

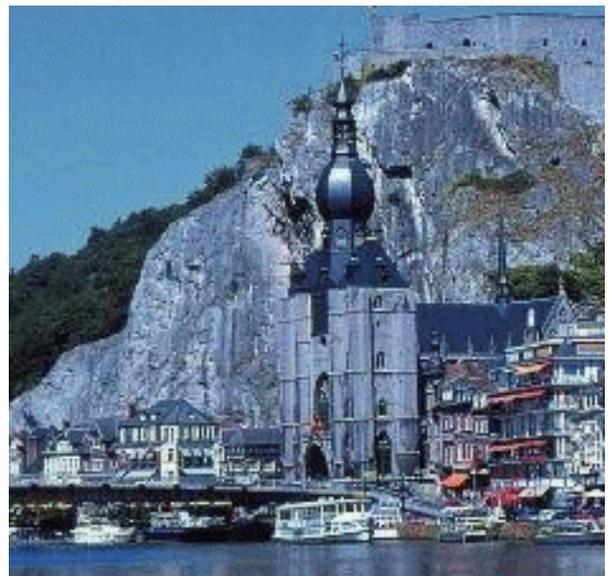
Belgian Laces



Collegiale Notre Dame – Dinant
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The Citadel



BELGIAN LACES

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THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS
Belgian American Heritage Association
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Our principal objective is:

Keep the Belgian Heritage alive in our hearts and in the hearts of our posterity

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Dear Members,

Summer came, gave us sunshine, heat and unusually much rain and is now on its way out already. Next week schools start again, and life will return to normal... or at least back to a more normal routine. As for many of you, our summer was very busy; the 'cheap dollar' brought many visitors from Belgium, and will bring us more next month. But we love to show off 'our' Oregon, to introduce our relatives and friends to the vast expanses of this land and the relatively recent history of the settlement of the West. La Grande developed around the Old Oregon Trail, which runs through the southern edge of the town and celebrated its sesquicentennial (150 years) in 1993. The Interpretive Park on the Blue Mountain Crossing outside of La Grande, as well as the Interpretive Center in Baker City are places that deserve a stop for any traveler on Freeway I 84. When you come in our neighborhood, give us a call! In Belgium, our house was called: "In den Zoeten Inval" (The Dew Drop Inn)! – This is the official invitation, Jean Galoni!!

As one of many Belgo-American happenings across the USA it was on Sunday August 6th that the Belgian Researchers held their first and very successful regional meeting in the Portland, Oregon area, in Boring, to be precise. Read the report elsewhere in this issue Hans Michael Vermeersch volunteered to be the Northwest coordinator and Belgian Laces contributor. He just moved, had to paint his house and arrange for a house full of company (from Europe, of course.) This meant that he was excused from writing the Northwest report this time.

The Belgian Researchers keep on growing at a healthy pace: we welcome 18 new members in this issue, and handed out membership number 602. Member # 600 will receive a gift from the organization Look for it in the mail Kathleen! Will 1996 bring us membership 700?

Remember your organization when you start thinking of little gifts for Back to School or Christmas: we have beautiful tri-color windsocks (\$15 ea.) made by our Portland member Marleen Looyens; Being Belgian Is Beautiful bumper stickers (\$ 4 ea.) that look great above a desk, in a dorm room, and on notebooks as well as on bumpers!; we also have lapel pins (\$3 ea.): a Belgian-crossed with an American flag. All of these items proved to be very popular at the Belgian get-together in Boring, Oregon.

The picture above, showing Pierre and myself working on Belgian Laces in our living room, was taken by new member Greg Van Tighem and was published in our local newspaper along with the article that he wrote about The Belgian Researchers. We copied the article in this issue.

Keep up the good work, and remember our motto: Being Belgian is Beautiful!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

585.	Ray & Jan Calbert	-	San Diego, CA
586.	Lynne T. Bartholomay	-	North Kingstown, RI
587.	Suzanne Jenart - Flavion	-	Brussels, Belgium
588.	Belgian-American Chamber of Commerce (complimentary)-	-	New York NY
589.	Winoc Bogaerts	-	New York NY
590.	John H. Herman	-	Portland, OR
591.	Denise Garcia	-	Las Vegas, NV
592.	Bruce C. Bolinger	-	Nevada City, CA
593.	Jim Lienard	-	Glendale, AZ
694.	Walter W. Jr. Bourez	-	Carmichael, CA
595.	Gregory A. Van Tighem	-	LaGrande, OR
596.	Terry Van Vynckt-Cochran	-	Duluth, GA
697.	Don & Mary Van Houdenos	-	Milwaukee, OR
598.	Bonnie Aten	-	Elk Grove Village, IL
599.	Plerrette Gerard	-	Namur, Quebec, Canada
600.	Kathleen Face,	-	Batavia, NY
601.	Andrea Ewerling	-	Central slip. NY
602.	Rev. August Vanden Bosche	-	West Palm Beach. FL

DINANT: Gateway to the Ardennes

by Leen Inghels

Beautifully situated along the River Meuse/Maas, which originates in France and flows into the Rhine in The Netherlands, lies the quite town of Dinant, province of Namur, Belgium; home of Adolph Sax (1814-1894), inventor of the Saxophone. The town hugs the banks of the Meuse, the mainstreet running a block above and parallel to the river. The whole site is dominated by a sharply-rising stone cliff, which is topped by the Citadel, a fortress since before the 9th. century, destroyed, rebuilt, to be again destroyed and rebuilt throughout the ages. The fortress today, like the citadel of Namur, dates from the 19th century and was built during the Dutch period (1818-30).

Immediately below the cliff stands the 13th. century Collegiate Church of Notre Dame, featured on the cover of this issue of Belgian Laces. On the river in front of the church, the sightseeing boats leave regularly for tours through the countryside, some all the way up to the French border, others down river toward Namur, capital of the province of Namur. Not far from Dinant are the Grottes de Han, most beautiful caves on one of the tributaries of the Meuse, the river Lesse, and just one of the many spectacular caves to be visited in the Ardennes.

On the right bank of the Meuse, at the foot of the citadel rock, stands The Collegiate Church of Notre Dame, a fine Gothic church, consecrated in 1240, whose bulbous Baroque spire is the Landmark of the town. In spite of its many restorations, the Collegiate remains one of the most representative examples of Gothic architecture of the 13th. century in the region. Its origins are quite ancient, as suggested by the dedication to "Notre Dame". It was first mentioned in the treaty of Meerssen in 870 as "Abbaye de Sainte Marie (abbey of Holy Mary) as one of several royal abbeys offered to Charles the Bald, grandson of Charlemagne. In 934, the Bishop of Liege initiates there a Chapter of Canons, which elevates the church to the status of 'Collegiate Church'. Dinant has remained a stronghold of the Bishopric of Liege and was the summer residence of its Bishop.

The original church, of which there is absolutely no traces left, was replaced by a Romanesque church in the 12th century. During partial excavations conducted in October 1978 have unearthed a section of a Roman wall, parallel to the northern transepts. The portal in volcanic rock of the Meuse in quite dire condition on the north site of today's church, is the only remnant of the Romanesque building. That entrance is walled-in today. It supposedly was the original entrance, the main portal of the east facade of the church.

In 1227, a large portion of the building collapsed under an enormous boulder cascading down from the cliff above. It is said, that thirty six people died in the natural disaster. The church was then completely reconstructed and modeled after the churches in Burgundy and Champagne, where a new architectural style developed: the Gothic. Started in the 1227, the Collegiate was to be finished in 1279.

In the year 1466, the church falls victim to war with France and fire destroys parts of the church. Among other works of art, an immensely large "verrière", or glass dome, is totally destroyed, which is then replaced by the work of an artist by the name of Ladon de Band, a Flemish artist of the period from the city of Ghent. Interesting detail: there is a side altar or chapel which displays the Coats of Arms of the British Royalty and of the City of London on the ribs and the keystone of the ceiling vaulting, which gives it the surnamo of "Chapel of the English Company", and commemorates international trade for which Dinant was a hub in its time. Among its specialties, still prominent today, is first the "Dinanderie", hand-crafted, engraved copper works, large and small, reputed the world over; and the "couques de Dinant", a hard, tough gingerbread confection, baked in molds which are often real masterpieces of woodcarving. It comes in sizes up to three and four feet tall (like Saint Nicholas on his horse with his helper at his side in the holiday season) or smaller gems, depicting flower arrangements, copies of famous art works, city silhouettes and many others...

But Dinant has seen more catastrophes and was involved in every war that affected the Meuse valley: the fire and the plunder of the city by the Burgundian Charles the Bold in 1466, the passage of the troupes of the Duc de Nevers in 1554, the pillage of the Collegiate and the town during the French Revolution, the fire of 1914, first year of the first World War and more recently ~ If and the fringes of the Battle of the Bulge. Restorations started in the 19th. century and were continued in 1924, which reestablished the Collegiate to its original forms of the 13th and 14th. centuries, with the addition of flying buttresses, pinnacles and balustrades. One exception to its original looks, was the reconstruction of the bulbous Baroque tower, which was added in the 16th century between the two original towers, to be precise: in 1566. This decision encountered ardent polemics and loud opposition because it strayed from the church's authentic Gothic architecture. Nevertheless, this bulbous tower lends the church today its particular looks, that makes it stand out among the Gothic churches of the area.

Just behind the Collegiate is the teleferic which will take the visitor to a wonderful panorama of the Meuse and Dinant, 330 feet above the road side, to the Citadel, built by the Dutch in 1818-21. There is a small museum which houses arms and armors from the 17th through 19th centuries, as well as a large painting depicting the desperate fight of the defenders of the Meuse in 1914 (start of WWI)

Yes, through the ages, poor Belgium has been the battleground of the powers of Europe, and places like Dinant bear witness to this fact.

THE CROSS OF PIRO DE JALHAY

By Patti PJERROU-PAYNTER

Have you ever considered asking a travel office other information, other than travel information?

Desperation made me do just that last summer in a hunt for my Walloon Belgian ancestors.

After years of genealogical research, our family's trip to Belgium would finally become a reality. Not content with viewing dead ancestors records, I wanted to make the family history really come alive, by visiting La Roche en Ardennes, the town of my great-grandfather, Jehan Piro de JALHAY. There was only one problem. Family oral history told us that he had lived and worked there, but we had no actual proof I had originally written in French to the Belgian Genealogical Records Office in Brussels to secure some legal record placing him in this town, but they did not answer. This roadblock forced me to use more creative detective methods.

Knowing that most Belgian travel offices probably had someone who could respond in English, I decided to take a shot at writing to the La-Roche-en-Arden,nes Travel Office (Syndicat d'Initiative VVV). I asked them to refer me to someone who might know something about the local history. Any records that might shed light on PIRO would certainly make the trip more enjoyable...

The La Roche Travel Office sent my letter to historian and author, Professor Leon MARQUET. He had not only grown up in the area, but was a published author three times over in the areas of local Belgian folklore and history. I had truly hit the jackpot!

Within weeks, Professor Marquet, an English professor his entire life, wrote back with amazing news. Not only did he have a wealth of information on, my ancestor, Jehan Piro de Jalhay which he had translated from Middle French, but he had researched it over fifty years ago as a young man and had kept the information hoping it would someday mean something to someone. He had worked as a translator for the American troops during WWII, and had even kept the information safe while the battle of the Bulge destroyed much of La Roche, and killed his father and brother.

Over the next few months, Professor Marquet and I corresponded. He sent me a photograph of the town and one of an iron crucifix forged by Jehan Piro de Jalhay Professor Marquet invited my family and me to stay at his home for three nights and offered to show us around the countryside. Knowing it is always better to see a foreign country through the eyes of a native, we agreed to stay.

Our first meeting took place on a hot summer day after a morning of kayaking on the Ourthe River. Professor Marquet had invited us to a medieval feast planned that day at La Roche castle, situated high on a hill overlooking the Ourthe River. A court jester poked fun at anyone who dared climb the castle's cobblestoned approach. Pigs roasted on outdoor spits and archers practiced their ancient sport on a castle's baicooy, as a mock medieval battle took place in the castle's main square. Later, a family of gypsies entertained the crowd by stacking themselves from the largest to the smallest on boards filled with nails. Belgium's Luxembourg province is known for its wonderful winter and summer recreation areas. Our next stop was the small village of Maboge, a kayak embarkation point four miles north up the Ourthe River from La Roche. It was here that Jehan Piro de Jalhay ran his forge in 1565. Piro's time was one of much military strife, according to Professor Marquet translations. Eventually Piro and other iron forgers like him had to abandon certain iron forging sites. In Belgium because of their inability to get finished products to their point of sale the large city of Liege.

As we stood on the banks of the Ourthe River in Maboge, I tried to picture Jehan PIRO eking out a living with his small iron forge surrounded by tall forbidding evergreen forests filled with warring medieval armies. Would he ever believe his great granddaughter of some 400 years later would stand on this same river looking for clues to his existence, while kayakers set off for a three hour pleasure trip to La Roche en Ardennes?

Jehan Piro would not recognize his hometown of Jalhay today, as most of the town's buildings destroyed during World War II have since been rebuilt. Roads, once bombed by Germans and Americans alike have become modern freeways which carried us over southern Belgium's rolling, green, farm hills and past the cool green of the Ardennes forest to our next adventure, Foumeau-St-Michel. Here were the remains of an old Walloon iron forge, a museum, and a folk park from bygone centuries. Once inside, we were free to roam through the ancient forge, the farm houses, and barns which doffed the surrounding countryside.

On our last day in Luxembourg province, we came upon our real reason for traveling to this beautiful and undiscovered vacation destination. Professor Marquet took us to the iron cross of Piro de Jalhay. It stood approximately 3 feet tall by 2 feet wide on the back outside wall of the church at Amonines. Delicately etched medieval features of a Jesus figure looked down appropriately to the earth from which its iron ore was extracted. Circles decorated the end of each direction of the cross. On the left circle, the date "1565" was inscribed. The bottom inscription read: To the memory of the dead, and there to the right, Jehan Piro de Jalhay had forged his own name. It is difficult to know why this piece of my great grandfather's craftsmanship remains gleaming in the sunshine of a country that has known so much darkness and destruction.

I can't decide whether to be able to travel to and connect with this ancient piece of family history puzzle was truly a miracle or just a bit of fate.

Genealogy of Jehan Piro de Jalhay

Compiled by Patti Pjerrou-Paynter 1994

1. Pirott, Jalhay (Jehan Piro de Jalhay) born about 1500. In 1547 he had ironworks at Werichet, Belgium. In 1564 after his death, his widow and children ask for confirmation of agreement to erect ironworks in forest of Freyr near St-Hubert, Belgium*
2. Next descendant of Jehan Piro de Jalhay to show up is Pira, (see next entry). There could be one descendant between Jehan Piro de Jalhay, and Johan Pira.
3. Pira Johan (Jean Pita) born about 1600 in Belgium. Emigrated to Sweden (Contract 42/50)1628. Worked at Lofsta 1638, Akerby 1643. Stromsberg 1650-1651**
4. Pira Pier (Peter in Dutch) Hanson (Johan's son) born 1630, died 1692 in Oppsjo, Sweden. He married Anna Persdotter**
 - 4a Catariria Ph., b 1630 in Gysinge (sister of Pier). Married Jacob Baird. Finspong, Sweden.
 - 4b Johan Fire, b 1620? (brother of Pier)
5. Pira-Pjerrou Gabriel, b.1663 in Oppsjo, Sweden. Mar. 1683 Karin Jonsdotter, b. 1662.
6. Pierrou Per (Petter in Swedish) Gabrielson, b 8.24.1884 in Oppsjo. Married Helena Jonsdotter Gode, b.? in Horndal, Sweden.***
7. Pierrou Par, b. 20.11.1730 Oppsjo Mar. Margareta Andersdotter.
8. Pierrou Anders, b. 1759 Ockelbo. Mar. Catharina Husman. Died 1834, Forsbacka, Sw.***
9. Pierrou Anders, b. 1787 Wittinge. Mar. Sara Stina Larsdotter. Died 1847 Forsbacka, Sw.***
10. Pierrou Anna Stlna, 11810 Tolforsbruk, Sw. Had a son Magnus Pierrou (Magnus father's name unknown. Anna Stina did not marry Magnus' father).***
11. Pierrou Magmi.. b. 4.28.1835 Jarvsta. Mar.1856 in Valbo to Stina Astrom, b. 1830 in Asbyggeby Sw. Emigrated to U.S. in 1868.***
12. Pierrou Johan Frederick, b.1859 Valbo. Mar. Esther Robinson, b 1859 in Northern Ireland. His brothers and sisters were: Emfred. Christina, Matilda.***
13. Pjerrou John Frederick, b. 1885, Fremont, Nebraska. Mar. 1909 to Odelia Pelate, b. 1887, Prairie du Hoeh, Illinois.
14. Pjerrou John Henry, b. 1909 East St Louis, IL. Mar. 1935 in Los Angeles CA, to Elva Anne Baker, b.1910 in Grand Forks, Canada.
15. Pjerrou Patricia Christina, b. 1949 Lynnwood, Ca. Married 15.2.75 to Dale D Paynter, b. 26. 9. 47 in Butte MT.
 - 15a. Paynter Kristen Emily Pjerrou, b. 5.5.80 in Torrance CA.
 - 15b. Paynter Erin Elizabeth Pjerrou, b. 5.8.82 in Torrance CA.

* Professor Leon Marquet.

** Hans Gillingstam

*** Agnetta Oletson

ADDENDUM to this interesting research and article, taken from Patti's letter

I wrote this article after a fascinating trip to Belgium in 1994 with my two daughters. With the help of the La-Roche-en-Ardenne Tourist Office and Professor Leon Marquet, a local Belgian historian and author on Belgian Folklore, we were able to find two iron crosses forged and signed by my ancestor Jehan Piro de Jalhay in 1565. Jehan's son, Jean Piro emigrated to Sweden in 1662. He was one of hundreds of Belgian Walloons offered contracts by the Belgian Financier Louis de Geer the Elder, to emigrate to Sweden to help develop the Swedish iron forging industry. Louis de Geer's father, Louis de Geer, the Elder, left Belgium during Philip II's Inquisition because of religious persecution. Louis de Geer the son returned years later to Belgium and with the blessing of Sweden's royalty started contracting Belgian Walloon iron forgers. Professor Marquet located the original Walloon contracts, drawn up by Louis de Geerto hire Jehan Piro de Jalhay. Although I speak French, I do not translate it very well and hope that someone connected with Belgian Laces might be able to help me. I'm very interested in what it says about Jehw,'s wife. At some point it states that Louis de Geer will pay a certain amount of Florins per month to Jehan's wife. What I'm trying to figure out if the contract indicates that Jehan takes his wife with him to Sweden or not and whether it mentions any of Jehan's children, or even how many children he had. I have been studying the Pierrou genealogy for 10 years. I have traced them back from my great grandfather John Frederick Pjerrou, an inventor in Omaha, Nebraska. It was his father, Magnus Frederick Pierrou, who emigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1868. Magnus helped build a church, which is still standing in Ogden, Iowa. He ended up in Omaha, Nebraska and ran a supply wagon up and down the Union Pacific railway as it was being built. He was known as "Magnus the Bull of the Prairie, the strongest man in Nebraska" With the help of a genealogist, Agneta Olofson, of Harnosand, Sweden I was able to trace the Pierrous in Sweden back some 250 years to Jean Pira, who immigrated from Belgium. There were several families of Walloon iron forgers who settled in the Stalbo/Osterfarnebo area. Their names were Pousette, Goude, Iierou, and Pierrou. They all intermarried for awhile and have many hundreds of descendants, some of whom write to today I would appreciate connecting up with anyone who is researching these names or other Belgian Walloons in Sweden. I'd like to share information on these interesting people.

OF NAMES AND NUNS

by Hans Michael Vermeersch

Despite growing up with a name like “Vermeersch” in rural Oregon, it would require some time and a bit of good fortune to develop an authentic Belgian identity.

I was the youngest son of the youngest son. My grandfather August had emigrated as a boy from West Rends to Texas with his parents Joseph and Maria Louisa, and two siblings, Carl and Elisa. They were common “boeren” - farmers. My own family had moved to the southern Oregon farm of my maternal grandparents, far away from my Belgian roots. Although my father’s father had died a month before I was born, my family would travel back to Texas every five years as I was growing up. There, we would get reacquainted with my father’s three brothers and their family. Along with a few dozen or so cousins, we would party Texas-style. It was also there that would cultivate the family myths.

I learned early on that our name was misspelled and woefully mispronounced. Somewhere along the way to America or soon after his arrival, my grandfather lost an “e”.

He was born a Vermeersch, but now had a slightly shorter moniker which, as my school friends would often remind me, rhymed with spermish.” Maybe my grandfather lost that ‘e’ when he lost his parents, on a Texas farm some two years after getting off the proverbial boat. The story goes that his elder brother cast a stone as the father Joseph was plowing the field. The horse (or perhaps it was a mule) spooked, dragging my great-grandfather to his death. Upon hearing the news, his wife Maria Louisa died. She suffered a heart attack or a stroke. Or maybe you really can die of a broken heart.

Left behind were two young boys and a teenage sister. Aunt Elisa was taken into a convent and became a proper sister, Sister Benitia. My own sister received that appellation for her middle name. She’s a Campbell now, and doesn’t much care to be referred to as “Benitia.” Come to think of it, she never did.

Sister Benitia was a famous nun (assuming there is such a thing, with the possible exception of Mother Theresa of Calcutta). There was even a book written about her by a “fellow” sister of her order. It tells about her life with the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence, and their work with the orphans of central Texas. But this is another story and will have to wait for a future newsletter. In a true way, she also helped this orphan. Though I still have my parents, I had lost my roots along with that simple ‘e’.

My grandfather and great-uncle Carl were shipped off to an orphanage. (This all perhaps explains my great aunt’s calling vis a vis parentless children.) And just maybe that’s where the “e” was lost, in the Mother Superior’s office. Perhaps it was lost when the boys beat a hasty escape from these Sisters of Charity. Or maybe they lost that “e” on the streets of San Antonio, where they survived by shining shoes and performing other less virtuous deeds. One myth has it that Uncle Charles never lost that “e” and if his boys had boys, they never had to go through what I had to go through to get it back.

At those semi-decade family get-togethers we would talk about recovering that lost “e”. A year after the last reunion, before the death of the matriarch, I actually did it. My paternal grandmother was of German stock, so like many Americans, I’m a mutt. After my undergraduate years at Oregon State University, I signed up to study abroad. Call it “Wanderlust” if you will, it might even have been a latent yet growing desire to track down my European ancestry. This was many years after seeing “Roots”, though had recently heard Alex Haley speak on campus. My grandmother was encouraged to learn that I would soon experience some of her heritage. So I was off to Germany, for had yet to learn any Flemish. I was even still mispronouncing my name; though not as appallingly as when I was a child. Four years of college was enough to pronounce things as they were written [vr – mrsh]. Perhaps my only faults were a harsh American “r” and that still missing “e”.

Before crossing the waters, I met with some 40 other Oregon exchange students who were also Germany bound. We were also introduced to our resident director for the year, a kindly professor from Eastern Oregon State College, who became known to us as simply “the Frau”. Today I call her Leen, Leen Inghels. She and her husband Pierre should be familiar to most readers of this newsletter. When I introduced myself to the Frau, she both perked and cringed. She had discovered a landsman and I was again reminded that I had yet to master my own family name. That was enough motivation for me to finally get it right I was going to just buy myself an “e”. So three months, 40 dollars and 18 official forms later, I was finally a “Vermeersch.” I also tacked on the nickname “Hans”, both as a tribute to my German heritage and also to get my money’s worth. I guess the thriftiness comes from The Irish blood on my mother’s side.

The first chance I got during my stay in Germany, Spring Break, I crossed the border into Belgium. The only “relatives” I knew of were in East Flanders, far from the West

Flemish fields my family had fled at the turn of the century. The father of this family even had the same first name as my father, Raymond. Of course he had one more "e" in his last name than my father did, but there in my passport. I had all the right letters. I came across this family through that book written about my great aunt by a nun in Texas, Sister Mary Paul Valdez. In the good sister's research of Sister Benitia's Belgian roots, she had come upon this friendly family Vermeersch in Ertvelde.

Leen Inghes, my exchange program advisor, knew this area all too well. Raymond and family lived coincidentally only a village away from the Frau's sister whose family runs an eclectic restaurant out in the countryside. Whereas blood is supposed to be thicker than water, food is definitely the way to a Belgian man's heart. On subsequent visits to Flanders, I have always made it a point to return to this eating establishment. Yet regrettably, I've lost contact with the East Flemish Vermeersch's. As it turns out. This family probably wasn't even distantly related to me. But I will always have a warm spot for my heart for these Vermeersch's who provided my first introduction to Belgian culture.

Whereas the only Vermersch (or Vermeersch's for that matter) that I had known in America were all closely related to me and would meet twice a decade in Texas, I soon learned that "Vermeersch~ is a rather typical Flemish name. Some would call it common.

I was in for another shock. Whereas I had always heard that the name meant "from the sea", this was actually the name Vermeer. No, Vermeersch actually meant 'from the marsh'. We were the swamp people. It's not as bad as it sounds. The marshes of Flanders lie in the beautiful Polder Region, the lands reclaimed from the sea. This is a rich agricultural area that reminded me much of the family farm of my youth, only there were far fewer hills around the polders and many more cows. But there were a lot of families, not necessarily related, who lived amongst the Flemish marshes and took the surname Vermeersch.

While on my second visit to Belgium, I came upon a less distant relative. I met him in Ichtegern, my grandfather's hometown. I also learned of a bit of family scandal.

This cousin of mine was an amateur historian who loved to peruse old documents. He took me to the city hall where we searched for the birth record of that immigrant family of who wound up in Texas. We easily found references to all but my Great Aunt Elisa, the venerable Sister Benitia. Finally, we found the record of an Elisabeth Jongbloet. My great grandmother with the weak heart had been a Jongbloet too. And scribbled in the margin of young Elisabeth's birth announcement was a note regarding the belated marriage of Joseph and Maria Louisa, some months after the arrival of their surprise child. Little Elisabeth was now a proud Vermeersch, as am I today.

This is a story that most certainly never made it into that book written by Sister Mary Paul. But in the process, little Elisabeth lost the suffix "beth" to her name and went through life as Elisa Vermeersch.

And it's but a fraction of what I've learned about my Belgian heritage since finding that illusive "e".

FATHER GUSTAVE ADOLPH VERMEERSCH

In the 1870 census records of Mission, Umatilla County, Oregon, Catholic Mission to the Cayuse and Umatilla Indians, I discovered a certain Father Adolph VERMEERSCH, born in Belgium in 1835. He must have been there from 1865 to 1873, year in which he was replaced by Father Bernard ORTH, another Belgian. Many Belgian priests came as missionaries to the United States, many came to the West as a result of the call of Father Pierre-Jean De Smedt around 1650. The Indians and the new settlers were asking for priests everywhere.

Curious about Father Gustave Adolph VERMEERSCH, (later known as Adolph Vermeersch) I found that he was appointed Rector of St. Peter's mission in The Dalles, Oregon in 1861. It was through his influence and exertion, with the collaboration of the Sisters of the Holy Name, that St. Mary's Academy was established in 1864 in The Belles.

On November 1865, Father Vermeersch was appointed to the Cayuse Mission, near Pendleton in Umatilla County, replacing Father Brouillet. He administered the parish eight years. He established the St. Ann's mission in a new, but crude log cabin on the south bank of the Umatilla river, a few hundred yards from the present government mission location. St. Ann's Mission later became St. Andrews Mission.

In the 1860's- 70s there was no Catholic Church in the City of Pendleton, just a few miles away from Mission. The first church there was established in 1884 and there was no resident pastor until 1886. The town was served as a mission, like the rest of the country, by the priest of the Indian reservation and Mass in Pendleton was celebrated in a private home.

We know that on June 6th, 1869, at the Silver jubilee celebration of the coming of the Sisters of The Holy Name to The Dalles, Father Adolph Vermeersch honored the occasion by his presence.

That's all the information I can find here about Father Vermeersch. Where in Belgium was he born? Where was he after 1873?

Who can help? Please, send info to Pierre.

WORLD WAR II MEMORIES

by Barbara Van de Veere – (pen name of member Charlene Lorch)

In 1944 we were American children being raised in a working class neighborhood of mostly German and Polish Catholics in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We knew nothing of war, except for what we went to see at the local movie theater which we frequented every time we went to visit our German grandmother. And in those days, war movies seemed to be mostly what we saw at the theater. My brother was 9, I was 5, my little sister, 3. Our father had not been taken from us to go and fight because of a crippled foot he had suffered in infancy when his Belgian grandmother had accidentally dropped him. However, we did have four uncles who served --- two in the Navy and two in the Army. Of these three returned home. Our Uncle Henry, a paratrooper, youngest of my grandmothers twelve surviving children and our favorite uncle --- did not return. It was at his funeral that my brother and sister and I came close to realizing what terrible, heartbreaking loss there could be in war.

Up until about a year ago when I began attempting genealogy studies on the German side of my family, I hadn't thought very much about Uncle Henry. Forty-nine years had passed since the end of the war. My mother and most of her family were gone, still watched an occasional war movie on TV --- some of the same ones I had watched in the movie theater as a child were still being shown on TV but old memories lay dormant. So when I began reading Hugo Claus' *The Sorrow of Belgium* and came across the following which describes the reactions of some villagers in a little town in Belgium, called Walle, to the remains of a paratrooper they find hanging in one of their trees early morning, my memory was jolted:

By the Cattle Market a crowd of people were bickering and jabbering and pointing. During the night a parachutist had crash landed against the front of the Ackerman Mills...

"Looks like a young fellow"

"American, anyway with that light kind of Khaki"

"He couldn't have known what hit him"

'He Never Knew what hit him.' I remember overhearing my mother saying that later at grandma's house.

I think Uncle Henry and his group had been headed for Bastogne to bolster the ranks of the soldiers there who had been fighting in "the Bulge" for sometime.

The Battle of the Bulge --one of the final big battles of World War II. It took place in the hilly, forested area of the southern part of the Belgian province of Luxembourg -- in the Ardennes. It was in 1940 that Germany had invaded Belgium, Holland and France and it was in the Ardennes that Germany would be beaten back five years later. The order to attack had been given by a now completely deranged Hitler on the 16th of December 1944. "Der Führer" had thrown everything -- man and machine-- he could gather from throughout the Third Reich for this last supreme effort.

The location of the attack? Like so many conquerors and military adventurers before him he (Hitler) chose Belgium, poor Belgium, the eternal battleground of Europe. () On December 16 after a savage barrage, the white-clad German armored ('panzer') divisions emerged from their forest concealment and overwhelmed the thin and outnumbered line of U.S. defenders. The surprise was total; the initial Allied defeat has been compared to Pearl Harbor. In the next several days, the German juggernaut roared forward in a major advance that caused a giant "bulge" in the allied line reaching the outskirts of Dinant to the east, La Gleize to the north. () Whole Belgian villages of the Ardennes, the entire town of Houffalize, ceased to exist as they crashed to the ground from the shelling of opposing armies- Nearly two thousand Belgian civilians lost their lives in the crossfire, a larger number were wounded. () The "bulge" was eliminated, and the fighting subsided by late January 1945. A horrifying total of 76,890 Americans had been killed or wounded. The Germans had lost between 80,000 and 120,000 men. In German histories, the event became known as the "Battle of the Ardennes" or the "von Hunsdorf Offensive", the colloquial Americans call it "The Battle of the Bulge". And its aftermath, its cemeteries, its key battlefield sites, memorials, and museums, can be viewed throughout the Ardennes --- but especially in Bastogne. (Frommer: A Masterpiece Called Belgium)

The German troops were under the command of Field Marshall Gerd von Rundstedt -- whom Eisenhower respected and who was later quoted as saying "As far as I was concerned, the war ended in September" (1944). Three months after 'the Bulge' the war was really over. Eighteen thousand men had been reported missing in this battle, the great majority of them later to be found in German prisoner of war camps. My uncle had not been among these

One summer before he went to war, Uncle Henry had been baby-sitting for us- We had forced him out of the house by calling him silly names. We stood huddled at our bedroom window, watching him while he crossed a field in front of our house and headed up the street towards our grandmothers place. When he had disappeared from sight we began blaming each other for his leaving and we also worried about what our mother would do to us when she returned. Then, suddenly, we heard the screen door bang open and the familiar thump of footsteps bounding up the stairs. We were overjoyed. Uncle Henry had returned. He strode into our room, hands jammed into his trousers, a broad grin on his long, handsome face. Perhaps we loved him best because he gave as good as he got. He was hardly more than a kid himself.

The very last time we were to see our uncle was the following winter, after our father had moved the family to a house in the country. We'd had a fireplace there and I remember Uncle Henry dancing in front of it with his lady friend --- and wondering how he could possibly prefer her to us! He'd had his paratrooper uniform on --- ready to go. The Battle of the Bulge would begin December 1944.

I don't remember how many weeks or months had passed before we had been told by my mother that we were going to church for Uncle Henry's funeral. I don't remember a coffin, nor do I remember music. I do know that none of us was really conscious of the fact that our uncle was never going to return. We knew nothing of death as we knew nothing of war. We were just three kids whose mother had placed them in the back of the church --- church being an unfamiliar place to all of us because I didn't recall ever having been there before --- while the funeral went on in front. The church was a high, dark, cavernous structure -- Gothic in architecture-- and I remember it was a scary place full of statues, shadows, brightly colored windows, odd smells. We felt as if we were in a different world in that part of the church farthest away from the reality of what was occurring up front. We began to jostle and push one another and soon we were giggling too. Then suddenly, out of that huge, high ceilinged cavern we heard our grandmother's weeping --- softly at first but soon rising in pitch until it reached a crescendo of wails that seemed to float back to us and fill all the space around us-. It was very frightening -- hearing my grandmother cry like that. We stood up then, all three of us, and we saw a man in uniform standing in front of my grandmother with an American flag draped over his arms. He was talking and talking. Grandmother was crying and crying. It was as if she had been crying to drown out the man's words. I looked up at my brother and he was crying. I felt it was all right for me to cry. My little sister joined in and there we were three of us crying. I think the realization, the reality of why we were there in that church had come to us, finally. It was our grandmother's grief that had finally driven the truth home to us we had lost our Uncle Henry forever. Our mother came to collect us--- three red-faced, puffy-eyed brats., and it was over.

I remember we were very solicitous of our grandmother for a few weeks after that, I wondered why she refused to hang the gold star which the family had received for Uncle Henry's death, in the front window I guessed, knowing my grandmother, that to her, advertising that she'd lost one of her sons in the war, was not going to bring him back. And thinking back on it, I admire my grandmother for doing that.

My Uncle Henry is buried somewhere in Belgium.

Many thanks to Charlene (alias Barbara) for sharing her memories with us. (Micheline Gaudette)

Over Memorial Day week-end, Abigail Van Buren who writes the "Dear Abby" column, published a letter from Belgian born Jean-Luc Beghin of Los Angeles. In a moving tribute to the American GI's who liberated Belgium, Jean-Luc expressed his gratitude to those men who so impressed him that he resolved to become an American (from: Springfield Union-News, Monday May 29, 1995).

The book **Resistance** by Anita Shreve, tells the story of a young American flyer downed near a Belgium village during World War II; a young married woman nurses his wounds and hides him in her attic ... one can guess what happens ... but not all that happens. It's good reading.

Is it really fiction, like the author says?

What do you remember about World War II? - Please share your memories of what you (or a member of your family) experienced during that time, it doesn't have to be of military nature. Whatever you can share will be much appreciated and will be published in *Belgian Laces*.

Please send your remarks to me, thank you.

Micheline Gaudette
8 Wycloff Ave
Holyoke, MA 01040

FROM GREZ-DOICEAU TO WISCONSIN - (Part three) THE PIONEERS OF THE QUINNEBAUG

By Jean Ducat in collaboration with Mary Ann Defnet - Translated by Pierre & Leen Inghels

What are the elements that stimulated the emigration from Belgium in 1853? True, the economic crisis in Belgium at that time played an important role, but it alone cannot justify such a massive move, and only our oral tradition proposes some explanations. Nowhere can we find any written documents, Fetters or information that the families DEGODT or LEURQUIN would have received, encouraging them to emigrate. The main reason for this first wave seems to be linked to François PETINIOT.

Who was this man? His real name was Constant Joseph PETINIOT, born 25 April 1788 in Roux-Miroir. Married to Marie-Antoinette PERA on 22 June 1833 in Heron. They had a son called François Constant, born in Heron 3 September 1832.

(Note from the Editor: there seems to be confusion about the name of the father as well as of the son. In some documents the father, is referred to as having the name Constant Joseph, in others as Constant François, or simply as François. The son is found as François Constant, and as Constant)

From details gathered about PETINIOT we deduced that he was a private (game?) warden in Grez Doiceau, despite the fact that neither his, nor his son's name can be found in Grez Doiceau population registers between 1847 and 1853, date of their departure. Oral tradition transmitted the following: François PETINIOT, returning from a trip to Antwerp, brought with him a brochure in the Dutch language, encouraging emigration to the United States. However, nothing is sure about this either, because in this type of research we have to base ourselves as much as possible on written documents like those left to us by Xavier MARTIN, son of Joseph, who later describes the circumstances surrounding these early emigrations and who never mentions the above incident at all. We are sure however that François PETINIOT played an important role in this first wave of Brabant emigration. This would be normal, as he was by far the oldest member of the group, Joseph MARTIN being 18 years younger than PETINIOT.

The next important factor in the emigration process were the recruiting activities and scams of the ship owners and recruiting officers. Adolphe STRAUSS, ship owner in Antwerp, did not hesitate to scour the Brabant countryside to gather emigration candidates in order to fill his departing ships. Brochures had been published and ads put in local newspapers such as La Gazette de Jodoigne. Decisions were quickly made

The PAQUES family as well as the family of Joseph MARTIN left Doiceau on May 12th 1853. The BODART family leaves Grez the 6th of May while the MOREAU family is removed from the population registers of Grez on May 11. After two or three days of waiting in Antwerp, the journey began on May 17th with an old American three-master called the QUINNEBAUG under the orders of Captain JENKINS, with 181 passengers on board. Among them were 81 persons originating from Brabant. The other 100 passengers were all from Holland, what should not astonish us as between 1840 and 1850 15 out of every 1000 Hollanders opted for emigration overseas. Let's look at the composition of these pioneer families:

1.-BODART Lambert, 24 years old, day laborer in a

paper mill, from Gastuche, with his wife Marie Celestine WOLPIJT, 22, and their daughter Marie Euphrasie, 10 months old: and Lambert's mother, Jeanne LAMBEAU. 59, widow

2.- DETIENNE Etienne, 28, stonecutter, from Biez, with his wife Therese, 25 and their two children: Jean-Philippe, 3; and Josephine, 5 months old.

3.- DETIENNE Jean Baptiste, 25, stonecutter, from Biez. He was single and probably related to Etienne.

4.- DOYEN Jean Joseph, 35, farm laborer, from Heze, with his wife Marie-Antoinette MOUREAU, 36, and their five children: Hubert, 13; Jean, 11; Therese. 7; Josephine, 3; Francois, 3 m. old.

5.-GASTUCHE Louis, 52, stonecutter, from Doiceau, single.

6.- HANNON Jean Francois, 44, day laborer, stonecutter, from Bonlez, with his wife Jeanne Melanie BOUCHER, and their four children: Joseph, 16; Adele, 13; David, 9; Francois, 5 years old.

7.-HANNON Philippe, 38, day laborer, stonecutter. from Royenne, with his wife Anne Joseph EVRARD, 29, and their three children: Eleonore, 9; Jean-Baptiste, 5; Marie-Barbe, 6 months old.

8.-HAULOTTE Joseph, 30, joiner from Bonlez, single

9- HORKMANS Guillaume 23, barber, from Weert Saint Georges, with his wife Therese, 27, and their daughter Virginia, 11 months old..

10.-HUISDENS Desire, 34, locksmith, with his brother Joseph Desire, 19; and their sister Marie, 24 years old

11.- JOSSART Jean-Joseph, 23, farmer, from Royenne, single.

12.- MARICQ Jean-Baptiste, 33, carpenter-joiner, from Bayarmont, with his wife Hortense DENIS, 27, and their four children: Philomene, 8; Sregoire, 5; Joseph, 2; Jean-Francois, 5 months old

13.-MASSY Adrien, 26, farm laborer, from Doiceau, single

14.-MASSY Jean-Baptiste. 39, day laborer, stonecutter, from Doiceau, with his wife Anne GASTUCHE, 44, and their three children: Clement, 6; Polydore, 3; Therese Mane, 7 months old.

15.-MOUREAU Joseph. 31, farm laborer, from Doiceau, with his wife Anne RALET, 25, and their two daughters Marie Josephe, 3; and Claire, 9 months old.

17.-NELIS Benoni, stonecutter, from Biez, single.

18.- PAQUES Martin, 34, farmer from Doiceau, with his wife Marie-Therese RALET, and their four children: Antoine, 18; Anne, 12; Alphonse, 10; and Xavier, 8 years

19.- PETINIOT Constant François, 65, farmer, widower, with his son Constant, 20

20.- RENGLET Gaspard Joseph, 41, shoemaker, with his wife Marie Philippine, 45, and their two children: Gerard, 19; and Marie-Josephe, 10 years old

21.- SWILLE Jean Baptiste, 46, farmer, from Grez, with his wife Elisabeth VAN DRIES. 43, and their children: Melanie, 19; Marie, 17; Leonie, 5; Gilles, 3; and Louis. 6 months old.

22- VANDENBOSCH Pierre, 22. baker, from Weed Saint Georges, single

And thus, the largest contingent of Quinnebaug passengers were all from The hamlets of Grez, Doiceau, Royenne, Heze, Gastuche and Bayarmont: a total of 55 Greziens, from 12 households, 9 families, and three single people. To these we have to add the two PETINIOT members, who certainly lived in Grez,

and the families from Biez and Weert Saint Georges These first Grez-Doiceau pioneers represented one third of the ships total passengers.

With regard to Grez-Doiceau proper, it seems that this first massive rtiove'was the result of a joint, well thought-through decision as well a long group discussions weighing the pros and the cons. The shipowners in Antwerp were contacted; in order to be able to pay for the passage (about 120 francs per adult passenger, a fortune at that time), belongings had to be sold. For this the emigrants had to make arrangements with lawyers and notaries. In most cases the often meager belongings barely covered the cost of the passage for the whole family. Others were more fortunate and were able to have some funds left over to start in the New World. For all of them it was clear that this was their last chance, knowing there was no possibility of coming back. They had to really believe in it!

The journey was perilous and long, almost fifty days, which brought the problem of too little food, and too many ailments The youngest child of the MARICQ family, 5 month old Jean François, died during the passage, as did one Dutch boy.

Later letters told the stories of the troubled passage, which had left such a bad impression on our Brabant pioneers, not only because of bad weather conditions but especially about the carelessness and the lack of understanding of the ship owners. Many protests where heard. A report was tiled in Philadelphia in October 1854, based on the declarations of the families MARTIN and PAQUES, describing the drastic food and water shortages on the ship.

There were days that the water was foul smelling, thick with rust, impossible to drink - Water served to the passengers was bilge water, water that collects in the ship's hull, while seamen got fresh water kept on deck If by any chance a child tried to get a drop of that supply, the poor creature was harshly beaten.

Passengers had to pay the cook to get the scraps of the captains table, which were thrown at them all mixed up in a napkin or a rag. For these scraps, Martin PAQUES spent another 26 francs , and even so his wife and children were so weak and exhausted, they could hardly walk without help The MARTIN family members experienced the same misfortune Only those who had naiey could survive decently.

According to witness accounts, hard feelings and complaints against STRAIJSS, the ship owner, were so numerous that, had he been on the ship, passengers would have thrown him overboard.

Consequently, by the time they arrived in New York on the 6th day of June, 1853, the emotional condition of our 80 Brabant-emigrants was at its lowest -

A document of the New York Border District gives us the official list of names with age and occupation: half of them young people in the prime of their life, farmers, stonecutters, joiners and other professions. In the column reserved for nationality, 107 passengers show "Holland" as the country of origin; 73 others show "France" - These are our Brabançons. (although the family MARTIN is listed as coming from "Holland").

The fact that these Walloon emigrants were listed as coming from France, demonstrates again that the arrival of emigrants from Belgium was not a daily occurrence.

(Note from the editor: Emigrants from Belgium or the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, have been listed as coming from Holland, France or even Germany.)

WISCONSIN CORNER **and News from,** **WISCONSIN'S PENINSULA BELGIAN** **AMERICAN CLUB**

by Mary Ann Defnet

Thirty nine members of the Societe WallonieWisconsin of Namur, Belgium arrived at O'Hare Airport, Chicago, on July 2. The Peninsula Belgian -A rrrnican Club arranged for bus transportation to Dyckesville (Northeast Wisconsin) for a reception and where the visitors were welcomed by their host-families. They were hosted at homes between Appleton and Sturgeon Bay.

The visitors were: M/Mme Georges Villers-Van Erps, Willy Monfils, Joseph Deroppe, Leon Rock, Didier Decelle, M/Mme. Camille DelbauveTimmermans, Jacqueline Van Robaey, M/Mme Emile Piette-Mossaux, Renée Depré, Noelle Cirlance. Lea Ducquir-Junion, Roger Lecut, Cafharine André, M/Mme. Willy Flemal-Maricq, M/Mme René Bouvier-Evrad, René Steenis, Paul Steenis, Bernadette Rusmont, M/Mme. Jacques Lefevre-Henry, Hermine Lefevre, M/Mme Etienne Jenquinne-Van Hemelryck, Henri Rose, Mathias Pons, Francine Melin-Defnet, M/Mme. Marcel Dachelet-Holbecks, Jacques Linet, Marie-Claire David, Thérèse Gauthier, Louis Jacques, and M/Mme. Willy Freson.

Also joining the group were M/Mme. Fernand Bidoul and M/Mme Emile Bouchonville-Dijeux. Monsieur Bouchonville is President of the Societe Wallonie Wisconsin.

Included in their tour was a 10-day sightseeing trip to the western United States; a one-day Wisconsin area trip to the Kewaunee Nuclear Plant, the Manitowoc Maritime Museum and submarine, and the Swoboda Clock Works; and a special farewell dinner celebrating the 20th anniversary of these exchange visits.

Mlle Monique Berlier of Mont-sur-Marchienne spent several days in north-eastern Wisconsin during the month of May getting "the feel" of the area in preparation for writing her doctoral dissertation in Journalism She is hoping to collect a number of old photographs of the Walloons of Wisconsin which will be the basis for her thesis.

An extensive study of the emigrants from the polder region of Waasland, Flanders brought Mr. and Mrs.J.A.C. Picavet to Wisconsin from Kruibeke, Belgium Many of those Flemish pioneers settled in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The Picavets spent time in Milwaukee, Green Bay, De Pere and Ashland Wisconsin, and in Iron Mountain Michigan.

There will be no Belgian Farm Days at Heritage Hill this year. Park officials are looking for a different locus for Belgian celebrations. In late August, the Peninsula Belgian-American Club will participate for the third year at the annual Farm Days in Brussels, WI, where Belgian materials will be displayed.

Representing the Peninsula Belgian-American Club, Mary Ann Defnet and Mary Liedeka were privileged to meet Belgium's Ambassador to the United States, André Adam, and the Consul General from the Consulate at Chicago, Emile Massa. The occasion was a luncheon and reception for the Ambassador held in Milwaukee, WI. on June 23.

From the Data-Bank of the Belgian American Heritage Association, Belgium:

SHELDON, NEW YORK.

Submitted by Jan Ducat, at the occasion of his visit to the area July 6,1995

Excerpt from the report written on August 14th, 1855 by HW. MALI, Consul of Belgium in New York, to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Belgium. In this report, MALI addresses three questions asked by the Belgian Minister on May 3, 1855, concerning three groups of immigrants: farmers, artisans and those without declared profession.

1. Which of these three groups is the most successful?
2. In which areas do Belgian immigrants settle most often?
3. What is the approximate number of Belgian immigrants in my consular territory.

There are two nuclei of Belgian immigrants:

one in Sheldon, Wyoming County, N.Y., by the Lakes Erie and Ontario, some 150 leagues from the city of Ontario; the other in Brown County, WI.

Sheldon is a rural community located on land that is today almost completely cleared, in one of the most fertile regions in the U.S. It lies 10 leagues from Buffalo, a city of 60,000 inhabitants, on the Lake Erie, whose growth is similar to that of Chicago on Lake Michigan.

The climate in Sheldon is similar to that of Luxembourg. The surface is undulating, with many springs furnishing very good water. Part of the soil is sandy and deep, excellent for raising grains, while part of it is more of a clay foam and less adapted to farming. The largest part of the land, however, is still prairie, and cattle raising remains the country's main resource. Products we sold at the market in Buffalo.

The land, which sold for \$200 to \$3.00 an acre (timbered) and \$7.00 (cleared), is selling now for \$15.00 to \$20.00 an acre. Ten years from now, this land will sell for \$50.00 to \$45.00. It is necessary to have 30, 40 or 50 acres of land to start farming.

In spite of numerous attempts, I haven't been able to obtain information concerning Sheldon's population and its main elements- The following will give you an idea (of the situation):

There are about 100 Belgian families - most of them Walloon - and some 20 French families, a few Americans. Germans are predominant. There are four stores selling all kinds of things (what used to be in individual grocery - mercery - and hardware stores in Europe). All their supplies come from New York. There are two butchers (both German), two brewers (also German), whose business is greatly hampered (crippled) by the Law of Maine, or the Prohibition Law; two wheelwrights (one Belgian, one German), two Belgian blacksmiths, several successful carpenters, five shoemakers, and three tailors, some Belgian, some German. All these artisans do some farming on the side as well.

There is no baker; all the settlers (everyone) do their own baking; they also make their own soap, candles, cider and sugar or syrup. Sugar is made with the sap that runs from incisions made in maple-trees. Pork sells now for 6 to 7 cents a pound.

Communication facilities(Travel connections) are good. So far all immigrants, (upon their arrival) have taken the railroad line New York-Buffalo, getting off the train in Attica or Darien, 5 or 6 leagues from their destination, but they (the immigrants) complain about misfortunes they have experienced on this line, especially in Albany. If what is said about Canada becoming the new direction for immigrants going to Green Bay is true, it seems that this direction would also be advantageous for immigrants coming to Sheldon. There are some Ontario ports, such as Rochester, which are close to Sheldon. Spring would be the best season for travelling here.

Belgians have a school which is very well kept by one of their fellow countrymen from Luxembourg. He is paid \$5 per year and per child.

The fellow who gave me most of the information is Mr.Henrich (originally from Messancy), who seems to be Sheldon's most well- to-do Belgian farmer. He owns 100 acres, about 20 heads of cattle, two horses, 5 hogs, and some poultry: he makes 30 to 35 tons of forage, and two day-laborers work for him, six weeks in the summer; they receive food plus \$1.00, but they must be hard working laborers.

This being said on Belgium immigration think it would be useful to inform you of a fact which is bound to have an impact on immigration in general i.e.: the rise of the "know nothing", a movement whose consequences are starting to be felt in Europe. It opposes foreign immigration and Roman Catholicism.

It is obvious that the agitation created by this movement influenced immigration by bringing the number of European immigrants down. This year's figures for European immigration are barely half of last year's and it is likely that while the movement repelled the best elements (immigrants), it did not prevent those who don't care about political rights, to flock toward this country like in the past. As a result, Europe, retaining its best elements, grew stronger while the Union became weaker and weaker. But this is a viewpoint in which I don't want to engage myself and, in order to stick to the matter at hand, I think that there is no cause to frighten and stop Europeans for whom emigrating represents hopes of a successful life in this country.

I don't deem it necessary to add that the previous information seems to have the exactness that one would expect from someone in my position, and, above all, that it was not influenced in any way by interests unrelated to my duties as Consul of Belgium to the government and the public.

PORTRAIT

By Greg Van Tighem, Staff Writer

The Observer . La Grande, Oregon – Wednesday July 12, 1995

Sitting on one of the end tables in the Inghels La Grande home is a book about the work of a quiet, hardworking priest named Father Pierre-Jean DeSmet. The full-color, 192-page book chronicles with words and pictures the history of the Belgian priest who traveled throughout the Northwest working with the native people of the Rocky Mountains. DeSmet worked in missions throughout Montana, Idaho and Oregon.

There were many Belgian priests who contributed to the early histories of the United States and Canada. Father DeSmet founded the Cataldo Mission in Idaho. Father August Vermeersch established the first mission in Eastern Oregon (St. Andrews Mission near Pendleton, Oregon). Father Damian De Veuster, who was recently beatified by Pope John Paul II, worked with lepers in the colonial Hawaiian island of Molokai. Father Leonard Van Tighem, the uncle of this reporter's great-grandfather, founded a Catholic church in Lethbrkige, Canada. A school in Lethbridge is named after Father Van Tighem.

Pierre and Leen Inghels are proud of the contributions Belgians have made to the history of the United States. The Inghels are as equally proud of the work they are doing with Belgian Researchers to raise awareness of those contributions and to teach Belgian-Americans about their mother country and its culture.

The Belgian Researchers was started in Massachusetts in 1976 by a group of Belgian Americans. The organization soon began publishing a two-page mimeographed newsletter called the Belgian Laces. Since then the small group has grown to an organization that provides contacts for hundreds of Belgian Americans searching for their roots or looking for information about their ancestors' home.

"There were many Belgians instrumental to American history," said Pierre Inghels, Belgian Researchers president. "where is a contingent in West Virginia that played a tremendous role in the glass industry." Belgian Americans also played a strong role in the coal industry of Pennsylvania. And a strong emigration of Flemish and Walloon (Belgian) farmers settled near Green Bay, Wis.

Pierre joined the Belgian Researchers shortly after the organization began. Pierre works as a researcher every week at the Mormon Family History Center. Leon is a retired Eastern Oregon State College German professor. Both Leon and Pierre immigrated to the United States with their family from the Belgian Congo in Africa (now Zaire) during the Rebellion in Katanga in 1960-62.

Fluent in Flemish, French, German and English, Pierre and Leon are able to assist people in looking through government documents and other records for lost family lines. Most Belgians speak French or Flemish.

The Massachusetts' founder, Micheline Gaudette, decided to retire the Belgian Laces in 1986. Pierre agreed to restart the magazine when they returned from Germany in 1988 where Leon had been appointed resident director of the Oregon System of Higher Education's student exchange program

with the Land of Baden-Württemberg. In 1988, the Inghels returned and rebuilt the Belgian Researchers. They published the Belgian Laces four times a year and slowly the organization regained its membership while adding more.

Though most of the members of Belgian Researchers live in the Midwest, there are pockets of Belgians who live in communities like Baker City. Three years ago, Pierre and Leon contacted people from Baker City. Since then several articles about the history of the Belgian American families in Baker City have appeared in the small genealogical magazine.

And as word of the Belgian Laces and the genealogical organization spreads across the state and the nation, more members join each year. The Belgian Laces is now distributed to more than 400 members across the United States and Belgium, it even makes its way to the Belgian Embassy in Washington, DC.

Inside their home the Inghels produce the 20-page magazine, using information sent to them from the Belgian Embassy and from members of the Belgian Researchers. They also write articles for the magazine themselves.

The Inghels use desktop publishing programs to produce the magazine and they till the magazine with excerpts taken from Belgian news magazines and a synopsis of articles found in Belgian papers.

Every day Pierre said they get two to three letters from members looking for information about their ancestors. "Just answering the mail is a full-time job," he added.

One of the most popular parts of the magazine is a column with questions posed by members about their ancestors or about events. The column is called "Queries." Since Pierre has access to thousands of documents through the family history center and the Belgian Researchers library, sometimes he finds answers. If Pierre is not able to find an answer, the organization also has a network of members which can do research in Belgium or in the US national archives in Washington, DC.

He also has copies of birth certificates for thousands of foundlings. Foundlings were orphans discovered abandoned in public parks, on doorsteps and in churches especially during the Napoleonic wars (1810-1816). Later, many of them found their way to the New World to find jobs and start new lives.

On Aug. 6 the Belgian Researchers will hold a picnic and meeting in Boring Oregon, to plan for a larger get-together next year. The Belgian consulates general from Seattle and San Francisco have been invited to the planning meeting. Next year's larger get-together is expected to draw hundreds of Belgian Americans and Belgian Canadians from all over the Pacific Northwest.

"We feel very confident that we are responding to a need of the people because the Belgian Laces has been well received," Leon said. It grew out of a hobby of my hubby, a very expensive hobby."

Northwest Corner by Leen Inghels

On Sunday August sixth, the members of the Belgian Researchers in the Portland, Oregon area held their long awaited BBQ! The preparations that went on for weeks per long distance (Portland is 275 miles from La Grande) paid off with the very diligent help of a group of Portlanders, anxious and dedicated to the success of this first party. Many thanks and sincere recognition goes to the organizing "committee" Martha Blommaerts, Marlene Looyens and Hans Michael Vermeersch.

The lion share of everybody's appreciation goes without any doubt to Pearl and Don Vanden Heedes, who so graciously offered their home for the event (besides providing the meat for the RBO, drinks, arid salads and all that belongs to a successful BBQ!!) - they offered hay rides through their ranch and entertained us with the show of calling 'the girls' (as Don calls his beautiful cows) to the fence of the back yard, where all 40-some hustled to get their feed.

Good 70 members with their families gathered at the W S Ranch in Boring, Oregon. The ranch is located in the beautiful hilly area on the east side of the Willarnette valley, nestled among the berry fields, surrounded by old growth cedar and pine trees with majestic Mount Hood dominating the scenery. The friendly atmosphere provided by the Vanden Heedes themselves and the pleasant arrangement of their yard and decks could only encourage fellowship and camaraderie among the members, who met that day for the very first time. Young and "old" had a great time, and even when the second hay ride was caught in a good downpour. it didn't seem to bother the riders nor to have dimmed their enthusiasm. A blazing lire in the lower deck's tire pit greeted them t-on their return, and dried the clothes quickly. tinder the giant cedar tree at the edge of the deck, -tere the warmth of the fire kept the spirits warm and the people dry, the "eternal last ones" reminiscenced over the party and congratulated each other on the success. We separated as good friends, that seem to have known each other for a long long time. Thank you again, Pearl and Don, and all of you that contributed to this first get-together!

We regretted that the Honorary Consul of Belgium in Portland, Mr. John H. Herman was unable to attend but hope that he will be able to enjoy the fellowship of the group at the next occasion. Next years BBQ is tentatively planned for July 21, the Belgian National Holiday.

In one word: the BBQ was a success and the cry for more was heard all around us: "Let's not wait until next year! Let's do it again .. soon!"

Some notes on the First Belgian-American Get-together in the Portland-Oregon Area

by Greg Van Tighem

It was a perfect day for the Belgian Researchers first get-together. A thick cloud cover kept the temperature mild throughout the afternoon, unlike the past few sweltering days I spent in La Grande.

There was a cool breeze blowing as I got out of my car and walked the short distance to the farmhouse surrounded by tall pine trees. On the trees were streamers in the color of the Belgian flag — black, yellow and red.

As I walked around the tall pine trees which stood like sentries to the Vanden Heede Ranch, I saw the Belgian Researchers' members sitting around the deck.

Standing on the deck, with a great many other people was Leen Inghels, one of several people responsible for the get-together.

"Bonjour Leen"

"Bonjour, Greg, ça-va"

"ça va bien, merci."

It was about all the French I could remember from my college days. I always regretted not studying harder in college so I could become fluent in French. Being able to fully understand another language, particularly one which my family spoke when they first arrived in the United States via Canada, would have made such a difference. It's difficult standing in a crowd of people not fully comprehending what is being said. Eventually, before I visit my family's homeland, I intend to become more versed in French.

All around us people of all ages were talking and enjoying each other's company. They recounted dozens of stories of how their parents grandparents or great-grandparents came to the United States from Belgium or migrated to the Northwest from Wisconsin or West Virginia as jobs and opportunities opened up here. There was a group of people from the De Roest family of Baker City, whose relatives arrived in the area from Wisconsin. They were descendants of Flemish farmers who immigrated to Wisconsin, then eventually to the Baker City area.

As I looked around the backyard of Don and Pearl's ranch home, I saw many people who reminded me of the relatives I see at our family get-togethers.

Recently my grandfather, a member of the first generation of my family to be born in the United States, died. Many of my relatives, whom I had not seen for years were at the funeral and a get-together afterwards at my grandparent's home in Great Falls, Mont. The get-together in Boring reminded me a little bit of that funeral wake. At both events there was more food than all of us could possibly eat and more beer and other spirits than we could possibly drink. But more importantly at both gettogethers I was impressed at how, even as Americans, we hold on to our Belgian traditions, also learned just how strong the ties of family can be.

On the living room wall of my grandmothers home hang two brass plates which my family brought over from the Old World. They are a few centuries old and were made by one of my ancestors.

I thought of those plates as I looked at a map of Belgium hung at the get-together in Boring. On that map several thumb tacks marked the different villages from where our families came. Many of the tacks were in the Flemish part of Belgium, some in the Walloon area. So many different stories and experiences together in one small area.

I am convinced that we need to hold on to our heritage as Belgian-Americans because it is a part of who we are and who we will become. I hope at next year's get-together, more people will come and share their family's stories and culture. In the meantime I will try to learn more about my heritage and my family's history. Stay tuned.

TONGEREN
ROMAN PAST AND EUROPEAN FUTURE
by Ghislain de Schaetzen, Burgermaster of the City of Tongeren

Tongeren, the oldest town in Belgium, has its origins in 15 BC., when it served as the base and supply center for the Roman troops on the Rhine. "Atuatuca Tungrorum" quickly developed into an important market center. The Roman Wall, a symbol of earlier power and glory, still enjoys European fame. Other traces of the Roman occupation are to be found in the town itself, or in one of its museums. They include "Beukenberg" (Beech Hill), an authentic Roman aqueduct, the "Pleniusbron" (Plenius Fountain), a number of "Tumuli" (graves) and many others. Further light was shed on this Roman past in 1985-1986 when our county celebrated its bi-millennium.

In the third and fourth centuries, the town provided an important link in the spread of Christianity. With St. Maternus and St. Servaas, who are frequently mentioned as Bishops of Tongeren, the first pages about the earliest Christianisation of our part of the country were written.

The Bishops of Tongeren, who resided in Liege, gradually received territorial power as well. The connection with the church in Liege, and especially with the Prince Bishop of Liege, was to survive right up until the French Revolution. During the course of the eight century, the Chapter of Our Lady was built in Tongeren. The result was a permanent clergy with connections with the oldest church in Tongeren, forming a solid basis for further expansion of the town.

The town gradually developed a life of its own around this Christian center. The people organized the defense of the town's interests and set up trades. As a result, political, social-economic, cultural and religious life enjoyed a period of prosperity which culminated in the building of the Basilica of Our Lady. However, the town's rise was abruptly checked by a severe fire in 1677. On the orders of the French General Calvo most of the houses were destroyed during the night of the 28th of August. It was a dreadful blow from which Tongeren did not recover until the 19th century. When the Treaty of the XXIV Articles divided Dutch and Belgian Limburg in 1839, Tongeren became the principal town of an administrative and judicial district, as well as the seat of the Limburg Assize Court.

During the course of the twentieth century, the town became the service center for southeast Limburg. As well as performing an important function in the region, it also has a wealth of retail businesses and educational and medical institutes. However, on a regional and even national and international level, Tongeren's main activity is in the field of tourism.

Tongeren, the oldest town in Belgium, is situated in an area famous for its spring blossoms, pretty villages, castles, folklore and tradition.

It is best to explore the old town quietly, on foot: this is really the only way to discover how history still lives and breathes. The Basilica, the most beautiful monument in Limburg, with its 12th century Romanesque cloister and the richest treasure chamber in Belgium, completely dominates the Tongeren town scape. And Ambiorix, the leader of the Eburonen who defeated the Roman army in 54 BC, proudly surveys the market square. On September 5th 1991 it was exactly 125 years since King Leopold II inaugurated the statue. That is why the town council declared 1991 Ambiorix-Year. The history of Ambiorix and the Romans illustrated by archeological material on display in the Municipal Gallo-Roman Museum.

Roman and Mediaeval walls surround the old town center with its picturesque Beguinage, municipal museum and various historical monuments. But Tongeren "extra muros" (outside the old walls) also has a number of important monuments to its name, as well as beautiful scenery. And within a relatively small area, it provides a representative picture of the patchwork that the province of Limburg once was, both in secular and ecclesiastical spheres. Consequently, there are a number of noteworthy castles, such as the Castle of Betho, Hamal Castle, the fortress ruins and castle of Kolmont, the Castle of Widooie and of course, the Castle of s'Herenelderden. In terms of religious architecture, a number of churches and chapels are certainly worth mentioning. There is the Romanesque St. Martinus Church in Berg and numerous traces of Romanesque architecture can be picked out in the St. Servatius Church in Sluizen. The tower of the St. Martinus Church in Rutten is also Romanesque. The tower of St. Gertrudis Church in Piringen is early Gothic and the architectural style of the St. Stetanus Church in s'Herenelderden is late Gothic.

Tongeren is a celebrated place of pilgrimage. The seven-yearly crowning procession, the Child Jesus of Prague, the St. Hubertus festival and the Evermarus festival in Rutten all bear witness to this.

Tongeren has more than food and culture to offer her guests there is relaxation for young and old. The shopping center with its attractive restaurants and quiet cafés, and the city parks provide rest, recreation and sports to suit all tastes. The Sunday Flea Market is one of the best in Belgium, and draws visitors from far and wide and is certainly worth a visit.

The Belgian-American Heritage Society
Of West Virginia by René Zabeau

The Belgian-American Heritage Society of West Virginia, Inc. held their third annual Belgian National Day Picnic Sunday, July 16 at the large maple shelter in Nutterfort, W.Va.. July 16 was the nearest Sunday to July 21 (the **REAL** Belgian National Holiday) that the shelter was available to us.

It was a terribly hot Sunday afternoon with temperatures soaring in the upper 90's ... The humidity was very high. Two huge electric fans installed by President Paul Bastin helped make the picnic area bearable.

Nevertheless, the picnic was again a great success with about 146 members and Belgian-American visitors present. Many elderly members did not attend because of the high temperatures which hit us not only on that particular Sunday, but also on the four or five days preceding the event.

Attending the picnic were Belgian-Americans from every area of West Virginia, as well as from Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. (Oh! and one from Ohio). Special recognition was given to one Belgian-American present Mr. Denton L. Caussin, of 2127 Golf Ave. Clarksburg, W.VA.. Mr. Caussin is 100 years old and is active and spry as a 40 year old! He's the oldest Belgian-American in this area of the country --- as far as we know. Also, believe it or not, he still likes to dance!

Dr. Frederick A. Barkey of Charleston, W.VA., author of Cinder Heads in the Hills (History of Belgian glass-workers from Wallonia) was our honored guest at the picnic. Dr. Barkey proudly bears the distinction of Chevalier de l'Ordre do Leopold II which he received from the late King Baudouin of Belgium.

One of the highlights of this year's picnic was our 'White Elephant Raffle'. Each person entering the picnic area was given a raffle ticket. Each person attending the picnic had been asked to bring a gift. This could be an "unwanted" present received in the past, a new gift purchased especially for this purpose or any "White Elephant" they wanted to share. All had to be wrapped as a gift and set out on a table. As the numbers were drawn, each winner would choose a package, without seeing its contents, of course! It proved to be a lot of fun and caused many laughs. Each person at the picnic won a prize of some sort or another.

Music was provided throughout the picnic hours; many many games were provided for and enjoyed by the children.

Traditional Belgian food of all kinds was provided and complemented the traditional American picnic fare. The food committee did a yeoman's job, as well as all the other committees responsible for some aspect of the event. Thank you all for executing your responsibilities.

Every effort will be made to hold next year's picnic on Sunday 21 July, which as mentioned, is the real Belgian National Day, commemorating Belgium's Independence after the Revolution of 1830. 1996 is the first in many years in which Belgian National Day will fall on a Sunday.

The next regular meeting of the Society will be held Sunday, October 8, 1995 at the Waldotmore Cultural Center in Clarksburg, W.VA..

MY FATHER. THE BICYCLE RACER

by August Inghels, Mishawaka, IN

This picture shows my father Edmond Inghels on the bicycle in Detroit, Michigan 1911. My father first came to the States in 1910 and worked in the sugar beets in Ohio. He moved to Detroit where a lot of Belgians lived and found a job at the Hudson Auto Factory. Bicycle racing was a big thing then in Belgium and among the Belgians in Detroit, where they built a circular track instead of the road racing like in Belgium. (Ed. Note Belgium too had track racing, Gust, those structures were called "de velodrome") In 1912, my father went to Belgium, bought a couple of bicycles to race in Detroit and did this for several years. In 1921 he returned to Belgium to fetch his bride, whom he married over there and brought back to the States. They settled in Minnesota for a year and came to Mishawaka in 1922.

Some Belgian immigrants in Mishawaka built a nice bicycle track here but the depression which started in 1929 put a cruel end to it. I remember that as a kid I got to ride my bicycle on that track which was torn down years ago.

BRUSSELS 300 YEARS AGO

by Karel Denys Ed.- Gazette van Detroit - August 3 1996

Three hundred years ago, in August 1695, the grand market of Brussels didn't look a bit the way it does now, except for the city hall with its imposing tower on the south side, and the 'Broodhuis' (Bread House) on the opposite side. King Louis XIV of France, born in 1638 and made king at the age of five, was determined to control the Spanish Netherlands (Belgium) and use them as a base for an attack on England.

During the second half of the 17th century, there were a series of French invasions, interrupted by periods of relaxation. Renewed treaties between France and its Dutch and Spanish opponents, invariably resulted in the annexation of more Flemish towns by France. Louis XIV couldn't be trusted. Finally the situation became so serious that even Germany felt threatened. The League of Augsburg, formed by Spain, Germany, the Dutch Republic and England (King William III, Dutch Stadtholder, was also King of England), began its nine year war against France in 1688. Again Flanders, Brabant and Limburg became the battlefield.

On August 13, 14, and 15, 1695 the Duke de Villeroi, a French commander, bombarded Brussels. Sixteen churches and 4,000 houses were burned down and the historic buildings on the grand market were seriously damaged or destroyed. The 15th century city hall and the 16th century Broodhuis could be repaired. The latter had to be torn down and rebuilt in 1873-1885.

1713 saw the end of this series of wars. The Treaty of Utrecht in 1714 attributed the Southern Netherlands to the Austrian Habsburgs and the southern parts of the Counties of Flanders and Hainaut were forever lost to France- But the grand market of Brussels became enriched with some thirty beautiful baroque facades.

A very BELGIAN TRADITION A NAME TAG for each PATCH of LAND

read for you in Gazette van Detroit. (January 7, 1993)

Attributing a special characteristic to a country and its people tends to be a hazardous affair. Indeed, modern man is broad-minded, sharing the same satellites. Be it as it may, Belgians - Flemings, Walloon or Brussels citizens -- have this special mentality, or perhaps a set of moral values, that is closely linked with their past and their geographic location.

Their past is characterized by a quick succession of Foreign rulers, but also by a strong and unifying influence of a well-organized Catholic Church. It is true, like anywhere else in Europe, in the last few decades the church has lost part of its authority. Yet it has never ceased to dominate the mental and geographic scenery, and a church spire still looms from the center on any Belgian village.

In a country that was under Spanish, French or Austrian rule for so many centuries, even today people have an ingrained distrust of any form of political authority. Belgians tend to approach their rulers with a hint of irony, rather than with a rebellious attitude. Consequently, authorities are struggling in vain to get people to believe in a major and joint effort. Opinion polls show that only one out of three Belgians shows some interest in politics. In all of Europe and North America, only the Spanish and Portuguese are even more indifferent towards political affairs.

Belgians have always had a tendency to withdraw into a small and solid inner circle, where they feel safe and socially protected: their own home, their own soil, their own community or neighborhood, where a uniquely prospering community life has emerged. They "have both feet firmly on the ground sharing a genuine down-to-earth attitude. Soil, family, food, people and ethics are all firmly intertwined, forming an intuitive entity lodged in their social subconsciousness. Belgians have this strong urge to actually own the place they live, and seven out of ten Belgians have been successful in this respect. They have a 'Brick in their Stomach', as they call it.

Tiny, and densely populated though it may be, Belgium is cherished by all who live in it. There is a name for each and every patch of ground, for every hillock or field. Military maps of geographical areas and sub-regions are studded with names and labels, ranging from Pajottenland to Condroz. It is quite attractive to buy or inherit your own piece of land, and most notaries in Belgium have flourishing businesses.

This all-pervading attachment to solid and local elements is expressed in the typical "ribbon" form of their build-up areas. Belgians prefer to build their houses near the roads they take to go to work or to travel. Belgians are commuters by nature, which is why they built a dense network of railways, choosing not to huddle together in mega-cities.

Historically, they were forced to cooperate with authorities from every corner of Europe. They learned foreign languages, and still do so, with surprising ease. Even the smallest towns offer more foreign books and publications than anywhere else in Europe.

Gazette vs Detroit, Only Belgian Newspaper In America. 18740 - 13 Mile Rd. Roseville MI 48066

Subscription USA \$20/Canada \$28/Belgium \$35.

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

At the office of the Belgian Researchers there is a file for each query submitted. When you respond to a query or when you receive a response, please send us a copy of the information, so that we can stay informed of the status of the research. When someone answers your query, be sure to acknowledge receipt. This is just common courtesy and lets the members know that their response was received - and their effort appreciated.

95.282 - HENDRICKS- PAUWELS - I would like to have information from Belgium on my grandparents, who came to the United States about 1902 to 1904. Julius Hendricks (Hendrix), b. 27 April , 1675 in [sen. Belg. Married May or June 1898 (?) Emma (Rosemarie) Pauwels . b. 4 July 1874 in Diksmuide, Belg.. They had two children born in Belgium: Bernice, b. 1900 (7) and Maurice (Morris), b. 1902 (7). They came to East Moline. Raymond De Pauw 402 W. 2nd. Brooklyn, Iowa - 52241-9349

Hendrickx Emil a, 33 yrs old, from Esen (near Diksmuide), farmer - and Hendricks Jules, 27 from Diksmuide, brewer together with De Waele Alois 27, from Esen and Dieusart Charles, 22 also from Esen, left Antwerp for the U.S. by ship SS Southwark, leaving Antwerp 26Apr11, 1902.

95.283 - LE CLERC(K), Pierre b. ca. 1814 in Luxembourg Province, Belg. probably in Etalle. Emigrated from Antwerp, arrived New Orleans 28 June 1853. Settled in Leopold (Perry Co) Indiana. Married Josephine (von) Soeguel. Any information, please contact Gabrielle Nicholas, 115 Village Place, Zionsville, IN 46077 or GigiMike@ACLcom

95.284 - ALLARD Jean François, b. 23 Nov. 1804 in Luxembourg Province Belg., probably in Chiny. Settled in Leopold (Perry Co),IN. 1842. Married 29 Jan. 1849 in Leopold to Marie Francis Belva, b. Ca. 1630, Chiny. Info, please to Gabrielle Nicholas, 115 Village Place, Zionsville, IN. 46077 or GigiMike@AOL.com.

95.285 - DUBOIS Jean Baptiste - b. 1745 in Baisythy. Belg. son of Jean Ignace & Gertrude Matagne. Am seeking birth, marriage, death of the above & their parents, if known. Would appreciate any help? Mrs. Charlotte Rogers, 303 Reed Str. Jeannette, PA 15644

95.286 - SALMON/FAGOT/ANCEAUX/TOUROLLE - Victor Fagot married Salmon before 1900 - Sons Victor and Ernest. Lived near Momignies, Belg. Ernest married Denise Tourolle from Macqtiemoise, Belg. Marie Mathilde Anceaux, married Leon Aristide Tourolle before 1896 in Saint Michel France (2), daughters: Jeanne, Denise, Angele, Leonie Don't know if there were any sons. My mother Josiane Fagot, b. 1923, came to the U.S. as a war bride in 1946. She is the daughter of Ernest and Denise Fagot-Tourolle. Any information on these surnames would be greatly appreciated Denise Garcia - 3325 N. Nellis Blvd. I 225 Las Vegas, NV

95.287 - DEMUYNCK - BONAMI - am looking for the descendants of Arthur De Muynck and his wife Elodi Bonami. They were born around 1890 and moved to the States. The place of birth in Belgium must have been Lootenhulle or Aalter. Pierre De Wulf - 317 A Avenue Moliere B 1060 Brussels, Belgium. Tel. 032.2.3450436

95.288 - SALMON/FAGOT/ANCEAUX/TOUROLLE Victor Fagot married a Salmon before 1900. They had two

sons. Victor and Ernest. They lived near Momignies, Belg.. Ernest married Denise Tourolle in Macquenoise, Belg.. daughter of Leon Aristide Tourolle and Marie Mathilde Anceaux before 1896 in St. Michel, France (7). They had four daughters : Jeanne, Denise, Angele and Leonie. Sons ? My mother Josiane Fagot, b. 1923 came to the States in 1946 as a war-bride. She is the daughter of Ernest and Denise Fagot-Tourolle. I am searching for any information on these four surnames. Denise Garcia - 3325 N. Nellis Blvd. 5225 Las Vegas, NV 89115

95.289- POUSETTE, GOUDE, HESOU, PIERROU - would appreciate connecting up with anyone who is researching these names or other Belgian Walloons in Sweden. I would like to share information on these interesting people. Patti Pjerrou-Paynter - 725 N. 145th St. Seattle, WA 98133- (see articles The Cross of Piro de Jalhav in this issue of B.L.

95.280 - EVERLING - Gregor and Elisabeth had four children: Catherina, Nichols, Augustus and Joseph. I'm looking for any information on them. The Everlings appear on the 1855 Brooklyn NY. census. Prior to coming to the States they lived in Warnach (Luxembourg) Belgium and arrived in NY 1849 to 1853. I have checked the microfilm tapes 1852-1853 looking for them, but without success!! Can anyone help? Andrea Ewerling - 55 South Bedford Ave. Central slip, NY. 11722

95.291 - MERCIER - PIRE Charles Joseph, b. Dec. 1857 in Belgium; d. 1 July 1916 (place?); married 11 Dec. 1878 to Matilda Augustina Pire fr Jan. 1856 - Braboin (Brabant?) Belgium, d. 27 Jan. 1917 Statefarm (Ill?). Emigrated 17 May 1892 to Clifton Ill, with five children: Ernest Joseph b. 22.4.1879; Cordelia b. 27.11.1880; Edward J. b. 19.1.1883; Jules J. b. 13.2.1886; Aldina Marie h. 19.7.1889. Two more children were born in the U.S. : Julia Josephine Jesslin b. 27.5.1895 Ashkum, Ill (my grandmother); and Alice Marie b. 10.7. 1897 Ashkum Ill; I know they spoke French and that Gr. Grandmother Matilda only learned English in her old age. Can anyone help or is anyone researching this same family? Alice L. Paugh 8130 SE Main, Apt.# 2 Portland Or 97215

95.292 - DEMEESTER or DEMEULEMEESTER Julius - b. 14.2.1886 Roubaix; son of Auguste and Marie Sophie Vergtibht(?) d. 21.8.1962 Detroit MI. Married 2.1.1913 in Detroit, MI. Mary Grance b. 39.11.1883 Stuttgart, Germany. d. 21.9.1949 Detroit MI. Children: Alphonse John Demeester b. 1.6.1916 MI. d. 1969 Detroit, MI; Robert Demeester b. 17.7.1914; Remi William Demeester. I do not know if the name change from DeMeulemeester to DeMeester went through the courts. cannot find any immigration nor naturalization records for Julius. There is a Julius who immigrated in 1906, but that is not our Julius! - Debra Porter Demeester - 15335 Susanna Circle - Livonia, MI 48154

FROM AND TO

From Robert Van Hecke (from Brussels, Belg). I had the great pleasure to send information to member James Delforge (BR. #427) regarding his ancestors. I sent him data about three generations of Delforges in Dampremy and Marchienne-au-Pont. I also would like to give you the names and addresses of three genealogists, who would be able to do research in Belgium for the membership:

Mr. Paul Van Hecke - Blvd des invalides 26 -

B- 1160 Auderghem, Belgium (prices are available upon request at the B R. office in La Grande)

From Joyce Miller - I have been very busy with my research and it has been very rewarding, but also very frustrating at times....One has to learn patience in this endeavor. At least, that is what discovered. It seems that I am 100% Belgian. because I haven't found anyone on either side of my parents' families that wasn't born in Belgium, and I'm back to the early 1700's. My father always thought that his grandmother's family was French, but I have found them all to be born n Belgium!

From Patricia DeLain - While I enjoy every issue of Belgian Laces this last one was especially good, because two of my ancestors were mentioned:

Joseph Delain in the Naturalization listings from Kewaunee Co and Alexandre Delain in the Civil War listings. Alexandre's full birth date in Sart Risbart is 17 April, 1845. His birth record was found in Opprebais, LDS film # 1080255.

I was also very interested in the local history article on Nivelles and would love to see more of these on some other towns and villages especially in the arrondissement of Nivelles. So many of our ancestors came from Brabant and it is difficult to find books or articles on local history - Does anyone have a bibliography by chance?

From Ruth Schieltz: In Belgian Laces, Vol.16 # 59. 1994.2, pg. 34, there is an article about St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in L'Erable. Illinois. The article states that the first chapel was built about 1854. In 1856 Father Cyrille Brisard signed the first church records. And that the first volume of records through 1879 has been translated, indexed and published by Norma Meier. It also said that the records are not available. Does this mean that the church will notlet then, out or that there are no copies around?(For an answer to this question, contact Verne Drake - 922 S. 5th Street, Watseka, IL 80970)

Besides: Father Cyrille Brisard was pastor of St. Valbert's Parish and Holy Family Church near Versailles, OH, from 1859 until 1867. I would like to have more information on Father Brisard. Can anyone help?

To Ruth Schieltz: send us the surnames that you are interested in, we will look them up for you. Yes, it would be very nice and very helpful for the Intl.membership to have a complete listing of the surnames researched by our members ... but, for this we need somebody to volunteer lots of time ... all the work with the Belgian Researchers and with Belgian Laces is done by Pierre and myself, and we do our best to keep abreast with the work and try to satisfy as many members as possible. To answer your last question: Do you need more material for the newsletter? the answer is yes!. we always need material and really appreciate articles submitted by the members!

To All Members

From Regina Brindle: re.: Civil War Veterans published in Belgian Laces Vol. 17 #63 :1 have the birth date for Pierre Draye of Rhode Ste Agathe, Belg. Anyone nterested in pursuing the research on this line, I have access to the records of Rhode Ste. Agathe all the way back to the early 1600s. In fact , if anyone is looking for family from that town, I am more than willIng to help them in their research, as long as they don't mind being a bit patient. I'll charge only for the copying and shipping - Just let me know how I can help! (That's the real "Belgian Researchers spirit - Thank you, Regina!)

By the way: Georgia Drossaert, who contacted me a long time ago, looking for her husband's grandfather François Drossaert who settled in Wisconsin , and I were able to find a common tie. It was quite neat to find one of my American cousins! - Regina Brindle - 495 E 5th Street Peru, IN 46970

From Carolyn Kneisl, MN. The query in Belgian Laces brought a response from Mr. Felix Leger of Nothomb, Belg., who sent me very helpful information, and the promise of help from Alain Thomas from Habay-La-Neuve, Belg. Many thanks to all for Their help. It is very much appreciated.

Last Minute QUERY !

95.293 - DALEBROUX - I'm looking for the birthdate at Tourinnes St. Lambert, Belg. of Walthaire Dalebroux, who married Marie Borent on 27.8.1774 at Tourinnes-Les-Ourdons, Two of their grandsons Jean Baptiste, b.11.8.1827 and Michael Joseph, b. 7.10.1630 emigrated to the US from Rhisnes, Belg. On 8.10.1855. Michael Joseph is my gr.gr.grandfather. He married Anna Delsart. I would like the date of marriage in Belgium, as well as the exact place where they settled in the US. I have the obituary dated 13.2.1925, of their oldest son Florian, who was born in Belgium before they emigrated. It states that Florian came with his parents (Michael & Anna) when he was three years old, and settled "on a farm in **Thiry Daems**, which was then a dense forest and rewired years of hard labor to turn the property into one of the finest in the region" I cannot find this homestead! **Don Dalebroux** - 13456 SW Clearview Way Tigard, OR 97223

Names	From	Left Ship	Year Date	Ar Year Date	Going to
LJON Ch. Louis 22 Eugene 20		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MADAM Theo 23		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MALDER Caspar 22		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MARREN Wilhem 44 DEKKER Nechte 36 Pet. 17, M. 9, Jan 8		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MATHIEU Antoin 26 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MAURER F. 22		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MAYER Wilhem 28 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MEYER Elisabeth 24		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MINK Hermann 17		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MUHLEMAN Pust...32		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MULLER Lud 29 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MUNZER Mathias 53 Theresia 42 August 19 Maria 16 Agath		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
MURBACH Jacob 16 ...17		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
NEIDOFFER Phillip Carl 26 farmer Carl 4 Emilie 10/12		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
NOUS Johanna see DE ROEY Jean Francois		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
OBERMESIS? Francois 21 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PARSMAN Jos. M. 42 farmer Anne 42 Bart 14 Jo 13 Marg		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PARTNEN Benedict 42 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PATZEN Balthazar 27 tailor		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PELTSNEN Jos 33		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PFENNINGS Caspar 30 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PFISTER Anna 36 Maria 10 Johann 9 Jacob 9 Elis 8 Fred.		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PILZ Henrietta 17		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PITTALLI Julius 18 mason		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
POEL Adolph 21 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
POESE Heinneh 31 carpernter, Louise 24		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PROENTE Anton 32 blacksmith		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
PROENTE Courard 21 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RALLMAN Salloman 54 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RATH Nicolaus 26 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
REINEGGERS Xavier 22 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
REDELIS? Franciscus 31 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RIEN 51 farmer WILLEVEN JEannette 49, Martin 17,		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RIGEL ... 23		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RIREGG Johann 44, Marg 44, C 19 L 17 U 15 J 14 F 9 H		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ROFE Barbara 21		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ROHL Elisabeth 19		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ROLAN Wilhem 21 shoemaker		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ROMMELE Theo 27 Carpenter		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RONDOU Francis, VANDEZANDE Elisabeth	Oud Heverlee 14 Aug			1867 Jul 16	
ROPER Ed 46 farmer Magd 46 Cath 18 Gert 15 Pet 9 Mat 8		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ROSE Pierre 47 farmer GILLARD Marie Jose 43, Jul 7 Lou		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RUBOLD Maria 54 Constantin 20 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RUHN Johann 29 Elisabetha 26 W. 3 Louise 9/12 Elisabet		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
RUST Clemens 36 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHIES Wilhem 16		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHIETZ Elisabeth see WEIERS P.		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHMACKER Heinich 17 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHMELZLER Andrea 23 Frederich 17		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHMIDT Johann 42 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHMIDT Jos. 27		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHMIDT Peter 33 mason		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHNEVERS Joseph 24 carpenter		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHNOZIGER M. 27 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHOLLER Wilhem 22 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHULLEN Martin 23 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SCHUNACKER Philipp 54 carpenter Anna 45 Elis 25 Carl 2		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi

Report: FROM BELGIUM

Names	From	Leif Ship	Year Date	Ar Year Date	Going to
SCHWAB Jacob 26 carpenter		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SEILER Jacob 32 mason		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SEMS Cornelius 28 mason		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SENESTZ Jean 25 farmer, Marie 25		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SENKE Adrian 27 blacksmith		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SICKTENBERG Lubert 40 farmer H 66, Jeannette 45, W. 28		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SNOHLER Emma 20		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SONTAG Maria 45		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SPATZ Christoph 21 farmer Jacob 18		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SPIMS Adolph 19 Cath 22 Christian 54 Rosina 10		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
SPRING Elise 52 Sophie 9 Susette 7		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STAINLER Engelbert 17		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STASSEL Georg 56 farmer Carolina 58 Bertha 16		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STEIN Georg 65 Balthazar 61 Georg 27 Karolina 35 Liset		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STEINMETZ Peter 16 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STICO? Mathias 23 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STIRTSCHEN? Andreas 24 farmere		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
STUNZ H. 37 Barbara 27		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
THIP 36 Martin		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
TIMMER Henonck 27 farmer JACOBS Jeannette 31 W. 3, Jac		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
TIMMER Jantje see HAKLANDER Martin		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
TIMMER R. 40 carpenter Perit 28 Jacob 3		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
TIMMER Wilhem 59 farmer P. 60 D. 31, Jan 30, W. 26, R.		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ULOSER Friedrich 27 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VAN DEN BOSCH Jean B. 54 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VAN KOMMELEN Perrit 41 carpenter		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VAN Jan 26 blacksmith		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VAN PEEL Jean 45, Antoin 35		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VANDEN BOSCH Louis 28 farmer Anna 28 Philipp 9/12		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VANDEZANDE Elisabeth see RONDOU Francis					
VANDUSEN Jacques 30 farmer Isabelle 33		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
VON POPERIN Cornelius 30 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WAGNER Franz 30 farmer Sophie 28		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WASSBAUM Louise 27		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WATERLOO Henri 23		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WEBER Anne Marie 28		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WEBER Nicolas 25 carpenter		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WEBENER Joahn 28 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WEHALI? Anna 34		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WEIERS P. 31 farmer SCHIETZ Elisabeth 30 Kath 8 Jean 8		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WEIKER Georg 18 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WELLI Ed 31 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WELTE Johannes 24 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WELTEN Ed 20 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WENZINGER Jacob 22 laborer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WIJESAD Aug. 26		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WIGET Franz 22 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WILLEVEN Jan 14		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WILLEVEN Jeannette see RIEN		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WIZET Aloise 22 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WOLF Christian 27, Catherine 40		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WOLF Johan 18 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
WORTH Leopold 21 shoemaker		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ZEINET Peter 18 farmer		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi
ZELLER Richard 26		AN Ottawa		NY 1867 Apr 10	US listed as Belgi