

Belgian Laces



BELGIAN LACES: Official Quarterly Bulletin of
THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS
 Belgian American Heritage Association



Allow me to invite you to participate in another wonderful venture with FamilySearch: a wiki! SO what's a wiki? it's a new way to share with others. There are all sorts of wikis. Geneawiki is a great genealogy wiki in Europe. Wikipedia is the free living encyclopedia maintained by amateurs like you and me. It brags 97% accuracy compared to 98% for Encyclopedia Britannica. This is a testimony that the community at large has much knowledge to share. The FamilySearch wiki is one that will concentrate on research strategies, using records etc. not for posting our family trees. For that I recommend you try MyFamily or better yet your own free personal page at WeRelate.org (www.werelate.org). This will show you how to use a wiki and will open your mind to how to help with the FamilySearch wiki (www.familysearchwiki.org) This issue is loaded with wonderful information thanks to those of you who keep helping with the indexing projects!

We also want to recognize and show appreciation for Kathleen Race and Chuck OandenEeden's kindness to remember TBR as beneficiaries of grant money for their many hours of volunteering at indexing the records Guy Gallez then uploads to the Rootswed page. This really goes a long way too at keeping down the cost of your memberships, and ensuring we have software and data to produce better and more informative issues of Belgian Laces.

Have I told you lately what a pleasure it is for me to work with you all?

I am so grateful for the internet that has given me the opportunity to know some of you so well.

I hope 2008 will see us work together even more closely as we help our families remember their heritage... Long Live Belgium! United, please...

**Have a wonderful
 holiday season!!!**

Régine

THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!!



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**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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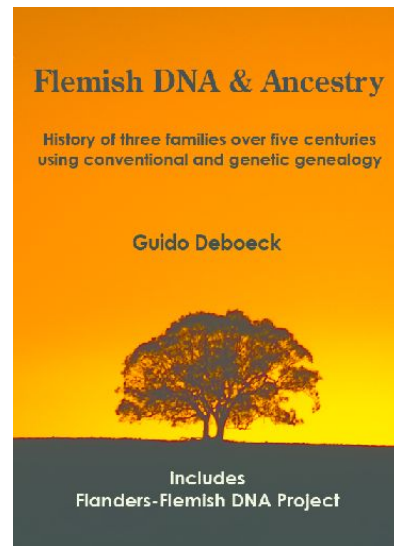
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Books in Review

Flemish DNA & Ancestry: History of three families over five centuries using conventional and genetic genealogy

By Guido Deboeck

Conventional genealogy relies on documents that can contain errors, may have been written to mislead, or could be partially destroyed. Some relationships are never recorded. To go beyond the constraints of documents, genetic genealogy can be deployed using DNA testing that provides the paternal or maternal lineages. Dr. Deboeck combines conventional and genetic genealogy to reveal the history of three Flemish families over five centuries. He describes the professions of each of these families as well as the history of lace making, beer brewing, and immigration. Interpretation of DNA results and uploading of DNA to public databases is explained with concrete examples. This book includes an introduction to the Flanders-Flemish DNA project and discusses the deep ancestry of people with Flemish roots.



xxiv, 372 pp., illustrated, indexed, paper, ISBN 0-9725526-7-7

This book will be available in October 2007 and can be ordered directly by writing to gdeboeck@mac.com

Searching for Flemish (Belgian) Ancestors

By Jozef J. Goethals, in Collaboration with Karel Denys, CICM
A great first book to help genealogists develop research strategies for their Flemish ancestors.

Some of what he explains can also be applied to the Wallonia (civil and parish registers information), but he also presents some sources that are also unique to a more localized area of research.

Enhanced with five appendices:

- Flemish Surnames and First Names
- State Archives in Flanders
- The Flemish Association for Family History
- Currency and Land Measurements
- Glossary of Flemish, French and Latin Terms

Format: Paper

Size: 8 1/2" x 11"

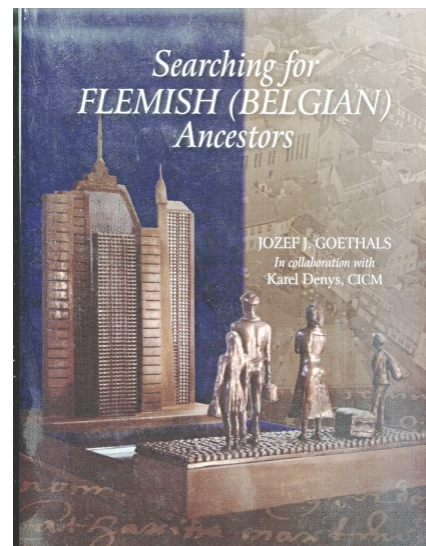
Pages: 81 pp.

Published: 2007

Price: \$19.95

ISBN: 9780806353425

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Seattle Woman Has Surprising Success Researching Her Ancestral Grandmothers by Using New Sorenson mtDNA-Genealogy Database



http://www.smgf.org/press_release.aspx?pr=15
Discovering an exact match on Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation's newly released online mtDNA-ancestry database helps amateur genealogist learn her likely overseas region of origin and surnames, a result unthinkable only a few years ago. Now easy and

widely available, personal mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA) testing gives women direct access to the world's largest integrated genetic and genealogy information collection for the first time and allows them to go deeper than ever before in their family history research.

SALT LAKE CITY & SEATTLE (December 4, 2006)—Imagine searching for 13 years using traditional genealogical techniques to learn four generations of your maternal grandmothers' names and where they lived. For Cynthia Wilson, an administrative assistant living in Seattle, this meant spending her vacations in Virginia and North Carolina courthouses and libraries poring over old deeds, probate records and birth registries.

"I wanted to find out and verify who my grandmothers on my maternal side were," she said. "I don't mind the hard work of research and I even like to read difficult documents, like old court records," she said. "But I don't like brick walls."

The ability to hurdle family history research barriers with DNA testing has revolutionized the hobby of genealogy, solving many problems where traditional methods dead-end, such as missing or inaccurate paper records. Until recently, Y-chromosome testing was used most often. But Y-chromosome testing is limited to researching paternal ancestry. And because women do not have the Y-chromosome, they must have a close male relative tested for them.

For Wilson who was curious about her maternal line, the solution was testing her mtDNA, a service now offered by many consumer-based laboratories using a mailer and a simple cheek-swab. mtDNA is a powerful tool for tracing maternal ancestry for both men and women because it is inherited by children exclusively from their mothers. Entering her genetic profile into the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation's (SMGF) online database, which is the world's largest correlated genetic-genealogy catalog, Wilson learned where her ancestry intersected with others who have submitted their genetic profiles and pedigree charts.

For more than a decade, Wilson's persistent genealogy research efforts and clever detective work had allowed her to follow back into history the line of women she came from all the way to her fourth great-grandmother in colonial America of 1775. The task was painstakingly difficult because of the incomplete records kept of her African-American ancestors who were brought into the American South, sold as slaves and accounted for as property, if at all.

Imagine then, how Wilson felt when she found an exact genetic match in the SMGF database that points to her family origins being in Mali, Africa and includes several surnames to trace as well. "I was very surprised to find one perfect genetic match and 10 near-perfect matches on the Sorenson mtDNA-genealogy database," Wilson said. "I really wasn't expecting that. Could it be that I have 'jumped the pond'?" "Jumping the pond" refers to the fact that nearly all Americans are descended from an initial immigrant from a country across the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean—and locating that ancestor is a major genealogy breakthrough.

"This is a dramatic example of the possibilities the Sorenson mtDNA-genealogy database holds for those who are researching the maternal side of their family history," said Scott Woodward, executive director of SMGF. "It allowed Cynthia Wilson to reach beyond the end of her paper

People across the world are bridging the genealogical gap through the application of molecular genealogy. For instance, many men with similar Y-DNA and the same surname have learned they share a common paternal ancestor in the recent past.

In general, the closer the match in Y-DNA marker values, the more recently your common ancestor may have lived. By comparing pedigrees and locations, individuals may be able to identify additional common ancestors and family relationships – including living relatives.

Even if a connection is not obvious, the ancestral data of matching individuals may provide important information about your own ancestry.

Please take full advantage of the resources on this site in conducting your own family search, or simply start Searching the Y-Database.

We invite you to become a part of the SMGF project by submitting a DNA sample and genealogy. We also hope you become a long-term visitor to the SMGF website as we build the genetic family tree one branch at a time.

You can search for surname projects through the resources at:

DNA Heritage:

<http://www.dnaheritage.com/surnamesearchresult.asp>

Family Tree DNA:

http://www.familytreedna.com/name_search.asp

Relative Genetics:

<http://www.relativegenetics.com/genomics/search/surname.html>

WARNING: SMGF does not provide you with the results of your test. To purchase these results, enquire with DNA Heritage or other labs. Prices start at \$99. RG for a discount after completing SMGF www.relativegenetics.com



research all the way to Africa. This is the type of discovery that makes maternal ancestry research an extremely rewarding experience for families, and it was impossible only a few years ago."

The SMGF is a non-profit scientific organization with the purpose of mapping humankind's entire family tree. It is the creation of billionaire biotechnology pioneer and philanthropist James LeVoy Sorenson. For more than five years, the foundation has collected genetic samples along with correlated genealogies from around the world. The Sorenson mtDNA-genealogy database currently includes samples from participants representing ancestors from 78 countries and 8,500 maternal DNA sequences and the surnames associated with them. The collection expands as the foundation continues to collect DNA samples and genealogies, with total ancestors now amounting to more than 3.5 million.

Wilson's traditional genealogy research had already taught her important things about the line of women from which she is descended. "I learned that life for my grandmothers was a real struggle, but they were strong," she said. And Wilson is optimistic about following her personal thread of history further and learning more. "I am very encouraged by what I've found on the SMGF database and already I've begun preliminary research about Mali and its people."

Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation is a non-profit research organization with the mission: To collect DNA samples within a genealogical context for creating the world's most comprehensive correlated genetic and genealogical database. To provide the funding necessary to construct genetic tools from the information contained within the database for the purpose of family history research. And, to maintain the integrity of the database content to ensure it is used for purposes that will promote peace, compassion and fellowship among humankind. Visit www.smgf.org

Flemish DNA Haplogroups

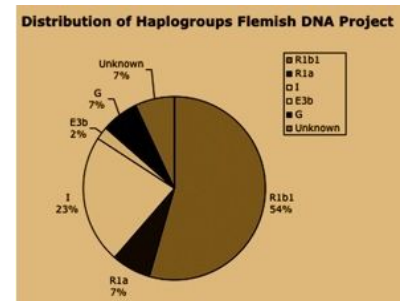
<http://groups.msn.com/FLEMINGDNAPROJECT/flemishdnaancestry.msnw>

Some 54% of the Flanders Flemish DNA records have R1b1 as predicted or confirmed haplogroups.

The distribution of haplogroups among the collected data is shown in the Figure. Some 23% of the records have haplogroup I.

The Flanders Flemish DNA modal is not that different from the modal of the R1b1 haplogroup. Among the first 25 markers, we observed the following differences between the modal of Flanders Flemish DNA and the modal of R1b1:

- DYS#459b is 9 instead of 10 in R1b1
- DYS#448 is 20 instead of 19 in R1b1
- DYS#449 is 30 instead of 29 in R1b1
- DYS#464a is 14 instead of 15 in R1b1
- DYS#464c is 15 instead of 17 in R1b1



Full details are provided in Guido Deboeck's "Flemish DNA and Ancestry"

Welcome Tutorial
 DNA Visualization
 DNA Tests
 Taking a DNA Test
 Interpreting DNA
 Project Objectives
 How to Participate?
 Project Participants
 Flemish Y-DNA
 Flemish mtDNA
 Flemish DNA Modal
 Flemish Haplogroups
 Flemish Deep ancestry
 Public DNA databases
 Human Migrations
 Genomics
 Videos on Genomics

Meet the Project Administrator Email Me

Click here to get a free banner to promote this project on your site.

02:11:27 PM **Flanders-Flemish DNA Project** [home](#)

Greze Parish Register 1750

Submitted by Kathleen Race

names and notes extracted from originals on microfilm
 note: names are mixed from Latin to French on original

surname	first name	occupation/comment	surname	first name	occupation/comment
COLLET	Jean Baptiste	Pastor	LHOST	Marie	
COLLET	Marie Josephe		LACOURT	Jean	
COLLET	Marie Anne		LHOST	Sabine	
THUMAS	Charles Julien		LACOURT	Etienne	
LIBOTTON	Catherine		LACOURT	Francois	
THUMAS	Marie Isabelle		LACOURT	Philippe	
THUMAS	Lambert		BODART	Martin	
THUMAS	Marie Agnes		LACOURT	Catherine	
THUMAS	Philippine		FERON	Jeanne	
THUMAS	Charles Julien		TIBOU	Jean	
THUMAS	Jean Baptiste		SAURTET	Pierre	masson
THUMAS	Anne Catherine		DEMONT	Marie	
THUMAS	Marie Therese Josephe		SAURTET	Remi	
THUMAS	Marie Josephe Anne		SAURTET	Jean Magnus	
DUPUIS	Charles	Chef maquiter?	de BLEUMORTIER, Pierre		sergeant de Bierkay?
DUPUIS	Charles	valet	DEDI	Anne	
VANROS	Therese	servant	de BLEUMORTIER, Antoine		
ROLIN	Pierre	vacher	DELFOSSE	Catherine	
RENARD	Jean	marichal	de BLEUMORTIER		counted as petit enfant no name
MORNARD	Marie	wife	de BLEUMORTIER		counted as petit enfant no name
JONET	Francoise	mater RENARD	TIBOU	Jean	allant a Lembaye de la place?
COLIN	Joseph valet		TIBOU	Francois	
DELEART	Jean Francois	valet	TIBOU	Jeanne Marie	
DEDONKER	Joseph		LURQUIN	Francoise	parvelus?
LEBECHÉ	Marie Josephe		BONJEAN	Jean	
LEBECHÉ	Anne Josephe	sister in law	FERON	Beatrix	
LE CAPITAINE	Jean		BONJEAN	Jean	
DANDOIS	Marie Barbe		BONJEAN	Bertholome	
LE CAPITAINE	Jean		BONJEAN	Joseph	
LE CAPITAINE	Gisle		LAMBEAU	Jean	
LE CAPITAINE	Marie Barbe		DEHAVE	Jeanne	
LE CAPITAINE	Arnoult		LAMBEAU	Martin	
LE CAPITAINE	Jean		LAMBEAU	Jeanne	
LE CAPITAINE	Beatrix			L Hospital R.Dnus Desember?	
PIRA	Martin		DOUMONT	Marie	ancilla?
DELBASSE	Jeanne		DUCHESNE	Martin	house vacant
PIRA	Jean Baptiste		LHOST	Arnoult	
PIRA	Therese			wife not listed but is counted....	
VANDRIES	Hubert		LHOST	Pierre	
	Marie Barbe	last name not listed	LHOST	Marie	
TONOIR	Francois	"x' in front of name?"	LHOST	Arnoult	
		current owner? Only one counted	LHOST	Marie Jeanne	
LA FEUILLE	Nicolas		LHOST	Jean	
TROIGNIER	Marie		LACOURT	Jean	Manbour Eclisia
LA FEUILLE		counted as petit enfant no name	DAIX	Marie	
LA FEUILLE		counted as petit enfant no name	LACOURT	Jean Baptiste	
LEVIEUX	Arnoult		LACOURT	Marie Ida	
FERON	Anne		LACOURT	Henri Antoine	
LEVIEUX	Jean		BONJEAN	Jean	domus nova?
LEVIEUX	Guillaume		LEVIEUX	Jean	
LHOST	Pierre		FORVY	Marie Anne	
TONNOIR	Marie		FORVY	Catherine	
LHOST	Jean		GENIN	Marie Francoise	servant
LHOST	Baptiste		BOVY	widow	

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surname	first name	occupation/comment	surname	first name	occupation/comment
BOVY	Jean		GODFROY	Henri	
BOVY	Jacqueline	widow	TIBOU	Jeanne	
RENARD	Jeanne	Jacqueline's daughter	GODFROY	Remi	
ROLIN	Charles		TIBOU	Gislain	
TIBOU	Catherine		VINCQ	Therese	
ROLIN	no name, just a number		TIBOU	Jean	
ROLIN	no name, just a number		TIBOU	Gislain	
ROLIN	no name, just a number		FERON	Jean	
PIRLET	Francois		DEGOTTE	Marie	
PIRLET	Marie	unreadable note	FERON	daughter not named	
PIRLET	Joseph		DAIX	Guillaume	
LACOURT	Charles		JOSSART	Marguerite	
MACQUAU	Marie Anne		DAIX	Therese	
PIRA	Marie	avia	DAIX	Francois	
LACOURT	Etienne	vacher	DAIX	Henri	
DEMONT	Claude		DAIX	Marie Josephe	
FERON	Marie Anne		VAES	Nicolas	valet de labeur
DEMONT	Anne		MARICQ	Philippe	
CLASQUIN	Jacques		FERON	Jeanne	
TIBOU	Jeanne		LEROY	Gertrude	avia Tinex?
LACOURT	Arnoult		PERDITA	Ingenio	
BOVY	Nicolas		VANDRIES	Noel	famulus
DELFOSSÉ	Marie		ROLIN	Jeanne	famula
LECAPITAINE	Martin		MARICQ	Joseph	
LACOURT	Anne		MARICQ	Marie Catherine	
MARICQ	Henri	ultra vivum?	LANDHUICK	Claude	vidua
COESMAN	Jeanne	2do nupta	VANDRIES	Marie	
FERNANDE	Charles		LANDHUICK	Marie	
FERNANDE	Francois		VANDRIES	vidua	
FERNANDE	Jeanne		THUMAS	Francoise	
FERNANDE		blank	VANDRIES	Francois	
ANDRE	Antoine		VANDRIES	Adrienne	
COLIN	Jeanne		VANDRIES	Charles	
ANDRE	Guillaume		VINCENT	Claude	
ANDRE	Marie Magdeleine		VAES	Joseph	
VANDRIES	Bartholome	Le viel	VANDRIES	Jeanne	
HULBEZE	Marie Jeanne		VAES	not named	
VANDRIES	Charles		VANDRIES	Arnoult	
	counted but not named ancillia		CHATONDILE	Marguerite	
	counted but not named famulus		LHOST	Henri - filius sarum nuptiarum et alter parvula	
LEBECQUE	Joseph	Gerhucus ad hugo?	LECAPITAINE	Arnoult	
VANDRIES		no first name	LACOURT	Marie	
FOSSION	Charles	ubi habitat	LECAPITAINE		not named
TONNOIR	Marianne		LECAPITAINE		not named
DUQUESNE	Charles		GAUCHY	Francois	
VANDRIES	Bertholome	le jeune	FOSSION	Anne	
MOINES	Marie Francoise		DELVARD		filia not named
VANDRIES	Francois		MARICQ	Francois	
DELVAUX	Gislain		COPPE	Helene	2do nupta
FOSSION			VANDRIES	Jean Baptiste	
VANDRIES	Jeanne	avia	VANDRIES	Jean Francois	
DANDOIS	Gille		VANDRIES	Jeanne	
TONOIR	Marie Anne	2do nupta	LACOURT	Etienne	
FERON	Francois		FOSSION	Marie Catherine	
FERON	Anne Marie		LACOURT	Bartholome	
PIRA	Guillaume			no entry	
LECAPITAINE	Anne			Francois	no last name
PIRA	Amme Marie				
PIRA	Barbe				

Growth and Decline of Lace Making in Belgium

By Guido J. Deboeck

*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** by Guido Deboeck. Copies of this book will become available in 2007 and can be preordered by writing to the author: guido@dokus.com.*

In previous installments we captured the history of lace making in Flanders; the establishment of an embroidery and lace making enterprise by Guillaume De Boeck; the continuation of this enterprise by his wife, Joanne Nobels and her children, from 1925 till 1940; and the establishment in 1941 of the firm Deboeck Brothers Ltd. In this last article in this series we discuss the growth of this firm in the fifties and sixties and the decline in the seventies. We also describe briefly a few other lace makers in Vilvoorde and how all of them disappeared in the late seventies.

1. The growth of the company in the fifties and sixties

The evolution and growth of the Deboeck company in the fifties and sixties can best be summarized in a single table. The table below shows the gross revenues, the realized profit, the profit as a percentage of gross revenues, and the employment provided in the fiscal years 1954 to 1966.

Gross Revenues climbed from 7.6 million in 1950 to 13 million in 1964-65. Profits hovered around 1 million a year with the exception of 1955 and the years after 1963. They reached a peak in fiscal 1957-58. Profit as a percentage of gross revenues averaged about 9.56% per annum with highest percentage achieved in 1954-55. The company provided steady employment to about 60 women and 4 men.

Table 1 Gross Revenues and Profits of the Deboeck Brothers Ltd; Employment provided in the period 1954-1966. (Exchange rate 50 Bfr=1 dollar)

Year	Gross Revenues Millions Bfr	Profit Millions Bfr	Profit Percent	Employment	
				Women -	Men
1954-55	9.55	1.58	16.42	60	3
1955-56	8.87	.015	1.69	58	4
1956-57	9.98	1.14	11.23	60	4
1957-58	11.31	1.70	15.01	68	4
1958-59	8.23	.83	10.02	59	4
1959-60	8.60	.94	10.85	54	4
1960-61	10.59	1.24	11.65	54	3
1961-62	10.69	1.39	13.00	52	4
1962-63	10.73	1.19	11.02	53	4
1963-64	11.43	.25	2.21	49	4
1964-65	13.03	.99	7.56	53	4
1965-66	11.42	.45	4.07	52	4

Source: Report on the Status of the Company as off October 19, 1966, prepared by R. Deboeck.

2. The decline and liquidation of the company

Starting in June 1965 there was a decline in orders coming from Belgium, Netherlands and Germany. The French producers offered prices that are substantially lower. On top there was increasing competition from the East Germany. In contrast Sweden and Portugal asked for local agents to be designated and were stepping up orders.

The other problem that continued to affect the company was the rapid increase in social liabilities. Between June 1965 and June 1966 there was a 4.6% increase in the index of salaries. Salary increases resulting from the index increase, could not be passed on to the customers since prices had been fixed in the beginning of the year. The expenditures to R.M.Z ("Rijksmaatschappelijke Zekerheid"), equivalent to social security in the US, were adding 30.4% to the salaries.

Increasing price competition and rapid escalation of social charges affect the bottom line. The profit realized in 1966 was 4 % of the gross revenue, compared to 7.56% in the previous year. All of these reasons were elaborated in report of October 19th, 1966 prepared by Rene. This report was not well received by the Chairman of the Board. Financial difficulties related to the payment of creditors lead the Chairman to call a General Assembly meeting for May 22th, 1967. The agenda for that meeting

for the first time included liquidation of the company. **Rene Deboeck** was very surprised. A follow up meeting was held on May 29th, 1967. Then on June 5th, 1967 the Board met and voted in favor of liquidation of the company.

3. Why did the company close and what happened next?

The simple answer is that the Board of Directors, composed of three shareholders each with about the same voting power, took a decision on June 5, 1967 to liquidate the company. Two shareholders voted for (Joseph and Josephine) and one shareholder vote against (Rene) the liquidation.

The underlying causes were more complex. There was increased competition in lace making from abroad; there was less demand for lace in the Belgium; social welfare contributions were huge (30% of salaries) and kept increasing. There was also the delay in the granting of a work permit for the replacement of an essential employee who was about to retire and was responsible for the design work and supervision of the production. When the Government finally got through granting the permit, the company was already closed.

Other reasons are more speculative but are part of the paper records regarding the liquidation. Two shareholders became disinterested in the continuation or the extension of the company's life (it had been setup for 30 years in 1941 and the hence needed to be extended in 1971). These two shareholders were at the time 69 (Joseph) and 70 years (Josephine) old. There was some misuse of funds (the Chairman bought a car for personal use and charged it to the company) and there was some mismanagement (the Chairman withheld regular distributions to a shareholder which later through the intervention of his wife was reinstated).

There was also a lack of successors since Josephine remained unmarried; Joseph had two daughter (only 17 and 16 years old at the time) and Rene had two sons none of which expressed interest in stepping in. They both were pursuing university education at the time and had totally different interests.

There is saying in Flemish that says als het regent dan kan het gieten ("when it rains it pours"), when something starts going wrong, a lot can go wrong for various reasons. To pinpoint why the Deboeck Brothers closed is not easy. There are the obvious facts, a vote in the General Assembly meeting of June 5th, 1967, and then there are the surrounding factors that are subject to interpretation.

What is undeniable however is that the firm had gone through some money losing years (right after it had been founded and just after the Second World War) but it had never folded. In spite of all the difficult years from startup till after the war the company had survived probably through creative management. In the mid 1960 new challenges arose. Profits were down but there were no losses. The problems in the late sixties could hardly have caused the closing of the company had proper management been applied. The fundamental reason for the closure therefore was the lack of a succession planning on the part of the aging shareholders; the lack of interest on the part of the Chairman to put the firm (which was the creation of his parents) on a path where it could have survived into the 21st century.

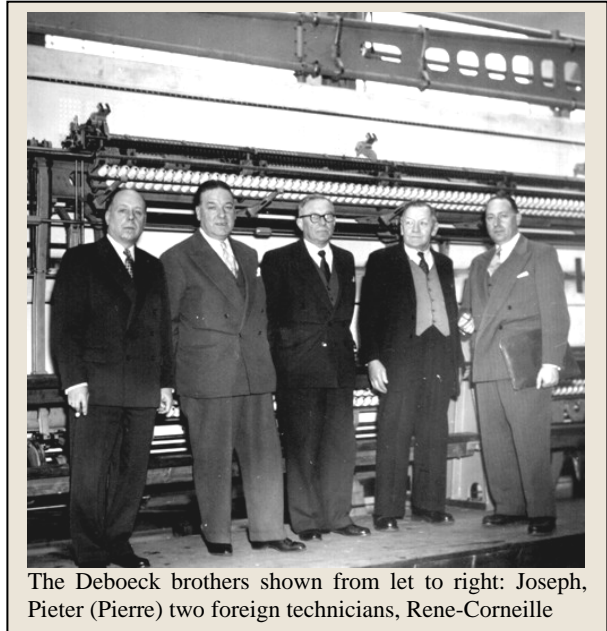
After the decision to liquidate was taken, the activities of the company slowed down and came to a full stop. The assets of the company including seven Jacquard machines, an embroidery machine, the stock of unsold lace, and all the equipment were sold. In the end also the buildings were sold. Employees were paid a closing premium (what nowadays would be called a "golden parachute") plus all social benefits. The company ceased all activity and closed permanently in mid 1973.

The rapid decline of the company in the second half of the sixties, the status report of 1966, followed by the turbulent meetings about the liquidation, and the struggle between the two older and one younger shareholder, caused a heart attack for Jozef in 1968. This forced him to take it easy. Eventually he changed his opinion about the liquidation and later wrote that the company had been liquidated because all activities had ceased.... Jozef, had been an addicted cigar smoking throughout his life, would suffer from more heart problems for the rest of his life. He died at age 82 on May 31, 1980 in Knokke, ten years after Josephine who passed away in 1970 at age 73.

Once the liquidation was decided, Rene took charge of letting all employees go, selling all the assets and closing the books. In this period he started traveling extensively. He traveled to many countries over several years, focused more time on his hobbies that included filming and photography. It was in this period that he for the first time traveled to the United States (he came to visit my wife and me in Worcester in 1970 and attended my Masters graduation at Clark University). He also traveled to Japan, Turkey and Israel. After the liquidation was completely he stopped traveling and concentrated on his private investments.

4. Lace making in Vilvoorde from Coosemans to Legrand

In this section we briefly describe what happened to some other lace makers in Vilvoorde. The industrialization of embroidery and lace making started in the 19th century. The production of mechanical tulle (a transparent background used for lace making) became possible through a machine invented in the U.K. by Heatcothe in 1806. In 1817 Dendermonde became the



The Deboeck brothers shown from left to right: Joseph, Pieter (Pierre) two foreign technicians, Rene-Corneille

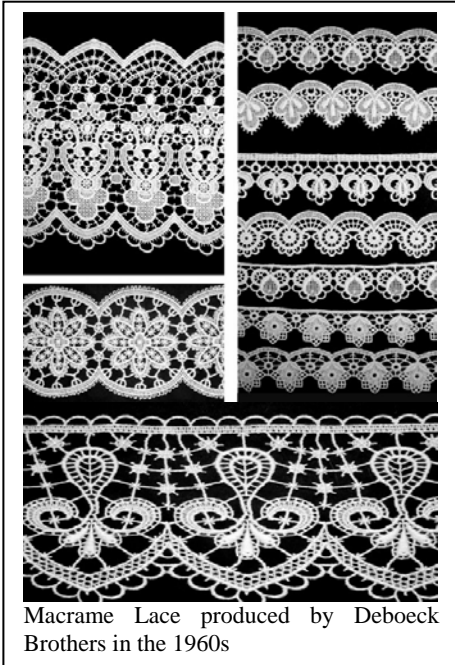
first city to produce mechanical tulle, which was comparable with the manual made tulle used in Chantilly and Lille lace. This tulle made by André Coosemans in Dendermonde, was used for embroidery.

Joshua Heilmann from Mülhausen invented in 1834 automatic embroidery. He tried to export his machine to France, but finally sold it to Rittmeier from Sant Gallen in Switzerland.

In 1846 L.A. Legrand established in Brussels an enterprise to produce tulle. In 1862 André Coosemans brought his tulle operation to Vilvoorde. Louis-Alexander Legrand became in 1874 a partner of "Coosemans and Cie" and was nominated head of the firm. In 1878 this firm was renamed Etbs L.A. Legrand, also called, "Het kantfabriek van Vilvoorde" (The lace factory of Vilvoorde). Louis-Alexander introduced mechanical production of embroidery in Belgium in 1880. Because of the popularity and the demand, his firm made a rapid expansion and was imitated by other firms in Vilvoorde (among others Guillaume De Boeck et Enfants).

Louis-Alexander died in 1905 but left behind ten children of which three sons, Alexander, Louis and Henri, who already in 1893 succeeded their father. His sons developed new industry branches for the production of lace on tulle to be used for curtains. In 1895 the firm became a collection of enterprises and in 1912 got the legal status of a "Naamloze Venootschap" which is like incorporation (Inc) in the States. Soon the staff was composed of 689 employees.

Each of the three sons of Louis-Alexander took charge of a separate branch of the company. It was Louis Legrand, the second son of Louis-Alexander, who took over the production of embroidery and macramé lace. Swiss stitching and Schiffli machines were deployed. The first 9 yards Schiffli machines were introduced in



Macramé Lace produced by Deboeck Brothers in the 1960s

1905. In 1911 another revolution happened with the introduction of Jacquard machines. The first were bought in 1923. By 1928 the offices and workspaces of the firm in Vilvoorde and Bevere covered 4 hectares and employed 750 people.

In 1939 it was Henri, the son of Louis Legrand, who continued the embroidery and macramé lace making. Around 1965 there was another modernization through the procurement of six new Zangs looms which could produce simultaneously two pieces of 15 yards (or two of ten yards). The embroidery still worked till 1976 after which lace making by Henri Legrand was stopped.

Henry Legrand, third son of Louis-Alexander, who passed his company to his son Joseph, who established the N.V. Manufacture J. Legrand is still in business today. Under the direction of Roger Legrand and his son Vianney, their factory on the Withernstraat 41 in Vilvoorde, concentrates on the distribution and confection of custom made curtains and bedcovers.

5. Financial and Economic impact of Deboeck Brothers.

Question can be raised as to what was achieved by Deboeck Brothers in these 30 years?

In the records of the firm we found an estimate of the value of the company shares as off June 30th, 1966. The calculation made at the time was based on a simple average of the value of the shares on June 30th, 1965 and the value one year later. On June 30th, 1966 the value of each share was estimated to be 8,117 Bfr (or \$162.34 at the exchange rate in 1966). Hence, 417 shares held by each shareholder in 1966 was worth 3,384,789 Bfr. (\$67,695).

In 1941 each shareholder had contributed 110,000 Bfr or the equivalent of \$3,728. Additional capital brought into the company by Joanne and Josephine was distributed to the other shareholders. Only once did all shareholders bring in about 63,000 Bfr. (\$1260) of new capital. The bulk of the increase in the number of shares from 110 to 417 came from redistributions of the shares of Pieter and from gifts made by Joanne and Josephine in the early years of the company.

In consequence, the increase from \$3,728 to \$ 67,695 between 1941 and 1966 can be considered as capital gains. These capital gains represent an 18.15 fold nominal increase over the value of shares in 1941. Since the cost of living increased by 2.48 times, the net increase in value of all shares was 7.3 fold (18.15 divided by 2.48). A 7.3 fold increase in the period 1941 till 1968 represents an rate of return of 7.4% annualized over a period of 27 years. Note we limit our selves here to the period starting with the establishment of the Ltd and do not take into account that Guillaume De Boeck started this business some 30 to 35 years earlier.

To put this return into proper perspective it should be compared with yields on long-term government bonds in Belgium (because the alternative of investing in the firm would be to invest money in long-term bonds). In Belgium in the period 1950-59 the average nominal yields on long-term Government bonds was 4.96%; in the period 1960-69 the yields were 6.15%; and in the period 1970-79 the yields were 8.26%. In real terms, these yields were 3.11%, 3.49% and 1.43% for the respective periods. Hence, if we compare the return achieved by the Deboeck Brothers over 27 years, 7.4% per year, with these real yields of long-term bonds (which are varying between 1.4% and 3.4%) then we have to conclude that Deboeck Brothers did pretty well financially. The value added ranged from 4% to 6% annualized over 27 years.

What probably was of even greater importance to the Deboeck Brothers was the steady employment they provided to approximately sixty to eighty employees (employment that was sustained through the war years). They also made the windows of Flanders and in many other European countries a little bit more beautiful by gorgeous macramé lace.

Belgians in the 1900 US Census : Rock Island Co, Illinois - Ctd

Regine Brindle

Name	Rel.	Sex	Birth	St.	BirthPlace Self/Father/Mother	Emigration	Occupation
ENGEL, August	Head	M	Dec 1858	M/17	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1880-Na	saloon keeper
ENGEL, Mary	Wife	F	Dec 1861	M/17 - 10/8	Belgium/Germany/Germany	1882	
ENGEL, Mary	daughter	F	Feb 1884	S	Ohio/Belgium/Belgium		
ENGEL, Florence	daughter	F	Jul 1884	S	Illinois/Belgium/Belgium		
ENGEL, Alluis	son	M	Jan 1887	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
ENGEL, Enere	daughter	F	Sep 1888	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
ENGEL, Victor	son	M	Aug 1890	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
ENGEL, Emma	daughter	F	Jan 1895	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
ENGEL, Rosie	daughter	F	Jan 1896	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
ENGEL, Bertha	daughter	F	Jan 1898	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
LEPPENS, John	Head	M	May 1849	M-17	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1882-Na	Laborer (saw mill)
LEPPENS, Sophy	Wife	F	Nov 1859	M-17 4/3	Holland Holland Holland		
LEPPENS, Peter	son	M	Sep 1883	S	Illinois Belgium Holland		laborer (saw mill)
LEPPENS, Mary	daughter	F	Sep 1885	S	Illinois Belgium Holland		at school
LEPPENS, Jennie	daughter	F	Jan 1889	S	Illinois Belgium Holland		at school
DIERICKX, Emil	Head	M	Apr 1864	M-7	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1882-Na	blacksmith
DIERICKX, Mary	wife	F	Sep 1871	M-7 3/3	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
DIERICKX, Ida	daughter	F	Oct 1893	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
DIERICKX, Polly	daughter	F	Dec 1896	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
DIERICKX, Grace	daughter	F	Aug 1899	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
VON DE VERDE, Edward	Head	M	Aug 1866	M-7	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1889-Na	laborer (saw mill)
VON DE VERDE, Mary	Wife	F	Nov 1866	M-7 3/3	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1893	
VON DE VERDE, Ida	daughter	F	Apr 1894	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
VON DE VERDE, Clara	daughter	F	May 1895	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
VON DE VERDE, Bertha	daughter	F	Mar 1897	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
STEPHENS, Gustav	Head	M	Feb 1866	M	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1892-Al	Laborer (steel worker)
STEPHENS, Leonie	Wife	F	May 1870	M	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1892	
STEPHENS, Alice	daughter	F	Jan 1895	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
STEPHENS, Mary	daughter	F	May 1887	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1892	
STEPHENS, Clara	daughter	F	Sep 1896	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
STEPHENS, Charles	son	M	May 1899	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		
DEWITT, August	Head	M	Oct 1869	M-4	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1892-Na	molder
DEWITT, Nellie	Wife	F	Sep 1879	M-4 2/2	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1892	
DEWITT, Charlie	son	M	May 1897	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	1891	laborer
DEWITT, James	son	M	Nov 1899	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	1892	
COBURT, Charles	Son-in-law	M	Oct 1865	M-7	Belgium Belgium Belgium		
COBURT, Clemaus	Sister	F	Dec 1865	M-7 0/0	Belgium Belgium Belgium		
BRAET, Julius	Head	M	Jan 1868	M-8	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1889-Na	saloon keeper
BRAET, Virginia	Wife	F	Jul 1867	M-8 6/6	Belgium Belgium Belgium	1880	
BOELEN, Louise	step-son	M	May 1883	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		cigar maker
BOELEN, Emily	step-daughter	F	Sep 1884	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
BOELEN, Victor	step-son	M	Oct 1886	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
BOELEN, Maggie	step-daughter	F	Mar 1889	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
BRAET, Alma	daughter	F	Jun 1892	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
BRAET, Clara	daughter	F	Apr 1895	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium		at school
DROGE, Julius	Head	M	Jan 1857	M-19	Belgium Rhode Island Missouri		
DROGE, Rosa	Wife	F	Jul 1859	M-19 0/0	Belgium Rhode Island Missouri		
DEPO, Richard	Boarder	M	Jan 1860	S	Belgium Rhode Island Missouri		
VAN HEE, Joseph	Head	M	Feb 1875	M-2	Belgium Belgium Belgium		
VAN HEE, Louise	wife	F	Jan 1878	M-2 1/1	Holland Holland Holland		
VAN HEE, Agnes	daughter	F	Oct 1899	S	Illinois Holland Holland		

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TOTTEN, Selma	Servant F	Apr 1834	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium	servant
COCUT, Charlie	Lodger M	Jun 1871	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1898-Al	porter-saloon
DETELAERE, Gustaf?	Hostler M	May 1872	Wd	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1891-Na	Hostler?
DE VORST, Alfons	Head M	Dec 1872	M-14	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1892-Na	daylaborer
DE VORST, Mary M	Wife F	Jul 1881	M-14 0/0	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1899	
---, Baziel	Father-in-law M	Sep 1857	Wd	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1899-Al	daylaborer
BOHART, Iva	Head M	Apr 1863	Wd 2/0	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1883	daylaborer
WANCHET, Richard	Boarder M	Jan 1878	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1898-Al	daylaborer
TIEGHEM, Victor	Head M	May 1860	M-5	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1892-Na	daylaborer
TIEGHEM, Leona D	Wife F	Jan 1866	M-5 3/3	Belgium Belgium Belgium	
TIEGHEM, Mary V	daughter F	Jan 1894	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium	
TIEGHEM, Augusta	daughter F	Dec 1895	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	
TIEGHEM, Allen V	son M	Jun 1896	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	
LAMBRECHT, Adolph	Head M	Oct 1861	M-4	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1888-Pa	Day laborer
LAMBRECHT, Emilie L	Wife F	Jun 1873	M-4 5/2	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1898	
LAMBRECHT, Amiel C	son M	Oct 1898	S	England Belgium Belgium	
LAMBRECHT, Mattie	daughter F	Feb 1900	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	
DEJAGER, Field	Roomer M	Mar 1878	M-1	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1897-Al	Day laborer
DEJAGER, Mary F	Roomer F	Mar 1881	M-1 0/0	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1899	
VAN HECKE, Jon	Head M	Jun 1852	M-20	Holland Holland Holland 1880-Na	Saloon keeper
VAN HECKE, Melina	Wife F	Mar 1858	M-20 7/4	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1880	
VAN HECKE, Henry	son M	Dec 1881	S	Iowa Holland Belgium	grocer clerk
VAN HECKE, Cornelius	son M	Sep 1887	S	Illinois Holland Belgium	at school
VAN HECKE, Alfonse	son M	Oct 1889	S	Illinois Holland Belgium	at school
VAN HECKE, Victor	son M	Jan 1898	S	Illinois Holland Belgium	
ROLAND, Julius	Roomer M	May 1851	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1880-Na	day laborer
DE WAELE, Frederick	Boarder M	Jun 1861	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1896-Na	bar tender
GEOIE, Henry	Roomer M	Apr 1862	Wd	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1884-Na	day laborer
GEOIE, Charley	Roomer M	Apr 1865	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1894-Na	day laborer
AUERS, Peter	Head M	Jan 1855	M-13	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1881-Na	saloon keeper
AUERS, Louise	Wife F	Oct 1854	M-13 5/2	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1879	
AUERS, Maggie	daughter F	Jan 1888	S	Iowa Belgium Belgium	at school
AUERS, Charles A	son M	Jan 1890	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	at school
VALOCKY, Eloise	Servant F	Feb 1876	M-2 2/2	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1892	servant
VALOCKY, Frank	son M	Jan 1894	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	at school
VALOCKY, Marguerite	daughter F	Jan 1897	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	
GODALS, Charley	Boarder M	Dec 1870	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1892-Na	teamster
BRUNE, Henry D	Brother M	Oct 1879	Wd	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1891-Al	teamster
MARTINS, Adolph	Boarder M	Sep 1880	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1897	teamster
VALUCKY, Lees	Boarder M	Apr 1868	M	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1890-Na	teamster
SHIPPER, Charlie	Boarder M	Nov 1864	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1892-Al	day laborer
TREAMEN, Anna	niece F	Jan 1872	S	Illinois Belgium Pennsylvania	at school
HENDRICKS, Julia	Servant F	Jul 1888	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1890	servant
DE MYNCK, Peter	Head M	Aug 1870	M-10	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1895-Pa	day laborer
DE MYNCK, Rosa	Wife F	Mar 1866	M-10 5/5	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1895	washer woman
DE MYNCK, Ashiel F	Son M	Oct 1892	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1895	at school
DE MYNCK, Arthur E	Son M	Dec 1893	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1895	at school
DE MYNCK, Emma M	daughter F	Dec 1894	S	Belgium Belgium Belgium 1895	
DE MYNCK, Charlie	Son M	Aug 1896	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	
DE MYNCK, Raymond J	son M	Jun 1898	S	Illinois Belgium Belgium	
DE MARKT, Joe	Head M	Jan 1867	M-10	France Belgium Belgium 1900-Al	day laborer
DE MARKT, Roetense	wife F	May 1869	M-10 3/3	France France France 1900	
DE MARKT, Gabriel	daughter F	Dec 1890	S	France France France 1900	
DE MARKT, Lucian daughter F	Jan 1894	S	France France France 1900		
DE MARKT, Etienne	son M	Feb 1896	S	France France France 1900	

Belgians on the WWI Draft Cards

South Dakota

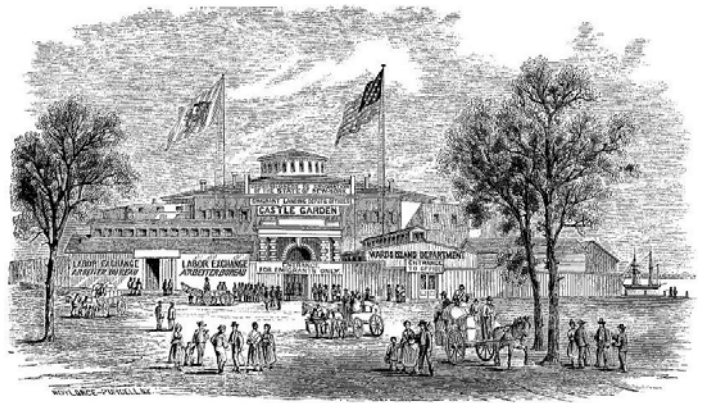
Name	Birth Date	Birthplace	Registration Place (City, County, State)
Paye, Horace Frank	13 Jun 1894	Bava(?) Biedlebeelck	Beadle, SD
Schatterman, Scotty Cyriel	16 Jul 1889	Rock Island, Illinois	Beadle, SD
Van De Walle, Victor Victell	17 Feb 1896	St Louis...lee(?)	Nance, Beadle, SD
Strubbe, Jerome	26 Jun 1894	Oostbecke	Richland, Brookings, SD
Cloedt, Leon Dick	09 Sep 1891	Oostcamp	Aberdeen, Brown, SD
Des Camps, William	10 Mar 1888	Aerschot, West Flanders	Kilkaid, Brown, SD
De Jaeger, Jean	22 Oct 1893	Dendermond, Oost Vlanderen	Hoovre, Butte, SD
Bail, Albert Florin	24 Aug 1896	Cuesmes	McIntosh, Corson, SD
Baytaert, Frank	12 May 1887	Niewkerken, East Vlaanderen	Davison, SD
DeMeyer, Joseph Albert	29 Sep 1887	Belgium	Rome, Davison, SD
Stalens, Edward Leonard	23 Feb 1894	St Laurence(?), Belgium	Edmunds, SD
Barzeele, Edmund	27 Sep 1887	Loo, West Flanders	Indian creek, Fall River, SD
Stroom, Noel	26 May 1895	Coeskerke	Lincoln, Fall River, SD
Desmet, Charles Ferdinand	17 Feb 1892	Ostend	Dallas, Gregory, SD
DePauw, Edmond	4 Jan 1892	Watervliet	Grand, Hand, SD
Huyghe, Raymond	29 May 1893	Caprycke(?)	Besdah, Hanson, SD
Lermeney, Camille	15 Dec 1889	Ost Flanders	Reva, Harding, SD
Lermeney, Jule	30 Jun 1886	Belgium	Reva, Harding, SD
Verhulst, Charley	8 Jul 1891	Vracene	Reva, Harding, SD
Verhulst, Gustaaf	1 Jun 1892	Vracene	Reva, Harding, SD
Verhulst, Paul	15 Feb 1897	Belgium	Reva, Harding, SD
Verhulst, Peter A	4 Jan 1889	Vracene	Reva, Harding, SD
Minnaert, Jerome Henry	4 Feb 1893	Lepecheure(?)	Lake, SD
Minnaert, Octave	22 Sep 1891	Lepecheure(?)	Lake, SD
Minnaert, Oscar	18 Sep 1889	Lepecheure(?)	Lake, SD
Minnaert, Raymond Arthur	3 Jan 1897	Brugge	Madison, Lake, SD
Viane, Henry	15 Sep 1894	Lanna	5th, Lawrence, SD
De Preter, Pierre Joseph	27 Sep 1890	Lierre	Minnehaha, SD
Deruytter, Jan M	7 Jun 1896	Merckhem	Sioux Falls, Minnehaha, SD
Deruytter, Jerome Napoleon	18 Sep 1890	Merckhem	Sioux Falls, Minnehaha, SD
Rondos, Victor Joseph	16 May 1888	Bl Eclo	Minnehaha, SD
De Nolf, Charles	8 Jan 1890	Swevezele	Jackson, Sanborn, SD
Goethals, Edward	18 Jun 1892	Watervliet	Butler, Sanborn, SD
Van Lacke, Emil	25 Dec 1887	Ruisselede, West Flanders	Butler, Sanborn, SD
Van Laecken, Eugene	10 Jan 1893	Ruisselede, West Flanders	Letcher, Sanborn, SD
Vincent, Alphonse Lee	20 Jan 1888	Capryckel, East Flanders	Butler, Sanborn, SD
Parpie, Edgar Cris	15 Oct 1890	Shane	Stanley, SD
Snook, Peter Paul R	1 Aug 1891	Maldegheem	Winner, Tripp, SD
Van Damme, Charles	23 Jan 1890	Oudenberg, East Flanders	Yankton, SD

South Carolina

Name	Birth Date	Birthplace	Registration Place -City, County, State
Corvett, John Emile	10 Mar 1891	Malines, Antwerp	Charleston, Charleston, SC
Corvette, Benjamin Benedict	15 May 1893	Ghent	Columbia, Richland, SC
DeKiyper, Alfons	28 Jul 1888	Hindbergen?	Not Stated, Lexington, SC
Dekkelse, Edmund	9 Jan 1896	Belgium	Not Stated, Newberry, SC
Demulder, Charles	7 Apr 1889	Ghent	Not Stated, Greenville, SC
Fierens, Emiel	8 Sep 1894	St. Nicholas	Columbia, Richland, SC
Maes, Aime	21 Jul 1888	Belgium	Not Stated, Richland, SC
Maes, Floremond	8 Sep 1889	St. Nicholas	Charleston, Charleston, SC
Mason, Antom	13 Jun 1896	Bree	Columbia, Richland, SC
Mason, Henry	3 Mar 1891	Bree	Columbia, Richland, SC
Ranson, Leo	Mar 1895	Zedelgem	Not Stated, Richland, SC
Vanvynckt, Kameil	22 Jun 1894	Ghent	Not Stated, Greenville, SC

Traveling Conditions of Belgian Emigrants on Sail Ships

By Guy Gallez



State Emigrant Landing Depot, Castle Garden, N. Y.

Complaints against the emigration agents

During the 1855 and 1856 great wave of emigration to Wisconsin, numerous complaints were filed against the Port of Antwerp emigration agents. Besides the fact that living conditions on board the ships were awful, the emigrants were moreover taken advantage of, by the agents in Belgium, by the ship captains during the voyage and by crooks once they had reached New York. These individuals played on the new arrivals' naïveté and feelings of disorientation. Laws and regulations were in place to try and protect them, both in Belgium and in the US, but met with limited effectiveness.

In early August 1855, when a help desk, for registration and surveillance purposes, was open in Castle Garden, traveling conditions began to improve. However paradoxical, most of the complaints filed in the Belgian archives of the time date from that time period, even though the big emigration movement from Belgium started in 1843, with the paupers. This shows us the system enabled the emigrants in New York to relay their complaints to the proper authorities.

In any case, it seems that the abuses experienced by the emigrants for years were finally exposed to the Belgian authorities. This enabled them to curtail the misdeeds perpetrated by the agents and ship captains. In spite of the notoriety of these cases, the complaints are relatively limited to a small number of ship captains and emigration agents.

The lack of complaints during the 1840s is also due to other factors. Before 1853-54, few Belgians left from Antwerp; many left from the French port of Le Havre, often, at least for young men, running away from the compulsory military service. To clear customs in Antwerp they had to show proof that they had satisfied their military duties, whereas in France, as foreigners, they were exempt of this formality. Moreover, there was no relay point in New-York for the Belgian emigrants, unlike their German counterparts for example, who could count on a German welcoming committee who could help advise and guide them when they reached New-York.

The most frequent complaints against the Port of Antwerp at the time came from emigrants from the central and southern provinces of Germany as well as from Switzerland, enticed by the promise of a cost lower than from Hamburg or Le Havre.

Mange, Belgian Consul to Philadelphia testified in 1853 that the Port of Antwerp had such bad reputation that the German emigration company recommended to everyone to avoid it. He added that while visiting with this agent, without revealing his identity, he was counseled to keep away from Antwerp, as emigrants received the worst treatment before even boarding the ship. He continued that things were yet worse once on the ocean, where conditions on board were bad, where the crew, from the officers to the cooks dealt with the emigrants in an abrupt and despotic manner, besides the lack of food, both in quality and quantity, given to the lower deck passengers. Other people present added that in general but particularly in Antwerp, emigrants were treated more like cattle than members of the human race who had paid the required price for their ticket, believing the promises made beforehand.

Recruiting emigrants in Antwerp was the object of bitter fight between emigration agents. **Adolphe Strauss** is, without a doubt the most notorious of them all. His contacts with the port and the Province of Antwerp authorities made him the most important agent there. He was in fact the one in charge of expediting the Belgian Poor House residents and prisoners to the USA. Almost all the complaints filed in 1855 by the Belgian consuls in the US with the Belgian authorities concern him. These complaints, grouped into one file, are still stored in the archives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry. It is from this file that most of the following testimonies are taken.

EMIGRATION EN AMERIQUE.

LANDVERHUIZING NAER AMERIKA.

<p>Avis important.</p> <p>Le messigne ADOLPHE STRAUSS, à l'honneur d'informer le public, que depuis plusieurs années il s'est établi à Anvers, où il s'occupe exclusivement de l'expédition des passagers émigrants pour New-York et autres ports des États-Unis de l'Amérique.</p> <p>Pour donner aux intéressés une idée de la manière dont il remplit sa mission, il suffit de le connaître tel littéralement le témoignage de M. Thiérens, Inspecteur du service des émigrants :</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gouvernement Provincial.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anvers, 20 Janvier 1852.</p> <p>« L'inspecteur des services des émigrants à Anvers, certifie que le sieur ADOLPHE STRAUSS, dévoué à l'émigration de passagers et passagers pour les États-Unis, se fait un plaisir de recevoir les émigrants à son domicile et de leur donner toutes les facilités possibles. Il est en outre en mesure de leur fournir, les plus importantes de la place.</p> <p>« Les services offerts par le sieur STRAUSS sont dignes d'être recommandés, à tous égards, aux émigrants. Ils méritent un haut lieu dans les conditions matérielles de voyage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">« G. THIÉRENS »</p> <p>Pour le prix du passage, de première, deuxième et troisième classe, avec ou sans nourriture, ainsi que pour les dépenses des départs, s'adresser au dit ADOLPHE STRAUSS, place St Wallborge à Anvers, ou à Bruges, chez Monsieur Hippolyte JONCKHEERE, courtier de navires, quai du Miroir.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADOLPHE STRAUSS.</p>	<p>Aenbelangendberigt.</p> <p>De ondergetekende ADOLF STRAUSS, heeft de eer het publiek te verwilligen dat sedert verscheidene jaren, hy geplaatst is te Antwerpen, waar hy zich uitsluitend bezighoudt met de inoeping van personen die beproeven te verhuizen naar New-York, en andere steden van Amerika.</p> <p>Om aan de belanghebbende te doen zien, op welke wyse hy zyn zending volbrengt, zal het verzoeken om hier letterlyk een te maken het getuigschrift van den heer inspecteur des dienst van uitwyking, inledende als volgt :</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Provinciaal Gouvernement.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Antwerpen 20 Januarij 1852.</p> <p>« De inspecteur van de dienst der uitwykingen te Antwerpen, certificeert dat de heer ADOLF STRAUSS, die uitsluitend bezig is met de inoeping van personen die beproeven te verhuizen naar New-York, en andere steden van Amerika, met de grootste zorg en met de meeste aandacht, alle de noodzakelijke maatregelen neemt, om de belanghebbende te doen zien, op welke wyse hy zyn zending volbrengt.</p> <p>« De diensten welke de heer STRAUSS aanbiedt, verdienen te allen tijde de meeste aanbeveling, en verdienen een hoog aanzien in de omstandigheden van de uitwyking.</p> <p>« Het is te wenschen dat de heer STRAUSS zyn dienst voortzet, en dat de belanghebbende zich tot hem wenden, om de noodzakelijke maatregelen te nemen, om de uitwyking te volbrengen.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">« G. THIÉRENS »</p> <p>Voor den prijs, van eerste, tweede en derde klasse, met of zonder voedsel als ook voor het tydelyk van afvaren, zich te bevragen aan genoemde ADOLF STRAUSS Sr. Wallborge-plein te Antwerpen, of te Brugge by M^r Hippolyte JONCKHEERE schepenmakelaar, Spieghel rooy.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ADOLF STRAUSS.</p>
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Antwerpen. — Van Drukkerij van G. DE BACKER, Ziekhuys, 151.

Difficulties during the voyage

In 1853, the testimonies of **Jean Martin** (father of **Xavier Martin**) and **Martin Pâques** of Grez Doiceau, aboard the Quinebeau, left from Antwerp on May 17th, sum up the main grievances found in all the complaints.



They were first recruited by Strauss, who promised them a free stay in Antwerp before boarding ship, but the “Pâques family was forced to find their own lodgings, at their cost until the ship left”.

They didn’t receive the food for which they had paid and had to content themselves with reduced rations. To supplement these rations, Martin Pâques «gave money to the cook, who would throw together in a handkerchief, leftovers from the Captain’s table that he felt like giving them. This way Pâques spent an extra 25 Fr, and in spite of it, his wife and children, the Martin and others were so weakened that they could not walk without assistance, or with great difficulty; they were given one biscuit to eat a day... one liter of water per day, water that was kept in the hull and was so foul, so thick that it was almost undrinkable; the crew’s water, kept on deck, was good but if a child ventured to touch it he was beaten. Xavier Martin, added that in spite of the water being so bad one would rather not drink it, there was never enough and sometimes there was none at all»

The Martin and Pâque families were unable to immediately make their way to Wisconsin, their final destination, because they had had to spend it before and during the trip, to pay for their housing in Antwerp and the extra food onboard. To make up for their loss, they had had to sell part of their belongings and work several months around Philadelphia before being able to continue on their journey.

On Strauss’ behalf, Mange, our Consul in Philadelphia, also noted in his report that « **DeGodt** from Grèz, who had traveled the 27 days’ voyage aboard the American ship New Hampshire 2 years earlier, had complimented the quantity and quality of the food; and it was the same Adolphe Strauss who had booked his passage ».



On April 3rd, 1854, a young Belgian, **Edmond Picard**, who, at 17, had been hired by the Merchant Marine as deck hand with his brother, hoping to obtain his certificate of lieutenant, testified about the living conditions aboard the emigrant ships. He had had a steady correspondence with his parents during the time. He left the Marine around 1857 and became a famous lawyer and man of letters while his brother **Emile** remained in the Marine to the end of his contract and was promoted to the rank of captain. This next testimony is taken from his letters, kept by his mother and published in Belgium 55 years later.

During his first voyage, with his brother, they crossed the Atlantic aboard the Vasco de Gama. He wrote, “I forgot to mention that, as always, Strauss, emigration entrepreneur, played his tricks with the Vasco de Gama. He was supposed to give 18,000Kg of potatoes for the passengers. 12,000 are missing. He gave fake American money to several travelers. The captain said he filed a complaint against him but I don’t think anything will come of it.”

Edmond Picard then gave a detailed description of the dark and poorly aired life between decks. “When I told you about the meals of the passengers who eat at the Captain’s table, I never thought to tell you of the cuisine experienced by those traveling between decks; however I have noticed some dishes worth mentioning. For example, they roast peas or rice, then after grinding it, they brew it into coffee; I also noticed soups that would have made the black Spartan brews look good. To make crêpes they use grated biscuits for flour. Actually they have no choice but to invent new dishes, when I consider the scant amount of foodstuff they were given before departure. They were given for the whole voyage 1Kg of bacon and 1Kg of salted meat per man, 3 ½ of bread crumbs a week and half a bucket of potatoes ; the rest to be distributed as they go.”

The steerage deck itself is worth describing: it’s a real chasm where are kept 250 pigs, as this is truly the only way to describe these dirty, disgusting filthy beings. When you step into this hell hole, first you choke by the suffocating heat and the stench from such diverse stink that is impossible to dissect. Once down the muddy and slippery staircase that leads you there, you can see nothing at first; deep darkness is wrapped around everything, and for a moment you might believe yourself alone. But your eyes soon get used to the darkness and you begin to see around you, sitting on trunks, men, women and children, busy with the foulest of activities: here a mother pulling lice from her son’s hair, there another opening a suit from which a horrendous smell emanates, right next to a family devouring the daily meal, seemingly unaware of what is happening next to them. On each side of the steerage deck there are 2 rows of 15 beds, each of which fits 4 guests. There the healthy man lays next to the sick; you can watch a passenger still sound right next to the diseased or even more repulsive. From the frame of the beds you can see clothes hanging, in such disrepair and unclean that you might think you are staring into the window of a flea market... This

sad stage is only 10 feet high. The floors are slick, but your feet stick to it there is so much mud. You are where people of all walks of life are thrown together, honest people as well as thieves and bandits.”

Others yet, in 1856, left a witness of the ill treatment received during the journey aboard the ship John Elliot, “*Having left Antwerp on June 18th at 3am, no food was distributed that day and it was only 3 days later that, due to the passengers’ murmuring, ½ liter of drinking water was given to each passenger per day, quantity that was never increased throughout the journey. A kitchen barely suited for 100 passengers brought about cooking delays which put off distribution even until evening. Because the food was divided by Lieutenant Zommers, without weight, measure, or control of any kind, and without the presence of the passengers, we complained about our lack of sustenance and requested that he measure out the quantities distributed in front of two or ore passengers. No!*

The passenger by the name of Streichmans who insisted on this specific point, according to the contract, was told to be quiet if he wanted to avoid hanging from the high mast; this shows that we were treated like animals. In vain we asked for the proper quantities of food Mr the Commissaire Maritime had allocated per day. Nothing could be explained to people who had clearly lost their minds and how else could it be explained when it is known that Lieutenant Zommers said in front of several people that any food left over on board would be sold to the Captain by Mr Strauss for 30 dollars.

The conditions made cooking rice so that it could be edible impossible. No passenger could suffer it. All threw it into the ocean. Once the Captain found out, instead of feeding it to us twice a week they served it 4 times a week as thought their goal was to cause us to suffer by giving us food that even extreme hunger could not allow us to eat. We will mention here too that potatoes, which could have been a great help here, were not on board at all. Finally it seems that in this miserable voyage, the Captain and Lieutenant Zommers were in league to insult the fate of poor emigrants. Fights due to hunger and thirst often occurred on board. Thefts occurred that the Captain took no measures to rectify, and by in silence showing total disdain for the poor emigrants. Once Lieutenant Zommers was even seen giving urine instead of vinegar to a poor old man.

While they refused the note from Mr the Commissaire Maritime for the quantity and quality of food to be distributed and while the poor emigrants suffered from hunger, they pulled out 6 barrels of meat, marked “Strauss”, from the passengers’ reserves, for the sailors.”

If the port authorities of Antwerp and the provincial governor first protested the honesty of Captain Tucker, the inquiry quickly proved that “*according to a deposition made a few days ago by Captain Tucker himself, upon his arrival in New York, the excess of food stuff from the emigrants transported aboard his ship, were sold and the product of the sale was divided between the agent and himself, contrarily to Belgian laws, according to which the passengers remain owners of the goods after arrival.”* And to conclude on Captain Tucker that “*If he could appropriate even a portion of the goods left on his ship, upon reaching his destination, it makes sense that it was in his interest to decrease the rations during the journey”.*

The Consul of Prussia in Antwerp had already complained about another ship left from Antwerp, the Peter Hattrick, stressing that “*fresh water, biscuit and potatoes being under the Captain’s guard, if he doesn’t feel like distributing, nobody can force him to”.*

One must point out that the Belgian laws in place to protect the emigrants have no value in the USA, “*the facts that can only be witnessed in America should be pursued there, according with American laws. The slighted passengers can file a complaint with the local authorities but justice won’t give them ownership of the excess of food, since the American law only requires that the Captain distribute 1/10 of the tariffed quantity. Few journeys from Europe lasted 10 weeks or 70 days. In most cases there would be leftover food that the captain could sell for himself, for the agent or for the both of them, according to their understanding. This is respected by American law.”*

Others complained to the Belgian Consul in Chicago, Adolphe Poncelet, “*Many Belgian emigrants, passengers aboard the David Hoadley, came to see me ro file a complain against the poor treatment they received aboard this ship and the extortion they had to endure during their journey as well as from New York to this place...*

Other emigrants arrived here on the 9th (May 1856), embarked in Antwerp through the Strauss agency aboard the Chimberozo, Captain Morse, complain that they did not receive the quantity of food and water stipulated in their contract and that upon arrival in New York they received from Mr Strauss’ agents no protection whatsoever. Many among them, had to, like those on the David Hoadley, pay their passage to Green Bay or pay an increase on baggage.”



EMIGRATION VESSEL.—BETWEEN DECKS.

*non signé
en 1853
de Villiers
de Villiers*

CONTRAT POUR PASSENGERS.



EMIGRANT VERS LES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE.

Monsieur **Adolphe Strauss**, négociant et armateur de navires à Anvers, s'engage, en vertu du présent contrat, à transporter de *Antwerpen* à *Amérique sans force* le Sieur *Joseph Brice* et sa société se composant

- de 4 personnes au-dessus de 14 ans,
- de 8 à 14 ans,
- de 1 à 8 ans,
- enfants au-dessous d'un an

parmi lesquels il ne pourra cependant se trouver ni malades ni infirmes.

Les passagers auront à payer pour cette traversée :

- Frs. 70 par personne au-dessus de 14 ans
- de 8 à 14 ans.
- de 1 à 8 ans

Ensemble pour la traversée Frs.

Les enfants au-dessous d'un an ne paient rien, quand leur âge est constaté par acte de naissance.

Les passagers ont contracté avec la nourriture, d'après le tarif arrêté par le Gouvernement Belge et auront des vivres de première qualité.

La ration de vivres par personne au-dessus de 14 ans se compose de :

- 15 kilos Biscuits,
- 7 1/2 » Riz,
- 7 1/2 » Orge,
- 5 » Farine,
- 7 1/2 » Pâtes et Fèves,
- 1/2 » Lard,
- 5 » Bouillie salée,
- 5 » Pommes de terre,
- 1 » Café,
- 2 livres Vinaigre.

On accorde aux passagers de 8 à 14 ans trois quarts de ration.

Aux enfants de 1 à 8 ans demi-ration.

Le Capitaine du navire est chargé du soin de faire préparer la nourriture des passagers.

Les bagages des passagers sont assurés contre les risques de mer pour une somme de frs. contre paiement de la prime de 1/4.

Le Sieur *Joseph Brice* a donc à payer en tout la somme de Frs

Comme arrhes le Sieur *Joseph Brice* a payé la somme de

Le solde encore à payer d *Sept cent quarante* Frs

devra être payé à **M. Adolphe Strauss** avant l'embarquement ; à défaut de quoi, les passagers seront refusés et leurs arrhes ne leur seront point remboursées.

Le départ d'Anvers est fixé au *10/15 d'oct.* par le trois-mâts *President Schuyt* ou tout autre navire, au moins aussi bon et partant à la même époque.

Si les passagers, qui ont d'avance contracté chez **Adolphe Strauss**, restent plus de trois jours à Anvers, ils seront alors nourris et logés aux frais d'**Adolphe Strauss** jusqu'au départ du navire.

Si dans le cours de la traversée, le navire serait obligé pour cause d'avaries (les risques de guerre exceptés) à relâcher dans un autre port, je m'engage à transporter les passagers au lieu de leur destination par un autre navire, si le navire par lequel ils ont commencé le voyage, ne serait plus en état de continuer la traversée, les passagers seraient dans ce cas logés à mes frais.

Les passagers auront à bord du navire.

- A. Des places à l'entrepont.
- B. Le libre-transport de leurs effets et de leurs bagages servant à leur propre usage.
- C. Les couchettes et, en cas de maladie, médecin et l'apothécaire.
- D. L'eau douce, la lumière et le chauffage.
- E. Et sont libres, en arrivant en Amérique, du paiement de l'hôpital monnaie.

Les passagers sont tenus à payer pour le transport tous les services de la Douane, de leurs bagages depuis la station jusqu'au navire.

Le présent contrat ne pourra ni être annulé, ni les places cédées à des tierces personnes, sans le consentement des deux parties.

Celui qui ne se conformera pas aux présentes stipulations, perdra tous ses droits résultant du présent contrat.

Si les passagers venaient à faire un autre contrat avec une tierce personne, ils seront obligés de payer à **M. Adolphe Strauss**, et à titre de dommages intérêts, deux tiers du montant de leur présent engagement.

Si les passagers n'indiquent pas exactement l'âge des enfants qui auraient dépassé un an, ils paieront le prix entier du tarif. Les malades, infirmes, sourds, muets, aveugles, les personnes atteintes d'aliénation mentale, celles au-dessus de 60 ans, les veuves et les femmes non mariées accompagnées d'enfants mineurs et sans ressources pécuniaires, les enfants au-dessus de 15 ans non accompagnés de leurs parents, ainsi que les gens sans ressources ne seront point acceptés pour le passage.

Les personnes mentionnées dans le présent contrat, ayant pris connaissance des présentes stipulations, s'engagent à leur accomplissement par leur signature.

Ainsi fait un double dont un exemplaire pour chaque partie contractante.

Anvers le 28 9/ 1853

Signature des Passagers:

700
180
50

Joseph Brice
Je soussigné
reçois la somme de six cent
quarante francs plus cent quatre vingt
francs pour mon passage plus
les 22 10/1853
J. Brice

720
pour P. de Bouché
Spaanisch Straat 40
Amst York

700
20

640

Belgians in the Death Records of West Virginia<http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/>

Name	Age	Birth - Death	Parents
Ducoeur, August	66y	b. 25 Jun 1898, Pennsylvania d. 14-Mar-1965, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	August Ducoeur/Marie Pilette
Dufour, Alphonse	86y	b. 27 Aug 1878, Jumet, Belgium d. 28-Jan-1965	Aime Dufour/Catherine Vanderelty
Dufour, Augusta P Coenen, 76y		b. 19 Nov 1892, Belgium d. 28-Feb-1969, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Alphonse Coenen/Clara Rassart
Dufour, Carl	17y 2m 16d	d. 10-Dec-1918, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	
Dufour, Carl	22m	d. 10-Dec-1918, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Rene Dufour
Dufour, Frank	50y	b. 1870, WV d. 25-Jan-1920	
Dufour, Paul	56y 6m	b. Mar 1880, Belgium d. 16-Sep-1936	Aimie DuFour/Katherine Vandretye
Dufour, Wat	47y	d. 20-Nov-1923, Ansted, WV	
Dufour, Wm	46y	b. Ohio d. 20-Nov-1923	August Dufour/Mary Erwin
Dumont, Adaline	91y 6m 15d	b. 7 Jan 1839 d. 22-Jul-1930, Morgantown, Monongalea, WV	Joseph Desgain/Augustine Labenur?
Dumont, Camille	78y 3m 26d	b. 13 Jun 1864, Ransart, Belgium d. 8-Oct-1942, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	Leopold Dumont/Virginia Cornell
Dumont, Marie	72y 1m 22d	b. 25 Nov 1865, Ransart, Belgium d. 17-Jan-1938, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	- /Gillot Marie Therese -
Dury, Louis Sr.	84y	b. 3 May 1881, Belgium d. 28-Mar-1965, Salem, Harrison, WV	Louis Dury
Eschenbrenner, Hector	57y 6m 11d	b. 12 Sep 1864, Alsace Loraine d. 23-Mar-1922, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	- /Victoire Leroy
Falleur, Charles Albert		b. 9 Oct 1865, Belgium d. 28-Jun-1942, Salem, Harrison, WV	Jules Falleur/Adolphe Lambitte
Falleur, Julia		b. 25 Aug 1866, Belgium d. 6-Jan-1931, Harrison, WV	Henry Mayence/Pauline Renard
Farley, Florent	39y 2m 9d	b. 14 Sep 1889 d. 23-Nov-1928, South Charleston, Kanawha, WV	Florent Farley/Leocada Creton
Farley, Leo Edgar	27y 9d	b. 8-Jun-1916, South Charleston, WV d. 17-Jun-1943, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	Alphonso Farley/Marie Michaux
Farley, Marie	31y	b. 26 Mar 1886, Belgium d. 8-Nov-1917, South Charleston, Kanawha, WV	Julien Michaux/May Michaux
Fontain, Aime	40y 9m 21d	b. 13 Mar 1892, Belgium d. 16-Dec-1936, Harrison, WV	Amie Fontain Sr/Leah Andre
Fontain, Aime	75y 10m 22d	b. 8 Jan 1868 d. 30-Nov-1943, Salem, Harrison, WV	
Fontaine, Agnes	69y 1m 9d	b. 30 Oct 1861, Jumet, Belgium d. 9-Dec-1930, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	John Joseph Fontaine/Mary Agnes Marin
Goisse, Amelia	82y	b. 19 Jul 1885, Jumet, Belgium d. 21-Jul-1967, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Charlot Mayer/Laura Laurent
Goisse, Eugene F	71y 5m 29d	b. 20 Apr 1879, Dampremy, Belgium d. 19-Oct-1950, Salem, Harrison, WV	Eugene F Goisse/Marie Lhost
Gregoire, Aime	64y 9m 22d	b. 26 sep 1882, Belgium d. 18-Jul-1947, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Frank Gregoire/Alida Jossart
Gregoire, Aletha (or Alida) 75y 3m 4d		b. 14 May 1857 d. 18-Aug-1932, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	A Jossart/Josie Hancort

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Gregoire, Francis (or Frank)	82y 7m 5d	b. 13 Sep 1853, Charleroi, Belgium d. 4-Feb-1936, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Charles Gregoire/
Hachat, Edmond	59y 11d	b. 15 Jun 1872, Jumet, Belgium d. 26-Jun-1931, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	
Hachat, Laura Helena	72y	b. 7 Apr 1887, Morgantown, WV d. 23-May-1959, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Adam Davis/Emmaline Rice
Hachat, Raymond Joseph	76y	b. 17 Jun 1892, Belgium d. 30-Jun-1968, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Scharlot Hachat/Anna
Hachat, Vivian Ruth	67y	b. 29 Aug 1899, Taylor Co, WV d. 15-Mar-1967, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Joseph Ford/Ellen Poe
Henry, John Baptiste	76y 5m 16d	b.1 Jan 1853, Belgium d. 17-Jun-1929, Morgantown, Monongalea, WV	Joseph L Henry/Mary
Henry, Rosalie Annette	89y	b. 23 Nov 1859, Belgium d.26-Mar-1949, Morgantown, Monongalea, WV	Joseph Aristante/Josephine
Huge, Henri	65y 11m 4d	b. 27 Feb 1866, France d. 31-Jan-1931, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	P Huge/Josephine Musco
Huge, Marcelline	90y 10m 29d	b. 23 May 1871, Jumet, Belgium d. 22-Apr-1962, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Nicholas -/Philomena Francq
Humier, Alfred	69y	b. 12 Feb 1893 d. 14-Apr-1962, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Jules Humier/Celeste Decerf
Lambiotte, Anna	71y 4m 6d	b. 4 Oct 1877, Belgium d. 16-Feb-1948, Salem, Harrison, WV	unknown/Marie Lyons
Lambiotte, Emile	70y 4m 9d	b. 7 Mar 1852, Belgium d. 16-Jul-1922, Sistersville, Tyler, WV	Adrien Lambiotte/Emilie
Lambiotte, Emile Joseph	86y	b. 21 Jul 1898, Jumet, Belgium d. 30-Jan-1965, Harrison, WV	Emile Lambiotte Sr./Hortense Mayer
Lambiotte, Florin	19y 9m 10d	b. 9-Nov-03, Indiana d. 19-Aug-1923, Laurel Park, Harrison, WV	Henry Lambiotte/Floria Betigny
Lambiotte, Hortense	66y 14d	b. 4 Jul 1857, Jumet, Belgium d. 18-Jul-1923, Sistersville, Tyler, WV	Francois Joseph Mayet/Marie Therese Quinet
Lambiotte, Hubert, Sr.	67y 2m 9d	b. 6 Jul 1871, Jumet, Belgium d. 15-Sep-1938, Harrison, WV	Hubert Lambiotte/Pauline Lambiotte
Lambiotte, John B	3m	d. 21-Aug-1908, Salem, Harrison, WV	
Lambiotte, Oscar	87y 9m 22d	b. Belgium d. 18-Jan-1962, Calhoun, WV	
Lejeune, Leocadie	79y 9m 28d	b. 25 Jul 1870, Jumet, Belgium d. 23-May-1950, Salem, Harrison, WV	Clement Meurice/Mary Therese Rose
Lejeune, Oscar	20y 7m 25d	b. 30-Oct-1908, Belgium d. 25-Jun-1929, Salem, Harrison, WV	Camille Lejeune/Leocadie Maurice
Michotte, Gabriel	83y 10m 13d	b. 21 Jan 1859, Belgium d. 4-May-1942, Salem, Harrison, WV	Lewis Michotte/Roselee Mott
Michotte, Julia	91y 4m 15d	b. 16 Mar 1868, Dampremy, Belgium d. 31-Aug-1959, Salem, Harrison, WV	Lewis Michotte/Augustine Leopold Joseph
Natalis, Nicholas	77y 6m 10d	b. 26 Dec 1863, Belgium d. 6-Jul-1941, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	Nicholas Natalis/Marie Bastian
Oger, Emile	60y 5m 10d	b. 17 May 1887, Belgium d. 27-Oct-1947, GlenDale, Marshall, WV	Paul Oger/Katherine Toutin
Pierre, Hubert	74y 2m 27d	b. 29 Nov 1857, Belgium d. 26-Feb-1932, Morgantown, Monongalea, WV	Frank Pierre/Josephine Lambiotte
Pierre, Prudente	67y 2m 18d	b. 4 Jun 1861, Belgium d. 22-Aug-1928, Morgantown, Monongalea, WV	- Ponse / - Andre
Rombaut, Saphiel	68y 5m 24d	b. 27 Jul 1864, Belgium d. 20-Jan-1933, Glen Ferris, Fayette, WV	

Surgeont, Dezerie	50y 9m 3d	b. 6 Feb 1890, Belgium d. 9-Nov-1940, Morgantown, Monongalea, WV	Frank Surgeont/Felicienne Mott
Tricot, Eudore E	73y	b. 23 Nov 1883, Jumet, Belgium d. 26-Dec-1956, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Alexander Tricot/Lea Mayer
Tricot, Lea	75y	b. Belgium d. 22-Nov-1937, Weston, WV	
Tricot, Lucie Adelaide	69y	b. 4 May 1891, St Just sur Loire, France d. 19-Aug-1960, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	John Criner/Pauline Mayer
Trigaux, Arthur D	78y 9m 11d	b. 23 Dec 1858, Jumet, Belgium d. 4-Oct-1937, Charleston, Kanawha, WV	John Frank Trigaux/Amelia Mayence
Trigaux, Cyrille	88y 8m 15d	b. 9 Jun 1864, Belgium d. 24-Feb-1953, Sweet Springs, Monroe, WV	
Vignoul, Edmund	43y 5m 16d	b. 14 Mar 1895, Belgium d. 30-Aug-1938, Clarksburg, Harrison, WV	Leon Vignoul/Maria Teresa Glover
Waterloo, Clementine (or Clemence),	48y	b. 20-Aug-1915, Salem, Harrison, WV	
Waterloo, Emma	65y	b. 28 Jan 1887 d. 12-Mar-1952, Kanawha, WV	Lewis Waterloo/Arthemiese Lambert
Waterloo, Louis	72y 1m 23d	b. 14 Aug 1857, Gennet (Jumet?), Belgium d. 7-Oct-1929, Kanawha, WV	Pierre Waterloo/Adele Mayence

Pennsylvania and West Virginia Obituaries

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

The funeral Mrs. **Apolexine ESGAIN**, wife of **Frank ESGAIN**, died Thursday night, April 1st, at 10:30 o'clock at her home at Cecil. She was 58 years of age. A native of Belgium, Mrs. ESGAIN came to this locality about 1890. She leaves her husband and two sons, **Frank E. ESGAIN** of Champion and **Adolph ESGAIN** of Kentucky. Funeral services were held at the home Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment in Robinson's Run cemetery.

Apr. 9, 1915 McDonald PA Record

Following an illness of but a few hours **John B. DUBOIS**, a well-known Belgium (sic) resident of this place died at 5:30 o'clock Tuesday morning at his home in Miller St. Mr. DUBOIS was at his work at Jumbo mine of the Pittsburgh Coal company Monday as usual. He complained of illness in the evening and during the night rapidly grew worse. Heart trouble was assigned as the cause of death. The dead man was born in Belgium 61 years ago and came to America 16 years ago. His wife survives. He was a member of the Solidarite society. Funeral services were held at the DUBOIS home Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment was in the Robinson Run cemetery.

*January 16, 1915 McDonald PA Outlook

Mrs. **Adrien DUSSERE**, aged about sixty years, a member of one of the best known Belgian families of the Panhandle section of Washington county, died at her home at Hanlin on Saturday evening, June 5th, at

six o'clock following an illness due to a general decline. She formerly resided in McDonald. The death of her husband, Adrien DUSSERE, occurred about one year ago. Two sons and two daughters survive: Mrs. Donald HELLAIRE of Donora, Mrs. Emile ROBERTS and Adrien and Louis DUSSERE, all of Hanlin Station. The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon. Interment was made in Hilldale cemetery.

June 11, 1915 McDonald PA Record

1915 McDonald HS Grads

June 11, 1915 McDonald PA Record

The class of 1915, McDonald High School, numbers twenty-one. This is the largest number graduated here at one time. Three of the class have made an average of more than .95 in the four years' work. They are Leona PETTIT, Edith MAY and Sarah GORDON. To them has been accorded high honor. The honor pupils, making an average of from ninety to ninety-five percent are: David APPLEBAUM, Jeanette BROIDA, **Julia DELOCHE***, George GARDNER, Isabel MURRAY, Ferdinand SHEAKLEY, Rena WILLIAMS. The names of the other graduates are Mary BURKETT, Matthew CRAWFORD, Ursula EWING, Anna GOSSELIN, Charles HUNT, Paul MCBETH, Harmon ROBERTS, Robert STEVENSON, Thomas TRIMMER, Verner WALTERS, Alda WEIR. As a whole the class ranks high, having attainments far above the average. David APPLEBAUM is the youngest graduate, being but sixteen years of age. Studies aggregating a total of sixteen points are required by the State. He has carried eighteen and made a sufficient high percentage in these to obtain honors. In the business department he has been a marvel on the typewriter, attaining a speed of seventy-five words a minute. He is the son of the local Jewish rabbi, the Rev. Mr. APPLEBAUM of Valley Street.

* **Julia DELOCHE's** mother **Celeste** (or Celia) was Belgian. Julia was born in Aug 1894, PA). Her siblings: **Henry** (b Jul 1890, PA – Oct 1963); **Laura** (b Nov 1891, PA); **George** (b 17 Feb 1897, PA – d Aug 1968, Royal Oak, MI); **James** (b 23 Jan 1901, PA – Jan 1968, McDonald, PA); **Daisy** (b 1905, OH); **Leander L** (b 28 Oct 1907, PA – Mar 1983, Royal Oak, MI) and one more not listed on the 1910 census

Mrs. **Amelia BERGER**, wife of **Leon BERGER**, and a well known resident of this place, died at 7 o'clock Saturday evening at the home of her niece, Mrs. J. B. ROBERTS. She was 80 years of age. The funeral services were held in the First Presbyterian church Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock in charge of the Rev. J. P. JORDAN. Interment was in the Robinson Run cemetery. Mrs. BERGER was born in Belgium and came to this country more than 28 years ago. She was married some years prior to her coming to this country and she and Mr. BERGER came directly to McDonald where they made their home. She was a member and conscientious worker of the Presbyterian church. She leaves her husband. There are no children.

Aug. 14, 1915 McDonald PA Outlook

Mrs. FURNO and Mrs. ANDREWS attended the funeral of **Mrs. P. J. CHARLIER**¹ of Midway last Thursday.*Sturgeon column - Sept. 4, 1915 McDonald PA Outlook

Alphonse VERSCHEUREN, aged 56, died at 8:30 o'clock Sunday morning at his home in Laurel Hill. Death was the result of a complication of diseases. The funeral services were held at the late home Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock in charge of the Rev. J. B. CAVITT. Interment was in the Robinson Run cemetery. Mr. VERSCHEUREN was born in Belgium and came to this country with his wife about 30 years ago. Since coming here he was employed as a miner. He leaves wife and one son now with the Belgi(an) army. Oct. 2, 1915 McDonald PA Outlook

Peru Daily Tribune - Thursday, November 02, 2006, Peru, Indiana

Ernest E. Maiserouille Sr., 88, Peru, passed away at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 30, 2006 at St. Joseph Hospital, Kokomo. He was born Oct. 29, 1918 in Frontenac, Kan. to **Henry J.**² and **Wilhelmina (Steffens) Maiserouille**. He married **Opal May Lee**, and she preceded him in death March 18, 2003. Maiserouille was an auto parts salesman and a member of the Masonic Lodge 187 F&AM of Pittsburg, Kan., Scottish Rite Valley of Fort Scott, Kan., Miaza Temple of Pittsburg, Kan., and Arab Patrol of Pittsburg, Kan. Survivors include two sons, Ernest Maiserouille Jr. and wife Glenda, Peru, and Charles J. Maiserouille and wife Diane, Pittsburg, Kan.; five grandchildren, Todd and Sherri Maiserouille, Jeremy Cox, and Travis and Travar Maiserouille; four great-grandchildren, Ashlee and TyAnn Gasaway, Caitlyn Maiserouille and Keagen Cox; and two sisters, Juanita Grubbs, Pittsburg, Kan., and Mary Bell Mitchell, Grove, Okla. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife. No visitation is planned. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home, Peru.

Caesar LEROY, aged 63 years, a well known Belgian of Laurel Hill, died Sunday morning at 3 o'clock at his home. He had been an invalid for 11 years. Mr. LEROY was born in Belgium and came to McDonald 30 years ago. He was a miner until ill health forced him to retire. Besides the wife, three sons, Jules, Marcel and Rene, all at home. The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock in charge of the Rev. J. B. CAVITT. Interment will be in the Robinson's Run cemetery.

Nov. 13, 1915 McDonald PA Outlook

Word was received by the DESCUTNER brothers on Monday that their brother-in-law **Leandre THIBAUT** was killed in a mine explosion at Ravensdale, Washington on November 15. Mr. THIBAUT left McDonald about 27 years ago and for some

¹ **PJ Charlier = Peter Joseph CHARLIER**. The WWI Draft Registration cards show a Peter Joseph Charlier, miner, born in May 1878, Belgium, living in Midway, listing **Elmer Charlier** as his closest living relative in Greenville, IL. The 1920 US Census shows a Peter Joseph CHARLIER, laborer at Coal Company, widower, 41, born in Belgium (Flemish) with children: **Elmer**, 14, **Leah**, 12, **Eli**, 10 and mother **Eugenie**, 65. The 1910 US Census shows Peter Joseph Charlier, 32, having been married for 6 years to an **Elizabeth**, 24, French. She had had 3 children, all alive at the time of the 1910 census: **Elmer**, **Leah** and **Eli**. Peter's origins as Belgium-Flemish seem to have been crossed out to read Belgium – French. The 1900 US census – North Fayette, Allegheny, PA - shows Peter Charlier, coal miner, born in May 1878, Belgium, son of Peter (invalid, b Feb 1853, Belgium) and mother **Jane** (b. Feb 1854, Belgium), emigrated in 1879. with siblings: **Baptiste**, b. Feb 1881, Belgium; **Emile**, b. March 1887, PA; **Emily**, b. Jan 1895, PA; **Mariah**, b Sep 1895, PA – Jane had had 7 children, 5 of whom were alive in 1900. The WWII Old Man Draft cards have **Peter Joseph Charlier**, b 19 May 1877, Charleroi, Belgium with closest living relative, **Elmer Charlier** living in Lester, PA; Elmer Charlier (b 5 Mar 1905) died in May 1975, in Millville, Cumberland, New Jersey (SSN issued in PA) while **Eli Charlier** (b 9 Oct 1909) died Aug 1981, in Essington, Delaware, Pennsylvania. On the 1930 US Census – Tincum, Delaware, PA, Elmer Charlier is listed to be married to Edna (b PA) with whom he had Elmer, 2 ½ ; Lewis, ½. Eli Charlier, ship fitter, married Victorine (b PA of Belgian parents)

² The 1930 US Census in Frontenac, Crawford, Kansas shows **Henry J Maiserouille**, 40, b in Belgium, married at age 24 to Wilhelmina, 33, b Kansas (of German parents) with children: Ernest E, 11, b Kansas; Henrietta M, 9 b Kansas; Leonard J, 7, b Kansas; Elizabeth, 4y 8m b. Kansas; Juanita E, 2y 8m, b Kansas. He loaded cars in a Veneer plant. A few houses down from there lived a **Leon Maiserouille**, 73 b Belgium and his wife **Henrietta**, 65 b. in Belgium who both emigrated in 1893, which is the same year Henry J emigrated also. Leonard Maiserouille is found in the Social Security Death Index as being born on 14 Feb 1923 – d. in Dec 1969, Kansas; Opal M Maiserouille, wife of Ernest, was born 6 Sep 1920 and died 18 Mar 2003, Pittsburgh, Kansas. The WWI Draft cards show **Henry Jule Maiserouille**, b in Forshee, Belgium on 29 Mar 1890. He worked as a coalminer for the *Central Coal and Coke Company*. He was tall, slender, had blue eyes and dark hair.



(Signature of mine)

time had been located at Ravensdale. He was 54 years old and was employed as utility man around the mine. A brother of the DESCUTNER boys lost his eye sight in an explosion at the same mine about 12 years ago, he has since died.

Dec. 4, 1915 McDonald PA Outlook

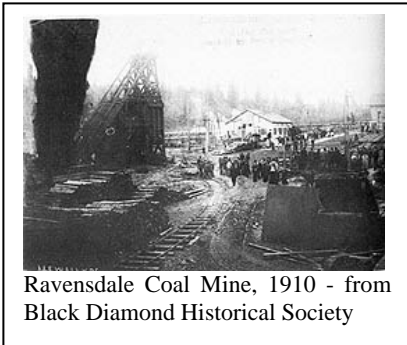
Mrs.³ **Jules LEROY**, aged 31 years, died Saturday, February 14, 1920, at her home in Laurel Hill, following an illness of pneumonia. She leaves a husband, 2 small children*, a father, mother, brother and sister. Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. Albert A. LOVE of Corliss. Interment was in the Robinson Run cemetery.

Feb. 19, 1920 McDonald PA Outlook

*From another article: the children were named Florence and Jules.

The **infant son** of Mr. and Mrs. POSKIN of Valley street, died at the house of his parents, Thursday evening, Feb. 27 of pneumonia. The child was one year of age.

On Friday, **Elmer POSKIN**⁴, an 8 year old brother, died, also of pneumonia. Funeral services were conducted at the home Sunday afternoon by Rev. A. MAGE. Interment in Robinson Run cemetery. The children are survived by their parents and one sister. - Mar. 4, 1920 McDonald PA Outlook



Ravensdale Coal Mine, 1910 - from Black Diamond Historical Society

Ravensdale coal mine explosion kills 31 men on November 16, 1915

By Alan J. Stein, HistoryLink.org Essay 3576

http://www.historylink.org/essays/output.cfm?file_id=3576

On November 16, 1915, 31 men are killed by an explosion in the Ravensdale coal mine, a few miles northeast of Black Diamond. The mine is owned by the Northwestern Improvement Company, a subsidiary corporation of the

Northern Pacific Railroad. This is one of the largest coal mining disasters in King County history.

That morning, a blown fuse knocked out the hoisting machinery and 100 men were sent home until the problem was fixed. If not for this, the extent of the disaster would have been much greater. Nearly 50 men were left on the job. At 1:24 p.m., 36 of them were down in the mine. At 1:25 p.m., a muffled explosion shook the earth, and smoke billowed out of the ground.

Those in town knew immediately what had occurred. The Ravensdale mine was a dry mine, in that little or no moisture permeated the tunnels. Coal dust filled the passages, and it took only a spark to set it off. A sprinkler system was installed throughout the mine to dampen the air, but it obviously wasn't enough to prevent a disaster.

Whatever ignited the dust was never determined. It could have been an improperly placed dynamite charge, which miners called a windy shot, or possibly a miner carelessly lit a cigarette. In any case, the air in the mine burst into a violent fireball, killing most of the men horribly and instantaneously.

The Ravensdale mine had two means of access, a main shaft and an auxiliary entryway (called a slope) that sloped at an angle of 45 degrees. At the 800-, 1200-, and 1500-foot levels, horizontal tunnels led out as leaders to the different galleries where men worked. The first and second levels had long since been worked out. Most of the men were in the third level.

Roster of the Dead

- John Arno** - Miner
- Joe Baldacci** - Miner
- John B. Castagnia** - Laborer
- Charles Davis** - Pumpman
- P. J. Dowd** - Shot firer
- John Errington** - Lumberman
- Joe Galob** - Miner
- Noel Goodman** - Laborer
- Thomas J. Kane** - Mine foreman
- Joseph Krajnoc** - Motorman
- Charles Martini** - Cager
- Thomas Mashiokoski** - Laborer
- Romeo Medaine** - Miner
- John Miller** - Miner
- Louis Minaglia** - Laborer
- Edris Morgan** - Track layer
- Angelo Morris** - Miner
- Jack Muncie** - Haulage boss
- Dominick Novarra** - Pres. of local miner's union
- Emil Pawallek** - Miner
- Louis Pazziol** - Miner
- M. Pennachi** - Laborer
- John Pesta** - Laborer
- Howard Salter** - Laborer
- Thomas Speck** - Motorman
- Jack Storey** - Miner
- Lorenzo Tasamantino** - Cager
- John Testa** - Laborer
- L. Thibaut** - Miner
- Frank Wegher** - Miner
- Joe Zgonc** - Miner

³ The 1920 US Census taken in late January 1920, shortly before she died gives: Jules LEROY, 27 b in PA of Belgian parents, fireboss in coal mines, wife Amanda, 31 b Germany and children: Florence, 4y 2m b PA, Jules, 2y 11m

⁴ The 1920 US Census in Robinson Twp, Washington Co. PA, taken on 30 January 1920, gives Elmer G, 8, b in PA, son of Alexander, 39 and Rosa K POSKIN, 36, both of Belgium. With baby brother Harry A (10m) and older sister Rosa M, 17

The blast was so great that two men standing at the mine's main entrance were knocked off their feet. Ironically, these two men were in town selling accident insurance from the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company. By the time they got to their feet, hundreds were rushing over to start rescue operations. A major cave-in had occurred inside the main shaft, so all efforts focused on the auxiliary entryway. Hasty phone calls were made to nearby mining communities to help in the rescue efforts. Nearby Black Diamond miners were on site within the hour, and by the end of the day, rescue units had arrived from as far away as Roslyn, located on the other side of the Cascade Mountains. Matt Starwich, former Deputy Sheriff and now a Ravensdale saloonkeeper, also helped in the efforts.



Early mine rescue gear to allow into hazardous atmospheres. Behind is a special mice rescue railroad car operated by the US Bureau of Mines
 Courtesy *Black Diamond Historical Society*

Three injured men from the second level were brought up first, along with three bodies. One man's injuries were so slight, that he returned to help with the rescuers. For 10 hours, crews attempted to reach possible survivors on the third level, but were hindered by poisonous gases, smoke, broken timbers, and debris. Crews wearing Draeger oxygen helmets worked in 90-minute intervals.

Upon reaching the third level, more bodies were found, and word was sent up that there was no chance of survivors. The bodies were mangled and burnt, and the surrounding air was unbreathable. Foreman Thomas Kane had an office just off the bottom of the slope. The explosion had wrenched off the door, and Kane's body was found in the wreckage of his desk.

Above ground, women and children wept as they waited, still hoping against hope. But each time the cars came up, they only contained rescuers or grisly remains. A dog waited anxiously by the entrance for his master, and even though he was pushed aside by the boots of frantic workers, he kept returning to his spot, in vain.

Work continued around the clock, but bodies came up slowly. A drizzling rain added to the pall above ground. Down below, workers carried canaries with them, to check for foul air. If the canaries passed out, that meant that miners had to watch out for what miners called black damp or afterdamp. (Today we know that black damp is simply an atmosphere deficient in oxygen. Afterdamp is the mixture of gasses, extremely variable, which exists after a coal mine explodes. The mixture includes what used to be called firedamp, the methane gas that coal dust and coal emits continuously.)

In the end, 31 men lost their lives in the explosion. Their names are listed here. Many of the men were prominent in the community. Thomas Kane, besides being foreman, was also a city councilman. Jack Muncie managed the local baseball team. Thomas Mashiokoski was a veteran of the Russo-Japanese War. Charles Davis was director of the local school district. Jack Storey was a former justice of the peace, and had once been wounded in a gun battle with bandits near North Bend. Twenty-three of the men were married and had families.



Many of the men were buried in the Ravensdale Cemetery, while others were sent back to the homes of their youth. The tragedy hit Ravensdale hard, and the town never recovered.

Many miners left town and coal mining to fight in World War I. As fuel oil and natural gas increasingly replaced coal as a source of energy during the 1920s, coal mines throughout the county shut down, including Ravensdale. The records have been lost, but at some point during the 1920s the town of Ravensdale disincorporated. This is the only town in King County to have done this. The community turned into a near ghost town, but has since shown signs of life. The 2000 Census counted 816 residents, now that the suburban ring has expanded so far from the boundaries of Seattle and Tacoma. But one sad fact remains about Ravensdale and the disaster. At some point during the last 50 years, vandals made it out to the Ravensdale Cemetery, which is now overgrown

with brush. Graves were desecrated, sarcophagi were shattered, and human remains were looted and stolen. An ignominious end to an already horrid tragedy.

Sources:

"34 Dead in Coal Mine Explosion in County," The Seattle Times, November 17, 1915, pp. 1, 12;
 "Dead in Mine Total 31," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 17, 1915, pp. 1,1;
 "Party Seeking Mine Dead Menaced by Rising Water," The Seattle Times, November 18, 1915, pp.1,2;
 "Ravensdale Death List Still at 31," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, November 18, 1915, pp. 1, 9;
 "Ravensdale Rescuers Find Six More Bodies of Explosion Victims," The Seattle Times, November 19, 1915, p.4;
 "Times Man Goes into Wrecked Mine," The Seattle Times, November 21, 1915, p.18;
 U.S. Bureau of Census, Department of Commerce, (<http://www.ofm.wa.gov/census2000/pl/tables/ctable01.htm#top>);
 Priscilla Long, Where the Sun Never Shines: A History of America's Bloody Coal Industry (NY: Paragon House, 1989), 29.

Belgians on the 1910 Census: Black Diamond Twp, King Co, Washington

Name	Age	Sex	Rel.	Status	Children	BirthPlace	Immig.	Occupation
Marroy, Andrew	34	M	Head	M1-19		Belgium	1904-Pa	miner
Marroy, Julia	34	F	Wife	M1-19	1/1	Belgium	1904	none
Marroy, Edda	18	M	Son	S		Belgium	1904-Pa	miner
Favro, Joseph	51	M	Head	M1-11		Belgium	1894 -Na	baker
Favro, Marie	46	F	wife	M2-11	8/6	Italy	1894	none
Favro, Louisa	8	F	daughter	S		Washington		none
Favro, Audry	3	F	daughter	S		Washington		none
Persyn, Julius	34	M	Head	M1-0		Belgium	1903-Pa	timberer-coalmine
Persyn, Louisa	30	F	wife	M2-0	3/1	France	1904	none
Persyn, Medar	28	M	Brother	S		Belgium	1904-Al	Fireman-coalmine
Henygert, Edward	40	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1904-Pa	miner - coalmine
De Cocker, Achil	36	M	Head	M1-4		Belgium	1903-Pa	Fireman-coalmine
De Cocker, Anna	23	F	Wife	M1-4	2/2	Belgium	1906	none
De Cocker, Pelton?	2	M	son	S		Washington		none
De Cocker, Margaretha	1y 2m	F	daughter	S		Washington		none
Roulot, Loren	21	M	Head	M1-0		Belgium	1908-Al	laborer - colamine
Roulot, Marie	17	F	Wife	M1-0	1/1	Washington		none
Roulot, Mildred	2m	F	daughter	S		Washington		none
Dalles, Max	42	M	Head	M1-19		Belgium	1881-Na	miner - coalmine
Dalles, Ludilta	37	F	Wife	M1-19	10/7	Belgium	1882	none
Dalles, Marie	18	F	daughter	S		Michigan		none
Dalles, August	11	M	Son	S		Michigan		none
Dalles, Edward	9	M	Son	S		Alaska		none
Dalles, Hilary	7	F	daughter	S		Alaska		none
Dalles, Regina	5	F	daughter	S		Alaska		none
Dalles, Francis	2	M	Son	S		Washington		none
Dalles, Eleonora	3m	F	daughter	S		Washington		none
Geystelen, Stan	36	M	Head	M1-15		Belgium	1910-Al	shoveler - coalmine
Geystelen, Johanna	33	F	Wife	M1-15	9/6	Belgium	1910	none
Geystelen, Emil	15	M	Son	S		Belgium	1910	none
Geystelen, Bolotus	13	M	Son	S		Belgium	1910	none
Geystelen, Frank	9	M	Son	S		Belgium	1910	none
Geystelen, Deseri	7	M	Son	S		Belgium	1910	none
Geystelen, Henry	4	M	Son	S		Belgium	1910	none
Geystelen, Cesar	3	M	Son	S		Belgium	1910	none
Barbieur, Peter	45	M	Head	Wd		Belgium	1893	motorman-coal mine
Lang, Peter	30	M	son-in-law	M1-2		Kansas		Timberer - coalmine
Lang, Lucile	20	F	Daughter	M1-2	1/1	Belgium	1893	none
Lang, Floridore	10m	M	grandson	S		Arizona		none
Freussens, Emil	35	M	Head	M1-12		Belgium	1909-Al	miner - coalmine
Freussens, Florine	32	F	Wife	M1-12	4/3	Belgium	1909	none
Freussens, Marie	11	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1909	none
Freussens, Clemantina	9	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1909	none
Freussens, Gustav	2	M	Son	S		Belgium	1909	none
Baele, Emil	32	M	Head	M1-7		Belgium	1909-Al	miner - coalmine
Baele, Marie	28	F	Wife	M1-7	3/3	Belgium	1909	none
Baele, Oscar	6	M	Son	S		Belgium	1909	none
Baele, Augusta	4	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1909	none
Baele, Gustav	10m	M	Son	S		Belgium	1909	none
Baele, Peter	40	M	Brother	S		Belgium	1909-Al	laborer - coalmine
DeSchreyver, Doncen	32	M	Brother-in-law	S		Belgium	1909-Al	laborer - coalmine

Belgian Laces Vol#29-114

Baile, Seesan	36	M	Head	M1-2		Belgium	1909-AI shoveler - coalmine
Baile, Margaretta	31	F	Wife	M1-2	1/1	Belgium	1909 none
Baile, Stevania	4m	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1909 none
Baile, Oscar	30	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1909-AI shoveler - coalmine
During, Verri	28	M	Boarder	M1-4		Belgium	1909-AI shoveler - coalmine
Lareusing, Josephina	58	F	Head	Wd	1/1	Belgium	1902 none
De Vree, Andrew	32	M	Head	M1-8		Belgium	1902-AI miner - coalmine
De Vree, Leondina	28	F	Wife	M1-8	3/3	Belgium	1902 none
De Vree, Andrew	8	M	son	S		Michigan	none
De Vree, Frank	4	M	son	S		Washington	none
De Vree, Nettie	3	F	daughter	S		Alaska	none
Thieboldt, Phillippi	40	M	Head	M1-15		Belgium	1901-AI miner - coalmine
Thieboldt, Nieccaïse	33	F	Wife	M1-15	2/2	Belgium	1909 none
Thieboldt, Arthur	15	M	Son	S		Belgium	1909 laborer - coalmine
Thieboldt, Emily	11	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1909 none
Bamen, Felix J	43	M	Head	M1-10		Belgium	1909-AI miner - coalmine
Bamen, Celine M	50	F	Wife	M1-10	3/3	Belgium	1909 none
Merckx, Leopold	40	M	Head	M1-18		Belgium	1907-AI laborer - coalmine
Merckx, Mary	48	F	Wife	M2-18	1/1	Belgium	1907 none
Gravelle, August	44	M	Head	M1-19		Belgium	1903-Pa Timberer coalmine
Gravelle, Matilda	37	F	Wife	M1-19	6/4	Belgium	1903 none
Gravelle, Leah	18	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1903 servant
Gravelle, Eva	15	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1903 servant
Gravelle, Jeannie	13	F	Daughter	S		Belgium	1903 none
Gravelle, Marie	3	F	daughter	S		Illinois	none
Donckers, Frank	52	M	Head	M1-28		Belgium	1880-NaForeman-coalmine
Donckers, Elodea	56	F	Wife	M1-28	11/7	Belgium	1880 keeper/bdinghouse
Donckers, Louis R	26	M	son	S		Michigan	tracklayer coalmine
Donckers, Joseph J	20	M	son	S		Washington	laborer - coalmine
Donckers, Josephine	18	F	daughter	S		Washington	none
Donckers, Rosie	16	F	daughter	S		Washington	none
Donckers, Henry	14	M	son	S		Washington	none
Donckers, Frank	12	M	son	S		Washington	none
Maris, Marie	25	F	daughter	M1-6	4/3	Michigan	none
Maris, Fred	5	M	grandson	S		Michigan	none
Maris, Clarence	4	F	gdaughter	S		Michigan	none
Maris, Vernon	4m	M	gson	S		Washington	none
Rigol, Theophil	32	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	190?-AI miner - coalmine
Pawels, Emil	35	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1902-AI miner - coalmine
Maise, Cyriel	32	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1904-AI laborer - coalmine
Vangatlin, Frank	21	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1910-AI laborer - coalmine
Devos, Gus	29	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1907-AI miner - coalmine
Donner, Paul	50	M	Boarder	D		Belgium	1905-AI miner - coalmine
Bowogpout, John	40	M	Boarder	Wd		Belgium	1908-AI miner - coalmine
Ver?ina, Henry	28	M	Boarder	M1-5		Belgium	1907-AI miner - coalmine
Gans, Jack	45	M	Boarder	M1-10		Belgium	1880-AI miner - coalmine
Hurson, Pete	30	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1903-AI miner - coalmine
Gilnay, Lou	27	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1904-AI miner - coalmine
Bejue, Theodore	28	M	Boarder	M1-6		Belgium	1910-AI laborer - coalmine
Jacobs, Louis	60	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1888-AI miner - coalmine
Verhills, Rene	28	M	Boarder	S		Belgium	1904-AI miner - coalmine
Rost, August	69	M	Head	M1-19		Belgium	1901-AI laborer - coalmine
Rost, Rosalie	46	F	Wife	M1-19	4/4	Belgium	1901 none
Rost, Frank	19	M	Son	S		Belgium	1901 laborer - coalmine
Rost, Arthur	18	M	Son	S		Belgium	1901 laborer - coalmine

**The Silver Dollar
Ghent, MN**

<http://www.restroomratings.com/reviews/restroom442.htm>

During the Great Depression Belgian farmers added their toil to the soil of Lyon County, Minnesota maintaining the traditions of their forebears and afterbears. They held their heads high, proud Flemish peasants. They savored their freedom from the oppression of the chocolate mines of the old Flanders, and the man named Ned who owned them all. But alas, one thing was still missing. They had their church, their prosperous farms, their Ghentian dignity, their strapping farm raised lads and lasses. But what about the beer?



Fie upon the land! For there was no beer in those barbaric, beerless times. Beer and spirits were, as they say in the flowery parlance of taciturn barristers, illegal. But the tide of thirsty Belgians could not be held back. Their parched vocal chords articulated songs of revolution. Their rolle bolle ball courts oozed with the tension of thirst not slaked. As soon as the crushing finger of prohibition was bent back (repealed) the Silver Dollar was the first saloon in Minnesota to open for business, also making it the oldest continually operating bar in the state.

For the seventy two years since prohibition's termination, the Flemish names of Bot, DeCock, Van Hueve, Llewiegie, McQuestion, Teerlinck, Verdroofufenzooben, and Jean Claude Van Damme have sounded in this great, oak covered, trophy studded hall, immortalized in the poetry of Southwest State University professors and the songs of their students. And what of those names now? Now they are remembered in the stories of elders, in the flower pots covered in the colors of the Belgian flag, in the empty rolle bolle courts, on the tombstones in the St. Eloi Cemetery, in the loamy, fertile farm dirt that is older than dirt, in the descendants who still reside in Ghent, still lay seeds in the earth, then water those seeds.

The Silver Dollar does not have bathrooms, lavatories, outhouses, loos, johns, or potties. It has waterclosets, decked out with ancient, old west style saloon doors. In the men's you'll find a trough urinal and a toilet. In the women's, a toilet. Left to my own devices, I stepped closer to the trough and wondered about my great-great-grandfather Julius, and the 260 acres my family farmed just a few miles from here, for nearly a century. Was it a better life? Was it worth leaving behind chocolate, diamonds, furs, and the Smurfs - all the comforts of Belgium for this new life? Did Julius one day forsake his blue pants, baker's hat and psychedelic mushroom house in order to fully assimilate into American culture? Were his children teased for the merry songs they sang? Was this sort of teasing what lead the Van Dammes to become pioneer European martial artists? Only the bones of the St. Eloi cemetery can answer these questions, and they remain silent.

Biographies of Lyon Co., Minnesota



Celeste⁵ AMPE

A resident of Ghent since coming to Lyon county in 1901, is proprietor of a blacksmith and wagon repair shop. He is conducting a well paying business, owns the shop he is in and owns also two nice residence properties in the village. Mr. Ampe is a member of the Town Board of Ghent and served on the village Council two terms.

Aluis and Lena (CYSELLO) AMPE, parents of Celeste, were natives of Belgium where Celeste was born on November 17th, 1875. The parents never came to this country and the father is still living in Belgium (1901), the mother being deceased. Celeste received his school education in the land of his birth and from the time he was fourteen until his twenty-fourth birthday he worked as home for his father. Coming to America in 1899, celeste located at Brainerd, Minnesota, where he was employed in the Great Northern railroad shops. In 1901 our subject came to Lyon County and located at Ghent, where he worked in a blacksmith shop eight months. He then moved to Marshall and worked in Paul Gits' blacksmith shop one year. Returning to Ghent he purchased the Victor Mileone blacksmith shop, which he has since conducted.

Celeste AMPE was married February 6, 1906, to **Nellie MOORS**, a native of Belgium. They are the parents of four children: Peter⁶, Mathew⁷, John and Alouis⁸. Mr AMPE is a member of the Catholic church and conductor of the C.O.F Lodge.

Stearns County in the History book:

Celeste and Nellie (Moorse) Ampe:

Celeste came to Lyon county and Ghent from Brainerd Minnesota in 1901. He had been employed by the Great Northern Railroad shops for about two years. He came to America from his home in Belgium in 1899. In 1901 he came to Ghent to work in a Blacksmith shop for a part of a year before working at **Paul Git's** Blacksmith shop in

⁵ Celeste AMPE died on 11 May 1964, Stearns Co, Minnesota
⁶ Peter Alois AMPE, b 26 Oct 1906 - d 13 Apr 1988, Stearns Co, MN
⁷ Mathew A AMPE, b 14 Mar 1908 – d. 17 Nov 1995, Stearns Co, Minnesota
⁸ Aloysius Herbert AMPE, d 24 Jun 1913, Lyon Co, Minnesota

Marshall. He returned to Ghent purchasing the **Victor Mileone** Blacksmith shop and opened his own business. He was a member of the Ghent town Board and served on the Village Council two terms. In time he purchased the two residences next to his shop. Celeste was born in Belgium November 17, 1875, the son of Aluis and Lena Cysello Ampe. He married Nellie Moore, daughter of **Peter Moore** and **Christine Jacobs Moore**, also a native of Belgium. They were married Feb. 6, 1904 at At. Eloi's Catholic Church in Ghent. The Ampe's had a family of thirteen children. Peter is on a farm near Paynesville (MN). Matthew owns a Liquor Store in St. Cloud (MN). John was a farmer and is now in business at Kimball (MN). Alouis died as a young child from eating pills which he thought was candy. After moving to the farm they purchased near Paynesville (MN), nine more children were born. Joe died in 1980 from an accident sawing wood. Celeste Jr. died of natural causes: **Cyriel**, **Henry**, and **Charlie** still farm in the area. Henry is on the home farm. Three more boys died in infancy and one girl dying from an injury when the nurse accidently dropped the infant. Nellie Ampe died of Typhoid Fever when the youngest son Charlie was one and a half years old. Celeste than married Nellie's cousin Annie Moore, daughter of Jacob Moore, who raised the Ampe Family.

Cyril Ampe, 76, of Paynesville, died Monday, May 25, at the St. Cloud Hospital in St. Cloud. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, at St. Louis Catholic Church in Paynesville, with the Rev. Richard Leisen officiating. Burial was in the St. Louis Parish Cemetery in Paynesville, with full military honors provided by the Paynesville American Legion Post 271. Cyril was born on Aug. 6, 1921, in Paynesville Township to **Celeste** and **Cornelia (Moore) Ampe**. He graduated from Paynesville High School in 1940. He farmed on his parent's farm until joining the U.S. Army, where he served from 1944 to 1946 in the Pacific Theatre of war.

He married **Genevieve Jost** on Sept. 29, 1947, in Little Falls. They returned to farm in the Paynesville area the rest of their lives. He was the Paynesville Township treasurer until 1992. He served as a member of the Cenex Farmers Union Co-op Board of Directors. He was a member and Post Commander of the Paynesville American Legion and V.F.W. He was a lifetime member of St. Louis Catholic Church and the St. Louis Knights of Columbus #3820. Cyril is survived by his children, Patricia (Jim) Barnes of Valley Springs, Calif., Jeffrey (Vicky) of Paynesville, Edward of Brooklyn Park, and Timothy (Tamara) of San Diego, Calif.; six granddaughters; and brothers, John of Watkins, Henry of Paynesville, and Charles (Peggy) of Paynesville. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife on Dec. 18, 1991; and brothers, Peter, Matt, Celeste, Jr., and Joseph.

The Paynesville Press - Dec/11/2004

Henry J. Ampe, 87, of Paynesville, died Sunday, Jan. 21, 2001, at the Good Samaritan Care Center in Paynesville. Funeral services will be 11 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, at St. Louis Catholic Church in Paynesville. The Rev. Richard Leisen will officiate. Burial will take place in the St. Louis Parish Cemetery in Paynesville. Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. today, Jan. 24, at the Daniel-Anderson Funeral Home in Paynesville and after 10 a.m. at the church on Thursday. Parish Prayers will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home followed by the St. Louis Knights of Columbus Council 3820 at 8:30 p.m.

Henry was born Feb. 2, 1913, in Ghent, to Celeste and Cornelia (Moore) Ampe. He farmed in the Paynesville area all of his life. He was a member of the St. Louis Knights of Columbus Council 3820 and a lifetime member of St. Louis Catholic Church. Survivors include his brothers, John Ampe of Watkins and Charlie Ampe of Paynesville, and many nieces and nephews. Preceding Henry in death are his parents and brother,; Peter, Mathew, Celeste Jr., Joseph, and Cyril. Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers.

John J. (Jack) Ampe, 94, of Kimball, died Oct. 9, 2003, at the Hilltop Care Center in Watkins where he has lived the past 2 1/2 years. A mass of christian buriel was held on Tuesday, Oct. 14 at St. Anne Catholic Church in Kimball at 10:30 a.m. The Rev. David Grundman officiated. John was born on April 9, 1909, to Celeste and Cornelia (Moore) Ampe in Ghent, Minn. On Nov. 25, 1937, he married **Rose M. Schlagel**. John farmed and sold DeKalb Seed Corn, was a member of St. Anne Catholic Church, and former member of the Knights of Columbus. John was an avid bowler, dancer, and enjoyed sports. John is survived by his best and dearest friend, Lucetta Walters; children, Shirley (Wes) Olson of Shoreview, Janice Kramer of Scappoose, Ore., Marlene (Pierre) Doley of Palos Verdes, Calif., John Jr. (Carole) Ampe of Dayton, Mike (Lynna) Ampe of Newport Coast, Calif., Jim (Karole) Ampe of Scappoose, Ore., Cindy (Ralph) Pauly of Warren, Ore., and Bob (Denise) Ampe of Lake Forest, Calif.; brother, Charles (Peg) Ampe of Paynesville; 22 grandchildren; and 29 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Rose on Oct. 28, 1988, and six brothers, Peter, Mathew, Cyril, Celeste, Jr., Joseph, and Henry.

Gust M Baert

A farmer of Lyon township and a true lover of Lyon County. Mr. BAERT is a native of Belgium and was born December 29, 1867, a son of **Constant** and **Mary (HAAS) BAERT**. The father died in 1870 of smallpox; the mother still lives at the old home in East Flanders. Gust BAERT received his early education in the land of his nativity, where he attended school until fifteen years of age. He then worked for his parents on the farm until twenty-three years old. On February 7, 1891, he left Antwerp for America and arrived at South Bend, Indiana, February 23. He worked in the Oliver plow factory one year and then came to Lyon county and worked on a farm near Ghent

ROLLE BOLLE

HOW TO SAY IT

Pronounced rolla bola, with a long "O"

HOW TO PLAY IT

THE COURT: 42 feet long and at least 12 feet wide, made of compact and damp clay, dirt or sand, with two stakes set 30 feet apart along the center line, 6 feet from the backstops at each end.

TEAMS: Two to six members, but usually three

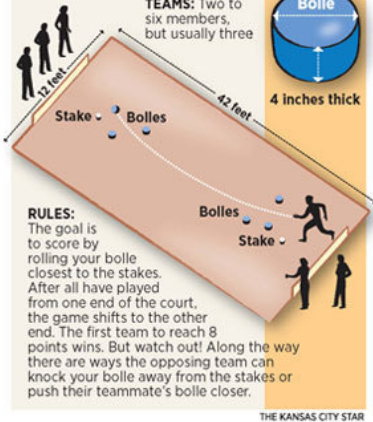
EQUIPMENT:

Bolles are hard rubber discs beveled on one side. They weigh 6 to 8½ pounds.

6 to 8 inches in diameter



4 inches thick



RULES:

The goal is to score by rolling your bolle closest to the stakes. After all have played from one end of the court, the game shifts to the other end. The first team to reach 8 points wins. But watch out! Along the way there are ways the opposing team can knock your bolle away from the stakes or push their teammate's bolle closer.

THE KANSAS CITY STAR

Game keeps a-rolling in Shawnee

By BENITA Y. WILLIAMS, The Kansas City Star - Mon, Jun. 04, 2007

<http://www.kansascity.com/115/story/136408.html>

submitted by Leonard Stonestreet

Rolle bolle has a court in a new park, and it helps the city stay connected to its Belgian heritage. It may be the hippest game you've never heard of Rolle Bolle. Still doesn't ring a bell?

Then you probably aren't of Belgian descent. Or you don't live in Shawnee, where the game is popular enough to merit a patch of ground in the city's newest park.

Shawnee, you see, once was a destination point for Belgian immigrants who, more than a century ago, found the land affordable and good for growing potatoes, asparagus and spinach.

Today Belgian names such as Verstraete, VanLerberg and DeBrabander pepper the Shawnee-area phone book, and the traditions of Belgium are so woven into the suburban fabric that Shawnee is thought to be the only area city to have rolle bolle courts in its parks.

So what exactly is rolle bolle?



Well, it resembles bowling, but it is played on a damp dirt court. It is a little like horseshoes, but instead of tossing U-shaped metal, you roll beveled disks.

It could be mistaken for Italian bocce, except players aim at pegs instead of a ball.

Shawnee unveiled its rolle bolle court in Sister Cities Park at 58th and King streets during the Old Shawnee Days festival over the weekend.

When the city dug up a rolle bolle court to build its new aquatic center, officials weren't about to consign the game to the past. "I don't think you should just throw away someone's heritage," said Neil Holman, the city's parks and recreation director. "Shawnee has a lot of nice history, and I think you want to share that."

Another rolle bolle court can be found in the backyard of Shawnee's former mayor, Tony Soetaert, and on land he owns near Johnson Drive and Quivira Road. Most of the Belgians who came to Johnson County in the 19th century settled in Shawnee, Lenexa and Merriam. Like Soetaert's grandfather, who emigrated in 1891, they were farmers who grew spinach and other vegetables. At some point the land itself became more profitable than the vegetables grown on it, and the farmers sold their properties. Over time their descendants spread across the area, but many remain close.

During a visit by the mayor Pittem, Belgium, one of Shawnee's sister cities, Soetaert drove the man all around the Kansas City area to meet with families whose ancestors had come from the town.

However, distance makes it tough to maintain some traditions.

There used to be a Belgian club in Shawnee that took trips to the old country and played the Belgian card game Bieden. The club is dormant now, Soetaert said, and is mostly mentioned in the obituaries of its members.

Soetaert also doesn't see anyone racing homing pigeons anymore. When he was a boy, the older Belgian men put the birds in a box and paid a train conductor to release them in another city. The owner of the first bird to return home was the winner.

However, Soetaert joked, Shawnee's Belgian culture continues in many residents' penchant for Belgian beer and chocolates. And rolle bolle still draws a crowd during Old Shawnee Days.

"We've had a lot of younger people play it, and they are usually quick learners and usually the best," he said.

To reach Benita Y. Williams, call 816-234-7714 or send e-mail to bwilliams@kcstar.com.

Belgian game emphasizes city's roots

By Caroline Boyer, city reporter - Shawnee Dispatch - Tuesday, June 5, 2007

<http://www.shawneedispatch.com/section/archive/story/6574>

On Saturday afternoon, anyone standing in the parking lot of the new Splash Cove pool would have heard quite a bit of cries, cheers and groans. But not all of it was coming from the west, where Old Shawnee Days was in full swing. Much of the noise was coming from the east, where members of the Shawnee Sister Cities Association were christening the new Sister Cities Park at 58th Street and King Avenue with their 11th Annual Rolle Bolle game. The game court built at the park, which also includes a picnic shelter and 38 parking spots around its perimeter, may look a little strange to those who don't know the game. Measuring 43 feet by 39 feet, the square-ish court is filled with a fine gravel and three backstops, or short wooden walls, placed on both the north and south end. The court has enough room for three games to play at the same time -- each individual court has two stakes placed several feet from the backstops. Players spent the first hour or so of their time at the park Saturday enjoying hot dogs and brats while three rotating volunteers dragged a 400-pound, round barrel full of water across the court, in order to make the gravel as level as possible. Jim Fanning tried to dry out the court, still damp from the previous night's downpour, with a propane torch.

How to Play Rolle Bolle

<http://www.starpoint.net/~darco/rolle.htm>

The game of rolle bolle is played on a dirt court, called a rolle bolle alley. It is 42' long from backstop to backstop to backstop, and at least 12' wide. The alley is level and made from clay, dirt, or sand that compacts well and hard and should be kept damp but not wet. Two wooden stakes are driven into the ground, 8 to 10" deep, with the top of the stakes 2 to 4" above the ground. The stakes are 30' apart in a line with the center of the court, 6' in from each backstop. (The top half of a broken baseball bat makes a good stake.)



Backstops are made of 2 X 8" planks or larger, and the planks are as long as the alley is wide. The backstop should be at least 2' in height. An old telephone pole laid 6" above the ground also makes a good backstop.

The bolle is made of hard wood, or hard molded rubber or similar material, formed into a disc 6 to 8" in diameter and about 4" thick, slightly beveled to one side so that the bolle will turn towards the stake when rolled. It weighs from 6 but not more than 8 1/2 pounds.

The bolle is held in the palm of the hand with 3 center fingers on the run of the bolle, the small finger on the inside of the bolle and the thumb on the outside to use as a guide in balancing the bolle. (The small side is the smallest diameter of the bolle or the inside. The outside is the largest diameter.) To roll the bolle, the player stands in a position with feet apart, like a long-walk stride, the left foot forward if you are right handed, and vice versa if you bolle with the left hand. Stand near the stake in line with it, but not more than 6' to either side; facing the opposite stake, the player bends down and rolls and sort of pushes the bolle out of his hand toward the other stake. The 3 fingers on the run are cupped on the bolle and when releasing the bolle they are straightened out during the roll or push of the bolle.

The object of the game is to roll your bolle as close to the stake as possible. The game can be played with from 2 to 6 players on the team, with each player having one bolle. Teams usually consist of three players. The maximum number of points the team can score on any one end is the number of players on the team. (e.g. 3 players per team - 3 points max.) The team scoring 8 points total wins the game. After the teams have been picked (which can be decided by drawing cards - red or black) a flip of a bolle can decide which team starts the game (see rule number 11). Usually the player on each team who rolls first is considered the lead man, and he normally makes the decisions as to what he wants his teammates to do in regard to either rolling or shooting his bolle.

The lead man from the team elected to start the game rolls his bolle toward the stake. The lead man from the opposing team rolls his bolle toward the stake. The team furthest from the stake must have his teammates roll in turn until one gets closer than his opponent. If all the members of one team have rolled and fail to get closer to the stake than the closest Bolle from the opposing team. After everyone from each team has rolled (normally it is referred to as balled, not rolled), the end is complete, so the winning team for that end starts again by bolting to the opposite end in the same manner as before. (In tournament play or prys-bolling the team consists of three players and eight points is game).

Some players are called "shooters" so named because they can roll (normally referred to as shooting) or shoot their bolle with such force that he can knock out the closest bolle from the stake (naturally, your opponent's) far enough to make his teammate's bolle win. A bolle is shot in a similar manner as a softball pitcher throws an underhanded pitch. A boller can also shoot his teammate's bolle to push it closer to the stake than his opponent's. This can be done when your teammate's bolle is in front of the stake one or two feet or less. A shot like this is called a straight-up and is not shot with as much force as to knock a bolle out. A bolle that is shot or used if it hits the backstop after the shot. If it hits another bolle and stays on the alley without hitting the backstop, it is considered in play. Also, a bolle that is knocked out and hits the backstop is also dead, for the end of play.

"It has to be level and flat -- and those are not the same words," said Todd Maere, who has been helping organize the Shawnee games for the last several years.

Maere grew up playing the game in Illinois, where it is so popular that there are several leagues and tournaments. A year after moving to Shawnee in 1994, he discovered the Belgian American Club and became the de facto organizer of rolle bolle in Shawnee. Maere said the game started in the 13th century in Belgium and was an outlawed activity for a while. Those who play the game are called boulders, and they play using a hard rubber disc that the game takes its name from. Rolle bolles are about eight inches in diameter and four inches thick and can weigh six to eight pounds.

Paul VanLerberg of Merriam, who immigrated from Belgium, commented on the game in his thick Belgian accent as players prepared to take the court.

"It explains itself; it's not a complicated game," he said.

One at a time, starting at the backstop on one end of the court, two teams of three boulders take the rolle bolle and roll it toward a stake or pin raising about five inches from the ground. Rolling the rolle bolle is not so easy, however, because a bevel running down the center makes the surface uneven. Getting the rolle bolle as close to the stake as possible is the object; if the rolle bolle hits the backstop behind the stake, it is considered dead.

Players can try to use their rolle bolle to knock away those of the opposing team, bringing in some shuffleboard tactics. But Maere doesn't like it when people try to classify rolle bolle by calling it a mix of shuffleboard or bowling and horseshoes.

"There's a lot of strategy to it," Maere said. "It can be like billiards... you have to have the Midas touch to get it the speed that you want." The new court and park took the place of what was once a vacant lot and replace a court that once stood in John Lynch Park, where Splash Cove is now located. VanLerberg said he was glad the park's shelter could serve other purposes, like for children's birthday parties at the pool or Wonderscope Children's Museum. "It can't be for the Rolle Bolle just once a year; that'd be a shame," he said. But there is a challenge to those who might be

interested in the game -- the rolle bolles themselves are few and far between. "They don't really make them any more, and it's a family tradition to hand them down father to son," Maere said. "You can't find them on E-Bay or anywhere else, and when you do, they're anywhere from \$65 to \$100." Still, Maere hopes the court will help revive an interest in Shawnee's Belgian history and revive the membership of the currently disbanded Belgian American Club. "We need to get younger people involved and get something started," he said. Rules of the Game: <http://www.starpoint.net/~darco/therules.htm>

Belgian Historical Trivia

Spaniards in Belgium

Ed Blomme, mokke@sympatico.ca

As I was 6ft 2 in. my young days (I shrunk somewhat since) , thin, dark haired and brown eyes - an unusual type for a REAL Flemish boy, the family joke used to be that I was a Spanish kickback to the 1500s more in keeping with the El Greco types than the Rubens.

Research in the "*Vlaamse Stam*" (The Flemish magazine of genealogy in Flanders) had an article on name changes in their 1979/15 copy under the title "*Parochieregisters Tielt 1600-1700 Pseudonyms*" by **A.R.Tanghe** that had reference to my lovely wife's family Vandezande. I translate the section for your enjoyment :

"...**D'Arenas- Vandezande**. D'Arenas was a Spaniard and painter by trade, married around 1610 with **De Blaere Anna**, mother of **Deken De Mol**, his name was translated Vande Zande about 1615. Hij died before 1618. He had three children from his first marriage known as Vande Zande.

- **Petrus, Ludovicus** born Tielt 15-11-1616 to **De Smet Florentia**, fa Judocus. was sacristan in Pittem from 1617 to 1656-became notary public burgher of Tielt in 1637.

- **Ferdinandus**, b. about 1628-1630, m. **Van Betsbrugge Anna** and died in Tielt 2-1-1646 as **Ferdinand D'Arenas**.

In Pittem **Ludovicus Vandezande** was sometimes mentioned in the records as **Ludovicus D'Arenas**".

Given the time period the prevalence of one name over another seems to have been a choice, as the jurisdictions were, according to our standard, divided into small geographic areas, which all had their own definitions, weight and measures.

Permit me one more "baraque" variation. During my military tour of duty in Belgium in 1950 whenever we left base we were sometimes housed in military "barraken"-temporary housing. My Dutch encyclopedia Verschueren defines "barak" as from Spanish 'barraca' with one defined temporary housing, for example soldiers or laborers". The Spanish dictionary gives "barraca"- (caseta) :shack,hut. What goes around (400 years) comes around.

Like my Mother used to say 60 years ago "Basta!" - Enough.

Researching Online: Internet Links of Interest

Site for the Belgians who died in WWI and WWII:

http://www.danny-delcambre.be/alpha_list_A-B.htm

West Flanders Archives Online:

<http://www.vrijwilligersrab.be/index.html>



Click on "English", then on the left of the screen choose the type of records you want to look at.

You will come to a screen where you can do a surname search or browse through the alphabetical list of all surnames found in that database.

In the Civil records' marriages, I browsed through the L and picked

Home
Parochial Registers >
Civil Status >
Census >
Population Registers
Lawsuits
State of Goods
Notary Deeds
Declaration of Heritages
Popp Maps
Microfilms >

LAITEM.

Only 1 entry contained this surname.

This is what information I was able to obtain.

Location: Ingelmunster

Date:01/05/1807 (day/month/year)

Record: 9

Groom: VANGROENWEGHE, Jean François

Bride: MANHAVE, Rosalie

Father Groom: Pierre Joseph

Mother Groom: LAITEM, Isabelle Marthe

Father Bride: Pierre André

Mother Bride: VARREWAERE, Marie Anne

As of now there is no digital image attached to the index but in time these may appear. At least, I hope so...

And not just for West Flanders but for all of Belgium...

Won't that be WONDERFUL!?

To this effect, I would like to encourage everyone to volunteer at www.familysearchindexing.org. A pilot project which includes Belgian records has started. The idea is to give local people, who speak the native languages every day, the opportunity to index their own records, but if you are comfortable reading the records, you too can participate.



If you have already registered with FamilySearch Indexing, you may have to do so again, this time leaving out your address. If you are like me and want to work on different projects, you may want to keep things simple so as to remember your usernames. I kept my original username but added "_" and the first 3 letters of the country project I want to work with. I kept the same password.

A VERY IMPORTANT thing to know is that you should not include your address, as this may lead the computer to reject you as a non-local indexer. ONLY indicate the country you are interested in working on.

Download the FamilySearchIndexing software right from the site and start indexing right away.

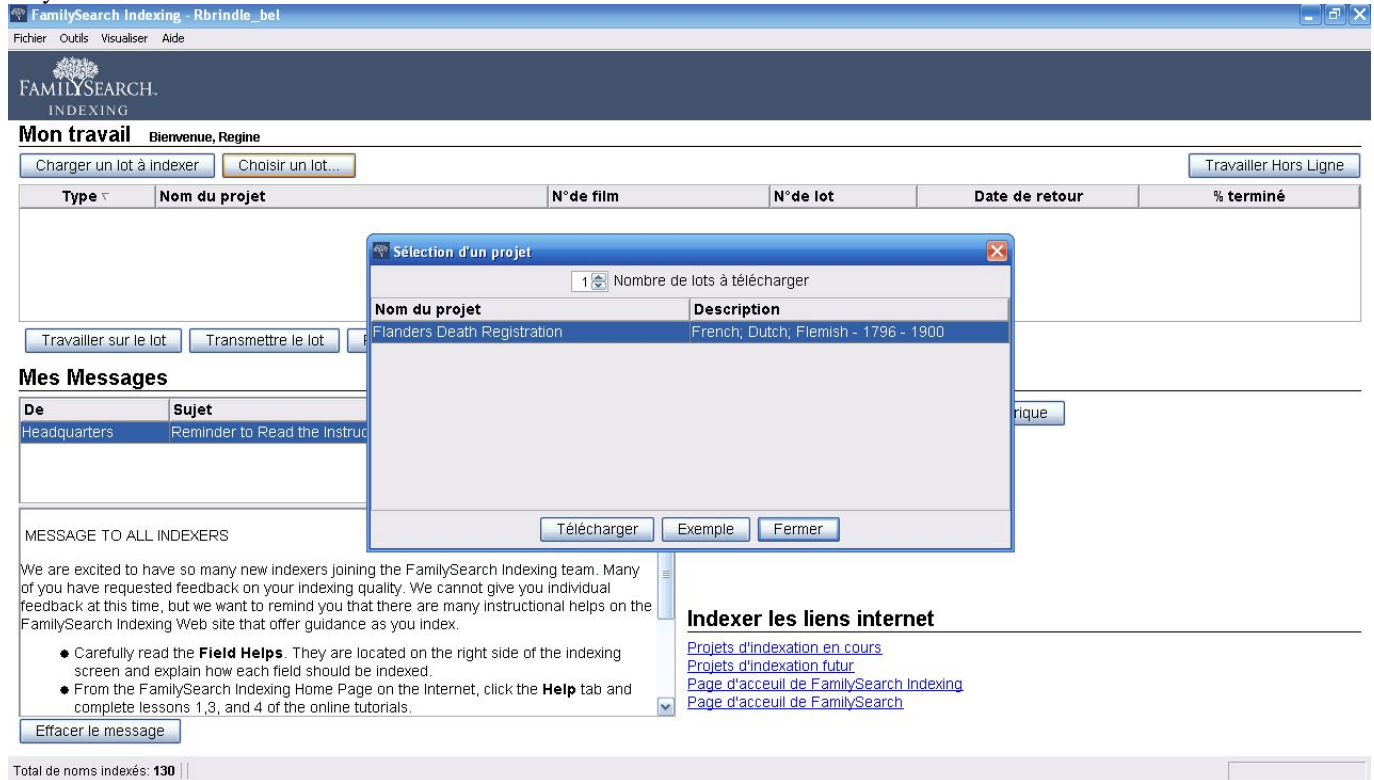
Right now the project is working on records from Flanders. They can be in Dutch, French or even Latin. The keyboard can be in French or in English.

These records will be made available free through Family History

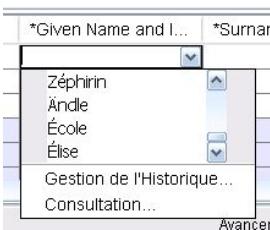
Centers computers and depending on the organizations sponsoring the particular project, free to everyone from their home as well. In the meantime, we can continue to obtain copies of these originals by ordering microfilms from the Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (check the FamilySearch.org catalog) or write the local Belgian administrations. I thought you might like to look at what these records look like before you try, so here are some basic instructions.

Once you have downloaded the program, you open and sign in with your username and password and you can either let the computer decide what batch you will work on or decided yourself by choosing from a variety of databases. The American project has a wide variety of census to pick from, and also some vital records from here and Canada. The Belgian record is limited to one right now, but will eventually be the same as the US ones.

The following screen shows you the database available for Belgium at this time. You can select how many batches you want to download. Just be aware that you are given 7 days to do whatever you download all at once. So I would advise beginners to only download one at a time.

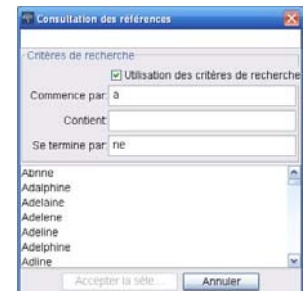


It is possible to change your keyboard to a different language so you can type in the special characters. Under “Tools” in the top bar menu, choose “options” and then “Languages” and change the option to French.



The computer will then upload the page you will have to index. It will be displayed at the top of your screen, while at the bottom you will find the form to fill out. The US census records are a breeze to do because much of the information is dittoed automatically as you press “tab” and you can move along those fairly quickly. Those come in batches of 50 names. They can be done within 30 minutes after you do a couple of them. A highlight bar will help you know where you are. Special directions are available in the program as well, but if you have question, there is a reference to someone you can contact. If you don’t find one, call me, I’ll help. You can stop, save your

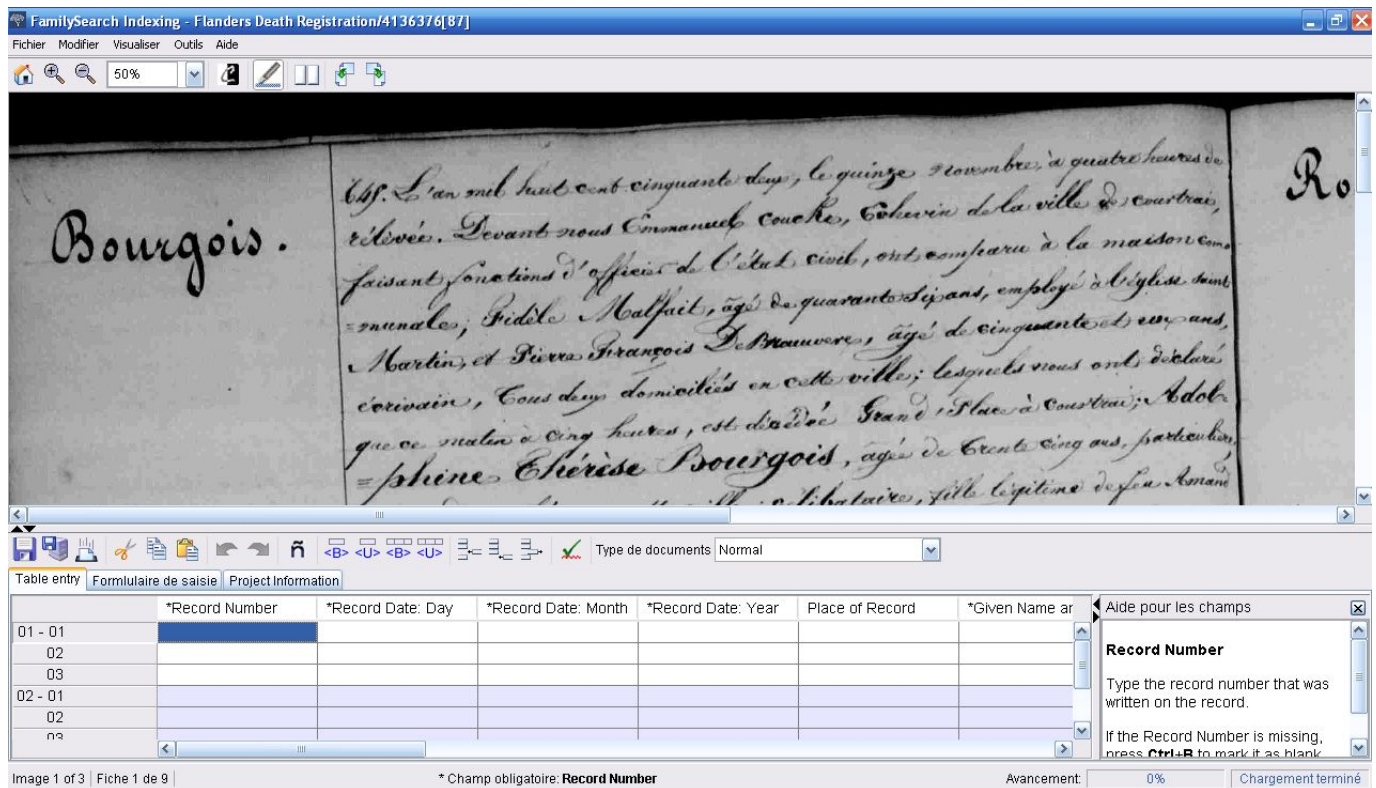
place, or save on the server if you need to be able to access them from a different computer later in the day. You can also work off.line. For example if you commute and want something useful to do while sitting there... You only need to make sure to download the batches you want to your laptop, and open them to make sure you can access them and click “Work offline”. If you have difficulty reading a word, there is a pull down menu allowing you choose between possibilities of names found in that particular area. You can either browse through the list or so a search by inserting certain letters you can recognize.



The French and Belgian records I have worked one are more tedious, so you don't get as many at a time, usually between 10 and 25 records make up one batch. Once you are finished with your batch, you click "File" and "Submit".

It will cause you to recheck the records you indexed.

You see, you are only one indexer of two indexers to work on one batch. An arbitrator then checks and decides which different interpretation of the record is correct, if there are discrepancies.



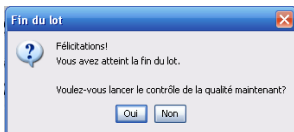
From Left to Right

- Special Characters
- Mark the record "blank"
- Mark the record "unreadable"
- Mark the row "blank"
- Mark the row "unreadable"
- Insert a row before the one you are working on
- Insert a row at the bottom of the page
- Delete a row
- Start to verification control

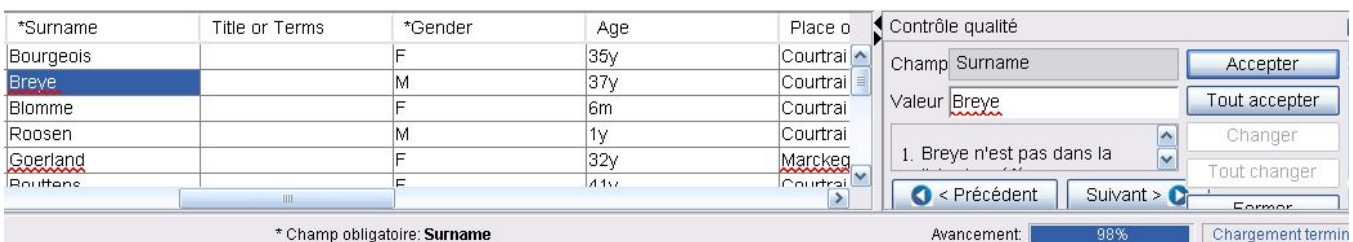


From Left to Right

- Close the batch and go back to the main page
- Zoom in
- Zoom out
- Zoom in/Zoom out by %
- Change to Negative
- Activate or deactivate the highlighter
- Look at the next page side by side with the current one
- Rotate page left
- Rotate page right



You will notice I have these in French... The default is in English, so you will have no trouble with the screen if you want to do US records, or even these. You choose. Bottom line... It's fun but this will benefit not only you and me but many others. This is a great project to get involved in... Have fun!!!



Canadian Obituaries

by Eileen Putman

The Chatham Daily News, Chatham, Ontario –
10 November 2006

Joseph Edmund Burm, a resident of Wallaceburg, passes away suddenly on Thursday, November 09, 2006 in his 75th year. Joe is the son of the late Lodewyk "Louis" & Emily (Van Damme) Burm. Beloved husband of Paula Maria (Van Couter). Loving father and father-in-law of Francine & Paul Pinsonneault of Paincourt, Joanne & Reg Snyder of Waterloo, Marlene Paul of Corunna, Barbara & Tim Caron of Chatham and Nelson Burm & Laura Annett of Wallaceburg. Dear grandfather of Justin, Jacob, Nathan, Jordan, Meghan, Rachel, Daniel and Owen. Loved brother of Constant & Diane Burm, Joan & Paul Bogaert, Jean & George Van Damme, Doreen & John Bogaert and Margorie & Henry Laevens. friends may call at the HAYCOCK-CAVANAGH FUNERAL HOME, 409 Nelson Street (at Elgin) in Wallaceburg from 7-9 PM on Saturday and 2-4 & 7-9 PM on Sunday. the Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated by Fr. Greg Bonin at Holy Family Church on Monday, November 13 at 11 AM. The interment will follow at Riverview Cemetery. If desired remembrances to Holy Family Church may be left at the funeral home 519-627-3231

HILDA M. MIGGENS

Surrounded by the love of her family and friends and in the kind and loving care of Dr. Will Cheng and the staff of the Second Floor at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital, Hilda M. Miggins passed away into the arms of the Lord on Sunday, October 29, 2006 in her 84th year. Beloved wife and best friend to her husband of 62 years Remie Miggins. Wonderful and loving mother to Brenda Lewis and her husband Fred, Rick Miggins and his wife Kim, all of Tillsonburg. Cherished by her step-grandchildren and great-grandchild, Wendy Lewis of London, Mike Lewis and his wife Jennifer and baby Ian of Richmond Hill. Hilda was much loved and will be greatly missed by her sisters Blanche Mabee, Laura Raynor and her brother Gabe DeMunck and his wife Leah, as well as her sister-in-law Emma Baert. A special "Aunt Hilda" to her many nieces and nephews, she is survived by many relatives in Belgium. Predeceased by her parents Henri and Magdalena DeMunck, infant brother Cyril, brothers-in-law Jim Mabee, Eugene Baert and her niece Janice Mabee. A long time member of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Hilda was active in the CWL for many years. A quiet and gracious contributor to the Community, she was a past volunteer at the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital and the Tillsonburg Multi Service Centre - "Meals on Wheels" program. Friends will be received at the Ostrander's Funeral Home, Tillsonburg on Sunday, November 05, 2006 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. C.W.L. Prayers will commence at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Monday, November 06, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Tillsonburg. Rev. Fr. Matthew George officiating. Interment at Tillsonburg Cemetery. Memorial

donations to the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital or Tillsonburg Dialysis Unit would be greatly appreciated. Personal condolences may be sent to www.ostrandersonline.com
Posted on 2006-11-01 - Tillsonburg News

2006-11-12 - Mr. Michel Noorenberghe, of La Salette

NOORENBERGHE – Mr. **Michel Noorenberghe** of RR#1, LaSalette passed away with his loving family at his side at the Norfolk General Hospital, Simcoe on Sunday, November 12, 2006 in his 74th year. Member of St. John Brebeuf & Companions Roman Catholic Church, Delhi and was a member of the Delhi Belgian Club. Beloved husband of Aldegonde Lizette De Lodder. Loving father of Frank Noorenberghe (Cathy), Delhi; Jeannette Rebry (Gary), Delhi; Andrew Noorenberghe (Nancy), LaSalette and Lisa Stockmans (Ted), Delhi. Cherished grandfather of 13 grandchildren: Matthew, Marc, Michelle, Christine, Nicole, Lesley, Jeannine, Madison, Mason, Megan, Julia, Kevin and Dylan. Dearest brother of four brothers: Roger, Joel, Michel, Daniel and four sisters: Josephine, Anna, Leona and Martha. Also survived by several nieces and nephews in Canada and Belgium. Predeceased by his brothers, twins: Daniel and Frans both in 1943. Friends may call at the MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, Delhi for visitation on Wednesday from 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and for Parish Prayers at 7:30 p.m. A Funeral Mass will be held at Our Lady of LaSalette Roman Catholic Church, LaSalette on Thursday, November 16th at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Fr. Alan Dufraimont officiating. Interment in Delhi Cemetery. Donations to the London Health Science Foundation: "Cancer Program" or the Norfolk General Hospital Foundation will be gratefully acknowledged by the family.

Posted on 2006-11-14 - Tillsonburg News

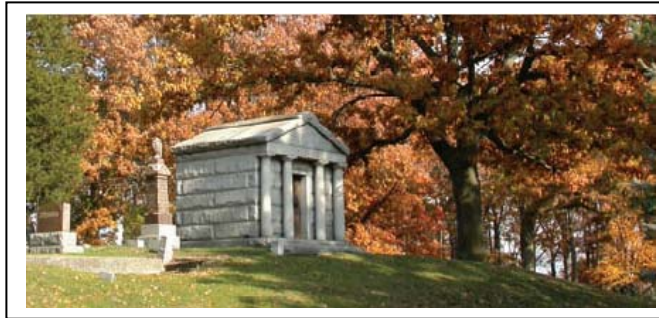
ADRIENNE VanDenEeckhout

Peacefully with her family at her bedside at Maple Manor Nursing Home on Saturday, March 11, 2006, **Adrienne VanDenEeckhout** (nee: DeSmet) of Tillsonburg, formerly of Straffordville, in her 78th year. Adrienne emigrated to Canada in 1952, and was the daughter of the late **Rene** and **Marie DeSmet** of Belgium. Beloved companion of Leslie (Bob) Todd of Tillsonburg, and beloved wife of the late Camiel VanDenEeckhout (1974). Dear mother of William (Bill) Brackenbury and his late Irene (2005) of Tillsonburg; Nancy (Charlie) Owles of St. Thomas; Robert (Doris) VanDenEeckhout of Tillsonburg. Cherished and much loved grandmother to Chelsey and Steffan VanDenEeckhout of Tillsonburg; Mandy Bridgett and her friend Jay Vusich of Port Stanley; Melinda Bridgett and her friend Jeff Wiltsie of St. Thomas; Melissa Bridgett and her friend Chris Skillings of London; Cindy Brackenbury and her friend J.J. of Ingersoll; David (Angie) Brackenbury of Dunnville; Linda (Chuck) Buday of Delmer. Great-grandmother to 11 great-grandchildren. Also survived by her three brothers: Frans, Omer, Prosper and a sister Laura, all of Belgium. Also survived by her step-mother-in-law Yvonne Roelandt of

Goderich; her sister-in-law Mary Tanghe and her husband the late Leon Tanghe of Delhi; Mrs. Elaine Matthews and her friend Maurice Vandecasteele of Aylmer; Mrs. Allois (Celina) Jacobs of Delhi; brother-in-law Frank VanDenEeckhout and his late wife Lezette of Delhi. Predeceased by her step-father-in-law Albert Roelandt; brother-in-law Gabriel VanDenEeckhout and his wife Elise; sister-in-law Mrs. Emma DePaepe; brother Eduard, and sisters Clementine and Carolene. Adrienne was a member of the Tillsonburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch #53. She enjoyed organizing bus trips to the various Ontario Casinos; she enjoyed playing a game of darts, playing bingo, knitting, and crocheting. She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew and loved her. The family will receive friends at OSTRANDER'S FUNERAL HOME, 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, (842-5221), on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, from 2 - 4 and 7 - 9 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial for Adrienne will be held at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Tillsonburg, on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 11 a.m. Rev. Father Matthew George officiating. Interment to follow in Tillsonburg Cemetery. Parish Prayers will be offered in the Ostrander's Funeral Home Chapel on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. At the family's request memorial donations (payable by cheque) may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Maple Manor Nursing Home or to a charity of your choice. Personal condolences may be sent to www.ostrandersonline.com - The Delhi News Record - 15 March 2006

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 great-grandmother 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 DePaepe (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 7-9pm then to St Justin's Roman Catholic Church where the Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2006 at 11am with Father Rick Hurdle celebrating. Cremation with interment Delhi Cemetery at a later date. Donations to the London Regional Cancer Centre gratefully acknowledged. - The London Free Press, London, Ontario - 2 Oct 2006

The Delhi News-Record, Delhi, ON#32215
MARCEL JOSEPH CNOCKAERT SR.

At the Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Friday, November 10, 2006, Marcel Joseph Cnockaert Sr. of R.R.2 Tillsonburg died peacefully with his family by his side, at the age of 78 years. Beloved father and father-in-law of Marcel Cnockaert Jr. and his wife Diane of Delhi. Proud and loving grandfather of Marc Cnockaert (Trista Pickersgill) and Judy (Darryl Knight). Survived by a brother Camiel (Angela) in Belgium and a brother Andrew (Cora) in West Lorne. Also survived by a sister-in-law Georgette in London and the late Louie. Predeceased by a sister Margaret Sabbe and the late Andrew. Funeral Mass of Christian Burial on Monday at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 51 Venison St. We., Tillsonburg by Rev. Father Matthew George. Interment later at 1:00 p.m. in the Delhi

Cemetery. Memorial donations (payable by cheque) to the Cancer Society or Kidney Foundation or the Heart and Stroke Fund would be gratefully acknowledged by the family. Relatives and friends were welcomed to meet with the Cnockaert family on Sunday from 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the VERHOEVE FUNERAL HOME, 262

Broadway, Tillsonburg (519-842-4238). Parish Prayers were held Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

The Tillsonburg News, Tillsonburg, Ontario - 20 November 2006

BERTHA MARGARET LIETAER (nee VanEENOO) of Tillsonburg, ON, passed away at Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital on Friday, November 17, 2006 in her 95th year. Loving mother of Lorraine Irwin of Casco, Michigan, USA. Cherished grandmother of six grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and 16 great-great-grandchildren. Dear sister of Germaince Malburg. Predeceased by her first husband Jules Roose (1947), her second husband Arsene Lietaer (1972) and a brother, Charles VanEenoo. A Memorial Service as well as the interment of ashes will be held at a later date in Michigan, USA. Cremation shall take place. If desired, donations may be made to the Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation through OSTRANDER'S FUNERAL HOME, (519-842-5221), 43 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg, ON, who have been entrusted with all funeral arrangements.

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