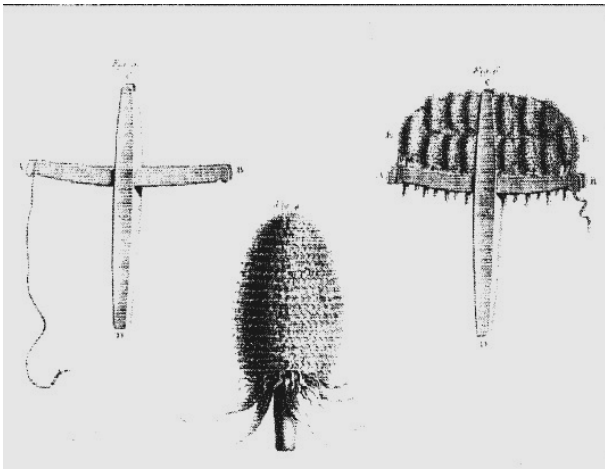
“Les Tondeurs Dans les Manufactures Europeennes au XVIII Siecle”
by Gerard GAYOT

All wool is not created or woven equally. Various kinds of sheep are raised for different types and lengths of fibers. These different types of fibers are woven into different types of cloth.

Worsted is made from smooth compactly spun yarn. Long fibered wool is combed and spun using an average to hard twist in the spinning. The fabric is napless and tightly woven. Worsted is used for clothing, like suits.

Woolen is made from fuzzy, loosely spun yarn. Short fibered yarn is carded and spun using an easy twist in the spinning. The fabric is nappy and bulky. Woolen is used for heavy clothing and blankets.

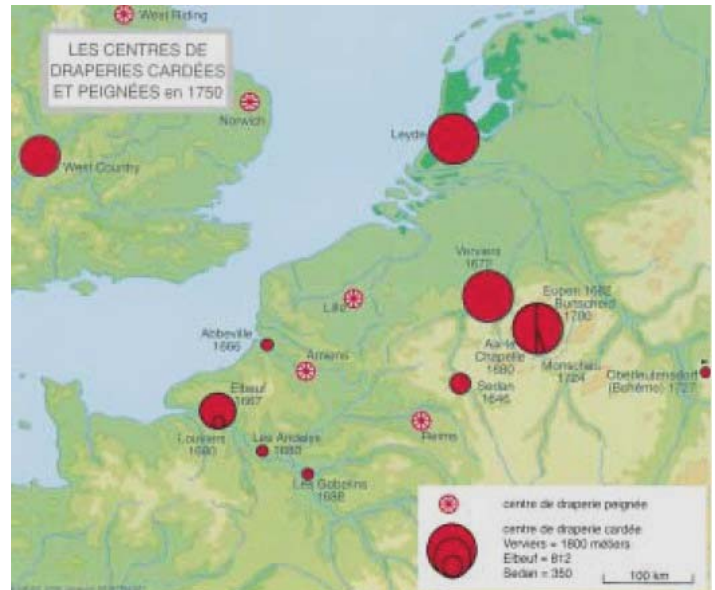
Shoddy is made from a mixture of recycled woolen rags and virgin wool and is treated like woolen. Shoddy was developed by Benjamin Law circa 1813.



Woolen and worsted are both processed on hand looms from fleece to cloth in roughly the same way. The farmer often washed (or half washed) the sheep before shearing to remove the fatty secretions that protect the sheep but which must be removed to process the wool. Other times the fleece is washed after shearing. After the fleece is shorn from the sheep it is sorted by type and length of fiber. The wool is cleaned and "**combed**" if it is worsted and "**carded**" if it is woolen. It is then spun into yarn.

The yarn is wound onto bobbins, where it is stored until ready for weaving. Warp threads are tied onto the loom. They are passed through a reed, which keeps them in order and serves as a beater after the weft or cross thread are passed. After the warp threads are threaded through the reed, they are passed through hettles¹⁹, which allows the weaver to raise and lower different warp threads. Weft threads are "shot" or "thrown" across the warp threads. The cloth is "beaten", (that is packed towards the already completed part of the cloth), after each shot of weft thread. Alternating weft threads are raised and lowered after each shot of weft thread. When the cloth is finished it is removed from the loom.

¹⁹ the metal rings which hold the warp and weft of a loom



In the old process woollen was then "**fulled**" (a process of shrinking the cloth by applying, dampness, heat and pressure to the cloth). After the cloth was fulled it was strung on tenters in the open air to dry and be shaped. Then it was "**dressed**" and "**finished**". The dressing involved drawing out any loose fibers from the cloth with teasles which also raised the nap. Next the nap was cut with shears as closely as possible to the surface of the cloth so that the surface appeared smooth. At this point the finisher repaired any blemishes in the fabrics.

Finally the cloth was pressed and packed for market.

Adding color can take place at any one of three times:

- 1 - After cleaning but before spinning. This is known as "died in the wool" and is generally the most color fast.
- 2 - After spinning
- 3 - After the cloth is woven, but before it is fulled

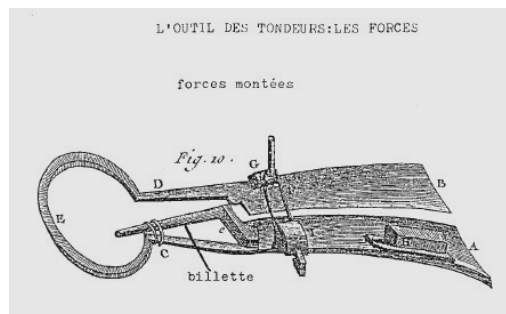
A "**clothier**" could be:

- A - one man and his family, who together performed most of the steps of cloth making
- B - A person who employed up to 30 weavers
- C - Something in between

The majority of clothiers were not large manufacturers. The small clothier, assisted by his son or apprentice, warped the loom and did the weaving. After the cloth was woven it was taken to the fulling mill. When the cloth was dry, the clothier put his cloth on his horse or donkey, or carried the cloth on his own back and brought the cloth to the market towns, where he sold it. There was still work to be done on the cloth after the fulling, but the clothier sold the cloth in the "rough" and left the finishing to the **cloth finisher**. Leipzig was a major market for the cloth on the continent.

A 20-men workshop required 6 carders and 14 croppers, 3 tubs, 7 tables and 22 pairs of carding tools. Cloth-dressers (croppers) were workers in the woollen industry who had the task of cutting the cloth after it had been in the fulling mill. The cropper's skill was to cut the surface of the cloth after it had been raised with shears. These shears weighed 40 lb (18 kg) and were 4 feet (1.2 km) long.

The cloth worker's job is to take a



piece of cloth in its rough state as it comes from the market, or as it comes from the fulling mill; he first raises that cloth; after that, if it is a good piece, it is cropped wet; it is then taken and mossed and rowed; mossing is filling up the bottom of the wool after it has been cut with the shears wet, it is done with a handle set with teazles in each hand; after that it is rowed and tentered and dried; if a fine piece it will receive three cuts.

The cloth is placed upon the shear board, which is a sort of long narrow table, and he proceeds to clip the wool. The handle of the shears is supported by one hand, whilst with the other he works them by means of a small lever, called a gig, affixed to the upper edge.

His work could add 10% to the value of the cloth but represented 30% of the production cost. His career is short lived as his ability to handle the tools of his trade decreases with age. Rarely do you find one past 50.

Croppers usually worked in pairs.

Their work day was long and in 18th century Verviers the city's clocks woke the croppers from 4:30 am to 4:45am.

In Eupen every workshop had a clock especially made to ring every 55 minutes as well as on the hour to mark the beginning and end of their breaks.

There was only one common rule shared by the various manufacturers: a 2-years' apprenticeship. Otherwise they each set up the work, the wages and working conditions for their factories. Hiring apprentices and foreign labor was a delicate matter because salaries were not equal in a region where foreign workers and currencies of varied value circulated in large numbers. Apprentices were of course paid less in spite of the fact they might have acquired their skills within 6 months.

Every factory negotiated to suit its needs and the solutions often came after much rioting between the united owners, the local institutions and state who did not always speak with one voice and the croppers who were not recognized as a guild.

In Sedan (France), one such agreement between owners and croppers was intent on discouraging apprentices and foreign croppers from applying for the positions. It required that a certain number of movements had to be done within an allotted amount of time.

A second brake was applied when the croppers insisted on interpreting the Rule of 1698, which gave a fixed number of apprentices allowed for a shop with up to 12 tables to mean this number could not be increased. And since the rule made no reference to foreign croppers it meant that foreign labor could not be hired at all.

This gave the croppers the upper hand until 1750 when the owners who want to increase their profit, received a ruling from the King reversing this interpretation. Ensued a generalized 45-day-long strike, intervention of troops, arrests of strike leaders and store keepers. In the end, the croppers lost control over employment even though they kept control over their salary for a time.

By then, in Verviers and Eupen the times of plenty were already over for the croppers.

What the croppers needed in the regions of Liège and Limburg was the benevolence of the prince and burgomasters. Instead Marie-Thérèse and the Bishop-Prince of Liège, overseers of Verviers and Eupen, caved in to the demands of the merchants, sooner even than Louis XV would.

In 1759 Verviers, the owners were buying depreciated German currency in Aachen and forced their workers to accept it as payment at the legal rate. Here too, generalized strike, soldiers, 2 months of rioting and gatherings, but in the end the croppers surrendered as the Prince's edict records on September 3rd, 1759. After recognizing the workers' need for decent wages, he states that a worker's day does not guarantee fixed wages to which the merchant is held. Rather, the owner now has the freedom to negotiate wages with the croppers and other workers individually.

"No special ruling will set a price for a day's wages. Each owner has the right to negotiate at any time with any worker. The Verviers and Ensivak manufacturers can hire any cropper from any nation, as long as they meet the 2 years apprenticeship standard. This is also true for the Austrian Limburg as the merchants do not have to show preference to the local workers." Marie-Thérèse echoed:

1. All foreigners, from whichever nation they might be the honest citizen, and having learned the cropper's trade for 2 consecutive years, will be allowed to work in Hodimont without fear of molestation or reprisal.
2. That consequently, no cropper will be allowed to refuse to work with said foreigners.
3. That merchants and masters will be allowed to hire as many apprentice-croppers as they like, at the rate commonly used.
4. That these apprentices will be required to remain in their shop for 2 consecutive years.
5. That merchants and masters will be allowed to hire as many croppers as they see fit.
6. That the apprentice croppers and workers will be required to follow the merchants and masters' orders about apprenticeship and all that involves.
7. That the apprentice croppers will have to work 12 and 2/3 hours per day with the usual rest pauses unless some merchants/masters have made specific accommodations with their workers for more or less rest. These special rulings should not cause prejudice to any others nor be used as consequences.
8. The apprentice cropper's day begins at 5am until noon, then again from 1 to 8pm with a break from 4:40 to 5pm, commonly called "Angelus Rest"
9. Every apprentice cropper will be paid 2 escalins/day.
10. The merchants/masters will be free to the gentlemen croppers to work longer hours, paying each one 2 sols for each extra hour.
11. That the gentlemen croppers of each respective shop



Le fondeur de draps.
 En. Ce. noble, mestier. Je. Vieux. de. tout. about.
 et pour. mieux. accrocher. J'ay. toujours. les. mains. toiser.
 Je ne puis. être. queux. car. Je. fonde. desur. tout. nous les aurons
 et si. J'ay. quelque. bien. Je. l'attrape. par. forces. par force

according to the fashion of the cities of Brussels, Antwerp and other places, will be able to enjoy the penalty of a few beers to be provided by those who committed errors in the use of their profession.

12. That it is strictly forbidden to the apprentice cropper and master cropper to say bad things about any shop or to call any of them dirty or rotten (as they say) as well as to congregate or assemble either in public or in secret, in Hodimont or elsewhere, to foment a plot, lest he be found seditious and a disturber of the public peace and be punished as such!

13. In case of dispute, dissention or misunderstanding between apprentice croppers of the same shop, between the merchant, the master or apprentice croppers, generated while at work, should be quelled as best as can be without apprentice croppers, master croppers from another shop or shops hear of it let alone participate in it.

14. If such dispute, disagreement or dissension during work, in the shop as described, can not be quelled in such case will this dispute be taken to the arbitration of 4 merchants and 6 apprentice croppers.

15. All disagreements and disputations between gentlemen croppers and other foreign gentlemen croppers or also between some merchants should be handled in the same manner.

16. That each will have to conform to the work according to arbitration by said 4 merchants and 6 croppers.

17. That these 4 merchants will be elected annually by a majority of votes by said merchants who manage the shop.

18. That these 4 so elected merchants will fulfill their duty for a whole year without pay.

19. Said gentlemen croppers will also be elected annually by a majority in the following manner.

20. Be it known that the gentlemen croppers of each shop will nominate and elect ONE; each so elected representative will elect together said 6 gentlemen croppers who will also serve for one year at no cost.

21. That when the gentlemen croppers of each shop nominate & elect someone as prescribed above, nobody from another shop will be present.

22. And also when the representatives of each shop elect said 6 gentlemen croppers, nobody else will be allowed to intervene.

23. That following this pattern from year to year this election of said 4 merchants and 6 gentlemen croppers will continue.

24. For the first time, this election will take place 8 days after this notice is published.

In the area between Verviers and Aachen, several thousands of croppers had the ability, within one day's walk

- to compare, the wages offered by the owners who were more or less in a hurry to fill order for the St Michel Fair or the Leipzig Easter Fair (all business was handled in Leipzig)
- to pinpoint where their help was most needed.

This helped them be informed as to the differences in wages for the same work, thus enabling them to better negotiate their employment, in their country and abroad (2-3 miles away), taking into account the rate of exchange of currencies.

Unfortunately for them it was only during war time in Europe when there was urgency in procuring uniforms for the armies, that the demand was greater than the supply.

Since peace time, when combined, represented a period longer than war time, there were more croppers in the area than there was need and it brought their wages down, even after bitter strikes.

This explains why the wool workers from the Liège and Limburg regions were the qualified workers most likely to move away or emigrate altogether. Often out of financial hardship, sometimes enraged at being beaten by the manufacturers, always enticed by promises made by states who didn't want to depend on foreign wool, they were the quickest to take to the road.

And so they followed in the footsteps of the Dutch who around 1640 began to export their skills, tools, workers and families, to Spanish²⁰ manufactures (Guadalajara – 80 families), to Liège, Germany and France.

During the second half of the 17th century, the reformed workers began to leave the Catholic city of Aachen to settle in friendlier places under the protection of the Duke of Juliers (in Monschau and Imgenbroich) and of the Abbess at Burtscheid.

There too, like in Sedan after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, the Dutch workers came as reinforcements or as teachers for the local croppers.

As for the French Calvinist workers who preferred exile to

Département	Population		Tondeurs	Lainiers	%
Roer	Aix-la-Chapelle	27000	698	300	3,7
Roer	Burtscheid*	4180	205	89	7
Roer	Monschau*	3250	317	136	13,9
Ourthe	Eupen*	6984	489	-	7
Ourthe	Verviers	10026	700	300	10
Ardennes	Sedan	10634	800	343	10,8
	Total	63811	3292	1204	7

* En français successivement: Borcette, Montjoie, Néau

persecution in a wholly Catholic France, there is no doubt that some made their way to Eupen or Monschau.

A third migration links Verviers and Paris to Sedan and Sedan to Abbeville.

The first group included 200 croppers from Verviers and 10 workers from the Gobelins arrived in 1750 to break the last big strike in Sedan.

In 1787, André Poupard left Neufelize with 20 croppers to go to Abbeville to the Van Robain cousin and stop a workers' strike.

Sharing the story of a Vervieois cropper best illustrates the migration from Verviers, Eupen and Aachen.

Henri Joseph DELILEZ, born in Pepinster (near Verviers) on 18 Nov 1745, left his parents at the age of 11, to go raise first an uncle's cattle, then one of his mother's relatives in Luxemburg. There he fulfilled his brother's contract which bound him to a farmer, and became a shepherd. During that time he became an avid reader of his masters' religious books and began to dream of seeing Rome. He eventually did, yet, once in Rome he realizes he has never seen Liège, capital of his native land. He returns in 1769 and in 2 years learns how to full the wool. At Limbourg, Austrian LowLand, only a few miles from Verviers, in the noise of the fulling hammers, he began to plan to go back on the road but not without first writing down the art and form of the workshop where he works. Noting the quality of the wool, how many feet and inches each piece is made of.

So before leaving for Modene in 1771 and catch up with the son of a friend, a master-fuller, Henri has secretly drawn documents that will prove invaluable.

Once in Modene, he met an inept and unscrupulous director who only knows a 60h fulling process and would love to discover the

²⁰ Eupen was under Spanish rule before 1713

secret of the vervietoises whose use of urine achieves the same in 12h, sometimes even 9.

He also came across another director who refused to hire him under the pretext that he had received his training outside the traditionally recognized German methods.

Henry returned to Rome.

In Feb 1772 he settled in Come where his craftsmanship intrigued the Marquis of Guaitan who had owned a wool factory since 1754 and who took him on a tour of the place.

Henry asked him to let him prove his ability and so they obliged. They observed him at work and as the results pleased the Marquis, they negotiated a price. Henri would receive 45 sous per day, holiday and Sunday free, housing, oil, wood, bed, clock and all the furniture he needed for his house.

45 sous/day!!! He only earned 30 in Liège or in the Duchy of Limburg for the same work!

But in spite of this and of being given carte blanche to bring the workshop to standards, Henri would not stay long.

With 47 Milan pound in his pocket, he found himself back on the road.

In April 1773 he stopped at Klagenfurt and there learned the trade of cropping and dyeing.

This made him a completely qualified wool worker.

In Sep 1775 he was hired as cropper in Moravia for 30 kreutzers/day, equivalent of 1 florin in Liège.

There he met Marie Gertrude, 23, one of the prettiest girls in Brunn, native of Eupen, and married her on 30 Aug 1776 at the age of 31. He believed then that he'd never go back to the land of Liège, but in March 1777 a conflict arose among the croppers in the shop where he works. It was a classic conflict over salaries and resulted in the classic outcome: strike.

So he took his bride back to the Principality of Liège.

At Ensival he worked for 2 years as a cropper then at 35 he left his tools and workshop to focus his attention on teaching children how to read and write. In 1796 in Ensival he was listed as teacher.

Although Henri DELILEZ' career was uncommon, his itinerary was typical of those taken by the qualified workers who learned their trade in the land between Verviers and Aachen.

3,000 trades over a 30km axis.

Henri's father-in-law is proof of this.

Königin was a cropper in Moravia. Handsome man of over 6' he was pulled from his bed in the dead of night and forced to enlist in the armies of Marie-Thérèse to fight against France in the 1740s.

He deserted and found refuge in Monschau and Eupen where he learned to be a baker and a cropper and where he also married since his daughter Marie Gertrude was born there in 1753.

In 1764, he moved to Sweden to work in the Royal factory in Stockholm where he worked along side fellow countrymen.

In 1773 he returned to Eupen, but finding life too expensive he made his way back to Brunn with all his family.

That is how, in complete freedom, but along the roads travelled by people of their social group, Marie Gertrude Königin and Henri Joseph DELILEZ' paths crossed, to be married in Brunn some time in 1776.

After the Revolutionary wars that disorganized production and exchange between 1793 and 1795, the wool industry between the Meuse and the Rhine picked up again and set out to conquer the great French market.

The croppers remained the most needed workers until the Year 6 in Eupen. Following a month long strike the local administration asked the question : "How can we show them (the croppers) we don't need their arms to maintain our shops?"

The answer came in the form of an invention. In 1805 William Cockerill, in Verviers and Guillaume Tarnaux at Sedan and Ensival (where Delilez was teaching) set up shearing frames. The cropper's trade was no longer and the roads they travelled were now taken by those who set up the machines.

The Tourist Center of Wool and Fashion, set up in the remarkable "château de l'industrie", the former Dethier manufacture, offers several items of interest.

Temporary exhibit halls, space for seminars, center of documentation on wool, the Tourism Office of the Pays de Vesdre and the tour "Du Fil à la Mode" (From Yarn to Fashion) make up the various elements of this tourist center open in 1999. Real center for the interpretation of wool, the tour "Du Fil à la Mode" helps the participant discover the steps in the production of wool cloth. With the help of individual earphones, the tourist is welcomed by "Fil de Laine" who comments on the machines and objects placed back in their historical settings. This audiovisual immersion immerses the visitor in the glorious era of the wool industry in Verviers.

<http://www.paysdevesdre.be/decouvertes/ctlm.htm>



Watch for Micheline's
article in the next issue ?

City mill makes the list

The Call – June 5, 2006

SETH BROMLEY, Staff Writer

Submitted by Micheline Gaudette

http://www.woonsocketcall.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=16738048&BRD=1712&PAG=461&dept_id=24361&rfi=6

WOONSOCKET -- Representing one of the pioneering operations for the 20th-century influx of French-speaking industrialists to the city, the Philmont Worsted Mill was added last week to the National Register of Historic Places. Located on the corner of Social and Elm Streets, the three-story, red brick mill was built in 1919 to house the spinning operations of the Guerin Company, and is under renovations that will convert the building into condominiums.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission announced that the mill is worthy of national recognition for its role in the history of northern Rhode Island's textile history.

"The Philmont Mill is important to Woonsocket's industrial history and for its association with French Canadian heritage," said Edward F. Sanderson, the executive director of the commission.

The recognition makes the renovation project eligible for state and federal preservation tax credits.

"Today a \$6 million rehabilitation project is converting the mill into 45 apartments and is part of the revitalization of Woonsocket, thanks to historic preservation tax credits administered by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission," Sanderson said.

The building is known to many as the Bancroft Mill, since the Bancroft Sporting Goods Company was housed in the building during the 1980s. The developer of the condominium conversion project, Mass Bay Realty Group LLC, has dubbed it Gateway Commons. But the building began life as the **Philmont Worsted Mill**, part of a complex of textile mills owned and operated by the Guerin family.

Joseph Guerin and his son, **Theophile**, immigrated to Woonsocket from Belgium in the early 1890s, and were the first in a line of French and Belgian investors in the area's textile industry, recruited by French-speaking Woonsocket booster and later mayor, **Aram J. Pothier**.

Joseph Guerin, in his 40s at the time, arrived in Woonsocket and worked several jobs while accumulating the capital needed to form the Guerin Spinning Company, which was established in 1893. Over the next 30 years, the family expanded its operations to include the Falls Yarn Mill, the Montrose Mill, the Alsace Worsted Mill and the Rosemont Dyeing Company.

When the Philmont Mill was opened in 1919, it employed 260 operators producing mohair and worsted yarns on some 14,000 spindles. The Guerin family operated there until 1933, when the Great Depression halted production.

In the mid-1930s, the Philmont Mill changed hands, resumed production, and was operated by the Sydney Blumenthal Company until 1955. The building was later sold to the Bancroft Sporting Goods Company, then a nationally known manufacturer of tennis equipment, which was the building's last large manufacturing tenant.

Sanderson said the case for the building's inclusion on the National Register was made by its connection to the pioneering Guerin family, who paved the way for the rest of the "French mills" and in turn re-shaped the city's economy and culture.

"The nomination is a research document reviewed by professional historians," he said. "Just any old building doesn't qualify."

In exchange for taking advantage of the historic preservation tax credit, which accompanies recognition, the owner of the property must abide by state and federal standards when making changes to the exterior of the building.

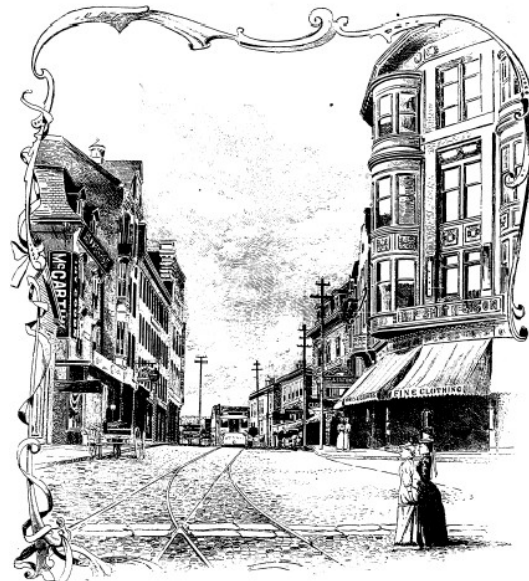
"We want the historic building to retain its form and historic character," said Sanderson.

When the state and federal tax credits are combined, they can represent 50 percent of the cost of the approved work on the project, Sanderson said: "They are a critical piece for putting together the money that allows the project to take place," he said.

In its new life as Gateway Commons, the building will house 45 condominiums, constituted in a variety of layouts, including lofts, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Ranging in size from 900 to 2,600 square feet, units have been on the market for between \$150,000 and \$250,000 apiece.

The conversion project was proposed in 2003, but the original developer dropped out. Mass Bay Realty Group took over the property last year, and broke ground on the project in October 2005.

According to city Economic Development Director Jeffrey Polucha, the developer has already sold most of the units of the units, and the project is on track to be completed this summer.



Certified Copies of Vital Records, Post-1910

In order to obtain certified copies of birth and death records filed after 1909, researchers must contact the Missouri Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Vital Records.

The Bureau of Vital Records has certificates of Missouri births from 1910 to the present. The Bureau also maintains certificates of Missouri deaths that are less than fifty years old. The Archives maintains death certificates more than fifty years old, but cannot issue certified copies.

A certified copy of a birth or death certificate may be obtained by contacting:

Index is complete for: 1910 - 1955
Images are available for: 1910 - 1920

Bureau of Vital Records
930 Wildwood
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City MO 65102
Telephone: (573) 751-6400

Death Certificate Project

- What records are included in the Missouri Post-1910 Death Records Project ?

The records included in the Missouri Post-1910 Death Records Project are those death certificates created according to Missouri law after 1910, and more than fifty years old. These records are now in the legal and physical custody of the Missouri State Archives, and will be subject to the access and research policies prescribed by the Archives.

There are nearly **two million individual certificates of death**, comprising 571 cubic feet of original records, in this collection. The project is ongoing and additional records will be made available each year. For example, in 2004, certificates from 1910 to 1954 will be open; in 2005, the 1955 certificates will be opened for research; in 2006, the 1956 certificates, etc.

- How can I access death certificates that are part of the Missouri Post-1910 Death Records Project ?

For preservation and security reasons, the Missouri State Archives will not allow any access to the original records in the Missouri Post-1910 Death Records Project. Photocopies of death certificates may be requested, pursuant to stated policies. Photocopies will be provided at the cost of \$1.00 per record. Indexes of the death certificates, for available years, will be made available in the Archives Reference Room.

Missouri Post-1910 Death Records Project: Access and Reproduction Policy

E-mail and postal mail patrons may request a search for one death certificate per request form, pursuant to current Reference Room policy. If an exact date of death is not known, patrons should request searches within a five-year time span. The Archives does not accept telephone requests for genealogical research.

In-house patrons who search the death indexes may request up to ten records at a time; those requests must be fulfilled before additional requests can be made. The Archives cannot provide same-day service for post-1910 death certificate requests. In-house patrons may leave their request, with payment, at the time of their visit. There is a charge of \$1.00 per death certificate. Photocopies of the certificate(s) will be mailed, at no extra cost, as soon as possible.

Certified copies of death records must be obtained from the Division of Vital Records. Patrons requiring this service should contact

Vital Records for payment information at (573) 751-6387 or www.vitalcheck.com.

In addition, *each certificate will be imaged and made available online* for research purposes. The scanning project will begin with the 1910 death records and proceed chronologically. The project is ongoing; scanned records will be available online as each year is completed. The database project will allow online searches in the following categories: name, date of death, county, and certificate number. Once a record is identified, patrons can link to the record image online.

NOTE: Currently, it is not possible to provide immediate service for those patrons wishing to access the death certificates. The records are not easily accessible and various preservation and security measures must be taken before full service is instituted at the Missouri State Archives for in-house visitors, online researchers, and postal mail requests. This valuable collection will be made available as soon as possible.

- How can I help the Missouri Post-1910 Death Records Project achieve its goal of providing online access to this collection?

Processing records at the Archives: Volunteers wishing to work in the Missouri State Archives are also needed for processing the records by arranging them into boxes and folders. They are seeking volunteers and groups of volunteers to come to the Archives to work on this exciting and far-reaching project. Hours and tasks are flexible and training is included. If you are interested in volunteering for the death records project, please contact **Patsy Luebbert**, Senior Archivist, 573-751-4217 or patsy.luebbert@sos.mo.gov.

The Pre-1910 Missouri Birth and Death Records Database is an abstract of the birth, stillbirth, and death records recorded before 1909 and that are available on microfilm at the Missouri State Archives.

The Bureau of Vital Records has certificates of Missouri births from 1910 to the present. The Bureau also maintains certificates of Missouri deaths that are less than fifty years old. House Bill 1634 (2004) transferred all death records over fifty years old to the Missouri State Archives.

The database currently contains over **185,000 records** from **87 counties**. Information found in this database includes:

Births and Stillbirths: name of child, date and place of birth, sex, and race; nationality, residence, and ages of parents, occupation and full name of father, maiden name of mother, name and address of medical or other attendant making return; in case of stillbirth, name of undertaker and place of burial.

Deaths: date of report, name, sex, color, age, occupation, marital status, nationality, birthplace; date, place, and cause of death; date and place of burial, addresses of undertaker, physician returning certificate.

Mesen Flanders' smallest city

http://www.vrtnieuws.net/nieuwsnet_master/versie2/english/details/060407_mesen/index.shtml



The West Flemish city of **Mesen** (also **Messines**) has a population of only **988** and is Flanders' smallest city. Mesen was granted city status again, when a special law was passed on 19 July 1985.

Not only does Mesen have the smallest population, but with a surface area of only 358 hectares, it is also Belgium's smallest city.

In 1057, **Duchesse Adela of France** set up a monastery for French aristocratic ladies in Mesen.

The Austrian **Empress Marie-Theresa** dissolved the monastery in 1776 and set up a school for orphans. The *Royal Institution of Mesen* is still in existence today, despite almost the entire city having to be rebuilt, after it was raised to the ground in World War I.



Mesen City Hall

<http://www.mesen.be/language.asp>

Small is beautiful

As of January 1st, 2006, **Mesen**, located in the south of West Flanders, about 6km from the French border, had a population of 988.

The city has a total of 25 streets with 6 bars (including an Irish pub!) and tea room, as well as its very own post

office.

There are also a some 5 monuments commemorating the Great War. The city is also home to an Irish Peace Park, which was opened in 1998 by King Albert II of Belgium, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain and the President of the Irish Republic.

The park was set up in memory of the great sacrifice made by Irish soldiers during the First World War.

The city is also home to a British war cemetery and even a Japanese peace pole.



Durbuy

Durbuy says it's smaller

While no one disputes the fact that Mesen is Flanders' smallest city, the locals in the Walloon city of Durbuy claim that their city is the smallest in Belgium.

Indeed, it was pretty small -- **400** residents or so -- and it had been granted "town" status way

back in 1331. In 1977, though, Durbuy was joined with a number of surrounding communities into a single commune of 10,534 residents. The good people of the picturesque city in the Belgian Ardennes say that only those living in the historic Old Town area of the city should be counted as being true citizens of Durbuy. As only **400** people live in the Old Town, Durbuy claims that it is Belgium's smallest city. You decide...

Belgian Historical Trivia

7 Jun 1917 - The **mine battle of Messines Ridge**: On that day 19 mines, with a total of 819,376 lbs of explosive, were detonated under German positions. 25,000 German and 17,000 Allied soldiers lost their lives during this battle.

1 Jul 1849 - The first Belgian stamp is put into circulation. It depicts Leopold I.

7 Jul 1882 - Death of **Eugène Simonis**: he sculpted the statue of Godefroid of Bouillon, that is located on the Place Royale in Brussels.

7 Jul 1904 - Industrial and engineer **Edouard Empain** founds the Electric Works of Charleroi (ACEC).

10 Jul 1873 - **Verlaine** shoots his friend **Rimbaud** in Brussels

11 Jul 1832 - Creation of the **Order of Léopold** meant to reward for services to country.

14 Jul 1900 - During the Paris Olympic Games, **Léon de Lunden**, for Shooting, and **Hubert Van Innis**, for Archery, win the Gold medal.

17 Jul 1871 - **Zénobe Gramme** introduces his first dynamo at the Sciences Academy in Paris. This marked the beginning of the present electric industry.

25 Jul 1890 - Leopold II made his last will and testament public, in which he bequeaths the **Congo** to Belgium.

26 Jul 1847 - Leopold I names **Henri Conscience** professor of Flemish for the royal princes.

2 Aug 1867 - Creation of the **Flemish School of Music** in Antwerp, under the direction of composer **Peter Benoit**.

19 Aug 1845 - In France, a ministerial decree requires that military music use the saxophone as well as other musical instruments invented by **Adolphe Sax**.

26 August 1830 - The seamstress **Marie Abts** sews the first 2 Belgian flags, which would float from the balcony of the courthouse in Brussels.

IN MEMORIAM

Jean Roba

28 Jul 1930

14 Jun 2006



Boule & Bill

ABTS, Marie 81	COLASSIN, Evanne 63	HENNERETTE, Martin 63	Phillips, Mattie 71	Soenan, Hendrick 69
ANDRIES, Henri 65	COLASSIN, Franz 63	Hoyaux, Emile 71	Pins, Peter John 68	Spang, Wilhelm 69
ANDRIES, Irma 65	COLASSIN, Gus 63	Hoyaux, Hubert 71	Portman, Miss 68	Staiger, Christoph 69
BADEAU, Adam 60	COLASSIN, Reine 63	Jansseume, David 70	Pos, Catherine 68	Stappaerts, Jean 69
BAUDHUIN, Alphonse 73	COMEAU, Frank 64	JANQUART, Anne 73	Pos, Marguerite 68	Stebbl, Elisabeth 69
BAUDHUIN, Denis 73	CONSCIENCE, Henri 81	JANQUART, Josephine 73	Pos, Nicekel 68	Stebble, Crescenzia 69
BAUDHUIN, Edmond 73	Cujas, Joseph 71	KNOCKAERT, Marcel 65	Pothier, Aram 78	Stebble, Joseph 69
BAUDHUIN, Ernest 73	Dague, Romain 71	KONIGIN, Marie Gertrude 77	POUPART, Andre 76	STEEN, Patrick 66
BAUDHUIN, Hortense 73	DELILEZ, Henri Jos 76, 77	LATOUR, Marie 73	RADELET, Albert 64	Stevenson, James 71
BAUDHUIN, Jean 73	DE LUCK, Frank 63	LODDGE, Julia 63	RADELET, Fernande 64	STORME, Frank 63
BAUDHUIN, Jean Baptiste 73	De LUNDEN, Leon 81	LOOSE, Marcel 67	RADELET, Hubert 64	Studes, Nicolas 69
BAUDHUIN, Joseph 73	DEBRUIN, Fred 64	Manandise, Emil 72	RADELET, Josephine 64	Suplit, Martin 72
BAUDHUIN, Josephine 73	Delcord, Leopold 72	Manandise, Leopold 72	RADELET, Julius 64	Sutter, Elisabeth 69
BAUDHUIN, Jules 73	Deliant, Pierre 72	Manandise, Omer 72	RADELET, Leon 64	Sutter, Pauline 69
BAUDHUIN, Leon 73	DEMEULMEESTER, Henri 67	Marlier, Ferdinand 72	RADELET, Louise 64	SWIFT, Anista 64
BAUDHUIN, Marcelin 73	DENIJS, Maria 67	Marlier, Victor 72	RADLET, Albert 63	SWIFT, Claud 64
BAUDHUIN, Marcellin 73	DEPRIE, Victor 64	Masquelier, Billie 71	RADLET, Lawrence 63	SWIFT, El..eli 64
BAUDHUIN, Marie 73	Descutner, Arthemise 71	Masquelier, Elie 72	RADLET, Nellie 63	SWIFT, Marie 64
BAUDHUIN, Marie L 73	Descutner, Catherine 71	Masquelier, Emma 71	RADLET, Nellie M 64	SWIFT, Odile 64
BAUDHUIN, Martin 73	Descutner, E F 71	Masquelier, J B 71	RADLET, Octave 63	SWIFT, Virginie 64
BAUDHUIN, Martin 73	Descutner, F L 71	Masquelier, Joseph 72	RADLET, Violet 64	Tazat, Louis 71
BAUDHUIN, Pierre 73	Descutner, Harry 71	Masquelier, Julien 72	Raiser, Peter 68	Tazat, peter 71
BAUDHUIN, Prosper 73	Descutner, John 71	Masquelier, Lois Jean 71	Rampserger, Casper 68	TEELLEY, Cecile 63
BAUDHUIN, Victor 73	Descutner, P E 71	Medicus, Carl G 68	Reguile, Lambert 68	Theisen, Catharina 69
BAUTCHIER, Augustus 63	Descutner, P J 71	MERRILL, D S 59	Romaine, Gustave 71	Theisen, Francois 69
BENOIT, Peter 81	Descutner, Sebastian 71	Metz, Magdalena 68	Romaine, Max 72	Theisen, Nicolas 69
BENSON, Elisabeth 63	Desmedt, Charles Louis 70	Meyer, Alice 68	Romaine, Victor 72	Thibaut, Maria 71
BENSON, Francis 63	DESROSIERS, Areny 63	Meyer, Carl 68	Rupp, Catherine 68	Tournay, George 72
BENSON, Lelia 63	DESROSIERS, Magloire 63	Meyer, Elisabeth 68	Rupp, Johann 68	Unsens, Camille 69
BENSON, Margaretta 63	DESROSIERS, Mary 63	Meyer, Elisabeth 68	Rusting, Carl 68	Valleman, Anna 69
BENSON, Maud 63	DESROSIERS, Mary 63	Meyer, Frederick 68	Ryll, Adolph 68	Valleman, Henri 69
BENSON, Thomas 63	DESROSIERS, OG 63	Meyer, Ulrich 68	Saloman, Calman 68	Van Dursberg, H 69
BOEUR, Alphonce 63	DESROSIERS, Wilfred 63	Michels, Jacques 68	Sanders, Peter 68	Van Hoof, Lewis 69
BOEUR, Joseph 63	DEVOS, Rosa 64	MILLER, Peter 64	SAX, Adolphe 81	Van Hoorebeke, Edmond 69
BOEUR, Josephine 63	Dhans, Louis 72	MOERMAN, Gustave 64	Schafer, Andreas 68	Van Innis, Hubert 81
BOEUR, Josephine 63	Drugmand, Peter 71	MOERMAN, Mary 64	Schafer, Anselon 68	VANACKER, Pauline 67
BOEUR, Julia 63	DUBOIS, Eugene 63	Moller, Emma 68	Schafer, Antoin 68	VANDARRES, Philip 64
BOEUR, Julie 63	EMPAIN, Edouard 81	Mortelette, Pierre 72	Schafer, Balbine 68	VANDEBUSSCHE, Doreen 66
BOEUR, Karen 63	FAIRON, Alphonse 64	MOYLS, Benjamin 64	Schafer, Catherine 68	VANDEBUSSCHE, Ludwig 66
BOEUR, Mary 63	FAIRON, Mary Louise 64	MOYLS, Frances 64	Schafer, Christin 68	VANHAELEMESCH, Maria 64
CALUS, Julien 65	FONTAINE, Clemence 63	MOYLS, Frank 64	Schafer, Eva 68	Vanleekhout, Guillaume 69
Cenis, Victor 71	FONTAINE, Victor 63	MOYLS, Franz 64	Schafer, Franz 68	Velten, Eberhard 69
Charlier, Jules 72	FONTAINE, Wilfred 63	MOYLS, Gertrude 64	Schafer, Johann 68	Vermazion, Jean 69
Charlier, PJ 72	Geram, Romey 71	MOYLS, Hattie 64	Schafer, Josephine 68	Vermer, Clementine 71
COLASSIN, Carmen 63	Gerard, John B 72	MOYLS, Joseph 64	Schafer, Margareth 68	Vermer, Jean Baptiste 71
COLASSIN, Charlotte 63	Gerard, Michael 72	MOYLS, Mary 64	Schafer, Michel 68	Verstrepfen, Joseph 69
COLASSIN, Dulcetta 63	GEYSENS, Gaston 66	MOYLS, William 64	Schafer, Thomas 69	Vineer, Clara 69
	Gilbert, Eugene 71	Muller, Henry 68	Schodt, Wm 69	Vineer, Francisca 69
	GILBERT, Pauline 73	Myere, Rosa 68	Schuyster, Balthazar 69	Vineer, Johan 69
	GIRONDAL, Catherine 73	Nessell, Christian 68	Schwabedisser, Albertine 69	Vineer, Salomon 69
	GIRONDAL, Julienne 73	Newsburg, Angela 68	Schwabedisser, Carl 69	Vineer, Simon 69
	GIRONDAL, William 73	Newsburg, Barbara 68	Schwabedisser, Johann 69	Voght, Adolph 69
	GODDYN, Adolph 63	Newsburg, Gerhard 68	SCHWAHN, Charles 63	Walter, Bonifacius 69
	GODDYN, Adolph 63	Newsburg, Leonhard 68	SCHWAHN, Henry Fred 63	Webber, Christian 69
	GODDYN, Arthur 63	Newsburg, Nicolas 68	SCHWAHN, Lily 63	Weiss, Anton 69
	GODDYN, Hortense 63	Newsburg, Nicolas 68	SCHWAHN, Sylia 63	Weiss, Heinrich 69
	GODDYN, Rita 63	Nimal, J B 72	Seibel, Adolph 69	Weiss, Helena 69
	GRAMME, Zenobe 81	Niscker, Adam 68	Seibel, Carl 69	Weiss, Joseph 69
	GRANT, Ulysses 58, 59	Niscker, Elisabeth 68	Seibel, Dorothea 69	Weiss, Theresa 69
	GUERIN, Joseph 78	Niscker, Heinrich 68	Seibel, Heinrich 69	Werland, Catharina 69
	GUERIN, Theophile 78	Niscker, Herman 68	Sibbern, E 69	Werland, Henri 69
	POTHIER, Aram 78	Niscker, Marie 68	Sibbern, Edward 69	Werland, Margaretha 69
	Guyaux, Desire 71	Niscker, Mina 68	Sigmund, Catherine 69	Whappers, Henry 69
	Guyaux, Gustave 71	Niscker, Theresa 68	Sigmund, Eva 69	Wiederkehs, Johann 69
	Guyaux, Leo 71	Nullman, Anton 68	Sigmund, Martha 69	Winkleman, Henry 69
	Guyaux, Marie 71	Peton, Peter 68	Sigmund, Mathias 69	Withneker, Andreas 69
	Guyaux, Michael 71	Pfander, Daniel 68	Simonis, Eugene 81	WOOD, Mary 64
	Hainaut, Jules 71	Pfander, Magdalen 68	Smith, Mary 69	YOUNG, John Russell 59