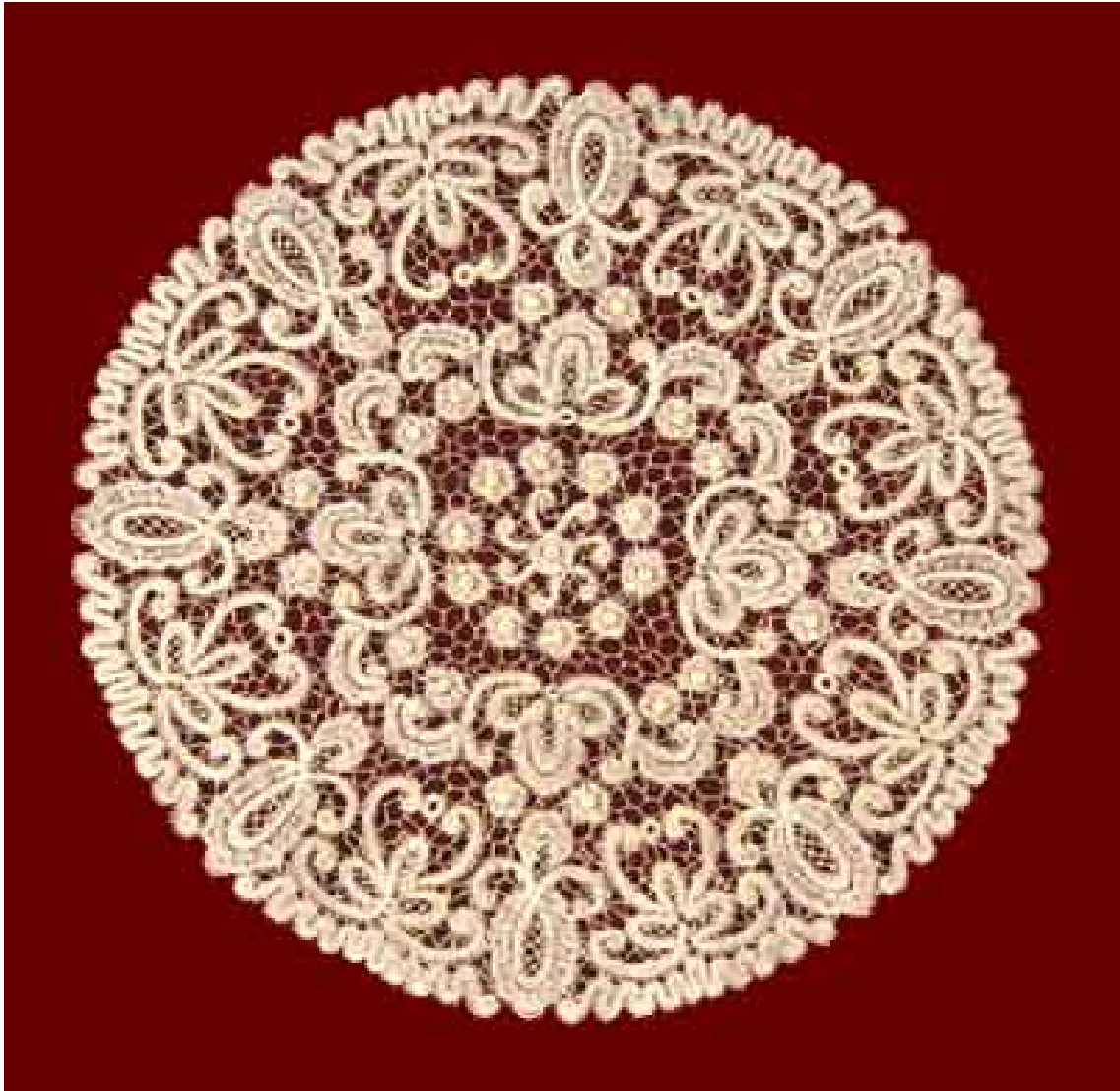


Belgian Laces



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Dear members

On the 15th of March 1989, I mailed about 150 letters to our past members, hoping that a certain number of them would renew their membership. Not expecting any answers before the end of the following week, we decided to take our Easter vacation and go to the Oregon Coast. We, my wife Leen, and two of our grand children: Heith born in Bend Oregon, 11 years old, and Sonya, born in Tucson Arizona, 9 years old, neither had seen the Pacific Coast, but they had seen the Belgian Coast with us in Oostende. But that was three years ago...

Anyway, when we returned home after a week of beautiful sunny days in Rockaway, Oregon, with two sunburned children, a big surprise awaited us: A lot of letters with positive responses; and since then, everyday brings us two or three more memberships. Overwhelming!!

With the renewed memberships, came congratulations, felicitations, rejoicing, and a lot of flowers for our past president and editor : Micheline... She is an exceptional woman... We could always count on her... She has been helping me ~~soooo~~ much... Through her help I found my mother's ancestors...I would never have been able to do it without her help... Boy ! Oh Boy ! Do I dare to get into this ? Will I be able to walk in her moccasins ? ...and guide our members through all the problems and difficulties of research ?

Well, I certainly will do my best. I count on your active participation in contributing to our Newsletter, and in recruiting new members. Together we can double our membership, which in turn will increase our research potential. We are off to a good start, let's take advantage of this momentum.

BELGIUM AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION.

By Micheline Gaudette

The term Industrial Revolution refers to a period of history that saw sweeping economic and social changes brought about by the extensive mechanization that switched the production of goods from cottage industry to factories. The Industrial Revolution began more or less around 1780 in England and after 1815 for most other European countries. It had its roots in the invention of the steam engines developed by SAVERY in 1698 and by NEWCOMEN in 1705 (McKay, Hill and Buckler, 700-705). These steam engines began to power mechanical pumps able to get water out of coal mines, greatly increasing coal production, thus also greatly increasing England's energy supply. Later, in the 1760's JAMES WATT improved the Newcomen steam engine and made it much more practical. No one denies that it was England's genius that produced the steam engine, the Industrial Revolution, and all the benefits that it brought to its people. But too few people realize that Belgium was the first European nation to follow in England's footsteps, importing the Industrial Revolution from England, and then later on, exporting it to its neighbors. Why Belgium? Because it had the coal mines, it had all the basic industries, and most of all, it had the manpower able and willing to adapt to new and more efficient ways.

Because of the Napoleonic wars, it was only after 1815 that Belgium was able to immerse itself in the Industrial Revolution, and reap of its benefits. However, already in the 1720's, Belgium was busily involved in the construction of a steam engine. All this was happening in the Liege Principality where the Irish engineer, JOHN OKELLY was hired by baron BERTHOLD de WANZOULE and associates, to build the first Belgian steam engine at MATHIEU RAICK's coal mine located in Jemeppe-sur-Meuse. (See *L'intermediaire des Genealogistes*, #259 1/1989, for genealogical information about John O'Kelly's ancestry and his Belgian descendants). Note also that RENNEQUIN SUALEM, the mechanical engineer who built the famed hydraulic engine of Many, France, which brings water to Versailles, was born in Jemeppe-sur-Meuse in 1645.

However, JOHN O'KELLY had a few problems, as discovered by the historian PIERRE GUERIN, S.J., who reports in the September 1988 issue of the *Cercle Historique de Fleron* publication (p. 84), that he and his associates had to content with rivals who had received, through what smacked of industrial spying, drawings and instructions written in English, relative to the construction of a steam engine. These rivals led by GILLES de CHEQUIER, turned to THOMAS HILDEYARD aka HILLIARD, one of the English Jesuits teaching at the Liege Jesuit seminary, for help with the translation of the documents. A very clever choice indeed, THOMAS HILDEYARD taught philosophy, theology, and mathematics at the seminary, and was known for his expertise in mechanics. Not only did THOMAS HILDEYARD translate the documents, but

he proceeded to build on a reduced scale, a working steam engine. Though THOMAS HILDEYARD worked in semi-secrecy, his success was reported to JOHN O'KELLY's friends and associates by another Jesuit, JOHN MUSSON, who was spying on Thomas's activities....

The Germans were perhaps the first, to call on Belgian experts to bring the Industrial Revolution to their country. HANS SEELING, in his book Les Wallons Pionniers de l'Industrie Allemande (translated from German), lavishes praises on the Belgian engineers and workers who made the Industrial Revolution possible in Germany. Even before that era and as early as the 17th century, Belgians are credited in creating small steel industries in the Westerwald, Nassau, Eifel, and Soonwald areas of Germany.

Beside the steel industry, German coal mining, textile mills, glass manufacturing, public transportation, also benefited from Belgian expertise.

SEELING's book lists names of those Belgians who were so important to Germany's Industrial Revolution. Many Belgians remained and settled in Germany, others returned to Belgium, or went on to other countries. Here is the list of names, do you recognize a few?

ANTENNE, BAGUETTE, BAILLY, BARBIER, BARMARIN, BASTIN,
 BAUWENS, BAYMGRON, BEDUWE, BEHR, BERGER, BERTRAND,
 BICHEROUX, BINON, BIOLLEY, BISSOT, BLATON, BLOCKHOUSE,
 BLONDEN, BODART, BOISSEREE, BONIVER, BORGIER, BOSSON,
 BOULANGER, BURDOIS, BURDOUXHE, BOURSEAUX, BOYAERT,
 BRACONNIER, BROUHON, BRUNON, BURLET, BUTTGENBACH, CANELLE,
 CHAPEAU, CHARLIER, CHAUDRON, CHAUVIN, CLEMEUR, COLLARDIN,
 COLLIGNON, COLLIN, CONSTANT, CONTREL, COPPEE, CORNET,
 COUPIENNE, COURTHEUX, CRESPIEN, CUGNOT, DACIER, DAELEN,
 DAVIGNON, DAWANS, DEBATY, DEBOIS, DEBRASINE, DECHENE,
 DECLoux, DEFAU, DEFFET, DEFOURNY, DEFRANCE, DEGEVY,
 DEGEYTER, DEGIVE, DEGOTTE, DEHEZ, DEHOUSSE, DELBOUILLE,
 DELBROUCK, DELCOMINETTE, DELCUVE, DELFOSSE, DELIMON,
 DELKUVE, DEMANY, DEMARTEAU, DEMATHIEU, DEMELL, DEMET,
 DEMEURE, DEMEUSE, DENGIS, DENNIS, DENNOOZ, DEPAS, DEPASSE,
 DEPIERIEUX, DEPREZ, DEREUX, DE RIDDER, DESONAY, DESSAIVE,
 DESTECHE, DETEMPLE, DETIENNE, DETILLEUX, DETOMBAY, DETRU,
 DEVEUX, D'HEUR, D'HONDT, DIDIER, DISOIR, DISPLAIRE, DOIGNON,
 DONY, DOPPAGNE, DOSERAY, DOUTRELEPONT, DRIANNE, DUBOIS,
 DUBUISSON, DUFRAINE, DUMOLIN, DUMONT, DUMOULIN, DUPONT,
 DUPRE, DUPUIS, DURVEAUX, DUVIVIER, EMONTS, ENAUX, ENGLEBERT,
 ERNOTTE, ESPITTE, ESTER, ETIENNE, EVRARD, FERAL, FERRIN,
 FOLLAT, FONTAINE, FOSSOUL, FOUARGE, FOURCAULT, FRANCK,
 FRANQUINET, GAILLARD, GALAS, GASPARD, GAUDY, GENDEBIEN,
 GERARD, GERNART, GERON, GERRIENNE, GHAYE, GILLE, GILLES,
 GILLON, GLIOT, GOBLET, GODIN, GOFFARD, GOFFIN, GOOSSENS,
 GOUVY, GRAINDORGE, GRAND RY, GREGOIRE, GRISAR, GRISARD,
 GRISAY, GUISET, HACHEZ, HANIEL, HANQUET, HAUZEUR, HENIN,
 HENRY, HESSELLE, HILLIER, HOEBANKX, HOESCH, HOLLANGE,
 HOUDREMONT, HOUGARDY, HOUGET, HUGOT, ISAMBERT, JAMARD,
 JAMART, JAMME, JAMSIN, JECHERS, JOTTRAND, JOYEUX, JUNOT,

KINON, KINZLE, LAEIS, LAFONTAINE, LA HAULT, LA HAYE,
 LAMARCHE, LAMBINON, LAMBION, LAMBOTTE, LAMINE, LAMMINE,
 LAMY, L'EAU, LEBACQZ, LABALUE, LECLERCQ, LECLERCQUE, LEGROS,
 LEJEUNE, LEMAIRE, LEMAITRE, LEMME, LENNE, LEPEZ, LEPRINCE,
 LEROUX, LESOINNE, LEVEGNER, LEVESQUE, LIBEAU, LIBERT,
 LONGREE, LORANGE, LORENT, LORQUIN, LORRENG, LOUP,
 LOVINFOSSE, MAGERY, MAGIS, MAIGRET, MAILOT, MALANGRE,
 MAQUOY, MARBAISE, MARCHAND, MARCIAL, MARCOTTY, MARECHAL,
 MARGUERRE, MARIOTTE, MARGUART, MARTIN, MASSON, MEAN, MELON,
 MERCIER, MEUNIER, MICHIELS, MINSTER, MOHIMONT, MONGENAST,
 MONON, MONTULET, MOSIN, MOSSELM-N, MOUCHART, NAGELMAKERS
 (Orient-Express train maker), NANTULLE, NAUMANN,
 NEBEL-CREPUS, NEREE, NEUMAN, NEUVILLE, NICOLAY, NIFFLE,
 NIQUET, NOEL, NOPPENE, OLIVIER, OPHOVEN, ORBAN, OUTREPONT,
 PALIER, PARIS, PASTOR, PAULUS, PAUQUET-DORR, PAUWELS,
 PELISSIER, PELTZER, PERILLIEUX, PETRY, PIEDBOEUF, PIRARD,
 PIRENNE, PIRLOT, PIRRARD, POLLENIUS, POMMEE, PONCELET,
 POTTER, POUPLIER, PREGARDIEN, PROYARD, PUISSANT, RADAUX,
 RADOUX, RANSONNET, RASQUINET, REGNIER, REGNIER-PONCELET,
 REMACLE (Erich Maria REMARQUE's ancestors), REMIE, REMONT,
 RENAUX, RENSON, RENWART, REQUILE, REULAUX, RIBEAUFOSSE,
 RICHARD, RICHTER, ROGIER, ROISIN, ROLAND, ROPS, ROSSIGNOL,
 ROUSSEL, ROUYER, RUDEAUX, SABEY, SADEE, SAINT-MONT,
 SARTORIE, SCAREERIAUX, SCHAWNN, SERVAIS, SIMAR, SIMONIS,
 SIMONS, SOLVAY, SOUKA, SPINEUX, SPIRLET, STAVEAUX, STELLET,
 SURLEMONT, TALBOT, TAXHET, TEDESCO, TESCH, TESSEREAUX,
 THEROIGNE de MERICOURT, THE LOSEN, THIELLAY, THIERRY,
 THIERY, THIOUX, THOMEE, THOMET, THORN, TINCHON, TOMSEN,
 TONNAR, TOPPAUL, TRAINÉ, TRASENSTER, TREMOUROUX, TRENELLE,
 TRIEST, UBAGHS, VAESSEN, VAN DER BEURSE, VANDERHECHT, VAN
 DER ZYPEN, VAN EUPEN, VAN VALKENBORCH, VAUX, VERGIER,
 VIEILLEVOYE, VILLE, VIVEGNIS, VOSSEN, VYGEN, WALTERY,
 WARICHET, WARIN, WARNOTTE, WASEIGE, WASSEIGE, WATTARD,
 WERROTTE, ZIANE.

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Boston: Houghton Mifflin 1987.

Seeling Hans, Les Wallons Pionniers de l'Industrie

Allemande, Liege; Eugene Wahle 1983. German title:

Wallonische Industrie-Pioniere in Deutschland.

We are trying to find new or used

"WISCONSIN'S BELGIAN COMMUNITY" by HJALMAR RUED HOLAND.

and any other books or revue articles about Belgians in the U.S.

Reason of the First Swarming and the Actors

During the last ten years people have been talking a lot in the Belgian Province of Namur, about *Nos Vis Cousins do Wisconsin* - Our old cousins from Wisconsin - On both sides of the Atlantic, reception committees have been formed and each year exchanges of querying Walloons are taking place, in a romantic search for the *Other Wallonie*. To some, this expression *Other Wallonie* could seem insolite, if one is not aware of the fact that in the years 1850, thousands of our rural people emigrated to the N.E. or the State of Wisconsin to start a real *Roman Land* bringing with them their language and their traditions, in one word their culture.

In 1953, on the occasion of the centennial of the foundation of their settlement, the Belgian historian Antoine De Smet .made an inventory .listing the most important Belgian agricultural establishments in 19th century America, and introduced the one from Green Bay area, with these words *The most beautiful, the most important and the most original of the Belgian colonies in the U.S. before the civil war, was realized in the N.E. of Green Bay, Wisconsin...*

Certainly this was not an exception as Omer Rameau, member of the Historical Society of Attert in Luxemburg wrote in 1977: *... In the State of Wisconsin, between the cities of Milwaukee and the Green Bay area is a very important agricultural colony called Belgium. This colony was founded 133 years ~ by pioneers originally from the Arlon area of Belgium. It is still very unified, has kept a nostalgic love of the old country, of its ancestors and if it is not more characteristic than the colony from the Namur area, it is certainly older...*

It has been established that between the years 1820 to 1914, the great emigration from the Walloon provinces pushed more than 90.000 people toward the U.S. Most of them homesteaded all across the Nation. On the other hand, many others stayed together. But wherever they went, they always deployed their talents in many capacities. This is confirmed by the consular report • 478 *...as for the Walloons, but for a very few bad subjects they always were successful in their endeavors...*

PRINCIPAL EMIGRATIONS OF THE WALLOONS.

From 1830 to 1860. more than 3000 agricultural and forestry laborers left the province of Luxemburg and settled in Indiana, in Illinois, on the west bank of Lake Michigan and on the banks of the Mississippi, in Iowa, Minnesota and Missouri.

From 1853 to 1860, from 7000 to 6000 laborers and artisans of the provinces of Brabant, Liege and Namur settled whole areas of the States of Illinois, Michigan . Minnesota and Wisconsin.

From 1863 to 1914. coalminers from the Borinage and the Liege area, created dozens of new coalmines especially in the States of Illinois and Pennsylvania.

From 1660 to 1914, glassblowers from the area of the Sambre-Namur and the Borinage, emigrated bringing with them experts in glass, steel and mining production. Many of them formed associations and founded prosperous enterprises in Pennsylvania, Virginia and other states.

PARTIAL STORIES

Until recently .when researching the origins and destinies of the Walloon colonists a few rare articles in some of the local Belgian papers were the only available sources of information... as for the American sources, they were almost inexistent. One has to realize however that few of the Belgian Americans were interested in their own history, as it was the case for the Dutch or the Grand Duchy emigrants.

Today the American and Walloon visitors are very interested in gathering and exchanging documents written as well as oral, concerning common ancestors, and so, together they can write short family histories .which in turn contribute to the study of the little documented emigrations. It is also through this method that the writer of this article .with the help of his Belgo-American collaborators, attempts to reconstruct the odyssey of the small colonies disseminated across the American Union.

The following illustrates the phenomenon of the swarming of the overpopulated agricultural colonies.

The first swarming out of the Green Bay colony, offers us inedited pages about the 25 years following the first settlement of the area.

A memorial in Robinsonville commemorates the early settlers of the area: *TO THE FIRST BELGIANS.*

...Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull had just laid down their arms...

A convoy of Walloon emigrants started from Green Bay in direction of Sherburn .an almost deserted territory on the southern border of Minnesota. Mention of this departure, on March 25th, 1679 was discovered in the rubrics of the "AHNAPE RECORD .a Wisconsin newspaper. In its April 3rd edition the editor mentioned that the article was signed by a certain Martin .director of a local travel agency.

This same Martin announced a series of expeditions to the West insisting on the special prices *Thu cost of this expedition amounts really to \$21.00 per person, but I ask only \$6.00 per adult, or \$10.00 per family* he boasted. At that time papers in the Midwest regularly published similar articles and or advertisements.

The discovery of this article was very helpful in the progression of our research, knowing the personality of its author, and the kind of customers he was appealing to. This paper was commonly read in the Walloon community and the director of the travel agency was nobody else than Xavier Martin, one of the members of the community and what is more he was its factotum, its man of all trades.

As second son of a large emigrant family originally from the hamlet of Doiceau, he left Belgium In 16S3 with the avant-garde emigrants from Brabant. Soon after they disembarked at Philadelphia. Xavier a natural born businessman, learned to speak English rapidly and studied American law. He then rejoined the Belgian Colony where he established himself as Notary Public and became The Land Office. Next to these official functions, he developed several successful private enterprises.

Under different titles we find him involved in the great real estate boom occuring after the pacification of the West, which up to then was Indian Territories.

Martin wrote a series of articles under the enticing title:" WESTWARD BOUND" .

It is in this real estate fever that we find the Walloon colonists, those of the Sherburn convoy .as well as others that we were able to indentify in North Dakota, in Nebraska and in Oregon. All these frontiersmen left Green Bay through the intermediary of Xavier Martin and his associate David Duval, another Walloon.

The actors of this migration were agricultural workers who had come to America with the different waves of emigration from Brabant, Namur and Liege only 25 years earlier.

Up to this time they had lived and worked in a homogeneous colony that was getting progressively better.

Why did they leave a familiar area to seek fortune in unknown territory?

American documents suggest the same answers as the one we published earlier concerning the Hesbignon emigration of the nineteenth century

1. the problem of overpopulation.
2. the poor or inexistent job market.
3. the modest agricultural production..

In effect in the space of 25 years. the children of the first emigrants had at their turn created large families. The "Memoirs" of the Sherburn pioneers disclose that *...the convoy was composed of 50 people including many young children.*

This same document states also *...If so many inhabitants of the pri7illve colonies of Casco, Lincoln and Red River had survived~ it was because many supplemental salaries were painstakingly earned through hard labor in the forests of Michigan Superior during the autumn and winter months.*

One recent study helps us to understand the financial situation of the families of Belgian origin during and after the Civil War. The author, John Mertens, himself a great—grandchild of emigrants from Gembloux and Grand-Leez, reports that 262 pioneers of the Green Bay colony were enrolled in the Union army and that a good 20 others had enough money to buy the *Privileges* of either the Exemption for \$ 300,00, or the Substitution for \$ 500,00 He also states that some families tried to make a living of expediency, trafficking and swapping, but were finally forced to search for an other destiny beyond Wisconsin.

The new promised land was the immense territory pacified in 1676, and offered to the appetites of all kind of promoters. Access to these territories had been facilitated through the extension of the new railroad Chicago and North Western .

Advertisement campaigns by real estate promoters were later branded by American historians as delirious .

A good example of this is the copy of a poster published in Chicago in 1878:

You need a farm ! 2.000.000 Farms of Fertile Prairie Land to be had Free of Charges.

This poster was distributed by the Land Offices, notary public and real estate agents all over the colonies of the Midwest, and so the "Big opportunity" was made known to the Belgo- Americans

The memoirs of the pioneer P. JOSSART reports the facts:"... In 1879 a government agent offered acreages to Belgians in the prairies of Minnesota for a ridiculous price, under the condition that they would plant a few trees every year....

This so called "Tree Claim" should have alerted the candidates to the difficulties ahead. The origin of this agrarian law of the West was bound to a myth maintained by the real estate agents avoiding them to have to disclose the irrigation problems due to poor precipitation conditions.

Xavier Martin took care of all the administrative formalities. He informed his first customers in which sections of the Jay area they had the right to homestead.

Among the new adventurers (homesteaders) were Ferdinand and Prosper Jossart; Etienne Philippe Jean and Martin Detienne; Martin Horckmans, all of Walloon Brabant origins, and also two families Dhyrne from St Denis-Namur.

ON THE WAY TO THE FAR-WEST.

The distance to cover was about 450 miles. The 80 immigrants traveled first in S covered wagons pulled by oxen and horses. They took along all of their belongings and their cattle. Being told that the prairie didn't have the proper trees needed for building shelters, they took along enough logs as well. After about 160 miles of hard and rough travel, the covered wagons became too hard on the women and children, who embarked at the next railroad station in a train going west to Winnebago, where the wagon train was expected a few weeks later. From there the reunited families continued the last 40 miles and arrived extenuated at their destination Sherburn

IN SPITE OF OBSTACLES .THE SAME OBSTINATION AS IN 1853.

In the beginning, men united their efforts to build necessary shelters, to break the stone hard virgin soil and to erect a collective bread oven. For the latter they found the clay on the banks of the Ten Miles Creek. This bread oven was used one week a month to bake bread for the whole community.

The only trading post available was in Winnebago, 40 miles away. The new colonists traveled this distance only twice a year, once in spring and once in fall to buy their necessities in large quantities mostly dry food.

To the north of the community, there was a cattle ranch called 'Old Mule Farm'. The youth of the colony worked there as 'cow boys' insuring a most needed supplemental salary to their families. This ranch was started by a Chicago Company and covered an area of about 50 square miles, between Fairmont and Jackson. It was one of the so called large enclosures illegally established in Sioux Country .which were nevertheless under the protection of the Army. The ranch next to the Walloon community, was protected by the Fort Belmont garrison.

The living conditions on the prairie were extremely severe winters were very long and rigorous, snow fell in abundance, and blizzards would hurt and even kill the meager cattle. The most familiar noises were the howling of the wolves, and the yapping of the coyotes. Summers were hot and dry with the always present fear of prairie fires or locust invasions.

After 3 years of hardship, 3 families left the colony and returned to Green Bay. Other families left later for Kansas. Without any doubt, many pioneer must have damned the real estate agents whose imagination was more fertile than the land they had sold. Where there were no schools, the children of the first generation left to themselves, learned to read and write words and numbers by hook or by crook. As for religious services, people gathered together in a private homes on Sunday morning .and one of them would read from the Bible and conduct prayers. Sometimes a traveling preacher passing through the community would set up a big tent which was called *Gospel Tabernacle*.

Later when Sherburn appeared on the map, there were official meeting places Baptist, Catholic. Lutheran.

In a note left to one of our collaborators in Minnesota, Mabel Jossart states that she was the last direct descendant of the Walloon pioneers who stayed in Sherburn. All other families tried their luck in the West, including the families Detienne, established since 1914 in South Dakota.

The conclusion of this granddaughter of emigrants will also be ours.

All these families came from Southern Belgium, many were related, all of them made themselves respected for their main characteristics.

Tenacity, Courage and Audacious Spirit.

Jean Ducat

WHAT'S IN A NAME

The custom of using family names was first recorded in China in 2852 B.C., when the emperor decreed that all families must choose a name from a sacred poem. Since the poem had only a few characters, the names were generally short and placed before the first name, such as CHIANG KAI-SHEK meaning KAISHEK of the CHIANG family. In Europe the Romans used family names, but that custom declined with the fall of the Roman Empire. Only after the 1000 A.D. did Venetian noblemen revive family names. The practice spread through Europe and was brought to England with the Norman Invasion. Almost half of the family names find their source in place names, such as HILL, ATWELL (at the well), which appears in French as LA FONTAINE, DALE (in the valley). From Spanish, we have ACOSTA (at the coast), ESTRADA (at the paved road); from Italian PISANO (of the town of Pisa) or ROMANO (of Rome) or SILVA (from the forest); from Russian, MINSKY (of Minsk), TCHAIKOVSKY (of Czajkowo). The Scandinavian names are often combinations of two words, such as Norwegian EGGERUD (ridge farm) ROONSTED (mountain ash place); or Swedish BERGSTROM (Mountain stream), HOLMGREN (island branch) or SKOGLUND (forest grove). Because German and Yiddish are closely related, it is sometimes difficult to determine the origin of names such as ROTHSCHILD (by the red sign), SCHLESINGER (of Silesia), SACHS or SACKS (of Saxony). Many German and Yiddish place names contain BERG (mountain), BRUECK(E) (bridge), STEIN (stone/rock), BURG (castle), WALD (forest). Place names are also used as family names in Japanese, e.g. NAKAMURA

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(middle village), TAKAHASHI (high bridge), and even the ancient Chinese names contain some geographical features : WONG (field or wide water). Also denoting place names are those with prefixes all of which mean "of or from":

Dutch/Flemish VAN (Van Houten) German VON (Von Buehlow); and the French preposition DE can appear as DE LA or DU, (De La Falaise, Du Barry) and DES (Descartes), while the Spanish is DEL, DE LOS, DE (Del Rio, De Los Rios), and Portuguese DO, DA, DOS, DAS (Davega, Dos Passos). The Italian variants of DE are too numerous to mention beyond an example (Del Guidice, Delle Colonne). In some countries, the prefix indicated aristocracy.

The second largest class of names contains patronyms, i.e. built on the father's name. For example, WILLIAM JOHNSON is the son of John, while William's son Peter is PETER WILLIAMSON. In English and Dutch/Flemish the -SON was often shortened to just -S (Williams, Peters). The suffix -SON is frequent in Icelandic and Swedish, while -SEN is more frequent in Norwegian, Danish and Northern German. In other German areas and in Yiddish -SOHN was used (Mendelssohn). Because names changed in every generation by this system, many patronyms became middle names, particularly in Norwegian. Then a place name was added to become the family name. When they immigrated to the U.S., some Norwegians chose patronyms and others place names. These then remained the same as the family names.

The system of using patronyms is also found in Arabic or Semitic countries (ABDUL IBN HASSAN - Abdul son of Hassan), and in Russia as -OV, -OFF, OW, -EV, -EFF, (IVANOV, PROKOFIEFF). The Spanish form is -EZ (Rodriguez) and Greek is -iou (Demetriou). The Irish O' and the Scottish MAC'or Mc' both mean son of' (O' Brien, Mc Donald), as does AP and P (Aphugh and Pugh) and the French fils (son) occurs in English as FITZ (Fitzgerald).

In many cases the syllable meaning -son- was lost. Then the family names seem to be just a first name, eg. RAYMOND, RYAN, THOMAS. Also many older first names were contracted RUDOLF (famous wolf) is ROLF, ROLFE, ROLOFF, and REINHARD (Pure Heart) is REINER, RAINER, RAINIER. Some, names formed of two segments have been shortened to one. RIKEERT (powerful and famous) becomes RIEBE, and SIEGFRIED (victory and peace) becomes SEIFERT, SEUFERT or SEIFT.

The next largest type of family names comes from occupations. SMITH, for example is the most common name in England and America. Many of these SMITHS may be simply translated versions of the name of an immigrant ancestor: German SCHMIDT, SCHMIED, SCMITT, Dutch SMIT, French FERRIER, Italian FERRARO, Spanish HERRERO, Hungarian KOVACS, Polish KOWALCZYK, Russian KUSNETZ or Syrian HADDAD.

Other occupational names are varied, ranging from BAKER, BARBER, BAUMGARTNER German for tree gardener, to PAPPAS Greek for Priest, LEVY Hebrew for Priestly tribe, COHEN Hebrew for Priest, and TAYLOR, TURNER, BAUER German for Farmer and many more.

The last class of family names contains those derived from a physical or mental attribute of an ancestor, such as ARMSTRONG, BALDWIN (courageous friend), BROWN, LONG,

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CHAN Chinese for old, GEE Chinese for well mannered, UMNOV Russian for Wise, MAVROS Greek for dark skinned, WHITE, indicating a prematurely graying ancestor has equivalent in French LEBLANC, in Flemish DE WITTE, in Italian BIANCHI, in German WEISS, in Russian BYELOV, in Welsh GWYNN, etc. Occasionally, names were not quite complimentary, such as SAUERBIER German for sour beer, DURAKOV Russian for fool, PFAU German for conceited or from a marshy meadow.

Until the white man arrived with his passion for record keeping, American Indians rarely had family names. In 1903, President Roosevelt urged the Sioux to adopt family names.

In Africa tribal names were used as identification, but the enslaved Africans in this country had only arbitrarily assigned first names. When freed, many former slaves adopted patronymics and not, as often believed, the names of their former owners.

A large number of family names are often greatly disguised by their spelling. In most European countries, spelling was standardized in the 1800s, so even individual families used variant spellings. Church records were kept by clerics whose training in Latin was often better than in the native tongue.

Many immigrants to this country varied the way they spelled their names: for example, Daniel BOONE signed his name

BONE or BOON. Immigration officials often got impatient with names they considered strange and simplified them, so for instance LAUER German for sly or cunning, became LAWYER. Many names, were simply translated into English or their spelling adapted German RICHTER became RIGHTER and BOEHLKE became BOLKE. Many people also anglicized their names, for example the Norwegian HOSTVEDT may have seemed to complicated for American tongues and was changed to the English HOSFORD (horse-ford). Other examples are WALLACE from WALLANCHINSKY or MUSKIE from MARCISZEWSKI.

Phil Oliver. Montana Journal.

ANCESTOR or DESCENDANT ?

Who's an ancestor? What's a descendant? You wouldn't think the terms could cause confusion, but obviously they do. Let me cite some examples:

PARADE Magazine had an item last December about the settlement of a 40-years old dispute involving the aborigines of Australia.

"The aborigines - from whose descendants the British had stolen Australia - were furious because, as black soldiers, they were paid half the wages paid to white soldiers.

At about the same time, the Associated Press filed a story on the WELFEN family of Germany. Family members had just sold a rare 12th Century manuscript, and the AP wanted to tell us something about them. "The Welfens, the royal family of Hannover, are ancestors of Heinrich the Lion, Duke of Saxony, and his wife Mathilde , daughter of England's King Henry II..."

In the Miami Herald some months ago, a

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correspondent in Israel wrote about the Bedouins. In some instances, he said, security considerations had let to a wholesale roundup of the people who live as many of our descendants lived near the dawn of humanity."

In the Knoxville Journal, a Gannet reporter reviewed the controversy that arose with the application of Lena Ferguson, a black woman, for membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution. It appeared that Ferguson, who had a white descendant who served on a Maine town council during the Revolution," had been invited to join several chapters.

The Meriden (Conn.) Record-Journal, had a piece about a high school pageant in which the role of Jefferson was played by Robert Coles, a great-grandson of the Founding Father. Said the headline: Ancestor Portrays Thomas Jefferson .

Enough! It is our **ancestors** who have produced us descendants. Keep these generations straight. Let's keep a keen interest in looking and studying our ancestors, so that we can keep our heritage alive for our descendants.

And incidentally, let us note that **descendant** can be spelled with either an "a" or an "e". The "a" is preferred by Random House and Oxford, the "e" by American Heritage. Webster's sanctions both but puts descendants first.

Observer L.G.

THE BELGIANS IN WISCONSIN

The story of the Belgian immigration to Wisconsin is one that is familiar to many; but one worth repeating to show how our roots were established here.

The United States government had a lot of land in the 1800's which was available for settlement. In the State of Wisconsin, many people of German and Irish descent had arrived before 1850. Their settlements were principally in the southern part of the State. In order to populate the rest of the countryside, the government sent advertisements to Europe, which told of this land of opportunity. To the people of Belgium, who rarely owned their own land and had trouble providing for their large families, this sounded like a dream come true.

In 1853, under the leadership of Francois Petiniot, a group of 84 people from the village of Grez-Doiceau and environs, left their homeland for the new world. The ship, "Quinnebaug", sailed from Antwerp harbor on May 18 with these brave pioneers who were willing to leave everything behind for the promise of better things. Not knowing exactly where to go, nor realizing the vastness of this country, they made friends with Dutch passengers on the ship and decided to go with them. The "Quinnebaug" arrived in New York harbor on July 6, 1853. From there, the passengers made their way through the waterways to the city of Sheboygan, Wisconsin, located on Lake Michigan.

Before very long, the Belgians realized that this was not the place for them. The Sheboygan settlement was made up of Dutch and German-speaking people. A visitor to the area told the Belgians that there were French-speaking people in Green Bay, so the pioneers journeyed northward. From there, the men went to Kaukauna to prospect for land. While they were gone, one of the children in the group had died. A Belgian missionary priest, Father Edward Deems, was visiting the church where the funeral was held and convinced the Belgians to settle near his parish in Bay Settlement, just north of Green Bay. The weary immigrants were happy to know that they could find land near a priest who spoke their language. They staked their claims in the wilderness and called their settlement, "Aux Premiers Belges"---the First Belgians. This later came to be known as Robinsonville and Champion.

There was a long and arduous road ahead for the little band of hardy Belgians. The land had to be cleared, shelters built, and a means of sustenance obtained. It was getting well into the colder months of the year and not everyone was able to survive the winters here---much colder than those of Belgium. The men and women worked together, however, and were assisted many times by the friendly Indians of the area, who showed them how to trap wild animals for food, and how to tap the maple trees for syrup.

Soon, letters were being sent back to Belgium telling the story of the long trip and the home they had built in the new world. Documentation can be found in Population Registers in Belgium where other emigrants stated they were leaving for America because of letters received from relatives who had already gone there.

Many thousands of Belgians followed' (an estimated 15,000 between 1854 and 1858) and most of them came to northeastern Wisconsin. In

1860, when the Federal Census was taken, some villages here were almost exclusively made up of Belgians. By that time, the Robinsonville/Champion settlement had extended east into Kewaunee County and north into the southern part of Door County. Villages were named Walhain, Rosiere, Namur, Brussels, Grand-Leez, and Thiry Daems (for a Belgian, Constant Thiry, and their good friend, Father Daems).

All was not "peaches and cream" in this new land. Many died because of the spread of Asiatic cholera. Producing food to feed their families was a real challenge in this climate and many were discouraged. A few returned to their birth country.

The first arrivals were not educated in the ways of the American government. One of their number, Xavier Martin, had stayed on in Philadelphia to complete his education. He arrived in Wisconsin four years later and began giving lessons in English and telling people how to apply for citizenship. With this, they gained the right to vote, something very important to the Belgians for they had no such right in Belgium.

Soon they were establishing churches, schools, and building roads between communities. Xavier Martin was elected Register of Deeds in Brown County in 1862. He moved to the city, but the Belgians continued to use their vote to gain other positions for people who helped their cause. They valued their rights and their freedom. This made it very difficult when the Civil War began and soldiers were needed. Men didn't want to leave their newly-established homes and families; some deserted or returned to Belgium. For the most part, however, they answered the call, and served their new country.

After the war, the little farms were flourishing. Life was looking good, again. In 1871, however, a terrible tragedy struck. The summer had been a particularly hot and dry one. In October of that year a fire began in the Marinette County settlement of Peshtigo, across the bay from the Belgians' settlements. The very strong winds carried sparks across the bay, setting the countryside afire. Lives and possessions were lost. It became necessary to begin again or move to another area of the country. It was generally after this time that many Belgians moved into the City of Green Bay and some went west to Minnesota and North Dakota to establish themselves.

The original Belgian settlement in northeastern Wisconsin was not lost. Descendants are still flourishing there. Kermisses are still held (although on a smaller scale) in each village after the harvest time in the Fall of the year. The original Walloon language is still spoken by families of those early immigrants. Biennial exchange visits are made with a similar group in Belgium. Our heritage is with us and we hope to preserve it forever!

In narrating the above story, we are talking principally about the Walloon Belgian settlement in Wisconsin. One cannot forget that the Flemish Belgians have made important contributions to the area as well (particularly when one is both Walloon and Flemish descent!). There were quite a number of Flemish settlers in the townships of Preble and Humboldt during the 1860's and 1870's. The greatest number of them, however, came after 1880 and again after 1900. Most of these people settled on the west side of the City of Green Bay, and became vegetable gardeners, railroad workers, and contributed greatly to Fort Howard, Green Bay, and Brown County, through the years.

B O O K S ... B O O K S ... B O O K S...

FROM GREZ-DOICEAU TO WISCONSIN.

By Mary-Ann Defnet, Jean Ducat, Thierry Eggerickx and Michel Poulain. This 175-page book describes conditions in Belgium, which led to the mass emigration of the 1850's. Within five years time, 485 inhabitants of the village of Grez-Doiceau left their homes and ventured to an unknown land named Wisconsin. Book includes maps, graphs, photos and genealogical information on the families from this village. It contains both English and French text. Written and compiled over a two years period by a Belgian researcher, a Belgian historian, a student researcher and a professor of Demography, this book was published in 1986. It is 6 x 9 . soft cover and sells for only \$. 14.00 postpaid. Order from Mary-Ann Defnet, 253, Little Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin, 54301.

THE BELGIANS OF INDIANA,

With a brief history of the land from which they came.

By Henry A. Verslype.

This book is a Gold Mine of informations about Flemings an Walloon in Indiana, especially in Mishawaka and South Bend.

It is easy reading, has many names and photographs.

Available from the author: Henry A. Verslype, 546, West 13th str.

Mishawaka, Indiana, 46544. for S. 19,95 softcover or \$ 21,95

hardcover +\$.2.00 postage and handling.

In the last paragraph, Henry writes

We did not succumb to the "melting pot" and lose our identity. We have formed a "mosaic", with the component parts of the whole, still retaining their individuality, yet contributing to the meaning and success of the broader picture.

Two books that everyone of us Belgians should read.

"My family's ancestry is very old," said one club member trying to impress the group. "We can be traced back to the early kings of Europe. Then, turning to a lady sitting nearby, she asked, "And how old is your family, my dear?" "I really don't know," replied the lady with a sweet smile. "All of our family records were lost in the great flood.

This one I found a few months ago, in the INDIANAPOLIS STAR:

"Because Switzerland is officially a three language country, most of the big towns have three names. The best known example is Luzern. In French it is called Lausanne, and in Italian Lugano . (sic). ???

FROM AND TO OUR MEMBERS

To ROBERT HIGGINS: Where can you buy a Belgian dictionary? You realize that there is no one Belgian language. Belgium is a tri-lingual country using Flemish in the north, French in the south, and German in the south-east. I presume you need a Flemish one, as your Mother's ancestors came from Flanders. You could find dictionaries in University bookstores, or order one through them. The GAZETTE VAN DETROIT, the only Flemish paper in the U.S. could also be of assistance here. Address -18740, 13 Mile Road, Roseville, Michigan, 48066. They have a Flemish Bookstore and Library at their disposition. Ask them for a good Engels-Nederlands, Nederlands-Engels dictionary.

CHARLOTTE ROGERS sends us the following after the visit of Father Jean Ducat to JEANNETTE, Pennsylvania :

I want to clarify the story of the naming of the City. Jeannette was named after Jeannette H. McKee, wife of H. Sellars McKee, a glass factory owner from Pittsburgh. In 1888 he built a new factory along with workers houses in what became Jeannette. Last year Jeannette celebrated its Centennial. The city grew up around the factory and many other factories moved later to the same area. Jeannette was known as the GLASS CITY, but no more, only two factories are left and neither is the original one.

To IRENE HANSON . We were very sorry to read that you broke your leg and your hip some time ago. We hope you are getting better now. I said WE, because my wife Leen joins me in sending you our best wishes for a quick recovery. Leen knows what it means to have to get around with a cast, or to be pushed around by her husband...in a wheel chair. She broke her ankle when we were in Germany two years ago, and it took her a long time to get around on her own again. She said : Never again. I liked your comparison so well, that I print it here for all our Belgian Researchers, to read and enjoy.

GENEALOGY IS LIKE EATING POPCORN, YOU START AND CAN'T STOP.

To AUDREY DU PUIS : Thank you for your nice letter and your good wishes. I will do my best to give you an interesting Belgian Laces. However, let me assure you that I can not do it alone: I need your collaboration, your notes, your letters, your articles. After all it is not my newsletter, but yours.

A few questions : How did your family end up in Kansas City ? Are there other Belgians around where you are ?

Yes, I am still working at the Family History Center in La Grande. I have done so for more than 15 years and enjoy it.

From LORRAINE BERO : I had very good results when Micheline was in control of BELGIAN LACES. She helped me a great deal and I really enjoyed reading all the articles. Through her I was lucky to trace my husband's ancestry back into the 1580.

That's a real flower for Micheline, I can only hope to be able to help as much as she did. It will be a hard act to follow...

To IDA FLAVION ; You ask about the availability of Belgian records. You said they have been sent to Brussels, Belgium. You ask if researchers have access to these records. Yes, all or most all records have been microfilmed or microfiched by the L.D.S. and are available from Salt Lake. These are the same as the ones you find in Belgium. The Family History Centers, formerly called Genealogical Libraries, are located in most U.S. cities, and can be used by anyone. In my answer to Audrey, you read that I have been working in the La Grande Center for more than 15 years. You don't have to belong to the Mormon Church to use the facilities. I do not belong, but I studied genealogy, love to do it, and work there to help others and myself doing research and translation.

To VERNAL DE ROOST : Thank you for your long letter, I really enjoyed it. As you read in the comments to Ida Flavion and Lorraine Bero, the Family History Centers exist in most cities, and one should be available in your vicinity. Go in with your specific genealogical problem, people are there to help you in your research. Sure you have to have a minimum of information. If you are unsuccessful, I am sure we can help on this side too.

To RUTH SCHIELTZ : Concerning the surname lists: it will take some time before we are reorganized and will have the new lists of members surnames available. Be patient, this is only the first newsletter I

To MARGARETA DELBROOK VILLA : I will look up DELBROECK for you, (this is how it would be spelled in Flemish). Do you know how, when and why your ancestors migrated in the States. Do you know what their port of entry was ? Did you search New-York ? Philadelphia ? Why don't you write yourself to Jan Delbroeck .His address is: .8 P.J. Charlottelaan, B-1810, WEMMEL, Belgium. Where he is member of the VVF, Flemish Genealogical Society, he will surely answer a personal letter from a namesake. Join two International answer coupons for airmail, available from the post office. Good luck, let me know how everything turns out.

THANKS, THANKS THANKS to all of you who have responded so promptly to my letter announcing the revival of Belgian Laces. We are off for a good start . Thanks also for the many sincere encouragements that came our way. With your support and your help, we will make BELGIAN LACES a number ONE Newsletter.

WANTED

New members who would enjoy BELGIAN LACES as much as you do. You can help us find such new Belgian Researchers by using the Invitation in the back of this newsletter. Give it to some friends with your recommendation, it is the best advertisement. Or use it yourself to send an introductory subscription to someone you know would appreciate it .you may well be starting a lifetime friendship.
THANKS!

QUERIES

When submitting a Query, "please give all known dates, places and names surrounding each event. Join a large SASE if you want a personal answer. Our members being all disseminated all over the U.S., Canada and Belgium, may we ask you to check in your telephone directories for the names requested, and send us a list or photocopy . We will then immediately transmit to the searcher.

We didn't receive any queries from members for this issue, but others are...IN SEARCH OF :

89/50 ROBERT VAN BEVERN, 5335 Duke street 11441, Alexandria. VA. 22304, is looking for relatives of his great-grand-father, ADOLPH VAN BEVERN, born 1875, Ruiselede to Joannes and Barbara (LAMBERT). Adolf arrived in New-York on 8 November 1902 and moved to Traverse City, Mich. to live with his cousin. He married MAHILDA COCQUYT, born 1883, died 1969. They later lived in Unionville, Mich. where their son EMIL was born in 1912. Adolph died in 1941.

89/51 MARCEL KUMS-VAN DEN STEE, 8 Neerstraat, B-2370-ARENDRONCK, is looking for info on his family, probably in Wisconsin, may have varied spelling KUMS-KUMPS-CUMS-CUMPS-KIM-KIMPS-CHIMPS.

89/52 GHYSLAINE KWALO-DEVOS, 77, Im Degen, D-7000-STUTTGART 60, West Germany is trying to locate any persons with the name VAN EENOO- VAN EENHOOGHE- VAN EENOGHEEENOGHE who emigrated to the States. No further information.

89/53 The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Relations is trying to locate Mrs HELENE DE SCHRYVER, born 25 July 1905, widow of GEORGE VANDEMEULEBROOK. Please send info to Jacques R. Botteman, 333 N. Michigan Ave. Room 2000, Chicago, Ill. 60601.

89/54 STAN AERTS, 34, Zandstappenstraat, B-2120, Schoten Belgium, is trying to locate relatives in the U.S. probably in the Miami- Florida area. Any info would be appreciated.

89/55 Wilma J. Hawk of La Grande, Oregon, is looking for any relations of her grand-mother born SPRIET. Some moved to different areas of the States, coming from Belgium in the last century. Please write to us, we will transmit.

89/56 From some old friends here in La Grande, I received a series of letters dated from 1859 to 1878, written by Jan De Groot to his mother, brother and sister in Groningen , Holland. We are looking for relatives to reunite with our La Grande people.

If you have any information on these persons, please write to the given address or to the editor. We will transmit your answers. Thank You