

Belgian Laces



KORTRIJK : The St. Elisabeth Beguinage

<http://www.trabel.com/kortrijk/kortrijk-beguinage.htm>

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

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS

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

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

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Belgian American Heritage Association



Dear Members

Earlier this year I received a phone call from a former US GI who was stationed in Charleroi, Belgium in 1945. He was hoping to find a young girl whom he had befriended in the late days of WWII. It was a long shot but where there is life there is hope and I have come to trust that anything is possible with the help of the right people.

Our Belgian friends came to the rescue. They moved Heaven and Earth to get to the answer, without asking for anything in return. I was deeply touched by their Gargantuan efforts and so was Jim who had not dared hope there was a way to find this answer. If only we could have helped him sooner... His friend passed away in 2004... Things that were impossible only a few years ago are becoming every day occurrences thanks to the kindness and helpfulness of perfect strangers who soon become best friends. This issue of Belgian Laces is the product of such cooperation.

I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I did putting it together! Keep up the great work! Enjoy!

Régine

Discovery in Antarctica



(picture Belga)

Four Belgian scientists

- **Cédric d’Udekem d’Acoz**, Princess Mathilde’s cousin, crustacean expert.

- **Henri Robert**, of the Belgian Royal Institute of Natural Sciences, crustacean expert.

- **Maarten Raes**, of the University of Gand

- **Gauthier Chapelle** of the International Polar Foundation.

are participating in the International Polar Year exploration in Antarctica, aboard the Polarstern. They have discovered biological species until now unknown to man.

The first International Polar Year took place in 1882-1883. The second goes back to 1932-1933 and the third was part of the International Geophysics Year in 1957-1958.

<http://www.ipy.org>

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Le Cirque d'Hiver

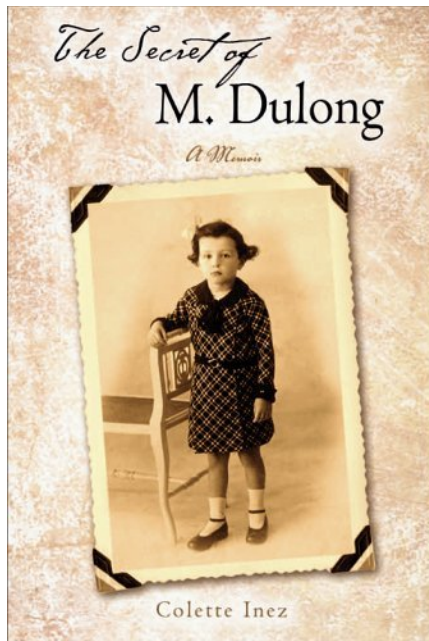
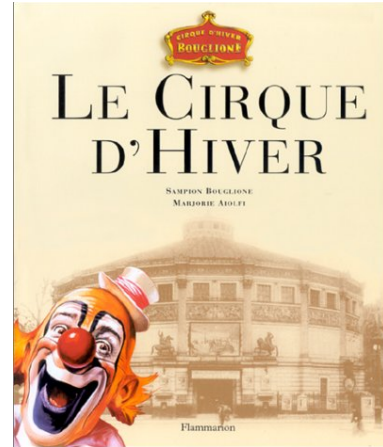
by Sampion Bouglione, Marjorie Aiolfi
Flammarion , 213 pages - ISBN : 2080107984

In December 2002, the Winter Circus celebrated its 150th birthday. Its construction was started under Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, finished under the Second Empire and the building was finally opened by the Emperor. It remains the oldest circus still alive.

The Bouglione archives contain a variety of wonderful things, as of then never published nor used: photos, archives, manuscripts, books, posters, bronzes, costumes, paintings, accessories, programs witnessing the history of the Winted Circus from its beginning to the present. It has known a rich destiny: hosting the Pathé silent movie theater in 1907, first TNP under the direction of Firmin Gémier, it remains the mythic place for the “piste aux étoiles”, the Artist Union Gala and a myriad of spectacles produced by the Bouglione family and long remembered in circus history.

Although it is held by many as the Circus' temple, a real institution and historical monument, it had not been honored through written work.

The mission given to Louis-Sampion Bouglione, son of the master of equestrian stunt-flying, Émilien Bouglione, was to preserve the Winter Circus and the Bouglione family archives.



The Secret of M. Dulong: A Memoir

(Wisconsin Studies in Autobiography), by Colette Inez

http://rootsbooks.com/shop.php?c=pa&n=1000&i=0299214206&x=The_Secret_of_M_Dulong_A_Memoir_Wisconsin_Studies_in_Autobiography

A search for roots and identity has rarely been captured with such irony, unusual insight, and surprising humor as in this memoir of heartbreak and hope. Today a distinguished American poet, Colette Inez first came to the United States when she was eight years old, as an apparent Belgian orphan escorted by two complete strangers. Growing up in post-World War II America, a stranger to her own past, she survived a harrowing adolescence and an increasingly menacing, abusive adoptive family by learning to define her single solace: a developing passion for literature.

Facing possible deportation in the 1950s, Inez set out to prove her claim to U.S. citizenship. The result, as she recounts in this eloquent, wrenching memoir, would span two continents, a trail of discovery, and a buried secret: one that ultimately allowed Inez to reconcile her past and present and finally come of age as an artist.

Hardcover

Pages: 240

ISBN: 0299214206

Published August 17, 2005 - University of Wisconsin Press

Bouglione aka The Belgian Circus

http://www.bouglione.be/fr_sixieme_generations.php



The Gypsies are the product of 2 migrations: one from Radjastan (Romanians and Albanese), the other from Pakistan (Sintis and Spanish Gypsies).

The Bouglione family is of the Pakistanese branch. They showed bears back in the 18th century in Italy: **Boglione**. The often told legend that **Scipion**, rich silk merchant, left his business to follow a beautiful lion taming woman who travelled with a menagerie was likely invented because in the 19th century it was not popular to be a gipsy and one had to provide honorable explanation for one's tan. This love story of a rich merchant had enough to soften good people's hearts.

Sampion is the one to have developed the business into what it is today: one of the main travelling menageries in France. His four sons, **Alexandre**, **Sampion II**, **Firmin** and **Joseph** were trained in their father's menagerie. In 1924, they transform their travelling zoo into a circus and choose a specialty: Sampion (+1967) as a horse trainer, Firmin (+1981) as a lion tamer, Joseph as an elephant trainer and Alexandre (+1954) as circus administrator.

The menagerie became the 4 Bouglione Brothers Circus (Cirque des quatre frères Bouglione). The early-day modest big top soon stretched out thanks to a clever subterfuge. Sampion had come across a huge stack of Buffalo Bill posters in the back of a printer shop. They were left over from the Buffalo Bill European Tour. Sampion was short posters so he grabbed them and

made believe that his show was sponsored by the American cowboy: the Stadium Circus Ménagerie Buffalo Bill. In 1928, in Paris, the Wild West Show was a great success. They dressed an old gypsy to pass for Buffalo Bill ... the public did not even realize that the well-known figure had died in 1917.

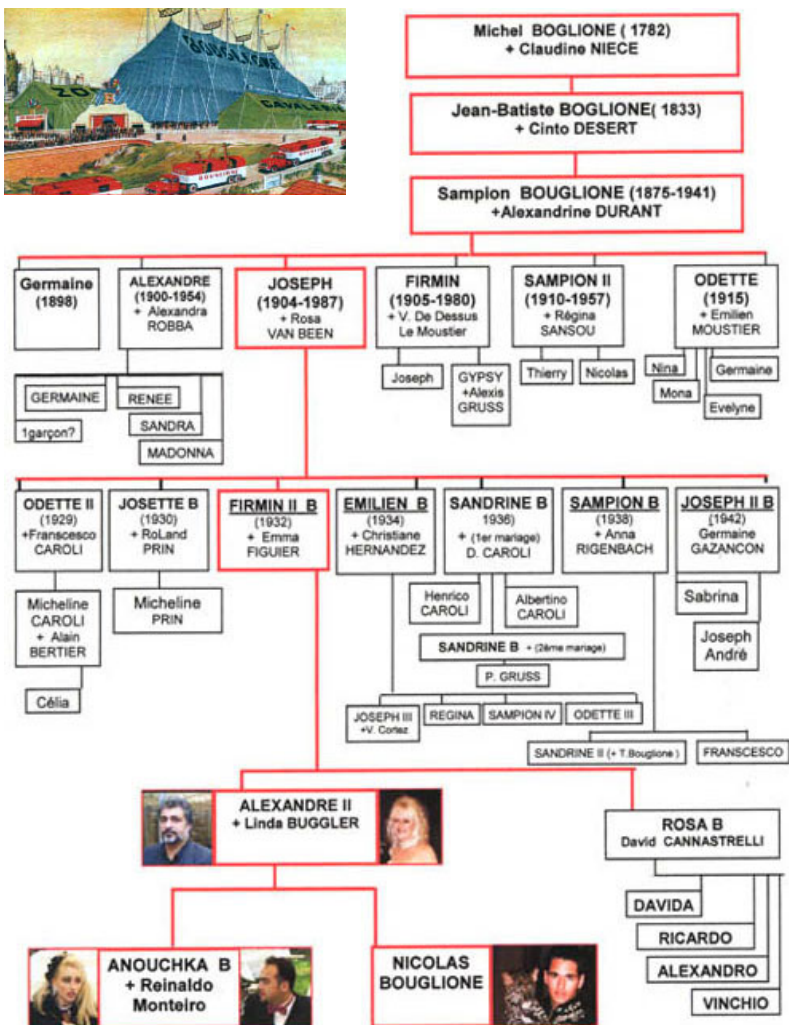
In October 1934 the Circus set out to conquer Paris, by adding a Winter Circus to the Big Top. Under the management of its new director, **Joseph Bouglione**, The already 125y old Winter Circus would experience a magnificence never equaled until then.

Joseph had 4 sons too. They are known as the Junior Bouglione: **Firmin II**, **Emilien**, **Sampion III** and **Joseph II**. He also had 3 daughters: **Odette**, **Josette** and **Sandrine** (who would marry a **GRUSS**), thus forming a 5th generation.

In 1962, the old Médrano Circus reopened its doors under the name of *Bouglione Juniors* then *Cirque de Montmartre*. Alas, it would not be successful and the building was destroyed in 1973. The Big Top continues its tours in France and Belgium. In 1981, the Bouglione Circus would change its name to American Parade, then American Circus.

On May 11th, 1985, at the Winter Circus in Paris, the Minister of Culture **Jack Lang** made **Joseph Bouglione** Knight of the Honor Legion (chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur) for service rendered for the circus.

Two years later, on Wednesday August 5th, 1987, the last of the older generation passed away at his Parisian home, Boulevard du Temple (his brothers predeceased: **Alexandre** in 1954,



Sampion in 1967, **Firmin** in 1980).

Joseph, **Sampion**, **Emilien** and **Odette** took over the management of the Winter Circus, continuing the tradition their father and uncles started in 1934.

Thanks to Firmin II and his son Alexandre II, the Bouglione continue their road show under the Big Top, as "Cirque Alexandre Bouglione", making this the 6th generation of a family devoted to the cause of the European circus. The Alexander Bouglione Circus winters in the Belgian Hainaut at Stamburges near Beloeil.

Ancestors in the Circus

By Regine Brindle

"Whoever is foolish enough to attempt to write a history of the circus and of circus families will perish in a madhouse"

John L. Clarke,
'Circus Parade',
1936



<http://monsieur.wanadoo.fr/dompteurs/>
<http://www.aucirque.com/liens.php>
http://burguscircus1.free.fr/biographies_accueil.htm
<http://www.circus-journal.de/>
<http://www.forumdescirques.com/>
<http://blogs.aol.fr/fusiere/circusmania/>
<http://circusgroup.be/forum/>
<http://www.circushistory.org/links.htm>
<http://www.thegalopper.com/>
<http://www.circusbiography.co.uk/>
<http://groups.msn.com/circusdays/>
<http://www.circusfriends.co.uk/links.html>
<http://www.circusfriends.co.uk/kingpole.html>
<http://www.circushistory.org/Olympians/OlympiansMc.htm>
<http://www.fairground-heritage.org.uk/forum/>

Last year I received a request for information on **Emile WIART**, born around 1870 in Marchiennes. He was a founding who grew up to be a magician in the circus. He married **Virginie CHAMBRONT**, daughter of circus people who traveled with a Dutch circus.

How **DOES** one find their ancestors if they were part of a group of traveling people? How do you retrace their steps?

The boat people have a similar dilemma but at least their path can be channeled fairly easily since it follows rivers.

How do you keep track of these artists who accompanied the circus? They came from everywhere and lived somewhat marginal lives. They are surrounded with myths, and mystery. What records did they leave?

This was coming home for me in more ways than one.

I remember going to the "*Jean Richard*" circus with my father when I was young: sitting under the "Big Top", watching clowns throw buckets of confetti on each other, dogs doing tricks and jugglers tossing plates and never breaking one...

There really is magic in the air at the circus...

Another way that this felt close to home is that Peru, Indiana is the

"Circus Capital City of the World". Years ago, several big circuses wintered¹ here: *Hagenbeck-Wallace-Sells-Floto, Terrell Jacobs, John Robinson* and *Howes Great London*.

While staffing the Family History Center, there have been opportunities to meet people looking for their circus performing ancestors, and we usually refer them to the "Circus Hall of Fame" association but even they don't always have answers for researchers. So where **DO** people look if their ancestors were circus performers in Europe?

The circus as we know it was created in 1770 in London, England. It was **Philip Astley** who had the idea of organizing an equestrian show in a circular arena. The public sat on bleachers around the arena. Spectators came to see horses and dangerous equestrian acrobatics. It was about 60 years later, around 1830, that other animal acts were added to the show, eventually including lions too.

In 1860, **Jules Léotard** decided to add another number, but instead of adding an "animal act", he chose to lift the show into the air by inventing trapeze acrobatics and the show slowly became more varied.

Along with the performers there were many other sorts of people who accompanied the circus: carpenters, builders, riggers, costume designers, seamstresses... Their names didn't make the paper ads, but they played an important part in keeping the circus going all the same. Look for them in the US Census (1880 allows you to do a keyword search by occupation), in the civil records of the towns where they traveled, in historical newspapers (Geneabank), historical books (Gallica), and specialized mailing lists and websites listed above.



Wooden horses in the Deneyer carousel salon
© Ville d'Angers - P Campion

¹ "The golden age of the American circus began in 1870, when nearly a dozen large circuses toured the country. From then until the 1940's Peru, a railroad hub, was a focal point for a traveling industry that depended on the rails to move its decorated circus wagons, performing animals and entertainers from one site to another.

In 1891, Col. Benjamin Wallace purchased a site between the Wabash and Mississinewa rivers from Gabriel Godfroy, son of the Miami tribe's Chief Francis Godfroy. He then moved his circus from its original quarters a few miles down the road.

The Winter Quarters was used later by the American Circus Corporation, and then sold to the Ringlings of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. The Ringlings closed the Winter Quarters and moved to Florida in the early 1940's.

In the 1920's and 1930's, Peru residents included: Animal Trainers' **Clyde Beatty, Terrell Jacobs** and "Cheerful" Gardner Master Clown **Emmett Kelly**, The Equestrians' **Albert Hodgini** Troupe, Trapeze Artist's **Alfredo Cadona**, the Flying **Concellos**, and many others." <http://www.circushalloffame.com/Main.asp?SectionID=59&SubSectionID=265&ArticleID=28>

Many thanks to Maguy Schuermans from the Syndicat d'Initiative de La Reid; the Administration Communale de la Ville de Limbourg.; Stephanie Cutrone, Barnum Museum; Irene Burkhard, Law Library, Western New England College; Library Staff, Mount Holyoke College, Jane Cuccurullo and Theresa LaBianca, Green-Wood Cemetery researchers; without their help this article wouldn't have been possible.

The very extraordinary Monsieur BIHIN

By Micheline GAUDETTE



Every year, on the last Sunday of August, the village of La Reid², Belgium, hosts the St. Fiacre Fair, and during the afternoon, parades their beloved giant BIHIN. Now part of the folklore of the region, this giant really existed, he was **Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN** born in beautiful La Reid on 22 Frimaire An 14 – (actually it was December 13, 1805, but the French Republican Calendar was used since Belgium was annexed to France at that time). La Reid is not far from the famous city of Spa (the real Spa from which the word “spa” comes from).



Jean was the oldest of 6 children born to **Jean Andre BIHIN** and **Marie Anne SMETS**, a family of farmers who left La Reid for Verviers City in 1834.

What made Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN so extraordinary was his size: he was 2.5m or around 7 ½’ tall. He was a giant, not feared and ridiculed, but very well liked by those who knew him as the strong, but sweet, big hearted, quick witted man he was. He was good looking³, well proportioned, with brown hair and beard, blue/gray eyes.

These qualities were further attested to by the famous **Oliver Wendell HOLMES** who wrote in his The Poet at the Breakfast Table, 1858 “I became acquainted with Monsieur BIHIN, “le plus bel homme du monde”, and one of the biggest, a great many years ago, and have kept up my agreeable relations with him ever since. He is a most interesting giant, with a softness of voice and tenderness of feeling which I find very engaging”.

He had great physical strength, and in Hereditary Descent: Its Laws and Facts Applied to Human Improvement, 1852.” O.S. FOWLER, the author, to prove his assertion that strength is hereditary, reported the interview he had with Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN in these terms: “the Belgian giant, who was exhibited a few years ago in our museums, measured nearly **SEVEN AND A HALF FEET** in height, four feet two inches around his chest, twenty-eight around his thigh, and twenty-two around the calf of his leg, and weighted **300 POUNDS**; being symmetrically formed throughout. At birth his height was 25 inches, and his weight 26 pounds. When 12 years old, he was 5’10” high and at 14, over 6’. He could lift **800 POUNDS**, and straighten himself when stooping under **TWO TONS**. Both of his parents are athletic, and his father’s father was nearly as large and strong as himself; and so was his father’s paternal grandfather, as the author learned from the giant himself.”

In his youth, Jean BIHIN worked at various trades, but never stayed very long in one place. Among the most interesting positions he held was perhaps his stint in 1834 as Empress Marie-Louise’s coach driver in Parma, or as a horseman for Prince Dimitroff of Russia. In between these 2 appointments or shortly thereafter, he became part of a circus exhibit in Germany under the name the “**Colosse du Nord**”. And in 1838, he acted at the Adelphi Theatre in London giving 57 performances as “**The Giant of Palestine**”³⁴

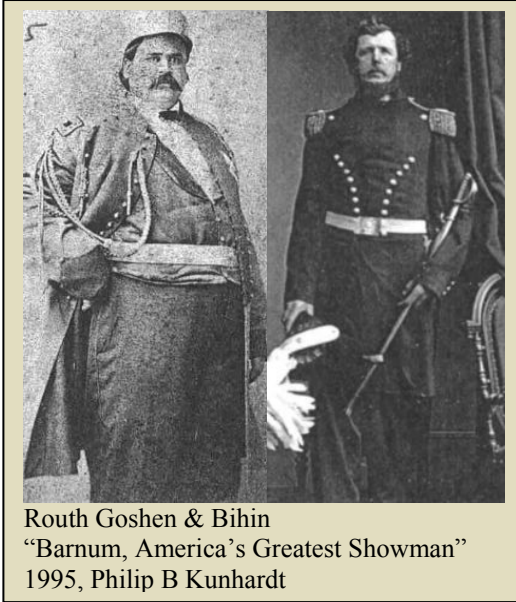
Of course, it wasn’t his acting abilities that probably attracted people but his great size. The roles he played were chosen to emphasize his amazing physical strength and height.

After London, BIHIN returned to the circus life under the name Goliath at the Cirque Olympique in Paris, France, and then back to England with the Fracoli Circus. He is said to have traveled and performed in many European countries.

² http://www.verviers.be/tourisme/canevas/Chap01_Pages/personnalites/08/BIHIN.html
³ for his picture see page 175 of Kunhardt’s P.T. Barnum, America’s greatest showman
⁴ http://www.emich.edu/public/english/adelphi_calendar/hist.htm

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The “Syndicat d’Initiative de Theux”⁵ tells that Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN left for the US and the BARNUM Circus in 1840. This working relationship between BIHIN and BARNUM would be on and off for many years.



Routh Goshen & Bihin
“Barnum, America’s Greatest Showman”
1995, Philip B Kunhardt

There is an interesting little story as told in **P.T. Barnum**, America’s greatest showman, 1995.

It concerns **Jean BIHIN** and another giant **Routh GOSHEN**, both employed by BARNUM, although good friends, these 2 giants quarreled and were about to come to blows, one with a sword, the other with a club, when BARNUM intervened with these words “*Look here! This is all right; if you want to fight each other, that is your affair; but if this duel is to come off, I and the public have a right to participate. It must be duly advertised, and must take place on the stage of the Lecture Room. No performance of yours would be a greater attraction, and if you kill each other, our engagement would end with your duel.*”

Of course, BARNUM’s main concern was not the welfare and safety of the 2 giants, but to entertain the public and make money or make money by entertaining the public, this was very well understood by the men, and Barnum’s blunt speech, so amused them that they burst into laughter, shook hands and resumed their friendship. This incident happened sometime after 1852.

BIHIN’s first arrival in the US created great excitement and was reported by many newspapers⁶.

He landed March 19, 1840, in New York, on the British Queen, and is listed as J. BEHIN, 33, artist from “France”...traveling with him a Wm? BEHIN, 40, also an artist from “France”! He performed at least in New York, in Worcester, MA, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. He even performed in a quartet with Miss Turpin at Peale’s Museum in New York!

BIHIN returned to London on the British Queen October 1, 1840. **Richard Champion RAWLINS**, who had just spent 1 year in the US, was among the passengers of that ship. This young man kept a diary where he described Jean BIHIN as “*pleasant and agreeable though he speaks but little English, and his wife equally so, without speaking English at all.*”

Wait a minute! Was this wife #1? Or was RAWLINS mistaken?

It could have been a sister, or a fellow performer? BIHIN’s “wife” was over 6 ft. tall according to RAWLINS. (But in www.familysearch.org we do find a **Johanne Antonie BIHAIN** son of **Johannis Andreae BIHAIN** and **Mariae Annae SCHMITT** who married on 13 March 1830 at Sankt Maria Katholisch Church, Landau in Pfalz Stadt, a **Virginiam GLOECKNER** daughter of **Joannis Jacobi GLOECKNER** and **Catharinae Barbara WICHARD**)

Anyway, 2 years after his return from the US, Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN, gentleman, bachelor, married **Janne** (sic) **Marie CHOLLET**, spinster, on May 20, 1842, at the Spanish Place Chapel (St. James Catholic Church) in the district of Marylebone, London. The bride was the daughter of **Laurent CHOLLET**, a farmer. **Joseph PATTYN** and **Henri DAZIN (DOZIN?)** were the witnesses. (**Henry Gaspar BIHIN**, Jean’s brother, also married at Marylebone in 1845).

What happened to **Jeanne Marie CHOLLET**? Did she die? Did they divorce? We don’t know. So far, no children of the couple have been found.

In 1843, US newspapers falsely reported he had passed away in Paris!

In 1848, the giant was back in the US where he performed at the Astor Place Theatre in NY, and at the Concert Hall in Boston. The passenger list of the ship Laura, shows “Joseph BIHIN”, 46, arriving at NY on June 12, 1848 with a Jean BIHIN 32, (sex unmentioned).

BROADWAY THEATRE.

Mr. E. A. Marshall Sole Lessee.

FRIDAY EVENING, Feb. 19.

GULLIVER AND THE LILIPUTIANS,

GULLIVER, M. BIHIN, the great giant,

THE LANCERS QUADRILLE.

The VAN AMBERGHS Menagerie.

The great Elephant TIPPO SAIB.

NOTICE.

GULLIVER will be performed every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. Doors open at 1, performance commence at 2 o'clock.

The New York Times, 19 Feb 1858

According to the BIHIN genealogy graciously provided by the Syndicat d’Initiative de La Reid⁷, Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN then fell in love with a “rich” American woman. They were married on January 10, 1849, in New York at the Paris Hotel by an Anglican minister. The witnesses were **Benjamin ST. JOHN** and **Henri BIHIN**. The bride was **Sarah Anna VYSE** nee **DAUGHERTY**, she was the widow of **William VYSE** with whom she had 2 children: **William VYSE** and **Fanny VYSE**.

⁵ <http://www.sitheux.be/Le-gean-BIHIN-personnage>

⁶ Tom Kemp ref: www.genealogybank.com

⁷ www.lareid.be

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The BIHIN family returned to Belgium and settled in the city of Limbourg⁸, where their 2 children were born, **Seraphin Joseph** on November 28, 1849, and **Sarah Odile**, on July 18, 1851.

The family purchased a beautiful estate where they lived in grand style. Unfortunately, they were soon forced to sell it all to cover the debts they had accumulated to sustain their lifestyle. It was back to the United States for the family, none too soon for Sarah BIHIN who preferred life in America.

The BIHINs arrived in New York Nov. 1, 1852, on the Pacific. J. BIHIN, 44, a gentleman, traveling with his spouse Mrs. BIHIN and 4 children (Sarah's 2 children from previous marriage + the couple's 2 children).

After living for a while in Philadelphia, the BIHIN family returned to New York in 1854 and purchased a farm in North Hempstead (Roslyn section). It's possible, but this hasn't been verified, that they raised horses on their farm.

Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN resumed his acting and exhibitions, and could be seen at the Broadway Theatre, in "**Gulliver**", and in "**Jack and the Beanstalk**". Was he in 1858, the giant "**Monsieur Joseph**" performing in the "**Giant of the Cave**" in Philadelphia?

The 1860 US Census of North Hempstead listed "Joseph" BIHIN as a farmer, his wife Sarah's assets were given as \$8,000 in real estate and \$1,500 in personal estate. Their 4 children were living with them; they also had a servant and a farm helper. (it seems that in the US, Jean BIHIN was called "Joseph" by family and friends).

But this is not a "and they lived happily ever after" story, all wasn't well within the marriage, and in 1861 Sarah Anna BIHIN applied for a limited divorce (similar to legal separation) on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment. In 1863, the limited divorce was granted in favor of Sarah. A judge remarked that love or even ordinary affection no longer existed between the 2 parties, only distaste and estrangement.

Even at the beginning of their marriage, when living in Limbourg, Belgium, the couple did not get along, and had many arguments where Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN threatening and insulting his wife, (but NEVER did he strike her). Also, over Sarah's strong objections, he disciplined (spanked?) the children William and Joseph (Seraphin). But as one of the judges remarked it wasn't more than any ordinary father would do. Still, an angry giant must have been a terrifying sight, even more that it was so out of character for him to act that way. It is safe to say that Sarah participated in the verbal abuses going on between the two, and as witnessed by their son Joseph, once threw a heavy glass at her husband.

The BIHIN vs. BIHIN case made it to the Reports of practice cases, determined in the courts of the State of New York, with a digest of all points of practice/ by ABBOTT Brothers, published by VOORHIES, 1855-65, and were referred to by lawyers, judges and law students for many years. This was an unwelcome negative publicity for the giant BIHIN.

Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN was more and more referred to simply as the "Belgian Giant". An article in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle of Aug. 1, 1862, reporting the review of the Empire Brigade, mentioned: "*Among the spectators present, was the Belgian Giant, who exhibited himself on this occasion without pay. It is needless to say that he was admired for his proportions, and attracting great attention. A regiment composed of such as he, would be a sight worth going a good distance to see; but we fear the effect upon the Commissary Department would be disastrous.*"

Earlier that same year (1862) Jean BIHIN had performed as the ogre in **Hop O' My Thumb** at the Barnum Museum. The midget **Commodore NUTT** was his co-star.

In 1863, we find the Belgian Giant acting in "**Jack and the Beanstalk**". Also, at a benefit given by Miss DENVIL at Fox's Old Bowery Theatre. In 1868 he was again The Giant of Palestine at Wood's Museum.

The 1870 US Census listed Sarah BIHIN as living in New York City with the children, all adults by now. The name was spelled BOHM instead of BIHIN! Sarah's oldest child, William VYSE had become a physician.

The giant wasn't living with his family anymore, and is not found in the 1870 US census, this can be accounted for by his travels.

He was 65 years old in 1870, was he able to retire from acting and exhibitions? During his career, he had made a very good living, and had he been as thrifty as that other giant **Routh GOSHEN**, he might have retired with a small fortune. (by-the-way,



⁸ <http://www.ville-limbourg.be/>

Routh GOSHEN's wife ran away with his money and a circus performer!) But on the other hand, with his limited divorce, he had lost the farm and its content and had to continue supporting his wife and children. It's not easy to be a giant, in fact it's a handicap that BIHIN ably used to his advantage. It's also very expensive to be a giant! Clothing, furniture had to be made in proportion to his size, beside, Jean Antoine "Joseph" BIHIN like the good life, and his appetite for food was legendary and may have been exaggerated.

THE GIANT. Our citizens are reminded that "Monsheer" Bihin is to pay them a visit on Thursday next, and will only remain in town one day.— Those who wish to behold one of the prodigies of nature, must improve this opportunity. He is said to be the tallest man, the largest man, and the handsomest man, of his size and height, in the world.— The Boston Times says, "Mons. Bihin is the only man we have ever seen who is entitled to the cognomen of giant. It is true we have before seen tall men, and also many fat men, but never has there been seen, in this country at any rate, and we very much doubt if there has in any country, since the time when "there were Giants," one whose muscular developments and fine symmetrical proportions were in such admirable keeping with his immense stature." We trust the editors of the Banner will be there to discover *their* diminutiveness.

The 1880 US Census of New York City gave much more accurate information and listed:

Sarah BIHIN, 62, born PA., widowed. (Sadly, a note barely readable stated she suffered from "softening of the brain"), Sarah, 28, born Belgium, her daughter; Fanny VYSE, 33, born NY, her daughter by first marriage. Joseph BIHIN, 30, born in Belgium, her son. Wm. H. VYSE, 39, born in NY, physician, her son (by first marriage) was already a widower. Mary LEAHAN, 62, boarder. Lizzie KNIGHT, 22, servant.

Not long after the 1880 census was taken, Sarah BIHIN, from 137 Macon, St., Brooklyn, 63, widow of "Joseph" BIHIN, died on Dec. 30, 1880, after a lingering illness. She was only 63 years old.

BIHIN's 2 children remained in New York, unmarried, living together with their half-sister Fanny VYSE, and their cousin Sarah SEITH. The 1900, 1910 and 1920 US censuses showed Sarah BIHIN as the head of the household, and teaching in a private school, Joseph BIHIN as an electrical contractor, Fanny VYSE as a saleswoman, Sarah SEITH a dressmaker/designer. Their brother William VYSE had died in February 1884. At time they had boarders and a servant.

When the 1930 census was taken, only Joseph S. BIHIN was still alive, 81 years old, a lodger, living on Willow St. in New York City. He died the following year in January 1931. Sarah BIHIN had died in 1927, Fanny VYSE, their half-sister, had died in 1926, and their cousin Sarah SEITH in 1928. All are buried in the same lot in Green-Wood cemetery in Brooklyn, NY, along with their brother William VYSE and Elizabeth, his wife, who had died in 1879.

The search for Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN's death record would have been unsuccessful without the help provided by the researchers Jane Cuccurullo and Theresa LaBianca at the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY. They found our giant had died on October 25, 1873, age 69, and is buried with his wife and their children in the plot purchased by Sarah in the Green-Wood Cemetery. He had died of "liver problems" and his last residence is listed as Chicago, Illinois. (What was he doing there?)

But this brings another question, who was the "Belgian Giant" mentioned in the June 8, 1874, edition of the Boston Daily Globe, appearing at Burnell & Prescott's Museum?

Or in the October 26, 1874 Brooklyn Daily Eagle advertisement that the "Belgian Giant" could be seen every night at Hooley's Opera House?

In his prime, Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN, was enormously popular in the United States, probably more than any of the giants of that time. He was the point of reference for everything that was strong "like the Belgian Giant". There is a little story (1873) of a mother who taught her young boy about Heaven, and asked him who he would like to see in Heaven after he dies. The reply was quick: "If he dies before I do, I would like to see the Belgian Giant"...

Bihin, the Belgian giant, was only typographically killed after all. A later English paper than the one containing his obituary notice, has a letter from him denying that he is "food for worms".— As he is a man of very high character, (7 feet 6) we are inclined to take his word.— Troy Budget.

But why wait for Heaven? Every year on the last Sunday of August, at the St. Fiacre Fair in La Reid, one can see Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN, the Belgian Giant! - At the St. Fiacre Fair, one can also indulge in a little pastry called the "bihin".

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BIHIN GENEALOGY

The name **Bihin** stems from the village Bihain, and can be spelled either way, even Bixhain (the x is not pronounced in Walloon). The following was extracted from a genealogy provided by **Maguy SCHUERMANS** . **Freddy BIXHAIN**, **Auguste GURDAL**, **Andre ANDRIES**, **Jean Luc SERET** were the experts who compiled the genealogy.

b. = born; bpt. = baptized; d.= died; x = married

Jean de BIHAIN → **Antoine de BIHAIN** bpt. 1520
→ **Jehan de BIHAIN**, bpt. 1540
→ **Blaise Antoine de BIHAIN** bpt. 1565

Antoine de BIHAIN, bpt. 1615, d.1651 at Creppe,
x 1639 in Spa, **Egidia COLLIN**

↓
Remacle de BIHAIN bpt.1639 Creppe, d. 1709 Creppe,
x 1670 Spa, **Gilette MATHIEU**

↓
Antoine BIHAIN bpt. 1676 Creppe, d. 1739 Creppe,
x 1708 Spa, **Catherine WASSON**

↓
Jean Antoine BIHAIN, bpt. 1726 Creppe, d. 1795 Spa,
x 1754 **Catherine de LIERNEUX**

↓
Jean Andre BIHIN, bpt. 1777, Creppe, d. 1855 Dolhain,
x 1803 La Reid **Marie Anne SMETS**

↓
Jean Antoine Joseph BIHIN (the giant)
oldest of 6 children, born 1805 La Reid, d.1873
1) x 1842?, London, **Jeanne Marie CHOLLET**
2) x 1849, N.Y., **Sarah (DAUGHERTY) VYSE**
(separated)

↓
Seraphin Joseph BIHIN, b. 1849, Limbourg, Liege.
Belgium, d. 1931 - no issue

Sarah Odile BIHIN, b. 1851, Limbourg, Liege. Belgium,
d. 1927 – no issue



Jack and the Beanstalk, by Ella Dolbear Lee

<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/illustrations/illustrators/lee.html>

Belgian Laces Vol#29-112
The Rochambeau Affaire (Part2)

By Guy Gallez

Emigration of old prisoners

Whereas the beggars and vagabonds, victims of the economic crisis were not criminals and were given light sentences, the old convicts were often serious offenders who had spent many years in prison. It was common to place them aboard ships as sailors when upon their release from prison but it was not actually emigration. It was simply finding them a job. In 1852 however, the idea to add the recently released convicts to the volunteer emigrants from the poor houses became quite attractive. During the summer of 1851, **J. Glibert**, convicted by the Superior court of Namur, imprisoned at the St Bernard Abbey in Hemiksem, asked to have his sentence commuted upon promising to emigrate to America. This had been granted him and he set sail for New York in early October. The minister of Justice of the day strongly encouraged this practice stating that it was “not only useful, but almost indispensable”.

The released convicts were then invited to try their luck in America, all expenses paid by a sponsoring committee at times from the village where they had residence. Others, like J. Glibert, whose sentences commuted if they promised to emigrate immediately, had their voyage paid by the minister of Justice.

In view of these individuals' past, special precautions were taken. They could not put too many on the same boat and once in the US, they had to make their way inland upon arrival.

In fact the governor of the Antwerp province was very insistent that the passports delivered to emigrants should make no mention of their stay in the poor houses and in 1854, the recommendation stated again to “act with prudence and discretion so as not to alert the US government to the fact that their country was being used as a discharge system for our undesirable citizens, blemished by the justice system.”

In 1852 and 1853, a larger sum was even allocated to pay for the passage of these convicts: 195 to 200 Fr instead of 175 to 180 Fr for beggars. In 1854, the amount was equal for all: 180 Fr., most likely due to problems the emigrants experienced while traveling further inland.

This reduced sum was not to everyone's liking. Hence the captain of the *Ann Washburn*, left in April 1854 with a large number of beggars and convicts, demanded that 20 Fr per emigrant be set aside to avoid any trouble with the New York Harbor authorities.

In January 1854 the Belgian Consul in New York alerted the Belgian authorities concerning this system. While he had no problem with the emigrants who left on their own, the unfortunate he encountered at the embassy “with the exception of the sick and accident victims, bore on their face, for the most part, the mark of misconduct. ... The Flemings return to us continuously. Most of them seem to be in poor health; they have an unfortunate lack of energy, they seem unaware of the simplest notions; lacking courage to fight the unavoidable difficulties of their situation, homesickness settles in and some abandon productive activities to return to Belgium with no other prospect than poverty. ... It would be good if a greater number of emigrants from Flanders arriving here were better disposed to work. Too often they neglect the directions given to them and prefer begging to working. It is however essential to observe, Monsieur le Ministre, that, according to the declarations of many of these individuals, they came from poor houses and that their fare to America was paid for by the their hometown.”

It is obvious that this system would be uncovered and that Belgium was heading for unavoidable problems with the American authorities.

The Rochambeau Affaire

These problems made the headlines in American newspapers in December 1854. The American ship "Rochambeau", left Antwerp on November 2nd, arrived in New York on December 19th with 160 Belgian passengers. Mr Gale, US Consul in Antwerp, had forewarned the NY customs administration of the departure of these emigrants whom he described as freed convicts and indigent sent to America at the expense of the Belgian government:

Arrival of Ship load of Belgian, Convicts and Paupers.

- The ship Rochambeau, Capt. Stackpole, from Antwerp, arrived at this port on Tuesday afternoon, having on board 12 Belgian convicts and about 150 paupers, which had been sent over by the authorities for our benefit. Sergeant Bell of the Emigrant squad attached to the Mayor's office, received information respecting the character of the vessel's cargo, and before the passengers had time to land, went on board the vessel with several of his officers, and secured the convicts, who were temporarily committed to the Tombs, by order of Judge Beebe.

The officer also intercepted some correspondence intended only for the Belgian Consul, showing by whom and for what purpose this ship load of crime and poverty had been sent to our shores. Two of the convicts shipped died on the passage and the names of the remaining twelve are **Jaques Gillis, J. Baptiste Mace, Joseph Wera, Gullum Nolonger, Joseph Poisons, Felix Bable, John Wagerman, John De Hague, Chas. Van Hack, Lambert Jourenir, F. W. Schmidt, and Pierre Mack.**

The subpoenaed ship captain, gave the following testimony: “we sailed from Antwerp there were 351 passengers on board, 32 of which died on the passage; the ship was chartered by Adolph Strauss, and among the passengers were the 12 men now in the City Prison; these persons came on board about two hours previous to hauling out in the stream, and I don't know who paid their passage money; I received the whole of the charter money, amounting to \$ 9,500; I had all the passengers examined as usual, by Commissioners, and finding the said 12 men had less baggage than the others, I supposed them to be paupers, and

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so informed Mr. Strauss, I objected to taking them unless they were proved not to be paupers; Mr Strauss replied : "Why, they are young, able-bodied men, able to get a living anywhere, and all had more or less money, and had passports;" I then went to the American Consul and informed him of the matter, and he said "I would have to take them" and could not put them ashore without violating the contract; I did not know of my own knowledge that these men were paupers, and had no means of proving them as such; It was spoken of by American captains that there were going to be a lot of paupers shipped, but it was impossible to find out about it; I had a notice posted on the ship for eight or ten days, offering "a reward to any one who would give information about any paupers or convicts who were to be put on board of my ship;" I never brought any convicts or paupers to this country to my knowledge; I did hear the interpreter say the passage of these men had been paid by the Burgomaster.

One of the twelve men in question, named **J. Baptist Furrit** stated he was a native of Forest, Belgium, and was confined in the Workhouse at Lavine (Louvain); himself and nine others made application to the Burgomaster (Mayor) of Antwerp to transport them to the United States. The chief magistrate consented to send them to this country, and gave each of them 10 francs to defray their expense.

Belgium, as witnessed the governor of the Antwerp Province, denied the criminal nature of the 12 people held in custody. They came from the poor houses in Hoogstraeten, la Cambre, Bruges and Mons. But none of them could be considered as convicts by American standards. They were strong, all trained in a trade, widowed or single; their passports, in order. Some had military release papers and certificates of good citizenship. These passengers had freely and of their own accord asked to be expatriated, and their respective hometowns paid for their passage, food, clothes and pocket money. These were:

Jacques GILIS, 18y, from Wilderijk, sailor, from the Hoogstraeten poor house

Jean Baptiste MAËS, 20y, from Leuven, daylaborer

Joseph WERA, 19y, from Leuven, daylaborer

J. Baptiste STOUREZ, 45y, from Leuven, daylaborer

Guillaume VERTONGEN, 32y, from Leuven, farmer

Joseph POISMANS, 30y, from Leuven, daylaborer

Felix BUYLE, 24y, Ghent (unknown there), from Bruges, daylaborer

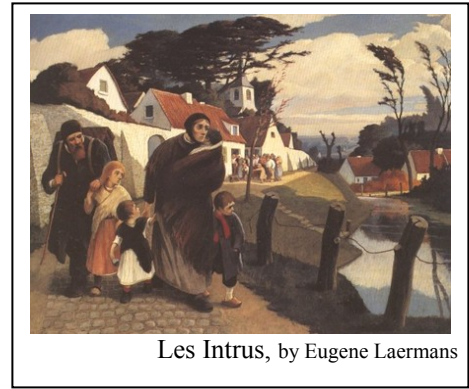
John WAGEMANS, 40y, from Ghent, free passenger from Ghent (freed convict)

John DE LE HAYE, 46y, from Bruges, from the Bruges poor house

Charles VAN ACKER, 35y, from Brussels, from the La Cambre poor house

Lambert SOUVENIR, 24y, from Namur, from the Mons poor house

Pierre MAES, 54y, from Leuven, from the Hoogstraeten poor house



Following the explanations received in Belgium, they were released on February

24th, 1855, two months after their arrest as reported by the New York Times: "Judge Roosevelt sat in chambers, at 12 o'clock, on Saturday, when Joseph Poismans, aged thirty years, a native of Louvain, and Jean Waggemanns, aged forty years, a native of Ghent, (Belgians,) were brought before his Honor, the one on a writ of habeas corpus, and the other on a writ of certiorari, in order to demand their discharge from the city prison; where they have been confined since the December of last year, on the charge as stated in the committal of being foreign convicts. The men appeared in good health, were comfortably clad, and of as respectable appearance as the majority of adult male emigrants from the working classes of Europe who land in this country, present.

Mr. Hall then proceeded to state briefly how the men came to be in custody, where they were found by the present Mayor of the city and himself, on their accession to office for the fact was, that they receiver these Belgian prisoners as a legacy from their predecessors in office. On the 20th of November, Mr. Gale, Consul of the United States at Antwerp, addressed a letter to the Collector of the port of New York, announcing the embarkation of these men, with others, in the ship Rochambeau, for the United States. It was stated that they had gone on board with only the sum of \$1 each in their pockets, and that the Belgian government had expedited their departure. Judging from the fact that the men were able bodied, he (Gale) "suspected" that, as, the Belgian laws required able bodied men, of certain age, to serve in the army, it would not ship away so many men unless they were convicts.

The Court expressed a wish to have the prisoner, Poismann, examined, to which Mr. Sedgwick assented. The following questions were put to him in French, and replied to in the same tongue:

Q. Were you ever in an almshouse in Belgium ?

A. I was in a government poor house in Belgium

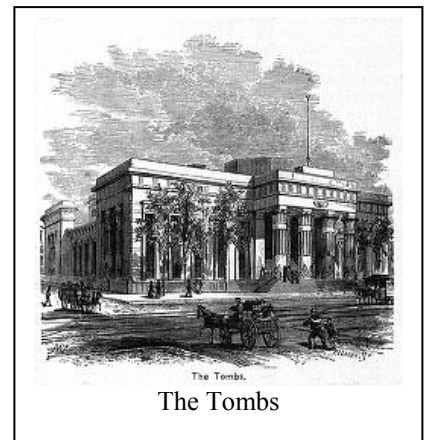
Q. Did you enter there voluntarily ?

A. I did.

Q. How, for how long, and for what cause did you go in ?

A. I went in of myself, from want of work, about a year ago last winter; I remained there six months; I left there three days before the Rochambeau sailed, having asked my burgomaster to send me to America, which request was granted; I am thirty years of age; and have no family.

Q. Were you ever a convict ?



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A. I never was before a court on any charge whatever.

Q. Are you now, in good health ?

A. I am in good health and able to work; I am a tanner by trade.

Q. How can able bodied men be six months out of work in Belgium ?

A. I do not know; I had no work.

Q. Did they put you to any work in the almshouse ?

A. Yes; they gave me work as a tanner.

Q. Did they pay you any wages ?

A. Yes; they gave me six cents a day besides my board and lodging.

The Court said it was quite clear that an able bodied man, willing to work, was not a pauper, even if he had no money. A pauper was a person disabled, sickly, unwilling to work, &c. So far from looking at mere poverty as an offence, we view it as quite the reverse, having plenty of scope for the labor of all able bodied men.

He did not appear here for a parcel of convicts or vagabonds, but deemed these men paupers only by the misfortunes to which European countries are perpetually liable, and he therefore asked at once for their liberation. The whole subject had been considered by the Legislature, and the idea of our excluding emigrants merely because they were paupers, was preposterous, and had never been entertained.

Judge Roosevelt observed that the prisoner (**Poismanns**) did not appear to have gone to an almshouse, in the American sense of the word, but to a place where work was given to him at a slight rate of remuneration. He did not seem to have been a pauper in our technical sense. This "depot" as it had been called, was like a Home of Industry with us. He could not assent to the doctrine that our law looks on a man as a pauper because he has not a cent in his pocket: As a matter of public policy he thought it advantageous to encourage the emigration of such people, particularly if they are willing to work for six pence a day. We had in the city some thousands of young men who never did work, and who never would work, and were looked on as gentlemen. Now, if they traveled abroad, they would think it hard to be arrested as "pestilential" persons. . He was of opinion that this man should be discharged although he thought the city authorities had been right in watching and investigating the matter.

The other prisoner (**Wagemanns**) was next examined, and his statement being of a similar tenor to that of Poismanns, it was ordered that both of them be discharged, and a similar order entered us, to the ten others remaining.

Official List of Individuals who came from Poor Houses and Prisons,

Emigrated to the US, thanks to Mr. Thielens - From January 1st, 1853 until December 31st, 1854.(Part2)

By Guy Gallez

Note : The ship lists helped me determine the age and occupation of these emigrants. However it was impossible for me to find all of these in the original ship lists.

20 Jan 1854 - Peter Hatrick (American) - New York

87	DEGUTENAER Ambroise	De Guchlenaere, Albrois	39	Pastry cook	Bruges
88	VANTONGEREN Conrad	Van Tongeren, Cornelius	30	Tailor	Bruges
89	CALBRACHT Charles	Calbrecht, Charles	50	Farmer	Bruges
90	VANGOETENS Pierre	Van Guckhem, Pierre	26	Mechanic	Bruges
91	VANHEE Charles	Van Heich	33	Tailor	Bruges
92	YPERMAN Jacques	Yperman, Jacques	34	Farmer	Bruges
93	VERMEULEN Jean	Vermeulen, Jean	22	Mechanic	Bruges
94	VANDERGHOTE Joseph	Van der Gast, Joseph	24	Tailor	Nivelles

3 Mar 1854 - Vasco de Gama (Belgian) - New York

95	DESOUTERS Jean	not found !			Bruges
96	HOSTENS Pierre	not found !			Bruges

10 Mar 1854 - Caesar (American) - New-York

97	HERMAN Benoit	Benet, Herman	23	Farmer	Anvers
98	ESTIN Jean Baptiste	Ekstsin, Jacob	21	Farmer	Borgerhout
99	GRANSJOI Henri	Gronjean, Henri	51	Farmer	Melen
100	GRANSJOI Joseph	Gronjean, Jas	49	Farmer	Melen
101	DEBRANMER Jean	Gronjean, Brewer	24	Farmer	Anvers
102	MIGERON Maximilien	not found !			Westwich
103	JORISEN Adrien	Jorisen, Adrien	22	Farmer	Brochout
104	BARAY Leopold	Brower, Leopold		Farmer	Anvers

23 Mar 1854 - Ortelius (Belgian) - New York : manifest not found

105	DEVAUX Jean				Tournai
106	GYSSSELS Jean				Alost
107	BASTINS Louis				Bruges
108	VANLAKER Joos				Rysselde

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20 Apr 1854 - Ann Washburnn (American) - New York

109	DEROO Bernard	DeKoo, Bernard	34	Labourer	Westcappelle
110	MORIN Joseph	Modrin, Joseph	26	Labourer	Knocke
111	HERIBOUT Joseph	Heeryboat, Joseph	36	Labourer	Dudzeele
112	MEYSMAN Bernard	Meyman, Bernard	32	Labourer	Knocke
113	FOURNIER Joseph	Fourina, Joseph	43		Knocke
114	VANDERHERREN Henri	Vander Herrin, Vander Herrin	53	Labourer	Anvers
115	LERREMANS Pierre	not found !		Maline	
116	LENORMAND Jean Baptiste	Lenordmand, V B	21	Labourer	Maline
117	VANKERKE Pierre	Van Herck, P F	31	Labourer	Heystopdenberg
118	VANDEZANDE Jean	VandeSande, Jean	17	Labourer	Gheel
119	DELIN Liévin	not found !		Ewenhout	
120	BLOCKHUYS Louis	Hockbuys, Louis	24	Labourer	Vonsselaer
121	BOUCKHOUDT Louis	bouchout, Louis	37	Labourer	Meulebeke
122	VAN MOSKERN	not found !		Anvers	
123	VAN RENTERGHEM	Van Van Keutegens, Leo	16	Labourer	Anvers
124	ENNEFELLERS Leonard	Heymfetter, Ed	37	Labourer	Anvers
125	VANHOVERBEKE Henri	Van Overbeke, H	25	Labourer	Anvers

29 Apr 1854 - Elisabeth Denison (American) - New York

138	BASTINS Henri	not found !			Bruxelles
127	BOURRE Dominique	not found !			Bruxelles
128	DEBIEZ Godfried	not found !			Bruxelles
134	ENOATENBERG Nicolas	not found !			Bruxelles
132	GOOSSENS François	not found !			Bruxelles
139	GORIN Charles	not found !			Bruxelles
135	HAES Bertrand	not found !			Bruxelles
126	HOFMAN Joseph	not found !			Malines
130	LAMOT Martin	not found !			Bruxelles
131	SALOMON Auguste	not found !			Bruxelles
140	STAES Guillaume	not found !			Bruxelles
129	TAVERGNIEZ Jean Baptiste	not found !			Bruxelles
133	VANDERBRUGGEN Antoine	not found !			Bruxelles
136	VANDERBRUGGEN Emanuel	not found !			Bruxelles
137	VERY Giles	not found !			Bruxelles

4 May 1854 - Sea Eagle (American) - New-York

141	KEULEN Jacob	Keulen, Jacob	20	Mechc	without papers
142	DEGREEF Gille	not found !			without papers
143	VANGRASDORF Pierre	Van Grandorf, P	34	Mechc	without papers
144	DELAISSE Jean Baptiste	De Laisse, JB	41	Mechc	without papers
145	BULTOS Jean Pierre	Balton, Pierre	43	Mechc	without papers
146	GARNOT Lambert	Garnot, Lambert	32	Mechc	without papers
147	VANLIEFDAEL Jean Baptiste	Van Liefdsahl, J B	48	Mechc	without papers
148	VANDENBROEK Giles	VandenBruck, C	23	Mechc	without papers
149	VANDENBROEK Gerard	VandenBruck, G	30	Mechc	without papers
150	D'HEYN Jean Baptiste	De Hein, J B	46	Labourer	without papers
151	MOYAERTS Louis	Moyarts, Louis	26	Labourer	without papers
152	LEJEUNE Guillaume	Leygwire, G	21	Mechc	without papers
153	BOONEN Charles	Boonen, Chas	41	Mechc	without papers
154	VANGRASDORF Jean Baptiste	Van Grasner, J B	36	Mechc	without papers
155	VERCAMMEN	Estenberg, Francis	29	Mechc	without papers
156	DEKWEDER Joseph	DeRinder, Joseph	24	Mechc	without papers
157	GONSOUX Guillaume	Gondieux, J	47	Mechc	without papers
158	VANDRES Leopold	Van Dres, L	22	Mechc	without papers
159	BUSSCHOTS Henri	Buschot, Henri	26	Mechc	without papers
160	BACOS Pierre	Baers, Pierre	20	Mechc	without papers
161	LEYENDESKER Peter	Yerndecker, Peter	37	Mechc	without papers
162	DIENHARD Joseph	Dinart, Joseph	32	Farmer	without papers
163	MULLER Mathias	Muller, Jacob	37	Farmer	without papers

Pennsylvania and West Virginia Obituaries

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

Feb. 25, 1910 McDonald PA Record

Mrs. **Marie DESCUTNER**⁹, 28 years old, wife of **Peter E. DESCUTNER**, died at her home on Valley street, Friday, February 18, at 4:45 a.m., of tuberculosis, after an illness of several years. Mrs. DESCUTNER is survived by her husband, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. **Desire POSKIN** of Charlier street, and two younger brothers, Valentine and Emile, who reside with their parents. The funeral took place Sunday afternoon from the French church on North McDonald street. The friends that gathered for the service were so many that only about half could find room in the church. The services were conducted by the Rev. H. GARROU, assisted by the Rev. W. D. IRONS, D. D., and the Rev. J. P. JORDAN. Interment was made in the Hilldale cemetery.

Mar. 18, 1910 McDonald PA Record

Mrs. **Katherine CENIS**, aged 78 years, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. **Jules GOFFART** of Laurel Hill, Tuesday morning, March 15, at 5 o'clock, after an illness of several days of pneumonia. Mrs. CENIS was born in Belgium, but came to America seventeen years ago, and had resided in this locality for the greater part of this time. She is survived by four daughters, **Mrs. CAUCHIE** of South Side, McDonald; **Mrs. NOE** of Lore City, Ohio; **Mrs. BOULANGER** of Dietz, Wyoming, and Mrs. **Frank GOFFART** of Laurel HILL; and three stepsons, **Max CENIS** of Irwin, **Joseph CENIS** of Liberty street and **Edward CENIS** of Montana. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon, conducted by the rev. H. GARROU. Interment in Robinson's Run cemetery.

Mar. 18, 1910 McDonald PA Record

Peter CHARLIER died Monday afternoon at his home here after an illness of about two years. The deceased was born in Belgium, January 16, 1853. The remains were removed on Tuesday to his son Arthur's residence in McDonald. Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon. Interment was made in Robinsons Run cemetery. - *Midway column

Mar. 25, 1910 McDonald PA Record

Desire WAUTHIER, aged 59 years, died at his home in Sturgeon of heart trouble, Monday night, March 21. Mr. WAUTHIER had been a hard working man until about four years ago when he retired. He was born in Belgium and had resided in this locality about twenty-five years. Mr. WAUTHIER was well liked and respected by all who knew him. His wife, who is an invalid, survives him, also two daughters, Mrs. **F. BENNETT** of Arkansas and Mrs. **A. CHARLIER** of McDonald, and two sisters, **Mrs. SOUFFRANT** of Sturgeon and Mrs. **GAINAUX (GALNAUX?)** of Belgium. Funeral services were held at his home on Thursday afternoon. Interment at Robinson's Run cemetery.

Aug. 12, 1910 McDonald PA Record

Mrs. **Rosalie TAVERNIER**, wife of Louis TAVERNIER of Laurel Hill, died at her home on Sunday morning, August 7, at 7 a.m. She was 36 years of age. The funeral services were held on Tuesday afternoon. Interment was made in Robinson's Run

Marathon race Apr. 15, 1910 McDonald PA Record

An eight-mile Marathon race here on Tuesday evening with three runners under the auspices of the French club of McDonald was won by **Jules GOSSIAUX**, time 54 minutes; **Jules THOBOYS** second, time 55 min. 10 sec., and **Emile DUMAS** third, time 58 min. 20. sec. The winner received a cash prize of \$15 and the second man \$5. The course was from here to Cecil and return.

Indiana Evening Gazette (Indiana, PA) – Mar 30, 1914

Julius Dumont, Camille Dumont and Joe Dexoux, severally charges with the illegal sale of liquor in the Belgian Club, Blairsville, who pled nolle contendere, were paroled upon the following conditions: that they pay cost of prosecution and as representatives of the Belgian Club, Blairsville, where the alleged sales were made, shall not hereafter engage in the sale or distribution of intoxicating liquors in said club room and these defendants representing said club and assisting thereto do agree that the conditions of parole shall be carried out and enforced; a failure on their part to carry out this parole or to contril the said club in the prohibition of the use of intoxicating liquors in the club shall be sufficient cause for vacating this parole and bringing the defendants severally into court for sentence.

The Charleston Daily Mail (WV) 26 Oct 1933

Mrs **Rene HENRY** entertained with a party in honor of the birthday of Mrs **Frank HENRY**, Wed. evening, at her home in Third avenue. The guests were: Mr. and Mrs **A A LACHAPELLE**, Mr and Mrs. **Earl LANGE**, Mr and Mrs **Camille DUMONT**, Mr and Mrs **A J LEFEVRE**, Mr and Mrs **Edward GOFFAUX**, Mrs **Arthur DUPERRIEUX**, of Belgium, Mrs **J. G. W. TOMPKINS**. Mrs **Ernest MONDRON**, Mrs **Arthur HAUTEM**, Mrs **R WALLACE**, Mrs **W E BRACKMAN**, Mrs **Lawrence SCHMIDT**, Mrs. **George BOUGAMONT**, Mrs **M.R. QUINET**, Mrs **Anna LACHAPELLE**, Mrs. **George LECHIEN**, Mrs **F A DANDOIS**. Mrs **Leon BELLETTE**, Mrs **Rudolph DUBOIS**, Mrs **Jules GOFFAUX**, Mrs **Adolf ROUSSEAU**, Mrs **Leon COLLARD**, Mrs **Charles MOTTICE**, Miss **Jewell BOOKER**, Miss **Martha DELBART**, Miss **Gladys GOFFAUX**, Miss **Alfredine VANDERVILLE** and **Rene GOFFAUX**.

The Charleroi Mail (Pennsylvania) – 18 Jul 1939

Members of the Cenis family held their annual reunion recently at Washington Park. There were 60 persons present from McDonald, Irwin, Burgettstown, Cresson, Sewickley and Cambridge, Ohio. Officers were elected as follows: Mrs. **Jules E MASQUELIER** of McDonald, president; Miss **Harriett CENIS**, Irwin, secretary; **Joseph CENIS**, Sewickley, vice-president; and **Elmer McELROY**, of Cambridge, Ohio, treasurer.

⁹ **Marie and Peter DESCUTNER** were married less than a year at the time of the 1900 census (North Fayette, Allegheny, PA). They lived next door to her parents Desire and Mary POSKIN. Marie was born in Belgium in May 1882 and emigrated in 1887. Peter, her husband, was born in Apr 1877 in Belgium. They had no children.

cemetery. Besides her husband two small daughters (*Renee and Alice*)¹⁰ survive. Mr. TAVERNIER was badly injured several weeks ago, while at work in the Briar Hill mine and is still confined to his home.

Aug. 19, 1910 McDonald PA Record

The death of Mrs. **Adele WAUTHIER**¹¹, aged 56 years, occurred Tuesday morning, August 16, at one o'clock. Her death was due to apoplexy. Funeral services were held Thursday at 4 o'clock. The interment was made in Robinson's Run cemetery. Mrs. WAUTHIER is survived by two daughters. They are: Mrs. Frank BINET of Sturgeon and Mrs. Arthur CHARLIER. Her husband, Desire WAUTHIER, died five months ago.

Aug. 19, 1910 McDonald PA Record

Mrs. **Adolphine DUMONT**¹², aged seventy-four, died on Thursday at the Washington Hospital. She was taken to the hospital suffering with bronchitis two days before. The remains were brought to her son Emil's residence on Saturday and the interment was made in Center cemetery on Sunday. - *Midway column

June 6, 1902 McDonald Record

Jules CHARLIER, Sr., died Wednesday evening, June 4, 1902, at his home, Robb's valley, after a long illness of a complication of diseases. The deceased was born in Belgium, February 12, 1843, and brought his family her in October 1879. He at once affiliated himself with the First U. P. church of McDonald, of which he has been a faithful and consistent member up to his death. The first to teach a French Bible class in the Sabbath school, his walk in life was circumspect and he died in the triumph of the faith. His wife and six children, J. J., the grocer, Fred E., manager of the Federal Supply store, Emile, a miner, Elie, a clerk in the Federal Supply store, Mary and Alice, at home, survive him, also five grandchildren. The funeral will be held from the First U. P. church this afternoon and the services will be conducted by the Rev. E. S. LHEUREUX, assisted by Rev. W. D. IRONS. Interment at Arlington.



Here is part of the Francis coal patch, which was built around 1900 by the Pittsburgh Buffalo Coal Co., the same concern that constructed Marianna, PA in the Klondike Field. Like most of the coal mines in the Burgettstown area, not much survives from the mining structures, though large refuse piles radiate out in all directions from Burgettstown.



Slate dump on the edge of McDonald, PA

Belgians Injured or Killed in Pennsylvania Mines: Washington, Fayette & Westmoreland Counties

<http://patheoldminer.rootsweb.com>
<http://www.coalcampusa.com/westpa/> - cgp3@psu.edu

Over 15 billion tons of coal have been taken from Pennsylvania since mining began around 1760 (near Pittsburgh). The peak year of production was 1917, when 277 million tons were extracted. PA was the No. 1 coal mining state in the U.S.A. until West Virginia surpassed it in 1930. In 1992 Pennsylvania produced only 65 million tons of coal, but was still the nationwide leader in coke production.

A coal patch (called "coal camp" elsewhere) is a town where everything was built and owned by a coal company, including schools, churches, stores, theatres, and residential structures. Coal patches in Western Pennsylvania generally date from the 1870s through the 1920s. Although the coal seams around the patches are mined out and the coke ovens are crumbling ruins, people still live in these towns in homes built by the coal companies a century or more ago.

Vigilant Mine

Godart, Albert: Pick Miner ca.1904, , Age 23, single; fatally injured by a fall of slate, Oct. 28, 1904.

Remy, Frank: Pick Miner ca.1906, Age 18, single; burned by an explosion of a five pound can of blast powder in a mine car. The can of powder was placed on the draw bar. The motor was grounded, transmitting power through draw bar and exploding the can of Powder, July 23, 1906

July 4, 1903 McDonald PA Outlook

At a large mass meeting of miners at Roscoe following the recent act of the Legislature prohibiting boys under 16 from working in mines, **Patrick DOLAN**, district president of the United Mine Workers, advised the men to ignore the law, stating that **Governor PENNYPAKER** had probably signed the bill through a mistaken conception of its import. He said the measure was intended for the anthracite regions and not for bituminous miners.

Mr. DOLAN cited the hardships the law imposed on widowed mothers and parents of large families, declaring there was no necessity for raising the age limit. He advised the men to return to the mines with their 16-year-old boys, and threatened that if superintendents or inspectors tried to enforce the age law he would compel them to enforce other measures now neglected.

Other officers made addresses of the same nature. All were cheered. Feelings against the measure are intense.

¹⁰ The 1910 PA Miracode indicates that Louis was 41, Rosalie was 36, Rene(e) was 12 and Alice was 6 (b PA)

¹¹ Also known as Della; the 1900 US Census – North Fayette, Allegheny, PA shows she was born in Jun 1853, in Belgium; had been married 25y, had 4 children, 2 of whom are alive in 1900, emigrated in 1896, while her husband had been in the States since 1884

¹² The 1910 PA Miracode indicates that she is living with her son Julius DUMONT in Washington Co, PA

Hendersonville #1 Mine, Cecil Twp.

Gossett, Daniel: Machine Miner ca.1917, Age 23, single; killed by an explosion of firedamp March 13, 1917.

Gossett, Hector: Machine Miner ca.1917, Age 28, single; killed by an explosion of firedamp March 13, 1917.

Gossett, Joseph: Machine Miner ca.1917, Age 25, married, 1 child; killed by an explosion of firedamp March 13, 1917.

Creedmore Mine, Cecil

Dantine, J. B: Mule Driver, Age 16, single; killed by a fall of roof coal in the mine. His mine car jumped off the track, which knocked out a mine post and allowed a piece of the top, which it was supporting to fall, April 20, 1903.

Pauline, Hypolite: Pick Miner, Age 34, married; injured about the body by falling slate and coal, Nov. 9, 1900.

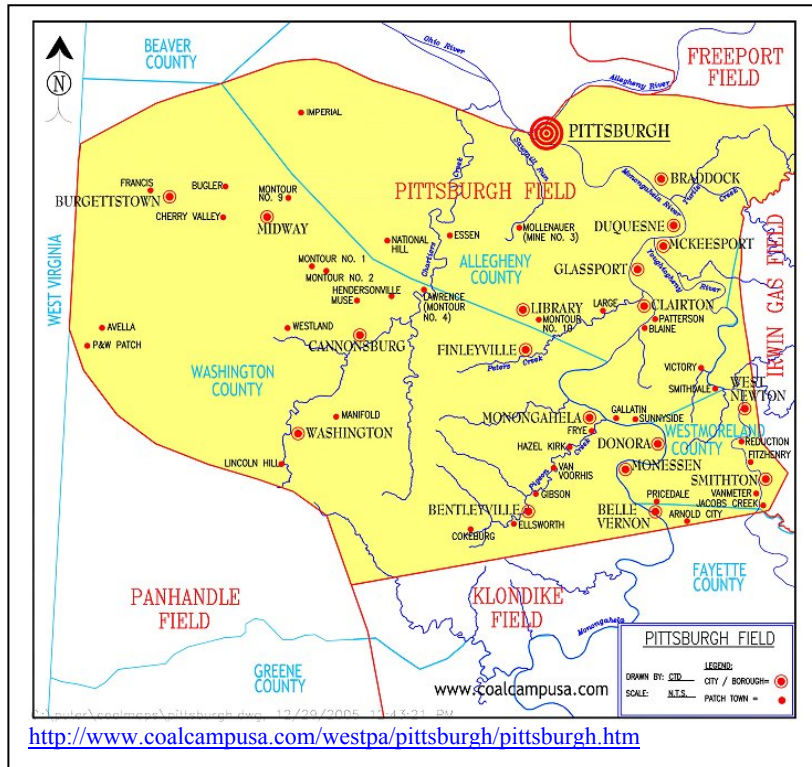
Ridgeway Mine, Cecil

Sterkman, Victor: Pick Miner, Age 52, single, killed by a fall of slate in his room. In this case the slate broke away from a free slip which could not be seen until after the slate fell, May 17, 1900.

Brier Hill Mine, McDonald

Deliveaux, Felix: Pick Miner, Age 44, married; injured by a fall of slate Dec. 10, 1900.

Hainout, Louis: Coal Loader, Age 55, married. Fatally injured by a fall of roof in No. 26 room, off No. 20 entry, Nov. 23, 1905. He died the following day.



Jumbo Mine, near McDonald

Bargnet, Elie: Coal Loader ca.1905, Jumbo Mine, Age 41, married, 5 children. Killed instantly by a fall of slate, April 25, 1905.

Primrose Mine, near McDonald

Danse, Herman: Pick Miner ca.1917, Age 36, married; rib fractured. He was setting a road post in a room. The driver came to pull the loaded mine car out and when he turned his mule, the mule kicked the victim, Nov. 20, 1917.

Libert, Louis

Liebert, Joe

Lougree, Herbert: Coal Loader ca.1905, Age 42, married, 5 children; fatally injured by a fall of slate, May 17, 1905.

Mercer, Jules: Mule Driver ca.1917, Age 24, married; collar bone broken. Caught between mine cars on an entry, Feb. 9, 1917.

Small, Alex

Bulger Mine, Bulger, Smith Twp.

Charlier, Arthur: Machine Miner, Age 51, married; foot bruised and toe cut off by a fall of slate at the face of a room, Sep. 28, 1916.

Druman, Louis: Coal loader, Age 39, married, 3 children; killed by a fall of slate in his room April 11, 1903.

Homy, Alfred: Machine Miner, Age 38, married; leg broken by a fall of slate at the face of a room. He returned, while the room was full of smoke, to examine the result of a shot, May 13, 1916.)

Verner Mine, Bulger, Smith Twp.

Gilson, Campbell: Blacksmith, Age 50, married; back and shoulders sprained. He was carrying a keg of bolts into the warehouse when he tripped and fell. Outside the Verner Mine, April 4, 1917.

Little Squaw Mine, Shire Oaks

Bolza, Oscar: Pick Miner, 32, single; left leg and left collar bone broken in two places by a fall of coal and slate, Nov. 4, 1905.

Browlett, Joseph: Pick Miner, 40, single; brunt on face, neck and arms by the ignition of a powder cartridge March 16, 1903.

Huggim, Hubert: Pick Miner, 35, single; hand burned by the ignition of black powder, June 2, 1904.

Charleroi Mine, Charleroi

Deboe, Frank: Motorman, Age 33, married; finger and thumb injured. Caught between the rail and the wheel of a mine locomotive on a cross entry. He was adjusting the sand pipe on the motor while it was in operation, July 22, 1916.

Vesta #4 Mine, Richeyville-California

Dender, Joe: Pick Miner, Age 33, married; leg broken, and bruised about the head and body by a fall of slate at the face of a pillar, Dec. 10, 1913.

Deserant, Celestine: Pick Miner, Age 46, married; leg broken by a fall of slate at the face of a pillar, Oct. 28, 1913; Age 50, married.; Ribs fractured by a mine car while taking a mine car into the working place, in the **Vesta No. 5 Mine**, Mar. 24, 1917.

Montol, Gustav: Pick Miner, Age 51, single; ankle fractured by a fall of coal at the face of a room, Jan. 30, 1917.

Cincinnati Mine, Courtney

Sommerville, Albert: Pick Miner ca.1905, Age 54, married. Killed instantly by a fall of slate, March 1st, 1905.

Fayette County:

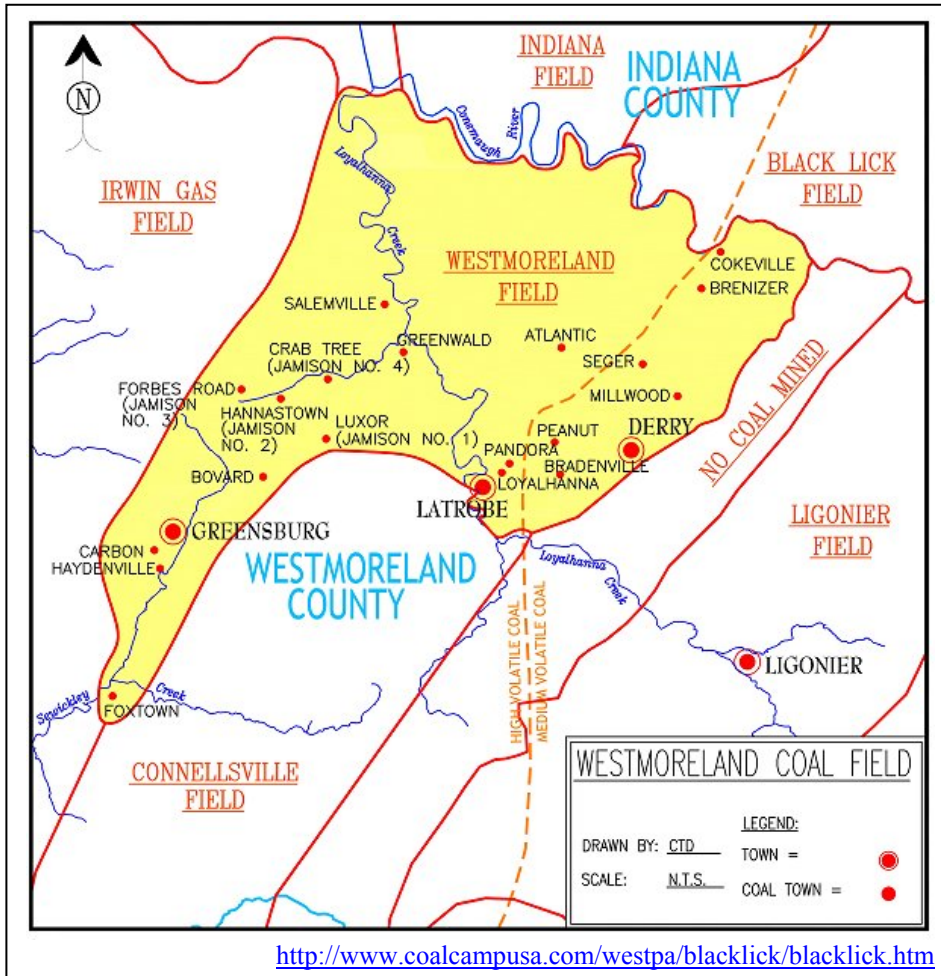
Chamouni Mine, near Brownsville

Boochs, Joseph: Pick Miner, Age 46, married; three ribs broken by a fall of slate, Feb. 15, 1900.

Grindstone Mine, Fayette City

Joseph, Abraham: Pick Miner, Age 23, single; instantly killed by a fall of slate, June 9, 1906.

Westmoreland County:



Irons Mine #1, Rostraver Township

Eliowe, Julion: Pick Miner, Age 45, single; Ankle sprained by foot being caught in a road switch, Jan. 4, 1909.

Marshel, Mike: Pick Miner, Age 40, married; Thumb injured by being caught between a piece of slate and a mine prop, at the face of the working place, Jan. 19, 1909.

Jamison #4 Mine, Goff/Crabtree, Unity & Salem Twps

Vanundestrade, A: Age 36, married, 2 children; killed instantly by fall of coal, while working with Ernest Bradley, undercutting in No. 29 room off No. 16 entry, north, Dec. 8, 1906.

Equitable Mine, Webster, Rostraver Twp

LeRose, Amiel: Cutter, Age 34, married; Ulna fractured near wrist. He was hauling a loaded mine car out of a room that was cleaned up

when the mine car became derailed at mouth of the room and caught his arm against the rib, Dec. 7, 1914.

Somers #2 Mine, Pricedale, Rostraver Twp

Janet, Anton: Coal Loader, Age 46, married; stomach injured by a fall of coal, May 1, 1906.

Alexian Brothers Funeral Books in Gent

<http://www.gent.be/eCache/THE/2/120.html>
<http://www.alexianbrothers.org/english/history/timeline.html>
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/02389c.htm>



The Alexian Brothers ministry began in the Middle Ages, as Europe slowly emerged from centuries of ignorance and superstition. In the Low Countries and along the Rhine, small groups of men and women banded together to carry on Christ's commands. They would tend the sick, feed the hungry and bury the dead. These were dangerously unorthodox activities in the 12th century. Most people, out of fear, shunned the sick and dying, forcing them outside the city gates, to subsist on the leavings of the more fortunate.

The first written account of the Brothers is dated 1259 in a document referring to the **Beguines** and **Beghards**. The etymology of the names Beghard and Beguine can only be conjectured. Most likely they are derived from the old Flemish word beghen, in the sense of "to pray", not "to beg", for neither of these communities were at any time mendicant orders; maybe from **Bega**, the patron saint of Nivelles, where, according to a doubtful tradition the first Beguinage was established; maybe, again, from **Lambert le Bègue**, a priest of Liège who died in 1180, after having expended a fortune in founding in his native town a cloister and church for the widows and orphans of crusaders.

As early as the beginning of the 12th century there were women in the Netherlands who lived alone, and without taking vows devoted themselves to prayer and good works. At first there were not many of them, but as the century grew older their numbers increased; it was the age of the Crusades, and the land teemed with desolate women--the raw material for a host of neophytes. These solitaries made their homes not in the forest, where the true hermit loves to dwell, but on the fringe of the town, where their work lay, for they served Christ in His poor. About the beginning of the 13th century some of them grouped their cabins together, and the community thus formed was the first **Beguinage**.

The Beguine could hardly be called a nun; she took no vows, could return to the world and wed if she would, and did not renounce her property. If she was without means she neither asked nor accepted alms, but supported herself by manual labour, or by teaching the children of burghers.

The Alexian Brothers of Belgium have houses in Boechout, Tienen, Grimbergen, and Henri-Chapelle. The early history of the Alexian Brothers in Belgium is recorded in the third quarter of the 12th Century where they cared for the poor sick in the City of Liege. Today with the assistance of lay collaborators the Brothers provide for the psychiatric needs of all peoples.

During the time of her novitiate she lived with "the Grand Mistress" of her cloister, but afterwards she had her own dwelling, and, if she could afford it, was attended by her own servants. The same aim in life, kindred pursuits, and community of worship were the ties which bound her to her companions. There was no mother-house, nor common rule, nor common general of the order; every community was complete in itself and fixed its own order of living, though later on many adopted the rule of the Third Order of Saint Francis. These communities were no less varied as to the social status of their members; some of them only admitted ladies of high degree; others were exclusively reserved for persons in humble circumstances; others again opened their doors wide to women of every condition, and these were the most densely peopled. Several, like the great Beguinage of Ghent, numbered their inhabitants by thousands. Such was this semi-monastic institution. Admirably adapted to the spiritual and social needs of the age which produced it, it spread rapidly throughout the land and soon began to exercise a profound influence on the religious life of the people. Each of these institutions was an ardent centre of mysticism, and it was not the monks, who mostly dwelt on the country side, nor even the secular clergy, but the Beguines, the Beghards, and the sons of Saint Francis who moulded the thought of the urban population of the Netherlands.

There was a Beguinage at Mechlin as early as 1207, at Brussels in 1245, at Louvain in 1234, at Bruges in 1244, and by the close of the century there was hardly a commune in the Netherlands without its Beguinage, whilst several of the great cities had two or three or even more. Most of these institutions were suppressed during the religious troubles of the 1500s or during the stormy years which closed the 18th century, but a few convents of Beguines still exist in various parts of Belgium. The most notable are those of Bruges, Mechlin, Louvain, and Ghent, which last numbers nearly a thousand members.



Leuven Beguinage
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Leuven-Groot-Begijnhof.jpg>

The widespread religious revival of which the Beguinage was the outcome brought forth also about the same time several kindred societies for men. Of these the Beghards were the most widespread and the most important. The Beghards were all laymen, and like the Beguines, they were not bound by vows, the rule of life which they observed was not uniform, and the members of each community were subject only to their own local superiors; but, unlike them, they had no private property; the brethren of each cloister had a common purse, dwelt together under one roof, and ate at the same board. They were for the most part, though not always, men of humble origin--weavers, dyers, fullers, and so forth--and thus they were intimately connected with the city craft-guilds. Indeed, no man could be admitted to the Beghards' convent at Brussels unless he were a member of the Weavers' Company, and this was in all probability not a unique case. The Beghards were often men to whom fortune had not been kind--men who had outlived their friends, or whose family ties had been broken by some untoward event, and who, by reason of failing health or advancing years, or perhaps on account of some accident, were unable to stand alone. If, as a recent writer has it, "the medieval towns of the Netherlands found in the Beguinage a solution of their feminine question", the establishment of these communities afforded them at least a partial solution of another problem which pressed for an answer: the difficult problem of how to deal with the worn-out workingman. Albeit the main object of all these institutions was not a temporal but a spiritual one, they had banded together in the first place to build up the inner man. Nor whilst working out their own salvation were they unmindful of their neighbours in the world, and thanks to their intimate connexion with the craft-guilds, they were able to largely influence the religious life, and to a great extent to mould the religious opinion of the cities and towns of the Netherlands, at all events in the case of the proletariat, during more than two hundred years.

Bearing in mind the wretched and down-trodden class from which the Beghards were generally recruited, and the fact that they were so little trammelled by ecclesiastical control, it is not surprising that the mysticism of some of them presently became a sort of mystical pantheism, or that some of them gradually developed opinions not in harmony with the Catholic Faith, opinions, indeed, if we may trust **John Ruysbroek**, which seem to have differed little from the religious and political opinions professed by anarchists to-day. The heretical tendencies of the Beghards and Beguines required disciplinary measures, sometimes severe, on the part of ecclesiastical authority. Various restrictions were placed upon them by the Synod of Fritzlar (1259), Mainz (1261), Eichstätt (1282); and they were forbidden as "having no approbation" by the Synod of Béziers (1299). They were condemned by the Council of Vienne (1312), but this sentence was mitigated by John XXII (1321), who permitted the Beguines, as they had mended their ways, to resume their mode of life. The Beghards were more obstinate. During the 14th century they were repeatedly condemned by the Holy See, the bishops (notably in Germany), and the Inquisition. It should be noted, on the other hand, that in spite of widespread abuses, men of faith and piety were found among the Beghards. In their behalf Gregory XI (1374-77) and Boniface IX (1394) addressed Bulls to the bishops of Germany and the Netherlands. An echo of the theological errors into which the Beghards fell is found in the doctrine of Quietism.

Horror struck the continent in 1346 - the Black Death ... the Plague. In a single generation it undermined the very foundations of European society. Family ties became meaningless as the healthy fled in terror from their stricken kin. The Beghards stayed, risking their lives, to nurse the victims of the plague, to care for them and bury them when they died.

When the Plague passed, the men chose **St. Alexius**, a 5th century saint who was devoted to the poor and sick, as the patron of their first chapel. With the passing of time, reference was made to them as "**Alexian Brothers**" by the people they served. One of the first communities of Alexian Brothers was in the historic city of Aachen, Germany. In surrounding villages and towns, smaller, loosely formed communities were established primarily in the Low Countries and the Rhineland. In 1472, Pope Sixtus V approved and confirmed the Alexian Brothers as a religious community under the rule of St. Augustine. Hard times were in store for the Brothers. A fire destroyed their house in Aachen in 1656, which they rebuilt into one of the first hospitals for the mentally ill. Then came the French Revolution in 1797, with all religious orders abolished by law with the exception of the Ursuline teaching Sisters and nursing orders. Laws limited the Brothers to twelve men, and their property and administration came under government control. By 1812, after the Concordat with Napoleon, only three Brothers were left in the community of Aachen.

At their largest number there were 94 of these medieval foundations in Belgium. They shrunk to 34 in 1734 and to 20 in 1856. In 1831 there were 2,487 members; in 1828, 1,010; in 1856, about 1,600.

Torn, and under suspicion by the government, the Brothers were forced into secular life-style until 1856. **Brother Dominic Brock**, in 1854, began to rebuild the decimated community just in time to send his men to battlefields and field hospitals in the wars of 1864, 1866, and 1870. Under Brother Dominic the Brothers' numbers grew and their work began to spread from Germany to the United States, England, Ireland and then Belgium. **Brother Bonaventure Thelen** landed in the United States in 1866 and established the first Alexian Brothers Hospital for men and boys in a small house on Dearborn Street in Chicago. After a move to larger quarters, the great fire of 1871 destroyed everything they had worked so hard for. Quick to rebuild on the same site, the city plans of a new elevated line forced them to move to yet another location, Belden Avenue.

During this period the headquarters of the Immaculate Conception Province was established in Chicago (1869), where it remains to this day. The Brothers expanded their work, establishing hospitals in St. Louis, Missouri (1870) and Elizabeth, New Jersey (1892).

Alexian Brothers Funeral Books in Gent: "T"

For more, search the index at <http://www.gent.be/eCache/THE/2/120.html>

Names of Deceased	Death date	Names of Deceased	Death date
Ickenban (Heukinbrant) , Joannes Antonius	29 Oct 1784	Inghels , Cornelis	23 Sep 1725
Ide , Ignatius	2 Aug 1783	Inghels , Cornelis	10 Nov 1709
Idendors , Joanna	30 Aug 1765	Inghels , Cornelis	20 Feb 1711
Idens , N	30 Nov 1793	Inghels , Cornelis	1699
Ieman , ..?. (de weduwe van)	1689	Inghels , Cornelius	4 Jun 1695
Iessebrant , Frans	17 Oct 1688	Inghels , Daneel	8 Apr 1718
Ijde , Livina	3 Jan 1774	Inghels , Daniel	1 Jan 1787
Ijperseele , N	13 Apr 1788	Inghels , David	15 Dec 1737
Ijperseele, Philippus Antonius Dominicus Franciscus	3 Mar 1790	Inghels , David	3 Feb 1725
Ijpersele , N	14 Jul 1788	Inghels , Francisca	6 Jan 1790
Ijsebaert , Isabella Jacoba	22 Nov 1787	Inghels , Franciscus	30 Jul 1713
Ijsebaert , Joannes	11 Sep 1795	Inghels , Frans	4 Jan 1704
Ijssebaert (Tijsebaert) , Joannes Baptista	21 Dec 1783	Inghels , Inghelbert	12 Jan 1712
Iket , Joanna	4 Jan 1786	Inghels , Jacqemijne	1691
Iket (Eeket) , Joseph	24 Feb 1724	Inghels , Jacques	24 Feb 1721
Iman , Louis	16 Nov 1773	Inghels , Jan	25 Apr 1724
Imberch , Pieter	25 Oct 1683	Inghels , Jan	19 Jan 1705
Imbrie , Norbertus	3 Sep 1787	Inghels , Jan	19 Jan 1706
Impe , Antone	1676	Inghels , Jan	3 Sep 1708
Impe , Arnaut	7 Jun 1678	Inghels , Joos	22 Jul 1675
Impe , N	1702	Inghels , Lieven	1691
Impe , Pieter	10 Jun 1682	Inghels , Livinus	3 May 1705
Impens , Bernarda	19 Sep 1781	Inghels , Margriete	29 Jul 1679
Impens , Jacobus	25 Dec 1794	Inghels , N	1697
Impens , Jacobus	24 Jul 1791	Inghels , N	28 Nov 1729
Impens , Joanna	7 Mar 1776	Inghels , N	15 Dec 1707
Impens , Joanna Catharina	8 Apr 1786	Inghels , Petronilla	17 Feb 1767
Impens , Joannes Baptista	25 Nov 1784	Inghels , Pieter	15 Mar 1720
Impens , Joannes Baptiste	24 Aug 1784	Inghels , Pieter	23 Jul 1723
Impens , Joannes Franciscus	7 Oct 1769	Inghels (Engels) , Adrianus	3 Oct 1704
Impens , Livinus	10 Jun 1795	Inghels (Engels) , Jacobus	27 Aug 1728
Impens , Livinus	29 Jul 1756	Inghels (Engels) , Pieter	10 Feb 1724
Impens , Pieter	10 Jul 1703	Inghels (Engels) , Judocus	25 Dec 1688
Impens (Himpens) , Martinus	18 Nov 1786	Ingraijn , Adriaen	26 May 1677
Imschoot (Van Hemschoot) , Joannes	21 Apr 1788	Inneweghe , Pieter	4 Aug 1726
Imschoot (Van Imschoot) , Joannes	28 Feb 1780	Inweghe , N	1 Dec 1785
Imschoot (Van Imschoot) , Petrus	8 Oct 1790	Iperseele , Anthon (Christianus)	10 Feb 1695
Imselroij , Judocus	14 Dec 1761	Irequet , N	1 Feb 1761
Imselroij (Emstelroei) , Christianus	26 Apr 1773	Isacie , Antonia Francisca Judoca	27 Sep 1781
Indervelde , N	11 Nov 1715	Isacie , Carolus	13 Aug 1780
Inderwijtens , Joos	19 Nov 1677	Isacie , Francies	4 May 1794
Ingelaere , Beatrix	15 May 1776	Isacie , Joanna Judoca	30 Aug 1787
Ingels , Catharina	22 Nov 1685	Isaesins (Issacie) , Carolina (Maria)	10 Mar 1760
Ingels , Maria Anna	13 Nov 1783	Isaesius (Isacie) , Philippus Carolus	28 Mar 1760
Ingels , Maria Ludovica	11 Dec 1770	Ischui , Maria Magfalena	18 Jul 1787
Inghelbijn , Lucas	24 Nov 1679	Isebaert , Adriaen	30 Sep 1719
Inghelbijn , N	1699	Isebaert , Adriaen	1697
Inghelbyn , Adriaen	1689	Isebrant , Theresia (juffrouw)	7 Sep 1745
Inghelbyn , Dominicus (mynheer)	21 Nov 1697	Isenbrant , Joannes Carolus (mijnheer)	9 Mar 1732
Inghelrest , Rogier	1689	Iserby (Eeysderbye), Pieter	22 Apr 1720
Inghels , Adriaen	17 Jan 1715	Iset , Joanna	15 Jul 1701
Inghels , Adrianus	29 Dec 1699	Ivain , Theresia (Joanna Jacoba)	22 Dec 1780
Inghels , Anthon	1676	Iwaele , Joannes	1 May 1796

Belgians Honor Herbert Hoover as War Hero

"Older men declare war, but it is the youth that must fight and die. It is the youth who must inherit the tribulation, the sorrow and the triumphs that are the aftermath of war."

Herbert Hoover

Published online at

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601086&sid=akEWiS14N480>

Taken from James G. Neuger - jneuger@bloomberg.net



Belgians are commemorating an earlier American president whom many people prefer to forget: **Herbert Hoover**.

Hoover, in the White House from 1929 to 1933, tends to get blamed for the Great Depression. A new exhibit in Brussels recalls a finer hour, when he organized emergency aid for Belgians starving under the German occupation in World War I and created a model for modern humanitarian relief efforts.

"With the Iraq war turning U.S. friends into foes across Europe, the dose of history is well timed.", said Hoover's grandson, **Herbert Hoover III**, who traveled to Brussels last week¹³ for the opening of the exhibit at the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History.

Trans-Atlantic tensions were still raw when **Emile Boulpaep**, a Belgian-born professor at the Yale University School of Medicine, broached the idea for a Hoover commemoration to **Tom Korologos**, U.S. ambassador to Belgium. The U.S. Embassy co-sponsored the exhibit, joining Belgian companies to put up \$250,000.

The exhibit brings "Belgian Relief" banners, ration cards, cartoons, newsreels and food sacks -- all mementos of the philanthropy, industrial might and logistical skill Hoover mobilized.

"Germany Will Not Clothe Them -- AMERICA MUST" reads one fundraising appeal.

Germany invaded in August 1914, sweeping through Belgium before being stopped by the French army at the gates of Paris. Four years of trench warfare ensued, with most of Belgium under German control, except for a sliver on the English Channel.

"Little Man": Hoover, a wealthy mining engineer, was 40 and living in London when the war broke out. The "simple, energetic little



man" in the words of the U.S. ambassador to Britain at the time, is pictured in a stiff collar with his slicked hair parted slightly off-center. Working pro bono, Hoover recruited U.S. volunteers to the cause. In November 1914 he appealed to the head of Oxford University's Balliol College to send Rhodes Scholars "with some experience of roughing it, who speak French, have tact, and can get on with the Germans." The winter of 1914 -1915 was the worst, with Belgium an unintended victim of Britain's naval blockade of the continent, which was designed to cut off supplies to the German war machine.

Hoover raised \$2.8 billion in private donations, equal to \$52 billion today, crossed the Channel 40 times and even took the wheel of food trucks to supervise the delivery of 3.2 million tons of food from 1915 until the U.S. entry into the war in 1918.

Sacks of Flour: "A friend in need -- a friend in deed" reads a banner held by Belgian schoolchildren surrounded by sacks of flour in one of the exhibition's ceiling-high photos. Each child bears a hand-printed sign marked "fruit", "bread" and the like.



¹³ Oct 2006

Belgian Laces Vol#29-112

To thank the Hoovers for their help, Belgian citizens embroidered flour sacks for them.



The sacks were carefully counted and given to Belgian schools and sewing workrooms, where the girls were learning to embroider and make lace. They were also used to make clothing, pillows, etc.

“The goal [here] is to fill in the gaps in memory,” said **Mark Eyskens**, a former Belgian prime minister who studied economics at Columbia University in New York in the 1950s

thanks to Hoover's scholarship fund. *“People are stymied by prejudices and, to an extent, lack of knowledge.”*

Hoover's deeds went beyond helping Belgium, a country of 10 million, survive four years of privation. He orchestrated postwar food aid for 350 million people in 20 countries, and advised President Harry Truman on relief after World War II.

The exhibit portrays a different Herbert Hoover than the one who stands accused of pursuing tight fiscal policies that exacerbated the U.S.'s slide into the Depression.

“Americans think of that awkward figure from the newsreels. They recall the loser president,” said **Bert Patenaude**, a research fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University in California. *“They have no idea that Hoover actually made his name as the giver of benevolence.”*

Herbert Hoover: The Triumph and Tragedy of 'American Individualism'

by Stephen E. Sachs

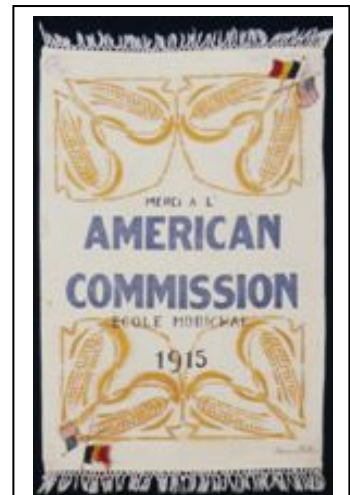
http://www.stevesachs.com/papers/paper_hoover.html

On the eleventh of August, 1928, 60,000 people stood in the sun in the Stanford football stadium, waiting to hear a national hero accept his nomination for the Presidency. Herbert Hoover was a self-made man, the savior of Belgium, the Great Engineer; there was nothing that he could not do and nothing that America could not achieve under his leadership. *“We in America today,”* he declared to the crowd, *“are nearer to the final triumph over poverty than ever before in the history of this land”* (New Day 16). 18 months after that speech was delivered, the country would be in the grip of the greatest economic collapse in its history. The prosperity of the 1920s had vanished; the American system, it appeared, was broken. Many called on the Great Engineer to work the magic that had fed the Belgians and saved a war-torn world from famine, but it was not to be. Hoover's unquestioning faith in the “fundamental correctness” (New Day 30) of America's existing economic, political, and social systems prevented him from taking the action necessary to solve the country's problems. His philosophy of American individualism, though confirmed by his experiences in Belgium, failed him as President; his inflexible adherence to the beliefs of his triumphant days resulted in Hoover's tragic downfall.

Hoover had not sought to gain fame as a humanitarian. A partner in the prestigious mining firm of Bewick, Moreing & Co., Hoover in 1914 directed a worldwide network of mining facilities and engineering projects from its London office. He had hoped to return to his Stanford home in the fall, but the onset of the First World War in August disrupted his plans; instead, he stayed in London, participating with a group of other American businessmen in a relief effort for American tourists. The war had come at the height of the tourist season, and thousands of Americans were stranded in the city as transatlantic shipping ground to a halt¹⁴. After the crisis was resolved in October, Hoover again booked passage home.



Embroidered and stenciled flour sack
Accession #: 62.4.416
Maker: unknown
Date: 1914-15
Size: 20 1/2" x 16" plus 3" white fringe on either end

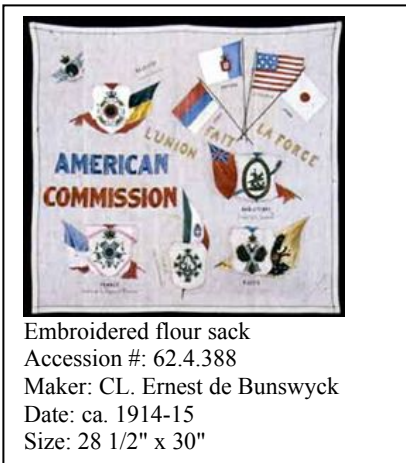


Embroidered and stenciled flour sack
Accession #: 62.4.202
Maker: Jeanne Willem,
Signed in lower right corner
Date: 1915
Size: 26" x 16" including a 1" fringe at each end

¹⁴ American tourists across the Continent flooded to London in hopes of reaching home. However, the reduced number of transatlantic voyages created a bottleneck, and many were forced to stay in London. Making matters worse, due to the crisis atmosphere of the war, British banks did not accept the tourists' travelers' cheques, leaving even wealthy Americans

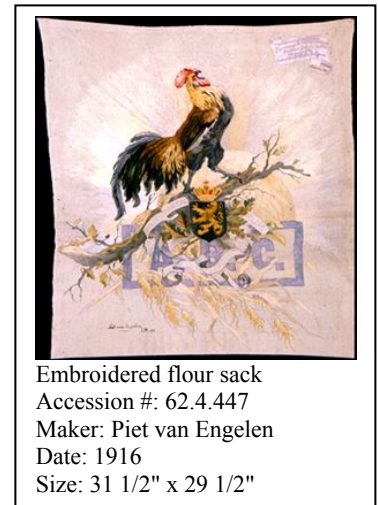
Belgian Laces Vol#29-112

Before he was due to depart, however, Hoover encountered an old friend named Millard Shaler. Shaler, like Hoover, was a mining engineer; he had left his office in Brussels to seek aid in England for Belgian citizens. German battalions had crossed the border into neutral Belgium on August 4, and with the fall of Antwerp in early October, most of the country was under German control. As the most industrialized nation in Europe, Belgium depended heavily on imported food and clothing, and the war had brought commerce to a standstill. On September 15, a group of Belgians and Americans formed a committee in Brussels known as the Comité Central, which solicited contributions and designated Shaler to purchase food in Britain for the starving city. To obtain permission from the British to ship foodstuffs to occupied territory, at Shaler's request, Hoover sought assistance from the American Embassy. Ambassador Walter Hines Page had worked with Hoover during the tourist crisis, and he agreed to have the food shipped directly to the American Ministry in Brussels for distribution by the Comité Central¹⁵.^[4] Impressed by the scope of the problem in Belgium, Hoover began to formulate a plan for feeding the hostage nation. Brussels was not alone in suffering: "In two weeks," wrote an American diplomat on October 17, "the civil population of Belgium, already in misery, will face starvation" (Nash 24). Not even the farmers had stores of food: the Germans had destroyed fields and commandeered much of the previous harvest. On October 18, representatives of the Comité Central met with Page and Hoover at the American Embassy in London and pleaded for American aid. Four days later, Hoover organized a meeting of six Americans, four of whom were engineers, and under his leadership, the American Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB) was born¹⁶. Within a week, the first shipment of 2,300 tons of wheat was on its way¹⁷. At the time, Hoover believed the war would be over within months: "if we could tide the Belgians over for eight months . . .," he later wrote, "that would end the job" (Memoirs 156).



Embroidered flour sack
Accession #: 62.4.388
Maker: CL. Ernest de Bunswyck
Date: ca. 1914-15
Size: 28 1/2" x 30"

The Commission served as a model for the efficient, selfless cooperation Hoover would extol for the rest of his career. The CRB organized private Belgian Relief Committees worldwide, generating over \$52 million in donations of money and clothing (Hoover, *American Epic* 31).¹⁸ The American businessmen who constituted its leadership were all volunteers, and their task was immense: the CRB negotiated with the belligerent governments,¹⁹ conducted public relations, purchased food in world markets, and operated a merchant fleet of over two thousand ships, while the Comité Central (now known as the Comité National) held responsibility for distributing 110,050 tons of food each month to nine million people.²⁰ Due to the large number of volunteers



Embroidered flour sack
Accession #: 62.4.447
Maker: Piet van Engelen
Date: 1916
Size: 31 1/2" x 29 1/2"

effectively penniless. Hoover did not begin the relief movement, but became chairman of one of the largest relief organizations, loaning money to tourists and arranging for passage back to the United States.

¹⁵ One tenth of the Belgian population lived in Brussels, and by the time Shaler's food arrived, no food but a small supply of black bread was left in the city. Hoover estimated on October 8 that the food supply would barely last two weeks (Nash 20)

¹⁶ When neutral powers Holland and Spain joined the effort, the word "American" was dropped from the title.

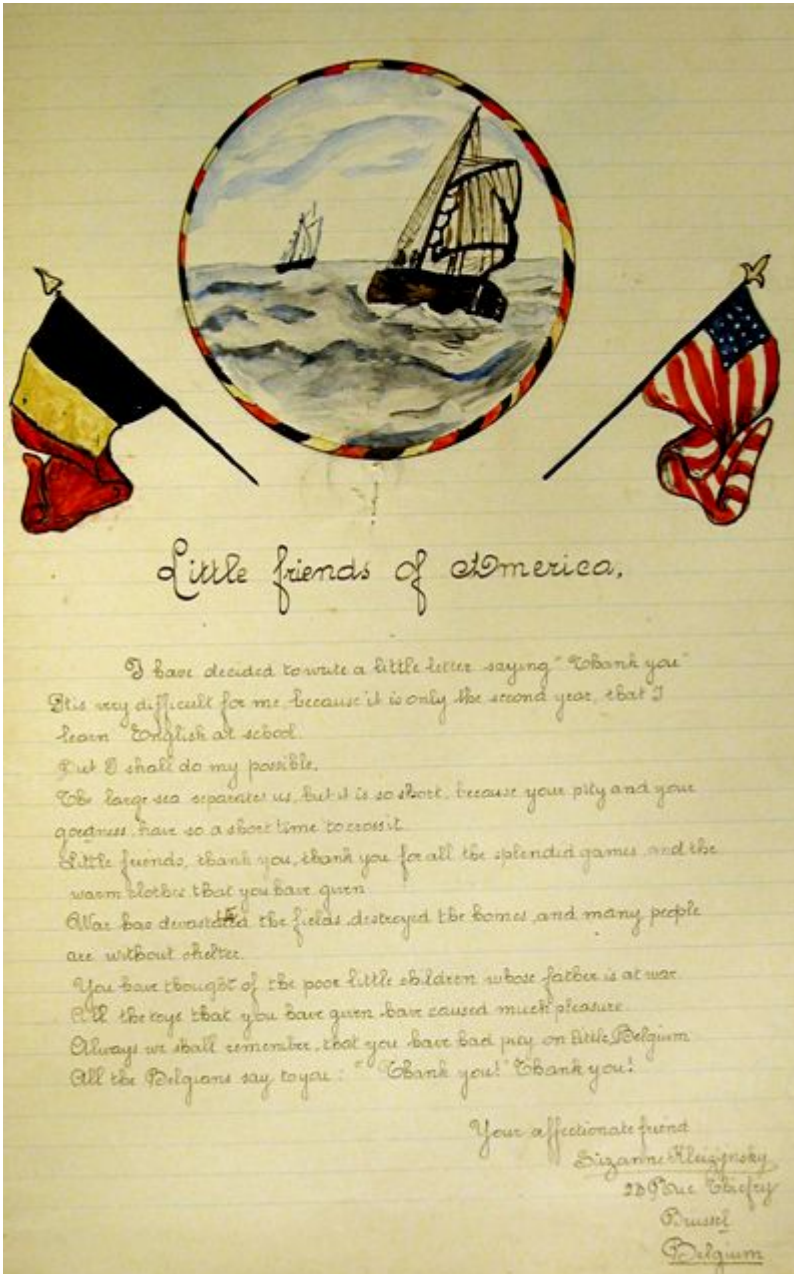
¹⁷ In order to convince the British to allow the food through the export blockade, Hoover took an immense risk: he purchased \$250,000 worth of food, chartered ships, loaded them, and only then asked the British for permission. "[H]aving carefully advertised the purchases and the preparations for shipment, there could only be one answer from the English officials" (Nash 29).

¹⁸ Financing the CRB posed an immediate difficulty. At Hoover's direction, effective public-relations campaigns and friendly journalists generated sentiment for the plight of the Belgians. The governors of 40 states created state Belgian Relief Committees at his request; the Duke of Norfolk organized a similar effort in the British Commonwealth, and committees were also created in Scandinavia, France, Latin America, and Japan. Funding was also available from Belgium itself, as the CRB sold rations to those who could afford them. However, the vast majority of the CRB's total income, over \$700 million, was provided by British, French, and American government contributions.

¹⁹ The CRB depended on the goodwill of the belligerent governments for its existence, and that goodwill was not always forthcoming. The British argued that Germany under international law was responsible for the care of civilians in its occupied territories; to provide imported food to Belgium would therefore decrease the demands on the German food supply and possibly prolong the war. Germany, however, blamed the British blockade for the lack of food; it could hardly feed its own people with the blockade in place, it claimed, and so Britain bore responsibility for the fate of the Belgians. Hoover convinced Britain, France and Germany to support the CRB by promising both sides American sympathies in the war (Nash 70, 87).

²⁰ At Britain's request, American representatives of the CRB were stationed in Belgium to provide for independent accounting - although the Germans had promised not to take the food, the British insisted that none of it fall into German hands. A third committee, the Comité Français, was added when the CRB took on the responsibility of feeding the inhabitants of Northern France; however, the CRB often dealt with the French agricultural communes directly.

and the many services rendered in kind,²¹ Hoover's organization was able to handle almost a billion dollars over 5 years while reducing administrative expenses to less than 1/2 of one percent (Hoover, Statistical Review v).



Under Hoover's leadership, the CRB became more than a simple relief organization: it was effectively a neutral state, with its own commerce, taxes, currency, passports, and flags - a "piratical state organized for benevolence" (CRB 5), staffed by volunteers and under the sole command of Herbert Hoover²². The CRB and Comité National continued to operate throughout the war, shipping in a total of over five million tons of food. Although the rations were small, the CRB provided enough to keep the Belgians from starvation: it was estimated that child mortality during the CRB's existence was actually lower than before the war (Hoover, Memoirs 176). When the United States entered the war, the Americans were forced to withdraw from Belgium, and Hoover turned over day-to-day control to the Spanish and Dutch. However, he had already made his mark: his organization had crossed the lines of battle to save the lives of millions, and Hoover returned home to the welcome of a triumphant hero.²³

²¹ Much of the shipping service required by the CRB was donated by shipping companies. In addition, the organization (which handled hundreds of millions of dollars) received accounting services for free from the English accounting firm of Deloitte, Plender, Griffiths & Co.

²² The CRB had issued its own currency to counteract the flight of Belgian currency out of the region, although it was soon abandoned when the Germans replaced it with one of their own. CRB representatives were given their own passports, and Hoover even negotiated an agreement whereby they would have freedom of travel throughout Belgium and Northern France.

(Hoover himself carried a document issued by the German government which stated, "This man is not to be stopped under any circumstances.") Ships bound for Belgium flew the CRB flag and displayed huge wooden planks bearing the words "Commission for Relief in Belgium." (Even though Germany had specified a route free of submarines, the danger was always present. After unrestricted submarine warfare was declared on January 31, 1917, several CRB ships were destroyed despite their markings.)

²³ Hoover was widely acclaimed for his work in Belgium: as a token of their gratitude, the women of Belgium sent him thousands of embroidered CRB flower sacks as gifts (see Fig. 1). Hoover's triumphs did not end after he sailed home, however. When America entered the war, Hoover was asked by President Wilson to become the U.S. Food Administrator, charged with organizing the nation's war effort and increasing food production. He also accompanied Wilson to Paris; his pleas for a just and humanitarian peace made him, in the words of John Maynard Keynes, "the only man to emerge from the ordeal of Paris with an enhanced reputation" (Sobel 31). Hoover organized the American effort to feed the nations of Central Europe devastated by the war; under his leadership, American food was used as a bulwark against communism. Some estimated that as much as one-third of the population of Europe would have died from famine had it not been for the American Relief Administration under Hoover; streets (Hooverstrassen) were named for him in Germany and Austria, and his picture was hung in houses and huts across Europe. However, the American Relief Administration was not under Hoover's personal control to the same extent as the CRB, and so it is for his creation of the latter that he is best known as a humanitarian.

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Belgians on the WWI Draft Cards: Wisconsin (part 3) - By Cindy Roberts

Name	Birth Date	Birthplace	Registration Place
Van De Velde, Leon	26 Oct 1893	Sleyetringe, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Van Deberghe, Joe	3 Mar 1893	Calloe?, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Van Den Plas, Sam Victor	17 Mar 1888	St. George, Belgium	Kenosha, Kenosha, WI
Van Holbeck, Valentine	3 Jan 1887	Bruges, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Van Remoorteren, Eddie	15 Aug 1893	Belgium	Not Stated, Rock, WI
Van Stienbergen, Camiel	10 Apr 1896	Beveren, Waas, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Van Vyncht, Octaaf	22 Jul 1887	Kzorsoe, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Vanacker, August	21 Sep 1890	Ruisselede, West Flanders, Belgium	Not Stated, Jefferson, WI
Vanacker, Victor	14 Nov 1893	Ruisselede, West Flanders, Belgium	Hibson, Jefferson, WI
Vanagtmael, Frank	12 Feb 1891	Xessehen, Belgium	Buckman, Outagamie, WI
Vanassche, Omer	7 Aug 1890	Arnsegheem, Belgium	Niagara, Marinette, WI
VandenBrande, Alois Charles	09 Sep 1890	Montignies s..(?), Belgium	Kaukauna, Outagamie, WI
Vandenhende, Ferdinand	5 Sep 1888	East, Belgium	Yorkville, Racine, WI
Vandensande, Frank Julius	1 Feb 1891	Merxem, Antwerp, Belgium	Benton, Lafayette, WI
Vanderhaeghen, Serafien	21 Jan 1889	Eckloo, Belgium	Not Stated, Rock, WI
Vanderhalst, Frank	13 Feb 1888	Flanders, East, Belgium	Janesville, Rock, WI
Vanderstraeten, Geo	15 Mar 1891	Ghent, Belgium	Not Stated, Rock, WI
Vanderzwalm, Eddie	28 Feb 1896	Gent, Belgium	Not Stated, Rock, WI
VandeWaetrz, Theophile	2 Jul 1886	Tornet, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Vandewalle, Edmond	15 Mar 1894	Belgium	Turtle, Rock, WI
Vandewalle, Richard	8 Sep 1891	Zweeneke, Belgium	Janesville, Rock, WI
VanHaute, Leopold	9 Feb 1887	Belgium	Aurora, Florence, WI
Vanhaverbeck, Achilli	6 Apr 1891	Belgium	Turtle, Rock, WI
Vanhemelryk, August	5 Dec 1894	Brussels, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Vanhove, Desire	22 Nov 1890	Sweevezeele, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Vanhove, Edmond	15 May 1887	Lonerugui ?, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Vanniewwenhoven, Fred	1 Feb 1893	Louvain, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Vanpee, Constant	16 Jan 1891	Brussels, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Vanpee, Henry	30 Dec 1888	Brussels, Belgium, Europe	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Vanranst, Louis	15 Feb 1887	Dual, Belgium	Glenwood, St. Croix, WI
Vansteelandt, Cyriel	11 Feb 1896	Thouant, Belgium	Oshkosh, Winnebago, WI
Vansteenbergen, Joseph	15 Feb 1895	Beveren, Waas, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Vanstrydonk, Alphonse	13 Jun 1897	Antwerp, Belgium	Harrison, Lincoln, WI
Vanvooren, Alfons	11 Jan 1894	Belgium	Oconto, Oconto, WI
Vanwassenhove, Remi	03 Mar 1888	Conepher, W. Flanders, Belgium	DePere, Brown, WI
Verbracken, John	20 Aug 1888	Antwerp, Belgium	Not Stated, Ashland, WI
Verbrugge, Elmer	20 Aug 1895	Meulebeke, Belgium	Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Verbrugge, Richard Ed	14 Sep 1896	Brussels, Belgium	Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI
Vercantaren, Edward	21 Jan 1889	Siney, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Verfaillig, Achiel	11 Jul 1888	West Flanders, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Vergote, Leon	17 Sep 1891	Theirzout, Belgium	Niagara, Marinette, WI
Verhaege, Alfons	16 Aug 1895	Adegem, Belgium	Union Grove, Racine, WI
Verhaeghe, Arthur	9 Sep 1896	Handezaene, Belgium	Not Stated, Racine, WI
Verhest, Arthur Leon	10 Jun 1886	Belgium	Wrightstown, Brown, WI
Vermeire, August	31 Mar 1891	Caprycke, Belgium	Union Grove, Racine, WI
Verrele, Camiel	9 Feb 1892	Belgium	Turtle, Rock, WI
Verschoote, Nicholas Emil	22 Apr 1888	Maldgheim, Belgium	Marinette, Marinette, WI
Verschrove, Emil	09 Sep 1887	Chend, Belgium	Gainsville, Milwaukee, WI
Verstraete, Rene	20 Sep 1892	Zillebeke, Belgium	Corliss, Racine, WI
Verstraeten, Edmond	21 May 1887	Exaerde, Belgium, Europe	Kimberly, Outagamie, WI
Viaene, Alfons	2 Feb 1889	Sweevezeele, West Flanders, Belgium	Oshkosh, Winnebago, WI
Von Outreve, Louis	Jul 1890	Belgium	Kenosha, Kenosha, WI
Welleman, Frank	12 Jul 1892	Kerffliskeu (?), Belgium	Hilbert, Calumet, WI
Willaert, Odil Petrus	29 Jan 1889	Oostnieuwkerke, Belgium	Superior, Douglas, WI
Williams, John Hubert	23 Jun 1890	St. Trond, Limburg, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Willnemon, Jerome	5 Apr 1893	Worte, Belgium	Green Bay, Brown, WI
Witdock, Emiel	4 May 1891	Belgium	Waunakee, Dane, WI
Wuyts, August	06 Feb 1887	Eckern, Antwerp, Belgium	Kaukauna, Outagamie, WI

Belgian-Canadian Obituaries

By Elaine Putnam

The Chatham Daily News, Chatham, Ontario, Canada - Monday, 24 July 2006

On Saturday, July 22, 2006, after a courageous battle with cancer, surrounded by her family at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, **Godelieve Couture** was received into the arms of her Lord. For 51 years she was beloved wife of **Gerard "Gerry" Couture** of Chatham. Born in Ridgetown in 1930, daughter of the late **Zulma (D'Hooghe) and Gerard Andre Bossy**. She was a former member of Immaculate Conception Church in Pain Court and the ladies of Ste.-Anne there, and presently is a parishioner of St. Agnes' parish. Loving mother of Denise Couture-Bell and husband Mike of Chatham, Rene Couture and wife Janet of Kitcheners Yvette Glynn and husband Mike of London, Georgette Couture of Chatham and John Couture and wife Lori of Chatham. Sadly missed by grandchildren, Eleanor, Julia, Christine, Danielle, Jacklyn, Gregory, Amanda, Emily, Mathew, Shannon and Bridget, and great grandchildren Sean and Owen. Dear sister of Georgette Devos and husband George of Chatham, Cyril Bossy and wife Pauline of Delhi, Maurice Bossy and wife Margaret of Chatham and Rene Bossy and wife Cecile also of Chatham. Godelieve is also survived by sisters-in-law Florence Ouellette, Loretta Damphouse and husband Eddie, Dora Couture and husband Harvey, Dorothy Sauve and husband Rene and Annette How and husband Don. She is predeceased by in-laws: Adelard Couture, Herman Couture, Arsend Couture and Hector Ouellette. Friends and Relatives may call at the Funeral Home, 156 William St. S., Chatham from 7-9 p.m. on Monday and again on Tuesday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. where parish prayers will be offered on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on Wednesday, July 26th, 2006 at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, Pain Court, burial will be in the church cemetery. donations to the Hematology Department at London Health Sciences Centre would be appreciated. Online condolences welcomed at www.peseski.com -The Hinnegan-Peseski Funeral Home

The Chatham Daily News, Chatham, Ontario - Thu, Oct 15, 1998

Passed away peacefully at Victoria Residence, Chatham, on Wednesday, October 14, 1998, **Margaret Marie Peck** of Chatham at age 79 years. Born in Belgium in 1919, daughter of the late **Zoë (Devos) Crevits and Jules "Joseph" Crevits**. Margaret came to Canada in 1927. She is also retired from Thamesview Lodge in Chatham. Dear mother of Alice Shaw of Eberts, Gerald "Butch" Peck of Raleigh Township. Loving grandmother of Dana Shaw-Donais and her husband Terry Donais, Patricia Shaw all of Chatham, Tracy Shaw of Eberts. Great Grandmother of Holly Shaw and Joshua Shaw-Donais of Chatham. Sadly missed by her sister Elsie Couture of Pain Court, Yvonne Eagen and her husband Leonard of Harwich Township and Cyril Crevits and his wife Bonnie of Chatham. Also survived by several nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by a brother Marcel Crevits (1964) and a son in law William Shaw (1994). Resting at The Hinnegan-Peseski Funeral Home, 156 William St. S. Chatham from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9p.m. on Friday. chapel Service will be conducted in The Hinnegan-Peseski Funeral Home on Saturday, October 17, 1998 at 12 noon with Fr. Greg Bonin of St. Joseph's Church, officiating. burial will take place in St. Anthony's Cemetery, Chatham-Kent. Donations to arthritis Society or St. Joseph's Church Restoration Fund would be appreciated. - The Hinnegan-Peseski Funeral Home and Chapel, 352-5120

The Simcoe Reformer, Simcoe, Ontario - December 30, 2000

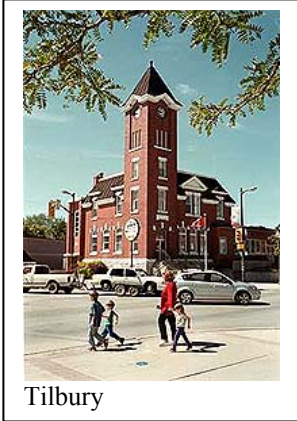
DEVOS, Alice of James St, Delhi passed away at Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe on Tuesday, December 26 2000 in her 86th year. Member of the Delhi Belgium Club. Member of St. John Brebeuf Catholic Women's League and Norfolk General Hospital Auxiliary. She was the former **Alice vanMelkebeke**. Loving mother of Jeannine Philpot (husband Donald) of Dayton Ohio; Jacqueline Nelson (husband David) Melbourne Australia; and Marc Devos (wife Betty Ann) LaSalette. Cherished grandmother of Julie, Paulette, Daniel Philpot; Caroline, Claire Nelson; Scott, Eric and Joel Devos. Dear sister of Marie-Jose (husband August) Belgium. also survived by several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by 3 sisters and 1 brother. Friends may call at The Murphy Funeral Home, Delhi for visitation on Friday evening from (7:00-9:00 p.m.) with prayers at 7:30 p.m. A Funeral Service will be held in the Chapel on Saturday December 30, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. with Rev. Mark Paulin officiating. Interment in Delhi Cemetery. Donations to Norfolk General Hospital or any charity of one's choice will be greatly appreciated by the family.

De Paepe-Windsor-McKay (Annaert) Peacefully at Victoria Hospital with her family by her side on Sunday, October 1, 2006, **Margaret McKay** of Lambeth in her 69th year. Cherished wife of John McKay of Lambeth. Loving mother of **Delbert De Paepe** and his friend Gail of Norwich. Dear mother-in-law of Larry Lisabeth of Fairground and Darlene De Paepe of Leamington. Loving stepmother of Robin and Steven Legen, Jodi Windsor and her friend Frank, Kim and Dan Van Schaik and Jeff and Chris McKay. Proud grandmother of Shawn and Tammi, Travis and Annette Lisabeth, Delbert Jr. and Kelsey De Paepe, Brandi De Paepe, Michelle and Mathew Legen, Bradley and Carrie Van Schaik, Connor and Curtis McKay. Special greatgrandmother of Taylor Lisabeth. Also survived by her brothers Willy and Andrea Annaert, Luke and Pat Annaert and sisters-in-law Denise Annaert their families and many other extended family members. Predeceased by her husbands **Alfred De Paepe Sr.** (1982) and Edward Windsor (1993); her children Robert De Paepe (1964), Alfred De Paepe Jr. (1993), Dianne Lisabeth (2004) and brothers Roger and Maurice Annaert. Dear daughter of the late **Karel and Madeleine Annaert**. Friends may call at the McFarlane & Roberts Funeral Home, (2240 Wharncliffe Road South, Lambeth 519-652-2020) on Tuesday from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. then to St. Justin's Roman Catholic Church where the Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, October 4,

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2006 at 11:00 a.m. with Father Rick Hurdle celebrating. Cremation with interment in Delhi Cemetery at a later date. Donations to the London Regional Cancer Centre gratefully acknowledged.

The Chatham Daily News, Chatham, Ontario, Canada- 20 May 1996



HAVENS: Irma V. (Beun), a resident of R. R. 5 Thamesville, passed away peacefully at Four Counties General Hospital, Newbury, on Monday May 27, 1996. Born in Belgium 88 years ago, daughter of the late Arthur Beun, Irma had resided at R R. 5 Thamesville since 1949, she was a member of St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Thamesville and a member of the C.W.L. She was predeceased by her husband **Albert Havens** (1974). Beloved mother of Gilbert Havens of R. R. 5 Thamesville, Mary (Mrs. Hank Blommers) Cecile (Mrs. Rene Bossy)

and Mrs. Christine Pinsonneault (husband Vince) all of Pain Court (note this is in Ontario), Ron and his wife Linda Havens of R. R. 3 Florence, (Ontario) Maggie (Mrs. Ted Ward) of Chatham and don Havens of R R. 1 Bothwell (Ontario). Cherished grandmother of 16 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Also survived by two sisters Mrs. **Madeliene Cloet** of Belgium and Mrs. Godelieve Havens of Chatham, and one brother **Oscar Beun** of Warren, Michigan. He was predeceased by sisters **Marguerite DeClerck**, **Clementine Havens**, **Elizabeth Spooner**, and brothers, **Rene**, **Remi** and **Romain Beun**. The Havens Family will receive friends at the John C. Badder Funeral Home, 72 Victoria St. Thamesville on Thursday 2-4:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church, Thamesville on Friday, May 31, 1996 at 11:00 am with Fr. J.C.Caruaana, Celebrant of Mass. Interment at St. Paul's Cemetery, Thamesville. Donations to the Palliative Care at Four Counties Hospital, Newbury would (be) appreciated by the family. Prayers will be held at the funeral home on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. - JOHN C. BADDER FUNERAL HOME - Thamesville.

The Chatham Daily News, 30 July 1997

A Funeral Service was conducted at the McKinlay Funeral Home, Chatham on Monday, July 14, 1997 for the late **Albert (Bert) Mortier**, 74, who passed away at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Public General Campus, on Thursday, July 10, 1997. Rev. Dr. David Williamson of Victoria Avenue United Church officiated with Mrs. Jane Ripley presiding at the organ. During the service a tape recording of Frank Sinatra singing "My Way" was played. Bill Rose and Helenbisschop gave words of tribute and remembrance of Bert's life. The pallbearers were Gary Gilbert, Brian Gilbert, Neil Jones, Gary Mortier, Adelard van Praet and Bill Rose. Interment was in Maple Leaf Cemetery, Chatham.

The Chatham Daily News, Chatham, Ontario, 21 Apr 1995

A funeral was held from the Hinnegan-Peskeski Funeral Home on April 17, 1995 for **Clementina Havens**, 85 of Chatham, who died in St. Joseph's Hospital on April 12. Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Agnes Church by Father Alessandro Costa. Pallbearers were Robert, Richard, Ronald and Donald Havens, Mark Wagner and David Parsons. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Blenheim.

Golden Wedding Among New Citizens

BLenheim NEWS TRIBUNE, Blenheim, Ontario
Front Page 30 September 1931

Festive occasion among the member of St. Mary's R.C. Church - Games at Fairgrounds

On Saturday, St. Mary's Catholic Church celebrated the golden jubilee of **Mr. and Mrs. DeClerck**, Belgian couple. the jubilating bride and groom were born in Flanders where the poppies grow, just three miles from the famous firing line of the war. Their home village at that tragic time was levelled to the ground and has since been rebuilt.

After several of the sons of Mr. and Mrs. DeClerck had established themselves in Canada, the parents crossed the ocean with the others of their family and for nineteen years they have lived in the vicinity of Blenheim. all of the family are diligent farmers and specializes in growing tobacco. Mr. and Mrs. DeClerck are the parents of eleven children.

On Saturday afternoon at two o'clock the members of the Catholic parish and of the Belgian-Dutch colony crowded around the church in an atmosphere of communicating happiness, and Mr. & Mrs. DeClerck were welcomed by the priest under the triumphal arch according to a secular tradition in Flanders. The Great War veterans will remember how the liberating armies entered the liberated villages of Flanders under such triumphal arches.

After the clergy had intruded the honoured couple the Te Deum of Thanksgiving was sung. In a brief address the priest Father Ladislas spoke of the benefits God has bestowed upon these dear old people and thanked them for the good example they are giving to younger families of settlers and wished them many continued years of happiness together.

After religious service on the church lawn, two of the grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. DeClerck read a poem in the name of the family and the old people wept for bliss. Indeed, as a reward for the virtuous life, they reign as king and queen over the hearts of their posterity. Another Belgian girl read a poem in the name of the parish and the Flemish-Dutch colony.

In spite of the cold weather and a shower the best festive mood reigned on the sports grounds. The old jubilating couple danced as in time of old and fine Belgian band maintained a bright atmosphere.

With grateful hearts, the happy company remember, Mayor W.L. Shillington of Blenheim who placed the fairgrounds at their disposal, Also Mr. T. C. Warwick who loaned them all sorts of things as well as the good people of the town for their sympathy.

Belgian Laces Vol#29-112

Belgians in the 1901 Canadian Census: Manitoba, Winnipeg – Part 2

image#	Name	Birthdate/place	Relationship	Immigr/Natur.	SubDistrict
13.8	Verlaenen, Lewis	M/13 Sep 1866/Belgium	head	1891	Ward 2
13.8	Verlaenen, Hilda	F/19 Mar 1870/Sweden	wife	1891	
13.13	Backstaele, John	M/27 Sep 1876/Belgium	lodger	1899	Ward 5
13.13	Vanderkelaer(?), Fritz	M/27 Sep 1870/Belgium	lodger	1896	Ward 5
13.5	Sloan, Mary	F/22 Oct 1882/Belgium	domestic	1900	Ward 5
17.3	Missiaen, Jos.	M/8 Jul 1878/Belgium	domestic	1896	Ward 5
18.3	Bosche, Francois	M/24 Nov 1850/Belgium	lodger	1890	Ward 5
18.3	Poitte, Louise	F/17 Jul 1865/Belgium	lodger	1890	Ward 5
3.3	Vandorne, G R	M/5 Apr 1866/France	Head	1890	
3.3	Vandorne, Mrs. M	F/3 Jan 1854/France	Wife	1888	
3.3	Beaudry, H. R.	M/3 Nov 1878/Belgium	son	1888	Ward 3
3.3	Antoine, John	M/10 Apr 1894/France	nephew	1900	
3.3	Beaudry, Marie	F/26 Feb 1880/Belgium	sister in law	1900	Ward 3
7.6	Corneliuss, John	M/4 Jun 1858/Belgium	lodger		Ward 3
7.9	Elewaert, Thephil	M/16 Jan 1853/Belgium	head	1889/1899	Ward 3
7.9	Elewaert, Rose V.	F/28 Dec 1855/Belgium	wife	1889	Ward 3
7.9	Elewaert, Yoe C	M/20 Mar 1891/Manitoba	son		
7.9	Elewaert, Marie E	F/13 Jan 1894/Manitoba	son		
8.3	Vernach, Jennie	F/13 Mar 1877/Belgium	domestic	1883	Ward 3
8.12	Bouche, Victor	M/15 Jul 1871/Belgium	head	1891/1894	Ward 3
8.12	Bouche, Louis	M/Jan 1870/Belgium	brother	1889/1890	Ward 3
8.12	Bouche, Natalie	F/1840/France	mother	1891	
3.8	Daoust, Denny	M/21 Aug 1857/Quebec	head		
3.8	Daoust, Clara	F/9 Feb 1868/Belgium	wife	1892	Ward 4
3.8	Daoust, Agnes	F/19 Feb 1881/Quebec	daughter		
3.8	Van Buren, John	M/25 Jun 1881/Switzerland	head	1892/1899	
3.8	Van Buren, Mary M	F/18 May 1877/Belgium	wife	1895	Ward 4
3.8	Missiaen, Elvire	F/25 Jun 1881/Belgium	sister in law	1895	Ward 4
6.3	Cornelius, L	M/Apr 1877/Belgium	lodger	1898/1899	Ward 4
8.1	Quorn, I H	M/26 Jan 1870/England	head	1889	
8.1	Quorn, Emily	F/11 Jun 1876/Belgium	wife	1889	Ward 4
8.1	Quorn, Henry	M/27 Jan 1896/Manitoba	son		
8.1	Quorn, Eva	F/21 Apr 1898/Manitoba	daughter		
8.5	Corelli, A. H.	M/18 Oct 1856/Belgium	lodger	1884	Italian Ward 4
8.5	Corelli, Mrs.	F/22 Sep 1860/England	lodger	1884	Irish
8.5	Corelli, Eleanor M.	F/27 Dec 1886/Manitoba	lodger		
8.5	Corelli, Dudley A	M/16 Oct 1892/Manitoba	lodger		
1.10	Lekiste, Eugenne	M/8 May 1850/Belgium	boarder	1890	Ward 4
7.2	Kohnen, Peter	M/26 May 1878/Belgium	lodger	1892	Ward 4
9.2	Martin, Frank	M/15 May 1872/Belgium	head	1880	Ward 4
9.2	Martin, Margaret	F/6 Mar 1880/England	wife	1888	
9.2	Vanbellehan, David	M/10 Aug 1870/Belgium	lodger	1897	Ward 4
9.2	Vanbellehan, August	M/4 Sep 1874/Belgium	lodger	1897	Ward 4
15.6	Rulkin, Josie	F/8 Sep 1875/Belgium	waiter	1892	Ward 4
16.7	Verschart, Charles	M/21 Jul 1853/Belgium	head	1887	Ward 4
16.7	Verschart, Phelomen	F/30 May 1856/Belgium	wife	1887	Ward 4
16.7	Verschart, Valentine	F/21 Jul 1882/Belgium	daughter	1887	Ward 4
16.7	Verschart, Adolph	M/7 Oct 1885/Belgium	son	1887	Ward 4
16.7	Verschart, Elodie	F/3 Apr 1887/Belgium	daughter	1887	Ward 4
16.7	Verschart, Matilda	F/7 Oct 1890/Manitoba	daughter		
16.7	Verschart, Mary	F/31 May 1891/Manitoba	daughter		
16.7	Verschart, William	M/20 Jul 1893/Manitoba	son		
16.7	Verschart, Alphonsine	F/16 Dec 1897/Manitoba	daughter		
2.1	Denis, Francois	M/11 Feb 1852/Belgium	servant	1888/1896	Ward 6

Guillaume Deboeck launches Embroidery and Lace making Factory*

Guido J. Deboeck



Guillaume Deboeck & Johanna Nobels on their wedding day. Photo 1896

The death notice of **Willem (Guillaume) De Boeck** read: “*husband of Joanna Nobels, born in Vilvoorde on the 17th of May 1874 and deceased on April 12th, 1925, provided with the Holy Sacraments after a short but painful sickness in Ukkel, Institut des Deux Alice²⁴. The notice mentioned Joanna Nobels, his widow, his four children, Josephina, Joseph, Pieter and Rene, and the families De Boeck and Nobels.*”

What can one write about a grandfather who died (twenty one years) before there was a chance to get to know him? Guillaume did not write any books or performed any great deeds that would attract the attention of historians. So how to capture is life?

It is amazing what one can find about the life of a grandparent once one starts doing research. In what follows an attempt is made to reconstruct some milestones in the life of Guillaume De Boeck who lived around the turn of the century, and was a pioneer in many ways (at least that is what his grand-son found).

Guillaume De Boeck, born on May 17th, 1874 in Vilvoorde, was the son of **Everard De Boeck** and **Gertrude Verhaegen** both born in Vilvoorde. Guillaume’s father was the first De Boeck who made it to the “big” city. Guillaume married **Joanne Nobels** in 1896. They got their first child at a young age: Joanne was 21 years and Guillaume was 23 when **Josephine** was born on May 20th, 1897. Eighteen months later their first son, **Joseph**, was born on December 6th, a day that still today in Europe is called Saint Nick

(“Sint Nikolaas”) day. Two years later another son was born who was named **Pieter** but throughout his live was called **Pierre**. Then thirteen years later they had another son, **René Corneille** born on August 25th, 1913. The age difference between Josephine and Joseph on the one hand and René on the other hand is important because it explains a great deal of what happened some fifty years later.

There is no specific information about the education of Guillaume that could be found, but it is not unreasonable to assume that he finished primary school. Guillaume probably attended a catholic primary school from 1880 to 1886. Since secondary education was only added in 1905, it is unlikely that Guillaume attended high school.

Early on in his life Guillaume worked in an embroidery factory in Vilvoorde. There were several at the time: **L.A. Legrand**, **J.B. Vanden Breden**, and **Marcelis**. The history of all three of these can be found in **Jos Lauwers²⁵**. Sometime in the early 1900s Guillaume started a business of his own. An old photo of unknown date shows a factory called “**G. De Boeck et Enfants, Vilvoorde**”.

Another photo, of which the date can be estimated, shows the entire family De Boeck (except Rene who was born in 1913). The date of this photo is provided by the Holy Communion dress worn by Josephine; Holy Communion in the Catholic Church is performed at age 12; Josephine was born in 1897, hence the photo is from circa 1909. This family picture demonstrates that in 1909 Guillaume was not a wage earner; he and his family were well off judging from the suite, the dress, the uniforms, and the communion dress. Note also all the jewelry: watch of Guillaume and necklace worn by Joanne. We therefore conclude that Guillaume was likely already in business by 1909.

Further evidence of this can be derived from several pictures that were found, one of which showed Guillaume and family in the factory. By sheer accident, in 2005 in a box among many other old pictures (kept by **Anne-Marie Deboeck**, daughter of Joseph in Knokke) we found a picture that shows Guillaume, his wife, their daughter and their two sons at work. The picture shows the entire family involved in the factory: Guillaume at the *pantograph*, Joanne showing off an embroidery piece, Josephine behind a thread machine, and the boys in front. One of the boys is holding an oilcan to oil heavy machinery. This is Pierre who would later in life turn out to become the technical “engineer” who would



Factory in Vilvoorde called “G. De Boeck et Enfants”



Guillaume De Boeck and family, circa 1909. From l. to r. Joseph (oldest son), Guillaume, Josephine (oldest daughter shown in Holy Communion dress), Joanne Nobels (wife of Guillaume) and Pieter (Pierre).

²⁴ Some times death notices provide indications of the cause of death, for example in this case “a short painful sickness”. As we shall see later this is important information that can help to establish a medical pedigree.

²⁵ Jos Lauwers: Van Lakenweverij tot kantwerk en wanttapijten, binnen de driehoek Brussel-Leuven-Mechelen, Het Streekboek. Nieuwkerken-Waas, 1999.

take care of the machinery. This kind of total family involvement will prevail for more than half a century. The enterprise launched by Guillaume would always involve all of the immediate family. No one else than immediate family would get a role, a function, or even any shares in the company. This was strictly a family enterprise.



Guillaume in his embroidery factory. Front: Joseph and Pierre and unknown worker; back row: Joanne Nobels, Josephine, unknown worker and Guillaume. Photo circa 1906-08.

This picture of the family at work also provides proof that Guillaume must have started his own business at pretty young age. If this picture is from circa 1907-1910, then it shows that at age 33 Guillaume was already a few years in business. Note also Guillaume's baldness. Guillaume's baldness before his mid-thirties, will be inherited by his sons Joseph, who had a Hippocratic wreath, by Rene to a limited extend, and by his oldest son²⁶.

The business Guillaume started was one of making *macramé lace*. This is a coarse lace made of twine, used to decorate windows and furniture²⁷. Macramé lace was made mechanically. Mechanical embroidery and lace making relied on brand new technology.

The development of machine embroidery took place in the 1800's. **Joshua Heilmann** from Mulhouse in Switzerland worked on the design of a *hand embroidery machine*. The first machines were *arm frames*: an embroidery arm frame is a frame that reproduces exactly the movement of an embroiderer's hand. This allows the production of very fine work. It is made of a vertical frame on which an embroidery textile is stretched. The frame is mobile and is moved by a lever, called *pantograph*, activated by a worker according to a drawing on a board.

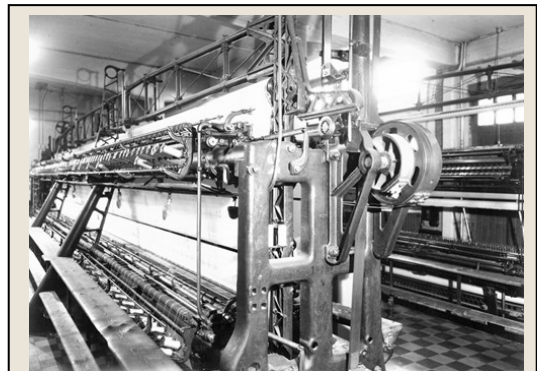
This revolutionized the embroidery industry. The *shuttle embroidery* and the *chain stitch embroidery* methods quickly followed Heilmann's invention. The beginnings of

shuttle embroidery dates back to the 1860's when **Isaak Ggrlobli**, from St. Gallen, Switzerland, was inspired by the work produced on the sewing machine. Around 1870's there were fourteen companies manufacturing embroidery machines in Switzerland. The looms used multiple needles and were an unbelievable improvement over the age-old process of stitching by hand. They were, however, powered manually.

Immediately afterwards, Issac Groebli of Switzerland invented the first practical Schiffli embroidery machine. This machine was based on the principals introduced by the newly invented sewing machines. Groebli's machine utilized the combination of a continuously threaded needle and shuttle containing a bobbin of thread. The shuttle itself looked similar to the hull of a sailboat. "Schiffli" means "little boat" in the Swiss dialect of the German language, so his machine came to be known as a *schiffli machine*.

Guillaume De Boeck probably started with two Schiffli machines, which is all what could be fitted in the workplace ("ateliers") occupied on the Nieuwelaan in Vilvoorde. In 1910, the first "continuous thread" frames with shuttles appeared. The production principle was not the same anymore. Instead of using the hand embroidering technique, it worked according to the sewing machine technique. The design was driven by a punch card, called jacquard. The working of a *Jacquard loom*, as well as the process of producing macramé lace with Jacquard machines is explained in my book.

Schiffli machines were in use in the factory of Guillaume then around 1925 as a result of a proposal by Junker, Joseph, the oldest son of Guillaume pushed to modernize the Schiffli machines with Jacquard machines. Guillaume reluctantly signed the contract for the



The early Jacquard machines installed at the De Boeck factory in the Rue de la Colline (Hellingensstraat) in Vilvoorde

²⁶ Baldness also called alopecia is permanent hair loss that arises from the destruction of hair follicles or temporary hair loss arising from transitory damage to the follicles. The first category is dominated by male pattern baldness, which occurs to some degree in as much as 40 percent of some male populations. The hair loss in male pattern baldness progresses gradually, beginning with a characteristic recession of the hairline at the front or thinning of the crown hair and proceeding, in extreme cases, until only a thin rim of hair remains at the sides and back of the head (the "Hippocratic wreath"). Male pattern baldness has a hereditary basis; it varies in degree and seems to be caused by imbalances in the level of male hormones (testosterone and androgens) circulating in the blood. Male pattern baldness is usually seen in persons with comparatively heavy body and facial hair.

²⁷ Definition taken from The Nuttall Encyclopædia, edited by the Reverend James Wood (1907)

modernization of the Schiffli machines; this is how several Jacquard machines were first introduced in 1925 (two years earlier Legrand, the major competitor also had ordered Jacquard machines). Shortly after signing the contract for the Jacquard machines Guillaume died at age 50 in 1925, most likely of a heart problem.

Guillaume started up a business in Vilvoorde in the early 1900s that originally concentrated on winding of thread on bobbins and making embroidery, later lead to the production of mechanical macramé lace making. Guillaume involved all his family members in his business and supported through it the entire family. Just before his death he reluctantly signed of on modernization by procurement of new machines that would put the business at the forefront of technology. Guillaume's business would support several families in the next fifty years. In his short life he achieved a lot and created opportunities for the next generations.

Process of producing macramé lace using Jacquard machines

The full process of producing macramé lace with Jacquard machines is as follows:



1. **Designing the model:** The very first step is to design a model, which means drawing on paper a design of the macramé lace. The drawing will be enlarged six times, to be able to be encoded by punching a hard paper roll. This step is called in French "la mise en carte".



2. **Encoding the model:** Once the design is made the drawing is placed on a punching machine. When the punching is done, each embroidery stitch is encoded (punched) according to the jacquard system on a hard paper roll.



3. **Embroidery production:** The punched band is then placed on the embroidery machine. It is the model's program. The punched roll contains the codes directing the big frame inside the machine. The needle always pricks at the same place. The macramé lace production takes a long time since thousands of embroidery stiches are necessary. The realization of a 60 cm wide item can sometimes take a whole day.



4. **Removal of the background:** The macramé lace must hold together without its textile support, which will be disintegrated by heat. It is that process that will give the transparency characteristic of macramé lace. For this the whole embroidery is bathed into a chemical and then put through an oven where the textile support is burned away.



5. **The finishing touches:** Before eliminating the supporting textile, repairs need to be done by hand. Imperfections due to the breaking of a spool or shuttle thread are removed. These finishing steps are very important in order to obtain a faultless quality product. Once the supporting textile is disintegrated different supporting strings are cut by hand. Sometimes there is also need to do some finishing touches such as coloring, by hand.



<http://www.authentic-macrame.com/macrame-lace-producer.htm>

*** This article is an extract from a forthcoming book *Traveling Back in Time with Classic and Genetic Genealogy: History of Flemish Families, Emigration, Lace making and Beer Brewing*. Copies of this book will become available in 2007 and can be preordered by writing to the author: guido@dokus.com .**

**Researching Online:
Internet Links of Interest**

Old Archives of Gent:

<http://www.gent.be/eCache/THE/2/122.html>

By the Council of Trente (1545-1563) it was stipulated and it was regulated that the parish clergy would keep a record of baptisms and marriages. This was implemented in the 16th century. It is during the 17th century or at the beginning of the 18th century that burials first began to be recorded.

However some convents and abbeys were already keeping many 'obituarium' or list of the dead. This explains the existence of early records. The law on the civil registry (births, deaths and marriages) of 20-25 September 1792 continues to state that only the civil vital records were valid official birth and death certificates. It thereafter became mandatory that registers be transferred into town hands.

The application of this law was ordered in Belgium by the decree of 29 Prairial Year IV (17 June 1796).

Visage d'Olné – son Village, ses Hameaux

<http://www.olne.org/>

10 years in the making! – several authors take the reader through a variety of topics situating the village of Olné in its natural and historical setting – 288 pages

Special Report: Promenade in The Pays de Herve

From Bernarde Debouy: Feb 8, 2007



Cornesse, courtesy of Annette Demasy

This morning, when I woke up I became very worried as I realized that the countryside was covered in white blanket and that snow was still coming down.

The grand-route was not snow-covered but I was concerned about the country roads we were planning to take with our new friend morning and the skies were clearing when we caught up with Len and his friend Julie at 1:30pm in Pepinster in front of the café Heuze.

I must admit that when Len called this morning, the little English I know was no use to me. Luckily one of my sons could help and gave him Annette Demasy's phone number so she could talk with Len about when and where to meet.

After a less than promising start (forgotten notes, lost ink pen, pinched fingers in the car door) we proceeded to explain to Len what we had already been able to discover at the Civil Registry as well as with the Land Registry. Len seemed very pleasantly absorbed in examining all we found!

Hats off to the Pepinster town administration who helped us retrieve records of Len's family members and even some of the places where his ancestors resided. With this in hands along with local maps, we were ready to welcome our friend.

Annette was able to reach some RAHIER descendants and even located a distant cousin of Len's who has a lot of information on the family and who gave some details on the houses. I had checked Geneanet and pointed out the discrepancies between the different submitters so Len could be aware of them.

We seemed to intrigue more than one of the Café patrons who enquired about all our papers and maps. We told them we were genealogists, which intrigued them even more; our neighbors tried to watch us discreetly wondering what we might be talking about. But we had to leave the warmth of the café and venture into the cold. Sleet had replaced the morning snow showers and was accompanied by a icy cold wind. Len dropped his camera and almost fell on the bench while trying to pick it up. We must have been a sight!!!!

We climbed up the Jonckay, and reached the highest point of the village by the Bouhais and found ourselves at the end of the Rue Coulée where the first house was waiting for us.

I think it was an emotion filled moment for Len to be standing in the home where his ancestors could have lived.

Then it was off to the cemetery. It was cold and wet so we didn't tarry long there. We got back in the car and drove to the end of the Chemin de la Saute, to a little hamlet that must be perfectly idyllic under sunny skies. All we knew is that **Marie Catherine**



Bernarde, Annette & Len - courtesy of Annette Demasy



Len & Julie – courtesy of Annette Demasy

Belgian Laces Vol#29-112



Café Heuse, Pepinster



Courthouse in Pepinster

Pictures courtesy of Annette Demasy

Bollette had lived there but where??? Len took pictures of the few houses, then we drove to Cromhaise, where we located the house we were looking for. However new buildings had replaced the houses at the Fond Noulé.

We got back on the road by the Thibeaumont hill, and the old Liege road to Louheau. Sadly the beautiful view over the valley was hiding under the rain...

At Flère we stopped again to see 2 old houses that belonged to some RAHIERS.

We then made our way to Goffontaine (Haut = heights) to the last house on our list. There, frozen as we were, we decided to come in from the rain, dry and warm ourselves up around a cup of that good Tancremont (as the locals will all tell you) coffee and hot chocolate and a piece of delicious pie.

We went down the Lemarchand court to the Grand-Route, to Trasenster, Banneux and back to Tancremont.

At Tancremont we took souvenir pictures, and a look at our hair will tell you exactly what the weather did to us that day.

We said good-bye to Len in Pepinster on the GB (store) parking lot. He seemed very happy with the whole day, and plans to keep in touch through the HerveGeneNet (Yahoo group) while Julie is also going to start researching her Belgian lines.

As we watched them drive away, we walked back to my car. We were both so tired that we didn't notice what we were doing. Annette got in automatically. I watched her without reaction until she burst into laughter as she realized what she had done and my own lack of reaction.

We must have been completely bushed by the cold, by our efforts to communicate but also, at least for Annette, by the throbbing pain in her hand. It was a fun day, in spite of the cold though.

PS: Len also met one of his distant cousins Jean-Claude Lebois, at the Archives in Brussels, where they shared information and discussed their research.

Len, we hope for a follow-up!!! With pictures of houses... under snowy skies... RB

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