

Belgian Laces

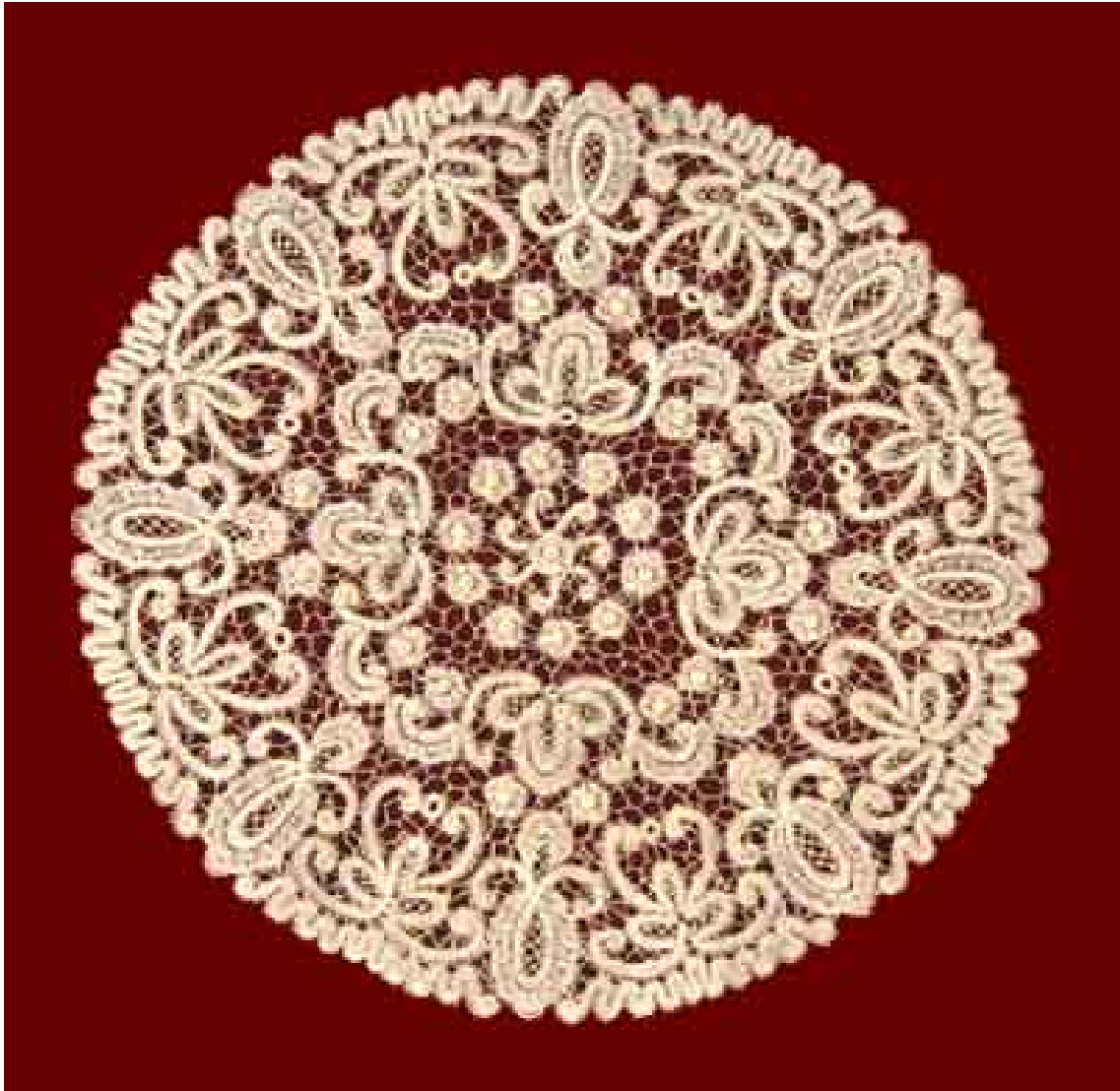


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Dear Members,

No, we didn't move, only our address has changed, because the County decided to change the name of the street, and the number of our house and office. Please take note of this change.

Following the visit of Father Jean Ducat to the States in late March and early April this year, I received a lot of material that I want to share with you. This is the reason why this edition contains not only a report of Jean Ducat's trip and visits to the glass industries created by Walloons, but also the first part of an excellent series of articles by Jean Ducat. His research centered especially on the Walloon emigration in the U.S. On page 46 you will find two interesting copies of the first seals of the State of New York and as well as of the city of New York. The first is inscribed SIGILLUM NOVI BELGI!" or "Seal of New Belgium", the latter "SIGILLUM ANSTELLODAMENSIS IN NOVO BELGIO" or Seal of "Amsterdam in New Belgium". Did you know that? Did you realize that our forefathers left such deep tracks in the birth and the development of our great nation? Did you realize that even today, and according to the 1980 Census, 36,487 residents of the U.S. were born in Belgium? (see report page 51). Next year at this time, Charleroi, Pennsylvania will be celebrating its Centennial. At this occasion, a large delegation from Charleroi and from Jumet, Belgium will be guest of the city, and will be exchanging documents and souvenirs. Father Jean Ducat will be there with a representation from The Belgian Researchers and the Belgian American Heritage.

We received a few books and some documentation for our library, we will talk about this in the next edition. Thanks to all of you who are helping in the creation of our Library. Creating a Data Bank is the best way to have a good source of documentation for our members.

Sincerely,

Pierre L. Inghels, editor.

FOLLOWING THE WALLOON GLASS MAKERS AND COAL MINERS
IN THE UNITED STATES
by Jean Ducat.

From March 27 until April 8, 1989, Roger DARDENNE and Jean DUCAT, both delegates from The BELGIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE, effectuated a mission of research, consultation and fraternization with hundreds of Americans, descendents of Walloon pioneers living in the States of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Their two-week journey of about 1,900 miles was a real success, without fail thanks to the very competent help from Roger, functioning not only as a guide, but mostly as an interpreter and scientific assistant. Everywhere they went, they were warmly received, and the contacts were fruitful. The extent of their discoveries into the history of the Walloon emigrations depended largely upon the fact whether there was a relay of the B.A.H.A. (Belgian American Heritage Association) or not. Their travelogue follows:

CORNING. NY.

We spent two days in the Archives of the National Glass Museum, where the efficiency and the friendliness of the Curator and her two assistants made us marvel. The "Foundation CHAMBON" (1) was fully made available to us, and the copying machine became our strongest auxiliary. This foundation, whose inventory is not completed yet, contains a cornucopia of information, and demands another visit. The National Glass Museum, established in the Chemung Valley is amazingly large and a visit deserves several hours. In the basement is an old fashioned glass factory in working order, manned by former glass blowers.

FORD CITY. PA.

Promising our hosts to return to Corning, we traveled to the Apalachians mountains in Pennsylvania. Highway 80 offered us a succession of abandoned coalmines and glass factories. Some of the road signs reminded us of the industrial sites where Walloon pioneers labored years ago: Dubois, Punxsutawney, Kane, Mt Jewett, Coal Glen... We stopped and visited the one from Dubois. Indeed, it was here that in 1863 the first Walloon, Louis LARMOYEUX created a glass factory. His initiative was rapidly followed by others, who created glass factories in Reynoldsville and Brookville. Later we discovered a glass center, named after its founder Captain E.A. FORD. The success and fame of this plant was assured by the brothers HUC, MAISCOQ and ROUSSEAU, all coming from Roux, Belgium. Barely out of our car, we were accosted by a policeman who asked us: "Are you the Belgians announced in the newspaper? My chief is of Belgian origins". Then a little later, Vivian MARSHALL, (born Marchal in Charleroi, PA, whose parents came from Floreffe, Belgium) introduced us to Roger FAUX, who organized the meeting, and to a delegation of about 20 members, all of Belgian descent. This was a very emotional meeting. We were asked questions like: "Do they still think about us in Belgium?". Answer: "Yes, for sure, and thank you Ford City, that you still think about Belgium". Imagine! — we were offered galettes - a crispy Belgian wafflelette - proudly made according to the recipe of a Walloon Grandmother. The Chief of Police arrived late. He excused himself invoking the "call of duty to the State". My interpreter was replaced by a former Liegeoise. Vivian then took us to the slopes of the Allegheny valley, where the meeting was extended to the homes of the homebound, Belgian descendents who were unable to come to the meeting place either because of age or health.

TOWARDS PITTSBURGH.

In spite of the late hour, but on the advice of Emile 39 DELESTIENNE, we rushed towards what at the end of the XIXth Century was called "A MECCA FOR THE BELGIANS".. Emile knew exactly what he wanted to show us from the top of Mount Washington: His "Glass City" - gleaming with lights - . The next morning he took us to other glass centers where companions of his parents are still working: Arnold, Creighton, Tarentum... We spent the afternoon visiting coal centers in Imperial, Oakdale, Noblestown and Sturgeon. Here we were welcomed in the purest Walloon language from the area of Gilly, by Stephanie who lives with her grandmother, born MATHY.

The evening and the next day were spent more studiously. Professor R.O'CONNOR, labor historian, offered us lists with names of Belgian glass workers, which he had collected in census records. At the University, we viewed microfilms from 1900 for Charleroi and Ford City, PA.

FLOREFFE. PA.

A short stop here, reception by the parish priest and the mayor, exchange of gifts and souvenirs..., and on the road again.

CHARLEROI, PA.

After a reunion with Marlene, our relay president from Pittsburgh, we started our visitations in Charleroi, PA.

As part of the preparations for the Centennial festivities planned for 1990, we had different contacts with both mayors, the old one and the new one; the Chamber of Commerce and the local Historical Society.

For this occasion, a large delegation from Charleroi and from Jumet, Belgium will be the guests of the City. They will be visiting all ancient installations of Belgians in the area.

We visited the high school and a funeral home, where we copied the Belgian names from the registers.

POINT MARION. PA.

When the first glass workers came to this community in the 1800's, there were only a few houses. The population increased a hundredfold, and developed into a city purely Walloon. It became truly famous through the inventions of a young Belgian glass blower, Leon HOUZE, who discovered the technique to make convex curved glass, as well as pressed lentils and crystals. I will talk more about this young man in the new book I am writing Hundred Years of Walloon Know-How in The American industry.

It tells the story of a "gamin" (2) employed at the glass factories in Mariemont and the "Pays Noir", (3)

Belgium. This young boy came to the States having inherited secrets from different glass artisans in his home country, as we were to learn later from his grandson in Hartford City.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Continuing our journey through the forests and the mountains we cross the eastern regions of the state toward Ohio.

This area represents the last refuge of our glass blowers, who finally opted for the more modern methods. Not knowing any local Wallo-American informants at the time, we made some symbolical stops at Morgentown, Clarksburg and Salem.

Alas, it was only at our return that we learned about Dr. Fred BARKEY, who researched the glass factories of that state and published his findings recently. He apparently tried to meet with us to this effect (4). In place of this encounter and to compensate for our loss, we received a copy of his publication

Cinderhead. in the Hill. — Belgian Window glassworker. in Veu-

OHIO.

From afar already we greet those centers where our immigrants left their marks : Marietta, Zanesville and Mt Vernon. We spent the night at the latter. From there we continued toward Fostoria and stopped at the old Belgo-Luxembourg settlements of Frenchtown and New Riegel. Our hosts were the family Bodart. They introduced us to an historian of the glass industry Melvin

L. Murray, who informed us that the first glass factory was founded by Leopold Mambourg from the Belgian region of Charleroi. With our hosts we visited the site as well as the last surviving blue collar-workers neighborhood called "Belgium", more precisely the "Antwerp street" as it is called today.

CAREY — a national Holy Mother center. The local Basilica honors a statue of the Holy Mother, brought over by Luxembourg emigrants.

INDIANA.

All the way from Mt.Vernon to Chicago the elevation remains at point 0. To the north-east of Indianapolis, natural gas was found in abundance and master glass blowers founded about 20 glass workers cities. It was a must to stop at the one which harbored the most prosperous Walloon community : Hartford City. Today, two brothers are instrumental in the establishment of a relay B.A.H.A. in Indiana: L. and R. Hoffmann and their cousins Reidy, all descendants of our Belgian glass blowers. The efficiency of the relay is demonstrated by the number of people who offered us help in our endeavors, showering us with old documents, letters yellowing with the years since they were mailed from Belgium, pictures, etc..... We made about sixty new Belgian and FrancoAmerican friends. We learned that three newspapers covered the events surrounding our visit.

ILLINOIS.

A quick visit to our vice-president of the relay in Iroquois county. The winding-up of our multi-faceted voyage came at the house of our friend Pierre Lebeau, historian of francophone emigrations. Pierre is professor at the University of Naperville, Chicago.

— These few lines can only represent a short overview of the cultural and emotional fortunes that we gathered during this mission.

I would have liked to illustrate it by the article of the director of a Belgian glass factory on a fact-finding mission in the States .(5).

Quasi the same adventure was waiting for us, 35 years later.

Notes from the Editor:

(1) Gamin ou cucilleur, Young assistant of a glass blower.

(2) Pays Noir, or Black Country, so called because of the great number of coal mines in the area, making everything black around.

(3) Foundation CHAMBON : Raymond CHAMBON was curator of the MUSEE BELGE DU VERRE, (Belgian Glass Museum) in Charleroi, Belgium. As an historian of the glass industry, he willed the collection of his research to the Glass Museum in Corning, N.Y.

(4) Three months ago, the Belgian Ambassador presented Dr. Frederik A. BARKEY with the decoration of the " Ordre des Chevaliers de Leopold II ", in name of the Belgian Government.

(5) This article written in French will be translated and will appear in the next issue of Belgian Laces. (translations: Pierre Inghels)

"WALLOONS " : Forefathers of The Great American Glass Industry and Their Legacy.

By René Dognaux

In the late 19th Century window glass, known as "Hand Blown Glass", was produced by exceptionally skilled workmen, and Belgium was recognized as the leading producer of the best glass, due primarily to its highly skilled artisans.

The glass producing center in Belgium was in arid near Charleroi, in the Province of Hainaut, where the native tongue was a dialect of French or "Walloon". These Walloons, as they were called, were of Gaulish ancestry. You may recall the opening sentence in the works of Julius Caesar in which he said : "All Gaul is divided into three parts, of these the bravest are the Belgae". They took great pride in their artistry, vied in their skill and always strived for perfection. Walloons were recognized as the best glass workers at that time.

Even though all glass workers wage were low, they were based on the results of their own ability. For an example, my own father, as a glass cutter worked 10 hours a day, 6 days a week, and earned about \$ 20.00 a month, even though he was receiving the highest rate for glasscutting. Due to my father's cutting ability he earned more than

the majority of his fellow cutters.

Low wages were the instrumental factor in starting the migration of Walloon to America. To their surprise they found that in America their trade was much in demand and their pay was considerably higher than in their native land, often times earning in one week, more than they would have received in a month in Belgium. Letters were soon sent to members of their families telling of the great land of opportunity.

Two leaders of the Belgian glassworkers union, Oscar FALLEUR and Xavier SCHMIDT, in the year of 1886 became extremists and almost revolutionists, insisting on wage increases for their men, knowing that America was paying higher wages. A long strike prevailed in their industry and practically got out of hand, bitterness followed to the extent that many plants were damaged and burned. Belgians by nature are peaceful and law abiding and seeing that a few of their brotherhood had become recalcitrant, they decided to go to America in 1886 to 1900.

The Walloons who came to America did extremely well. They were conservative and were able to save money even though wages were not too high in those days, but with rent around \$6.00 to \$8.00 a month, porterhouse steaks two pounds for 25c, eggs 8c a dozen, coffee 10c a pound, 3pounds of butter for 25c, you can see that a thrifty person could manage to save.

A Depression, Yes – Spirits Broken? No!

During the panic of 1893 these glass workers became idle. They could not understand why their plants remained idle. They were not the type of men to loaf and they became restless and began to congregate in an endeavor to solve the problem of making a livelihood, so out of these meetings came the idea of cooperative plants. They learned that localities in Indiana offered free land sites for a plant plus free lots for individuals if they would locate there. In those early days they could build a 10 pot furnace plant for \$10,000.00 to 12,000.00. Those who learned to speak English became leaders and solicited the number of men needed of each trade to become cooperative stockholders. This became very popular among the

Walloon. It solved the problem of work rather than idleness.

Unfortunately they knew nothing about the business angle other than when a fire or campaign was over and all bills were paid, then if any money was left that was their profit. Most of the cooperative companies would then divide the profit among the group, not realizing that money would be needed to start the next campaign. This was their downfall. Most of the companies existed only a few short years due to lack of business ability.

Another handicap which confronted them was the fact that none of the companies had salesmen. It was the custom in those days for the jobbers and distributors to visit the factories and place their orders. These co-operative workmen had practically no knowledge as to discounts. They relied on the integrity of their customers. I cannot help but relate an incident that actually happened in a Board of Directors meeting. The plant had just been completed and was about to start operating. The manager asked the Board permission to allow an extra 5% discount since it was a new brand and required introduction to the trade. One of the workmen directors inquired what he meant by an extra 5%. The manager mentioned that the prevailing discounts were 85 and 10. The director let it be known that he was strictly opposed to the extra 5%; they had invested their money and expected at least to earn a living and should not be expected to work for nothing. He was opposed to giving the glass away in order to introduce it. The manager replied, "We are not giving it away" but before he was permitted to explain the director said "You are giving it away; 85 and 10 are 95 and 5 extra makes 100 doesn't it; That is giving it away".

Plants & Men of an Earlier Day.

In the early twentieth century there were 43 hand plants in the state of Indiana. Blackford Window Glass Company is the sole survivor. When a group of glassworkers was assembled and enough money was raised they would themselves dig the foundations and do all the work they could in the construction of the buildings. They were energetic and sacrificed their last dollar to invest in these enterprises. Here I might say that when Frank BASTIN organized his company in Hartford City, Indiana, in 1901, he had seen error made by his Walloon predecessors in their financial weakness so in writing up the by-laws of the Blackford Window Glass Company he wisely inserted a clause whereby only 50% of the annual profits would be declared in the way of dividends, the balance to be retained in the Treasury. I believe that is one of the main reasons that Blackford Window Glass Company still exists today.

Pioneer Men _ Pioneer Spirits

I must not overlook the part that Frank BASTIN played in the Walloon story. His success will always be remembered because of his affable understanding, tireless efforts in the improvement of the industry and fairness to all he contacted. His greatest asset was "Integrity". Those of us, his subordinates, benefited by his exemplification of honesty, business ability and extreme good judgment. He was a grand and respected "Walloon". John B SCOHY is the last living Walloon pioneer. He had a very extraordinary and colorful career. John B SCOHY was one who helped his compatriots in organizing co-operative companies, even giving of his time in helping them with operating problems regardless of locations. He truly is a great Walloon and today he continues to look many years junior. John assisted by his son Nestor, was one of the first to recognize the importance of merchandising at

the trade level.

Now The Last of & Noble Generation

I am the last of the Walloon extraction who is still active in the industry, although of the second generation. My parents came to America in 1892 settling in Jeannette, PA, where I was born. My mother was Flemish, my father August was Walloon. It was only a natural that I too should be a glass worker. My apprenticeship papers were granted on february 1907. I became a journeyma "Cinderhead" as all glassworkers were called 50 years ago. I remember the first blower that was assigned to my cutting stall. He was a "born knocker" which was the term used for the mediocre blowers. None of the regular cutters would cut his glass, so naturally the apprentice cutter could not escape the tragedy. All of his rollwes or cylinders were of uneven thickness, starting with about 7/32" at the cap and diminishing to as much as 1/16, in the center of the sheets. They were almost impossible to cut without incurring breakage and one can imagine the difficulty of the flattener trying to flatten a roller of such variations. The flatteners would not work his rollers, leaving them accumulate in the flattening room until they were forced to do so by the management. Usually the outcome would be sheets looking like washboards and of course considerable breakage was inescapable. I proceeded to tell my blower of his failings and why I could not get the amount of boxes that he normally would have if he would try to blow an even thickness roller. Imagine his reply, "Rene, they leave my rollers stand too long in the flattening room and that is why the glass runs thick in the cap (or bottom end)".

When the "hand blown" method of making window glass faded out of the picture in 1924, the "Fourcault Process" of flat drawn window glass was introduced in this country. Four "Walloons" attempted to use this process, namely Jule J QUERTINMONT, Francj BASTIN, John B SCOHY and Louis MOTTET. Of the four, two failed after a few years of unsuccessful operation – Jules Quertinmont and Louis Mottet.

Frank BASTIN and John B SCOHY were the last Walloon to survive; Franck BASTIN built a complete new plant to house the Fourcault process in 1923 and this plant is still in existence today known as the balckford Window Glass Company.

John B SCOHY reorganized his company in 1924 known as the Scohy Sheet Glass Company and operated successfully for several years until he sold the plant to the Fourco Glass Company of Clarksburg in West Virginia in 1938.

(From Glass Digest April 1957)

Notes:

The four main skills in the art of making window glass were: blowers, gatheres, flatteners and cutters. More than fourty "Walloon: glass plants were built in the US between the years 1883 and 1913.

Rene DOGNAUX became director of the Blackford Window Glass Company in Vincennes, Indiana.

THE WALLOONS IN THE U.S.A. by Jean Ducat

During its history, Wallonia never experienced migratory movements comparable in number to the Anglo-Saxon, Germanic or Latin emigrations.

However from 1830 to the dawn of the XXth century, several tens of thousands of Walloons (some put the figure at 90,000) emigrated to the United States and participated in the expansion of the Midwest and the industrialization of the Northeast. Two centuries before, some of them -mostly coming from Hainaut -contributed to the foundation of New York.

Although in this article, we shall not dwell on individual cases of emigration, we should stress the important role played by some missionaries in the Christianization of the United States, the orientation of the emigrants, the creation of towns or villages, etc. Nor can we omit the fact that, in the XIXth century in particular, Flemings accompanied their Walloon neighbors to the United States and played a similar role there.

What were the thrusts which encouraged farmers from Luxembourg, Brabant and Hesbaye to expatriate, followed by the glass makers, the metal workers and the miners from Hainaut? What was the pattern of their transatlantic settlement? What were, and what are today, their contributions to the economic, social and political life of America?

In giving some of the answers to these questions, we hope to make you more aware of the Walloon spirit of enterprise in establishing some of the landmarks of a page of history common to the United States and Wallonia.

1624:

WALLOONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE CREATION OF NEW YORK.

Numerous Walloon Protestants, victims of the religious persecutions of the XVI and XVII centuries, found refuge abroad. Some of them, found among the emigrants of the Mayflower, settled in New England in 1620. Some of them, who had sought refuge in Holland, emigrated to Guyana, the banks of the Hudson, Connecticut and Delaware.

From the beginning of the XVII century onwards, the United Provinces (today the Netherlands) whose commercial and financial power was unceasingly asserted, attracted active and determined men. Among them was Jesse de Forest, born around 1575 in Avesnes-sur-Helpe, a small locality situated at the time in Hainaut and today attached to France. In 1621, he conceived a project of emigration to America in which he sought, from the King of England, the authorization to create an independent British colony in Virginia. Although backed by a petition signed by 56 heads of Walloon families, better known under the name of "ROUND ROBIN", this project met with hardly any success from the British authorities. But Jesse de Forest persisted, and managed to obtain for his project the interest of a native of Antwerp,

Willem Usselinx, who emigrated to Holland and was a founder member of the East India Company. Charged by his Company with the creation of permanent offices in America, W. Usselinx associated the Walloons with the expedition to Guyana in 1623 and to the banks of the Hudson in 1624. Among these, 32 Walloon families, most of them coming from Hainaut, were among those who had signed the "Round Robin"

Traces in place names - Wallabout, Walkill, Walkillvillage, Wallomsac River, Wallomsac village, Walloon Church, Whallonsburg - found in the States of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and Delaware - perpetuate the memory of these first Walloon transatlantic emigrants. Some of them settled at the Southern tip of Manhattan and contributed to the creation of an important village which was to receive the name of "New Amsterdam". In 1626, Pierre Minuit (the name is sometimes written Minnewit), son of a farmer from Ohain in Brabant Wallon, became the first governor. He offered to the colony of Manhattan a seal bearing the inscription "SIGILLUM NOVI BELGII". In 1654 a new seal was struck, this time with the inscription "SIGILLUM AMSTELLODAKENSIS IN NOVO BELGIO". Ten years later, the Duke of York was to take over the town for the English Crown, and New Amsterdam became New York. Here other Walloons distinguished themselves, in particular Pierre De Lannoy, one of the ancestors of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who acted as mayor from 1688 to 1690.

1830

EMIGRATION FROM THE RURAL AREAS OF LUXEMBOURG.

According to some estimates, nearly 6,000 Walloons, coming from Belgian Luxembourg, settled in the United States during the XIXth century. In relation to other Walloon provinces, the emigration from Luxembourg was characterized by its early start. From the first days of Belgian independence to the dawn of the great food crisis in 1844-1845, 1,142 emigrants from Luxembourg settled on the other side of the Atlantic; it was only some ten years later that the Brabantines were to decide spontaneously to follow suit. It was the Arlon region that was mainly affected by this first wave of emigration (725 emigrants), whereas the region of Virton (326 emigrants) and Neufchateau (91 emigrants) contributed only moderately. The encouraging letters sent back by the first emigrants, the action of recruitment agents, but also the proximity of Germany which from 1845 onwards took the lead in emigration to North America, gave a decisive impulse to the expatriation of the Luxembourgers. Day-labourers, farmers,

craftsmen or foresters, they scattered far and wide, settling wherever they could find cheap land, and mostly lived isolated from one another in small groups or in families. Some of them settled down near to those who had come from the Grand Duchy and who, by their associations or their newspapers, had remained in close contact.

The first colonists settled in the States of Indiana and New York, while others preferred Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kentucky and Michigan. Only four centers of population, Sheldon in New York State, Leopold in Indiana, Town Belgium in Wisconsin, and Saint Louis in Missouri were distinguished by a majority and homogeneous Luxembourg population. In these four communities, the clearing of land was a slow and painful process. In Leopold, there were some who tried vainly to improve their situation by making staves for casks, spokes for cartwheels or barrel hoops which they transported in flat-bottomed boats to New Orleans. Others, in Town Belgium, sold the sawn wood at Port Washington where they hoped to make a substantial profit. Little by little, by the sweat of their brow and by sacrifices, after struggling against diseases and poverty, most of them acquired a viable agricultural holding and a few heads of cattle. Some of them even got rich quick, such as the Sheldon farmer who had come from Messancy and who, in 1856 already ran a property of 100 acres, 20 cattle, 2 horses and 5 pigs. At the same time, in Leopold, there were Luxemburgers who owned a grocery store, a haberdashery, a shoe shop and tavern, while the Belgians of Town Belgium dominated the county elections and chose from among their

ranks their mayors, aldermen, magistrates and constables. To sum up, after a difficult start, the great majority of the Luxemburgers prospered, thanks in particular to agriculture and stock farming. Unfortunately, their dispersion over several Middle Western States, the isolation of the families and the groups, do not permit us to enrich the history with anecdotes or to characterize in greater detail their lives and their contributions to the development of the American States where they settled.

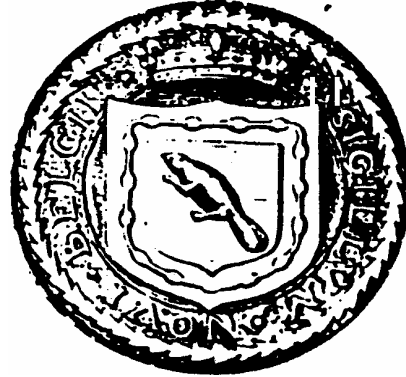
Next articles will be 1852: Emigration of the farmers from Brabant and Hesbaye.

1863: Emigration of the miners from Hainaut, Liege and Namur.

1871: Emigration of the glass makers from Hainaut.



The first seal of the city of New York (1654).



The first seal of the State of New York (1626).

Washington (AP) – The American population continues to be a melting pot of the world

FAMILY TIES STRETCH FROM BELGIUM TO HARTFORD.

By Marie Williams-Clowdis.

HARTFORD CITY, INDIANA.

Walloons have been in Hartford City since 1892. Some people have known this all along. Others might have suspected. Then there are some of us who have never known who or what a Walloon is. Jean DUCAT, visiting America from Belgium, met with 54 Walloon descendants, in conjunction with the Hartford City Historical Society. Aided by his interpreter, Roger DARDENNE, Jean DUCAT a catholic priest, is gathering genealogical and historical data concerning the migration of Walloon glassblowers to the United States.

French-speaking Belgians, from the southern cities known as Wallonia, first came to this country in 1620. However, it wasn't until the late 1800s, when major labor problems arose in Belgium, that Walloons migrated by the thousands to America.

The portent of that migration was evidenced by the rapid growth of American glass factories utilizing the skills and knowledge of the Belgian glassmakers.

One such manufacturer was the Hartford City Glass Co, which later became the American Window Glass Co. Some 350 Belgian families settled in "BELGIAN TOWN" on the south side of Hartford City. Members of those families worked in one of the eleven glass factories operating here in the 1890s.

Norman Williams, Hartford City, spoke the native Walloon language with Jean Ducat, exchanging information about William's ancestors. Williams said: "Both sets of my grandparents, (the) Acremans (Acreman later on), and Williaumes (William's) came here from Belgium in the late 1800s."

Although glass industry dates from the late 1880s in this nation, Williams is not sure about the date his family became involved. "Grandfather Acreman had been part; t'wner of a glaos company in Belgium. He and his brother, Williams said, learned how to talk the Walloon language before they learned to speak English.

Another glass worker's descendent, Aglae RABBITT, 84, said her maternal grandfather, Constant ANDRE, came first to this city and then later brought from Belgium his wife, ten children and his mother in law, after he Logan working at the Hartford City Glass factory. Her father and his parents had first come to New Jersey from Eelgium.

American glass factory rEpresentatives often went to Belgium to recruit workers.

Armand HOUZE, retired from Indiana Class Co, said his father was one of the workers, Houze said, "The people from a window glass company in Canton, Ohio, went over there (Belgium) to look for workers. They promised the glass workers if they didn't like the work within six months, they would pay their way bark home."

According tc' House, his grandfather had additional skills that

enabled him to continue advancing in his trade.

“He knew how to make the tanks and the batch (material from which glass is blown).” He later left Hartford City when the appeal came from employees buying the Point Marion, Pa., Window Glass Co. He went there and helped them form a co-op window glass manufacturing plant, when its original owners failed and the employees sought to own and operate the business.

“ Belgian glassmakers were in great demand, according to Ducat, because they were the first to take the coal and form it into gas and discovered how to make glass”.

“ Because they were the best, the Belgian glassblowers went everywhere in the world - China, Russia, Spain, United States-and started glass factories. “Ducat said.

Cities from the East Coast to Missouri acquired their names from Belgian settlers, Charleroi, Pa., maintains a twin city relationship with Charleroi, Belgium, the capital of Belgium glassmaking.

Interest in researching American-Belgian glassmakers began, when Ducat after his retirement three years ago. Ducat was a teacher for 32 years in a State School in Belgium. When he retired, he started a personal genealogical search. “I started to research with the farmer - the rural people - and then continued with the glassblowers” he said “my first trip to America , was to find my great-great-grandfather

So far, Ducat has learned that his great-great-grandfather came here in 1858. He even knows the name of the boat that brought him to this country and that he settled in Ohio. Ducat hopes to learn more on his next trip to this country. (In the last edition of Belgian Laces, read how Micheline Gaudette found some more details about his family).

Dardenne, Ducat’s interpreter, said he probably has more relatives in this country than in Belgium. In 1982-1983, he worked for the French program in the Louisiana school system.

Dardenne said this trip has completed the Americanization of Ducat. “I go with him (Ducat) into many McDonalds and Burger Kings. After this trip, he will be American completely’. Dardenne said.

Ducat, President of the Belgian American Association, said the association wants to make a large number of people aware of the memories of Belgian emigration. They want to invite those people to maintain socio-cultural relations with the descendants of the pioneers.

Committees are active in Wallonia (Belgium), and in the U.S.: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Florida, Oregon.

Wisconsin Visitors —1989

From July 1 to 19, thirty-one people from Belgium were guests of families in Northeastern Wisconsin. This is part of a biennial exchange which has been going on since 1974 between the Wallonie-Wisconsin Society of Namur, Belgium, and the Peninsula Belgian-American Club of Namur, Wisconsin. Both groups strive to keep alive their Belgian heritage. Many of the Americans are able to converse in the old Walloon dialect of their ancestors, and it is this that is the principal tie that binds the groups together. Of course, many on both sides are searching for their ancestors.-the Belgians looking for descendants of relatives who came to America in the mid-nineteenth century, and Americans looking for places of origin of their ancestors in Belgium. As in previous years, there were success stories for some of the families.

The Belgians came from the villages of Grez-Doiceau, Dinant, Hanret, Walhain, Gembloux, Gozee, Thisnes, Chastre-Blanmont, Corbais, Forville, and Antwerp. First-time visitors were surprised to learn that we, too, have villages named Namur, Brussels, Rosiere, Walhain, and Champion. It is in this latter place that a farewell dinner was given for the visitors. They, in turn, laid a wreath at the monument commemorating the arrival of the first Belgian settlers. The monument, a gift from the community of Grez-Doiceau, was erected in 1985, and is only the second known Belgian monument in the United States. (The other was given to the City of New York by the Provincial Conseil of Hainaut in 1924 to commemorate the landing of Walloon families in New Amsterdam in 1624.)

The memory of the visit lingers on with photographs, gifts, and souvenirs to remind us of the pleasant time we had. Now the Americans are looking forward to their visit to Belgium in 1990!

Belgian Emigrants

Following are lists of Belgians who emigrated from various villages to the United States. Many came to the northeastern part of Wisconsin. The lists were made up from Population Registers in Belgium, which indicate when citizens leave their communities.

Roux-Miroir

Edward BOURGUIGNON, his wife Melanie POS, and children, Seraphine and Xavier BOURGUIGNON;
 Pierre Noel MARCHAL, and his wife, Rosalie MOUREAU;
 Antoine MOUREAU;
 Auguste MOUREAU, and his wife, Seraphine;
 Jean Baptiste MOUREAU;
 Romain Martin MOUREAU;
 Marie Therese Desiree MOUREAU;
 Jean Baptiste PILLET

Incourt

Pierre Joseph FRISQUE, Sr., his wife Marie Laura Catherine LE BRUN, and children, Pierre Joseph, Isidore, and Josephine FRISQUE;
 Hubert Henri FRISQUE;
 David Joseph FRISQUE;

Incourt, continued

Jean Pierre LARDINOIS, his wife Amelie GELINNE, and children, Desiree, Pierre, and Jean Baptiste LARDINOIS; Edouard J. LE BRUN;

Jean Joseph LIEGEOIS;

Jean Baptiste LIEGEOIS, his wife Marie Antoinette VECKMAN, and sons Sylvan/ Sylvester and Jean Baptiste LIEGEOIS;

Henri VANHOSMAL, his wife Hortense JALLET, and children, Julienne, Eugene, Adolphe, Julie, Eloise, and Marie Therese VANHOSMAL.

Opprebais-Sart Risbart

Louis Joseph BOSMAN, his wife Marie Catherine LIESSE, and children, Marie Catherine, Auguste, Gustave, Jeanne, Adolphe, Marie Antoinette, Veronique, and Dieudonne Joseph BOSMAN;

Antoine Joseph BRABANT, and wife Marie Antoinette ROSY, and children, M-Beatrice, M-Therese, M-Emerence, M-Josephine, Marie, and Antoine Joseph BRABANT, Jr.;

Jean Baptiste DANVOYE;

Henri Joseph DELAIN, his wife Anne JANDRAIN, and children, Marie Antoinette Virginie, Philomene, Joseph, and Marie-Josephe DELAIN;

Joseph DELAIN and his wife Marie JUNION;

Jean Baptiste FAMMEREE, his wife Anne Josephe STUTER, and children, MarieJosephe, Alphonse Joseph, and Honore Joseph;

Jean Baptiste GILSON, his wife Rosalie DEHUT, and children, Charles, Isidore, Desiree, Alexander, Jean Francois, Clementine, and Jean Baptiste GILSON;

Jean Lambert JUNION, his wife Marie Julienne RAISON, and children, Philippe, Francois Xavier, Pierre Joseph, Jean Joseph and Josephine JUNION; Eugene MASSET;

Pierre PINCHART, his wife Jeanne DEPREZ, and children, Pierre, Julienne, Emile, and Marie Josephine PINCHART:

Jean Francois PIRLET;

Francois Joseph ROWART and his wife, Adele;

Antoinette STIENNON and her son, Casimir Joseph STIENNON.

Huppaye/Molemb. St. Pierre

Jean Joseph VANDERMISSEN, his wife, Marie Therese, and children, Jean Joseph, Hortense Josephe, and Marie Stephanie VANDERMISSEN;

Joseph VANDERMISSEN, his wife Clemence Josephe DISTECHE, and children, Hortense, Joseph, Eugene, and Ernest Antoine VANDERMISSEN;

Ignace SPRIMONT, his wife Clemence THUNUS, and children, Hortense, Camille Antoine, Caroline, Eugene, Marie Josephine, and Isidore SPRIMONT; Clemence LIEGEOIS;

Ferdinand Joseph POTIER, his wife Victoire BERGER, and children, Charles, Xavier, Victoire, and Felicienne POTIER.

Please note that while these people left from the villages named, they were not necessarily born in the same village. It was their place of residence at the time of emigration - between 1854 and 1858. Some of the lists give birth dates and places. If you'd like this information, send an SASE to Mary Ann Defnet, 253 Little Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301. (Please give specific names.)

Congratulations to the GAZETTE VAN DETROIT.

On Sunday August the 13th 1989 (13 was always my lucky number), the GAZETTE VAN DETROIT - the only Belgian newspaper in America -, celebrated its 75th anniversary. Editor is Father Karel DENYS, cism, who is also Pastor of Our Lady Of Sorrows" Parish in Detroit. Business Manager is Margaret DECRAINE. From its foundation in 1914 until 1974, the Gazette was printed exclusively in the Flemish language. As little by little the older generations disappear, and the younger ones no longer speak or read the Flemish language too well, some articles were printed in English since October 1974. Today however, the Gazette is printed half in Flemish and half in English.

Congratulations to the Staff and the Hard Workers of the GAZETTE VAN DETROIT, I realize that it is not always easy to produce a weekly paper, to find enough material to print, and to be able to please all readers. Congratulations for a job well done, and keep up this good work!

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS.

ARE YOU SWEDISH - OR BELGIAN ? by Anne KELLER.

If your family tradition says that, even though your ancestors were Swedish, you're really Belgians, there might be something in the following that is a good hint for you to follow up. The information is from Roger HALMSTAD, who now lives in Sweden.

Roger HALMSTAD, grew up in Chippewa Falls, married a Swedish girl, and moved over there).

In the 1600s, Walloon Belgians were recruited to go to Sweden by a landed aristocrat named Louis DEGEER. They were to be iron workers. There was iron in Sweden, but skilled workers were needed to make the iron rods. They went to the cities of Osterbybruk, Forsmark and Loustabruk, in the Province of Uppland (Central East part of Sweden), where many people still have Belgian names today.

If you are interested in knowing more about this group of Walloons who went to the iron works area, contact : Steg GEBER, Grens vag 5, 140 30 Uttran, Sweden.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

CINDERHEADS IN THE HILLS: The Belgian Window Glass Workers of West Virginia. by Dr. Frederick A. Barkey. Published by the Humanities Foundation of West Virginia.

There is a long-standing tradition which has regarded West Virginia and the rest of the Appalachian Region as a world apart. It is as if the mountains created and nourished a way of life that over time has resisted all attempts from outside and inside the region to make it part of mainstream America. The resulting inheritanc&. scording to this analysis. is an underdeveloped economy dependent upon the fluctuations of a few extractive industries like coal, timber and gas. The region is often seen as lacking badly in the amenities derived from well-organized conm,unity life and lacking any significant diversity in its population. This perspective has distorted the historical experience in West Virginia by discouraging a deeper understanding of the variety of people and movements that have attempted to deal with the problems and potentials of the State and the Region.

A modern labor force was being created which drew heavily from native American stock but gradually added significant numbers of European iinigrants. An important segment of the artisan groups that were part of this great migration was the Belgian workers who plied their skills in the intense heat of ovens that turned molten materials into sheets of window glass. A job so hot that it earned them the nickname of cinder heads. It is the purpose of this publication to capture something of the story of these highly trained craftsmen.

FROM AND TO OUR MEMBERS...

106, Denise CORKE came back from her long trip to Belgium and England, and writes that she was very happy to find her good old BELGIAN LACES waiting for her... Welcome home again Denise! I am sure you enjoyed your stay, and hope for a few good articles about your visits.

126, Marlene BRUTOOUT-WHITEHAIR, 283, Toura Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15236 is the President the State Representative of BELGIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION (BAHA) for Pennsylvania
One of these days we will have to create a Chamber of Representatives....

187, Regine BRINDLE, writes : " It is a real delight to be part of THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS, we do have a very special and rich cultural heritage to be proud of... Nothing amazes me more than when people ask: Where is Belgium? It's in Africa somewhere, right?... As was pointed out in the short note in the last issue (page 29), Belgium is the Center of so many International Organizations. It's hard to believe people know so little about it! "

197, Jean Pierre DELROT, 3a Route de Chodes, B 4890 Malmedy, Belgium, offers to help our members to find information in the Archives of the Province of Liege, Belgium. Thank you, Jean-Pierre, you know that you can count on us on this side of the border.

201 and 204, Marilyn CANTLAY in CA and Brad RIGA in MA. were really pleased to find the article of Micheline in the last issue of BELGIAN LACES about their Grandfather RIGA. Marilyn wrote; " It was really a charming article ", and Brad wrote: " I am sure my grand-father would have been delighted... By the way, I have the knife and also some of the gun barrels. My great grand-father Gilles Joseph, started the business which my grandfather continued...he sold to Colt and Remington...etc."

206. Seamond PONSART, 1450, Tita street, New Orleans, LA 70114, has access to the Hew Orleans Genealogical Collection, and if there are any Belgian inquiries, she will be glad to help as time permit. Will also try to locate graves in the area, and take pictures

89/61, GYRE ... Martin GYRE, born Nethen, Brabant, Belgium, his wife Marie-Catherine SNAPS, and six children : Nicolas (1838), Adolphine (1842), Desire (1844), Jean-Baptiste (1850) MarieAnastasia (1853) and Marie—Elisa (1856) came to the States about 1857 if you know the whereabouts of any of them, or relatives or descendants, or have met this name somewhere. Andre GYRE, 42, rue de Beauvechain, B 5991 Tourinnes-La-Grosse, Belgium, or write to the editor.

89/62, PONSART, PONSARD ... desperately looking for information on Leon Ponsart, Ansay, Mimmille, Emond and Baptiste who came to Pennsylvania around the 1880, coming from the area of Florenville and Lambermont, Belgium. There may be some in different States and also in Canada. Please check your phone books. Seamon M. (Ponsart) Roberts, 1450, Tita Street, New Orleans LA 70114, or write to the editor.

89/62, ANSAY ... See Ponsart for details.

89/62, MIMILLE or MIMMILLE ... Please see Ponsart for details.

89/62, EMOND ... Please see Ponsart for details.

89/62 BAPTISTE ... Please see Ponsart for details.

89/63, BARVAIS ... Valentine Barvais came to America in 1890. In 1892, his 2 sons Victor and Jules came to join him. They lived in Gas City, Ind. and worked in a glass factory. About 15 years later Valentine returned to Belgium. Jules went to Pennsylvania and Victor came to Fredonia, Kansas to work in a glassfactory. He married and had 3 children. Question: Where in Belgium did the Barvais family live ??? Marian C. Huey, 803, N. Sheridan #201, Wichita, Kansas 67203.

89/64, LECHIEN, LE CHuM ... Auguste LECHIEN, o 06.12.1838, +1926, IL. X 15.03.1868 Angelique BOULLUERD (BOUILLARD), o 01.01.1841, probably Brussels, Blg. They had 4 children : Edmund, o 1872; Hector, o 1873; Augusta, o 1875 and Auguste, o 1876. They left Souvret in 1880 for St Louis, MO..In 1899, they homesteaded 160 acres, in Wayne County, MS. But moved to East St Louis, IL. a few years later.

I have copies of some letters written in 1920. Their Belgian cousins are : DEVLEESCHOUWER, MAGHE and VOULEMAIN. Their son Hector, X Laura Ann DANIELS in 1910 in E.St Louis. They had 2 children Leona and Eugene, who married Agnes APPEL in 1934. Eugene and Agnes are my parents.

I am searching contact with any LECHIEN/LE CHIEN in America. Jack LE CHIEN, 37, North Douglas, Belleville, IL 62221.

89/65, MAES, My Great grand parents Charles Louis MAES and Rosalie Elisabeth VANDENPAYNE had seven sons. The seventh was made ward of the King of Belgium, but died young before he was able to gain any benefits. Can any one explain what Ward of the King means and what it does to one? Shirley A. BROOKS, 31769 Via Valdez, Lake Elsinore CALIFORNIA 92330.

ANSWER. It has been customary in Belgium that the seventh son would have the King for Godfather, and the seventh daughter would have the Queen as Godmother. They receive

gifts at their birthday and New-Year. Whether there other benefits in later life, I don't know. Maybe someone can give a more complete answer. (Pierre)

89/66, DELBROEK, Although this query has been in our bulletin again and again, we are looking this time for help in Belgium. Victor Henry DELEROOK / DELBROECK / DELBROEK / DELBROUCK / DELEROUQUE ? was born 19 February 1872 in Belgium (where?). He married Philomena SQUIFFLET 4 September 1895 in Brussels, but their license was stolen with their belongings on the ship, and had to remarry 4 Sept 1895 in Santa Barbara CA.. He died 5 Dec 1941 Santa. Barbara. He was the son of Joseph Deibrook and Marguerite, he had six brothers and three sisters and was the only one to come to America around 1890. Some of the DELBROECK (or other spelling) families in Belgium must know about an ancestor who came to America! Margarita DELBROOK-VILLA, 1243 Diana Lane, Santa Barbara CA 93103.

89/67, LIENARD, I am looking for Louis LIENARD/ LIENART/LENHART/ LENARD born about 1871 in Chicago, (all documents were lost in the big fire of the City Hall), or his descendants. Please communicate all information about this name to Andre SEVRIN, 62 rue Nestor Bal, B 6100 Mont Sur Marcienne, Belgium. Or to the editor.

89/68, RESEARCH IN BELGIUM. We are trying to establish a small list of people who are able to do research at the National / Provincial Archives in Brussels and in the central part of Belgium. The fee would have to be reasonable, as most of the people who ask for this work are not able to spend hundreds of dollars. Write to the editor.

89/69 HALLAUX, I would appreciate any information on HALLAUX or JACQUIMINOT. Around 1850 they lived in Wisconsin, probably Green Bay area. Later in Illinois, Will Cy. and Kansas, Leavenworth. There could also be some HALLAUX around New Orleans. Please contact Eleanor E. MOFFET, R.4, Box 106H, Fremont, IN. 46737. or the editor.

89/69 JACQUIMINOT. Please see HALLAUX for details.

89/70 WATTERI, WATERY, VATRY, searching for the family or descendants of John WATTERI, born Luxembourg-Belgium, 16 March 1824. Son of Nicholas and Marie. He married Louisa SCHEIR in 1854 in Belgium. Immigrated Fond du Lac, Wisconsin in 1855. His brother lived in Chicago and was known as the "WHEAT KING". Contact Betty EDDINS, 2044 Oakland Avenue, Piedmont, CA. 94611.

89/71, ROBINSON, Searching for Sherry Lee Robinson, born 12 July 1953, daughter of Stanley and APPLETON Dorothy. She is probably married. The family lost contact in 1971. Please write the editor.

--ONE NEVER KNOWS--

PLEASE CHECK YOUR PHONE DIRECTORIES FOR THE QUERIED NAMES.

If you have any information on these persons, please write to the given address or to the editor, we will transmit your answer.