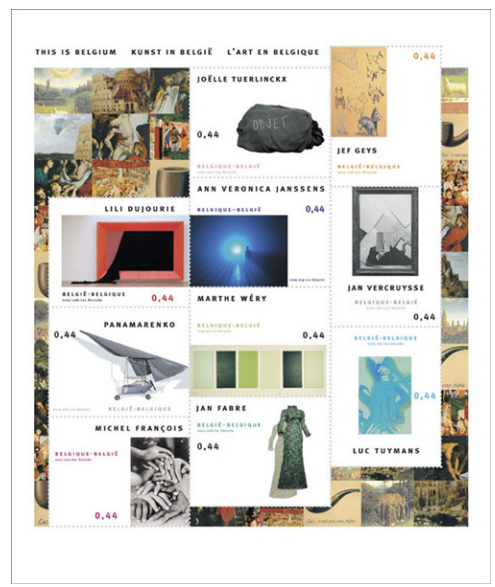
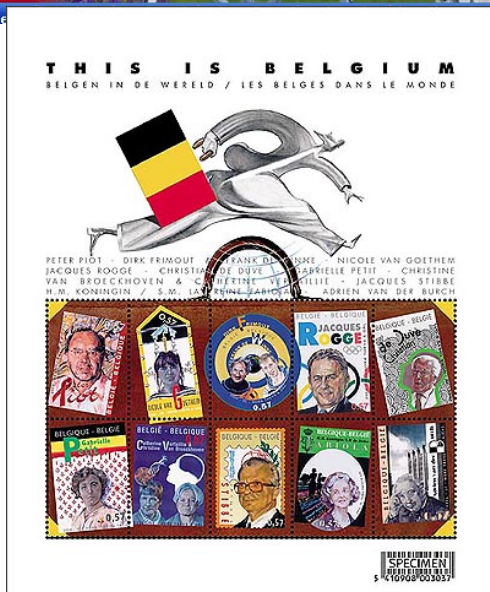


# Belgian Laces



**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.  
The annual membership fee includes a subscription to the quarterly **BELGIAN LACES**

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**THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS**

Belgian American Heritage Association



Dear Members,

Earlier this year we received our final official IRS ruling on the not-for-profit status of our association as a 501c3. When TBR moved from Oregon to Indiana we ran into a bit of a problem as it was necessary to file federal returns before filing Indiana returns. This required that we be recognized officially as a not-for-profit by the IRS. It turns out it was a blessing in disguise as the IRS has just increased fees to form or convert to 501c3 status. Genealogy societies in the U.S. typically file as 501c3 organizations. The application fee to become such a tax-exempt organization doubled from \$150 to \$300 on July 1, 2006. You can read more at <http://www.irs.gov/charities/article/0,,id=151893,00.html>

There are many advantages to the 501c3 status, one of which we became grateful recipient on August 9, thanks to our member **Chuck VanDenEeden** of Illinois. As we endeavored to extract the Belgians from the WWI Draft Registration cards, Chuck volunteered to work on the Illinois cards, as have several other wonderful people. The difference is, Chuck worked for State Farm Insurance and this company offers a \$500 matching grant for their employees and retirees who have volunteered a minimum of 40 hours to a not-for-profit group recognized as a 501c3.

What a wonderful gift and how grateful we are to be honored with it! **Thank You, Chuck!** and **Thank You State Farm!** It is seldom that volunteer work can receive a monetary value. It certainly does not diminish the work of the other extractors. **Thank You to ALL!** who work incessantly without any thought to themselves but only to make materials available to the researchers at large. **You really are TOPS!**

*Régine*

**Your choice: Our New Logo!**



A few months back, **Glenn Cleereman** suggested we create a logo to represent The Belgian Researchers and set out to do just that. His creations were presented to the membership for a vote and although the response was not as overwhelming as we had hoped, we did get enough feedback to present you with the winner.

Online Votes	Mailed In Votes
LOGO # 3 - 5	
LOGO # 4 - 7	- 1
<b>LOGO # 5 - 16</b>	<b>- 4</b>
LOGO # 6 - 1	

After some discussion on the yellow tint, here is your winner! Thanks Glenn!

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**Contact Information:** THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS - 495 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street - Peru IN 46970

Tel/Fax:765-473-5667 OR e-mail [barmbrindle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barmbrindle@sbcglobal.net)

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# Books in Review

## "From the Azores to New Zealand"

by Patrick Maselis

*"This book covers the pre-philately of all those territories which have been Belgian colonies at some point, ranging therefore from the oldest letters (mostly long before the Belgian period) up to and including the issuing of the first Belgian stamps. If the Belgians have never issued stamps in a particular colony, we will stop the postal history at the point where the Belgian colony ceases to exist. The Azores are however an exception to this rule, where a link remains until the 19<sup>th</sup> century."*

Patrick Maselis

[http://users.skynet.be/lindekens/new\\_publications.htm](http://users.skynet.be/lindekens/new_publications.htm)

Available in Dutch, French and English. - Please specify language when ordering

\*424 pages, in full color.

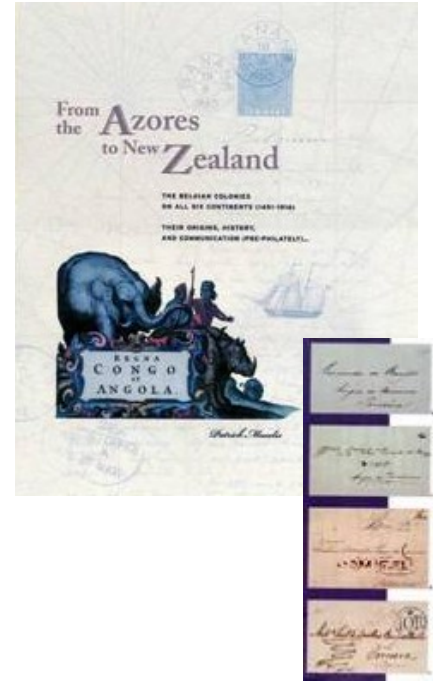
\*Publication – October 2005

\*Available and order from the author :

Patrick Maselis - Kaaistraat 19 - 8800 Roeselare - Belgium –

Fax; ++32 51/22 69 50 –

e-mail: info@maselis.be



## The Mexican Adventure 1861–67 (Men-at-Arms 272)

Author: René Chartrand

Illustrator: Richard Hook

Men-at-Arms

OSPREY  
Publishing

### The Mexican Adventure 1861–67



René Chartrand - Illustrated by Richard Hook

The 'Mexican Adventure' was a tragedy of the first order, born of a romantic view of Mexico shared by many Europeans. This school of thought took for granted that most Mexicans were barely capable of governing themselves and that a 'generous intervention' could only be beneficial to all concerned. For the French Emperor it would be a master stroke: a vast new vassal empire in America. René Chartrand examines the organization, weapons and uniforms of the forces who fought on both sides of the conflict in a text accompanied by numerous contemporary photographs and illustrations including eight full page colour plates by Richard Hook.

Paperback; July 28 1994; 48 pages; ISBN: 185532430X

US Price: \$15.95 UK Price: £9.50 Canadian Price: \$22.95

Availability: In stock

[http://www.ospreypublishing.com/title\\_detail.php/title=P430X~per=8](http://www.ospreypublishing.com/title_detail.php/title=P430X~per=8)

## Villaguay: The Last Belgian Colony

"From the Azores to New Zealand", by Patrick Maselis

[http://www.rvi.be/rvi\\_master/insite/rvi\\_insite\\_azorencanarische/index.shtml](http://www.rvi.be/rvi_master/insite/rvi_insite_azorencanarische/index.shtml)



Belgian Church in Villaguay

### Immigration and colonization

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Argentina was facing the same problems of lack of manpower as Guatemala and Brazil.

The Argentinean government responded by actively encouraging immigration from Europe. In the period between 1857 and 1900, no less than 15 immigrant colonies were founded in Villaguay alone. Besides the Belgians, these also included Spaniards (six colonies), Jews (five colonies), Volga Germans, Italians and French. The terms 'colony' and 'immigration' are used interchangeably here as the Belgian community in Villaguay exhibits the characteristics of both phenomena. Their ancestors were immigrants, who, like millions of other Europeans in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, left the old world to start a new life in America.

However, the inhabitants of the Belgian colony in Villaguay retained their Belgian nationality, which is a characteristic feature of colonization rather than emigration, as emigrants tend to assimilate themselves into the culture of their new country.

Further more the Belgian colony in Villaguay is still called "Colonia Belga" to the present day and even has its own zipcode!

Entre Rios first came to Belgium's attention around 1860 when Crown Prince Leopold II sent **Eugène Plottier** there on a trade mission. Plottier decided to stay in Argentina and founded the trading company "Plottier, Hufnagger y Cia", with offices in Antwerp, Concordia (Entre Rios) and Paysandú (Uruguay).

In 1904 his sons bought land in the Argentinean province of Neuquen, and shortly afterwards (in 1907) went on to found the Plottier settlement, which incidentally, still exists today.

It would be another 20 years before another Belgian took an interest in Entre Rios: **Eugeen (Eugenio) Schepens**.

He had studied physics at the University of Louvain and in 1880 the university received a very prestigious visitor: the Argentinean President Roca. He gave a passionate speech encouraging his audience to emigrate to Argentina, which urgently needed more settlers. The president also pointed out the great advantages the emigrants would enjoy there. One of these was Argentina's gift of a free plot of land to each new emigrant. Roca's words deeply impressed Schepens. He was very aware of the poverty and overpopulation which plagued Belgium's rural areas at the time and became convinced that planned organized emigration was the best solution to those problems.

As a scientist Schepens approached things very differently from his predecessors in New Zealand, Guatemala or Brazil. Instead of making great plans, he invested his limited resources in a reconnaissance mission which the Argentinean government had devised to provide information to those considering emigration, thus ensuring that everyone knew exactly what he or she was getting into and that there were no false expectations.

His reconnaissance mission in 1880 lasted three months, and concentrated mostly on Villaguay. The Argentinean government was prepared to grant him 1,600 hectares of land, which seemed very fertile and located in an area with a pleasant and healthy climate.

Back in Belgium, he gave a series of talks and lectures, especially in and around Oudenaarde and tried to answer as honestly as possible the many questions from those interested in emigrating to Villaguay.

He was very aware of the earlier colonization projects' failure and made no attempt to hide it. On one occasion, he even told his audience (25 Feb. 1880): "Since 1841, there have been various Belgian attempts to found colonies in South America, all of which failed, largely due to the unsuitable climate. Be that as it may, we want to give it another try (learning from their mistakes)"

He managed to convince 40 individuals, most of whom from the Oudenaarde area, to take part in the venture. Preparations swiftly moved ahead and on 1 November 1881, the first 14 colonists left Antwerp on. The voyage was difficult. Many passengers were seasick and heavy seas slowed them down so delaying their arrival the captain had to ration food and drink (even the water).

They finally arrived in Buenos Aires on 5 December, where they stayed at the 'hotel de immigrantes'.

### The Colonization of Villaguay

On 8 January 1882, the emigrants boarded a riverboat in Buenos Aires. It was to take them along the Uruguay River to the city of Colon. From Colon, they continued their journey by horse and cart, arriving in Villaguay on 13 January. It was a bright sunny day, a good omen for the future. Each of the settlers received a plot of land and began to build houses to live in. With determination and energy, they built a town where there had previously been nothing. **Eugeen Schepens** founded a school and appointed a **Mr. Beaurain** as the town's first schoolmaster. **Hoflack**, a minister, had also come along to attend to the spiritual needs of the settlers and a chapel was built and dedicated, in true Flemish tradition, to Our Lady of Lourdes. Later a convent founded by Franciscan sisters



The Willem-Creuter family

from Ghent was also built. The land was prepared for cultivation and yielded spectacular and highly lucrative harvests. In seven years the settlers had earned as much money as they could have expected to earn during their entire lives back in Belgium. Several Flemish farmers pooled their resources by forming a cooperative, "La Cosmopolita", which would prove a great success. The **Van Hauvaerts** built a mill and the **Van Humbeeqs** a distillery. Villaguay was and still is a genuine success story. And it has not gone unnoticed, even in Argentina, where it is still cited in the Argentinean press as a textbook example of a successful colony.



**What were the key to its success? :** To give credit where credit is due, its success is largely due to **Eugeen Schepens**. He didn't set up costly organizational structures. Nor did he get carried away with grandiose but unrealistic ambitions.

Instead he kept his feet firmly on the ground. He chose the site for its good quality agricultural soil, its favorable climate and because of the incentives offered by the Argentinean government. The colonists were fully informed about Villaguay and knew what to expect. Schepens also chose his colonists very carefully. They were not beggars or out-of-work labourers, but lower-middle class people with a modicum of schooling and some savings.

Finally, once they arrived they were not simply abandoned to their fate. From the very beginning, Schepens made sure provision was made for their education and (spiritual) welfare.

In the end there was no miracle. Setting up a colony is very like getting any other business off the ground: the better the preparation, and the 'business plan', the greater the chances of

success.

### What is left of the Belgian colony of Villaguay?

The answer is simple: **everything**.

The colony still exists and the Belgians who live there still retain their Belgian identity and nationality.

The greatest threat to its future survival today comes from outside – from Argentina itself. The 'peso crisis' of 2001 could well spell its downfall. Many of the Belgians in Villaguay are not unemployed or have had to sell their businesses.

If this catastrophic economic situation does not show sign of improvement in the next few years, a large number of them may have to consider returning to Belgium. For the time being, however, they are holding on. So, for the moment at least, Belgium can still call itself a "colonial power".



### Belgian immigrants arriving in Brazil at the port of Rio de Janeiro.

Source: Ilha das Flores Immigrant Registration.

extracted by Regina Lootens Machado - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - [relootens@globo.com](mailto:relootens@globo.com)

	Name	Age	Arrival Date	Ship	Port of Departure	Destination
H	<b>BROSS</b> , Henry	34	26-Jan-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	
W	<b>BROSS</b> , Josina	25	26-Jan-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	
c	<b>BROSS</b> , Oskar	6	26-Jan-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	
mil	<b>BEULLENS</b> , Victoria	53	26-Jan-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	
H	<b>DESANYTTERE</b> , Gaston	29	10-Feb-13	Serra Ventana	Bremen	Paraná
W	<b>DESANYTTERE</b> , Celine	27	10-Feb-13	Serra Ventana	Bremen	Paraná
c	<b>DESANYTTERE</b> , Michal	6	10-Feb-13	Serra Ventana	Bremen	Paraná
c	<b>DESANYTTERE</b> , Agnes	2	10-Feb-13	Serra Ventana	Bremen	Paraná
S	<b>FELIX</b> , Gerard	27	12-Feb-13	Zeelandia	Buenos Aires	Paraná
S	<b>BEULENS</b> , Desiré	16	17-Feb-13	Hollandia	Amsterdam	Victoria
H	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , Constant	39	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
W	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , Rosina	38	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
B	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , François	26	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
sil	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , Malvine	25	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
B	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , Hermann	23	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
sil	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , Rosalie	29	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
M	<b>HUGGELEN</b> , Clemence	58	24-Feb-13	Vauban	Leixões	Porto Alegre
H	<b>VAN ENOS</b> , Henri	39	30-Mar-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	Porto Alegre
W	<b>VAN ENOS</b> , Pauline	42	30-Mar-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	Porto Alegre
c	<b>VAN ENOS</b> , Martha	16	30-Mar-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	Porto Alegre
c	<b>VAN ENOS</b> , Palmire	9	30-Mar-13	Zeelandia	Amsterdam	Porto Alegre
H	<b>WILMS</b> , Alphonse		14-Oct-12	Hollandia	Amsterdam	
W	<b>WILMS</b> , Celina		14-Oct-12	Hollandia	Amsterdam	



## Jean-Baptiste MOENS (1833-1908)

### Father of Philately

By Vincent SCHOUBERECHTS

<http://www.soeteman.com/Pages/Moensen.html>

Besides being a bookseller **Jean-Baptiste Moens** also was a publisher, printer, author and co-author of philatelic works and of course, the first dealer in Belgian stamps. He was born on 27th May 1833 in Tournai. At the age of 20 he opened a shop in the Galerie Bortier in Brussels. He did not sell stamps yet as, at that time, he only sold new and second-hand books.

Jean-Baptiste Moens started to collect cancelled stamps issued by various postal authorities and exhibited them in his shop-window.

In 1862 he wrote "The Handbook for Stamp Collectors"<sup>1</sup>. Several others followed, including his 1892-93 catalogue which remains a reference work to this very day.

He was the author or publisher of many specialized works which, for the greater part, are lost. One of his most successful publications was his newsletter "The Postage Stamp"<sup>2</sup>, published for 38 consecutive years between 1863 and 1900. Each month it contained precious information concerning all stamps that had meanwhile been issued world-wide.

Since 1863 he has published an impressive quantity of stamp albums reproducing the various types from each country.

Moens has seen the most well-known stamp collectors of the 19th century enter his shop, selling them pieces of extreme rarity such as eleven of the twenty-three 'Post-Office' from Mauritius. He had contacts and representatives on all five Continents.

When he died on 28th April 1908, the philatelic press commemorated The Father of Philately.

#### A Footnote in Belgian Postal History : Red Pen Cancellation on the First Belgian Stamps

<http://www.europeanstamps.net/articles/index.asp?ID=10>

**Jean-Baptiste Moens** (1833-1908) managed to obtain from the former Belgian post services a part of the remaining stock, as, in 1866, the first Belgian stamps (July 1849), the "Epauletten" and their successors (October 1849), the "Medaillons", were taken out of circulation.

Presumably one sheet each of the 10c and 20c "Epauletten" and of the 40c "Medaillons". In order to avoid postal use of the stamps, they were depreciated by the service involved by means of an horizontal penstroke in red ink in the middle of the stamp. This penstroke was removed from some of the stamps and they were called « gewassen Moens » (washed Moens).

You're not likely to happen upon these in a "Classic Belgium" collection, as they are quite rare. The stamps may be found in three qualities, fresh, with sticker or unstamped without gum. In order to give a price indication : with sticker, the 10c stamp has a catalogue value of 2,000 Euro, the 20c stamp of 2,500 euro and the 40c stamp also around 2,500 euro.

### The Intertwining of Philatelic and Social History

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<http://www.nystamp.org/Intertwining%20Part%201.html>

#### Part I: The Social Scene at the Beginning

How did stamp collecting originally develop and what caused it to grow into one of the world's major hobbies? One leading industry spokesman recently claimed:

"In the early days, the appeal of stamps was universally to young people, mostly to boys. When the first generation of boy collectors grew up...they were uncomfortable continuing a boyish pursuit...They transformed stamp collecting into philately, Greek rooted, full of French phrases, redolent with scholarly trappings..."



Is this really what happened or was the growth of the hobby a logical development of the social conditions of its times? The first generation that took up the hobby of stamp collecting was part of a drab world where exploration and exotic lands were daily new wonders. It was an era of general drabness so the small bits of paper that were stamps were colorful and exotic souvenirs of adventure and romance.

How drab was society? The industrial revolution was in full swing in the 1840s and 1850s, and city after city was filled with industrial smog. The well-reported London fogs lasted into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In discussion fashion, **Oswald Barron F.S.A.** noted: "From 1830 begins a period of singular ugliness. Tight stays came back again, the skirt swept the pavements, a generation of over-clad matrons seems to have followed a generation of nymphs. The 'fifties



showed even more barbarous devices, and about 1854 came in from France the crinoline, that strange revival of the ancient hoop. Plaids, checks and bars, bright blues, crude violets and hideous

<sup>1</sup> Manuel des Collectionneurs de Timbres-Poste

<sup>2</sup> Le Timbre-Poste

crimsons, were seen in French merinos, Irish

poplins and English alpacas. Women in short jackets, hooped skirts, hideous bonnets and shawls seemed to have banished their youth. The French empress Eugenie, a leader in European fashion, decreed that white muslin should be the evening mode, and at balls, where the steels and whalebones of the crinoline were impossible, the women swelled their skirts by wearing a dozen or fourteen muslin petticoats at once. Towards the end of the 'sixties the crinolines disappeared as suddenly as they came and by 1875 skirts were so tight at the knees that walking upstairs in them was an affair of deliberation."

Ever since the Regency days of Beau Brummel, black was the color for men. Bulwer-Lytton in an 1828 work noted that "people must be very distinguished in appearance" to look well in black. In the early Victorian era, many men wore long hair, so freely oiled that the 'anti-macassar' came in to protect drawing room chair-backs. English working men went to work in a frayed and greasy morning coat whose cut followed that of the rich Londoner paying a morning call.

It must be remembered that the coal-tar aniline dyes that gave richness to the colors of the 'gilded age' were discovered only in 1856. They did not affect the public until a decade or more later. The Currier & Ives lithographs that became popular in 1835-1840 didn't move into mass production hand coloring until the 1860s when women colorists earned a penny a print.

In the drab world of the 1840s and 1850s, stamps stood out for their color. At the same time they represented romance and adventure. The California gold rush of the late 1840s was followed by one at the far ends of the earth in Australia. Explorers began to fill in the blanks on continent after continent.

Young readers were absorbing adventure tales ranging from Ellm's *Pirates Own Book* (1838) to Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast* (1840), Prescott's *History of Mexico* (1843), Fremont's *Exploration of the Rockies* (1843), Parkman's *Oregon Trail* (1849), Perry's *Expedition to Japan* (1856), and Darwin's *Origin of Species* (1859), which was a result of his earlier *Journey of a Naturalist* (1837-1838) report on the voyage of the *Beagle*.

Newspapers and journals kept the public attuned to foreign lands with reports of the Opium War in China (1840-1842) and the opening of the treaty ports, the Crimean War of 1853-1856, the opening of Japan in 1854, and the Indian Mutiny of 1857-1858. While the Civil War drowned out foreign news in the United States in the early 1860s, the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 closely fit with the news of the opening of the U.S.



transcontinental railroad and had a major popular opera (*Aida*) at its opening.

In literature the public had already developed a taste for the foreign, romantic and exotic by the time stamp collecting came upon the scene offering souvenirs with the same appeals. The literary movement began a generation earlier with the romantic poets such as Keats, Shelley and Byron, with Coleridge providing a touch of exotica with his *Kubla Khan* and other popular poems. Carlyle set a new historical style with his 1837 'history by lightning flashes' *French Revolution*, romanticizing it.

Contemporaneous with the introduction of adhesives were such literary works appealing to the foreign, romantic and exotic as the following English works. Macaulay's *Lays of Ancient Rome* (1842), Tennyson's romantic *Locksley Hall* (1842), Robert Browning's *Home Thoughts From Abroad* (1845) and his wife's *Sonnets From the Portuguese* (1847-1850). Matthew Arnold's *Sohrab and Restum* (1853) was a typical work of the period.

In the United States, Edgar Allan Poe (1808-1849) set new literary traditions by inventing the detective story and creating a tradition of the macabre. He is considered a seminal influence in the literature of the next century, and he influence one of France's greatest writers, Baudelaire, who published his *Fleurs de Mal* in 1857. Verlaine's *Poemes saturniens* of 1855 were less affected, but there was a connection with Rimbaud whose *Illuminations* came out in 1872. One of the world's great exotic works, Richard Burton's *Arabian Nights*, was begun in 1852, although not published for many years.

In addition to its ties to exploration, adventure and exotica, stamp collecting had strong roots in religious experience as well. Since gaining independence, America had been swept by waves of religious revivalism to the extent that certain sections of upstate New York were known as the 'burnt-out district.' An important element of the revivalism of the 1830s and later was missionary activity, with missionary letters from exotic lands read from the pulpits of churches throughout the land. These first-hand accounts from exotic lands complemented the literary tradition and supplemented the reports of explorers.

Although French Catholic missions to the South Seas began in 1817 and the Catholic Institute for the Propagation of the gospel was formed at Lyons in 1822, the latter was spending about a million dollars annually on missions by 1852. The French Sacred Heart missionary activity began in 1855 while the French Society of White Fathers began to focus on Africa in 1868.

Hawaiian missionary activity began in the 1820s; and a direct descendant of one of the first missionaries, Thurston Twigg-Smith, formed the greatest holding of Hawaiian philately known, the Honolulu Advertiser collection

Another well-known philatelic personality, the well-known dealer and auction agent, the late Ezra Cole, was a descendant of one of the most successful Hawaiian missionaries, Titus Coan, who converted more than 20,000 Hawaiians between 1836 and 1839. In fact, the first Hawaiian stamps are known as 'missionaries' because of their predominant use on letters of the early missionaries back to the United States.

The Baptists founded a mission society for India in 1833. By 1851 there were some 9,100 Protestant converts, with the number doubling each decade until there were 417,000 by 1881. In 1858 the Christian Vernacular Education Society for India was founded, while in 1866 the Delhi Medical Missionary Society was founded. In 1867 the Friends (Quakers) founded a Mission Society for Syria and Palestine.

In 1840 the American Board for Foreign Missions was formed at Williams College. In 1844 the South American missionary Society was formed. American missionaries were in Burma as early as the 1820s and an American missionary, Dr. Price, brought the Burmese terms to the British forces that resulted in the end of the first Burmese War. In Thailand, American missionaries such as Bradley were there in the 1830s and wrote back vivid letters about the country.

On another continent it was in 1846 that the principal Methodist African and Colonial Mission Society was organized, while the Central African Mission Society began in 1858, with the Central African Mission of English Universities following in 1860. A major wave of African missions followed the death of Livingston in 1872. At the close of the Civil War, Americans, particularly ex-Confederates, became deeply involved in a mapping project for Africa.

The China School Mission Society was created in 1862, while in 1884 the Cambridge University Seven formed a China Mission Society. In 1886 the American Students Volunteer Mission movement began, continuing the long tradition of mission activity in the United States.

Public interest in the Far East was not so much inspired by missionary reports as it was by business opportunities. The Empress of China was the first American flag vessel to reach China, arriving at Macao on August 23, 1784, six months out of New York. Its supercargo, Major Samuel Shaw of Boston, was named the honorary American consul at Canton when he returned there in 1786. Except for the British, American flag vessels were outstripping everyone in the China trade, but they ran into a problem of paying for goods. The British used silver, but Americans countered with furs from Oregon. Later they was the ice trade commemorated philatelically by the 'ice house 1869 cover.' Between 1836 and 1850, the Boston ice trade was extended to every large port in South America and the Far East. When Edward Everett (the other Gettysburg speaker) met the Persian ambassador in London, the ambassador's first words were of appreciation of Boston ice in Persia. The trade prospered for a full generation after the Civil War. Additionally, the American 'China clippers' dominated the seas at the time.

Correspondence from major American trading firms not only represented the amassing of New England fortunes, but also represented a source of stamps for collectors. The Heard correspondence is typical of this interest, with Mr. Heard instructing his agents to use adhesive stamps wherever possible once they became available. The correspondence runs from the War of 1812 into the post-Civil War era. Another significant American correspondence was that of the Boston food purveyor S. S. Peirce. This firm traded around the world for its products, and its letters begin in the 1830s and run into the 20th century, with both stamped and stampless covers reaching the philatelic market.

As has been shown, stamp collecting fit right into the social patterns of society at the time when stamps were first issued. They became a collectable souvenir of the foreign, romantic and exotic elements that fascinated the mid-19th century world. The major difference between numismatics and philately and the other collecting habits of the period is the fact that both stamps and coins developed an institutional framework and the other hobbies didn't





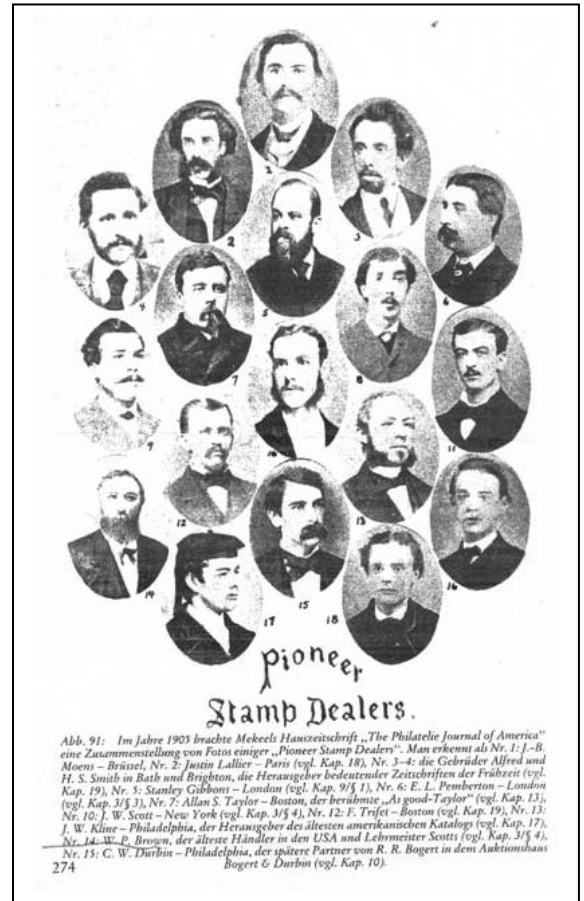
## A New Profession

Beginning in the 1850s, there was enough interest in stamps that various dealers in antiquities, curios or coins saw an opportunity to make a living from catering to stamp collectors. Among the earliest stamp dealers were: Brussels antiquities dealer J. B. Moens (1852), who had become a collector at 15 and a dealer at 19; William S. Lincoln of London, who became a schoolboy collector/dealer (1853); Stanley Gibbons of Plymouth (1856), who as a 16-year-old schoolboy occupied a portion of his father's pharmacy shop where he could offer stamps; Berger-Levrault of Strasburg, France (1858), a dealer known for having the world's first price list or catalog; and **George Hussey** and **James Brennan**, who started as the first American dealers. The Bank of New York employed Hussey from 1836 to 1870. He introduced a 'Special Message Post' in 1854 for carrying notices and employed Brennan as one of his runners. In 1859 both became stamp dealers, Hussey being 47 at the time. By the early 1860s this handful of pioneer dealers was joined by dozens more.

Effective selling normally requires price lists or catalogs for those who cannot come to one's store or selling-corner. The first stamp list was created by Berger-Levrault, dated September 1, 1861. Other 1861 catalogs or lists quickly followed and multiple editions of a number are known. Among the catalogs were ones published by numismatist LaPlante, part-time dealer and postal employee Potiquet, and Parisian bookseller Baillieu whose family owned a bindery. All the 1861 catalogs were-French produced. On the opposite page is a reproduction of the first page of the very first stamp catalog, the September 1861 Berger-Levrault price list reproduced by courtesy of the British Museum. A number of the other early catalogs are illustrated in my series "The Incunabula of Philatelic Literature on Locals and Carriers" in the Collectors Club Philatelist issues of May, July and September 1993, pages 183-7, 223-226,295-302 for those who wish to see what they looked like.

In 1862 the Belgian stamp dealer and antiquarian **Moens** put out a catalog with supplemental illustration, while in England artist-collector Frederick Booty also did so with his Stamp Collector's Guide. The same year stamp dealer Mount Brown published a regular catalog using the collection of the Rev. Stainforth as a basis. One of the earliest stamp collectors, Dr. John E. Gray, a zoologist associated with the British Museum, put out a popular collector-inspire catalog. Mount Brown's catalog was pirated and published, with some additional material in America by Philadelphia book, coin and stamp dealer John W. Kline in 1862, using the name A. C. Kline. An 1862 French catalog also came from Valette, an employee of the French Ministry of the Interior and owner of a German newspaper. This older collector was the first to put forth a theory of pricing as well as the first to discuss cleaning stamps. Its author was executed during the Paris Commune of 1871.

A number of the young 1850s collectors became dealers and probably drew into the hobby contemporaries of their own age. Figure 2 shows eighteen of them. Except for Moens and Kline, none were old enough to be a collector in 1840 and neither Moens or Kline became a stamp collector until the 1850s. Going down the list **number 1** is **Jean Baptiste Moens** of Brussels (1833-1908), who became a dealer in 1852, fascinated by the stamps on his business mail. Along with his writer brother-in-law, **Louis Hanciau** (1845-1924), Moens published one of the great classic philatelic journals, Le Timbre-Poste, beginning in February 1863. Number 2 is **Justin Lallier**, (1823-1873), a Parisian dealer, noted French archeologist and creator of one of the most important early albums in 1862. It was published in French in August 1862 with spaces for 1,200 stamps and later the same year in English as the first English language album. The first American album was published in December 1862 by the Appleton firm. Lallier's albums, which lasted through some fifteen editions, were barely preceded by a German album printed by bookseller G. Wuttig of Leipzig. The Wuttig album is still with us today, for Gustav Bauschke who purchased Wuttig's copyrights in 1864 named his new acquisition the Schaubek album later in the 1870s, as an anagram of his own name. Wuttig's album was preceded by a few months by Ludwig of Leipzig's German language album.



## Pennsylvania and West Virginia Obituaries

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

Nov. 23, 1917 McDonald PA Record

**Martin Jean THILMONT**, aged 77 years and 9 days, died at his home at Bishop on Wednesday morning, November 21, 1917, at one o'clock. Mr. THILMONT was a native of Charleroi, Belgium. Mrs. THILMONT died about six months ago.

In 1883 Mr. and Mrs. THILMONT and their family came to America, locating in McDonald. About twenty-two years ago they moved to Bishop, where they had since resided. Mr. THILMONT attended the French Church of McDonald while his health permitted.

Of the ten children born to Mr. and Mrs. THILMONT, seven survive, five daughters and two sons: Mrs. **John C. PHILLIPS** and Mrs. **William CHEESEBROUGH** of McDonald, Mrs. **Fred DHAYER** of Midway, Mrs. **Frank MILLER** of Pittsburgh, Mrs. **William HALLETT** of Canada, **Leon THILMONT** of Donora, and **Nestor THILMONT** at home.

Funeral services will be conducted from the late home this (Friday) afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment will be in Robinson's Run cemetery.

Oct. 31, 1924 McDonald PA Record

**Mrs. Mathilda DERBOVEN**, aged 62 years, died at her home in Primrose at 5:45 o'clock Friday afternoon, October 24, 1924, of diabetes. Mrs. DERBOVEN was born in Belgium. She had lived in this country for over thirty years. Besides her husband, **Triffon DEREBOVEN**, she leaves a son, **E. L. DERBOVEN** of Primrose, and a daughter, Mrs. **Elida OPENBRIER**. Three brothers also survive. They are **Octave DEBLANDER** of Primrose, **Alphonse DEBLANDER** of Philadelphia and **Peter DEBLANDER** of Cecil. Funeral services were held at the home on Monday afternoon at two o'clock, conducted by the Rev. A. DEVOS, pastor of the French U. P. church of McDonald. Interment was in the Midway cemetery.

Jan. 27, 1929 McDonald PA Outlook

**John Joseph SUPLIT** died at 10:45 a.m. Tuesday, January 22, at this home in Valley street, after several weeks' illness with asthma and pneumonia. Mr. SUPLIT was born March 22, 1857 at Rouxbasse, Belgium and was united in marriage with **Charlotte ROUSSEAU**, June 4, 1884 in Belgium by the Rev. ANNETTE. He came to McDonald with his wife and son Joseph in 1887 and has resided here since that time following the occupation of coal mining.

Besides his wife he leaves these sons and daughter: **Fernand SUPLIT**, Wilksburg; **Herman SUPLIT**, McDonald; **Alfred SUPLIT**, McDonald; Miss **Olga SUPLIT**, Wilksburg. Three sisters and two brothers also survive; they are Mrs. **J. B. NIMAL** and Mrs. **Victor MARLIER**, McDonald; Miss **Elsie SUPLIT**, Springfield, Ill., **John B.** and **Peter J. SUPLIT** of McDonald. Five grandchildren also survive. A son, **Eli Joseph** and a grandson, **George**, were killed in an automobile accident August 25, 1918. Mr. SUPLIT was a founder and elder of the French Mission church.

Funeral services will be held Friday afternoon in charge of the rev. Auguste DEVOS, assisted by the Rev. S. A. MCCOLLAM. Interment will be in Hilldale cemetery.

Mar. 13, 1942 McDonald PA Record-Outlook

**Mrs. Pauline HENRY THIELET**, 54, died at 2:40 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 1942, in her home in Cecil, following a three-month illness. She was born in Belgium and upon arrival in the United States locating in Noblestown. She and **Joseph THIELET** were married in 1906 in Cecil.

Besides her husband, she is survived by three sons: **George THIELET** of Hills, **Felix THIELET** of Cecil, and **Raymond THIELET** of Cecil, one daughter, Mrs. **William ROBERTS** of Pittsburgh; three brothers, **Felix HENRY** of Canonsburg, **Ferdinand HENRY** of Cecil, and **George HENRY** of Noblestown. There are six grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon in the THIELET home, conducted by the Rev. Alexandre MAGE, D. D., pastor of the Irons Memorial French U. P. church, McDonald. Burial was in the Venice cemetery.

Mar. 13, 1942 McDonald PA Record-Outlook

**Mrs. Mary SOUFFRANT CARLY**, 62, widow of **Fortney CARLY**, died at 2:20 p.m. Thursday, March 5, 1942, in her home on the Noblestown road at Sturgeon, after an illness of only a few hours.

A daughter of Mrs. **Mary WAUTHIER SOUFFRANT** of Sturgeon and the late **Alexander SOUFFRANT**, she was born September 23, 1879, in Belgium. Coming to the United States at an early age, Mrs. CARLY had been a resident of Sturgeon the past 45 years.

Besides her mother, she is survived by one son, **August CARLY** at home; three brothers; **August SOUFFRANT**, **Jules SOUFFRANT**, and **Firmin SOUFFRANT**, all of Sturgeon; two sisters, Mrs. John (**Augusta**) **PUSKAR** of Columbus, Ohio, and Mrs. William (**Phoebe**) **RENNEKAMP** of McKees Rocks. There are two grandchildren. Mr. CARLY died in 1929.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon in the CARLY home, conducted by the Rev. Father ERKINS, pastor of St. Patrick's church, Noblestown. Burial was in Robinson's Run cemetery.

**McDonald Woman's Nephew Decorates King's Casket**

Apr. 6, 1934 McDonald PA Record-Outlook

Mrs. **Charlotte SUPLIT** of Valley street has received word from Belgium that her nephew **Albert ROUSSEAU** made the arch decorations (chapelle ardente) for the casket of the late King Albert of Belgium.

**Forty Years Ago: July 10, 1897:**

McDonald PA Record-Outlook

**Joseph DESCUTNER** went to Belgium on a pleasure trip; **J. B. MASQUELIER** has worked himself from a coal miner to a fine carpenter. He has built a house for John REED, and is adding a new room to the Robb School.

**Thirty Years Ago: August 21, 1907**

**Herman DHANS** and Miss Virginia **DEBLANDER**, both of Primrose, were married August 28 in Steubenville.

**F. E. CHARLIER**'s team of sorrels ran away and caused considerable damage. They ran into George CRAWFORD's rig in front of PERRIN & BROWN's and almost demolished the buggy. Tony CHARMAR, the driver, was thrown against an iron post but soon recovered;

**The Warner Glass Co.** has resumed operations after a shutdown of 2 months. They will start with 60 blowers, later increasing it to 140.

## News Items

From the July 24, 1897 McDonald PA Outlook, Extracted by Victoria Hospodar Valentine

### New Citizens

Of the ninety-two men from McDonald who, on the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., in the Washington Court, declared their intentions to become citizens of the United States, forty-three are natives of Belgium, twenty-eight of France, six of Italy, four of Ireland, four of Scotland, four of Austria, two of Germany, one of England. As of those who have been heretofore naturalized in McDonald, four-fifths of these are French-speaking people. The children of these people become Americanized in language in the public schools quicker, perhaps, than any other non-English speaking children. A people, moreover, with the culture and the republican ideas that are inoculated wherever the French language holds sway, will be most useful politically in the next generation in McDonald. Following are the names of those who took out papers on this occasion:

#### Natives of Belgium

Jean MICHAUX  
Emile GOFFART  
Jean Baptiste DEBACKER  
Camille TASSIN  
Amie GAUCHI  
Clement BAILAT  
Adrian RIGANT  
Marcel LEROY  
Francois LEBON  
Zephirin CHANTRENNE  
Jorachim Oscar LAINE  
Pierre Joseph DINDAL  
Constant BACU  
Leopold Prosper DINDAL  
Floriant BOHY

Charles Louis HAINAUT  
Henry NOWE  
Joseph VANDERBOSH  
Charles PIERARD  
Louis VINCK  
Edmund VANDER BOSECHE  
Elie JACKMIN  
Alexander PORIGNEAUX  
Louis HANS  
Philibert DEGUINGEL  
Joseph ELOI  
Victor LEBON  
Francois VANDECTSYE  
F. P. VANDERVIGAETE  
Ambrose LAINE

Clement BETTEM  
Leopold DELCORDE  
Vital LEMMENS  
Sylvain JAUNTE  
J. Benoit VANDENVEGAET  
Charles THYS  
Philibert BERWEIRT  
Arthur TRICO  
Francois CONNEN  
Louis VANDROP  
Jean Baptiste DUBOIS  
Sylvain COLERY  
Frederick NOEL

#### From France

Francois GILLIS  
Joseph Clement BORRELLY  
Henri BERNARD  
J. B. CARLIER  
Louis CHAMBOREDON  
Henri DUBOIS  
Arsene GARZAIL  
Vivant BOBIN  
Peter SAINTENOY  
Louis PALLEQUER

Joseph RIEU  
Etienne CUBIN  
E. TEISSIER  
Joseph ARGENSON  
Emile DUMAS  
Anselme Alfred BONNET  
Louis M. ELDIN  
Prosper FLORENT  
Alexandre BERNARD  
Frederick PRADINES

Louis PHILLIPPE  
Theodore FRANCOIS  
Alphonse B. CHAZAL  
Firmin DEJOUX  
Calixte FERRIER  
Maurice COSTE  
A. SAUNNIER  
Desire DEBROCK



### Cuesmes: From 1830 to 1914

<http://www.chez.com/borinage/cuesm%2002.htm>

**1832:** a cholera epidemic fell upon the city, at the same time as a new famine due to the lack of crops, scavenging of the masses and the occupation of the port of Antwerp by the Dutch with whom we were at war and whom we pushed back.

**1835,** the creation of societies such as the Levant du Flénu bring new markets with France and Belgium's center region where the Cuesmes coalmines supply glassworks, steelworks and smeltworks.

During the first 1/3 of the 19<sup>th</sup> century steam triumphed. The Coalmining Society of the Levant sets up a steam-powered extraction machine and Mr. Lardinois adds a steam engine to his mill on Rue de Flénu (today Brasserie). This invention brought about much change for the mines: suppression in part of human and animal labor, for the mills, suppression of windmills and

water wheels to move the mills.

**1845,** There are 3,000 inhabitants in Cuesmes. More and more buildings come up. The local and religious administrations move their headquarters to the center of the village (today's Grand'Place), as Pont-de-Pierre becomes a hazardous place to stay due to the mines and more and more disastrous floods due to "la Trouille".

**1846** Building of the new schools and the vestry, in Greco-Roman style.

**1850:** First kermis in the village, to which flock all the people of the neighboring towns.

Six years later (in **1856**): opening of the railroad line from Mons to Frameries, Genly, etc. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1856 King Leopold II comes for a visit and Mr Plumet, Mayor at the time receives him with great pomp.

**1862**: The population reaches 4,400 inhabitants. Opening of the public market where many merchants come each week. The population continues to increase and soon reaches 8,395 inhabitants between 1862 and 1890, due to the following factors:

- construction (1866-67) of the Centre Railroad lines: - Flénu-Haine-St-Pierre, via Cibly
- 
- Opening of the Arsenal in 1878
- Opening of phosphate wells of la Malogne, Roland and Mortiau (1880-1885);
- Opening of some small steel factories, soap factories, shoe manufactures, etc...

**1866**, another cholera epidemic causes the death of 267 people, and caused to have the section known as “18” razed to the ground for sanitation reasons. By the end of the century the village saw the birth of several associations of recreation, art and sports. Ballrooms were built here and there and the liveliest sections of town in those days were undoubtedly the Ponton and the Marais, where the young people would gather for the kermesses. These were always presided over by the captains accompanied by their ladies, tradition which is still alive today.

**1876**: the village kiosque is built.

**1882**: Cholera rears its ugly head again, especially in the sections of the Troubiot and the Mottelette.

**1890**: the nuns begin to teach at their new location on the Grand'Rue, previously owned by **Dr. Deneufbourg**.

Around 1890 everything was going from bad to worse for the working class: strikes, constant conflicts which often ended in bloody riots between the “haves” and the “have nots”, like the one that took place on the Avenue de Jemappes, at the end of the Road d'Eugies.



Young people today have no idea of the heavy price the comforts which they enjoy cost their ancestors in blood and tears.

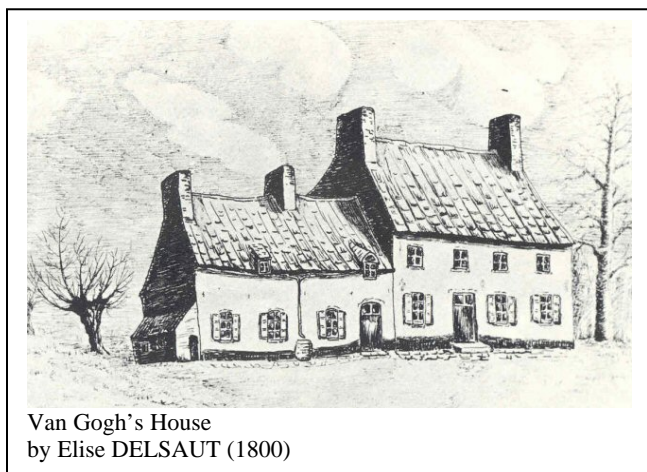
**1892**: Cholera reappears a third time.

**1897**: The Protestants of Cuesmes, who met in the home of the famous Van Goght, on Rue du Pavillon, dedicate their new temple on Rue du Cerisier.

**1900**: a young man resident of the Troubiot, following the example of the horse-drawn trolleys found in Brussels, sets up a carriage service pulled by 4 strong horses that travel between Frameries and Mons, with a stop on the Grand'Place, at the Café du Jonquois (today called “Salon Rousseau”). He didn't do very well however as he declared bankruptcy in 1902. He paved the way however for MM. Limbourg and Capron.

**1905**: Due to the constant increase in population the local authorities decide to build a school Rue du Cerisier.

At this time some Cuesmois emigrate to America, hoping to find their fortune on the new continent.



Van Gogh's House  
by Elise DELSAUT (1800)

Some young men enlisted in the Foreign Legion and took part in the Abyssinie Campaign, the Madagascar Campaign and the Tonkin Campaign. Their conduct was remarkable.

On **February 6<sup>th</sup>, 1906**, Cuesmes was devastated by floodings. The Marais, a portion of the “Rue du Chemin de fer”, the Troubiot le Wez-Bouleux and Pont-de-Pierre were engulfed by water which reached depths of 7-8 feet in certain places. 250 families had to be evacuated. No fatalities but the evacuees lost everything.

**M. Deharvengt**, director of the mines, visited the site and developed a plan to help the steam-powered pumping station of Pont-de-Pierre, with a dike that would serve as a dam. At the center of the construction there would be a large ditch to redirect the water.

**1910**, the first electric posts begin to appear along the sidewalks, bringing to each home a clear light that was sweet to the eyes and replace the old oil lanterns.

**1912**: an electric pumping station was built at the Wez-Bouleux. The same year there was an attempt to establish a trolley line between Frameries and Mons. This was fruitful but it was not a direct line as travellers had to get off and cross on foot to reach the top of Rue Emile Vandervelde, until the viaduct and the Cuesmes-Etat embankment were built.

In 1912 the “Maison du Peuple” was built. Two years later the Héribus well was dug.

**1914** marked the beginning of the First World War.



**Belgians Naturalized in Missouri - 1816-1955**

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/naturalization/>

<b>Name</b>	<b>Record Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Record Date</b>	<b>County</b>
Amidei, James	22-Jun-1922	Macon	Delfosse, Sebastian		St Louis City
Banche, Norbert	19 Nov 1856		Delhougne, Edmund	15 Oct 1894	St Louis City
Behiels, Edmund	31 Dec 1898	St Louis City	Delporte, Valentine	9-Oct-1900	St Louis City
Beker, John		St Louis City	DeMalt, Peter	29 Sep 1896	St Louis City
Berre, Leo	10-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Demey, Henry	21 Oct 1872	St Louis City
Bertrand, Andre	20 Oct 1866	St Louis City	Denolet, Seraphin		St Louis City
Blanckaert, August	12 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Desmet, Francis	19 Mar 1859	Perry
Blanckaert, Augusten D.	6 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Deteinne, Henry	5 Jun 1884	St Louis City
Blondel, Henry	27 Oct 1876	St Louis City	Deteinne, Henry	5 Jun 1884	St Louis City
Bollard, Louis	15-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Detienne, Constance	7 Oct 1884	St Louis City
Bongartz, John	11-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Detienne, Constance	7 Oct 1884	St Louis City
Bonivar, Gustave		St Louis City	Devoov, Joseph	12 Sep 1868	St Louis City
Bouckaert, Ferdinand	8-Oct-1900	St Louis City	deWestblaw, John	2 Mar 1887	Cole
Bougartz, John	11-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Dewit, Edward	26 Aug 1868	St Louis City
Boverie, John		Ste Genevieve	DeWitte, Constant	2 Jan 1860	St Louis City
Brockler, Leo.	27 Sep 1886	St Louis City	Didier, Octavo	22 Sep 1888	St Louis City
Broeckaert, Henry		St Louis City	Diels, John Francis	9 Dec 1858	St Louis City
Broeckardt, Leopold	18 Oct 1898	St Louis City	Diericks, John	12-Oct-1900	St Louis City
Bruggeman, Peter	24 Aug 1896	St Louis City	Dietz, Emanuel	13 Mar 1899	St Louis City
Bull, Thomas	15 Oct 1894	St Louis City	Draelants, Robert	1867	Cooper
Busschart, Edward	15 Oct 1888	St Louis City	Druyts, John B.	11 Sep 1843	St Louis City
Callewaert, John	9-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Dupont, Joseph		St Louis City
Callewart, Frank	3 Sep 1868	St Louis City	Dussard, Jean Baptiste	16 Sep 1868	St Louis City
Camertin, Frank		St Louis City	Dyck, John Francis	4 Nov 1864	St Louis City
Camertine, Frank	27 Oct 1876	St Louis City	Eisenhart, Aloys	24 Jan 1881	St Louis City
Canwels, Jerome	9 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Elet, John Anthony	18 Aug 1847	St Louis City
Ceulenane, Edward	10-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Emerson, Henry		St Louis City
Chigs, E.		St Louis City	Emmesoete, John	20 Sep 1866	St Louis City
Claeys, Laurentius	25 Oct 1876	St Louis City	Evertz, Harry	24 Sep 1888	St Louis City
Coninck, Andrew		St Louis City	Faver, Adolph	5 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Coosemans, Ferdinand		St Louis City	Faver, Elis.	9-Oct-1900	St Louis City
Cordiner, Lambert	13 Sep 1886	St Louis City	Faver, Louis	5 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Crets, P. E. Leon	17 Oct 1892	St Louis City	Felpak, Charles	5 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Dax, Thos.	3 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Ford, August	28 Aug 1868	St Louis City
Day, Charles		St Louis City	Francis, Felix Joseph	6 Mar 1860	St Louis City
De Bisschop, Jos.	12 Oct 1886	St Louis City	Franea, Edmond	16 Oct 1888	St Louis City
De Budt, Ferdinand	10 Oct 1874	Cole	Gauthier, Adam	14 Oct 1872	St Louis City
De Neff, Peter	4 Aug 1876	Cole	Goossens, Bruno	23-Oct-1908	Perry
De Sutton, Louis	18-Apr-1905	Perry	Goossens, Bruno	3-Dec-1912	Perry
DeBacker, Charles Lewis	4-Oct-1904	St Louis City	Hahn, Henry	5 Jun 1865	St Louis City
DeBacker, Edw.	2 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Hairson, John B.	7 Oct 1896	St Louis City
DeBecker, John	1858	Cooper	Hanbrecht, John		St Louis City
DeBlicck, John		St Louis City	Hancart, Alfred	3-May-1916	Bates
Deblieck, John	28 Jul 1847	St Louis City	Haydark, Frank J.	13 Oct 1880	St Louis City
Debudt, Ferdinand	11 Oct 1880	St Louis City	Henneberg, Alex	27 Sep 1886	St Louis City
deClercg, Charles	23 Mar 1857	St Louis City	Hennebert, Nicholas	10 Oct 1888	St Louis City
DeCoster, Charles		St Louis City	Herman, August F.	8-Oct-1900	St Louis City
DeCostor, August	1-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Hermann, Jno.	12 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Dedonde, Joseph		St Louis City	Herrebut, Joannes		St Louis City
Dedoyard, John G.	15 Jun 1892	St Louis City	Hespele, Louis	9-Oct-1900	St Louis City
DeGeter, Peter B.	28 Sep 1895	St Louis City	Heylen, Louis	9 Dec 1858	St Louis City
DeGeter, Peter B.	28 Sep 1895	St Louis City	Hoefkens, Frank X.	28-Apr-1905	St Louis City
Dejanghe, Francis	18 May 1863	St Louis City	Hoeman, Wilbur	15-Oct-1900	St Louis City
DeKeersgietor, Henri		St Louis City	Holderbecker, John C.	4 Aug 1860	St Louis City
DeLaOhsuna, F. M. M.		St Louis City	Ide, Emile	15 Aug 1878	Perry
Delforge, Emil	3 Jun 1896	St Louis City	John, Nicholas	16 Feb 1865	
Delfosse, Emil	5 Oct 1896	St Louis City	L???, Edward	21 Nov 1871	Cole
			Lajosche, Jule	9 Oct 1896	St Louis City

<b>Name</b>	<b>Record Date</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Record Date</b>	<b>County</b>
Lambert, Joseph		St Louis City	Pickwi, Peter	11 Oct 1880	St Louis City
Lambrecht, Antoin	24 Dec 1867	St Louis City	Picraux, Julius	5-Nov-1900	St Louis City
Lambrecht, Jean Francois	24 Dec 1867	St Louis City	Picraux, Theodore	5-Nov-1900	St Louis City
Lambrecht, Joseph	2 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Pire, William	11 Oct 1876	St Louis City
Lambrechts, Anton	19 Sep 1888	St Louis City	Purnelle, Claudes Eugene		St Louis City
Lambrechts, Julius	2 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Raybrook, Amandus	2 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Langree, Louis	13 Sep 1886	St Louis City	Regnier, Mathew	15 Oct 1888	St Louis City
Laros, Charles	15 Oct 1888	St Louis City	Renson, Servais		St Louis City
Latour, Emanuel	5 Feb 1861	St Louis City	Renterghem, Edward	23 Oct 1889	Cole
Lauwaret, Theopfeil	14-Feb-1918	Macon	Renterghem, Peter	26 Sep 1888	Cole
Lavans, John	15-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Retallack, Jno. B.	16 Sep 1886	St Louis City
Lebeau, Alphonse J.	28-Apr-1905	St Louis City	Roels, B.	17 Oct 1881	Cole
Lefebure, John F.	7 Jul 1860	St Louis City	Roeser (Roeder), Pierre	17 Jan 1865	
Lefevre, Emile	29-Apr-1911	Bates	Rousscan, Charles	20 Apr 1874	St Louis City
LeFevre, Ernest P. J.	8/7/1920 (filed)	Bates	Ruels, Leonard	21 Oct 1876	St Louis City
LeFevre, Ernest P. J.	30-Oct-1922	Bates	Sarot, Desire	18 May 1874	St Louis City
Lefevre, Ernest R. J.	7-Aug-1920	Bates	Scarmier, Frank Joseph	13-May-1913	Bates
Lefevre, Peter Paul	20 Apr 1840	St Louis City	Schenofsky, Jules C. A.	18 Nov 1865	St Louis City
Lehoucg, Frank		St Louis City	Schonnettes, T. C.	14 Sep 1868	St Louis City
Lelievre, Aug.	12 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Schultse, Edward	21 Mar 1854	St Louis City
Levy, Leopold	12 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Semetier, Constant	2 Jan 1860	St Louis City
Levy, Silvain	4 Apr 1862	St Louis City	Seton, John B.		St Louis City
Libert, Gasper J.		St Louis City	Severen, John P.	5 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Liebrecht, Edward W.	29 Sep 1896	St Louis City	Shauss, Joseph	20 Sep 1872	Buchanan
Loix, Jules		St Louis City	Slipe, Henry	23 May 1867	St Louis City
Longree, Louis	13 Sep 1886	St Louis City	Smidts, John B.	12 May 1846	St Louis City
Lozel, Peter	10 Apr 1865		Sonnen, Joseph	1 Oct 1886	St Louis City
Maas, Jacob	30 Mar 1876	St Louis City	Sontag, Peter	30 Oct 1872	St Louis City
Maes, Antonius	19 Mar 1860	St Louis City	Spies, John	14-Sep-1914	St Louis City
Maes, Peter	19 Mar 1860	St Louis City	Steenkiste, Constant	26 Aug 1890	St Louis City
Maesseele, Angelus	11 Sep 1843	St Louis City	Steyers, John	28 May 1855	Perry
Male, Ferdinand Von	20 Jan 1854	St Louis City	Stoens, Remi		St Louis City
Mandeville, Peter J.	1 Oct 1884	St Louis City	Stuyvaert, Desire J.	27 Oct 1876	St Louis City
Markowski, Edward	29 May 1896	St Louis City	Swanwert, Edward		St Louis City
Massart, Peter	20 Oct 1876	St Louis City	Tarlus, Frank	10 Apr 1865	
Masure, Philip H.		St Louis City	Therefay, Michael	13 Oct 1892	Buchanan
Mathaus, Joseph	14 Sep 1864		Thiers, Frank	26 Sep 1864	
Mathy, Lambert	27 Sep 1886	St Louis City	Tock, Nicholas	14-Jun-1902	St Louis City
Mauguoi, Josef		St Louis City	Toye, Theophile	13-Oct-1900	St Louis City
Mellis, Frank	5 Oct 1896	St Louis City	Valemons, John Francis	1846 Cooper	
Minager, Edward		St Louis City	Van Asche, Francis Ludocus	12 May 1846	St Louis City
Moera??, Peter	20 Jan 1872	Cole	Van Cannseyty, Constant	27 Mar 1852	Perry
Moorlghe, Peter Von	15 Oct 1876	St Louis City	Van Loo, John	11-Feb-1918	Cole
Morham, Yoo	15 Oct 1898	St Louis City	Van Oest, Peter	21-May-1910	Cole
Morham, Yoo	15-Oct-1900	St Louis City	VanAcker, Antonius	7 Sep 1892	St Louis City
Naeseno, Albert	15-Oct-1900	St Louis City	VanBeers, Joseph	25-Feb-1905	St Louis City
Naeseus, Albert	15-Oct-1900	St Louis City	Vandemale, Victor	6 Nov 1860	St Louis City
Nicaise, Albert	10/8/1910 (filed)	Bates	Vandepopuliare, Gustaaf	2-May-1921	Platte
Nicaise, Albert	10/8/1910 (filed)	Bates	Vanderbeke, Heeter		St Louis City
Nicaise, Albert	2-Nov-1912	Bates	Vanderburg, Anton	18 Oct 1876	St Louis City
Nobus, Edmond	2-Nov-1907	Perry	Vanderpool, Martin	1857	Cooper
Nobus, Edmond	8-Jun-1911	Perry	Vanderstralten, Florent		St Louis City
Noel, Armand		St Louis City	Vanderyvere, Henri	9-Oct-1900	St Louis City
Nuytens, Angelus		St Louis City	VanDewalle, Peter		St Louis City
Olderwith, Bruno	17 May 1860	St Louis City	VanDewalle, Peter	15 Aug 1888	St Louis City
Onderwaater, W.		St Louis City	VanDewynkel, Theophiel	2 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Oppeel, August	4-Nov-1904	St Louis City	Vanhardenberg, Peter J.	20 Sep 1888	St Louis City
Peeters, Ludwig	18 Oct 1872	St Louis City	VanHeers, Leopold	27 Sep 1886	St Louis City
Perles, Elie	24 Aug 1874	St Louis City	VanHoeke, Noe		St Louis City
Philippart, Peter	26 Oct 1882	St Louis City	VanHoeke, Noe	14 Sep 1896	St Louis City

Name	Record Date	County	Name	Record Date	County
VanHoorbeke, Alphonse	7 Sep 1857	St Louis City	Vermis, Edward	15 Aug 1888	St Louis City
Vanhoos, G. Fred.		St Louis City	Verschelde, Frederick		St Louis City
VanHotegeem, Peter		St Louis City	Verstringer, Camil	8-Oct-1900	Perry
VanHotegeem, Peter	15 Aug 1888	St Louis City	Verstringer, Camil	15-Dec-1906	Perry
VanLinden, Peter	23 Oct 1876	Iron	Verstringer, Camil	13-Dec-1906	Perry
Vanlinden, Peter	23 Oct 1876	Iron	Van Kerckhove, Livinus	13-Jan-1908	Jefferson City, MO
Vanlinden, Peter	28 Oct 1878	Iron	Von Luh, Peter	3 Jun 1884	Cole
VanMol, Edmund	24 Jan 1893	St Louis City	Von Luh, Peter	3 Jun 1884	Cole
Vanorshaven, Francis		St Louis City	Von Male, Ferdinand	20 Jan 1854	St Louis City
Vanpeterghan, Edward	1 Oct 1884	St Louis City	Von Moorlghem, Peter	25 Oct 1876	St Louis City
VanRaemdonck, Leo.	21 Dec 1893	St Louis City	Vondevenne, Jos.	12 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Vanriette, Aurelin	7-Nov-1904	Bates	Vuylsteke, Mauriets O.	25-Sep-1906	St Louis City
Vanriette, Aurelin	7-Nov-1904	Bates	Wannyn, John	15-Sep-1906	St Louis City
Vanriette, Joseph	7-Nov-1904	Bates	Weiss, John	19 Mar 1872	Buchanan
VanRobaey, Edmond		St Louis City	Wewerka, William	18-Mar-1914	Gasconade
Ver Strynege, Paul	17-Oct-1908	Perry	Weyland, Leonard	19 Oct 1874	St Louis City
Ver Strynege, Paul	14-Apr-1909	Perry	Weyler, Peter	6 Oct 1896	St Louis City
Ver Strynege, Pol	8-Jul-1902	Perry	Wilde, Jules De	15-Oct-1908	Perry
Verbruggen, Frank	13 Oct 1893	St Louis City	Wilde, Jules De	30-Aug-1912	Perry
Verheyden, Pierre		St Louis City	Wilde, Louis D.	29 Sep 1896	St Louis City
Verheyden, Pierre	16 Apr 1857	St Louis City	Williams, Armand		St Louis City
Vermeulen, Peter Joseph	7 Sep 1857	St Louis City	Wouters, Jas.	9 Oct 1896	St Louis City
			Younghe, Frank	15 Aug 1859	

## Emigration to America – Part 2

Submitted by Guy Gallez

“...It has already been ten years since a Frenchman built the first house here and in less than another ten this place will surpass Paris. Here in Milwaukee, there is a bishop and 4 Catholic priests. Churches are open from 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. on Sunday, and they are well filled. All shops and saloons are closed and there never are any quarrels about religion. Baptism, marriage, and burial services are free. Gendarmes, guards, gentlemen, and priests cannot be recognized by their dress; they are all civilians. Nobody here is a lord no matter how rich he may be. Craftsmen are not so well off, because everybody buys everything in the store: like plows of cast iron, wagons, carts, harrows, milk churns, good boots, everything one needs for agriculture. These craftsmen have killed off their own trade by asking ten times as much as their labor deserved.

For a wagon, a cartwright and smith asked 700 to 800 frs., and in the shops one can buy one for 150 frs. For a pair of boots, the shoemaker wanted 28 frs. ; in the shops they were priced at 8 to 10 frs. The shoemaker with his stinking leather apron asks more in Belgium for a pair of toe pieces than one pays here for a new pair of boots. The States have taken care to fill up the stores.

Boards are sold here at the sawmills, planed and ready for use at 40 frs. for 1000 feet. Land is bought one hour from town for 30 frs. per hectare (2.47 acres) and a little further for 6.40 frs. Rent per hectare is 2 frs. A fat hog is sold for 10 frs.; at a distance of six hours further, it goes for 0.50 frs. There are no hog dealers here. The young hogs, 6 weeks old, are transformed into sausages and they taste good. I also have 2 pregnant hogs, a few chickens and ducks. A pregnant cow or a cow with a young calf is sold for 40 to 50 frs. Here the cow is always sold together with the calf. Cows are heavier than in Europe, but not as high on their feet and they can bellow tremendously. They never take shelter, and they are always fat. Their meat is sold at 2 centimes a pound. Horses are cheap, but much smaller than the Belgian ones. The best and the most beautiful ones are those which are born of a wild heifer and an English mare. These heifers are but 4 feet high, but very beautiful. The sheep are the same as in Belgium.

All the birds that we know in Belgium are also to be found here, except crows and titmice; partridges are like big hens and sit as well on trees as on the ground. The hares are white and there are many deer. There are no asses here. The farmers' wives sit on small horses, and the farmers ride in carriages.

Everything here is sumptuous. There are people here from all nations, Swedes, people from Essen, Danes, Norwegians, Pomeranians, Hanoverians, Germans, Belgians, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Irishmen, etc. The women from Norway wear the same dresses as the Belgians, but they have no lace in their bonnets. One cannot understand a word of their language. They are building a city called Misky (Muskego), seven hours distant from ours. In our city, they were all Germans and Irishmen.

We can understand and speak German very well. We have more trouble with English. My daughter goes to an English school in Milwaukee and studies well.

We live on the Western border of Lake Illinois, in the land of the Kickapoos. These savages are still here, but they are not like they are depicted. They are modest, kindhearted and civilized, and they invent works of art. When one meets them, they always travel in groups. They greet you, smile and continue on their way without making the slightest noise. Their dress consists of a blue or white blanket on their back, their legs are circled with red cloth and hanging from each ear, they have a lot of tin or copper plates.

*They paint their face and their breast white or black. On their head they have stiff hair standing upright. Many of them are armed with expensive guns or with bow and arrows. They make artful woven goods, baskets, carpets, bags, and ladies' hats. They are smart people; many know French and tell stories more than 300 years old. They are haughty but liberal and do not recognize kings. When you tell them "the French are coming," they shout loudly and stamp their feet on the ground. One can not distinguish the men from the women: they tear out their facial hair. All have broad faces and they walk in pigeon toed manner. Close to my house and on my land, there are some of their graves. They consist of a heap of soil close to a tree on which they sculpture, very cleverly, the likeness of the deceased. When the moon shines, they hunt all night. They do not know money. If you have a new cent, you can buy a beautiful horse from them. Their horses are very well trained and do not need a bridle. They have good hooves and never have to be shod.*

*This spring, all the savages are going to be driven across the Mississippi River. The troops are already in town. Every citizen who wants to join the troops receives 99 acres of land. I would like to go, too, but my wife does not want me to do it. She says I would do better to buy 99 acres. We had to wander for 1,930 hours without being pursued and we should not be the pursuers of the savages who have not done us any harm.*

*When we visited them in their huts, they gave us cooked deer meat, while in our own family, we often were not offered anything and, said she, to return bad for good is only the fashion in Belgium.*

*With all that, one should not imagine that everybody is happy here. I have a neighbor, a nobleman from Luxembourg, who has a lot of land. He did nothing but eat and drink and whore, like the aristocrats in Europe are wont to do, but his purse is empty, his credit is extinct, and he had forgotten to reap his harvest. He had planted potatoes, and they were so overshadowed [choked with weeds] that he could no longer find them when he wanted to harvest them. Now he sits there without food on 160 acres of the most beautiful and the best land I have ever seen. Here one has to do one's own work and can become rich in 4 years.*

*The farmer here is also butcher and carpenter; he draws and refines sugar. He spins the wool of his sheep; he makes gin; he makes bricks and chalk. Among the farmers there are tailors and shoemakers. They shave themselves and the farmers cut each other's hair. In all these things, we help one another; and thus the farmer grows rich and in a few years, he has a carriage with four wheels and the women have Indian horses. Pretty soon, my wife will also have a little horse.*

*Everything here is opulent. The daughters of the workingmen wear hats with feathers and black taffeta dresses. The women here have a lot to say, but no money. The daughters are in the same position. When a girl marries, be she rich or poor, she does not get anything else but the bed in which she sleeps. All the gold is distributed among the sons, but the sons have to do all the work; the daughters do not do a thing.*

*When we left Woumen, everybody said we were crazy, and when we arrived in Rochester, in the land of the Iroquois on the Sunday when there is kermesse in Woumen, 32 ships full of crazy Europeans had already arrived there. Many of them had already bought land and they were cured of their craziness. In the summer of 1844, 18,000 immigrants arrived in New York. Four or five hours from here, there is a big stretch of land as large as Veurne-Ambacht where I could get up to 2,470 hectares (6,101 acres). If the Belgians had a little courage, they could be happy here with a little money, but what should I say, the Belgians do not want to be independent; they do not know how things are here. Here are nothing but free men, and all are good Christians. Swearing, cheating, insulting each other none of this happens here. The way to get here is not easy, but devilishly long. The trip costs 200 frs., and one is allowed 100 lbs. of luggage and all currencies are accepted. When one comes, one has to have at least 2,000 frs. to buy land and to live on for a year. You can find me at one hour's distance from Milwaukee, on the Miski Rd. My name is unknown here. In the town, everybody calls me the "Flamànder." Everybody has to work for two days on the Miski Rd. to improve the road and to help build bridges. This accounts for all taxes, patent, excise, and personal. Here we can freely look out of our windows. The smoke rises freely from our chimneys. Our dogs are free to bark. We carry our goods to a free city. Our troops are free' troops and all this constitutes that independence to which the Belgians are so opposed. For when one has to do with independent spirits, it is impossible to live at somebody else's expense; and that would not please the Belgians. Although I write this truly, I would not have as my purpose to entice you to come here. It is enough for me to be here; and I would be unable to make any of you here happy or unhappy. It is up to you to scrutinize my letter and to see if you could make a living here. Money is not enough. One has to have good hands.*

*I am building a two story house with a tower. A good house will not cost me more than 120 frs. Here one can build a house in one day. One uses cement in wooden frames. A church takes four days to build. The churches here look like those in Belgium.*

*On our trip, we suffered much. My wife stayed in bed all the time. But as soon as she set foot on land, she was cured; and I got land sickness which lasted 10 weeks. I lived for 3 weeks with my neighbor, Michiel Chaupaert from Essen Hamburg. We suffered a lot, but we were lucky. The first sea voyage has little significance. One is unaware of danger and one lives with it. We are not going to risk a second sea voyage. It would be a disaster for us. Who would leave 99 acres of good land to get maybe 40 acres in Flanders?*

*Although land is not expensive here, it yields an abundant harvest. I have two kettles in which to make maple sugar, and that alone would be enough for my subsistence. I intend to cultivate only 6 acres of land, and on the rest, I shall keep cows, sheep, chickens, ducks, etc. Wool, butter, and eggs are not expensive, and they require little work. The air here is good and healthy. One can see very far. In wintertime, it freezes, not as much as in Belgium, though, and the days are longer. In summertime, the weather is very unstable. In spring, there is a lot of dew and overcast skies. It thunders a lot and sometimes, all day long. But one never hears anything about accidents, and one never sees lightning strike.*

*Here we plant corn, tobacco, melons, potatoes, barley, oats, and after all that, flax that grows very high and is very expensive, because it requires a lot of work.*



*One finds here everything as in Belgium except asses, jays, and lunatics. It seems that Europe has the monopoly on these. Animals are much tamer here than in our country. When one buys a wild cow, after two days, she refuses to leave the farm. When one throws 4 piece of bread to a wild dog, he is yours. Squirrels come and play at a distance of 3 to 4 feet, and they look at my work. It seems that all animals require man to feed them.*

*There are 26 states and 3 territories. Our territory is not yet accepted as a state and will remain a territory, until it is sufficiently populated. It is called Wisconsin, and it stretches from the banks of the Illinois to the banks of the Mississippi, which makes it about 120 sq. hours large. Only the banks of the Illinois have yet been populated. If the state would be fully populated, it would be powerful enough to crush a European kingdom. At the border, one sees the inscription: "United States of America, Concordia et Fidelitas, Millions for Defense." There are 18 million people in the states.*

*There are few soldiers. If trouble starts, soldiers are everywhere. Nobody has to be drafted. In 3 days we can put 500,000 men in the field. The women make bullets, and every city delivers 100 tons of flour, 100 cows, 100 sheep. In one word, everybody co operates. Every man carries a gun with bullets he makes himself. It is no great feat to shoot with buckshot, but I use it and the first time I did so in America I killed 7 snipes.*

*When I arrived in Milwaukee, nobody could understand us. When we entered a café, a translator was called, and while all nations are represented here except Belgium, they were unable to find anybody who could translate Flemish. The vicar was a Belgian from Tournai, but he did not know a word of Flemish. We don't know, said the people, to which nation you belong, but still they are our brothers. There are a lot of Frenchmen here from Canada. Their language is so corrupted by savage tongues that it is completely unintelligible. The Germans and the Irish applied most of their money to the trip to America. They rent land for a year and in the meantime, they buy other land. All those who make a fortune here are Germans and Irish. Many Belgians could do the same if they had the guts to come. When one arrives here and buys land, most of the neighbors will offer him the hospitality of their houses. I have to do that, too, when other people are traveling. In all the houses, one can eat, drink, and sleep without charge. There is an article of the Constitution which says that all people are brothers and sisters.*



1872 Map of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

<http://www.snapshotsofthepast.com/milwaukee wisconsin 1872 panoramic map.html>

*I could have remained in the city and I could have made a lot of money by painting and writing, but that is not a safe way of making a living. I have found my livelihood by buying 99 acres of good land. I live in freedom, in harmony with Mother Earth. Do not think that by saying this I want to ridicule my homeland. That country is also good, but for him who has to eke out an existence, it is sometimes very hard. That has been my experience. I rented a shop at home. I had uncles and aunts and even a sister, who all lived in the same parish, but in five years' time, they did not once come into my shop. That sister would have liked to forget all about her only brother, thinking that he would drown at sea, or that wild beasts would kill him in America*

*Now they want to be kind to their brother in the other world. Your brother did not perish when the ship St. Louis was sunk on Lake Huron. I had already left it. As for the wild animals, your brother kills them and they taste good. You should not imagine that I left this world. If it were necessary. or if I should like to do so, I could reach Woumen in 29 days. Should it happen that I return to Belgium, I would not sell my possessions in America, for if Belgium would not suit me, I would return here.*

*We live well here and we hope, brothers and friends, that you over there may live as you desire.*

*A Happy New Year to all and my Best Wishes!*

*This is the second letter I send you, because I doubt that you have received the first. For around that time, 8 ships sank on the Lakes. Now we have a postal service by land.*

*Today, we start making sugar in two kettles. If anybody wants to come here, I would advise him not to come in spring. We had a long period of frost and the ice from the Northern Lakes has to come down. Sometimes these icebergs are from 500 to 600 feet high. If they hit you, you would not feel very well. You should take along a lot of bedding, for it is cold at sea. Take very little baggage along, because above 100 lbs. you have to pay extra. Farming is the best trade that I know. Rather hard to take is the first year.*

*Although one has money, courage and fortitude, it's hard to bear. To survive the second is not such a feat.*

*One manages to make ends meet. The third year things are, all a glow;*

*Money comes in easy flow. The fourth year one buys a horse and buggy;*

*One drives around for hours on the roads, soft and muggy.*

*A buffalo hide covers our feet*

*With which all my friends in Belgium, I greet. I greet you all with a thousand blessings.*

## Belgians in the 1901 Canadian Census: Vancouver, British Columbia

3.1	VAN ARK, George	12 Mar 1868	Belgium	lodger	1888	Comox
3.9	SMITH, James	17 Feb 1866	Ontario	head		Comox
3.9	SMITH, Mary	19 Dec 1875	Belgium	wife		Comox
3.9	SMITH, Elsie	23 Oct 1893	British Columbia	daughter		Comox
3.9	SMITH, Robert	26 Jun 1894	British Columbia	son		Comox
2.1	WOUWER, Alidor V	23 Oct 1867	Belgium	lodger	1889/1894	Esquimalt
1.11	VALERIE, Josephine	4 Jun 1880	Belgium	domestic		Nanaimo City
1.21	REMCH, Albert	31 Oct 1859	Germany	head	1884/1890	Nanaimo City
1.21	REMCH, Katie	24 Sep 1871	Belgium	wife	1889	Nanaimo City
1.21	REMCH, Fredy	25 Oct 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
1.21	REMCH, Mabel	2 Apr 1897	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
2.19	DOCILE, Cosmo	12 Mar 1862	Italy	head	1885	Nanaimo City
2.19	DOCILE, Clementine	5 Jul 1881	Belgium	wife	1895	Nanaimo City
2.19	DOCILE, Jassie	19-May-1900	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
2.2	VANDENENK, Marie	15 Jan 1878	Belgium	domestic	1889	Nanaimo City
3.2	MILLER, Constantin	19 Jun 1874	Belgium	head	1888/1890	Nanaimo City
3.2	MILLER, Mary	24 Oct 1878	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo City
3.16	DANDOFF, August	14 May 1862	Belgium	head	1886/1896	Nanaimo City
3.16	DANDOFF, Josephine	11 Oct 1881	Belgium	wife	1886	Nanaimo City
3.16	GUEULETTE, Joschin	17 Oct 1880	Belgium	bartender	1892	Nanaimo City
3.18	GREAU, Leopold	16 Jan 1858	Belgium	head	1896	Nanaimo City
3.18	GREAU, Selina	17 Sep 1860	Belgium	wife	1896	Nanaimo City
4.11	LEROY, Alphonse	7 May 1853	Belgium	head	1890	Nanaimo City
4.11	LEROY, Rose	12 Oct 1853	Belgium	wife	1890	Nanaimo City
4.11	LEROY, Alice	22 Oct 1884	Belgium	daughter	1890	Nanaimo City
4.11	LEROY, Levitta	10 Jan 1883	Belgium	son	1890	Nanaimo City
4.11	LEROY, Eugene	10 May 1886	Belgium	son	1890	Nanaimo City
4.19	STEWART, Duncan	18 Aug 1862	Nova Scotia	head		Nanaimo City
4.19	STEWART, Jeanetta	9 Feb 1860	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo City
4.19	STEWART, Hugh Hy	18 Jul 1887	USA	son		Nanaimo City
4.19	STEWART, Katie	14 Dec 1890	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
4.19	STEWART, Kenneth	9 Mar 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.19	STEWART, Duncan	23 Aug 1893	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.21	BIGET, Anthony	19 Aug 1856	France	head	1885	Nanaimo City
4.21	BIGET, Jennie	16 Dec 1857	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo City
4.21	DIMLOOF, Alice	20 Oct 1867	Belgium	head	1890	Nanaimo City
4.21	DIMLOOF, Alfred	20 Oct 1886	Belgium	son	1890	Nanaimo City
4.21	DIMLOOF, Hubert	12 Dec 1887	Belgium	son	1890	Nanaimo City
4.21	DIMLOOF, Levi	14 Oct 1891	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.21	DIMLOOF, Louisa	14 Dec 1892	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
4.21	DIMLOOF, Alice	25 Jun 1893	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
4.27	JUNKIN, Emma A	6 Aug 1886	Belgium	domestic		Nanaimo City
4.38	GERARD, Barard	19 Dec 1860	Belgium	head	1890	Nanaimo City
4.38	GERARD, Mary Pams	17 Apr 1861	Belgium	wife	1890	Nanaimo City
4.38	GERARD, Batistt	30 Apr 1886	Belgium	son	1890	Nanaimo City
4.38	GERARD, Jama	10 Nov 1889	Nova Scotia	son		Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Joachin	17 Dec 1855	Belgium	head	1888	Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Leoney	1 Oct 1859	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Cora	17 Jun 1883	Belgium	daughter	1888	Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Hector	13 Mar 1887	Belgium	son	1888	Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Felix	5 Mar 1889	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, August	17 Nov 1890	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, John B	14 Dec 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Alice	8 Jun 1894	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
4.35	GUILETTE, Leone	7 Mar 1896	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City

*Belgian Races Nov/28-109 October 2006*

4.37	DEVOS, Louis	6 Nov 1868	Belgium	head		Nanaimo City
4.37	DEVOS, Mary V	10 Apr 1871	Belgium	wife		Nanaimo City
4.37	DEVOS, Louis	9 Nov 1890	Belgium	son		Nanaimo City
4.37	DEVOS, Jennie	21 Jul 1895	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
4.45	WINKLEMAN, Rich	17 Mar 1871	Germany	head	1887	Nanaimo City
4.45	WINKLEMAN, Mary	15 Oct 1874	Belgium	wife	1889	Nanaimo City
4.45	WINKLEMAN, Leopold	1 Feb 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.45	WINKLEMAN, Lina	26 Jun 1893	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
4.45	WINKLEMAN, Felix	27 Oct 1895	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.45	WINKLEMAN, George	14 Mar 1897	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo City
4.47	DUCHENE, Mary	1883	Belgium	domestic	1890	Nanaimo City
4.49	ANDRE, August	6 May 1864	Belgium	head	1894	Nanaimo City
4.49	ANDRE, Philomene	7 Oct 1862	Belgium	wife	1894	Nanaimo City
4.49	ANDRE, Augustine	2 May 1888	Belgium	daughter	1894	Nanaimo City
4.49	ANDRE, Fontainetty	12 Jan 1891	Belgium	daughter	1894	Nanaimo City
4.49	ANDRE, Julia	6 Sep 1896	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo City
2.5	SCHOVART, John	1852	Belgium	head	1889	Nanaimo North
2.5	SCHOVART, M A	3 Jul 1854	Belgium	wife	1889	Nanaimo North
2.5	WILLMART, Ed	5 Jul 1849	Belgium	head	1888	Nanaimo North
2.5	WILLMART, Rose Le	10 Feb 1854	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo North
2.5	GUEULETTE, Joseph	18 May 1854	Belgium	head	1888	Nanaimo North
2.5	GUEULETTE, C	30 Aug 1863	Belgium	wife	1900	Nanaimo North
2.5	GUEULETTE, Alx	10 Sep 1882	Belgium	son	1891	Nanaimo North
2.5	GUEULETTE, L	30 Aug 1889	Belgium	daughter	1900	Nanaimo North
2.5	DAMONIST, Jos M	4 May 1873	Belgium	head	1894	Nanaimo North
2.5	VANDRIS, Philomene	Jun 1863	Belgium	widow	1894	Nanaimo North
2.5	VANDRIS, Jos	Aug 1886	Belgium	son	1894	Nanaimo North
2.5	VANDRIS, M	N/a 18--	Belgium	daughter	1894	Nanaimo North
2.5	VANDRIS, Jul	N/a 18--	Belgium	daughter	1894	Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, Emil	6 May 1861	Belgium	head	1893	Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, Pauline	22 Jul 1858	Belgium	wife	1893	Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, Emil	15 Jun 188?	Belgium	son	1893	Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, Joseph	10 May 1889	Belgium	son	1893	Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, John	9 Mar 1891	Belgium	son	1893	Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, George	26 Feb 1895	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.12	SALMON, Annie	19 Mar 1898	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, Frank	4 Sep 1860	Belgium	head		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, Marie	13 Jan 1866	Belgium	wife		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, Jennie		British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, Julia		British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, Julien		British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, ?		British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.12	ANDRE, ?		British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.12	MESO, Louis	23 Aug 1868	Belgium	head	1889	Nanaimo North
1.12	MESO, Lena	18 Apr 1878	Belgium	wife	1886	Nanaimo North
1.12	MESO, Louise	20 Aug 1895	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.12	MESO, Rosina	29 Dec 1898	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.12	DESIRE, Harry	8 Mar 1868	Belgium	head	1895/1897	Nanaimo North
1.12	DESIRE, Veronica	27 Mar 1876	Belgium	wife	1885	Nanaimo North
1.12	DESIRE, Benjamin	5 Dec 1896	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.12	TERRY, Augustine	Jun 1858	Belgium	head	1887	Nanaimo North
1.12	TERRY, Rosine	14 Aug 1854	Belgium	wife	1887	Nanaimo North
1.12	TERRY, Gustave	5 Mar 1885	Belgium	son	1887	Nanaimo North
1.12	TERRY, Julia	12 Mar 1888	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.13	TERRY, Fanny	22 Jul 1893	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.13	TERRY, George	12 Jul 1896	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.13	GURVANT, William	4 Apr 1840	Belgium	boarder	1888	Nanaimo North

1.13	DYHER, John B	1 Apr 1858	Belgium	head	1888	Nanaimo North
1.13	DYHER, Marie	27 Oct 1858	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo North
1.13	DYHER, Marie	13 Sep 1882	Belgium	daughter	1888	Nanaimo North
1.13	DYHER, Alphonse	25 Nov 1880	Belgium	son	1888	Nanaimo North
1.13	DYHER, Bert...	15 Aug 1891	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.13	DYHER, Louis	15 Jan 1897	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Victor	19 Sep 1859	Belgium	head		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Julies	2 Jul 1860	Belgium	wife		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Orvil	17 Jan 1883	Belgium	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Emanuel	7 Apr 1885	Belgium	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Camile	24 Jul 1889	Nova Scotia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Flieman	10 Apr 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	DEL COURT, Arthur	5 Jan 1899	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, John	28 Feb 1858	Belgium	head	1887	Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, Cecilia	19 Dec 1861	Belgium	wife	1887	Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, Martine	4 Jul 1888	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, Amelia	22 Mar 1890	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, Leon	12 Aug 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, Joseph	12 Mar 1895	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, August	4 Jul 1889	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.14	BECQUE, Laura	14 Apr 1889	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.14	SPRINTE, Helene?	19 Aug 1840	Belgium	head		Nanaimo North
1.20	FONTAINE, Alexander	14 Jul 1855	Belgium	head		Nanaimo North
1.20	FONTAINE, Leona1	2 Jul 1856	Belgium	wife		Nanaimo North
1.20	FONTAINE, William	7 Feb 1885	Belgium	son		Nanaimo North
1.22	CITTANO, Alex	40y old	Italy	head	1885	Nanaimo North
1.22	CITTANO, Prudence?	5 Nov 1879	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo North
1.22	CITTANO, Elise	7 Apr 1896	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.22	CITTANO, ?	29-Jun-1900	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.1	VANDENEUK, Julian	9 Mar 1860	Belgium	head	1888	Nanaimo North
1.1	VANDENEUK, Josephine	Feb 2 1867	Belgium	wife	1888	Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Felicien	13 Aug 1853	Belgium	head	1887/1896	Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Maria	22 Apr 1855	Belgium	wife	1887/1896	Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, James	13 Feb 1883	Belgium	son	1887/1896	Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Amie	27 Apr 1886	Belgium	daughter	1887/1896	Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Hilda	6 Nov 1889	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Felicien	2 Feb 1892	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Julian	5 Feb 1893	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.1	HAQUEBRIAUX, Clara	12 May 1899	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Francois	1845	Belgium	head	1887/1892	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Mary	1848	Belgium	wife	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Joachim	21 Sep 1876	Belgium	son	1887/1892	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Felix	Jun 1878	Belgium	son	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Andrew	May 1879	Belgium	son	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Malin	9 Jun 1880	Belgium	daughter	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Ester	Oct 1882	Belgium	son	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Henry	May 1884	Belgium	son	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Francois	10 Apr 1886	Belgium	daughter	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Louis	Jun 1887	Belgium	son	1887	Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, ?	2 Apr 1889	British Columbia	son		Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Julia	25 Feb 1891	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.2	DOUMONT, Susan	3 Mar 1892	British Columbia	daughter		Nanaimo North
1.2	METRAL, Charles	17 Dec 1852	Belgium	head		Nanaimo North
1.2	METRAL, ?	25 Sep 1856	Belgium	wife		Nanaimo North
1.2	METRAL, Pole	1888	Belgium	son		Nanaimo North
1.7	MEISSE, Lieven	24 Oct 1856	Belgium	head		Nanaimo North
1.7	MEISSE, Victorine	10 Dec 1856	Belgium	wife		Nanaimo North
1.7	MEISSE, Joseph	29 Jul 1879	Belgium	son		Nanaimo North

## Belgian Texans

The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio

<http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/publications/texansoneandall/belgian.htm>

The story of Belgians in Texas is diverse but hardly fragmented. Belgium has consistently sent priests, builders, scientists, musicians, professionals, craftspeople, and farmers out into the world. Although never in great immigrant numbers, Belgians and Belgian influence have been notable in Texas.

As part of La Salle's French colonial efforts in 1685, three priests born in Hainaut arrived: **Zenobius Membre**, **Maximus le Clerq**, and **Anastasius Douay**. Membre and le Clerq died in Texas during the Indian attack on Fort St. Louis, but Douay lived to tell Europe his story and the story of La Salle's death.

**Juan Banul**, a master blacksmith, was born in Brussels but when Belgium was under Spanish rule. Perhaps having a love of frontiers, Banul came to New Spain and moved north to San Antonio de Béxar by 1719. Banul accompanied the Marqués de Aguayo to East Texas on an expedition to build missions and presidios and stayed until 1723. Back in San Antonio, he did much of the ironwork at the missions of San Antonio de Valero and San José. In 1730 Banul and Maria Adriana García, a Flemish widow, were married. They lived at Valero, later called the Alamo, where Banul ran the blacksmith shop and sawmill.

Much later, in the 1850s, a Belgian stonemason, **Theodore Vander Straten**, helped repair the Alamo walls so the building could be occupied by the U.S. Army. Army designers, not interested in restoration, added the now-famous curve to the church façade.



Some Belgians arrived with strange stories. **Anton Diedrick**, walking in Antwerp in the 1840s, came across a murder in progress. The killers turned on him, but instead of murdering their witness, they kidnapped him and literally sold him as an impressed seaman. A virtual prisoner once aboard ship, Diedrick finally escaped in Galveston just in time for the Mexican War.

Speaking only Flemish, he was warmly welcomed by two recruiters for the U.S. Army. They asked his name, but when he began replying in some detail, he was stopped. "Ah, he's Dutch all over," one of the recruiters said. "We'll call him that."

So it was that **Anton Dutchallover** served in the war, survived, and lost the "all" from the middle of his new name.

Becoming a frontier scout, Dutchover joined Big Foot Wallace as shotgun rider on the infrequent San Antonio-El Paso runs in the 1850s. West Texas was well known for hostile climates, renegade Indians, and bandits, but Dutchover liked it. He operated a sheep ranch at Limpia Canyon and supplied soldiers at nearby Fort Davis with food. Dutchover remained at the fort when Federal troops departed at the start of the Civil War and was left fully in charge when the occupying Confederates decided to leave. Dutchover, his family, and four civilians hid during a successful Apache attack on the fort and maintained their home until 1867, when Federal troops reoccupied Fort Davis and made further Indian raids impossible. Dutchover descendants still live in the area.

A contemporary of Diedrick, but very well known, was **Jean-Charles Houzeau**, a famed Belgian astronomer and naturalist. The scientist came to New Orleans after being removed from the Belgian Royal Observatory for "outspoken political views." In Texas by 1858, he first worked as a surveyor, then moved to Uvalde and organized early scientific expeditions.



But the astronomer's outspokenness remained. An abolitionist, he aided the escape of notable unionists from San Antonio but soon had to flee, disguised as a Mexican laborer, into Mexico.

Later in New Orleans, when the city had been taken by Federal forces, he ran a Union newspaper, then for eight years lived in Jamaica. Finally, having kept his European contacts, he was reinstated as director of the Royal Observatory in Brussels.

In December of 1882, however, Houzeau could not resist a return trip to Texas. He led a scientific expedition to San Antonio to observe a locally visible transit of Venus across the face of the sun—in those days a method of measuring time and gravity.

A few Belgians moved into South Texas after 1867 and the fall of Maximilian's Mexican empire. Maximilian, anointed emperor of Mexico by the French, was an unlikely ruler. His wife, Carlota, was Belgian, and a good number of her countrymen had followed the puppet emperor to Mexico. After Maximilian's execution, many Belgians decided on the Rio Grande valley as home.

Belgians moved to Galveston and Houston, and some were farmers, but San Antonio became Texas's primary area of Belgian settlement. Although entering many fields of endeavor - Belgians were cooks and bakers, candle and soap makers, restaurateurs and musicians - most in the San Antonio settlement were farmers.



From the last of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several Belgian families and descendants founded the famous vegetable farms in western San Antonio. Men such as **Van de Walle**, **van Daele**, **Persyn**, and **Baeten** made year-round vegetable growing a successful business. The Belgians raised common crops and introduced new ones, including cauliflower and kohlrabi. Today, harvests range from flowers to picante sauce.

And the Belgians observed the "Kermess," a national fall harvest festival held in mid-August and in mid-November, if the harvest was good. They also celebrated Belgian independence day on July 21. The Belgium Inn, the Belgian Village, and the Flanders Inn, among several other places, provided the settings for many a gathering, traditional or impromptu. And until recent years, the Belgian sport of bolling was played. A version of the game is still demonstrated annually at the Texas Folklife Festival.

## Belgians Listed in the US WWI Draft:

Texas - Extracted by Therese Aguirre, [tmaguirre@hotmail.com](mailto:tmaguirre@hotmail.com)

Name	Status	Birthdate	Birthplace	Citizenship
Aelvoet, Frank	S	26 Jul 1897	Etichove, Belgium	DI
Aelvoet, Joles	S	15 Feb 1887	Belgium	DI
Alvoet, Richard	S	18 Jan 1895	Ghent, Belgium	DI
Anderson, John Frank Martin	M	20 Aug 1893	Antwerp, Belgium	DI
Bally, Mitchell	S	12 Feb 1893	Belgium	A
Bandone, Marcel Edmond Charles	M	Oct 21 1886	Brussels, Belgium	DI
Bantuelle, Fred	M	12 Sep 1887	Belgium	A
Bersyn, Arthur	S	14 Feb 1889	Lokeren, East Flanders, Belgium	DI
Boitte, Oscar	M	20 May 1888	Gemappe, Belgium	A
Boyd, Louis	M	25 Sep 1888	Belgium	A
Brackman, Steve	S	May 24 1895	Belgium	A
Brocken, Norbert Frank	M	Jan 25 1887	Antwerp, Belgium	DI
Brockhove, Henri	S	28 Feb 1889	Overneire, Belgium	DI
Comhaire, Gaston August	S	Apr 3 1892	Ghent, Belgium	A
Corvette, John Adolph	M	Aug 28 1896	Ghent, Belgium	DI
Dauwe, Alphons Mae Isidor	M	Jun 9 1886	East Flanders, Belgium	
Dauwe, Frank Kamiel	M	Feb 16 1894	East Flanders, Belgium	
Delarue, Joe	S	31 May 1897	Toudout, Belgium	A
Demoore, Earnest	S	Apr 11 1890	Belgium	DI
Derdeyn, Maurice Leonard	M	5 Jun 1889	Belgium	DI
Dewey, Valentine	M	25 Dec 1886	Belgium	N
Dewinne, Jules	S	24 Jan 1891	Wetteren, Oost Vlaandren, Belgium	DI
Dhondt, Julius	M	May 29 1888	Belgium	DI
Dickman, Fred	M	12 Jun 1887	Antwerp, Belgium	DI
Duytscheever, Camiel	S	Jul 6 1886	Belgium	N
Elvoet, Raymon	S	6 Feb 1893	Hukecke, Belgium	DI
Elvoet, Reijm	S	6 Feb 1893	Weikecke, Belgium	DI
Filibert, Frank	S	Feb 15 1887	Moll, Antwerp, Belgium	DI
Hohon, Camille Pete	S	26 Jan 1891	Brussels, Belgium	N
Holewyne, Victor	M	06 Aug 1892	Belgium	N
Hooge, Cyrille Saraphino	M	Sep 16 1889	East Flanders, Belgium	A
Hooge, Cyrille Peter	M	Jul 28 1886	East Flanders, Belgium	A
Janssens, Julius	S	Jul 28 1887	Wyngene, Belgium	DI
Kerckhoff, Henry		25 Dec 1896	Belgium	A
Koppel, Geo Henry	S	12 Sep 1891	Antwerp, Belgium	A
Mabe, Beziel	S	18 Jun 1889	Colkeu, Wettereu Belgium	DI
Michel, John	S	Oct 24 1886	Belgium	N
Michiels, Polidoor	M	Jan 21 1887	East Flanders, Belgium	A
Miroir, Marius P	M	6 Jan 1893	Jemappes, Belgium	N
Moore, Tom	S	05 Jan	Antwerp, Belgium	DI
Ostra, Peter A	S	31 Jul 1886	Antwerp, Belgium	N
Persyn, Frank	S	3 Jun 1893	Lokern, Belgium	N
Persyn, Leo	M	6 Feb 1888	Lokern, Belgium	N
Petkoff, Todor W	S	Mar 19 1892	Tumo, Belgium	DI
Podevyn, Romain	S	8 Nov 1894	Lokeren, Belgium	DI
Poncelet, Arthur Justin	M	May 31 1889	Luxembourg, Belgium	DI
Stoelen, Frank Louis	S	24 Aug 1888	Belgium	A
Theuninck, Julius	S	Jan 7 1890	Werken, Belgium	DI
Van De Velde, Paul	M	10 Dec 1887	Brussels, Belgium	A
Van Lunduijd, Alphons	S	18 Feb 1889	Belgium	A
Van Meldert, Louis Theodore Len	S	24 Jun 1891	Ghent, Belgium	N
Van Overdenborg, C	M	14 Jan 1889	Lokeren, Belgium	A
Vander Poorten, E	S	2 Dec 1894	Overneer, Belgium	DI
Vander Poorten, Victor	S	21 May 1891	Overneer, Belgium	A
Vantomme, Rene	S	23 Feb 1888	Courtrai, Belgium	A
Vanwalran, Prosper Paul	S	Jun 29 1893	Brussels, Belgium	A
Ven Hecke, Elfons	M	17 Oct 1886	Belgium	DI
Vermersch, August	M	13 Dec 1887	Belgium	N

Verstuyft, Cesar	M	15 Feb 1897	Lokern, Belgium	N
Williams, Hector	S	Aug 20 1888	East Flanders, Belgium	DI

**Idaho** - by Gene Jenkins

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Bowens, Emil	27 Aug 1894	Esearde	M	DI
Brasch, William Joseph	19 Jan 1891	Antwerp	M	DI
Daubrez, Victor Joseph	19 Jun 1895	Liege	S	DI
De Clerc, Leon	30 Mar 1890	Nasereth	S	DI
Develter, William	4 Apr 1890	Beclara	S	N
Janssens, Joseph Charley	23 Jan 1893	Bruges	M	DI
Lagrou, Leon	30 Oct 1887	Sweveseele	M	N
Lagrou, Octaf	3 May 1896	Brussels	S	A
Mathys, John William	28 Feb 1892	St. Georges	S	N
Meuleman, Julius A	11 Jan 1897	Rudervoorde	M	N
Rentmeister, Antone Joseph	4 Sep 1893	Seraing	S	N
Rentmeister, Peter John	22 Jan 1890	Seraing	M	N
Van Paepgehen, Gustaaf	15 Aug ??	Aspelaere	M	?
Verburg, Edward	18 Feb 1896	Heysteenzee	S	A
Vergote, Morris	15 Mar 1894	Vigue Jens Baefs	M	A
Verhoeven, Joseph M Francis	7 Sep 1892	Arendonck	S	DI

**Florida** - by Regine Brindle

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Beckman, Armand Robert	04 Apr 1896	Antwerp, Belgium	S	A
De Bytter, Alphonse	01 Nov 1889	Belgium	M	
Janssens, Eugene	19 Jan 1892	Antwerp, Belgium	S	P
Lauwers, Morris	19 Jan 1891	Zuydeckot(?), West Flanders, Belgium	S	A
Libossart, Leon Julius	10 Jun 1881	Antoing, Belgium	M	A
Mahin, Frank Joseph	10 Jan 1895	Hal, Brabant, Belgium	S	P
Wilvaert, Camiel	19 Sep 1894	Gent, Belgium	S	A

**Maryland** - by Regine Brindle

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Binning, Bernardus	04 Oct 1895	Antwerp, Belgium	S	A
Bole, Louis	24 Dec 1889	Antwerp, Belgium	S	A
Caeleumans, Jules	08 Mar 1892	Belgium	S	A
Callens, Omer	27 Nov 1896	Thourout, Belgium		A
Commyne, Emil	05 Aug 1897	Belgium		N
De Kock, Benedict	30 Aug 1896	Brussels, Belgium		
Delaet, Joseph Francois	18 May 1888	Merxem, Belgium	S	A
Elewant, Alfred	21 Dec 1889	Antwerp, Belgium	M	A
Florence, Frederick Jean	18 Mar 1891	Brussels, Belgium	M	A
Forster, Frank Charles	27 Oct 1894	Belgium	S	A
Habicht, Paul	24 Dec 1889	Maline, Belgium	M	A
Hubrock, Peter	29 Jun 1888	Bredene, Belgium	S	A
Janssens, Victor	02 Aug 1890	Mullieux, Belgium	M	A
La Duc, Roul Edmund	28 Aug 1896	Bressou, Belgium		A
Licot, Fernand	28 Mar 1895	Lerainy(?), Brussels, Belgium	S	A
Liebmann, Chas A	15 Dec 1887	Liege, Belgium	M	N
Lory, George O	31 Mar 1892	Brussels, Belgium	S	A
Rooy, Floyd	05 Dec 1897	Antwerp, Belgium		A
Schreiber, Fred	14 Oct 1888	Sorme, Belgium	S	D
Smorgens, Edmond	04 Mar 1895	Gent, Belgium	M	A
Thiele, Achilles	22 May 1888	Heusineur(?), Belgium	S	D
Wouter, Gustave Edward	14 Mar 1889	Cheal(?), Belgium	S	A

**Maine** by Regine Brindle

<b>Name</b>	<b>Birth Date</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Citizenship</b>
Sacre, Victor Lucien	1 Nov 1889	Brussels, Belgium	M	N

As I prepared this article, I couldn't help but think of another Guerin, Father Pierre Guerin, S.J., from Liege, whose generosity in sharing his profound knowledge of history and genealogy is legendary. Like so many, I am indebted for the help received from this extraordinary brilliant and humble man, and so, as a way of expressing my admiration and gratitude, I dedicate this article to him.

## JOSEPH GUERIN OF RHODE ISLAND – part 1

By Micheline Gaudette

The name GUERIN is quite common, there are French GUERINS ( Anne Therese GUERIN better known as Blessed Mother St. Theodore, established the Academy of St. Mary of the Woods in Indiana), Canadian GUERINS (a village named Guerin in Quebec) Irish GUERINS, Swiss GUERINS.

The following offers but a glimpse at the life and accomplishments of a Belgian GUERIN: **Joseph GUERIN** who is credited to be the first foreign entrepreneur whose genius and know-how brought the Woonsocket textile industry to an unprecedented level of productivity and prosperity at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His **Philmont Worsted Mill Complex** is now on the National Register of Historic Places. Other French entrepreneurs would follow in Joseph GUERIN's footsteps and build even bigger mills, but for the most part these were absentee owners who visited their mills once or twice a year.



We know little of Joseph GUERIN prior to his emigration, he was born in **Prayon**, a hamlet of Foret, Liege Province, on October 4, 1851, and married **Marie Eugenie Elisabeth HERMAN** on November 29, 1873, they had 3 children: **Theophile, Marie and Edmond**. What was his experience in the textile industry? **Prayon**, had a small textile mill, but nothing that would or could have given the experience needed to establish a grand scale textile company.

According to an interview given by his grandson **Robert** in 1980, Joseph GUERIN was a worker and a manager in the textile industries of Verviers, Belgium and of Schio, Italy where he stayed for 12 years. In Verviers, was he perhaps a manager for one of the giants in the Verviers textile industry, like the **SIMONIS** with international ties, or the **BIOLLEY** or the **DEFAUT** families?

The GUERIN family left Belgium on June 18, 1892 to settle in Woonsocket. At that time, Woonsocket was already a center for textile activities powered mostly by hard working French Canadian immigrants. But these mills processing cotton were losing ground to Southern competition. What Joseph GUERIN brought to Woonsocket was woolen, worsted spinning of fine wool, using the French or Belgian system, a process that demanded a skilled labor force lacking in the South but plentiful in Rhode Island.

### Why did Joseph GUERIN immigrate to Rhode Island at the age of 41?

Some say it was a meeting with **Aram POTHIER** during the latter's trade missions to Paris, or during one of his visits to the Verviers textile region, that convince him to start a business in Woonsocket. But the Verviers region's textile industry's painful emergence from a recession, and their workers involvement with unionization, may have played a part in the GUERINS' decision to immigrate. Perhaps, it might even be the reports received from Belgian families working in Rhode Island's textile industry at the time, or in the one of close-by Massachusetts, combined with Aram POTHIER's invitation that convince Joseph GUERIN to leave Belgium for a land of greater financial opportunities.

**Aram POTHIER** (banker, future mayor of Woonsocket, future governor de Rhode Island) would become Joseph GUERIN's friend and later on part of the family. Aram was of great help in setting up GUERIN's textile companies.



Even before coming to Rhode Island, Joseph GUERIN was a successful man. Not wealthy, but comfortable. When he immigrated he traveled in second class (9 pieces of luggage) with his wife **Eugenie**, their daughter **Marie**, and **Edmond**, one of their two sons. They embarked on the Westernland in Antwerp and arrived in NY on July 13, 1892. The passenger manifest lists Joseph GUERIN as a "foreman" going to Woonsocket, Rhode Island. So we may assume a position at a mill was waiting for him there. It's possible their son Theophile immigrated in 1891, and might have acted as the avant-garde for the family, (there is a **Theophile GUERIN** on the NY passenger list of the Werkendam arriving in NY on Sept. 18, 1891, with a slight difference in age and said of French nationality- but this is always questionable), Theophile GUERIN stated on his 1917 World War I draft registration card, that he emigrated in 1891 (the same draft card describes Theophile as tall, with blue eyes and brown hair, his brother Edmond is described likewise on his draft card).

Between 1893 and 1895, Joseph GUERIN worked hard at establishing with the help of Aram POTHIER, the GUERIN Spinning Company in Woonsocket. More companies would be established later: Montrose Worsted Co. (1902), the Alsace Worsted Co. (1903), Rosemont Dyeing Co. (1906), all with his trusted friend Aram POTHIER as treasurer and secretary of these companies. The Philmont Worsted Mill would be built to house the 4 mills. It was a huge complex (as noticed by Danielle Rogister who visited the site in 2006, the mill complex was much larger than what is actually on the National Register). The American Paper Tube Co. was also part of the GUERIN holdings, it fabricated paper tubes that would eventually replace the wooden bobbins used in the textile industry.

Also in 1893, Joseph GUERIN made the first of his many trips to Europe, coming back March 16, 1893 with **Marie Barbe HERMAN**, 62 (his mother-in law?), and **Elsie HERMAN**, 29. In all, Joseph GUERIN is listed 17 times on the New York Passenger manifests as coming back to the US from various European ports. When such information is provided he is listed as "wool merchant", and most of the times he is accompanied by his wife.



The Woonsocket 1900 US Census listed him as “Manufacturer of Yarns” and living at 101 (or is it 103?) Wood Avenue, (that street section has many imposing houses but nothing ostentatious) with his wife Eugenie and their son Edmond, they all spoke English (not mentioned is that they spoke French, Italian and Walloon too!). Their son Theophile GUERIN was married (to **Elodie DUMAINE**) and lived nearby with his wife and 2 daughters. Their daughter Marie GUERIN was also married and lived with her husband Octave POTHIER, at 53, Snow Street.

**Octave POTHIER** was Aram POTHIER’s brother, and was 18 years older than Marie GUERIN whom he married on 22 February 1898 at St. Anne, Washington, RI. They had 4 children: Edouard, born in 1899, (died young?), Joseph Jules born 1901, Armand born 1905 and Stella born around 1912. Marie GUERIN POTHIER died very young on February 22, 1913 in Woonsocket.

Edmond GUERIN would marry on 12 October 1904 **Francisca Josephine JARRET** (Aram POTHIER’s niece!) of Canadian ancestry.

Did Joseph GUERIN recruit his fellow countrymen to work in the textile industry of Woonsocket? Most likely, at least his brother **Hubert GUERIN** came with his large family, his brother Jean J. emigrated too, but was sent back to Belgium because he drank too much...

If we examine the census records of Rhode Island we find an increase in the amount of Belgians immigrating to that state after Joseph GUERIN settled there:

The 1880 census records of Rhode Island list 13 Belgians living in Rhode Island, some like the **FUYAT** and **PODOR** families were involved in the textile industry and came from the same region as Joseph GUERIN.

The 1900 census records of Rhode Island list 383 Belgians, the majority in Warwick and Providence, but 64 in Woonsocket.

The 1910 census records of Rhode Island list 950 Belgians with 415 living in Woonsocket.

The 1920 census records of Rhode Island list 980 Belgians living in that state, with 412 living in Woonsocket – however, if we were to count those born in Rhode Island of Belgian parents –the numbers would double.

Usually, the Belgian immigrants working in the textile industry were skilled workers, like the Italian workers Joseph GUERIN was said to have recruited.

Strangely enough, there were frictions between the Belgians and the French Canadians caused by ethnocentrism on each site and by the fact Belgians (and French too for that matter) had a monopoly on managerial positions, not only at the GUERIN Mill but in some of the other mills as well.



During World War I, Joseph GUERIN did not forget Belgium and provided much needed help. In recognition, King Albert I of Belgium presented him with a “medal of honor”, this might have been the “Medaille du Roi Albert” given to Belgians and foreigners who promoted the Belgian cause and offered humanitarian help to Belgium. That was in 1922 and that would be Joseph GUERIN’s last trip to Belgium. He had retired and his businesses had been passed on to his very able sons. At the time of his retirement, his holdings were worth more than \$6,000,000!



Joseph GUERIN died May 6, 1923 and is buried inside the POTHIER Mausoleum, Precious Blood Cemetery, in Woonsocket. It seems his widow Eugenie GUERIN made her last trip to Belgium in 1924 when she traveled accompanied by her granddaughters **Lillian GUERIN** and **Stella POTHIER**. She died in Woonsocket on January 15, 1939.

It’s befitting that the Philmont Worsted Mill, which was built to house the spinning operations of the GUERIN companies, is now on the National Register of Historic Places. It’s a monument to the entrepreneurial spirit and genius of Joseph GUERIN and to the many men, women and children of various ethnic backgrounds, whose hard work in the industrialized textile industry made Joseph GUERIN’s success possible.

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**Sources:**

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Guerin, Pierre, “Les usines en aval du Pont a Prayon”, in Cercle Historique de Fleron, Mars, p.2-9, 1988.

Guerin, Pierre, “Reussite aux U.S.A. d’une famille Guerin de Prayon” in Cercle Historique de Fleron, Mars, p. 92, 1998.

New York Passengers Lists – Ellis Island. (1891-1924)

The State of Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission in their press release of June 2, 2006.

Woonsocket, RI, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920 US Censuses

Notes: For a picture of **Joseph Guerin** and other information, please see the site Regine Brindle discovered: [www.woonsocket.org/francobel.html](http://www.woonsocket.org/francobel.html)

For a picture of “**Medaille du Roi Albert**” see: <http://users.skynet.be/hendrik/fr/B1-F-Albert.html>

If visiting Woonsocket, a must see is the Museum of Work and Culture.

Many thanks to **Danielle ROGISTER** for providing so graciously, the photos of the Philmont Mill and of Joseph GUERIN’s watch (after Joseph GUERIN’s death, his watch was given to his chauffeur who later donated it to the Woonsocket Museum of Work and Culture) and other information pertaining to Joseph GUERIN.

Many thanks also to Ms. **Barbara J. BUSSART**, Chief Information and Adult Services Librarian at the Woonsocket Harris Public Library for going beyond the call of duty by dispatching someone to Precious Blood Cemetery just to answer my query!

Postcards od Prayon (Trooz) found at

[http://postcards.delcampe.net/liste.php?language=F&search\\_type=builder&searchbuilder\\_type=AND&searchbuilder\\_inc=prayon&cat=712](http://postcards.delcampe.net/liste.php?language=F&search_type=builder&searchbuilder_type=AND&searchbuilder_inc=prayon&cat=712)



## Belgian Passengers to Canada

SS Montreal From Antwerp to St John, New Brunswick, Canada – 17 Apr 1907

By Jean Ducat

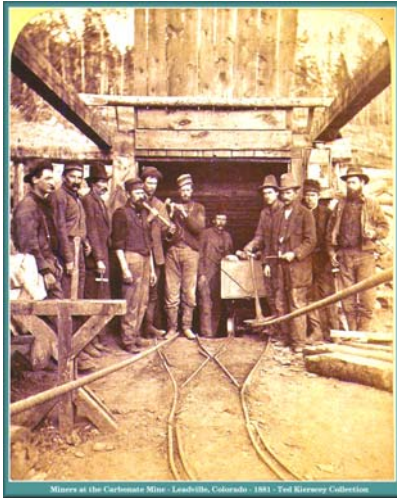
|    | Name                             | Age | From          | Going to      | Occupation | Employer         |
|----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|---------------|------------|------------------|
| S  | BERGER, Nestor                   | 28  | Jehay Bodegne | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | BESIQUE, Paul                    | 26  | La Louviere   | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| H  | BOSLY, Emile                     | 31  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | KLUM, Hubertine (arr. Aug 1907)  |     | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            |                  |
| H  | CAUME, Dieudonne                 | 37  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | CRINE, Louise (arr. Aug 1907)    |     | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            |                  |
| H  | CAUME, Francois                  | 35  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | CRINE, Marie (arr. Aug 1907)     |     | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            |                  |
| S  | CAUME, Augustin                  | 24  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | CAUME, Julien                    | 23  |               | Reserve Mines |            |                  |
| S  | CORTHALS, Ferdinand              | 28  | Vivegnis      | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | CORTHALS, Jean                   | 27  | Vivegnis      | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DAMBOIS, Lambert                 | 23  | Liege         | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DAVIGNON, Joseph                 | 36  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DEBOIS, Charles                  | 40  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DELVAUX, Arsene (since 1903)     |     | Charleroi     | Maccan        | miner      | Sydney Mines     |
| H  | DEJECT, Jacob (arr. in 1906)     | 31  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | GOSSART, felicie                 | 22  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| c1 | DEJECT, Marthe                   | 5   | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| c2 | DEJECT, Marie                    | 3   | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DEJECT, Josue                    | 30  | Seraing-Lize  | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DETILLEUR, Jacques               | 27  | Vivegnis      | Reserve Mines | carpenter  | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DONEUX, Florentin                | 27  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DUBUY, Francois                  | 31  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | DUMONT, Leopold                  | 30  | Lize          | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | ELIAS, Gregoire                  | 31  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | EMILE, Hippolyte                 | 27  | La Louviere   | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | ETENS, Jean-P                    |     | Liege         | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | HALTER, Henri                    | 33  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | HEUSE, Theophile                 | 24  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | KUYPERS, Francois                | 25  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | LAFONTAINE, Hubert               | 21  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | LECOMPTE, Armand                 | 39  | Flemalle      | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | LECRENIER, celestin              | 40  | Liege         | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| H  | LEMELYN, Henri (arr. in 1906)    | 41  | Lize          | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | ANSLOOS, Julienne                | 33  | Lize          | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| Wd | MAESSEN, Francois (Mrs)          |     |               | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| c  | MAESSEN, Lucie                   | 10½ | Lize          | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| H  | LOUIS, Robert (arr. in 1906)     | 35  | Lize          | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | CLEMENS, Lydie                   | 32  | Lize          | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | MASSART, Victor                  | 38  | Morlanwez     | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | MOSTEN, Leonard                  | 26  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | NISSEN, Elie                     | 28  | Lize          | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | PHILIPPE, Auguste                | 42  | Morlanwez     | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| H  | PIRLOT, Theophile (arr. in 1906) | 31  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| W  | VANDENBROUCKE, Adolphine         | 28  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines |            | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | POPULAIRE, Jules                 | 37  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | SAUVAGE, Jean Baptiste           | 42  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| c1 | SAUVAGE, Jean                    | 19½ | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| c2 | SAUVAGE, Oscar                   | 14½ | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | THOMSON, Adolphe                 | 30  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | VANHOVE, Alphonse                | 30  | Seraing       | Reserve Mines | miner      | Dominion Coal Co |
| S  | WILLEMS, Francois                | 26  | Charleroi     | Maccan        | miner      | Sydney Mines     |

# In Memoriam

Belgian Laces Vol#28-109 October 2006

## Lost Miners

Marcia Martinek, Editor – “Herald Democrat” - Leadville, CO - Jan 12, 2006  
<http://www.leadvilleherald.com/columnist/columnist.html>



“ . . . Men who had been stricken down at their post of duty and who had died as heroes – humble heroes that they were, all unknown to fame.”

These words might easily have been said . . . in Tallmansville, WV, as the miners killed at the Sago Mine were laid to rest.

Instead they were said by the **Herald Democrat** on Sept. 26, 1895, about six Leadville miners<sup>3</sup> who died following an explosion in the Belgian Mine.

Although the mines here have closed, Leadville is still a mining town. Tragedies such as the Sago disaster strike close to home.

For example, Ken Olsen recalls being a student at St. Mary’s School and the hush that would fall over the class when a nun would arrive from the office seeking out a student. Three times, in his memory, it was to tell the student about a mining accident that had claimed a father or other relative.

In a listing of the biggest mining disasters of Colorado, there are no mentions of Lake County accidents.

Yet lives were frequently lost in the mines here. In “Leadville: A Miner’s Epic,” Steve Voynick estimates that just between 1878 and 1893, 250 miners were killed here.

The Homestake mining disaster is a tale often told, although it was not officially a mining accident. Ten miners, who had taken over the lease, headed out in January to spend the winter at the mine, 11 miles west of Leadville.

The plan was to wait it out until spring and then make a fortune for themselves.

It was a winter of heavy snow. Sometime, probably late February, an avalanche covered the mining camp, and the miners died of suffocation or freezing. The bodies were taken out in April, and the funeral was May 2 with 10,000 attending. Residents collected funds to pay for burial expenses including \$1,572 to create the 3,200-pound monument at Evergreen Cemetery.

The unfortunate practice of heating frozen powder, known as giant, was responsible for the tragedy at the Belgian mine.

Miners used a five-gallon oil can with one side cut out. It was placed on its side with the powder laid on top and heated by placing candle stubs in the bottom of the can.

Mine rules said that only 10 pounds of powder could be brought into the mine at a time, but 50 pounds had been taken in that day, probably to avoid having to climb up so often for more.

The few ounces of powder warming apparently blew up and ignited some 30-35 more pounds of powder remaining.

Ten were trapped in the mine; four survived.

Some 2,500 miners turned out for the funerals of four men held in Leadville. One was buried in the Catholic cemetery and three lie near the Homestake monument at Evergreen. The bodies of two others were returned to their homes elsewhere.

The past issues of the Herald Democrat contain story after story of disasters and near disasters at the mines. These stories are crucial in understanding what makes up the backbone of this community – far more than the stories of how a few men made great wealth from these hills.

Time after time, miners and their families gathered at a mine, waiting for a miner to be rescued or a body to be recovered. The brotherhood built from moments such as these transcends distance and time, so Leadville can mourn Tallmansville miners as it would its own.

“*Heroes from the class which feeds the world, builds nations and supports government,*” said the Rev. T. W. Jeffrey back in 1895. It still rings true in 2006.

### Belgian Miners killed in Colorado mines:

**BAVIER, Abel:** Death Date: 24 Sep 1917, Belgian, miner, 21y old, Single - County: GUN

Company name: Utah Fuel                      Mine name: Somerset              Cause of death/comments: Fall of coal

**DUSSART, F :** Death Date: 31 Mar 1919, Belgian pick miner, 44y old, Married, 7 children surviving - County: LAS

Company name: Empire Coal Co.              Mine name: Empire              Cause of death: Gas Explosion due to electric arc

### Other:

**MAZZUCHI, Odelia**<sup>4</sup>. (b 2, #502). Ordered by Martin Mazzuchi. Death Jan. 3, 1914, at Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Funeral at Glenwood Springs, with father Carrigan. Age 66 years, 7 months, 17 days, married, housewife, white. Born Belgian. Father born Belgian, Le Gleese, mother born Belgian.

<sup>3</sup> George J MAGGS, Clark M MCGINNIS, James H GRAY, John HAMILL, Edward H KUHN, C C PHILLIPS

<sup>4</sup> In the 1900 US Census, Odile MAZZICCHI (b May 1849, Belgium) wife of Martin (Italian cook) emigrated in 1869. She had 7 children , 3 of whom are alive at the time of the census. One of these is **Joseph BERO**, who lived with them, b Jul 1874 in Kansas.

In 1880, she is found already in Leadville, Lake Co, Colorado with husband **Desire BERO**, 50, Belgian miner and children Joseph, 6 (M)-born in KS, Annie, 4 (F-born in KS) and Constant, 1 (M-born in CO)

## 1001 Nights in Blankenberge

[http://www.vrtnieuws.net/nieuwsnet\\_master/versie2/francais/details/060705\\_FestivalSable/index.shtml](http://www.vrtnieuws.net/nieuwsnet_master/versie2/francais/details/060705_FestivalSable/index.shtml)



From July 1<sup>st</sup> until September 10<sup>th</sup>, the coastal town of Blankenberge welcomed the Sand Sculptures Festival. This year the chosen theme was "Sheherazade's 1001 Nights".

Since May 22<sup>nd</sup>, about 50 sculptors from all corners of the world have invaded the beaches in Blankenberge to transform the seaside into a real fairy tale universe.



Visitors were transported into a great fairy tale book where they discovered, Aladin and his magic lamp, and even Ali Baba and the den of the 40 thieves. Sheherazade fascinated young and old with its Tales of 1001 Nights, introducing Noeroennihar and the three princes, taking the visitors on a voyage with Simbad the sailor, and even spending unforgettable moments in the baths of Abousie.

While walking along this enchanted trail, they discovered the uninhabited towers of Yemen, the particularities of the Morocco's royal cities, the Arabs of Iraki Swamps and even the beautiful Petra in Jordan.

Visitors discovered the best arab cuisine. Organizers even planned for arab board games to play while sipping on some tea and a shisha. Also on the program, regularly scheduled dances and fireworks on the 1001 Nights' theme.



During a period of 6 weeks, some 40 million kilos of sand have been brought to Blankenberge. This sand comes from a Belgian quarry in Mont-Saint-Guibert, near Namur. 50 million years ago, the North Sea covered that little town completely, so, the sand used for this festival truly is North Sea sand.

Among the 50 chosen sculptors, some came from Russia, Italy, Canada and even Mexico, each with his specialty. Some are master architects, while others specialize in anatomy.

No matter,... all produced magnificent results as they competed each week for the visitors' votes.



## Belgian Historical Trivia

**5 Sep 1920** – First Yser Pilgrimage.

**10 Sep 1883** - Death of **Henri Conscience**, Flemish author who wrote, among other things, 'The Lion of Flanders'. His last words were: 'Political intolerance is this century's plague'.

**15 Sep 1847** – While studying at the University of Brussels, young **Charles De Coster** forms a literary group: "La société des Joyeux" (the Society of the Happy Ones). He was born in 1827 of a Flemish father and a Walloon mother. He would also write "The Legend of Uylenspiegel", published in 1867.

**29 Sep 1992** – The last Belgian coal mine, Heusden-Zolder closes its doors.

**6 Oct 1853** – The Flemish theater company 'Nationaal Toneel van Antwerpen' makes its debuts in Antwerp, with 'De Dronkaard' (Le Buveur=The Drinker), by **Pieter Frans Van Kerkhoven**.

**15 Oct 1883** - Inauguration of the Palais de Justice in Brussels.

**19 Oct 1873** - Rimbaud publishes "Une saison en enfer", in Belgium.

**31 Oct 1953** – Birth of Belgian television.

**6 Nov 1921** – A violent storm hits Belgium.

**10 Nov 1895** – First séance of the cinematographers, the Lumière brothers in Brussels.

**11 Nov 1922** – Burial of an unknown soldier at the foot of the column of the Congress.

**15 Nov 1867** – After the 1866 cholera epidemic that especially affected the poor districts of the big cities, eviction is legalized for the purpose of urban improvement.

## Researching Online: Internet Links of Interest

**Newspaper Index:** <http://www.washcowis.com/>

*John Von Haden has indexed the following newspapers. All the entries found so far are in the index on this website. He sells photocopies (\$5 each) of these obits and stories from the site as well. Over the next five years, he hopes to add other papers to cover much of a seven county area: Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee, Washington, Dodge, Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties.*

### Washington county

Hartford Home League, Aug. 1860-Feb. 1864

Hartford Press, 1876-1904; 1914-1932

Hartford Times-Press, 1933-1954; 1958; 1980-1989

Kewaskum Statesman, 1910-1928, 1933-1934, 1955-1960

West Bend Republican, 1873-1875

West Bend Democrat, 1877-1894

West Bend News, 1905-1914; 1922-1941; 1950; 1953-1954

**Dodge county:** Lomira Review, 1904-1942

**Calumet county:** Hilbert Favorite, 1930-1933

**Chippewa county:** Stanley Republican, 1914; 1922-1924; 1927; 1931-1933; 1936, 1945-1949; 1953-1958

**Clark county:** Neillsville Press, 1935-1938

Clark County Press, 1938-1947; 1952-1953

**Door county:** Door County Advocate, 1952

**Fond du Lac county:** Campbellsport News, 1908-1909; 1948-1950

### Milwaukee county

Milwaukee Journal: 1920 partial; 1926 partial; 1930 partial; 1931-1934; 1935 partial; 1936 partial; 1938 partial; 1939 partial; 1942 partial

**Monroe county:** Tomah Journal, 1931; 1933

**Ozaukee county:** Cedarburg News, 1934-1944

Port Washington Star, 1920-1924

Port Washington Pilot, 1929-1936; 1939-1951

**Pierce county:** Spring Valley Sun, 1949-1951

**Sheboygan county:** Random Lake Times, 1918-1967

Plymouth Review, 1918-1922

**Waukesha county:** Menomonee Falls News, 1910-1954

**Washington Co, PA Obits:** <http://www.genealogybuff.com/pa/>  
(and more)

**Online Wisconsin Marriage Index:** <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/vitalrecords>

The Wisconsin Historical Society recently released its Pre-1907 Wisconsin Marriage Index. The index includes over 1 million names entered on Wisconsin marriage records dated between 1852 and September 30, 1907.

Vital records, including marriage records, were maintained at the state and/or county level. The Society owns microfilm copies of state level vital records. The online database was created in 2005 by reformatting the state's microfiche index, adding 27,000 names from delayed birth records, courtesy of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society, and adding several hundred thousand names from marriage records in counties (Richland through Winnebago) that had not been included on the microfiche index.

The society has been busy. Just a couple of months ago they released their birth index. To access the indexes, visit

**The Saskatchewan Homestead Index:** <http://www.saskhomesteads.com/home.asp>

The Saskatchewan Homestead Index is a file locator database to the homestead files at the Saskatchewan Archives. It contains 360,000 references to those men and women who, from 1872 to 1930, under the terms of the Dominion Lands Act, took part in the homestead process in the area now known as Saskatchewan. Also included are those who bought or sold North West Métis or South African scrip or received soldier grants after World War One.

The database may be searched by name, by land location or by additional remarks, for example, about name changes or the name of the legal representative should the applicant have died. Special grants, such as the Métis scrip can also be identified by searching the remarks field.

**Minnesota Historical Society:** [www.mnhs.org/genealogy](http://www.mnhs.org/genealogy)

Birth Index: 1900-1916 and Death Index: only available for 1904-1907, and 1955-2001. Copies available for a fee from their site.

|                             |     |                         |     |                           |     |                          |     |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|--------------------------|-----|
| Aelvoet, Frank              | 102 | BORRELLY, Jos Clement   | 91  | Dauwe, Alphons Mae Isidor | 102 | Derdeyn, Maurice Leonard | 102 |
| Aelvoet, Joles              | 102 | BOSLY, Emile            | 106 | Dauwe, Frank Kamiel       | 102 | DESANYTTERE, Agnes       | 85  |
| Alvoet, Richard             | 102 | Bouckaert, Ferdinand    | 93  | DAVIGNON, Joseph          | 106 | DESANYTTERE, Celine      | 85  |
| Amidei, James               | 93  | Bougartz, John          | 93  | Dax, Thos.                | 93  | DESANYTTERE, Gaston      | 85  |
| Anderson, John Frank Martin | 102 | Boverie, John           | 93  | Day, Charles              | 93  | DESANYTTERE, Michal      | 85  |
| ANDRE, August               | 99  | Bowens, Emil            | 103 | De Bisschop, Jos.         | 93  | DESCUTNER, Joseph        | 90  |
| ANDRE, Augustine            | 99  | Boyd, Louis             | 102 | De Budt, Ferdinand        | 93  | DESIRE, Benjamin         | 99  |
| ANDRE, Fontainetty          | 99  | Brackman, Steve         | 102 | De Bytter, Alphonse       | 103 | DESIRE, Harry            | 99  |
| ANDRE, Frank                | 99  | Brasch, William Joseph  | 103 | De Clerc, Leon            | 103 | DESIRE, Veronica         | 99  |
| ANDRE, Jennie               | 99  | Brennan, James          | 89  | De Coster, Charles        | 107 | Desmet, Francis          | 93  |
| ANDRE, Julia                | 99  | Brocken, Norbert Frank  | 102 | De Kock, Benedict         | 103 | Deteinne, Henry          | 93  |
| ANDRE, Julien               | 99  | Brockhove, Henri        | 102 | De Neff, Peter            | 93  | Detienne, Constance      | 93  |
| ANDRE, Marie                | 99  | Brockler, Leo.          | 93  | De Sutton, Louis          | 93  | DETILLEUR, Jacques       | 106 |
| ANDRE, Philomene            | 99  | Broeckart, Henry        | 93  | De Wilde, Jules           | 95  | Develter, William        | 103 |
| ANSLOOS, Julienne           | 106 | Broeckardt, Leopold     | 93  | DeBacker, Charles Lewis   | 93  | Devoe, Joseph            | 93  |
| ARGENSON, Joseph            | 91  | BROSS, Henry            | 85  | DeBacker, Edw.            | 93  | DEVOS, Jennie            | 99  |
| BACU, Constant              | 91  | BROSS, Josina           | 85  | DEBACKER, Jean Baptiste   | 91  | DEVOS, Louis             | 99  |
| Baeten                      | 101 | BROSS, Oskar            | 85  | DeBecker, John            | 93  | DEVOS, Mary V            | 99  |
| BAILAT, Clement             | 91  | Bruggeman, Peter        | 93  | DEBLANDER, Alphonse       | 90  | deWestblaw, John         | 93  |
| Bally, Mitchell             | 102 | Bull, Thomas            | 93  | DEBLANDER, Octave         | 90  | Dewey, Valentine         | 102 |
| Banche, Norbert             | 93  | BUSSART, Barbara J      | 105 | DEBLANDER, Peter          | 90  | Dewinne, Jules           | 102 |
| Bandone, Marcel Ed Charles  | 102 | Busschart, Edward       | 93  | DEBLANDER, Virginia       | 90  | Dewit, Edward            | 93  |
| Banoul, Juan                | 101 | Caeleumans, Jules       | 103 | DeBlicck, John            | 93  | DeWitte, Constant        | 93  |
| Bantuelle, Fred             | 102 | Callens, Omer           | 103 | DEBOIS, Charles           | 106 | DHANS, Herman            | 90  |
| Barren, Oswald              | 89  | Callewaert, John        | 93  | DEBROCK, Desire           | 91  | DHAYER, Fred             | 90  |
| BAVIER, Abel                | 107 | Callewart, Frank        | 93  | Debudt, Ferdinand         | 93  | Dhondt, Julius           | 102 |
| Beckman, Armand Robert      | 103 | Camertin, Frank         | 93  | deClercg, Charles         | 93  | Dickman, Fred            | 102 |
| BECQUE, Amelia              | 100 | Canwels, Jerome         | 93  | DeCoster, Charles         | 93  | Didier, Octavo           | 93  |
| BECQUE, August              | 100 | CARLIER, J. B.          | 91  | DeCostor, August          | 93  | Diels, John Francis      | 93  |
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