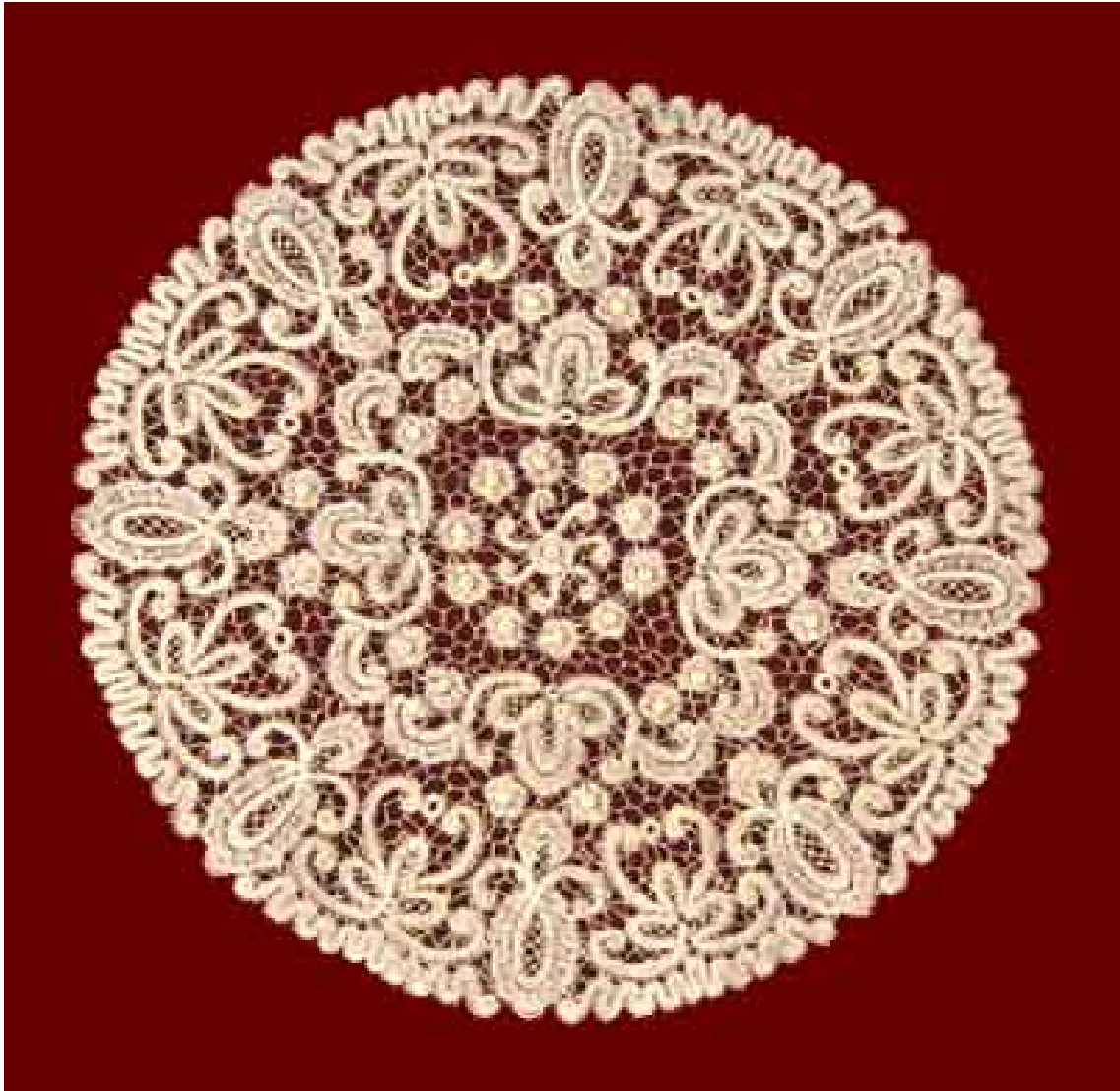


Belgian Laces



MORE ABOUT GLASSMAKING AND GLASSMAKERS

by Micheline Gaudette

The very first glasshouse in the United States was built in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1609 (Scoville 4) and was manned by Poles (Waldo 144) and later in 1621 by Italians. Salem, Massachusetts had a glasshouse in the 1640's, Philadelphia and New Amsterdam (now New York) each had a glasshouse in operation in 1680. A glasshouse in Salem County, New Jersey, was in operation from 1739 until the American Revolution. Around 1780, the glass industry expanded and glasshouses were built in Temple, New Hampshire in 1780, in Manchester, Connecticut in 1783, in Frederick, Maryland in 1784, near Albany, New York in 1785, Boston Mass. in 1787, and in Philadelphia and Western Pennsylvania between 1780 and 1786 (Scoville 4,5).

PART I.

Was J.B. FALLEUR the First Belgian glassmaker to settle in the U.S.?

It is in Western Pennsylvania, that the search for the place of origin of one Pittsburgh area glass—maker began. His name was John B. FELLURE, aka LAFLEUR, aka FELLOURE, a “Frenchman”. The 1800 Pine Township, Allegheny Co. Census listed him as John B. FELLOUR, over 45 years of age, his wife between the age of 16—26 and 5 children under 10 years of age. Another source showed him as JOHN LAFLEUR, a French glass—maker. However, a document from Allegheny Co., Pa stated that “...

J.B. FALLEUR ... This is the Frenchman brought from France to manage the works, called LAFLEUR, but in the account... it is spelled as above.”

(Law 29,31)

The search in France for a JOHN B. FELLURE/LAFLEUR/FELLOURE/FALLEUR was unsuccessful. Fortunately, a breakthrough occurred when the searcher came across an article, which listed among Alsace and Lorraine glassmakers, a MARTIN FALLER and his wife MARGUERITE SIEGLER, who had settled in Jumet, Belgium around 1650. Many of the FALLERS' descendants were also glassmakers and lived in Lodelinsart **where** their name became “FALLEUR”.

So, the search was switched Belgium, and it wasn't long before the baptism record of a Jean

(John) Baptiste FALLEUR was found (baptized 23 Dec. 1748, son of Pierre Joseph FALLEUR and Marie Catherine LAMBERT) in the Lodelinsart parish registers. Since it was customary for someone leaving for a long voyage to make a will, a search for the will of Jean Baptiste FALLEUR was initiated, and a will dated 14 OCT. 1793 was found, it designated Jean Baptiste's sister, Marie Joseph FALLEUR and her husband, Jean Jacques DELBOSC as heirs, also a deed dated 6 February 1794, recording the sale of Jean B. FALLEUR'S land to Jacques FALLEUR and his wife Jeanne Joseph DANDOY from Lodelinsart had been registered.

The will and deed from Lodelinsart were the additional clues needed to ascertain that the Lodelinsart Jean Baptiste FALLEUR was indeed the same person as the Pennsylvanian John B. FALLEUR.

Jean Baptiste FALLEUR was referred to as a “Frenchman” because he spoke French; technically, it could be said that he came from “France” since in the 1790's till 1815, Belgium was under France's rule, or it's **also** possible that J.B. FALLEUR **was** working in France when hired to manage the glassworks in Allegheny Co. Jean Baptiste FALLEUR'S ancestry was eventually traced back to Martin FALLER and Marquerite SIEGLER who were originally from Grumwalt in the Black Forest.

Was J.B. FALLEUR the First Belgian Glassmaker to settle in the U.S.? Probably not, too many glass—houses existed before 1800, so, the possibility that other Belgian glassmakers worked in the U.S. before the arrival of Jean Baptiste FALLEUR ca. 1795 cannot be excluded. However, Jean Baptiste is the first Belgian glassmaker to settle in the U.S. that we know about, thanks to some very good detective work.

Please note that another FALLEUR glassmaker emigrated from Belgium to the United States in 1887. Oscar FALLEUR was forced to emigrate to the U.S. because of his activism as an Union Leader in Belgium. (Eggerickx 35).

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PART II. EMIGRANTS FROM FLOREFFE, BELGIUM.

The publication "Glanes" (glean) offers a bounty of historical and genealogical information about Floreffe, a small community located in Namur province, Belgium. The Reverend Jacques Ferminne, Glanes's editor/publisher, very graciously **sent** 3 copies of "Glanes" which detailed the search for the Pennsylvanian Floreffe and gave a list of Belgian emigrants from Floreffe, Belgium.

The "Compagnie de Floreffe" was established

in Belgium in 1849, it manufactured glass of very high quality and also chemical products. By 1860 this company employed 600 workers, had a worldwide market, and warehouses in the United States. So. the name Floreffe was no stranger in the U.S.

In 1880, a glass plant was built in the Monongahela Valley, Pennsylvania, and management hired Belgian glassmakers already working at their trade in Charleroi, PA., to run the plant and live in the area. It was these Belgian glassworkers who named the Pennsylvania locality "Floreffe In 1902, the Floreffe, PA., glass manufacturing company's became a division of the Mississippi Glass Co. and in 1968, it became part of the Combustion Engineering Glass, unfortunately, by 1974, the Floreffe glasshouse was idle. But in 1982, the plant was renovated for the Pennsylvania Float Glass Co., a new flat glass manufacturing firm.

Glanes #26, gives specific details the emigrants from Floreffe,Belgium.

Florent ROBAUX, born Floreffe 15 June 1859, son of Jean Joseph and Marie Theresa MICHAUX, x Ferdinande GRETZER, left for U.S. in 1893,was employed for a while at Irwing, PA., his wife and children joined him in 1894. His wife died in 1899 and Florent and his children returned to Belgium in 1905, bringing back with him, his dismantled rocking chair.

Henri MARCHAL, BORN Floreffe April 30, 1865, son of Jean Francois and Alma BIERNAUX x Leontine FAUCHE, returned to Belgium ca. 1899 Joseph MARCHAL x Marie MERCIER, **and his son** Henri MARCHAL, born Floreffe, 6 March 1886, x Anita ROSSOMME in the U.S., daughter of Jules ROSSOMME and Dlaviche PARENT, the name MARCHAL became Marshall in the U.S. Henri Marchal worked at the glasshouses in Charleroi, Pa. at Sisterville, W.VA., then at Pittsburgh Glass Co. in Ford City, PA.

Jules ROSSOMME with his children Ralph and Anita returned for a visit

to Belgium where they remained stranded by World War I - Anita made an American Flag with embroidered gold stars which they proudly displayed in Belgium at the end of the war, they also served as translators for the English speaking troops.

Joseph—Etienne BIernaux x **Celeste** GILLAIN. Drowned in Charleroi, Pa., on 17 July 1895, wife and children returned to Belgium.

Dieudonne BIernaux, Born Floreffe, Belgium in 1868, brother of Joseph— Etienne, emigrated ca. 1890,x Julie PORIGNAUX, he was a glassworker at Floreffe, PA, and at Pittsburg Glass Co., before becoming a farmer.

Desire JOIRET married 1) Marie Joseph CLAREMBAUX 2) Julie. COTON, a Belgian living in Charleroi, Pa. Desire probably came to U.S. with Dieudonne BIernaux.

Joseph THIRY, born Floreffe 16 Oct 1841, x Therese METELION, was a farmer in the U.S. where he died, his wife returned to Belgium.

Felix THIRY, brother of Joseph Thiry, born Floreffe 1 July 1859, x ...MAILLEN, he was a glassworker at Charleroi, Pa.

Pierre TOUSSAINT, born Floreffe 2 June 1856, left for the U. S., never contacted his family in Belgium.

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PART III

Belgian Glassmakers' Adversities at the Berkshire GlassWorks in LanesBoro,

Massachusetts and elsewhere.

It was Father Jean DUCAT who found the two letters published in the newspaper "Le Journal de Charleroi" toward the end of 1880. One of the letters **had** been sent by Antoine HUMEZ and was dated 24 November 1880. Antoine HUMEZ complained bitterly about the unfair treatment Belgian glassworkers received from their employers in "Berkshire." Berkshire turned out to be a village of Lanesboro, Mass. where The Berkshire Glass Works Company was located.

The goal of the letter, as stated by Antoine HUMEZ, was to warn glassworkers who might be tempted to leave Belgium for the United States to think twice before making such a move. Apparently, toward the middle of 1880, - enticed by the promises of

M. JACQMAIN, a Belgian agent of the Berkshire Glass Works, Antoine HUMEZ left for the U.S. with a number of glassworkers from the region of Charleroi, only to find out that the cost of their "all expense paid voyage" was deducted from their pay— checks. One of Antoine's friends, Leopold DESGAIN, had been hired as an expert melter at the salary of 500 francs per month, but because he broke a few inexpensive containers, his salary was reduced to 225 francs. Another expert worker, Emile WITTEBORT shared the same fate and was paid only 150 francs per month and sent to Kent, Ohio. (Five Belgian francs = \$1.00, unskilled laborers in the glass industry were perhaps paid \$30 per month.) Worse, Aimable HUMEZ (Antoine's brother), Jean Baptiste LIEGEOIS aka LIDGEUX, and Jean Joseph FRERE were unable to collect their pays. Two other glassmakers mentioned in the letter were Joseph TOURNAY and Guillaume TASSIER.

Antoine HUMEZ's letter reveals the fate of the glassworkers who were left at the mercy of the unscrupulous employers.

The 1880 U.S. Census of Berkshire County, Massachusetts reveals the names of other Belgian glassmakers.

They were:

CAPOLE(?) DESQUINS, 38, glassmaker, born Belgium, parents born Belgium.

Camille, wife, 38, born France,

Parents born Belgium. Molina(?)
Son, 14, born France. Fernand, son, 11, born
Belgium. Napoleon, son, 13, (perhaps
months?) born Mass.

Obviously, the above entry refers to the
Leopold DESGAIN family.

DEULON. August 33, glassworker, born
Belgium, parents born Belgium.
Amelia. 33, born Belgium, parents
born Belgium. Formont (?), 7, born
Belgium, Octave 3, born Belgium.

DANUA Hubert, glassworker, born Belgium,
parents born Belgium. SIGIONS (?), August.
35, glass— worker? born Belgium, parents born
Belgium. HARK (?) Faleau, 50, glass— worker,
born Belgium. parents born Belgium. TASSIER,
Will, 30. melter, born Belgium, parents born
Belgium.

ROZINIA(?) W., 21

AIMABLE Henry, 19, laborer,
Belgium, parents born Belgium.
Lesnil, 20 Aglan, 15
Ernest, 13 at school

ANDRIES Louis, 24, born Belgium, parents
born Belgium.

CAVALIER, Eugene, 22, born Belgium, parents
born Belgium.

WALLET Rosala(?) 38, glass gatherer, born
Belgium, parents born Belgium.

DE HAINAUT Desire, 38, glass gatherer, born
Belgium, parents born Belgium.
Wife, 32, Desire, 11, son. Martha, 9, daughter.

CAILIER(?) Andre, 26, laborer born Belgium,
parents born Belgium.

LECHIEN Philomen(?), 42, glass— blower,
born Belgium, parents born
Belgium. Francois(?), wife, 42.
Celina, 19, born Belgium.
Flor..(f) 18, born Belgium.
Louisa, 16, born Belgium.
Francois (f) 13, born in Belgium.
Hen...(m) 10, born in Belgium.
Marie, 5, born in Massachusetts.
Emille (f) born in Massachusetts.

FOSKIE Lambert, 32, gatherer, in Belgium,

parents also, wife born in England.

FASCIA(?)——30, born in parents born in Belgium.
Elisa(wife) 32, born in England, parents also.

VANDESMA(?) Peter, 35, born in Belgium, parents born in
Belgium.

Antonie, wife, 33, born in Belgium.

Laura, 12, born in Belgium.

Carlo, 9 born in Belgium.

Iner? (f) 7, born in Belgium.

Francies (f) 3, born in Belgium.

Mary, 1, born in Massachusetts.

WEARA Peter, 34, born in Ireland, parents born in Belgium.

A French family was also listed:

DONZY Francis 33, with wife, Mary, 34, and Anneal(?) 10,
Loie, 8, Oct.2.

Antoine HUMEZ and his brother Aimable, were not found on
the census which was taken in June 1880.

A note from Father DUCAT: Desire DEHAINAUT also listed
on the 1880 census, born in Jumet, Belgium, where he
returned to from Stolberg, Prussia, before leaving for
Lanesboro/Berkshire on February 11, 1874.

No Belgians are listed in the 1900 Lanesboro/Berkshire
census.

Antoine HUMEZ'S letter, written over 100 years ago, gives us
a better understanding of the kind of abuses emigrants were
subjected to by unscrupulous employers. This was not an
isolated case, the abuses were confirmed by an anonymous
Belgian glassmaker whose letter was published with the
HUMEZ letter in "La Journal de Charleroi."

A group of Belgian glassmakers numbering 100, left for
Antwerp on the 13th of August 1880, and for the U.S. on the
14th. They had been hired by a Baltimore area, Maryland,
glassmaking company managed by the Backer Brothers.
They arrived on the 26th of August in New York, and on the
28th in Baltimore. Their first disappointment was fast to

come because the employers reneged on the promises that they had made to pay the workers' travel expenses + full salary for the month of August. Skilled workers had been promised \$12.00 per week, and unskilled workers \$9.00, however all were paid \$5.88 per week!!!

Meanwhile, the agent who had recruited these glassmakers, and who was also the treasurer and accountant of that company, was busily opening and reading the mail sent to the glassmakers by their families.

The postmaster encouraged the Belgian glassmakers to file a suit against the agent /treasurer/acct., but ignorant of the laws of the

land, and fearful that such a suit might drag on too long, they declined to do so.

All the Belgian glassmakers left that glasshouse, some found work elsewhere, others returned to Belgium much poorer than before. Those who returned to Belgium left on the 18th of November 1880 and arrived in Antwerp on the 6th of December.

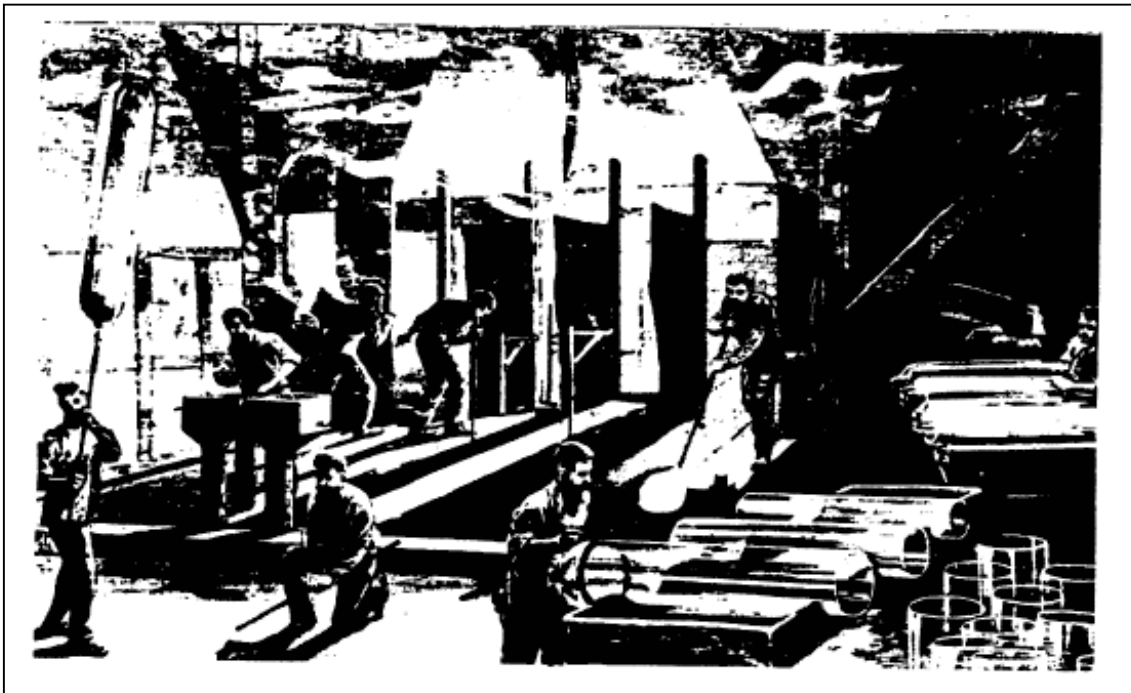
If workers wonders were had highly qualified emigrant were so poorly treated, one what poor unskilled labor— to suffer?

SOURCES

Letters published in Le Journal Charleroi, end of 1880, found forwarded by Father Jean Ducat.



In 1901, E. GOBBE and F. FOURCAULT invested a mechanical process for making plate glass known as the "Belgian drawing process"



Manufacture of plate glass from "canons" in the Charleroi region.

“Morgenstemming” in the Polders.
by Leen J. Inghels.

There is a particular little corner in my Flemish homeland, formed by the delta of the Scheld to the north and the Northsea to the northwest, that has a special appeal to anyone who happens to discover it. And “discover” is really what it amounts to, because this sanctuary lays secluded, hidden from the uninitiated. No highways pass through there, no industry has had a chance to disgrace the atmosphere with its smoke, smog, or smudgy toilers. There are no fancy restaurants, no playgrounds, no tourist attractions, not even a signpost to lure you out there. Pure, unpolluted, natural, it looks like civilization bypassed this little haven of peace.

Regularly divided by dikes, bordered themselves by tall, healthy, daringly green poplars, tilting under the steady attack of the northwestern wind lays the rich, black, voluptuous Polderland.

Large, morassy waterholes abound, surrounded by low brush, wild plum trees, choke cherries, and deep into the water are the stretches of cattails and white feathery swamp reeds.
The peace and quietness is only broken by a sudden flight of wild ducks and mud hens.

A sporadic, small white-chalked Polder peasant home, lost in the immensity of nature lights up the color scheme like a splash of sunshine.

When day dawns upon the Polder land, heaven seems to touch the earth. A gauzy veil in solemn communion binds the infinite to the finite, the abstract to the concrete.
The hazy sun rises lazily over the horizon and gives the whole a mysterious, unearthly tint.

The velvety, damp silence is suddenly broken by a lonely rooster announcing daybreak, echoing back over the Polders.

Slowly, stretching herself like an awakening child nature arouses. Where nothing is pressing her, she takes her time to prepare for the day ahead. Very cautiously she lifts up the gauzy veil, and discloses the patiently waiting, sensuous earth.

In the swamps a solitary hem, philosophically pondering, stands in the midst of a patch of water lilies.

A smile is a silent laugh. A grin is a smile to yourself that shows. A chuckle is a small laugh, sometimes real, sometimes not.

A snicker is a wicked chuckle. A snigger is a dirty snicker. A chortle is an old-time, small-time laugh. And a laugh... a laugh is happiness set to music.

William Rotsler.

EMIGRATION OF THE FARMERS FROM BRABANT AND HESBAYE

1852

By Jean Ducat

In September 1852, two Belgian families from Grez-Doiceau in Brabant Wallon, decided spontaneously to emigrate to the United States. We do not know whether it was the saga of these two families or the example of their Luxembourg compatriots which set off the from Brabant World; the oral exemplary However, Doiceau movement of emigration and Hesbaye to the New sources, and particularly traditions, show an discretion on this subject. it was also from Grez— and its immediate neigh— boyhood that, in May 1853, the first mass departure for the United States was organized.

81 Brabantines embarked in an old American threemaster, the Quinnebaug. After having braved several storms, they landed at New York on 5 July 1853, after a voyage lasting almost 50 days.

According to the American tradition, the Belgian emigrants had hardly decided on their destination when they left the port of Antwerp. It was only during the Atlantic crossing that they decided to accompany the Dutch voyagers to Wisconsin. They settled to the northeast of Green Bay, where the forests of the peninsula began, and there they established the nucleus of their future Belgian colony. Today, the Belgian population extends over a triangle formed by Bay Settlement, Sturgeon Bay and Algoma, covering Door, Drown and Kewaunee counties.

From September 1853 onwards, and probably before they were able to receive any reassuring news on the establishment of the first pioneers, other families embarked for the United States. From now on the movement was launched, and it seemed that nothing could stop it, not even the pious warning of some Belgian politicians on the malpractice of transatlantic emigration. This emigration expanded considerably in 1855 and 1856, involving in particular the populations of the East of Brabant Wallon (the cantons of Jodoigne, Perwez and Wavre), of the Namur region of Hesbaye (the cantons of Eghezée and Gembloux) and, to a lesser extent, those of the Hesbaye liégeoise. To sum up, it is estimated that between 5,000 and 7,500 Brabantines and Hesbignons answered the call of the New World from 1852 and 1856. What were the causes of this movement of emigration? A situation of economic affliction generally provides a context that is favorable to mass emigration. The emigration of the Brabantines and the Hesbignons is no exception, and belongs to the food

and industrial crisis of the mid—19th Century.

Although Belgium experienced an early industrial development, in the middle of XIXth century agriculture still provided employment for Sex of the active population, and had to feed a population, which had not ceased to grow since the first quarter of the century. The Brabançon landscape, as described by the cadaster and the census of 1846, shows us a soil that is cultivated up into the remotest corners and parcelled up to an extreme degree. The peasants could riot gain a decent living from the products of their land alone. So many of them found additional sources of income in rural industries (distilling, brewing, sugar milling, etc.) and home activities (cutlery, straw plaiting, nail-making).

It was quite obvious that this rural universe based on small holding and cumulation of agricultural and proto—industrial activities was at the mercy of the least vagaries of the economic cycle. Belgian peasants became cruelly aware of this when, in

the middle of the XIX century, from 1845 to 1856, several scourges mingled their devastating effects. The potato disease, with several years of disastrous harvests, spread consternation among the most disadvantaged classes, not only in Belgium but in the whole of Western Europe. Food prices climbed in proportions it is difficult to imagine nowadays, sometimes by more than 100% from one year to another, while there was practically no readjustment of wages. Moreover, the industrial revolution was gaining ground day by day and was pitilessly imposing its economic conditions and constraints. Technological development and the competition from the "new industry" on the one hand, the development of the means of communication and urbanization, on the other hand, tolled the knell of the home industries and **the rural** industries. The battle was too unequal, and it ended in their disappearance.

This avalanche of misfortunes was enough to upset a precarious balance, transforming into starving and uprooted beggars peasants who, so far, had just **been** able to eke a living from the products of their land. The famine and the epidemics of cholera and typhus which arrived in its train were accompanied by great surges of mortality. Rather than swell the ranks of the poverty stricken and the victims of the crisis, some of the rural work force preferred to abandon the earth of their ancestors and to search elsewhere for more prosperous conditions of existence. It is in this way that emigration to the United States constituted a last hope for a good number of country families. These were essentially poor peasants, day laborers and share-croppers, accompanied by their wives children, and sometimes even by their forebears, who swelled the flood of emigration to the United States. Their numbers also included weavers, hat makers, cutlers, carpenters and others, fleeing from the unequal competition imposed on them by the "new industry".

While the vagaries of the economic cycle

created a climate favorable to expatriation, this would not have been able to develop without the combined action of two factors. The recruiting agents, in the service of Antwerp ship owners or American colonization companies, made active and effective propaganda for emigration. The appeals from parents or friends already installed in the New World, and their success, were also powerful attractions.

However, all the sources, and in particular the consular reports, denounce the deplorable living conditions of Belgian colonists during the first years of their installation in Wisconsin. Hope rapidly gave way to bitterness. These emigrants, hoping to become rich landowners, found they were faced only by uncultivated lands covered with a dense forest of deciduous and coniferous trees. In spite of the fatigue which racked them, weakened as they were by fevers, dysentery and cholera, they set to work systematically clearing their lands. As the months and years went by, these wild lands were changed into arable land, ready to receive their sowings. The felled trees were transformed into shingles, then transported by schooner as far as Green Bay where they were sold for a good price. In 1860, it is estimated that 4 million wooden shingles were dispatched from the region of Brussels alone. This very lucrative trade was to permit them to buy a few head of cattle and, later, farming implements and modern agricultural machines.

Soon, they could see springing here and there family workshops offering work to carpenters, wheelwrights, sawyers and blacksmiths, while others, profiting from the winter, traveled up to Michigan to work in the sawmills there. Roads, schools, churches and shops were built. The Walloons of Wisconsin, who had become American citizens, began to share in the administrative management of their State.

Some of them occupied important positions in the State. In a word, life was beginning to be organized everywhere, and the blighted hopes of the first years began to vanish from their memories.

Attracted by the spirit of enterprise of these colonists, American businessmen created industries, which rapidly began to prosper. We may quote the case of Gardner who, in a few years, founded at Little Sturgeon a commercial and industrial center, a shipyard, and a maritime company employing some 400 workers including a hundred carpenters and 150 lumberjacks.

The great fire of 1871, by destroying whole acres of woodland, dried up an important source of income for the Belgians, but did make it easier to convert the extensive woodlands into arable land. From now on, cultivation and stock farming were to become the main occupations of the Belgian colonists.

Farms and properties increased in size, the wool trade developed, and the manufacture of butter, and still more that of cheese, made great strides. In 1884 there were about a dozen cheesemakers. Four years later, their number had doubled, and they were producing from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of cheese a week. In the same way, near Green Bay, market gardening and the production of strawberries assured the prosperity of some colonists; it is said that some of them dispatched entire wagon loads of ten tons.

In conclusion: In a few years, the emigrants from Brabant and Hesbaye contributed, by a mighty effort of will, to transforming a wild country into a prosperous farming State. This emigration to the United States, for all its importance, was only ephemeral and can be perceived as a cyclical phenomenon providing the remedy for overpopulation, underemployment and a poverty, which had become epidemic. This movement was to resume afterwards, but never to the extent observed between 1853 and 1856. It was to be especially the miners, the glassmakers and, to a lesser extent, the metalworkers who were to assure, from the 1860's onwards and up to the dawn of the First World War, the perennity of Walloon emigration to the United States.

"Wooden Shoes"
by Pierre L. Inghels

The people of northern Europe, Northern France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, have a long tradition of wearing what we call "Wooden shoes" in English, but is called "Sabots" in French, "Kloefen" in Flemish, "Klompen" in Netherlandic, (from the sound they make on cobbelstone: klomp, klomp). "Holzschuhe" in German, "Almadrenos" in Spanish, etc. Many of us, traveling abroad, fell in love with the brilliantly painted beautiful miniature wooden shoes, that we bought in souvenir stores, and brought back to the States. At home we flung them on the wall in the kitchen, in the dining room or on the deck, to display flowers, or plants, or we used them on our desk as pencil and pen holders. One of our friends in Portland, Oregon has even two of the beautiful little wooden shoes in her china cabinet, together with two nice little dolls of the "Gilles de Binche", and a few pieces of the marvelous Belgian laces, that friends brought for her, from different areas of Belgium. Although she is an all around American, she is so proud of her Belgian friends, that she decided to accompany my wife Leen to Europe in 1990, and go visit Belgium with her. (But this takes us away from our subject).



Did you know that in Europe, wooden shoes have been made and worn for more than 500 years; That they were developed to replace the clogs and sandals to provide better foot protection where it was wet, slippery, muddy and dirty; That farmers filled them with straw in the winter, to keep their feet warm; That today, wooden shoes are still very well liked by farmers, gardeners, fishermen, dairy workers, brewery workers, etc. and that from 3 1/2 to 4 million pairs of wooden shoes are made in Europe every year.

Did you know also that the word 'sabotage' comes directly from the French word 'sabot'? In the 1870's when new machines were brought into the factories, some French workers became so concerned that this new equipment would take over their job that they threw their sabots into the new machines, causing great damage. That was the first "sabotage".

Most of the wooden shoes are made from poplar, but willow makes a much better quality shoe, more waterproof. Wooden shoes are also economical, it is said that if you glue a piece of auto tire on the bottom of your wooden shoes, that they will last you for 20,000 miles... you don't have to buy shoe polish nor shoelaces. And if your kids wear them, you can always hear were they are...

Belgian Emigrants

Following is the second in a series of lists of Belgians who emigrated from it various villages to the United States. Many came to the northeastern part of Wisconsin. For the most part, the lists were made up from Population Registers in Belgium.

Melin

Joseph LIBERT, 32, son of Jean Francois LIBERT; Jean Baptiste VINCE;
Dieudonne WILMART and wife Marie Francoise VINCE (daughter of Jean Baptiste VINCE), and three daughters, Marie Josephe, Marie Desiree, and Marie Antoinette WILMART;
Desire BERGER and his wife; Julien Joseph MATHIEU;
Jean Baptiste DEPRez, his wife Marie Natalie LOUIS, and their five children, Melanie Josephe, Jean Joseph, Gustave Joseph, Jean Francois, and Victor Antoine Joseph DEPRez;
Jean Francois HUART, 56 years old in 1855, single;
Xavier DELARUELLE, his wife Marie Catherine DELHAZE, and six children, Pelagie Josephe, Victor Joseph, Marie Appoline, Floribert, Florence, and Marie Antoinette DELARUELLE;
Leonard DUBOIS and his wife Marie Joseph OEVROYE;
Auguste Joseph JADIN, of Pietrebais, his wife Eleonore Josephe PARIS, and. their five children, Marie Therese, Jean Joseph, Rosalie Josephe, Jean Baptiste, and Maximilien JADIN;
Pierre Joseph JADIN, of Pietrebais, his wife Josephine WAUTLET, and their three children, Marie Catherine, Desiree, and Julien Joseph JADIN;
Maximilien Joseph JADIN, 21 years old in 1855; single;
Hubert Joseph HUART, son of Jean Joseph HUART, 14 years old in 1855;
Desire HENDRICK and his wife Jeanne VAN MALDEREN, with their son Toussaint;
Hugo GERSSIN, his wife Marie Barbe BARETTE, and their son Guillaume;
Alexandre DROSSART, his wife Julie Josephe DELFORGE, and their sons Antoine Joseph and Eugene Joseph DROSSART;
Hubert PAUL, his wife Marie Josephe BACLEINE, and their son Joseph PAUL;
Constant COISMAN;
Louis COISMAN, his wife Celestine TAILLET and two children, Marie Antoinette and Emile Joseph COISMAN;
Armand FRAY, his wife Josephine ALBERT, their daughter Marie Genevieve FRAY, and Victor DIRICK, Josephine's son from her first marriage;
Henri GIBSON and his wife Anne Josephe;
Eugene BACLEINE, his wife Hortense MEURON, and their children, Eloise Josephe, Marie Theresa, Desire Eugene, Zenon Joseph, and Nestor BACLEINE;
Henri BACLEINE;
Alexis COPPEMETTE, his wife Desiree MEURON, and their eight children, Marcel Henri, Victorine Desiree, Isidore, Clotilde, Elvire, Stephanie, Ferdinand, and Flora COPPEMETTE (called COPPERSMITH in U.S.A.);
LOGIS, Barbe, mother—in-law of Eugene BACLEINE and Alexis COPPEMETTE;
Jean Baptiste LAMINE, and wife Josephine BARETTE;
Barbe BARETTE, widow of a Mr. ROBSON, and her son;
Desire DEPRez, his wife Antoinette BARETTE, and two children, Genevieve and Jean Baptiste DEPRez;
Jean Baptiste LECOQC;

Martin THEYS;
Joseph HUART;
Antoine DELPIERRE;
Corneille RIGUEL

(Note: These people left
(between 23 April 1855 and
(20 March 1867.

Huppave/Molembais St. Pierre (additions to list published in last issue)

Charles Joseph ALBERT, his wife Marie Françoise RAMOISY, and their children, Jacques Joseph, Antoine Joseph, Isidore Joseph and Victor Joseph ALBERT; Charles Joseph RAMOISY, born at Jauchelette, a widower;

Dieudonne GOSIN, his wife Amelie Joseph RAMOISY, and their children, Amelie Joseph, François Xavier, Augustin, Virginie Joseph, and Jean Baptiste GOSIN:

Marie Françoise FRINSON, born at Jauche, 62, a widow;
Clement MOTTART, and his wife Eleonore VANDERMISSEN

Bomal

François Joseph BOUCHER, his wife Julie LADURON, and children, Jean Baptiste, Louis Joseph, Eleonore, Leon Joseph, François, Constantin, and Augustine BOUCHER. Only Augustine was born at Bomal; the father and other children were born at Ramillies and the mother at Mont St. Andre;

Jean BERCKMANS, his wife Therese MERCENIER, and daughter, Marie Philippine BERCKMANS. Father born at Brussels; mother and daughter at Mont St. Andre; emigrated to Illinois

You are reminded that in many cases these people were born in villages other than those from which they departed, with marriage or change of employment the usual reasons.

Happy Holidays to all our friends!

The tradition of Belgian beer perpetuated in Wisconsin



The following article is part of a family history written by Peter E. Desjardins. He sent the article together with a query (see queries). I found the account of Regina so incredible and such a good example of the hardships endured by emigrants that we decided to print it in the Christmas issue of Belgian Laces. I sincerely hope that someone may be able to help Peter to find the missing link in his family history.

Regina's Arrival in America, and Life in Mobile, Alabama

When the windjammer arrived in New Orleans, and Regina learned of the distance and rail cost to rejoin new friends in Cincinnati, she went to the kindly ship's Captain for help. He took her to the German Consul in New Orleans, who found a job for her as a waitress at table in a boardinghouse in Mobile, Alabama, where the landlady and all boarders were German speaking. There she earned \$25 per month, which was to her a fabulous sum. From this pay, she sent home \$15 per month to help support her family in Maudach.

Soon after she arrived and became acquainted with the boarders, a yellow fever epidemic broke out in Mobile. One of the boarders, Peter Betz, came down with the fever. He was Flemish from Belgium, and was foreman in an iron foundry in Mobile. (Probably I.D. Spear & Company, which was near the boarding house). Regina helped nurse Peter through the fever. Peter's feelings for Regina ripened into love, which Regina would not allow herself to share, because of her experience with the unfaithfulness of her first lover, the German soldier. However, she listened to the advice of her landlady, and on June 26, 1856, Regina and Peter were married by G.A. Cleveland, a Justice of the Peace in Mobile.

The first child of Regina and Peter was named Joseph, and was born September 11, 1857 at Mobile. He died September 22, 1858 in another Yellow fever epidemic. At the time of Joseph's death, Regina must have already been pregnant with her second son, Peter Edward, who was born in Mobile on February 22, 1859.

Regina must have had some rather serious problems associated with the nursing and ultimate death of her first child, Joseph. She had accumulated a doctor bill of \$300, which in those days was an enormous sum. The problem was called "Black Breast", and treatment included a litter of puppies to suck the poison out. By the time son Peter was a few months old, Peter and Regina had been able to pay off this bill, but Regina, who still spoke no English, had paid the bill but failed to get a receipt. The doctor presented the bill again, and Peter, who was even normally a man of some temper, flew into a rage over this injustice. On the way to vent his rage at the doctor, he was stricken, and on August 7, 1859 he died. His death certificate described the cause of his death as "Congestion of the Bowels". He was 38 years old. Peter was buried alongside his son Joseph in Lot 84, Square 10, of the old Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile. We have seen the tract, and there are no stone markers.

Regina's Return Trip to Europe

After Peter's death, Regina became gradually more homesick. Also her husband's relatives in Belgium were pressing her to come visit so they could see their new family member. Peter's father in Belgium was about 90 years old, and wished to see his grandson before he died. In May 1860, Regina got copies of her husband's death certificate, and her son's baptismal certificate. She preserved these two pieces of paper until the day she died.

In September 1860, when Peter was only 1 ½ years old, they caught a Windjammer sailing for Le Havre. From there she went to her family farm in Maudach. Regina's mother, Eva, died about this time. Apparently the money Regina had been sending home from her job in Mobile had given her brothers and sisters the impression that she was rich, and she soon became very uncomfortable with the pressures on her to give money that she did not have.

Regina soon left for Belgium to see her husband's family there. In Brussels she opened a bonnet shop, making bonnets for peasant women. Although the bonnets were popular, she made little money, as Peter's relatives all expected her to make free ones for them and their friends. Also, many shoppers would simply study her American designs, and go home and make similar bonnets themselves. This left few real sales.

Regina's Return to New Orleans

As her bonnet business foundered, Regina began thinking of returning to America. Peter's 90 year old father understood, and gave Regina \$300 for young Peter, as he knew he would never see his grandchild again. In mid-1861, Regina and son Peter caught another Windjammer for her third, and Peter's second, crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Peter, now 2 ½ years old, charmed the Captain, and was given free run of the ship.

This time Regina arrived in New Orleans just after the start of the Civil War. Remember that she still spoke no English, and had no idea there was a war going on. With a baby and no language skills, she could not find work. But she did find customers for whom she made fancy shirts with hand stitching which were popular at that time in aristocratic old New Orleans. She renewed acquaintance with her husband's old friend, William Kramer, who had been to visit them several times while they lived in Mobile. William spoke both German and English.

Background of Peter BETZ, His Son's Baptism.

We have little knowledge of the background of Peter Betz. Regina said he was Belgian and that she later visited his father in Belgium. Peter's death certificate says he was born in Germany. Censuses show birthplace, but Peter never appeared on a census. His name was listed in the 1859 Mobile City Directory as a boilermaker, living on the East side of Claiborne, 2nd door South of Eslava. We know he had a friend named Kramer in New Orleans, to whom Regina was later married. We can only guess that Peter had spent some time in New Orleans before moving to Mobile. New Orleans was at that time a main port of entry.

We searched for record of other Betzes in Mobile in that period. All we found was a marriage record from 1834 between Margaret Betz and John Pitzer (Book 2, Page 351), and a judgment dated June 8, 1853 in Mobile that awarded to a George H. Betz \$173.19 in damages from George W. Ross. We cannot tie either of these to Peter.

One story about a Betz family from New Orleans bears repeating here. In the 1850 census of New Orleans, the name Betz appeared for the first time. There were two brothers listed, John and Phillip, and they were listed as being from Germany. I spoke to descendants of these men, not long after they had been to a family reunion on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. At that reunion, an elder of the family, who had since died, told them of the Jewish Betz brothers who came from Germany to New Orleans. One of these brothers married a Catholic and was ostracized by the other. As the tale was related, even now the descendants of these two brothers are not speaking after nearly 150 years.

I have no idea that Peter Betz was related to these New Orleans Betzes, but there is some suggestion that he was quite anti-Catholic, which would not be surprising if he were associated with that Jewish family. Here are some facts which make me suspect that Peter may have been Jewish:

- 1) Regina was raised as a Catholic, but they were married by a Justice of the Peace.
- 2) Neither of Peter's sons were baptized while he lived. Regina had said that her husband would not allow it.
- 3) Regina did finally have son Peter baptized on September 18, 1859, just 1~ months after her husband died. Peter was baptized in Mobile Cathedral, and sponsors were Edward Cline and Eliza String. I suspect that the sponsors were simply bystanders pressed into service, as they had English names, and Regina still spoke no English.

In this season of gift giving:
GIVE A SUBSCRIPTION OF BELGIAN LACES TO A FRIEND

FROM AND TO....FROM AND TO....FROM AND TO....FROM AND TO....

From Mary-Ann DEFNET. Last week I had the privilege to meet Dr. Carl Callebaut, a retired Belgian heart surgeon. He now lives in Switzerland, but comes here to visit friends nearly every year. It was strange how he met them. They told him they lived just a few miles from Brussels, Rosiere and Namur. The doctor said he also lived a few miles from those places. Of course, he meant in Belgium, while the friends meant in Wisconsin. So the good doctor had to come here to see the differences. The differences are TREMENDOUS! Our Brussels is just a little country town with about 250 people; Rosiere and Namur are like stops on the road. At any rate, Doctor Callebaut is very interested in the Belgian and Swiss settlements in the United States.

From Lorraine Rivard NAZE. There were four families from Grand Leez, Belgium that settled in Wright County, Minnesota in 1857:

Alexandre FACHANP (FASCHAMP), born in Melin and his wife Marie THIRION (TERION); Ernest HOUART (HOWART), the first settler of French Lake Township; Peter CHARLET (CHARLES, CHARLIERO, and Pierre J. ROUSSEAU (Peter) and wife Marie-Ann HOWARD (HOUART).

Alexandre came from Belgium in 1855, settled near Eden, Wisconsin and appears in this town's census for 1860. He came to Wright County in 1863, and moved his family there in 1865. Peter ROUSSEAU came from Belgium in 1862. Ernest HOUART (HOWART) and Marie DUPONT, his wife settled in Fond Du Lac, WI. and came, to MI in 1856. All four of these families appear in the 1870 census of Wright Co. I also found a GERARD (JIRARD), RAHIER, GUINTURE (sp?) in Wright Co as being born in Belgium. All these families sold ginseng roots as a cash crop.

From Seamond Ponsart ROBERTS. Thank you to all the members, who helped me: Belgian Laces, Micheline Gaudette and Barbara Van De Pete who sent me listings of Emonds in MA and MT; Howard THOMAS of DC who "dug up" some PONSART, whom I subsequently called, and from whom I learned to my amazement that they are probably a branch of the "long lost" French PONSARTs. My father always thought that because of the two world wars there would be no way to connect with this branch. I am writing them and talking to their 85 years old father who will be visiting next week from Paris. How totally wonderful! Thanks again!

From Raymond Hector BROGNIEZ...I've had some interesting correspondence with Daniel GRYPONPREZ from Kortrijk. He has much of that family on computer. My mother was a Grymonprez, and we find we are distant cousins...

From the same . Belgian Laces has had articles about glassmakers, coal miners, etc., but what about brewers? Belgians drink more beer per capita than any other nationality in the world. Our family has made beer for over 300 years and at one time was considered one of the top three brewers in Belgium. My father, Frans Hector B., graduated from the Univ. of Louvain as a biochemist and followed the family trade. His first brewery was in Brussels in the rue de France. In Detroit MI his first brewery

was the Tivoli on Mack Ave. In 1910 the family moved to Houston TX., where he produced Southern Select, the beer with which he won the World's Grand Prix (Ghent 19.3) in competition with 4500 beers of the world.

From Pierre INGHELS : talking about beer...and with the opening of the frontiers between East and West... Did you know that the brewery Dc Koninck from Antwerp Belgium, in collaboration with the building company Gillain & Co have formed a new cooperative which started a joint venture with the brewery VJENA in Leningrad, Soviet Union. Gillain is going to build the facilities while Dc Koning is going to make the "Bolleke" beer. Probably the first good beer they will ever have in Russia... Sante ! Naz drovie !

From Micheline GAUDETTE. Jacques DETRO, 99, Rue de Fétinne, B-4020 Liege, Belgium is planning an exhibition to honor Scouting, and would really appreciate any insignias / banners and other scouting memorabilia that members would be willing to send him.

Members can send "whatever" directly to him, to Micheline or to this office. We will be glad to forward everything to Jacques Detro who has helped (and still is helping) so many people.

From Eleanor MOFFETT. Thank you for the information you sent me and for printing part of my letter in B.L. I have received answers from many of the members and am so pleased and appreciative of the response, especially with the letter from Jean Jacques HALLAUX of Belgium. I noticed in B.L. a quote of a letter written by Lorraine BERO. My great-uncle John HALLAUX married a Eugenie BERO, where and when, I don't know, although one family member told me it was in New Orleans, and that the BERO were still there. I would be happy to share with Lorraine the info I have on HALLAUX and BERO descendants. (Addresses and notes transmitted, Pierre.).

From Barbara POPE. I would like to add some information to your last Belgian Laces. My Grandfather, Hector Lefebvre, was a window glass blower. He came with two brothers in law, Emile FRERE and Camille GILLOT, from Charleroi to Indiana about 1895...

Grandfather worked with an English tutor after his arrival in the States, and was granted citizenship in Point Marion PA, in 1910. Grandfather worked with my uncles, Ernest and Marcel, as a team. Ernest was a gatherer and Marcel a cutter. Grandfather retired from glasswork and became a farmer around 1911. Uncle Ernest blew for Houze Glass. Uncle Marcel worked as a cutter in Louisiana, Indiana and Oklahoma. My Father Hector was a glazier. He worked with plate glass and window glass.

Of the three brothers-in-law, only Hector and Camille had children who followed the glass trade. Camille's grandson. Lob PAYEZ is a retired glassworker. He lives in Clarksberg.

Dad and I have been enjoying the recent information about the glass blowers. All the new information about window glass blowers has filled some of the blanks about " why " the family emigrated.

QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES QUERIES

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

A few members wrote to let us know that they received answers to their queries in Belgian Laces. At the office of The Belgian Researchers, we have a file for each query, and do research on our side as well. If you send an answer to a member, may we ask you to send us also a copy of your answers, so that we would know the status of the research, update the request, or close the file.

Thank you !

Pierre

89/72 MASCO/MASCAUX. Seek information on Henri MASCAUX / Henry MASCO ? came from Belgium, possibly by way of Germany with his wife Adeline GUNTHER / GUNTER ?. Daughter Clemence, age 8 and son Joseph Clarence 6 mos. Came through the port of New York 24 Sept 1888. Settled in Allport, Clearfield Co. PA. a Belgian Community? Jean Masco, 967, Pine Hill Road, Palm Harbor, FL. 34683.

89/73 VAN TOMME. Donald W. Carter, 311 N. 61st Ave. Yakima, WA. 98908 has extracts from stamboek of his G.G.Father Francois VAN TOMME, born May 1836 in Ardoie near Roulers, Belgium, son of Johannes and Barbara WACHEM. Francois married Melanie DE MOUIE, their first child was Alexander born 29 March 1867 (possibly at Lille, France).

They emigrated to U.S. early 1870 on ship "California". Landing in New York. They settled in Iowa near Des Moines. Seeking Belgian relatives and more information on family.

89/74 DI VALCX - DE WILDE. Honore Aloys DE VALCK married Josephine Marie DI WILDE (WIELDE) in De Klinge 24 Febr. 1906.

Searching for death date and all information concerning their descendents. Georges Johnson, do V.V.F., Van Heybceckstraat 3, B—2060—Merksem/Antwerpen, Belgium.

89/75 CALCHINA. Alexander CALCHINA born 13 Nov. 1852 Belgium, came to the States in 1888 as a widower, died Oregon city, Clackamas, OR. 10 Jan. 1935. Son Camille Toussaint Guislain CALCHINA married Celine Emilie Jos. LEURQUIN. They had two children son Albert, born Tarentum, PA, and daughter Mary, born La Grande, OR. Later moved to Aberdeen WA, where Camille died 19 Mar.1960 .Looking for more info on family. Carol M. CALCHINA, 3121, Geronimo Ave. San Diego, CA 92117.

89/76 MAES. Wish to correspond with anyone familiar with the Menen, Belgium, or Halluin, France areas. I am researching Henry Louis MAIS, born March 1868 in Halluin. Son of Charles Louis MAIS, and Elisabeth Rosalie VANDEPEYNE. Shirley A. BROOKS, 31769, Via Valdez, Lake Elsinore, CA 92330.

89/77 CROY / DI CROY. I am looking for information on all CROY

or DE CROY, but especially on Jan or Jean DE CROY. Wrote Dorothy CROY, 14 Hillpoint, Trotwood, OH 45426.

89/78 KRAFFT. We are looking for a KRAFFT family originally from the Arlon area who left Belgium in the 1800's. They settled somewhere in the US. Please send info to Mary-Ann DEFNET, 253 Little Road, Green Bay, WI 54301.

89/78 PILLET. Searching for Jean Baptiste PILLET, coming from Roux-Miroir/Incourt in 1855 and was on the same ship as the BOURGUIGNON family from the same village. The BOURUIGNONS settled in the Green Bay area, but no trace of JB PILLET. Please send info to Mary-Ann DEFNET.

89/79 DEPAUW/DEPEAU/DEPEAUX Coming from Thorembais St Trond, Belgium, may have been a judge in Wisconsin? The family of Pierre DEPAUW and Marie Joseph MERCIER also of Thorembais came to Green Bay area but their descendants know of no relative who was a judge. Please send info to Mary-Ann DEFNET.

89/80 INGHELS/INGELS Looking for info on the descendants of Pierre INGHELS coming from Belgium, landed in New York, 15th or 16th of May 1854. (Ship and landing documents of period lost). Signed declaration of intention to become US citizen on same date. Became citizen 24 Apr 1860 in Philadelphia.

I have Xerox copies of declarations of intention from Superior Court of New York and petition to become citizen from District Court of Philadelphia. But can't find any trace of him anymore. Who can help me to trace him or his descendants. Where did he come from? Where did he or they go? Please write to the editor.

89/81 BETZ. Please Read "regina" by Peter E DESJARDINS on pages 66.67 and 68 and help us find a solution to the lacking information about the Belgian heritage of Pete BETZ.

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