

Belgian Laces

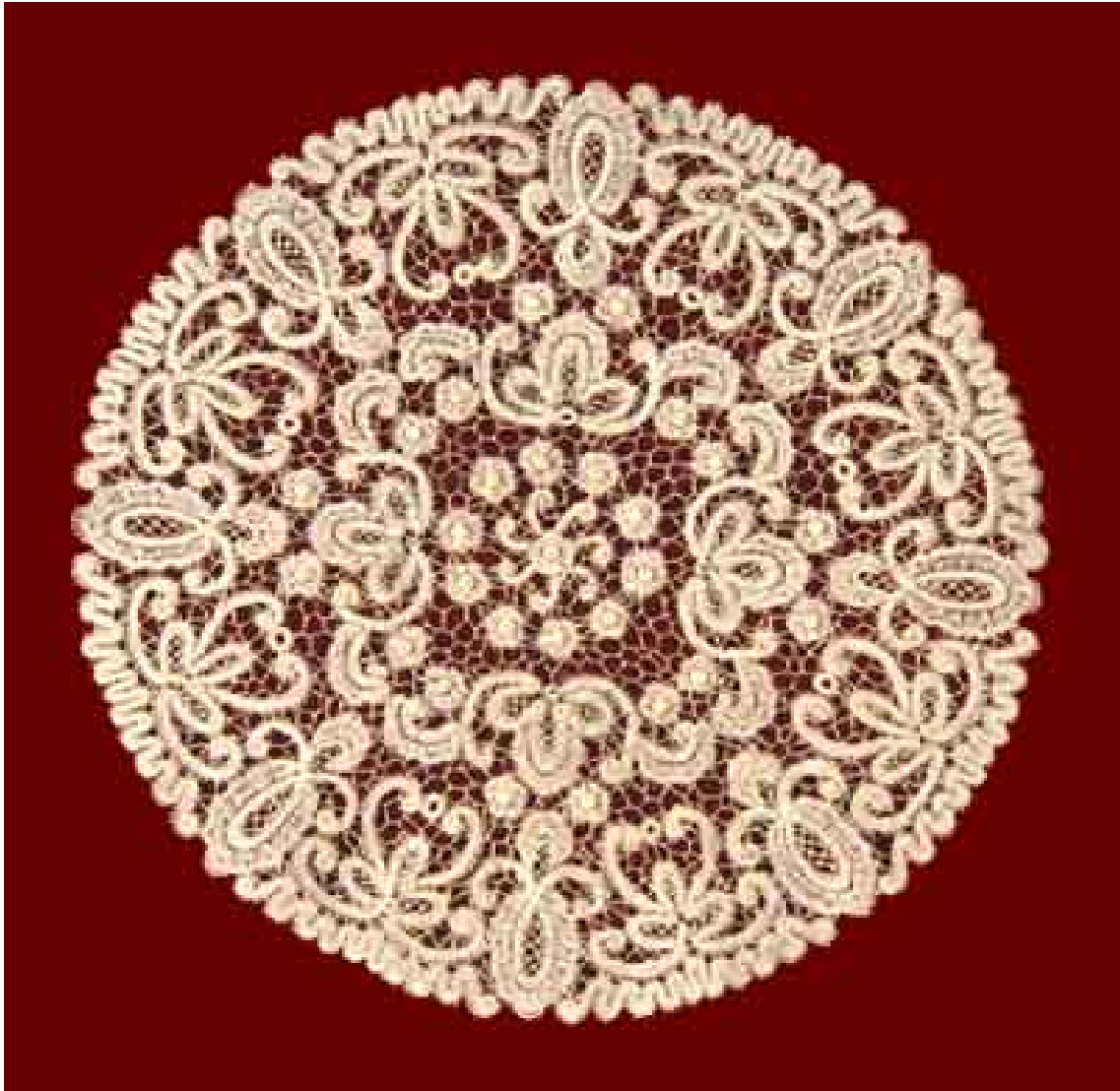


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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear members

The response to our first mailing of invitations to renew membership in The Belgian Researchers has been OVERWHELMING. Congratulations and encouragements are coming regularly in the mail, with renewed and new memberships from the U.S., from Canada, from Belgium, and even from France. It is a very good start. With our newsletter we hope to reach out to ALL Belgians all over the nation. There are 52 States in the U.S. There are Belgians everywhere, who are searching for their roots, but don't know yet that we exist. Somehow we have to be able to reach them all. We all have relatives or friends of Belgian origin somewhere, interested in Genealogy, History, Heraldry, Biography, Demography, etc. and would be happy to join our organization. The stronger we are, the more information we will gather, the more efficient help we will be able to receive and distribute. This is the reason for the invitation on the inside back cover. Please use it : invite a friend or offer him a gift subscription. You will be happy you did.

As I was finishing this letter and was ready to bring all the papers to the print shop in La Grande, I received two packages from Belgium, containing four books as a gift to The Belgian Researchers from Armand VANWELDE : "THE WELDE(N) FAMILY TREE :

- 1/ History of the WELDE(N) surname from 980 to the present.
- 2/ America .First Pioneers.
- 3/ Germany-Belgium.
- 4/ Belgium:Flanders .Brabant.

The name WELDE is also found with its variants: Vold, Veld, Weld; also Veldes, Weldes or Velden and Welden, van Welde, van Welden, de Welde, Weldon, etc. If you have any of these names in your family tree, send us the particulars and we will send you the information needed. There is no index to the books.

Congratulations and thank you, Armand Van Welde for this important addition to our library. I am sure it will help a lot of our members.

sincerely,
Pierre.

THE RIGA FAMILY OF MASSACHUSETTS
by Micheline Gaudette

A while ago, I had the pleasure to meet Mr. H. Bradford RIGA, who was tracing his Belgian ancestry, by doing so, Mr. RIGA was following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Joseph Glues RIGA, who over the years had accumulated a wealth of informations about his Belgian ancestors. Besides numerous copies of birth/death/marriage records and correspondence between Joseph Gilles RIGA and relatives in Belgium, Bradford RIGA gave me a copy of his grandfather's account of his emigration to the States and early years in Massachusetts. I thought that you might be interested in this account entitled AUTOBIOGRAPHY and dated January 24, 1949. Though addressed to TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, it is obvious that Joseph Gilles RIGA was writing all this to some close relatives.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY by J.G. RIGA

On May 5th, 1872, my grandfather, Lambert PIROTTE embarked at Antwerp, Belgium with his family, consisting of Victoire and Marianne and Andrew J. PIROTTE and my brother Martin J. RIGA, to come to this country. They came to Boston by the Cunard Line. The year previous in 1871, Auguste NOEL and his family consisting of his wife Catherine, and his two children, Catherine and Lambert came to this country and landed in Webster, Massachusetts. They were all weavers in a woolen mill, and our family consisting of my father (RIGA), and my sisters Elisabeth, Marie Jeanne and Victoire and myself, were supposed to come here in 1873, but owing to the depression that year, we did not come here until 1877.

We came by the Red Star Line on the steamship Switzerland straight from Antwerp to New York City, we arrived in New York on September 30th, and in Webster on Sunday October 1st.

When we arrived in Webster we found quite a few Belgians namely Jules MAUHIN and his family - one son Jules, and his two daughters, and his wife. Joseph PICRAUX, and his family consisting of two sons, and one daughter. The sons were Denis and Jean. There were also others here beside the Auguste NOEL family, one man by the name of Gregoire PODOR, and a friend of my aunt Catherine by the name of Catherine BISSOT.

The PICRAUX family had a boat on the river, which I believe is named the Guabaug, and this boat had paddle wheels, one on each side, and one had to turn a crank to make the boat go.

Grandfather PIROTTE was born March 9th, 1811, he was 61 years old when he arrived in this country. His wife was born

July 21st, 1815 and died November 2, 1861, she was 47 years old. Grandfather Lambert Joseph PIROTTE died in Providence, R.I. on July 19, 1896. He was 85 years and 4 months old. He is buried in North Burial Ground grave #3673.

We landed in New York City at The Battery in Castle Garden, which afterwards was the Aquarium, where they keep live fish of all kinds, it was at the very end and where Broadway begins. I remember very well-walking across the Battery on the stone pavement, and we bore to the right to the East River, where we took the Norwich boat, we got out at Norwich and took the Norwich and Worcester RR train, and landed when we reached Webster, and I still see Martin on the RR platform where he was waiting for us, and was overjoyed in seeing us. He was 15, Elisabeth 13, and I was 11, Marie Jeanne was 9 and Victoria 7. That was on Sunday October 1st, and that very night I remember going to a Sunday School concert at the Baptist Church, a beautiful granite building. The pine organ was at the front of the church, and when the congregation stood up to sing they turned their back to the pulpit and faced the organ. I remember 2 hymns they sang, one was "Onward Christian Soldiers", but the tune was the old tune by Jos. Hayden, this tune is in a Hymnbook I have, published by The Christian Herald Gospel Hymns 1,2,3,4,5 & 6. The other hymn was Stand up, Stand up for Jesus, and this tune is the old one by Lowell Mason, 1835, and is the one in the Church Hymn Book we used in the old Union Church in Worcester, and which I have here, the tune used now for that hymn, is the one by G.J. Webb, and I prefer the old tune. In Webster, we went to the Congregational church on Main St., and back of the church there was a chapel, where we went to Sunday School, the teacher was Sarah Brown, an old maid, that is where we learned the hymns Come, Come, Come Happy Children and also the one Jesus Loves Me, This I know, For the Bible Tells me so etc... (Here J.RIGA addresses his sister Victoire) Vic, You being so young then, probably does not remember all this, but to me that day October 1st at the Sunday School concert was a red letter day, never having heard such singing by the congregation and lead by an organ something I had never heard before, and I shall never forget it, they sang all the verses, that is how I can remember the tunes so well.

A few days before Grandfather (PIROTTE) and family left Belgium, they came to our house in Gomelevay, Nessonvaux (Liege Province) and my father gave grandfather a knife which he made out of Damascus steel, to use for a bread knife, and also to carve meat, but as no one those days had a whole lot of meat to eat, I Imagine the knife was used mostly to slice the bread. It was quite a knife to forge by hand, and he also made the handle all by hand, I don't know how long they used the knife, but when my grandfather died in 1896, uncle Andrew gave me the knife, and a few years

after, as it was all rusty I concluded uncle did not use it, so I ground it up, and shined it up, and we are using the knife now to carve our meat.

I remember well in 1870 (when the Franco-German war was on) the soldiers on horseback going by our house, as the house was on the main road between Liege and Verviers. Our grandfather lived in Verviers when they came to this country.

When we arrived in Webster, Aunt Victoria and also Aunt Marianne had not been married very long, as Aunt Victoria worked in the woolen mill, weaving, and her husband Gustave LINGUIST was also working there, and grandfather kept house.

Aunt Catherine was living in Webster also, but in a little house not far from grandfather.

Martin was also working in the same mill. Our father got a job in Slater's Cotton Mill at 70c per day, and he was very much discouraged at the small wage, and it was 30c less than he was making forging gun barrels in Belgium. He heard of a wire mill in Worcester which was run by a man who was French or talked French, so in the Spring of 1879, he walked to Worcester and went to that mill which was then Washburn and Macn and he secured a job from Mr. MOEN who was the one who talked French, and they offered him \$1.75 per day, drilling dies through which they drew the wire, he was very pleased getting that job, so we moved to Worcester in the Spring, about May or June and set-up housekeeping there.

The first place we moved to in Worcester, was a tenement block full of Irish, on a street back of the Rural Cemetery which is located between Grove St. and Prescott St., and the street we lived on was the one in the back which connected both streets.

Well, those days we used to do quite a lot of singing in French, and we used our little singing book, we used in school in Belgium, of which I sent you one a couple of years ago; one song we sang was: "Quoi pour toujours heureux, Oui, pour toujours heureux" which we repeated, and the Irish kids used to come to our windows and sing "Quoi pu a put a put" "Oui put a put a put" and besides they used to put tic tacs on our windows, we did not stay there long, we moved on Prescott place near the RR track, and from there we moved to Pink st., and father married a woman by the name of SULLII-WI, and she stayed just one week. One Saturday night we were singing, and evidently she did not like our singing either, so she left and we never saw her again.

From Pink street we moved on John St., not far from there, then we moved downtown on Mechanic St. near the RR. Father and Mr. MAUHIN used to go out together a lot, and were

always arguing together, on what I don't know, but they were fairly good friends, and I used to see them coming down the street for quite a distance, and they were arguing and swing their arms and stop in the middle of the sidewalk, and gesture and talk, and look at each other, they used to stop about four or five times before they reached the house. From there we moved on Dix St., then Home St.

When we lived on Mechanic St., Father got interested in importing gun-barrels, and he made his first trip to Belgium when we lived on John St., when he came back home I had outgrown all my clothes, my pants were half way to my knees, he hardly knew me as he was away for three months, from then I kept growing, and soon outgrew Martin, who did not like it too well. The MAUHIN family must have been in this country before anyone else that I knew, because Mr. MAUHIN could speak fairly good English, and he could also read and write it, and he had no broke (brogue) either.

Mrs. MAUHIN had a large goitre (goiter) in front of her neck, and she died of it, Julius also had one, and he died of it about 18 or 20 years ago. They also had a younger daughter who died before we came to this country. Miss Brown tried to make a match between Pauline and uncle Andrew, but it did not succeed. John PICRAUX proposed to Pauline, and our sister Elisabeth, but neither one accepted, and he finally married his cousin who also lived near the PICRAUX, their name was NOIRFALISE, and we lived side of the man's brother in Belgium when we left there. The PICRAUX went out West to Nebraska, and I understand they succeeded very well. The NOEL family also came to live in Worcester on Ellsworth St., and while there our aunt Marianne came there, and lived with them sometime, and gave birth to Bertha FUYAT at the same time or about the same time that Paul NOEL was born, when I was about 15 or 16 years old, so they were about the same age. The last place we lived in Nessonvaux (Belgium) before coming to this country was in an alley way, and right in front of the door, there was a water fountain that flowed from a spring, it In a steep hill. Under us was a forge (iron-works), where men made flat irons, the building was on a side hill, and their place was down below us near the water, and I remember there was a hole in the floor, and I used to pour water through the hole in the floor and the men used to stick a red hot iron through the floor. In Worcester, I went to school only when I was obliged to, so as to cover the law, and after I was 14 years old I did not go any more, so went to work steady. I also remember going to school, and working also in Webster, there I worked on a mule spinner, that went back and forth, and we have to piece up the broken threads of wool. I also worked nights boring gun-barrels in Belgium.

The street we lived on when we first went to Worcester was 29 North St. In 1680 we lived at 15 Prescott Place. In

1881, 1882, and 1883 we lived at 220 Mechanic St., 1884 36 Dix St, 1885 22 Home St, all in Worcester, Massachusetts. Father and Mother were married on the 17th of May 1862 at the Protestant Church in Nessonvaux, and also at the town of Cornesse they were married in a civil ceremony, which is obligatory in Belgium. Mother lived in Cornesse. Martin and I were baptized in the protestant church at Nessonvaux, Martin the 7th of December 1862, and I on January 28, 1866. Uncle Jacques RIGA was a member of the consistory of the protestant church in 1864. The consistory is the governing body of the Presbyterian church. When we were in Nessonvaux the men of the church sat on one side, and the women on the other. The records I giye you above are all authentic and signed F. DOUTRE8~4DE=pastor of the church at the time.

The FUYAT families. Gilles FUYAT Is the oldest of two brothers, the other one is Martin FUYAT. Gilles FUYAT had two sons, the oldest married Aunt Marianne, and they had four children, Elisabeth who had a crippled arm, then came Gilles, and Bertha. Elisabeth died some years ago, the boy Gilles went away and never returned, and Bertha married a man who was not much good, so they were divorced and she married Jesse GRAY, who is a very bright man and holds a fine position in the Insurance Co. of Providence and Boston, he probably receives #25.000 per year, and she spends her summer In Florida and has done so for 18 or more years. The other Martin, was the youngest of the two, and he had one son and one daughter, and they have always lived in Providence, I never knew them very much.

Gilles Is the grandfather of Aunt Marianne's children, he brought up Bertha, neither of his two sons ever amounted to anything and they did not bring up their families. The two FUYATs wire nephews of our grandfather PIROTTE, and Uncle Andrew's cousins. Gilles was a very fine designer in the silk mill and made good money. His wife was called Melie In Walloon which means Emely, she was a short fat woman, I don't know where the relation came, whether it was through one of grandfather's brothers or through the female side. When the NOELs moved here in the 80s, they lived near the B&t4 RR, off Cypress St., and Aunt Marianne came here to visit Aunt Katy, and she caught pneumonia and was sick there for six months. NOEL at that time wasn't working he thought the children should support him.

About the school in Belgium. Our teacher was Joseph LEJEUNE, and was a fine teacher, but both hands were deformed, but he could write fine, as good as I ever see anyone do it. He was fine on teaching us music, we knew all the songs In the book of which you have a copy. He could also came back of us, and snap a pencil on our ears, he was expert on that. There was no piano or organ to sing by, but that did not phase him any! I left school at 10 1/2 years old, I thought I knew enough, and no one to make me go to school.

When we moved to Worcester, we attended the services at The Union church on Front St. opposite the common. This church was made out of wood, and the minister was Rev. George H. GOULD, D.D. He was a man quite along in years. Not long after we arrived in Worcester, the church was torned down and replaced by a new church made out of brick, the ground floor was the vestry, and the church proper was above, and not long after the minister resigned, and Rev. Henry A. STIMSON, D.D. was the new minister, and he was uncle to Henry L. STIMSON, Secretary of State under HOOVER. I don't know just how we happened to go to that church, but I think that it was Mr. MOEN's invitation to our father. Father also got acquainted with some French protestants, BURDETTE, COTE, and others and they had services in French In the chapel of the Main St. Baptist church, and we also attended there afternoons when they held their services on Sunday. I shall always remember that chapel because it had painted on the wall back of the pulpit ³Lo I am with you always. As the mission was a Baptist mission, there were more or less arguments on the Baptism methods, immersion or sprinkling and when we lived on Mechanic St., the Cong. Home Mission started a mission In a room upstairs on Front St., and we attended there, Rev. Jean SYVRET was the minister, and a very able preacher in French or English, and I remember him as a good singer, and one of his favorite gospel hymn wasp My Father is rich in houses and lands, He holdest the wealth of the world in his hands and he translated that hymn in French, Mon Pere est tres riche en maisons et biens and the Chorus was Je suis l'enfant du Roi, l'enfant du Roi, et Jesus mon Sauveur, je suis l'enfant du Roi. This Mr. SYVRET also started the mission in Springfield, and this the way we happened to move here, and father used to come to Springfield and preach on Sundays when they could not get a regular Minister. I also remember Mr. MILLETTE visiting us at 22 Home St., I guess I have written enough of past history.

What emerges from this partial autobiography by Joseph Gilles RIGA, is the picture of a gentleman with a sharp mind, who though he quitted school at an early age, could write English and French almost flawlessly. He was deeply religious, had a sense of-humor and above all, a deep interest in his family and his Belgian roots. There is a happy ending (or shall I say beginning?) for Joseph Gilles RIGA 's descendants; responding to Bradford RIGA's wish to find the whereabouts of his grandfather's former Belgian correspondents, Jacques DETRO from Liege, found a RIGA relative and former correspondent of Joseph Gilles - this led to trans-Atlantic phone calls and many happy family reunions.

The Sidney Daily News, Monday, April 3, 1983

Ancestors are more than names for woman

As she follows genealogy interests

By Margie Wuebke

VERSAILLES — Ruth Schieitz considers her ancestors more than names on a piece of paper. After years of genealogy research, they are friends who encountered happiness as well as heartache in another era.

"I find myself wondering about the hardships they faced," she says. "The records indicate that many women died at a young age of lung disorders, most likely tuberculosis. Some died in childbirth and others a short time later.

"It was not unusual for a young woman to marry, have a baby or two and die before reaching middle age. Death came at an early age centuries ago."

Men also faced challenges. One ancestor suffered a disabling injury shortly before he was to marry and set sail for America. He allowed his brother to marry the girl and take her across the ocean. After recovering, the ancestor married his brother's former girlfriend and they also headed to a new homestead in America.

Mrs. Schieitz, a retired Versailles guest teacher and counselor, has identified at least 177 ancestors in her family and 141 in her husband's family, for a total of 318. Some of the dates go back as far as the 1600s.

Center of research

"Most of my research centers on Belgium, Germany and the Alsace and Lorraine areas of France," she says. "Unless you are descended from royalty, it is almost impossible to go back any further than the early 1600s."

The Council of Trent in 1563 ordered the keeping of baptism and marriage records to be able to identify members. For some reason the records do not go back that far. Many records were apparently destroyed during the Thirty Years War (1618 to 1648). Death records were kept beginning around 1700.

"If you have English, Scots and Irish ancestors, you cannot go further back in time," she says. "The records are there if you have the determination and perseverance to look for them."

Interest grows

Mrs. Schieitz, the former Ruth Wagner of Mercer County, became actively involved in genealogy in 1976, 10 years before she retired. However, the seeds of interest were planted long ago during childhood. She remembers her parents talking about their ancestors as well as other relatives.

"My family always visited relatives," she says. "Every Sunday was visiting day. When my uncle came from Michigan for a visit, all the other aunts and uncles and their families would come for a reunion of sorts. Lots of stories were told during these times.

"It was easy for me to get started because I knew who my ancestors were here in the United States. The earliest one came in 1833. Thanks to this knowledge, I did not have to spend a lot of time in local libraries like other beginners. I started collecting information from my aunt and I went on from there."

Dayton visits

Thanks to members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, genealogists like Mrs. Schieitz have a wealth of information to study.

"The Mormons are obligated to trace their ancestry for at least four generations," she explains. "It is part of their religious obligation. Mormons are required to spend one and one-half years doing mission work. In addition to seeking converts, they also spend time collecting and microfilming old birth, marriage and death records as well as other documents.

"All the records they extract are included on the International Genealogy Index. This is the complete record of all the documents they have microfilmed in countries throughout the world. If you don't know where your ancestor came from, look for him at the Family History Library run by the Mormons. The library has millions and millions of records as well as trained volunteers who are willing to help the public."

The Mormons have churches in major cities throughout the country and at least one room in each of these locations is dedicated to library

purposes. Mrs. Schieitz found the Mormon Library on Shiloh Springs Road in Dayton to be a valuable source of information. She has made 60 trips to the facility over the years, as well as seven trips to the main complex in Salt Lake City, Utah. There have been three trips to Europe, with another one planned later this year.

"My husband (George) doesn't mind making the trips, but he dislikes doing any kind of research," she admits with a chuckle. "He enjoys talking to the Mormon volunteers on Temple Square. He even got an invitation to eat lunch one day at Brigham Young's house. These invitations are usually reserved for Mormons in good standing."

Read at leisure

Mrs. Schieitz frequently rents microfilm records at the Dayton facility.

"The words were all in German and I couldn't translate more than a word or two. I cried out of sheer frustration.

I knew there was important genealogy information on the roll and I couldn't make out much of anything."

She enrolled in a German course at Edison State Community College in Piquette. Over the years she has also learned to read and translate French as well as Latin.

"Don't be afraid of foreign languages," she warns novices. "You can always pick out names and the dates are usually written in numbers. You learn with time and practice."

Her growing interest in genealogy has led to three books—The Reinhart Family Tree, The May-Homan Family Tree and The Diller-Diggs Family Tree. The untimely death of her sister, Rita Timmerman of Fort Loramie, interrupted work on the May-Homan book for a time in 1982.

"Rita helped me so much and did all my typing," Mrs. Schieitz says. "I lost my enthusiasm for a time. Then I purchased a computer and it took me awhile to learn how to operate it properly. Gradually my enthusiasm returned."

Publishing genealogy books is not as profitable as some people might think. Mrs. Schieltz estimates it will take sales of more than 40 more books to reach the "break even" point on the Diller-Biggs book. She is already contemplating publication of a book on the BARGA Family. She plans to do the necessary research during her next European trip to the archives in Bamberg, Bavaria and the Luxembourg Province of Belgium. Mrs. Schieltz, who is serving a third term as president of the Darke County Genealogical Society, finds genealogy absorbing and rewarding work. There is always a chance some new tidbit of family history will be found. She was amazed to learn that her great-great-grandparents were married in the same Belgian church as her husband's great-grandparents.

"I am hoping my four children discover how interesting genealogy can be," she says. After the movie 'Roots' came along, everybody got into genealogy and tracing family trees.

"Genealogy is never finished. The things you learn only sharpen your interest in learning more. Ancestors become more than a name or an old picture on the wall. They become friends."

SOMETHING TO PONDER ABOUT ...

.BELGIAN?.. .AMERICAN'?-. .PLURAL IDENTITY?..

A few months ago, Gerald MARZORATI, the well known journalist, interviewing Salman RUSHDIE, the famous author of "The Satanic Verses" wrote: I remember what he had told me just before I left his house that day in London:

"In writing The Satanic Verses, I think I was writing for the first time from the whole of myself. The English part, the Indian part. The part of me that loves London and the part of me that loves Bombay. And at my typewriter, alone, I could indulge in that.

But most of the time people will ask me - will ask anyone like me - are you Indian? Pakistani? English?"

What is being expressed is a discomfort with a plural identity. And what I am saying to you - and saying in the novel - is that we have got to come to terms with this.

We are increasingly becoming a world of migrants, made up of bits and fragments from here, there. We are here. And we have never really left anywhere we have been

GENEALOGIE SANS FRONTIERES

ZONDER GRENZEN

OHNE GRENZEN

In English: GENEALOGY WITHOUT BORDERS

is the name of the newsletter published by a new International "THREE BORDER" Collaboration. The newsletter is the result of this collaboration to help genealogists in the three-language triangle formed by Belgian Limburg and Dutch Limburg - Liege, Belgium - and Aachen, Germany. The collaborating genealogical society for Germany is: Die Westdeutsche Gesellschaft fuer Familienkunde, Bezirksgruppe Aachen. For Liege, Belgium: Service de Centralisation des Etudes Genealogiques et Demographiques de Belgique, section Liegeoise, and for the provinces of Limburg: Vlaamse Vereniging voor Familiekunde, afdeling Limburg Belgium, and: Sectie Genealogie van het Limburgs Geschied- and Oudheidkundig Genootschap, Nederlands Limburg.

This newsletter is published four times a year in French, Flemish and German. Editor is H. GEORGES SAUVAGE, route de Battice 51, B-4822 Verviers (Petit Rechain), Belgium.

Since last month, we became members of their organization, and will transmit to them any queries or problems that our members may have in this geographical area.

The Wisconsin Corner

To list all of the Belgians who came to Wisconsin would require a very large volume. A perusal of the 1850 Census for Brown County shows only two Belgians living here. Both were brewers; neither was a Brown County resident in 1860. The 1860 Census does, however, list a substantial number of Belgians, especially in the townships of Green Bay, Scott, Preble, and Humboldt.

The first group to arrive in this area, as mentioned in the previous issue of "Belgian Laces", came from the environs of Grez-Doiceau in 1853. They were:

1. Lambert BODART, his wife Marie Celestine WOLPUT and daughter, Marie Euphrasie, and Lambert's mother, Jeanne LAMBEAU, a widow, from Gastuche;
2. Etienne DETIENNE, his wife, Therese, and two children, Jean Philippe and Josephine, from Biez;
3. Jean Baptiste DETIENNE, single, from Biez;
4. Jean Joseph DOYEN, his wife Marie Antoinette MOUREAU and five children, Hubert, Jean', Theresa, Josephine, and Francois, from Haze;
5. Louis GASTUCHE, single;
6. Jean Francois HANNON, his wife Jeanne Melanie BOUCHER, and four children, Joseph, Adele, David, and Francois, from Bonlez;
7. Philippe HANNON, his wife Anne Joseph EVRARD, and three children, Eleanore, Jean Baptiste, and Marie Barbe;
8. Joseph HAULOTTE, single;
9. Guillaume HORKMANS, his wife Theresa, and daughter, Virginia, from the Flemish village of Weert-Saint Georges;
10. Joseph Jacques HUISOENS, his brother Joseph Desire, his sister, Maria;
11. Jean Joseph JOSSART, single, from Royanne;
12. Jean Baptiste MARICQ, his wife Hortense DENIS, and four children, Philomene, Gragoire, Joseph, and Jean Francois;
13. Joseph MARTIN, his wife, Henrietta BASSINE, and six children, Xavier, Desire, Eleanore, Alexandre, Elie, and Celina;
14. Adrien MASSY, single;
15. Jean Baptiste MASSY, his wife Anna GASTUCHE, and three children, Clement, Polydore, and Theresa Marie;
16. Joseph MOREAU, his wife Anne RALET, and two daughters, Marie-Joseph and Claire;
17. Benoni NELIS, single;
18. Martin PAQUES, his wife Marie Theresa RALET, and four children, Antoine, Anne, Alphonse, and Xavier;
19. Constant Francois PETINIOT, widower and son Constant;

20. Gaspart Joseph RENGLLET, his wife Marie Philippine, and two children, Gerard and Marie-Josephe;
21. Jean-Baptiète SWILLE, his wife Elisabeth VAN DRIESS, and five children, Melanie, Marie, Leonie, Gille, and Louis; and
22. Pierre VANDENBOSCH, single, Flemish, from Weert-Saint Georges.

Most stories written about the Belgian pioneers relate that there were "9 or 10 families". The above list, authenticated by research of the passenger list of the bark, "Quinnebaug", and by research in the archives at Grez-Doiceau, show that there were indeed more than that. It is thought that these older stories were derived from the account of Xavier Martin published in 1895 in the Wisconsin Historical Collections (Vol. XIII, pp. 375-396). At the time, Mr. Martin had been in this country for more than 40 years and, no doubt, had forgotten the names of everyone who had sailed from Belgium on the "Quinnebaug". That is quite understandable!

Perhaps in future issues we will be able to furnish the names of people coming from other villages in Belgium. While our concern is mainly with settlers in northeastern Wisconsin, sometimes a village departure hut will assist others in finding their ancestors. It is our desire to help wherever we can. Good luck with your research!

From July 1 to July 19, there will be 30 visitors from Belgium in the Brown/Door/Kewaunee area of Wisconsin. Biennial exchange visits between the Wallonie-Wisconsin 'Society of Namur, Belgium, and the Peninsula Belgian-American Club of Namur, Wisconsin, have been taking place since 1974. People on both sides of the ocean have found previously unknown cousins and many have formed fast friendships with others of common interest---their Belgian heritage. It is hoped that this exchange can continue for many years I

Other Belgian visitors to this reporter's house have been M/Mme. Bernard GEENEN-DELFORGE, originally from L'Eglise and Genval, who are involved with the French teaching program in Louisiana; and Francois Bury, Chatelet, who was an 88-89 exchange student in Waukesha, Wis.

Still available---FROM GREZ-DOICEAU TO WISCONSIN, by Mary Ann Defnet, Jean Ducat, Thierry Eggerickx, and Michel Poulain; 1986; 6x9, soft cover, 175 pp. Describes conditions in Belgium which led to the mass emigration of the 1850's; contains genealogical information on the families from Grez-Doiceau. with maps, graphs, and photos. Price, \$14.00 postpaid. Order from Mrs. Mary Ann Defnet, 253 Little Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301.

A LARGE BELGIAN FAMILY IN BAKER OREGON.
BRUNO and SYBILLA DE ROEST.

Bruno DE ROEST was a Belgian immigrant who came to Baker county at the turn of the Century. He was born on the 20th of April 1884, to Isidore De Roest and Julie Lambert De Roast in Aalter, Belgium. He had three sisters and three brothers. He came to Baker to rejoin two of his brothers, Philemon and Theophiel, who had settled in the South part of town and he thought it was a good opportunity to start his new life in this small busy town. After working some years at the sawmill and saving enough money, Bruno went back to Belgium where he married his sweetheart, Sybilla LANKRIET, in Ruiselede, Doornkerke. Sybilla was born in 1894 in Antwerp to Pol LANKRIET and Louise LA BAT. She had three sisters and one brother, three half brothers and six half sisters. Bruno and Sybilla came back to Baker, and settled on a farm they had bought across the river from the Oregon Lumber Company Sawmill in South Baker.

They raised nine children: six sons and three daughters. Palma-Ann (ROUSE) born 1913. Germaine (ROUSE) born 1915. Hector Joseph born 1918. Mary La Ree (DE MAY) born in 1920. Andrew John born 1922. Francis Edgar born 1925. Leon Philemon born 1928. Joseph Marcel born 1929. Donald Richard born 1932. The whole family worked on the farm. They had milk cows, pigs and horses.

During the prohibition years, Bruno and Sybilla made home brew (beer). The beer was made in large quantities and stored in a secret hiding place under the floor in their cow barn. Many prominent Bakerites of the time drank the Belgian home brew. There was also a dance hall across the highway from their farm where people liked to go.

Bruno and Sybilla worked very hard on their farm to support their family. Bruno died in a tragic tractor accident on his farm in June 1957. After his death Sybilla sold the farm and lived alone in a new little house on a hill, which was part of her ranch land. The house was built by her sons who are builders. She passed away in 1976. They had thirty-seven grand-children and sixty five great-grand-children.

More about this large family in the next issue.

DID YOU KNOW ?

BELGIUM is geographically, politically, militarily and economically of considerable significance to the Western world.

As the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) and the European Community (EC), Belgium is at the political heart of Europe.

More than 1.300 US companies have offices or plants there.

Highly industrialized, Belgium is among the "TOP 10 "nations in overall world trade.

FROM AND TO OUR MEMBERS.

003. MICHELINE GAUDETTE spent a week in Washington, lately, and found the date of arrival in New-York of Jean DUCAT's ancestor (his 2gg father). She didn't find the state they were heading for, but perhaps some members may recognize the names of the DUCAT family's traveling companions.

Antoine DUCAT left Petit Rosiere, Belgium on 28 Aug. 1858, with his second wife, Clementine SALMON, their two children Pauline and Adelaide, and Jules, a son from his first marriage. Leaving with them were Jeanne BUIKENS and Francois SALMON. The New York passenger list does not indicate the State they were heading for. However the Ohio 1880 Census Soundex, lists a Anthony DUCATT living in Wood Co., Portage Twp. and a Julius DUCAT living in the same county, but in Liberty Twp.

Any connections between Antoine DUCAT and Anthony DUCATT ? And between Jules DUCAT and Julius DUCAT of Ohio.

Arrived on the Ship MARY GLOVER, in New York, 23rd Oct. 1858, coming from Antwerp:

Frederick TOUSSAINT, 28	
Francois LOGE?, 21	Guillamie KOLNER, 10 mths,
Antoine DUCAT, 54,	Fredrick WAGNER, 29,
Clementine SALMON, 43,	Agnes SCHMITZ, 29,
Jules DUCAT, 19,	Christian MULLER, 50,
	Johan George MIEIR, 19,
	Joseph SCHEFFENS,
Pauline DUCAT, 17	Augustine SCHEFFENS, 21,
Adelaide DUCAT, 15,	Adolph Gustav VANHUTEN?, 49
Francois SALMON, 22,	Ferdinand VANH.....? 12,
Jeannette BENKINS, 55	Gustave, 14 ; Leon, 10; Maria, 8
Henri NEHREN, 34	H.F. WOOD,
Casphir KOLNER, 42,	Mrs. H.F. WOOD, Richard
Maria BRUMER, 40,	
Cornelia de WITHSEWANT ?, 34, first cabin	

The document declares them all as coming from Germany? except the VANHUTEN coming from Belgium.

020. AUDREY DU PUIS is one of the lucky persons working at the Family History Center in Independence, MO. She is really enjoying this volunteer work, helping others in their researches and doing her own

Her Grandparents emigrated to America in 1870, bringing along her mother who was only three months old at the time. They came from Seraing, Liege and moved to Kansas where the family grew up. Her Mother Marie-Francoise VAN GAMPELAER met her father in middle school, and they married many years later. Her name was americanized to Mary-Frances VAN GAMPOLARD. Audrey was the youngest of seven children and is a mother, grand'mother and great'grand'mother. Congratulations to you, Audrey, may every single day be a joyous one for you I

025. GEORGES JANSEN from Richland Washington, called me a few weeks ago, and later mailed me' a very interesting paper about the "Original places of residence in Holland, Belgium and Germany of the Pioneer new Netherland settlers", (New York) between the years 1620 and 1664.

(I will come back to this in our next issue of B.L. as it will take me a certain time to study and compare with other sources).

027. MARY-ANN DEFNET, is offering to help people of the Green Bay Area. She as an extensive documentation and reference material.

049. MARGARITA DELEROOK VILLA is still searching for her grand'father Victor Henry DELEROOCK (Delbroek, Delbroeck, Deibrueck) b. 19 Feb. 1872 in Belgium, but where ?. M. 4 Sept.1895 Santa Barbara. D. 5 Dec. 1941 Santa Barbara. He was the son of Joseph arid Margaret.

050. DOROTHY LUTOMSKI who was doing research in Wisconsin for Father Jean Ducat, is the editor for the Bay Area Genealogical Society in Green Bay (B.A.G.S.). She visited Belgium many times, where she has relatives. She said:" I am both Walloon and Flemish , if such a thing is admissible, my father was BINON and my mother LURQUIN". (Note from the editor: Why wouldn't that be admissible, I know many people who can say the same. Love does not look at politics language or frontiers. My parents also where Flemish and Walloon and we have thany other Belgian members in the same case). Dorothy wrote that she is also available to translate French documents into English.

051. IRENE HANSON has been working for a long time at her genealogy, and traced most of her people up to the 1600's, in Canada, France and Belgium. She writes " My research has delighted my elderly relatives, and my own Mom especially- she is 84 but her mind is very clear". Irene is working now on her husband's side - they came from Norway - and the changes of names from Erickson to all kind of -son- up to Hanson, was very confusing, but she is getting there and made him very happy when she discovered the names of his grand'parents and great'grand' parents, that he didn't even know.

054. MARGARET WENTE is an other lucky one who volunteers her time at the F.H.C. in Rochester although not a Mormon. She likes to help others in their research , and is very appreciated by her coworkers and the researchers. She also does a lot of research on her own lines, finished the DELVEAUX line (Grez Doiceau) and send the completed documents to Salt Lake to be included in their files. She is now working on the DANDOIS line, hoping to have it finished by the end of the year, and will then be working on the IVRARD line. Her husband's family originated in Germany in the area of Bremen.

063. BARBARA VAN DE PETE needs help to locate Pieter VAN DE(R) PUTTE who came in the U.S. around 1870. He married Emilie PECOR from Lorraine, who had been send to the U.S. after the death of

her parents, to live with an aunt (name unknown). Pieter and Emilie where probably married in Illinois (where?) and had three children born there. Four more where born in Kansas, and Barbara has these records. Pieter was born in Belgium 2 Sept 1837 or 1844 ? He filed petition for naturalization in 1880, and this document says he was 44 years old. They did not speak nor write English at the time, so a mistake in the date could be possible. They were Catholics. Could some of our members help? especially in Illinois!

067. BOB and MARGARET KIRKPATRICK announce that her cousin, MICHEL BOUSSAUW, died in Melle, Belgium, on 5 Feb. 1989 and was buried on 11 Feb in the churchyard of St Amandsberg. Born 27 May 1907 in Zwevezele, Married 4 Nov 1932 in Roeselaere to Gilberta Juliana LASOEN who preceded him in Death. He was very helpful to extend some of Margaret's lines in Belgium. (Note from the editor: I know this area very well, as I went to school by the Josephites in Melle, and lived in St Amandsberg a big part of my youth . Some of my ancestors are burned in the same cemetery).

073. KAIGARET DE LEURERE found a DE LEURERE Belgian History teacher, and wanted to visit her, but did not dare to as her French and the teacher's English were inadequate. In between she received some photocopies of documents from Salt Lake, from Ztilzeke and Schorisse and is sending them here to have them translated; At your service Margaret.

083. RUTH SCHIELTZ from Ohio is a very successful researcher: as a retired Versailles schoolteacher and counselor, she has identified 177 ancestors in her family and 141 in her husband's family, for a total of 318. Some of the dates go back as far as the 1600s. She wrote three very interesting books about her family : THE REINHART FAMILY TREE, THE MAY-HOMAN FAMILY TREE and THE DILLER-BIGGS FAMILY TREE and is now considering publishing a book about the BARGA family. Later this year, she is going to Europe, planning to work in some of the archives in Luxemburg. Ruth is also the President of the Darke County Genealogical Society. A very interesting article about her appeared in THE SIDNEY DAILY NEWS on the 3rd of April 1989, and is reproduced on page ... Ruth, you are really an inspiration for all of us. Keep up the good work, and God bless you.

117. NANCY WYBO COOPER is another very successful resarcher from Michigan. In the last three years, she finished her research on the VAN DE PONTSEELE, FEIGNART, VAN TRIMPONT and VANDREUSEGHEM family trees as well as the CASIER and DECANT. She is currently working on the DE NOLF, WARNEZ, DE RIEMAEKER, DE COSTER, and on the PARMENTIER family. She also provided information on the American branch of the WYBO's to a distant cousin of hers, Roger WYBO from Chaudfontaine, Belgium, who published a very extensive work about his family.

119. PAT PETTIT; you will have to be patient Pat, we will

publish the list of members in the next issue, together with the members interests. I hope that you still have the older issues with the file lists established by Micheline, (see Names added to our File, in the different newsletters) we will review them and add new names. If you have names you want us to check for you, send them in, we will do our best to help you.

122. MARIE MOORE is looking forward to receive the BELGIAN LACES again... She loves laces and will never forget that in 1934 her mother took her and her sister to the Chicago World's fair to watch the lace making by Belgian women. The finest, most valued and most imitated in the world. Marie is working on the HAIBE family from Namur, Belgium.

124. CHARLYNNE FALCONER asks if the population registers from Belgium are on microfilm? I would say most of the existing Church and Civil registration records have been copied. This means birth and baptismal records, marriage records, and death or burial records, up to about 1880. Depending on the area, they are most complete, some population registers are also available on microfilms. You will have to check with your local F.H.C. for the films you need. Information needed includes: Names, City, Parish and approximate date of event, and what ever else you have as information.

133. LORRAINE NAZE has been working for many years on research for the Belgian American Heritage Association (Jean Ducat). She as done extensive research on the Belgians in Minnesota, and has a lot of information about the Belgian Colonies in Minnesota, we may expect an article from her in our next newsletter. She is a hardy researcher. Her husband Glen's second great grand father, Amand NAZE, with his wife and son Prosper (Glen's great grand father) with wife and son came to Brussels, WI, in 1856 from Grand Leez, Belgium, and later moved to Montpellier, North Dakota in 1884. Their son Jules, who was married to Lucy RUBENS, (Glen's grandparents), also moved to Montpellier, with several other families from Wisconsin.

137. VERNAL DE ROOST nee DE VOS, of Green Bay WI, is still looking for her ancestors. I will get in direct contact with you shortly Vernal, and we will try to get you on the right line.

141. KEN and ELSIE COBURN from Vanderhoof British Columbia Canada, have edited " THE BONME FAMILY 900K " , a large book of 250 pages, with text, forms and pictures, all very clear and very well documented. They write: This is our book that we put together in 1987 when I was waiting for a heart operation. This is the second edition, and since we have put it together we have received a lot more information, we figure another fifty pages, but it is to find time now to get it completed. The name index alone comprises 21 pages of about 100 names each... In short a fantastic and beautiful work. Congratulations Ken and Elsie, you make us really jealous...

143. ROGER PAEPS from St Joris-Weert, Belgium, wrote to let us know that **BELGIAN LACES** and especially MICHELINE were for him always a real, help in his research of the emigrants to the States coming from the areas of St Joris-Weert, Oud-Heverlee, Vaalbeek, Blanden and Haasrode between the years 1853 to 1912. All archives from St Joris Weert were destroyed when the City Hall burned in 1914. Ge kunt gerust op ons rekenen Roger, juist ala in het verleden.

144. DONALD ROGIER

169. Neil HERALY

XYZ. and many others, are interested in getting whole sets of back issues of the Belgian Laces...because they missed so much before becoming members. I regret to inform you that besides the complete set that we, possess, there are but very few issues available. This does not mean that we can not reproduce complete sets, about 550 pages of material in 37 issues.

If you are interested, please send us a letter with a list of the issues or years wanted and join a check of \$.2.50 per issue ordered, \$.10.00 per year, or \$. 90.00 for the whole set. We will do our best to fill out your order promptly.

162. FAYE WOOD did send us her large 15 generations pedigree chart, and we started putting it in the computer, together with other charts that we received from our members. It is a long work and we hope to be able to finish it by the end of this year. In between as ye wrote to 119, Pat PETTITT, patience please!...

167. ELWOOD and MILDRED HAUREZ HAMICK, are leaving for Europe on the 21st of June. She wrote, " We will be in Belgium 5 to 7 weeks, and tour the rest of the time". Mildred is so proud to be a Belgian... but also so proud to be an American. " My parents have made me twice blessed, she said, an American and a Belgian, and I am proud of both".... Have a good trip Mildred and Elwood, and enjoy your stay in our good old Motherland !

166. BOB DEGENEFFE, 2315, Cayuga Rd, Niskayuna, N.Y. 12309 would appreciate receiving information about the town of JENEFFE (en Hesbaye), near Liege. Would any one know of a history from the years 1300 to about 1700 AD?

194. GEORGES SAUVAGE, 51, Route de Battice, B-4822 Verviers

(Petit Rechain) Belgium is the editor of GENEALOGY WITHOUT BORDER , as you have read on page 26. Congratulation Georges, for a very informative and interesting bulletin. See also your query on page 33.

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.

89/57. P.M. VAUGEOIS, 17, Madonna Drive, St. Albert, Alberta Canada, T8N 109, is searching., for all MISSIAEN and related, originally from Passendale, Belgium.

89/58. Gerard BLEYAERT from Brugge, Belgium, is interested in finding the descendants of his grand-uncle Omer VREUGDE, born ca. 1870, son of Martin VREUGDE and Marie Elisabeth THYS. Omer emigrated to the U.S. or Canada toward the end of the 19th century. They had at least six children : Ruby, Hilda, Charles, Olive, Emilie, and Addie. Pleasesend info, to Micheline Gaudette.

89/59. Marcel GILLES from Gembloux, Belgium, is searching for the descendants of Justinne (LAMBEAUX) GONZE, who was born in Grand-Leez, Belgium, 25 June 1872. She emigrated to the U.S. around **1892**. She and her husband had four children. Please send info to Micheline Gaudette.

89/60. Georges SAUVAGE, 51, Route de Battice, B-4822 Verviers- C Petit Rechain) Belgium, needs help from our members. Georges is looking for the whereabouts of the family or descendants of his aunt JEANNE BEBRONNE. She left Belgium for the U.S. around 1900, came to Astoria, Long Island, where she joined her uncle and aunt STIEFEL - **BEBRONNE**, who had seven children. Jeanne married a certain RALEIGH or REILICII and had six children, names unknown. All contacts where lost during the first world war. Georges in possession of her last letter dated 12 April 1907, with as return address: 220, Goodrich Strept, Astoria, Long Island, New York.

If you have any information on these persons, please write to the given address or to the editor : Pierre L. INOHELS. We will transmit your answers. Thank You
The next B3LGIAN LACES will be forthcoming Kid September. Deadline for submission of articles, notes, queries, suggestions. etc, by AUGUST 20th, 1989, please I Thank You
I

- Nous acceptons toutes correspondances et demandes de renseignements en Francais, mais les articles devraient etre ecrits en Anglais.
- Wy accepteren alle briefwisseliflg en vragen om inlichtingen in hat Nederlands, maar alle artikels zouden in het Engels moeten ziin.
- Wir nehmen alle KorrespondenZ und Fragen auf Deutsch an, aber Berichte sollten auf Englisch geschrieben sein.

