

Belgian Laces



<http://www.terrageria.com/europe/belgium/bruges/picture.belg30137.html>

At a time when Europe, with Belgium as the center and Brussels as its Capital, is preparing itself for the European Economic Community by 1992, the East bloc at once crumbled. Communism as an economic system has filed bankruptcy. The democratization of the East creates many problems for those states, that for many years lived under the boot of communism. Not having experienced democracy, it will be an upsetting change for many. It will be an expensive and long-term problem to bring in a new system so different from what they have known, and to have it accepted by the people who have been used to follow the dictates of a government. Democracy has to be learned. We hope that the peoples of the East block countries will be patient, and diligent students.

The soon to come reunification of Germany also will require a lot of rethinking on the part of a lot of people. For the first time in history, France and Germany are allies and together they are the leading forces in a United Europe. Europe will become a most powerful economic market.

We are proud that Belgium is ready for its role in the changing face of Europe, and send United Europe our best wishes for a peaceful and successful future.

We are publishing the last part of the series of articles by Jean Ducat about the glass makers in the U.S. The city of Charleroi Pennsylvania will celebrate its Centennial in July this year. A delegation from Charleroi Belgium, as well as Father Jean Ducat, (founder of Belgian American Heritage in Belgium), will be present for this occasion. An exhibition will be brought from Charleroi Belgium, and will be open to the public in Charleroi PA during the festivities. I didn't receive the program from Charleroi yet, but will publish it in the mid May edition. Your editor and some other members will probably join the delegation of Jean Ducat in the participation of this exceptional event. Let us know if you would like to attend the Festivities also.

In this issue, we publish a very interesting article by our member Lorraine Rivard Naze, about the Flemish colony in Grandview Township and Ghent, MN. This article will be followed by many others by the same author. Thank you Lorraine. Articles contributed by our members are always welcome.

More and more, we realize that our query department is paying off. Many of our members have received good helpful answers, and have written us about it.

We are trying to establish a list of books and documents written by Belgians and/or about Belgians in the U.S. to create a library and documentation to help our members in their research. I have donated books, we have bought a few books, but our society's budget does not permit us to invest much. We have received some publications from members in Belgium, in Canada and in the States. Our member Jean Pierre DELROT in Belgium mailed us photocopies of two books out of print, that represent a valuable documentation for our association. Thank you, Jean Pierre. Any assistance from our members in this area will be greatly appreciated.

Generals Of Belgian Descent Who Led The French Revolutionary Armies,As Found In Noel Anselot's Book, *Ces Belges Qui Ont Fait La France*.

By Micheline Gaudette, 8 Wyckoff Ave. Holyoke, Mass.01040

In his book, "Ces Belges Qui Ont Fait La France", Noel ANSELOT reminds his readers that many of France's heroes and heroines were not French but Belgians, in so doing, he takes them on an historical and cultural journey that begins with Julius Caesar's conquest of Gaul and ends in this century, stopping only at the high points of history. Not only do we learn from this book that Belgians are an ancient people, but from the number of Belgian Catholic saints (at least 17) honored in France, we can conclude that Belgians are also a very holy people "

Chapters VII and VIII (pp 46—75) of "Ces Belges Qui Ont Fait La France" deal with the roles played by Belgians during the French Revolution and in the years afterwards. Since France is celebrating the bicentennial of the French Revolution, it's only befitting that we would bring attention to the many Belgian—born generals who led the French armies during the French Revolution and immediately afterwards.

Servais Baudouin BOULANGER, was born Liège (LG) in 1756. He joined the French Garde Nationale in 1789. From artilleryman, he rose quickly to the ranks of lieutenant and then captain in charge of a battalion. By October 1793, he was a general in the Revolutionary Army, then general of the Commune of Paris. When accused (of treason?) he was defended and saved by none other than the famous ROBESPIERRE, his friend. When in turn ROBESPIERRE was accused of treason, BOULANGER came to his defense, unfortunately for him, he was unsuccessful in his attempt to save his friend and ended—up sharing his fate.

Andre Joseph BOUSSART, was born in Binche (NT). He participated in the 1789 unsuccessful Brabant and Liege Revolutions and joined the French army afterwards. He was named brigadier general in 1800. BOUSSART was wounded numerous times during his military career.

Martin Jean Francois CARRION DE LASCONDES was born in Ghent (EF), and served during the American Revolution. Back in Europe, he first served as a soldier with the French Regiment of Champagne, that was in January 1785, by the end of the same year, he was a sergeant. By 1792, he was one of the brigadier generals in the Armées des Côtes.

* University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Call Number DC 59.8 B4 A57, 1982.

Jean Antoine COLLAERT who was born in Bléhen (LG) in 1761, first served with the Austrian army and then with the French army in the Netherlands, but had to retire in 1808 because of injuries received in combat. He was reactivated in France in 1811 with the rank of brigadier general and served in that capacity in Italy, France, Saxony and Alsace. COLLAERT switched allegiance in 1814 and joined the Dutch Army, which he led as a cavalry lieutenant general. In 1815 at Waterloo, he was seriously wounded and died one year later.

Gaspard Herman COTTY was born in Waillet (NR) in 1772. He attended Paris Military School and served with the Army of Sambre et Meuse as a lieutenant. By 1811 he had been promoted to colonel, and by 1823 he was a field-marshal.

Louis Willebrod Antoine DE BAILLET de LATOUR was born in 1753 in Latour near Virton, (LX). He spent most of his military career at the service of Austria, and joined the French Army only in 1811 as a general of division. DE BAILLET DE LATOUR reorganized the 127th, 128th and 129th regiments.

Nicolas DECLAYE was born in Liège in 1758, and participated in the Liege Revolution in 1789, he then fled to France where he volunteered and became major of the Belgian and Liège Legion (N.B. Liege was a free principality and its inhabitants thought of themselves as Liegeois and not as Belgians). By 1793, he was a brigadier general in charge of the defense of the city of Cambrai. In trouble with the Comité du Salut Public, he was jailed, released, and trusted with the command of the defense of Lyon, France, then jailed again, released again, he was in command of defenses of Nevers in 1796 and of Vennes in 1799. He retired as chief of a battalion in 1802.

Charles Francois Joseph DE LAMY, served for 14 years with the armies of Austria, then at the age of 56, switched allegiance and became one of the battalion leaders in the "Armée du Nord". He was promoted to the ranks of brigadier general in 1793, and of commandant in the Army of Italy in 1794. In 1796, he was arrested and released. DE LAMY died in Charleroi (NT) in 1809 of natural causes.

Philippe DEVAUX DE VAUTRAY was born in Brussels (BT) in 1760, and was said to be the illegitimate son of Charles DE LORRAINE, Governor of the Low-Countries. He first served with the Armies of Austria, but because of the active part he took in the Brabant Revolution (1789) against Austria, DEVAUX DE VAUTRAY had to flee to France where he joined the French Revolution. In 1792, he was made aide-de-camp to General DUMOURIEZ, and on the 20th of October of the same year he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 17th Infantry Regiment. DUMOURIEZ named him temporary camp marshal on 3 April 1793, unfortunately this honor was to be

of short duration because the very next day, DEVAUX DE VAUTRAY was arrested, sent to Paris where he was judged, sentenced and executed on May 26, 1793.

Francois Joseph DEVERCHIN was born in Eugies (HT) in 1746, and entered at the service of the French armies in 1792. He was first named lieutenant, then captain of the 9th and 10th Free Companies. He was promoted during the same year (1792) to the rank of lieutenant-colonel in charge of the 1st Chasseurs de Hainaut. By 1793 DEVERCHIN was one of the brigadier generals In the Ardennes Army, then he was suspended and arrested, but freed in 1794, he was promoted to the rank of adjunct brigadier general In the Sambre et Meuse Army. In 1798 he was commandant in Brussels. DEVERCHIN retired in 1800 after being released of his command because of some seditious remarks he had made.

Jean Baptiste DUMONCEAU de BERGENDAEL was born in Brussels (BT) in 1760. He participated in the Brabant Revolution and joined the French Army in 1792. By 1793, he was made brigadier general. He retired in 1815 after a very distinguished military career in the Netherlands (but at the service of France). His name is engraved on the North side of the “Arc de Triomphe” in Paris.

Charles Joseph EVERS was born in Brussels (BT), in 1773. At the age of 20, he was with the 1st Belgian Battalion in France as a lieutenant. Later, he served in the cavalry with the Armée du Nord, Armée de Sambre—et—Meuse, Armée de Rhin—et—Moselle, Armée du Danube, and “Armée du Rhin”. He became brigadier general in 1804 and retired in 1814 with the rank of honorary lieutenant general.

Jean Lambert Joseph FYON was born in 1745 in Verviers (LG), of which he later became the burgomaster and a councilman. FYON was one of the leaders of the Liège Revolution. In Paris in 1792, he was in command of the 2nd Legion (Liège volunteers), and one of LAFAYETTE’s deputies. FYON was named commandant of the Pays de Liège and member of Liège’s National Convention. A brigadier general with the “Armée du Nord” in 1794, he was jailed, released and then named president of the Liège assembly! Again he was jailed, then released and somewhat disappeared... It’s possible that he died in Liège or Verviers in 1816.

Henri Antoine JARDON was born in Verviers (L6) in 1768. After his participation in the Liège Revolution, he joined the French Army and rapidly rose thru the ranks. By 1794, JARDON was already a brigadier general. He died in Portugal in 1809. His name is engraved on the West side of the Arc of Triomphe in Paris.

Louis Joseph LAHURE was born in Mans (HT) in 1767, he participated in the Brabant Revolution and fled to France

where he joined the army. In 1794, LAHURE captured the Dutch Navy stranded by ice. LAHURE was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1799. His name is engraved on the South side of the Arc of Triomphe in Paris.

Charles Eugene LALAING was born in Paris of Belgian parents, and served with the Austrian armies until 1804 when he entered at the service of France (way after the French Revolution). He saw action at Austerlitz, Iena, Friedland and Wagram. LALAING was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1804, and by 1823 he was a lieutenant general. His name is engraved on the East side of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Joseph LECAT was born in Ghent (EF), he was one of the volunteers in the Paris National Guard. After a very distinguished military career LECAT was promoted brigadier general in 1814 and camp marshal in 1815.

Born in Dendermonde (EF) in 1752, Theodore François Joseph LECLAIRE joined the army as a child. At 16, he was already 1st lieutenant! At 24, LECLAIRE was full lieutenant, at 25 - captain, at 34 - major in the Regiment of Bouillon, at 40, he was to become colonel of the same regiment renamed the 98th Infantry Regiment, one year later (1793) he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general. LECLAIRE also served in the "Armée du Nord," "Armée du Rhin et Moselle" and as an infantry general inspector!

Born in Liège (LG), on 26 Sept 1751, Jean Denis LEDOYEN pursued a military career in France from the age of 14 on. From captain in 1792, he quickly rose to adjunct—general—lieutenant—colonel in the "Armée des Alpes." Like so many others, he was jailed and released a few times. LEDOYEN died in 1802 at St. Domingue (former name of Haiti).

Jean Dieudonne LION, was born ca. 1770 in the Liège region. While at the service of France, he captured at Mainz on 7 Sept. 1796 a whole Austrian battalion, flag, cannons. LION was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1813.

Louis Joseph OPSOMER was born in Russeignes (HT) in 1737, and entered at the service of France at a very young age. He was a commandant in 1791 and brigadier general in charge of the Rhine Army's artillery.

Jacques OSTEN was born in Menen (WF) ca. 1760. He took part in the Brabant Revolution, and afterward fled to France where he served in the Armée du Nord. OSTEN was promoted to the rank of lieutenant—colonel in 1792. In 1793, he was in charge as a colonel, of troops from Flanders, later that same year, he was one of the "Armée du Nord's" brigadier generals. OSTEN led many successful military campaigns, but

was taken prisoner to England from where he escaped and returned to France. In 1814 he was commander of the place of Hamburg where he died from wounds received in battle.

Pierre Dominique PREVOST was born in 1749 in Brussels (BT), and joined the army at a very tender age. From 1757 to 1762 he rose from soldier to sergeant, to sergeant-major, to adjunct in the infantry regiment "d'Aginois". PREVOST fought on land and sea during the American Revolution. Back in France he was promoted to lieutenant in 1791, to captain in 1792 then to artillery lieutenant colonel. Wounded in 1793, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the "Armée des Pyrenees"

Jean—Pierre RANSONNET—BOSFORD was born in Liège (LG) in 1744, and served with LAFAYETTE during the American Revolution. He returned to Liege where he became one of the leaders of the unsuccessful Liege Revolution (1789). RANSONNET—BOSFORD was in France in 1791, leading a French company made—up mostly of Liege volunteers. By 1793, he was one of the brigadier generals in the French Armée du Nord. He died in 1796 from wounds received in battle. Three of his four sons were to die also at the service of France.

Jean Baptiste VAN MERLEN was born in Antwerp in 1773. He served in the French Army from 1795 until 1814, mostly in the Netherlands. VAN MERLEN was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in 1813, but switched allegiance in 1814 and joined the Dutch Army in COLLAERT's division as a major general. He died near Waterloo on 18 June 1815.

Some of these Belgian military men started their careers as idealistic revolutionaries who after the failure of the Brabant and Liège Revolutions, joined the ranks of the French revolutionaries, others switched or were persuaded to switch their allegiance from the country they were serving to that of France. But, regardless of their reasons for serving the French cause, their leadership abilities and courage were recognized, and soon, these Belgian military men were called to lead the French forces, which they did with much success.

Bibliography

ANSELOT, Noel Ces Belges Qui Ont Fait La France. Paris:France—Empire, 1982.

As if anticipating Dorothy LUTOMSKI's remarks (see Belgian Laces * 2/39 p.31) about her Walloon/Flemish mixed ancestry, Noel ANSELOT mentioned in his book that in Brussels, offspring of such mixed ancestry are known as "zinneke" or LITTLE SIN..!!! Well, welcome to the club! Actually, Walloon/Flemish ancestries are the best two reasons to be proud to be of Belgian descent!

A little European military joke: Do you know why NATO doesn't need tanks? Because they have Belgians and their cars!

“THE BELGIAN COMMUNITY IN GRANDVIEW TOWNSHIP 1800s - 1910” by Carl PANSAERTS, a summary by Lorraine RIVARD NAZE

Carl was an exchange student at the University of Minnesota in 1988 - 1989.

Lorraine met him at the Minnesota Historical Society where he was doing research on the Belgian colony of Ghent, MN. Ghent is in Lyon County, Grandview Township. Since Lorraine's French-Canadian ancestors settled in Ghent about the same time as the Belgians, she was especially interested in his Writing.

Most of the Belgians that settled at Ghent, were Flemish and Catholics. They arrived in the early 1880s, and they first appear in the census records of 1885. Carl's paper is a demographic study of this colony.

Archbishop John IRELAND wished to attract Catholics from the industrial cities of the East, from Canada and from Western Europe, to the vast area of land in southwestern Minnesota. He purchased 115,000 acres of land from the Winona and St Peter Railroad and send his agents out to publicize the area. Peter VAN HEE, a native of West-Vlaanderen in Belgium, his brother Angelus and his oldest son Aime, visited the area in the summer of 1880, accompanied by John Ireland. Angelus VANHEE purchased 320 acres at once in the township of Grandview. He returned to Belgium and persuaded about 50 families to join him the next spring. When these 350 persons arrived in Chicago in March 1881, they were told that severe snowstorms had blocked all the roads. They were urged to stay in Chicago an other month. During that time, many of them found work in Moline, Chicago and Rock Island. When the roads were cleared, only about a dozen families continued their journey to Minnesota. Most of those that stayed in Illinois at that time followed during the next months or years. The most important pioneer families were: Leo DECOCK, Angelus VAN HEE, Sophia VAN HEE, Francis GITS, Andre and Charles DE SUTTER and Charles FOULON.

Early township history shows that Norwegian settlers had arrived in Grandview Township in 1870. They had the first town meeting in 1873 and named their village Grandview. The 1880 census shows that native white Americans comprised 61% of the population (they were people born in the USA from American parents), Norwegians 19%, English 5%, Canadians 3%, and others (no Belgians or Dutch) 12% . We will see how the Belgians, the Dutch and the Canadians pushed out the other ethnic groups and replaced for the most part the original settlers. In time, the Belgians and Dutch even pushed out the Norwegians. At the present time, the township of Grandview is almost completely Belgian.

The census of 1880 showed NWA (native white Americans) 61%, Norwegians

19%, Canadians 3%, Belgians and Dutch 0%. By 1895 the NWA were 23%, Norwegians were 5%, Canadians were 25%, and the Belgians and Dutch were 35%. In 1910 the NWA were 15%, Norwegians were 1%, Canadians were 5%, and the Belgians and Dutch were 66%. Census records show that ethnic groups such as French, Danish, Bohemians, Polish and others regularly settled in the township but moved out after a short period. Many of the persons belonging to an other ethnic group were single, unmarried farm laborers, living without relatives on mostly Belgian, Dutch or Canadian farms.

The French-Canadians began coming during the summer of 1882. They purchased more than 4000 acres of land. New Belgian immigrants arrived in July and August 1882. Seventeen families came from Belgium and the Netherlands in the spring of 1883. Father Jules Emile DE VOS was appointed pastor of the Ghent parish in 1883. He founded St Eloi Catholic Church the same year. The town of Ghent was named after the City of Ghent in Belgium. Belgian emigrants continued to arrive until the 1940s. One of the last couple arrived in the area in 1949.

Of the 51 families located in the 1910 census, only one came from the French-speaking portion of Belgium. This was the FOULON family. All the others came from the provinces of Oost and West Vlaanderen and Limburg. Several families came from the Dutch province of Zeeland. They also were Catholics and spoke Flemish. The census of 1885 shows that the first Flemish immigrants came from central West-Vlaanderen. These families were the CLAEYS, DE COCKS, GITS, VAN HEE and DE VOS.

Since the early families consisted of couples who had been married a number of years and in many cases had more than six children, they were able to successfully work their land and purchase additional land in the early years. The couples that arrived in the early 1900 were younger and their children were born in the US.

The Dutch were the first choice of the Belgians who married outside of their own ethnic group... they spoke the same language and in many cases the same dialect. It is assumed that they were both Catholics since the colony was started by the Catholic Colonization Bureau. In only three marriages was a Canadian partner involved. Most of the children born from a Belgian and a non-Belgian parent were half Dutch and half Belgian.

The Belgians increased their land ownership considerably between 1885 and 1914. In 1885, the Belgian acreage was 2040 acres out of a total of 25615 acres for 7.96%. By 1914, the Belgian acreage was 9882 out of a total of 22245 acres for 44.42%. The difference in the total acreage figures is due to the land given to the railroads, schools, cemeteries, roads and the village of Ghent. Since 85.44% of the 1914 area was already cultivated in 1890, the growth of the Belgian holdings can only be explained by the taking over of farms from other ethnic groups that moved out of the township. Belgian ownership increased 57.25% between 1902 and 1914 (3598 acres). The only ethnic group that did not lose land to the Belgians were the Dutch farmers. Their share remained almost unchanged between 1900 and 1910. The Belgian landowners numbered 9 in 1885 and 36 in 1914. The average size farm rose from 226.6 acres in 1885 to 274 acres in 1914.

While Carl was working on his paper, I had occasion to speak to French-Canadian people who had grown up in Ghent and/or in Grandview Township. I was told of much discrimination by the Belgians against the French and probably other nationalities, also. Dr. Louis DEGRUISE, the leading Belgian authority in Minnesota (he wrote the chapter "The Low Countries" in the book "They Chose Minnesota", ed. J.D. Holmquist, St Paul, 1981) writes "The third major ethnic group with which the Ghent settlers had mixed relations were the French-Canadians... However, tensions mounted between the two groups, which were usually found on opposite sides of controversial parish issues. At one point, the French attempted unsuccessfully to have a Dutch priest removed. St Clothilde's Catholic Church in Green Valley near Ghent was founded in 1912 by 33 French families who apparently had left St. Eloi. Different customs about Sunday behavior seem to have especially aggravated the divisions, for in 1898 Ghent was placed under interdict until the Belgians and the Dutch agreed to close the tavern on Sundays. The net result of such tensions and conflicts was the out-migration of many French-Canadian farmers....

The people I spoke to told me that if you were not Belgian, you could not be on the Church board, or the school board, or the town board. One woman told me that her brothers could not be altar boys because they were French. The Belgians would not gravel the road that passed in front of their farm because it was bad for the horses' hooves. However, they graveled the road in front of their properties. So the French children had to walk through mud on the dirt roads to and from school. She also said that her mother, usually a very passive person once said, Another sermon like that and we move!''.

My own opinion is that the Belgians were accustomed to very hard work with primitive tools. They worked from sunup to sundown without farm animals or machinery. They were thrifty and frugal. The French-Canadians came from Kankakee, IL., where they had lived some 35-40 years after emigrating from Quebec. During this time, they accumulated some wealth, farm animals and farm machinery. They hauled all their possessions with them on the train when they moved to Ghent. Life for them was not so hard. Also the French are known as happy, fun-loving people, and I do not think they were such dedicated farmers. I feel very deeply that they suffered such discrimination through no fault of their own.

Lorraine Rivard Naze.

*

*

EMIGRATION OF THE MINERS FROM HAINAUT, LIEGE AND NAMUR
1863

By Jean Ducat

The “industrial revolution” optimized the use of the economic advantages of Wallonia its natural resources first of all, and then the ability of its workers, fashioned by what was already a long experience of metallurgy and of working in the mines. At the dawn of the XIXth century, there were neither urban centers nor large industrial centers in Hainaut. Thanks to mechanization, the division of labor, the concentration of manpower and intervention of capital, it was to become, in less than half a century, a prosperous industrial province. The fields and the pastures which covered the Hainaut landscape gave way to factories, coal heaps and miners quarters. New towns were created, and more and more workers flocked to other towns. American coal bosses, attracted by the industrial development of Western Europe, turned to it for the skilled manpower of which there was such a drastic shortage in America. Wallonia, whose industrial awakening was the first after that of England, was among their targets of choice and offered a prime recruiting ground.

In 1863, when the Civil War was claiming more and more able-bodied men, 12 coal mining companies from Illinois and one from Missouri dispatched a Belgian emissary, Louis Bochez, to Belgium. Charged with promoting the emigration of Belgian miners, he had to gain the confidence of the Belgian government, if not its cooperation. Doctor Henrotin, Belgian Consul in Chicago, and the Governor of Illinois stood surety with the Belgian Administration for the standing of the American employers and of their messenger. Nothing was to stand in the way of L. Dochez’ mission, especially since, from 1861 onwards, the collieries of the basin of Charleroi and of the Borinage were passing through a structural crisis which was to reveal one of the evils of modern capitalism: over production. The workers made redundant, and the others whose wages had fallen by several percent in less than three years, could not fail to be tempted by the propositions of the American industrialists. The latter, in a brochure entitled “Notice to workers in coal mines”, exalted the astonishing salubrity of the mines in the Middle West, and offered the Walloon miners a contract of employment for three years, plus the crossing to the United States with free food, and a monthly wage of 40 dollars, or 80 francs more than in Belgium.

Towards the end of July 1863, in spite of the orders for caution dispensed by some mayors who feared they would have to look after the families if the scheme failed, miners from the collieries of Cuesmes, Jemappes and Paturages embarked for the United States. The first two convoys, composed respectively of 82 and 171 persons, arrived in New York on 5 October and 3 November 1863. Although it is not possible for us, in the present state of the researches, to judge the extent of this emigration, we know that it continued and that it also attracted miners from Namur and from Liege. We also know that mine workers from the region of Charleroi emigrated to the State of Pennsylvania between 1880 and 1914.

The moment they arrived in New York, the first emigrants were assailed by recruiting sergeants brandishing military contracts. Four miners signed on with the Northern army, but the others continued their journey to the Illinois coal fields which were in the grip of strikes launched by the Irish workers who were dissatisfied with their wages. Most of the Walloon workers joined the strikes and broke their contracts; the depreciation of the American currency had halved the value in Belgian francs of the wage they had been promised. Some were discouraged and tried to return to Belgium, while others got together and created, in Illinois and in Pennsylvania, their own coal mining companies.

Organizations in Northeastern Wisconsin

On August 28, 1913, a group of people of Belgian descent formed the American Belgian Club of Green Bay. Later that year, the name was changed to The Wisconsin Belgian American Club. Both Flemish and Walloon descendants were invited to join. The group was an active one and participated in many civic affairs. One of their resolutions was to have the French language added to the curriculum of the Green Bay schools. Unfortunately, the goal was not achieved in the grade schools, but high schools did give French as a language choice. Because of the Depression and financial difficulties, this club discontinued operations in 1934. An attempt was made to reorganize was made in May 1962. A city—wide social event was planned which included a parade and large picnic gathering. The special “Wisconsin Belgian Brew” shown in the last issue of BELGIAN LACES was produced for that occasion. Interest in keeping the organization alive was lacking, however, and the last meeting minutes were recorded in July of 1962. The ladies’ auxiliary, under the name Queen Elizabeth Belgian Club, did continue and still holds monthly card games for their few remaining members.

In the Spring of 1963, at Namur, Wisconsin, in southern Door County, the Peninsula Belgian—American Club was formed. It was comprised mostly of descendants of Walloon immigrants, many of whom were still able to converse in the old Walloon dialect of their ancestors. Meetings were held in an old schoolhouse which had been built by the Norbertine Fathers who came to the area in the 1890’s to minister to the Belgian settlers. After a slow start, interest in the organization began to grow, and the membership included people (Walloon and Flemish) from Kewaunee and Brown Counties, as well as from other parts of the State.

Despite the fact that many men had served in Europe during World War II, only a few had visited Belgium. It wasn’t generally known that relatives were still living in the “old country”. At the instigation of a Belgian—American doctor from Manitowoc, Wisconsin, a group made a trip to the seacoast of Belgium in 1972, primarily just to see a little of the country of their ancestors. The news spread that Walloon—speaking Americans were visiting the country. A retired Belgian Army Colonel, Lucien Leonard, made arrangements to meet with some of the Wisconsinites. He suggested that they return once again, not to the seacoast, but to the city of Namur, the center of Wallonia.

On October 3, 1972, one hundred and sixteen people boarded a plane which took them to New York and then to Brussels, Belgium. From there they went to Namur where they were greeted by the Mayor of the City, the Provincial Deputy of Namur Province, and many newspaper reporters. Members of the Wallonie—Wisconsin Society of Namur, founded by Colonel Leonard, opened their homes to the Americans and arranged many activities for them during their two-week stay.

This was the beginning of an exchange program between the two Clubs which continues to this day. In the even-numbered years, the Americans visit Belgium; In the odd-numbered years, the Belgians come to America. Neither Club was formed for the purpose of genealogical research, but many close friendships have been formed, and, indeed, families have found cousins they didn’t know before. With much camaraderie, the exchange of letters, tapes, telephone calls, and genealogical information, we continue to keep our heritage alive and acknowledge the “ties that bind”.

A Grand-Leez Pilgrimage

For one week during the month of June 1990, a group of villagers from Grand-Leez, Belgium, will be visiting a small village in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin, which was originally called Grand-Leez by the Belgians who settled there in the 1850's. Around the turn of the century, the name was changed to Lincoln, but for many of the "old timers" the original name is still remembered.

The visiting group is being lead by Reverend Henri Defosse, pastor of the parish of St. Amand, Grand-Leez, and our dear friend, Reverend Jean Ducat. They will attend a Mass on June 17 at St. Peter's Church, Lincoln, which will be followed by a dinner and program. While they are here touring the area, it is expected that the Belgians will feel the presence of their townspeople who came to America so many years ago.

Belgian Emigrants — 3rd of Series

We continue our series of lists of Belgians who emigrated from various villages to the United States during the mid-to-late 1800's. Many settled in northeastern Wisconsin. Others settled here for a while, then moved on to other parts of the U.S.A. These lists, as complete as we have them, are offered for your research purposes. Please note that some people were born in villages other than those from which they departed (list below shows place of birth, if known). For the most part, the lists were made up from Population Registers in Belgium.

Warisoulx/Villers-lez-Heest

Isidore CALONNE, Warisoulx; left 11 August 1871;
Jean Baptiste COLLET, Tamines; his wife Marie Josephe ADAM, Natoye; and their two children Augusta Leonie and Edmond Jules; left 29 March 1887;
Jean Joseph COLLET, Warisoulx; his wife Marie Barbe CHANTINNE, Warisoulx; left 29 March 1887;
Julien COLLET; and his wife Pauline DRAIZE/DREZE, Warisoulx; he first left 27 March 1869, returned; both left 29 March 1887;
Casimir CERYON/GYRION, Namur; his wife Desirée CALONNE, Dhuy; and their children Gustave Ferdinand, Nicolas Joseph, Henri, Oscar, Desire George, and Florimond; left 14 August 1878;
Ferdinand DAMBREMONT, Aische-en-Refail; his wife Virginia CHARLIER; and children Francois, Josephine, Ferdinande DesirAe, and Marie Theresa; left 23 March 1872;
Jean DRAIZE/DREZE, Liernu; his wife Marie Catherine KINET, Meux; their sons Jean Joseph and Louis Joseph; and a servant Catherine DACHELET; left April 1870;
Jean Baptiste GENIESSE, Liernu; his wife Marie Agnes Josephe CALONNE, Warisoulx; and their children Eleonore Felicie, Valerie Desir~e, Honorine, Gillain, Henrietta Josephine, Marie Barbe, and Gillain Eugene; left 25 May 1871;
Francois Joseph GERMIAT, St. Germain; his wife _____ BISTON, St. Denis; their children Charles Louis, Agnes, Louis, and Joseph Albert; left 13 February 1872;
Francois JANDRAIN, Aische-en-Refail; his wife Anne-Joseph LECOCQ Sauveniere; and their son Alexis; left 7 February 1856;
Maximilian LEROY; son and daughter-in-law Nicolas LEROY, Warisoulx, and Marie Joseph MOTTE; and their children Marie Alexandrine, Louis, and Lucia; left 14 April 1878;
Francois MARCADET; and children Jean Joseph, Julie, and Marie Barbe; left 19 September 1852---most likely did not come to Wisconsin;
Martin SACOTTE; his wife Florence Marie LOUARD, Vezin; and children JeanJoseph, Francois, Victor, Louis, Anne-Josephe, Florent Francois, and Florentine Victoire; left 13 July 1856.

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

~That our Queries pages are filling a need, has been proven these last few months. Since we asked to send a copy of your answers to our office, we received letters from all over the States, with good news for our "Queriers". Some of our members are not afraid to go the extra mile to help and search in all the documentation available to them, even going to the Local Public Library to find more. This is what we call real dedication. After all, we are all searching something for ourselves. When doing this, let us extend our efforts and look also for those names that appear the queries.

From Mary Ann DEFNET. Although to this day, 16th January, I haven't received any answer to my DEPAUW query, I received a lot of answers on the other ones. Howard Thomas from Washington, mailed me a long list of KRAFFT's and PILLET's from that area's telephone directory. I am sending them to the people in Belgium who are looking for those relatives.

Our summer visitor Georges LURQUIN from Ooze., Belgium, is researching all the LURQUIN - LEURQUIN families. He said they live at least in 72 different villages in Belgium, and are disseminated also in the States. He is still trying to find a common ancestor which would make us cousins. (NDLR: in that case I would be cousin to, because I have some distant LEURQUIN relatives). And so, she realized that Dorothy LUTOMSKI and Carol CALOHINA, may be related too, doing research on same names.

From Howard THOMAS. Talking about going an extra mile to help others, this member is Number One. A lot of our queries have been answered by him. As well for us here in the States as for members in Belgium. (see answers for DE VALCK, LIENARD, CROY, MASCO, INOHELS, KRAFFT, etc). While doing research for himself at the Library of Congress in Washington, Howard realized that our bulletin "Belgian Laces" was not available on the shelves in the Genealogical department. Although Micheline had been sending it regularly when she was the editor, and I was doing the same, since I took over a year ago. Howard did some investigating about this, and realized that our bulletin was stacking up at the copyright office for registration and microfilming at some future date. This may or may not ever happen, because they are years behind in the mass of material published. Howard proposed to send our bulletin directly to the Genealogical department, where it is now available to the general public.

From Howard also, I received a lot of documentation about the Pierre INOHELS I had been researching for years. Before, I had received a lot of help from Micheline, but this time, going through old Philadelphia City Directories, Howard discovered that Pierre lived (between the years 1854 to 1877) in Philadelphia, on Passyunk Avenue, # 753 and that he was a shoemaker. Passyunk Avenue was probably the shoe store area, because there were shoe

stores one next to the other... Going one extra mile, Howard found also the Application for a U.S. Passport that Pierre made in Philadelphia on the 23rd of May 1877, and that the passport was issued on the 24th of the same month. He mailed me also a Xerox copy of the application. So now I even have a physical description of Pierre: Age 47; Stature 5 ft 5 1/2 in; eyes bluish gray; hair dark; etc. I now know that Pierre was born in Brugge, on the 30th of July 1829. Howard said that he was so glad to have found this for me, and that in the mean time he was surprised to find a lot of documentation for himself. Thank you again Howard!

By the way, Howard THOMAS, #136, is offering to do research at the Library of Congress and National Archives at \$5. per research hour (this includes transportation, postage and photocopy costs). You specify how much time you want, and a \$20. is requested (any unused part refundable of course). Please give as much information on your search request as possible, including those records already searched whether successful or not. This will prevent duplication of effort and save you money. Write Howard THOMAS, 105, Fourth Street, N.E.; WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002.

From Evelyn SANTILLY, My Grand Parents Arthur BEAUPRE and Irma VERHAEGHE, emigrated to Colorado in 1903 and 1906 respectively. They followed Art's two brothers who worked in local coal mines. Arthur and Irma eventually became prominent farmers and cattle breeders in Boulder County. Their son and grandsons are still on the original farm. The others have been sold for development purposes.
(NDLR. We would be very interested in family or general history of Belgians In coal mines and in farming).

From Guislaine VANDERICK # 193, I would be happy to help our members and do research at the National and Provincial Archives in Brussels, Mons and Namur. Write in French or' in English to Mrs Ghislaine VANDERICK, 8, Rue des Charmes, B 6290 NALINNES, BELGIUM.

From Guy BAUWENS, member * 03058 of the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Familiekunde, (Flemish Society for Genealogy) in Belgium.

I will do research in the Archives of the Provinces Antwerp, East and West Flanders. US. \$15. for transportation to and from the Archives, research, copy and translation of the document. Add 2 International Reply Coupon for air mail. Write in Flemish or in English to Guy BAUWENS, Prins Boudewijnlaan 80 b5, B-2610 WILRIJK (Antwerp), Belgium.

THE THINGS YOU CANNOT BUY.

The best and sweetest things in life are things you cannot buy,

The music of the birds at dawn, the rainbow in the sky.

The dazzling magic of the stars, the miracle of light,

The precious gifts of health and strenght, of hearing, speach and sight.

The peace of mind that crowds a busy life of work well done. A faith in God that deepens as you face the setting sun.

The gift of love, the joy of friendship, as the year 3 go ~, you find the greatest blessings are the things you cannot buy.

QUERIES...QUERIES...QUERIES...QUERIES...QUERIES...QUERIES

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 open 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 a copy of your answer, so that we would know the status of the research: update or close the file.

Thank you
Pierre

90/82 CROSS. Wish info concerning William CROSS, born 1580 Ghent, Belgium. Died 1655 Fairfield CT. Believed to be of the Huguenot DE LA CROIX family of Rouen, FR. Was his wife Mary DE PEYSTER?
Estelle M. KEEFER, 620, SE 2nd Ave. #74, CANBY OREGON 97013.

90/83 DROSSART - TROSSARD. I would appreciate any information about this name, but particularly about Maximilan DROSSART born 2 Feb 1834 in Belgium, died 5 Oct 1902, Rosiere WI. and his brother Alexander TROSSARD ? Georgia A. DROSSART, 830 Fathom Place, STURGEON BAY WISCONSIN 54235.

90/84 DEKEUSTER. I am researching Jean Joseph DE KEUSTER, born 1803 Grez Doiceau, or any info about this name. Teresa SMITH, Route 1, Box 665, CAMILLA -GEORGIA 31730

90/85 JONET. I am researching Francois JONET, born 1802 Perwez Belgium, or any info about this name. Teresa SMITH, Route 1, Box 665, CAMILLA - GEORGIA 31730

90/86 GUILLAUME - GILLAUNE. Clement GUILLAUME, born 12 june 1836 in Ernage left Belgium for the States in 1883, with four children Ferdinand, Constant, Gustave and Julia. His older brother Francois came in 1856. Would appreciate any info Dorothy LUTOMSKI, 421, 5. Michigan Ave. DE PERE MI 54111.

90/ST LOSO - LOOSO - LOISEAU - LORSA. Jean Pierre LOISEAU (LOOSO on some documents), butcher, born Petit Halleux abt 1784, from Jean and Marie Jeanne PARMENTIER, married Anne Marie HOSTERTS, at Bleialf (Ger). Their son Peter emigrated to America, married Margareta FIEDLER and moved to St Joseph MN. wher he died in 1913. Please send any info on this family or descendants to the Editor, who will transmit.

90/88 DEPAS. Therese , My GGGd Mother, maiden name unknown, born ca 1848 in Belgium , married my GGGd Father Felician DEPAS, born 29 Feb 1848, and who died 4 Aug 1930 at Champion WI. He remarried after her death to Adolphine EVERARD 17 April 1876. Could anyone help me to find out who Therese was? and where she was from?

Jeff LUCIA, 1822 Barker Cypress Rd #1317 HOUSTON TEXAS 77084

90/89 I am looking for information on George MORREN, 1868-1941. Wallace WURL, 126, W.Pleasant Str. TOMAHAWK, WI 54487.

90/90 BEAUMARIAGE - CHARLES. My mother's families immigrated to the States from Hainaut. Anyone having known or knowing people with this name, please contact: Clare H. CLEMENS, 6350, Knyghton Road, INDIANAPOLIS IN 46220.

90/91 LISART - LIZARD - LESART . A Belgian family is searching for Charles LISART a farmer, born at Ittre, Brabant 19 May 1834 and left with people from Wauthier-Braine, AROUND 1856 probably to Midwest USA. Write to the editor.

90/92 DANDOIS. Jean Baptiste, born Jumet 24-04-1872, son of Guillaume, coalminer, born Lodelinsart 19-12-1837 and of Helene LICOT, born Riviere 19-12-1838. Jean Baptiste left Belgium with his mother for Hopewell PA, on 27-12-1892. He married Marie GOIRIS or JOURIS in 1898; she was born in Bonneville 04-11-1875. He was a glass worker in Brownsville PA and later in Brookville PA. He had a brother Leopold and a sister Clarisse. Dolly BACHMAN, 433 Saratoga Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15236.

90/93 BRUDI. We are looking for people by the name of BRUDI to find a missing ancestor who left for the States in the 1800's. Please write to the editor.

BELGIUM BY BIKE

Belgium is boasting special bike rates for touring the country. Bikes can be rented for less than \$ 4 a day at 61 train stations and returned to any of 148 stations. For more information: Belgian Tourist Office, 745 Fifth Ave. Suite 714, New York, N.Y. 10151, (212) 758—8130.

(submitted by Howard THOMAS)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Letter from the editor
2	Generals of Belgian descent who led the French Revolutionary Armies. by Micheline Gaudette.
7	The Flemish community in Grandview Township and Ghent, MN. by Lorraine Rivard Naze.
10	Emigration of the Miners from Hainaut, Liege and Namur. by Jean Ducat.
11	The Wisconsin Corner: Organization in N.E. Wisconsin. by Mary Ann Defnet.
13	From and To...
15	Queries...
16	Belgium by bike.
	Table of contents.
	INSIDE BACK COVER ; An invitation for a friend.