Belgian Laces

Brugge: The Town Hall created in 1376 is the oldest in Flanders

http://www.trabel.com/brugge-m-stadhuis.htm

Picture courtesy of the Stedelijke Musea Brugge

Volume 21 #80 September 1999

BELGIAN LACES

ISSN 1046-0462

Official Quarterly Bulletin of

THE BELGIAN RESEARCHERS

Belgian American Heritage Association

Founded in 1976

Our principal objective is:

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

Deadline for submission of Articles to Belgian Laces:

January 25 - April 25 - July 25 - October 25

Send payments and articles to this office:

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All subscriptions are for the calendar year

New subscribers receive the four issues of the current year, regardless when paid

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Dear Members,

There comes a time when things have to change in our lives, in our responsibilities and involvement.
After being president of "The Belgian Researchers" since 1988, for over ten years and after long and hard reflections and soul-searching I came to the decision to resign as President of the organization. My family research had to be put aside for years. I found it necessary to be able to use the next years to my own research. However, I have had the pleasure to work with a lot of dedicated people, some special ones like my wife Leen, who helped me so much and took over the position as editor of "Belgian Laces" when I was really overpowered by the work involved: Micheline Gaudette, the founder of our organization, and the first president; Marlena Bellavia, who all these years was our treasurer, and a real treasure of patience. Also Patty Robinson our secretary, who kept the membership lists up to date. Thanks to all of you for your dedication to The Belgian Researchers.
At our last telephone conference of the 25th of June, and after discussing the future of The Belgian Researchers with Micheline and Régine, it was decided to elect Régine Brindle as our new President. As editor of Laces since the beginning of 1999, she has proven her dedication and love of the organization. It is with pride that I am passing the flag over to her, knowing that she will make the organization even better. As Régine lives in Indiana, a new committee will have to be elected over there, and will be announced in the next edition of "Belgian Laces"
Thanks also go to all members and non members, who have helped make our BELGIAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE ASSOCIATION, the impressive organization it is today. And please don't forget our motto: BEING BELGIAN IS BEAUTIFUL.

Pierre

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

822 Barbara J. GORAL, Green Bay, WI
823 Amy AHRENS, Elgin, IL
824 Patrick W. Germantown, TN
825 Ray A. VERSLUYS, Springville, UT
826 Donna MARTINEZ, Fort Carson, CO
827 Sister Linda GAUPIN, Orlando, FL
828 Janice VIRLEE, Kenosha, WI
829 Michele BARRY, Tucson, AZ
830 Juniper Branch Family Finders, Madras, OR
831 Barbara VANDER LEEST, Carefree, AZ
832 R. Van OVERSCHELDE, Palm Beach, FL
833 Imogene Van OVERSCHELDE, Pierre, SD

Dear Friends,
After patiently waiting for me for 6 months, Leen and Pierre INGHELS have officially retired. I know you join me in expressing gratitude to them for their hard work and dedication. Their 11 years of service rebuilt The Belgian Researchers into the strong organization it is today. Leen, Pierre, we hope you will enjoy your deserved time off.
The past months have been quite a learning experience.
I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing from you by mail/e-mail or by phone. My kids pick up the receiver and say: "Mom, it's somebody with an accent. It has to be for you."
Summers go by quickly around here between baseball tournaments and soccer games. This year I had really hoped one of them would be held in Hartford City, IN, giving me reason to go there and check out the Cecil BEESON Museum that Matt VERONA mentioned in his correspondence. I will have to go there with that specific purpose now. I can't wait to take a look at those rare newspaper articles that chronicle life in Blackford Co. at the turn of the century.
There is a lot of information out there, and thanks to you, we are discovering where it's hiding.
Our cooperative network is increasing. With the help of Georges PICAVET's Belgium-Roots list, we are slowly building a network of contacts willing to do look-ups, both here and abroad. It also helps tremendously to have the Family History Library reference materials at our fingertips on the internet.[1] It saves so much time and energy to access their website and just "copy" and "paste" the film numbers needed to further our research. I would like to hear from those who are researching both Flanders, and Antwerp. We need your input to keep Belgian Laces a well-balanced Belgian-American publication.
There have also been inquiries about the Belgian presence in the Congo and in Australia.
This issue contains lists from a variety of places of settlement in the US, but also interesting facts about the ship passenger lists so many of us are researching to make a connection back to the "old country".
This issue also introduces a new series by Simone ANDERSON: War Brides.
On another note, we want to acknowledge and congratulate Father Jean DUCAT at the occasion of his Jubilee with the church, on July 4th, 1999. What a befitting day for someone who has spent so much time researching the Belgian American emigration!
Bruce and I recently had the pleasure of meeting Georges and Erna PICAVET. Another auspicious date: July 21st...
As we quickly move towards the next millenium, let's make every step count. Let us hear from you.
Until next time!

Régine

PS: I would like to know how you feel about raising the dues enough to cover the publication and shipping of bi-monthly issues of Belgian Laces.

[1] **Family History Library** is found at http://www.familysearch.org
You can access the Ancestral File, and many other search engines including the Family History Library catalog and a list of FHC locations. Give it a try.

Memories of Wisconsin: interview with Alexandre MACAUX

(Alexander MACCO, The Story of a Red River Pioneer, Kewaunee Enterprise, December 27, 1929)

Submitted by John MERTENS, Kewaunee,WI

Only a small part of the oral history told by the Belgian settlers to their children has been written down for our generation. A few stories were recorded in local newspapers as told by John B. GIGOT, Alexandre MACAUX, and John B. KINARD. The story given by Mr. MACAUX is the most complete and only justice can be given to it by reading it as it was told.

"Belgium? Yes I remember it well. I mean, of course, the village we lived in, because we never got over six miles from it at any time, until my folks started for America. Grand Leez it was called, in the province of Namur. Just a row of brick huts on either side of a road that led to the next town. Labor was cheap and the crown owned the forests so brick wasn't exactly a choice. The only wood in our house at all were the ridge poles for a water shed. I think you would call it a thatched roof, in English. You couldn't use them in this country. We have too much cheap fuel yet. The village never grew. The farmland around it could just support a certain number of people the way they farmed it. Death or migration preserved the balance."

"I was twelve years old when we left for America so my opinions now are naturally the observations of maturity… Many a time people came to our door begging for crusts of bread but it had always been that way and I don't remember anyone complaining about it particularly. I know now that everyone was very poor but I only know it by comparison with our standards of living in America. I said labor was cheap. I've seen men dig potatoes outside our village and haul them to market six miles away on a wheelbarrow. Eddie MOTTARD's grandpa, Mr. GODSHOUL, used to haul as many as seven bags at a load. And such a wheelbarrow, handmade, heavy, with a wooden wheel! No one thought of meager profit, we boasted of his strength."

"A French missionary started us for America, Father DAEMS. He had explored this territory thoroughly and he could foresee the possibilities for settlement. I suppose our people just needed leadership. The economic urge was surely there. What an excitement it was when we knew we were going! There was nothing to pack except some bedclothes and our extra socks so we had lots of time to get excited in. Don't ask me where the passage money came from."

"We left Antwerp in June and landed in New York the middle of August. Forty-four days on the Atlantic in a sailing vessel! Somebody asked me once how a little vessel could provision a crowded passenger ship for forty-four days. It couldn't anywhere but on the stormy Atlantic. I don't remember ever being in the dining room after the first days.

But the railing ---!!!

"How good America looked to us. New York was a revelation. Our necks ached from gazing up at those skyscrapers, some four stories high. The train took us to Buffalo and from Buffalo a vessel landed us at Mackinac. We shifted there, to another schooner and by September we were in that Belgian Mecca, Green Bay. Other countrymen of ours had preceded us in locating farms and so it was that, in the Fall of 1856 we staked our claim to one hundred sixty acres in the Town of Ahnapee in Kewaunee County. Eli VANDRISSE owns the farm now. Understand it wasn't until years later that the West half of Ahnapee was incorporated as the Town of Lincoln."

"How glad we were to be settled at last. How rich we felt. One hundred sixty acres of beautiful timber land! Dad started at once to build a home and when the first snow came, we were as snug as could be. We had no furniture except a bench and a table, both of hewed logs. Ours was a dirt floor and we slept on hemlock boughs. A couple years ago girls came to our home here looking for antiques. I had to repress a smile when I told them that unfortunately our heirlooms were either lost or destroyed. I was thinking of Pa's wooden shoes. Game was plentiful and though our valley was dotted with teepees, the Indians were peaceable and it was cheerful winter we spent planning for the New Year. Emmanuel DEFNET, John LORGE and John DUCHENE with their families were already settled where we arrived. They had filed in the Spring of the same year.

"With the New year the clearing began in earnest and many a night I alternated with dad rolling logs closer to the bon fires so that we could use the cleared land for our crops. What splendid logs we burned. Tall, straight maple, hemlock and pine. You can get an idea of their size when I tell you that my old friend, Jim GASPARD cut a pine on what is now John FAMEREE's farm, that had sixteen hundred board feet in the first log. Mother followed us up with a grub hoe and some seed grain, patiently hoeing the wheat into the virgin soil. Hard work it was but those pioneers had had splendid training for it. I don't remember relishing food more than in those early days. We had no stove until the second year but an open fire served our purposes admirably. It was always stew anyway. We had gotten a barrel of salt pork from VAN DYCKE's , but mother only used it for flavoring. It lasted two years. It seemed incredible to me even yet that a hog could travel so far. VAN DYCKE's had a store at Dyckesville where Karel's Park is now. We did a lot of walking those first years. Seed grain from Bay Settlement, groceries from Dyckesville and we had our flour made into bread at Walhain by old man PETITJEAN. I think I told you we had no stove.

"But every year the country became better settled and conditions improved in many ways. One year after we landed we had a church built in Lincoln on the site of St. Peter's today. Great Grandpa Joseph JANDRIN used to conduct the services whenever Father DAEMS was in some other part of this large wilderness parish. Father DAEMS walked from mission to mission and came to us about once a month.

"After two years we had a cow and a hog and some chickens. In about three years Emmanuel DEFNET and pa got themselves oxen and that was a big step forward in our transportation problem. I remember that for several years they did all the grain and produce hauling for their neighbors to the Green Bay and DePere markets. For transporting a load of ten or fifteen bags, you cleared one acre of land. There was no undergrowth in those days. It was just a matter of felling trees in piles for burning but at that the tariff was high. Driving oxen isn't exactly recreation either. We had no roads, just crooked trails around stumps, gullies and other obstructions. The driver

always carried an ax and a pole against emergencies and they never got rusty either. They tell me scientists hope some day to be able to tune in on voices coming down from the beginning of time. I had to smile when I thought of what they would hear when their equipment began recording the speech of those early days of "cattle" traffic. What a lot of fervent Belgian profanity must be circulating yet.

"What a lot of memory pictures parade my thoughts as I talk to you of those early days. Our parents surely had courage and patience in a large degree. Many a time the settler's wife walked from Lincoln to DePere, carrying a bushel of wheat to be ground into flour. Henry NOEL will verify this. His own mother made this trip regularly with the rest. Theophile DELAIN's grandma carried a record load of one hundred pounds of flour from Clay banks to Lincoln once. All the logs that went into our buildings had to be carried on our backs. In later years when sawed lumber was used for flooring, John LORGE and Mr.DEWISH sawed it lengthwise with a cross cut saw. The PIRLOT boys were in great demand for such work also. Men were proud of their physical strength and even among those stalwart settlers many stood out as exceptional when it came to strength. John DELEBREAUX, Julien MOREAUX, Joe GODSHOUL, David CESAR, Ansel CHALLE, they were all "he men".

"Five years after our settlement came into being we got our first doctor. I guess before that we had no time to get sick. Dr. MASSART was our first physician. Then Pierre CHALLE opened a store at Lincoln and four years later we built a school and Miss Lenore PARENTS came to teach. School lasted just three months a year, during the winter. I suppose that would be popular with the kids today.

"By this time a great many families had located in the neighborhood and what good times we did have. Every home was open when it came to entertainment and I guess I've danced on every "eighty" in this part of the county. Two of our favorite musicians were grandpa DEMOULIN and old man LEBOTTE. Fiddlers both and often in retrospect I mildly wonder if they knew more than one tune. They kept time with their "shabboties" and often the beat was louder than the music. We were young though and life was sweet and we weren't overly particular. Sometimes today when I listen to a jazz band I have difficulty detecting the music, so maybe our fiddlers were just a little ahead of their times.

"There is one incident that I want to tell you about. In 1858 and 1859 we were fairly overwhelmed with great flights of wild pigeons. They came in clouds that blotted out the sun. At night when they settled down to rest, they broke big branches with their weight. Any chance shot was rewarded by as many as ten or fifteen birds. And that was their last appearance.

"I was married in 1868 and by that time the timber was fairly gone in Kewaunee County and for twenty years after I spent my winters with other neighbors in the camp from Pensaukee north.

"Life was good to us old timers and I don't believe I would want to change the period of my stay on this earth. When I see the cars shot by on the roads that I help grub out with pick ax and shovel, I have no regrets. At eighty-five you know that happiness and satisfaction are the rewards of constructive work and not things to be found by seeking. I can handle an ax today as good as the next man and my appetite doesn't require coddling either.

Boy -- They tell me the first hundred years are the hardest and I have only fifteen more to go."

Declarations of Intention - Brown Co. WI

(a continuing series by Mary Ann DEFNET)

We are finishing the year 1857 and continuing with 1858. Thereafter the lists will be shorter because the era of mass emigration was over. When the early Belgian immigrants arrived in Northeastern Wisconsin, the only courthouse in the area was located in Green Bay, Brown Co. Thus, most Declarations of Intention to Become a Citizen of the United States were made here. Names are given as they appear with corrections made in parentheses. The original declarations are on file in the Archives of the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin/Green Bay.

1857

Name	Birth Year	Port	Arrival	Declaration
Servais FABRY	1833	Green Bay	July 1857	20 Aug 1857
Charles Joseph SPINETTE	1802	Green Bay	Sep 1856	20 Mar 1857
Hermeline van MISSAR	1812	New York	Nov 1855	13 Jul 1857
Francois H. VAN NAMEN	1830	Green Bay	Mar 1857	1 Jun 1857
Jean-Baptiste WENDRICKX	1807	Green Bay	Jun 1857	27 Jul 1857
Florian Desire WERY	1836	New York	May 1856	22 May 1857
Pierre WILKIE (MILQUET)	1831	New York	Oct 1855	24 Apr 1857
Justilian ? (unreadable)	1833	Green Bay	May 1857	20 May 1857

1858

Name	Birth Year	Port	Arrival	Declaration
Eugene ANCIAUX	1832	New York	May 1856	30 Jan 1858
Francois APRIL	1818	Green Bay	Jul 1856	25 Oct 1858
Leopold BALZAT	1833	Green Bay	Jun 1857	9 Oct 1858
Martin J. BARDOUCHE	1820	New York	Oct 1856	6 Apr 1858
Felicien BERO	1837	New York	Apr 1856	26 Apr 1858
Gilain BOMBARS	1812	Green Bay	Aug 1856	6 Apr 1858
Anastase Joseph BOUCHER	1834	New York	May 1858	29 Oct 1858

Jacques BOULANGER	1801	New York	Jun 1858	14 Jul 1858
Xavier-Joseph BRANS	1826	New York	May 1856	15 Jul 1858
Victor BRANS	1837	New York	May 1857	12 Apr 1858
Isidore BREBOS	1805	New York	Aug 1856	6 Apr 1858
Octavian J. B. BRICE	1837	New York	May 1855	6 Apr 1858
Joachim J. BRUYERE	1803	New York	Oct 1857	13 Oct 1858
Pierre Joseph CHAPELLE	1808	New York	May 1856	13 Jan 1858
Philippine CLAMART	1833	Green Bay	Jun 1856	15 Jul 1858
Ferdinand COCO	1837	New York	Jun 1856	6 Apr 1858
Ferdinand CONARD	1837	Green Bay	Apr 1856	6 Apr 1858
Ghislain-Joseph CORLIER	1831	New York	Apr 1856	6 Apr 1858
T. DACHELET	1834	New York	Jul 1856	22 May 1858
Jean-Joseph DECREMER	1832	New York	Oct 1855	2 Nov 1858
Gillet DELCORPS	1837	New York	Mar 1856	26 Apr 1858
Albert DELFORGE	1814	New York	Jun 1856	6 Apr 1858
Jean-Baptiste DENIL	1824	New York	Mar 1856	13 May 1858
Jan Casimir DENOBLE	1816	New York	Nov 185?	1 Nov 1858
Jean J. DEVILLERS	1796	Green Bay	May 1857	4 Jun 1858
Jan DE VROYE	1822	Green Bay	Jul 1856	25 Oct 1858
Veronique DOCQUIER	1836	New York	Sep 1856	3 May 1858
Andreas DONCKS	1801	Green Bay	Jun 1857	30 Oct 1858
Joseph DONCKS	1801	Green Bay	Jun 1857	30 Oct 1858
Jean Baptiste DONSIMONT (?)	1828	New York	Jul 1855	1 Nov 1858
Felix DROOG	1818	Green Bay	Jul 1856	2 Nov 1858
Jacques DUCAMPS	1831	New York	Sep 1857	3 Aug 1858
Damile DUCHATEAU	1825	New York	Jul 1857	25 Oct 1858
Louis FLAVION	1826	Boston	Apr 1856	30 Mar 1858
Florent EUGENE	1832	New York	May 1856	6 Apr 1858
Gustave FRANCOIS	1837	New York	Mar 1856	8 Apr 1858
Frank GAROT	1833	New York	May 1856	28 Apr 1858
Jean Baptiste J. GAUTHIER	1836	New York	Aug 1856	6 Apr 1858
Pierre GOOSSENS	1830	Green Bay	Sep 1857	6 Apr 1858
Joseph GOOTO	1837	New York	May 1855	5 Nov 1858
Ernest GRAMME	1818	New York	Feb 1855	22 Oct 1858
Alexander HANNON	1836	Green Bay	Jun 1855	29 Oct 1858
Auguste HALLEAUX	1827	New York	Jul 1855	6 Apr 1858
Marie-Virginie HEURION	1832	Green Bay	Jun 1856	7 Jun 1858
Michael HUIBRECHTS	1797	New York	Jul 1857	25 Oct 1858
J.B. ISTAES	1826	Boston	Jul 1856	1 Nov 1858
Peter JUNGST	1813	New York	Aug 1857	1 Nov 1858
Jacques JANSON	1836	New York	May 1855	30 Nov 1858
Jean Baptiste KAELWAERTZ	1823	New York	Jul 1857	25 Oct 1858
Jean Baptiste KAELWAERTZ	1834	New York	Jun 1857	25 Oct 1858
Peter KAELWAERTZ	1836	New York	Jul 1857	25 Oct 1858
Jan-Baptist KLABOTS/CLABOTS	1829	New York	Dec 1856	1 Nov 1858
Petrus KLABOTS/CLABOTS	1827	New York	Dec 1856	1 Nov 1858
John Francis LANGLEY (LANGELE)	1833	Green Bay	Mar 1856	2 Nov 1858
JeanBaptiste LAURENT	1823	Green Bay	Jun 1857	4 Sep 1858
John Baptiste LAY	1823	Green Bay	Aug 1856	1 Nov 1858
Prosper LECAPITAINE	1837	Green Bay	Jul 1857	6 May 1858
Ann Joseph LECOQ	1814	Green Bay	Jun 1857	6 Jul 1858
Jean Baptiste MARNEFFE	1828	Green Bay	May 1857	3 Nov 1858
Peter MARTAUX	1826	New York	Jul 1857	25 Oct 1858
Xavier MARTIN	1832	New York	Jul 1853	19 Mar 1858
Marie Catherine MASON	1794	New York	Apr 1856	24 Aug 1858
Frederick MEULEMANS	1811	New York	Jun 1857	25 Oct 1858
Jean Francois MILQUET	1829	New York	Jun 1857	1 Nov 1858
Politre MOTTE	1836	New Orleans	May 1856	6 Apr 1858
Leon MOTTIN ?	1824	Green Bay	Jul 1855	1 Nov 1858
Josephus MULDERMANS	1827	New York	Jul 1856	6 Apr 1858

Noelle MAUFORT	1834	Green Bay	May 1857	3 Mar 1858
Albert NOKKER (NACKAERT/NACKERS)	1825	Green Bay	Jun 1856	6 Apr 1858
David PELEGRIN	1831	New York	Oct 1855	6 Apr 1858
Francois PIRAUX	1835	New York	Apr 1855	2 Nov 1858

Curver Twp., Audrain Co. MO - 1860 Census

(submitted by Régine BRINDLE)

	Names		Age	Sex	Occupation	Birthplace	immigrated
153/162	DETIENE,	Anton	22	M	Farm hand	Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
	GODFREY,	John	45	M	Farm hand	Belgium-Ger	
167/176	ALEXANDER,	Jack	52	M	Farm	Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	ALEXANDER,	Joseph	21	M		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	ALEXANDER,	Ferdinand	20	M		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	ALEXANDER,	Henry	18	M		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	ALEXANDER,	Gustavers	15	M		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
170/179	DETIENE,	Desire	24	M	Farm renter	Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
	DETIENE,	Henry	20	M		Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
	DETIENE,	Elizabeth	56	F		Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
	DETIENE,	Constant	15	M		Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
171/180	DETIENE,	Anton	35	M	Farmer	Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
	DETIENE,	Mary	27	F		Belgium-Ger	12 Aug 1856
172/181	DOUCHANT,	Filbert	34	M	Farmer	Belgium-Ger	
	DOUCHANT,	Mary	32	F		Belgium-Ger	
	DOUCHANT,	Razilre (?)	3	F		Belgium-Ger	
	DOUCHANT,	Desire	1	F		Belgium-Ger	
177/186	BRABANT,	John	35	M	Farm renter	Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	BRABANT,	Victoria	39	F		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	BRABANT,	Virginia	11	F		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	BRABANT,	Adelle	7	F		Belgium-Ger	29 May 1857
	BRABANT,	Neptune	3	M		at sea	
	BRABANT,	Honore	6mo	M		Missouri	
221/231	FRENCH,	Ancin (?)	35	M	Renter	Belgium	
	FRENCH,	Desire (?)	30	F		Belgium	
	FRENCH,	Franklin	10	M		Belgium	
	FRENCH,	Christian	8	M		MO	
	FRENCH,	Wm.	6	M		MO	
	FRENCH,	Mary	4	F		MO	
	FRENCH,	Jas	3	M		MO	
	FRENCH,	Susan	2	F		MO	

***More information on some of these families**, Submitted by Jean DUCAT*

*153/162 **Detienne**, Antoine - b 12 May 1837, Wavre*
Godfriaux? or Godfroid, Jean -

*167/176 **Alexandre,** Jean Jacques - b 25 Feb 1808, Corroy-le-Grand*
Alexandre, Joseph - b. 1838, Mt. St. Guibert
Alexandre, Ferdinand - b 3 Nov 1839, Corroy-le-Grand
Alexandre, Henri - b.23 Jan 1842, Corroy-le-Grand
Alexandre, Gustave - b 11 may 1845, Corroy-le-Grand

*170/179 **Spreutels**, Elisabeth*b.26 Mar 1805, Rosiere St Andre-d.29 Mar 1861,MO*

*177/186 **Brabant**, Jean Francois, b. 30 Jun 1826, Corroy-le-Grand*
***Villers**, Victoire - b. 29 Sep 1824, Corroy-le-Grand*
Brabant, Leonie V. - b. 12 Jul 1849, Corroy-le-Grand
Brabant, J. Adele - b 22 May 1851, Corroy-le-Grand
Brabant, Neptune - b Jun 1857, on the ocean

SPREUTELS, Elisabeth was the widow of Antoine DETIENNE, leaving with him from Antwerp in 12 Aug 1856, arriving in NY 29 Sep 1856. Her husband, DETIENNE, Antoine was born in Wavre, on 9 Jun 1800 and died 13 Sep 1858, MO. witnesses listed on the death records in Wavre were Jean DOUCHAMP and Philibert DOUCHAMP*

Walloons : Forefathers of the Great Glass Industry and Their Legacy.

Submitted by Lynn DAVID RECKER, Bruceville, IN
Article written by René J. DOGNAUX*, "Glass Digest" -April 1957 - p45

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

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

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

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

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

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

During the panic of 1893 these glass workers became idle. They could not understand why their plants remained idle. They were not the type of men to loaf and they became restless and began to congregate in an endeavor to solve the problem of making a livelihood, so out of these meetings came the idea of cooperative plants. They learned that localities in Indiana offered free land sites for a plant, plus free lots to individuals if they would locate there. In those early days they could build a 10 pot furnace plant for $10,000.00 to 12,000.00. Those who learned to speak English became leaders and solicited the number of men needed of each trade to become cooperative stockholders. This became very popular among the Walloons. It solved the problem of work rather than idleness. Unfortunately they knew nothing of the business angle other than when a fire or campaign was over and all bills were paid, then if any money was left that was their profit. Most of the cooperative companies would then divide the profit among the group, not realizing that money would be needed to start the next campaign. This was their downfall. Most of the companies existed only a few short years due to the lack of business ability.

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

In the early twentieth century there were 43 hand plants in the State of Indiana. Blackford Window Glass Company is the sole survivor. When a group of glass workers was assembled and enough money raised they would themselves dig the foundations and do all the work they could in the construction of the buildings. They were energetic and sacrificed their last dollars to invest in these enterprises. Here I might say that when Frank BASTIN organized his company in Hartford City, IN in 1901, he had seen the error made by his Walloon predecessors in their financial weakness so in writing up the by-laws of the Blackford Window Glass Company he wisely inserted a clause whereby only 50% of the annual profits would be declared in the way of dividends, the balance to be retained in the Treasury. I believe that is one of the main reasons that Blackford Window Glass Company still exists today. (*1957)

I must not overlook the part that Frank BASTIN played in the Walloon story. His success will always be remembered because of his affable understanding, tireless efforts in the improvement of the industry and fairness to all he contacted. His greatest asset was "Integrity". Those of us, his subordinates, benefited by his exemplification of honesty, business ability and extreme good judgment. He was a grand and respected "Walloon".

John B SCOHY is the last living Walloon pioneer. He had a very extraordinary and colorful career. He was one who helped his compatriots in organizing cooperative companies, even giving of his time in helping them with operating problems regardless of the locations. He truly is a great Walloon, and

today he continues to look many years his junior, John assisted by his son Nestor, was one of the first to recognize the importance of merchandising at the trade level.

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

Here's another one of the many experiences of those days. The big ring cutter was only a few stalls away from mine. One day I heard the packer tell his cutter that one light of 40 x 50 had a corner broken off. The cutter looked at the broken light and proceeded to his chip box (cullet box) and selected a piece that he thought would fit the broken corner and instructed the packer to put it in the box along with the broken light and said: "The jobber receiving this box will think it was broken in transit since the piece will be found inside the box". The reason for such procedure was the fact that the blowers, who were the "Kings" of the trade, expected full recompense in footage of their day's blowings. Flatteners and especially the cutters were afraid of them. Cutters even in some instances would count off boxes with one less light in order to gain the proper amount of footage that the blowers expected. This procedure was seldom done since the majority of blowers were experts. Nevertheless, I did see it done, which was most improper and uncalled for.

The four main skills in the art of making window glass were, in the order of their importance: Blowers, Gatherers, Flatteners, and Cutters.

Following is a list of plants organized by the Walloons. This of course is not complete. I listed the ones I knew and received help from John SCOHY on those he remembered.

* courtesy of Jean DUCAT.

René Jean DOGNEAUX, born in Jeannette, PA on Dec 16, 1892, was the son of Auguste DOGNEAUX (born in Jumet on September 16, 1863. - emigrated to Jeannette, PA in 1892. His mother was Emilie SCHEPPERS**(born in Roux, on 5 Apr 1867)

** courtesy of Régine BRINDLE

Marriage record #85

Jacques Jean SCHEPPERS, boatman, born on 7 April 1847 in Molenbeck St. Jean, the son of Pierre Léonard SCHEPPERS, boatman and of Jeanne Catherine VAN BRUYSSEL, who reside in Hingene (Province of Antwerp)
married in Roux, on 27 Dec 1875
Pétronille VAN DEN PLAS, born in Molenbeck St. Jean, on 14 Jul 1845, the daughter of Charles VANDEN PLAS, boatman and of Anne Marie HALLEMANS who reside in Roux.
Their marriage legitimized the birth of their daughter, Emilie Julie VAN DEN PLAS, born in Roux, on 5 Apr 1867.

Early "Walloon" Plants in USA, Where Built and By Whom.

	Names and Locations	Organizers
1883 -	Houze Bros. Co., Meadville, PA	Leon HOUZE
	Mambourg Glass Co., Fostoria, OH	Leopold MAMBOURG
1887 -	Marion Glass Co., Marion, IN	Emile WITTEBORT
1888 -	Tiffin Glass Co., Tiffin, OH	LANNOIX
1893 -	Pickaway Glass Co., Circleville, OH	Leopold MAMBOURG/John B SCOHY
	Banner Glass Co. Sheridan, IN	Desire GABRIELLE
	(later moved to Charleston, W VA)	BARTOIS BARRIE
1898 -	Converse Glass Co., Converse, IN	John B. SCOHY
	Montpelier Glass Co., Montpelier, IN	Father DHE, Priest
	LaRuche Glass Co., Matthews, IN	Emile MAJOT
	Upland Glass Co., Upland, IN	Walloons
	The Star Glass Co., Matthews, IN	H. PHILLIPART
	Brownsville Glass Co., Brownsville , PA	Gabrielle MICHOTTE/J. Philip MICHAUX
	Wheeling Glass Co. Wheeling, IN	Walloons
1901 -	Blackford Window Glass Co., Hartford City, IN	Frank BASTIN
	(later moved to Vincennes, IN, 1903)	
	Jeannette Window Glass Co., Point Marion, PA	Jules QUERTINMONT/Florisse DULIERE
	Brasseur brothers, Fowlerton, IN	Jules BRASSEUR & brothers
	(later moved to Mt Vernon, OH)	
1902 -	Fowlerton Glass Co., Fowlerton, IN	Adolph STENGER

	Federated Glass Co., Point Marion, PA	Leon HOUZE
	Progress Glass Co., Matthews, IN	George SCHEIRMANNE
	Grant County Glass Co., Upland, IN	John B SCOHY/August COLLET/Octave JACQMAIN/Emile MAJOT
1904 -	Loogootee Glass Co., Loogootee, IN	Octave JACQMAIN/Sylva WEZET
	Diamond Glass Co., Gas City, IN	John Remy SCOHY
	New Martinsville Glass Co., New Martinsville, WVA	DESSEIR
?	Buckhannon Glass Co., Buckhannon, W VA	Gustave QUERTINMONT
	Point Marion Glass Co., Nilan, PA	Peter BUYAUX/ Fred A GUYAUX
	California Glass Co., Rodondo Beach, CA	Walloons
	Kokomo Glass Co., Kokomo, IN	Alex ROMAIN
	Pennsboro Glass Co., Pennsboro, W VA	R CORNIL/Louis LAMBIOTTE
	Marietta Glass Co., Marietta, OH	Marcel MAYER/George DEBROCQ
	Modern Glass Co., Salem, W VA	R CORNIL
	Fairchance Glass Co., Fairchance, PA	Emile MAJOT
	Independence Glass Co., Sisterville, W VA	John B SCOHY
	J B SCOHY Glass Co., Sisterville, W VA	John B SCOHY
	National Glass CO., Cedar Grove, LA	Louis MOTTET/Raymond CORNIL/Louis LAMBIOTTE
1913 -	Quertinmont Glass Co., Fairchance, PA	Jules QUERTINMONT
	Indiana Glass Co., Vincennes, IN	Frank BASTIN

Postscript

When the "Hand Blown" method of making window glass faded out of the picture in 1924, the "FOURCAULT Process" of flat drawn window glass was introduced in this country. Four "Walloons" attempted to use this process, namely Jules J QUERTINMONT, Frank BASTIN, John B SCOHY and Louis MOTTET. Of the four, two failed after a very few years of unsuccessful operation _ Jules J QUERTINMONT and Louis MOTTET.

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

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

Belgian Glassworkers and others on the 1921-1922 Vincennes, IN Directory

Submitted by Lynn David Recker

Name	Spouse	Name	Spouse
ABRASSART, Herman	Novenia	**BECKER**, Herman	Catherine
ABRASSART, Oscar		**BELGEONNE**, Louis	Augustine
ABRASSART, Ursmer	Philomene	**BOTMANS**, Albin	wid Louis
ANDRE, Natalie	wid Alexis	**BOTMANS**, Germaine	
ANDRE, Ursmer J.		**BOTMANS**, Raymond	
ARCQ, Caesar		**BOTMANS**, Sylvan	Sylvia
ARCQ, John B.		**BOUILLET**, Alice	
ARCQ, Raymond		**BOUILLET**, Charles	Julia
BARRETT, Thomas W.	Josie E.	**BOUILLET,** Jules	
BASTIN, Frank	Emma	**BRASSEUR**, Gaspard	Martha
BASTIN, Homer D.	Josephine	**BRASSEUR**, Gaspard G.	Irma E.
BASTIN, John B.	Pulchere	**BRASSEUR**, Oscar J.	
BASTIN, Jules		**BRASSEUR**, Ralph P.	
BAUER,Joseph A.	Therese	**BRICHART**, Joseph J.	Emily C.
BAUER, Agatha		**BRICHART**, Raymond	Pearl
BAUER, Joseph E.	Olive M.	**BROHEZ**, Emma	wid Gustave
BAUER, Lester J.		**BULTEZ**, Emile	Anna
BAUER, Susanna L.		**BULTEZ**, George	
BAUER, Urban M.	Lillian	**BULTEZ**, Levi	
BAUER, Benjamin	Clara C.	**BUSHEY (BOUCHIE**), Wm A.	
BAUER, George	Lida E.	**BUSHEY(BOUCHIE),** Joseph L	
BAUER, Joseph	Susanna	**CASTIAUX**, Camille	Adeline
BAUER, Katherine	wid John	**CASTIAUX**, Romero	
BAUER, Martin		**DEHON**,Henry J.	Emelia

Name	Spouse
DEHON, Louis Henry	
DEHUT, Marguerite	
DEHUT, Mary	wid Frank
DESSY, Hector G.	Julia
DEVENOT, August G.	
DEVENOT, Charles	Jennie
DEVENOT, Emily	
DEVENOT, Helen	
DEVENOT, Philomene	wid Isadore
DOGNAUX, Rene J.	Nellie M.
DOGNAUX, Aug	Julia
DRAIM, Bert E.	Maud
DRAIM, Charles	
DUBOIS, Rudolf	Marie
FAUX, Carl J.	Catherine
FERREE, Wm	
FRERE, Louis	Agnes J.
GOOSENS, Emile	Zelie
GOOSENS, Emile J.	
GOOSENS, Emilia M.	
GOOSENS, John	
GOOSENS, Victor	Harriet
GRANDJEAN, Joseph F.	Laura
GRUMIEAUX, Josephine	
GRUMIEAUX, Jules	
GRUMIEAUX, Jules C.	Laura
GRUMIEAUX, Robert Z.	
GRUMIEAUX, Zeno	Julia
JACQMAIN, Emil O.	Jennie
LAMBIOTTE, Fred C.	Jeanne A.
LEFEVRE,Gaston E.	Hazel G.
LEGAT,John B.	Florine E.
LEGAT, Marsile	
LEMARSHE, Frederick	
LEMARSHE, George	Augusta
MICHAUX, Leon	Lea
PATOUX, Leander	
PETITJEAN, Emil	
PIVONT (PIVANT), Fred E.	
SCHMIDT, Albert	
SCHMIDT, Frank A.	
SCHMIDT, John B.	Mabel M.
SCHMIDT, Marie	wid August
SCHMIDT,Aurthur D.	
TREDEZ, Aristide	Zoe
TREDEZ, Fred F.	Rose
WALLEM, Dart D.	Grace
WALLEM, Joseph	Rachel
WEZET, Alida	
WEZET, Rene	Cecelia M
WEZET, Sylva	Zelia
WISET (WEZET), Jules	

The ROUSSEAU Family

Personal interview by Marjorie DETER[2] (1923 - 1989) - submitted by Raymond POPP

The ROUSSEAU family came from the town of Jumet in the Province of Hainaut, Belgium. This is where Jean Baptiste ROUSSEAU was born on May 21, 1810. His wife Virginie GODITIABOIS, was born January 21, 1814, and came from Courcelles, a nearby borough. Jean Baptiste and his spouse settled in Roux, a neighboring town and set up a home. They had a family of six children:

Pierre b. July 29,1839 d. May 13, 1878
Marie Rosette b. Sept. 8, 1841 d.March 7, 1860
Marie Therese b. Dec. 16, 1843 d.March 1853
Alexander b. May 28, 1846 d. Feb. 1861
Virginie b. May 18, 1849 d. unknown
Jean Baptiste b. Sept. 15, 1851 d. January 5, 1919

Jean Baptiste and Virginie were farmers. Their children Pierre, Virginie, and Jean Baptiste, learned the ways of life in one of Belgium's great coal regions. Roux is located near Charleroi, which is on the Sambre River, and during the nineteenth century, the mining, metal, and glass industries became prominent. Their youngest son, named Jean Baptiste after his father, worked the mine and at the glass factories. Since we are direct descendants of this Jean Baptiste, we will be concentrate on him.

Jean Baptiste married Adele Joseph GILIS, born in Aische en Refail, on June 10, 1853. They had a hard time making a living since conditions for industrial workers were not favorable. During the nineteenth century the standard of living of factory workers, although slowly rising, remained fairly low. Partly because of the necessity of competing with foreign markets and of keeping cost as low as possible, and partly because of the lack of unionization of the workers, the tendency of Belgian manufacturers was to keep the level of wages very low. Moreover, during the "long depression" of the 1870's--1880's there were pronounced periods of unemployment. The discontent of the workers exploded in sometimes violent, if short, outbreaks. In 1886, "the black year", troops were sent to the industrial district of Charleroi. 4. It is no wonder that Jean Baptiste talked of going to America where he heard of working conditions that were much better. Finally, in 1886, he decided to migrate to America. Leaving his family he traveled to Antwerp and sailed aboard the Red Star Liner "Westerland" for New York, U.S.A. Arriving in New York in August, 1886, he boarded the train for Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and from there he traveled to Tarentum, Pennsylvania. In Tarentum, Jean Baptiste found employment in the Casting Hall of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. Once he was established, Jean Baptiste sent for his family. By this time, he and Adele had given birth to five children.

Georges b. March 21, 1872 d. 1874
Alexander b. October 14, 1873 d. March 17, 1943
Elodie Marie b. September 7, 1875 d. November 23, 1879

[2] July 20, 1952

Arthur Victor b. March 19,1879 d. May 4, 1963
Henriette Marie b. July 1, 1882 d. March 7, 1957
On November 1, 1886, Adele arrived in New York with her three living children, Alexander, 13, Arthur, 7, and Henriette Marie, 4 years old. They made the trip on the "Penline", one of the smallest ships owned by the Red Star Lines. It was a trying 17 day voyage for the 33 year old mother of three lively children. Arthur tells of opening a porthole on the boat and having a gush of sea water flung into his face. Sailing into New York Harbor and viewing the Statue of Liberty on Dedloe Island was a thrilling experience for Adele and her children. She pointed out to them the light held in the hand of the gigantic Statue and tried to impress upon them that this famous statue was a symbol of America to all immigrants. The Statue of Liberty, which was presented to America by France as a token of good will, had been officially unveiled only three days before, on October 28, 1886, by President Grover Cleveland, in the presence of its creator, the sculptor BARTOLI.(5).

In spite of the inconvenience Adele endured aboard the tiny ship which tossed its occupants about on the unruly waves, she looked forward to making a new home in a new land. The adventure must have taken great courage, because she was then awaiting the birth of another child. She and the children joined Jean Baptiste in Tarentum, where they lived for a year or so. On November 19, 1886 just 19 days after the family arrived, Eva ROUSSEAU was born. The following year Jean Baptiste and the family traveled to Butler, Pennsylvania to work in a Plate Glass House which was being established. A house for the family was not available immediately, so a friend, Pierre GYEAUX, a foreman in the glass works, made arrangements for them to sleep in a barn which belonged to Charles Hans. After a week or so they found a house.

In 1888, the factory went on strike, and Jean Baptiste, his son Alex, and his friend Charles HANS went to Elizabeth, Pennsylvania on the Monongahela River, to work in the coal mines. During that same year, the weather was very cold and the river froze over. Work in the coal mine was almost at a standstill because the flat boats and barges on which coal was transported could not be moved along the icy river. It was during this winter that Alex and his father went hunting for food. On one occasion they were able to kill only an owl.

Having no other food, they ate the owl.

Jean Baptiste heard about good working conditions at Portage, Cambria County, Pennsylvania. Always seeking for jobs which offered better conditions, he decided to Cambria County, and he worked there for time. Meanwhile, Adele heard of another mine, about eight miles from Portage, which was supposed to be turning out a lot of coal. She and young Arthur went to this mine to talk with Joseph TURGON, a French Canadian. Through Joseph TURGON's influence Adele secured a job for her husband at "Scoop Town", a mine located in Arenfeld. Because there was no available housing in "Scoop Town", the family moved to nearby Summer Hill, and Jean Baptiste boarded at the home of Joseph TURGON in Arenfeld. After working one week, Jean Baptiste went to the company store and bought a basket full of groceries to take to his family in Summer Hill. However in his excitement as he got of the train, he left his basket of groceries behind. The children were very much disappointed when they had only rice for their evening meal. And Jean Baptiste and Adele were equally disappointed that they had no other food to set out. When the houses were completed in Arenfeld, the family moved there, and Alex and Arthur worked with their father in a mine owned by J.C. SCOTT. Adele soon grew unhappy with her men working in the coal mines. She read in a French Canadian newspaper, the "Courier of the United States" that men were wanted to work in the Plate Glass Works at Duquesne, Pennsylvania. She persuaded her husband to move. They were unable to find a house in Duquesne or even in Cochrane, a nearby community, so they were forced to live in a shanty boat, washed ashore by high water. Here, on December 8, 1890, Joseph was born. The work in Duquesne proved to be favorable for only a short time. Then Jean Baptiste and Adele went to Ford City, where John was born on April 27, 1893. The Rousseaus lived in Ford City for three years. Then they moved back to Cochrane, then to Irwin, and finally to Charleroi, in 1898. Once in Charleroi, they settled at Lock Four in a house located on the site of the present Charleroi-Monessen Hospital. A few years the family moved to the Pore Farm at Speers, a suburb of Charleroi where they lived until April 1905, when they moved to Belle Vernon, R.D.#1, on the David Owens farm. There Jean Baptiste and Adele operated a dairy farm for five years. Jean Baptiste then bought a farm in Kittanning. He and Adele and children Joseph, John, Eva and grandson, Arthur Brown moved to their farm on April 1, 1911. Jean Baptiste spent the rest of his life there. On January 5, 1919, at the age of 69, he passed away. His wife Adele lived to be 87 years old. She died at the home of her daughter Marie, on February 22, 1941. Both Jean Baptiste and Adele rest in the Belle Vernon Cemetery.

To us it seems that our ancestors led hard rugged lives because we are comparing their way of life with ours. But if they could know how much more advanced our way of living is today, they would feel that they did not live in vain, for it takes millions of life spans for mankind to advance and they have played parts in this great surge of progress. Certainly our knowledge of the staunch characters which our immediate ancestors, Jean Baptiste and Adele Rousseau, possessed will give us just grounds for being proud of them. 5. World Almanac and Book of Facts, Macmillan, 1952.

Arthur, born in Roux, Belgium, on March 19, 1879, came to America when he was 7 years old. He began working at a very early age. When he was 8 years old, he worked in the Bottle House in Tarentum for fifty cents a day. When his father moved to "Scoop Town" to work in the coal mine, Arthur too went to the mine and got a job trapping. A short time later he began loading coal with his dad. Wherever the family moved he was able to find work. In Irwin, he began working in the polishing shop of the Plate Glass House. His wages were $1.10 per day, and the length of the day was twelve hours. When he lived in Charleroi he worked in the polishing room of the Plate Glass House as a mixer. At this time his wages were $2.00 per day. On September 1, 1900, he married Chlotilde Joris whom he had known since childhood. The marriage was performed by Justice of the Peace, David EVANS of Monessen. Chlotilde was then 16, and Arthur 21. They set up house on January 27, 1901, in the downtown section of Belle Vernon.

About this time the American Window Glass Company opened in Belle Vernon. Arthur left his job in Charleroi and began working in the Belle Vernon factory where he continued working until his retirement in 1948. He started in the

American Window Glass factory as a "snapper" for the hand glass blowers. Then he worked at putting rollers in the oven. He decided to learn the trade of glass flattener. Napoleon JORIS, his father-in-law, taught him the skills of this trade.

During the following years four children were born to Arthur and Cloe; Adele--February 14, 1901; Arthur--March 23, 1902; Camelia-- April 23, 1903; Harry--December 6, 1904.

In 1905 they moved to the David OWENS, operated by his parents, where Earnest was born on May 12, 1906.

The following year the family moved again to Belle Vernon. It was during this time that Ora, their sixth child, was born, on November 2, 1907. In 1909, Arthur and Cloe, purchased the neighboring farm they had rented from John Leonard POPP for 2 years. In 1911, while Cloe was washing clothes on the wood stove, the chimney caught on fire and burned the house to the ground. During the summer months they lived in the top of the Spring House and when it got cold they moved to David OWENS farm and lived with Cloe's father, Napoleon JORIS, in one half of the house and Alexander and Margaret ROUSSEAU in the other half. The winter was very cold and Cloe was pregnant. On January 8, 1912, Eva Margaret, was delivered by her Aunt Margaret.

There was also a small house at the Southwest corner of the property where the STODDARD family lived. They wouldn't vacate the premises. In 1916, they finally moved in and Marie Mona was born there on August 12, 1916.

In the fall of 1918, Arthur arranged for the building of the house in which he still resides.

On February 5, 1919, another, daughter, Doris Virginia was born, at Monessen, PA at the home of Mona SHELTON ROUSSEAU.

When Doris was still an infant, the family moved into the new house. They had Thanksgiving dinner in their new home on the day they moved, November 28, 1919. Their last son, Jean (Gene) Baptiste, was born in this new house on April 6, 1921.

The family led a busy life on the farm, but the children had many happy times together. Arthur continued working at the American Window Glass plant in Belle Vernon, PA until the manufacture of glass by the cylinder process was discontinued. He retired from the glass house in 1945, and went to work as a bartender in the Belgium Clubs in Monessen, PA and Charleroi, PA. About five years later, he returned to the box factory of the American Window Glass Co. and worked as a janitor until he was 70 years old. On March 30, 1948, the Company closed permanently, and Arthur retired completely. He was an active man all his life, and today he spends his time raising chickens and berries. In his younger years he was an accomplished cornetist, and he became a member of the Belle Vernon Musical Society 1901.

He has been a charter member of the Charleroi Cooperative Association known as the Belgium Club since 1898, and a member of the Franco-Belgium Club in Monessen since 1903. He has been a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles #492, since September 27, 1907.

Era Linking Two Continents: Antwerp, Belgium to Dunbar, Nebraska.

By Simone Anderson-DeCeunynck, Nebraska City, NE

Love blooms in the most unlikely places and even under the worst circumstances.

Many romances developed during WWII, when American soldiers stationed overseas fell in love with European girls and made them their lifelong brides.

Let me introduce myself, I am Simone Melanie Alfred DE CEUNYNCK, born in Antwerp, Belgium on June 2, 1927. My parents were Maria and Gustave DE CEUNYNCK-VAN HOOF. Dad was born in Oostende and mother in Berlaar, Belgium. For the first four years we lived in Antwerp, then when block-house like homes became available in Deurne-Noord, my parents bought one at 28, Grijspeerstraat.

I was christened in Antwerp in "het Moederhuis" which now is a nursing home. There were 5 of us kids: 2 boys and 3 girls. We grew up in Deurne, for the most part. We lived a very good life. Our parents were very frugal. Mother sewed a lot, so we girls would always look our best. Dad saved his "Geld" so that during the summer months we could go to the seashore in Oostende. He saved his "Geld" by walking back and forth to work, about 4-5 km, each day. He took a lunch bucket every day. Both my parents worked very hard to raise us kids.

Lea, Suzanne and I attended a Roman Catholic Private girls' school: Immaculata school in Deurne. Raymond and Robert went to a Private Boys' School. Those schools were quite expensive. Our parents saved and scrimped so we could have a fine education. 1939 was the last year we went to the seashores in Oostende. On May 10, 1940, at 5am, the Messerschmitz came zooming over our town. That day will remain with me for the rest of my life.

The war years were not pleasant; we suffered a lot; we grew up a lot, learning to appreciate the meager substance we got. Dad was sent to Germany, Halle on the Salle. We were without income. Our unmarried Aunts in Lier were a blessing to us. They ensured we had fruit and vegetables as well as milk. During the war, our aunts had to shelter German officers. This allowed for some privileges and they were able to raise a pig and other farm animals. Our education was never interrupted.

The "Soeurs" of Immaculata allowed all of us who had no income to remain in the schools.

Rather than go into the horrors of the war, let me tell you this, the films and pictures and books that you read about the Holocaust and the war crimes on our people are true. Antwerp was also a town where there was a large Jewish population and we saw many of our friends taken away. Two of my uncles, who were arrested for aiding the Jews, spent time in Auschwitz and Buchenwald, and luckily returned home. The Underground took care of feeding and hiding Jewish people, in the strictest way in order to preserve their lives.

Antwerp was one of the cities raided by more V1 and V2 bombers than even England. Towards the end of the war, they flew almost every five minutes. Thousands of people were killed. One of my co-workers and I were injured in a V2 attack. Two of the girls who were working with me were killed instantly. It was not a pretty sight. It took me many years to overcome the fears that came from surviving the experience. Whenever a car backfired I grabbed my suitcase and ran into the basement, and then I remembered I was in America.

In 1945 I started to work as a stenographer for the American Ordinance of the American Army. This is where I met Cecil, a shy and quiet young man, a "country boy" from Dunbar, Nebraska. He was a GI who wanted to learn to type while waiting to go home. He was very studious, hard working and always busy. He got stuck in Antwerp for 6 months.

He and I went on dates with other GIs, dancing to the tunes of the American Dance Band. I had begun my work in November and by the following April Cecil and I had tied the knot: in Deurne-Noord, on April 16th, 1946. We have been married 53 years now.

In order to marry we had to fill out a lot of paperwork, and still the Burgermeister insisted we were missing one paper. In Belgium the Burgemeister must marry you before any religious marriage ceremony can be performed. We had a heck of a time with that man! In spite of everything he insisted we needed one more signature before noon and it was already 10:30am. Or we would have to start all over again. Truth be known, as my Uncle Frank figured out, the Burgermeister was just trying to line his pockets. My quiet Cecil almost punched him!

After that, the Army Chaplain married us in a Protestant Church, as I was Roman Catholic and Cecil was Presbyterian and my church would not allow mixed marriages. (Two years later Cecil and I renewed our vows again in the Roman Catholic Church of Dunbar, Nebraska.)

We were not allowed to leave town for a honeymoon, but 6 weeks later I was told I had to go to the States while Cecil had to remain in Antwerp. They tried to get him to sign up for another 6 months but this time Cecil said he was going home… I went from Brussels to Paris, then to Camp Philip Morris then to Le Havre and then to New York. From New York we went to Chicago and then to Omaha, Nebraska where Cecil's family met me.

At first, after we left New York, I wondered why I had left Belgium. Some towns were so run down. As we traveled more towards the Midwest however, we saw cornfields and grass. What a beautiful sight and what a relief that was!

We made our home in Dunbar and Lorton. Coming from a big city to Dunbar, Nebraska was a culture shock. Cecil went back to College to get his Bachelor's Degree in Music (instrument and voice). Then he attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska and worked on his Master's Degree in Vocal and Instrumental music. Cecil taught Music for seventeen years. He then retired but is still busy with music as he repairs instruments and tunes pianos and all instruments.

In 1996, some of the European War Brides decided to have a get-together in Illinois, we met at Augustana College, in Rock Island, Illinois. At our 50th European War Bride reunion all of us shared the same feeling that homesickness was worst of all. It had been hard for some of us to feel accepted in our communities, having to get used to the American way of life and going from big busy towns to small country towns.

I enjoyed the American songs, like "Going my way", "In the Mood", "White Christmas" and others. One thing we were also told was not to speak our "foreign language" but to speak "American". For years, I didn't hear any Flemish spoken except for when my family came from Belgium for a visit.

During the war our food supply had been limited, so learning to cook had not been easy. Cecil was and still is a great cook, so he and his Aunt Mary taught me to "fry chicken" - a lady in Dunbar even showed me how to kill chickens; not easy. The things I miss most from Belgium are the sea, Belgian endive (very hard to find in Nebraska City), Savoy cabbage.

Cecil and I have five children: Suzanne, Robert, Paul James, Theresa and Yvonne. We have one granddaughter and nine grandsons. To our gread pride and joy two of our grandsons are serving in the USA: Anthony, Robert's oldest son was in Bosnia and right now is in Korea and Nicholas, son of Theresa and Matt, also serving in Korea, at Fort Casey, in the DMC area. All our grandchildren are very special. Clint, Suzanne and Geno's boy is the only one married. Music has been very special to our family; all our children excelled in music.

I went back to school and earned my degree in nursing, and have been working as an LPN for 25 years. I retired from nursing and am at this time, busier than ever.

For our 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1996, our children had a reception for us with over 200 people. One meets a lot of people when working with the public.

Some of our Belgian war brides live in St. Paul, MN (Jeannie from Liege, Belgium), in Albert Lea, MN (Eda, from Hoboken, Belgium). Some live in Colorado, some in Iowa. Others live in Nebraska, in New York, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

European war brides, from all walks of life, have contributed to the well-being of others, working in the fields of nursing, teaching, speaking about our country. We have shared our culture and crafts and knowledge with the rest of the USA.

Next time I will try to continue writing about the War Brides with the story of my bosom friend Jeanne CONN from Brussels, now living in Philadelphia, PA.

1895 US Census - Rice Co., MN

Submitted by Lisa Mc CORMICK, Roseville, MN

	Name	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Co.resident	Occupation
Walcott Twp.						
60	**VAN HORN**, Henry	61	M	Belgium	12y2m	Farming
	VAN HORN, Vanthumme	53	F	Belgium		
	VAN HORN, William	25	M	Belgium		soldier reg. army
	VAN HORN, Constance	24	F	Belgium		soldier reg. army
	VAN HORN, Stephina *	14	F	Belgium		
	VAN HORN, Emil	13	M	Belgium		
135	**PINEUR**, Joseph	69	M	Belgium	12y2m	Farming
	PINEUR, Noel Joseph	32	M	Belgium	12y2m	Farming
136	**GENETTE**, Mozes	61	M	Belgium	14y8m	Farming
	GENETTE, Rozella	60	F	Belgium		
	GENETTE, Hubert	24	M	Belgium	14y8m	Farming
	GENETTE, Victor	18	M	Belgium		
141	**DECOURX**, Joseph	42	M	Belgium	12y2m	Farming
	DECOURX, Mary	41	F	Belgium		
	DECOURX, Jules	10	M	MN		
	DECOURS, Joseph	8	M	MN		
188	**PORTIER**, Charles	60	M	Belgium	11y7m	Farming
	PORTIER, Mary	73	F	Belgium		
	PORTIER, Jennie	28	F	Belgium		
189	**DE GRANDE**, Charles	45	M	Belgium	11y2m	Farming
	DE GRANDE, Mary	22	F	Belgium		
190	**LOGGHE**, Louis	53	M	Belgium	6y6m	Farming
	LOGGHE, Christine	53	F	Belgium		
	LOGGHE, Lucy	13	F	Belgium		
191	**LOGGHE**, Charles	52	M	Belgium	12y	Farming
	LOGGHE, Mary	51	F	Belgium		
	LOGGHE, Herman	12	M	Belgium		
	LOGGHE, Alphonsen	11	M	MN		
	LOGGHE, Emily	9	F	MN		
	LOGGHE, John	8	M	MN		
175	**PORTIER**, Edward	30	M	Belgium	11y7m	Farming
	PORTIER, Jane	28	F	Belgium		
176	**VANNIEUWENHUIJSEE**, Frank	47	M	Belgium	12y6m	Farming
	VANNIEUWENHUIJSEE, Rozella	45	F	Belgium		
	VANNIEUWENHUIJSEE, Barbara	/80	F	Belgium		
177	**DEROO**, Emil	43	M	Belgium	11y 6m	Farming
	DEROO, Cora (nee VAN HORN)	27	F	Belgium		
	DEROO, Mary	8	F	MN		
	DEROO, Emma	6	F	MN		
	DEROO, Henry	4	M	MN		
	DEROO, Lilly	3	F	MN		
Well Twp.						
50	**THILMEN**, Louis	14	M	Belgium	16y	Farmer
	THILMEN, Lillien	12	M	MN	12y 3m	Schoolgirl
	THILMEN, Florance	6	F	MN	6y 11m	
52	**DUCHENE** J.J.	29	M	MN	29y	Farmer
	DUCHENE Merry	20	F	Belgium	11y2m	Housewife
	DUCHENE, Emma	3	F	MN	3y 7m	
	DUCHENE, Dennice	1	F	MN	1y 6m	
	LAFALEUR, Petter	74	M	Belgium	15y 8m	Hired man
53	**PIETTE**, Douc	58	M	Belgium	13y 2m	Farmer
	PIETTE, Marre	58	F	Belgium	13y 2m	Housewife
	PIETTE, Joe	26	M	Belgium	13y 2m	Help Farm
	PIETTE, Corley	24	M	Belgium	13y 2m	Help Farm

	Name	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Co.resident	Occupation
	PIETTE, Jinne	22	F	Belgium	13y 2m	House wife
54	**CHAPPUIS**, Vance	28	M	Missouri	25y 1m	Farmer
	CHAPPUIS, Pelagie	29	F	Belgium	14y 3m	Housewife
	CHAPPUIS, Geane	2	M	MN	2y 10m	
	CHAPPUIS, Claement	1	M	MN	1y 2m	
Erin Twp.						
110	**DUFENEY**, Godfrey	55	M	Canada	18y 3m	Farm work
	DUFENEY, Rose	36	F	Belgium		Housewife
	DUFENEY, Julius	22	M	Canada	18y 3m	farm work
	DUFENEY, Jumes	17	MN	MN		goes to school
	DUFENEY, Aurelia M.	13	F	MN		goes to school
	DUFENEY, Lena1	2	F	MN		goes to school
	DUFENEY, William	8	M	MN		nothing
	DUFENEY, Wilfred	5	M	MN		nothing
	DUFENEY, Edward	4	M	MN		nothing
	DUFENEY, Elizebeth	1	F	MN		nothing
125	**CARPENTER,** Terry	37	M	Canada	22y 4m	Farmer
	CARPENTER, Adela	36	F	Belgium		Housewife
	CARPENTER, Joseph	13	M	MN		goes to school
	CARPENTER, Emiel	12	M	MN		goes to school
	CARPENTER, William	8	M	MN		goes to school
	CARPENTER, Terry	6	M	MN		goes to school
	CARPENTER, Adela	4	F	MN		nothing
	CARPENTER, James	2	M	MN		nothing
	CARPENTER, Rosey	1	F	MN		nothing
	CARPENTER, Joseph	72	M	Canada	22y 4m	Farm work
	CARPENTER, Rosey	70	F	Canada		House work
Shieldsville Twp.						
41	**DULACK**, Rudolph	30	M	Belgium	15y 2m/12y 2m	Blacksmith
43	**.ARCEL**, Joseph	38	M	Belgium	19y 6m	Farmer
	.ARCEL, Josephene	30	F	Canada		Housewife
	.ARCEL, Louis	17	M	MN		Labourer
	.ARCEL, Mary	15	F	MN		Housework
	.ARCEL, Emma	12	F	MN		going to school
	ARCEL, Susie	10	F	MN		going to school
	.ARCEL, Allice	3	F	MN		nothing
48	**DECLUSION**, Hubert	59	M	Belgium	30y 8m/25y	Farmer
	DECLUSION, Josephene	40	F	Belgium		housewife
	DECLUSION, Hubert	11	M	MN		going to school
57	**DUVAL**, Joseph	46	M	Canada	26y 2m	Farmer
	DUVAL, Zelia	44	F	Belgium		housewife
	DUVAL, Allice	20	F	MN		house work
	DUVAL, Leonia	18	F	MN		house work
	DUVAL, Mary	15	F	MN		house work
58	**DUCHANE**, Flora (DUCHESNE)	46	M	Belgium	27y 1m	farmer
	DUCHANE, Philina	35	F	Belgium		housewife
	DUCHANE, Malina	15	F	MN		house work
	DUCHANE, Henry	13	M	MN		going to school
	DUCHANE, Alexander	6	M	MN		going to school
	DUCHANE, Ferdinand	3	M	MN		nothing
59	**JOACUM**, Julius (JOACHIM)	46	M	Belgium	10y 10m	Farmer
	JOACUM, Mary	47	F	Belgium		housewife
	JOACUM, Emma	23	F	Belgium		house work
	JOACUM, Melina	18	F	Belgium		house work
	JOACUM, Mercelina	15	F	Belgium		house work
	JOACUM, John	11	M	Belgium		going to school
60	**DUCHANE**, Flora (DUCHESNE)	75	M	Belgium	34y 4m	Farmer
	DUCHANE, Rosella	45	F	Belgium		house work

	Name	Age	Sex	Birthplace	Co.resident	Occupation
	DUCHANE, Louis	15	M	MN		labourer
61	**CARBUSIE**, Zero (CORBUSIER)	39	M	Belgium	35y 6m/32y 2m	Farmer
	CARBUSIE, Malena	32	F	MN		Housewife
	CARBUSIE, Mary	13	F	MN		House work
	CARBUSIE, Zero	10	M	MN		goes to school
	CARBUSIE, Emma	6	F	MN		goes to school
	CARBUSIE, John	3	M	MN		at home
	CARBUSIE, Barnard	1	M	MN		at home
62	**PONCE**, Peter	61	M	Belgium	30y 3m	Farmer
	PONCE, Rosey	51	F	Belgium		Housewife
	PONCE, Joseph	22	M	MN	22y 1m	labourer
	PONCE, Josephene	20	F	MN		Housework
	PONCE, Julia	13	F	MN		goes to school
63	**KING**, Clem	34	M	MN	34y	Farmer
	KING, Mary	34	F	Belgium		ousewife
	KING, Frank	19	M	MN		labourer
	KING, Daniel	5	M	MN		nothing
	MAHEGNAL, Louis	28	M	MN	28y 1m	labourer
Cannon City						
193	**SWISS**, Zero	52	M	Belgium	14y 7m	farmer
	SWISS, Jennie	48	F	Belgium		Housewife
	SWISS, Mary	16	F	Belgium		Minor
	SWISS, Louis	14	M	MN		minor
	SWISS, Julius	13	M	MN		minor
	SWISS, Jennie	10	F	MN		minor
	SWISS, Martha	8	F	MN		minor
	SWISS, Francis	6	M	MN		minor
143	**NEHOLT**, Fredrick	20	M	Belgium		Farm Laborer
	NEHOLT, Maxium	23	M	Belgium	13y 4m/12y 2m	Farm laborer
44	**VANDENBORGAERDE**, Theo	51	M	Belgium	9y 11m	Farmer
	VANDENBORGAERDE, May	71	F	Belgium		Housewife

*names in parenthesis correspond to the spelling as found on the records in Belgium.

LEO BAEKELAND: A Genius born in Ghent

Submitted by Micheline GAUDETTE

Leo Hendrik Baekeland was born in Ghent, Belgium, on November 14, 1863. He was the son of Karel L. Baekeland, a cobler, and Rosalia Merchie. Leo Baekeland graduated with a Bachelor of Sciences from the University of Ghent in 1882 at the age of 19, and received his doctorate (magna cum laude) 2 years later. He married Celine Swarts in 1889 and emigrated the same year to the United States where their 3 children, Jenny, George and Nina were born. They lived in Yonkers, N.Y. and in Florida.

Leo Baekeland died in the United States on February 23, 1944.

During the course of his life Leo Baekeland received wide recognition and acclaims from the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world, he was even on the cover of Time Magazine in 1924!

Why was he so honored? This brilliant man who held over 400 patents invented a new revolutionary material that he named after himself "BAKELITE", the first true synthetic material, plastic! By combining phenol and formaldehyde and heating the mixture under pressure he was able to produce a substitute for shellac (made from beetles) which was in great demand for electrical insulation. Leo Baekeland also invented the bakelizer (now at the Smithsonian) which could process 100 gallons of bakelite in one batch. Bakelite was used to make many things from buttons to telephones. Bakelite objects are now collector items.

Leo Baekeland was also a good business man and even before the invention of the bakelite had made a fortune by selling another of his inventions, Velox photographic paper to George Eastman for $750,000.00, the equivalent to $15,000,000.00 in today's money!

Because of his genius, Leo Baekeland is recognized as the greatest chemist of this century, an honor rightly deserved.

Sources:

Gugliotta, Guy, Leo Hendrik Baekeland, Belgian born chemist, Washington Post, Nov. 16, 1993 (information graciously provided by Howard Thomas), Who was Who in America, The A. N. Marquis Company 1950

Internet sources: National Geographic Society 1997, US News 8/17/98

The Waasland Corner

Submitted by Georges Picavet, Kruibeke, Belgium

Little did I know that my world would so drastically change when, in 1993, my aged stepfather gave me a funeral card of Louis DE YONKE, born in Gladstone, MI, in 1921, and killed in Normandy in July 1944. My stepfather claimed this was his cousin, but because of his advanced age — later we learned that Alzheimer had set in — he couldn't explain how they were related. Since in 1994 V-Day was remembered all over the world, I decided to write an article about the boy that apparently was of Belgian descent who died for the freedom of the Old Country. I sent a letter to the USA Embassy in Brussels on May 1, 1994, trusting that I would learn everything about him within a couple of weeks. To make a long story short: it took me 18 months and two trips to the USA to learn the exact family relationship — my stepfather and Louis DE YONKE were full cousins indeed — and everything what had happened with him. I even had the pleasure of visiting with his brother in Marquette, MI.

In the meantime, I had collected information about hundreds of emigrants from the area where I am born, raised, and still living: the Waasland.

The Waasland is a social - economical - historical region in the Northeastern quarter of today's province of East Flanders, west of Antwerp, across the river Scheldt. The region is composed of 32 villages, including my native village Verrebroek. I have at present some 3,000 emigrants from the Waasland on file, and I have the intention to regularly publish about my research in Belgian Laces.

More information can be found on my web site at http://www.ping.be/picavet/waas_intro.shtml

Some statistics indicate that between 1820 and 1975 about 200,000 Belgians left for the United States. I estimate that ten percent of them originated from the Waasland, which would equate to a number of 20,000. Since I only have 3,000 on file, I still have a long way before me. Therefore, any help from you will be most welcome.

In this issue, I will give a list of the muncipalities that form the Waasland, and a list of 794 family names of people who made the move from the Waasland to the USA and Canada.

In the next issue, I hope to publish material on a cluster of families that settled in Brown County, WI, around 1870

The Waasland

Municipality	Other spelling	Population				Emigrants
		1800	1856	1900	1970	1903
Bazel	Basel				4,265	
Bazel and Steendorp		3,185	4,993	6,210		
Belsele	Belsele	2,205	3,010	3,599	5,704	
Beveren	Beveren	4,927	6,834	9,212	15,272	54
Burcht*	Burght	657	1,450	3,118	6,774	9
Daknam	Dacknam	361	564	762	745	
De Klinge	(De) Clinge	1,943	1,520	2,186	2,712	26
Doel	Doel	1,454	2,157	2,118	1,395	5
Eksaarde	Exaerde	3,396	4,566	5,006	4,594	
Elversele		942	1,238	1,196	1,442	
Haasdonk	Haesdonck	2,023	2,280	2,939	3,775	
Kallo	Calloo	1,894	2,395	2,862	2,347	1
Kemzeke	Kemseke	1,480	1,461	1,905	2,782	3
Kieldrecht	Kieldrecht	1,714	2,870	3,231	4,109	31
Kruibeke	Cruybeke	2,301	2,902	3,775	6,696	
Lokeren	Lookeren	11,941	17,091	21,316	26,651	4
Meerdonk	Meerdonck				1,821	8
Melsele	Melcele	2,292	2,932	3,842	6,916	
Moerbeke	Moerbeke	2,668	4,411	5,849	5,013	28
Nieuwkerken	Nieukerken	1,760	2,484	3,218	5,170	11
Rupelmonde	Rupelmonde	2,015	2,986	3,201	3,285	1
Sinaai	Sinaey	3,205	4,293	4,734	5,220	8
Sint-Gillis	Sint Gilles	1,285	4,022	4,794	5,923	3
Sint-Niklaas	St Nicolas	10,890	21,780	31,706	49,320	57
Sint-Pauwels	St Pauls	1,809	1,972	2,435	3,257	4
Steendorp	Steendorp				2,857	3
Stekene	Steekene	3,748	5,741	7,765	8,960	7
Temse	Temsche	5,475	8,199	12,206	15,117	1
Tielrode	Tielroode	1,410	1,835	1,953	2,706	
Verrebroek	Verrebrouck	1,140	1,350	1,289	1,244	23
Vrasene	Vracene				3,596	35
Vrasene and Meerdonk		4,745	5,674	6,242		

Waasmunster	Waesmunster	3,744	5,351	5,762	7,521	1
Zwijndrecht*	Swyndrecht				10,123	7
Totals		86,609	128,361	164,431	971,567	330

Note 1 Historically and geographically Zwijndrecht and Burcht belong to the Waasland although they are now part of the Province of Antwerp.
Note 2 Meerdonk was part of Vrasene until 1846, when it became an independent municipality.
Note 3 Steendorp was part of Bazel until 1881, when it became an independent municipality.

Family Names

This list, which is bound to be incomplete, now includes over 790 family names.

ADRIAENSSENS
ADRIANSON
ANDRIES
ANNAERT
APERS
ARENS
AUDENAERDE
AUDENAERT
BACKELJAUW
BAERT
BAETE
BAETS
BAEYENS
BAKKER
BARROM
BATENS
BATS
BATSELIER
BAUS
BAUWENS
BECQUÉ
BEELDENS
BERNAERT
BIESTMAN
BILLIAN
BISSCHOP
BLEYENBERG
BLEYENBERGH
BLOMMAERT
BLOMMEN
BODENGIER
BOEL
BOENNE
BOEYKENS
BOGAERT
BOGAERTS
BOLLAERT
BOLSENS
BOLSIUS
BOLSSENS
BONAMIE
BOODTS
BOON
BOONE
BORDUI
BORYN
BOSMAN,
BOSSUYT
BOSTEELS
BRAEM
BRANGERS
BREES
BROUCKE
BRUGGEMAN
BRULEZ,
BRUNEAU
BRUYLANT
BRUYS
BRYS
BUELENS
BURGHGRAEVE
BURM
BUYS
BUYTAERT
CAESSENS
CALBRECHT
CALLAERT
CALLEWAERT
CALUWE
CAMERIER
CANT
CAP
CAPPAERT
CARRON
CASTILLE
CATHOIR
CATTHOUR
CELIE
CLABOTS
CLAES
CLAEYS
CLARYSSE
CLAUS
CLEMMINCK
CLESSENS
CLEYMAN
CLEYS
COCKELENBERG
COENEN
COLE
COLLEPAERT
COLPAERT
CONISSERISOS
COOLS
COOLSSENS
COPPENOLLE
COPPENS
COPPIETERS
CORDEMANS
CORNET
CORNIERE
CRABBE
CUYL
D' HAENENS
D' HANIS
D' HERT
D' HONDT
D' HONDT
D' HOOGE
D' HOOGHE
D' OLISLAGER
DAELMAN
DAENIS
DAENS
DANSSAERT
DE BACKER
DE BAER
DE BAERE
DE BART
DE BAU
DE BERGÉ
DE BEUKELAER
DE BEULE
DE BISSCHOP
DE BLIECK
DE BLOCK
DE BOCK
DE BODT
DE BOEY
DE BRANDT
DE BRUYN
DE BRUYNE
DE CAIGNY
DE CALUWAERT
DE CALUWE
DE CAUWER
DE CLEENE
DE CLERCK
DE CLERCQ
DE CLUIGNEY
DE COCK
DE CONINCK
DE CONSERERE
DE CRAEN
DE CRUYDT
DE DAUW
DE DECKER
DE DYCKER
DE FRE
DE GEEST
DE GEETER
DE GENDT
DE GOLS
DE GRAEF
DE GRAEVE
DE HAECK
DE HERT
DE HOOGE
DE HOOGHE
DE JAECK
DE JONGHE
DE KEGELAER
DE KERF
DE KEVER
DE KONING
DE LAET
DE LANNOY
DE LEE
DE LEEUW
DE MAERE
DE MAESSCHALCK
DE MAEYER
DE MAN
DE MARTELAERE
DE MEESTER
DE MEIRE
DE MEULENAER
DE MEULENEIRE
DE MEURICHY
DE MEURICY
DE MEYER
DE MIDDELAER
DE MINNICK
DE MOL
DE MONCH
DE MUL
DE MULDER
DE MUNCK
DE NAGEL
DE NUL
DE PAEPE
DE PAUW
DE PELSMAEKER
DE PESTEL
DE POORTER
DE POTTER
DE PRAETER
DE PUYSELAERE
DE PUYSSELEYR
DE RIDDER
DE RIEMAKER
DE ROCK
DE ROECK
DE ROOVER
DE ROP
DE ROUSSEAU
DE RYCKE
DE SAEGER
DE SAEGHER
DE SCHAEPMEESTER
DE SCHEPPER
DE SCHRYVER
DE SITTER
DE SMET
DE SOUTER
DE SUTTER
DE TONELAERE
DE VEIRMAN
DE VERMAN
DE VLEESCHOUWER
DE VLIEGER
DE VLIEGHER
DE VOGEL
DE VOGELAERE
DE VOS
DE VRIENDT
DE VRIES
DE VRY
DE WAEL
DE WAELE
DE WALSCH
DE WEERT
DE WILDE
DE WISPELAERE
DE WIT
DE WITTE
DE WOLF
DE WREE
DE WREEDE
DE WULF
DE WUSSE
DECKERS
DELUGUERRE
DENEWETH
DENS
DERROTTE
DESCOUROUEZ
DEYAERT
DIDDEN
DIERICKX
DILLES,
DOBBELAER
DOFFYN
DONCKERS
DONKERWOLCK
DU PON
DUERINCK
DUERINCKX
DUNT
DURINCK
EECKELAERS
EECKELAERT
ELEWAUT
ELLE
ENGELS
ERREGEERTS
EVERIX
FELIX
FIERENS
FIERS
FLEMMING
FONTEYN
FOX
FRANCK
FRANSSENS
FRISSYN
FRUYTIER
GEERTS
GELDMEYER
GERNAY
GHYSELINCK
GIELEN
GILLENS
GILLIS
GODDAERT
GOEMAN
GOETHALS
GOOSSENS
GOSSEN
GRANDSAERD
GROUP
GYSELINCK
HAECK
HAENTJES
HAESAERT
HAESEBROUCK
HANSSENS
HASAERT
HEIRBAUT
HEIRMAN
HEIRWEGH
HELLEMOND
HEMBRECHT
HENDERICKX
HENDRICKX
HENDRYCKX
HERMANS
HERREMAN
HERREWEYERS
HEYMAN
HEYNDRICKX
HEYRMAN
HILLEGEER
HIMBRECHT
HOECK
HOELEBRAND
HOENAERT
HOEY
HOEYKENS
HOFKENS
HOSKENS
HOUZIAUX
HULSTAERT
HUTSEBAUT
HUYGENS
IMPENS
INGELS
IVENS
JACOBS
JACOPS
JANSSENS
JOOS
JOOSSENS
JUNGBLOET
KAESSENS
KAISER
KEGELS
KESSES
KINDT
KLUSKENS
LA VERGE
LAMBRECHTS
LAMOT
LAMPERS
LANNOEY
LANSU
LANTMAN
LAPIERE
LARDENOIT
LAUREYS
LAURUS
LAUWENS
LEEMANS
LEENAERT

LEMMENS
LENAERTS
LENJOU
LERMINIE
LETZ
LEYN
LEYS
LHOUSACKER
LIPPENS
LOCKEFEER
LOEF
LOENS
LOKERMANS
LORIE
LOSSIE
LÜTZ
MADEREEL
MAENHOUT
MAES
MALFROID
MALSCHAERT
MANGROTH
MARAS
MARIS
MARTENS
MARZ
MASSA
MATTENS
MATTHYSSENS
MAYERS
MEERSMAN
MEES
MEESSENS
MEGROEDT
MEIRTE
MELIS
MERCKX
METS
MEUL
MEULEMAN
MEYS
MEYSKENS
MICHIELS
MICHIELSSENS
MIDDAG
MIDDELKAMP
MILBAUT
MINGEROET
MISSINE
MISSY
MOENS
MOENSSENS
MOORTHAMER
MOORTHAMERS
MORISSENS
MORTIER
MOYAERT
MUL
NAERT
NAUDTS
NEELS
NEIRINCK
NELIS
NICHOLAS
NIELAND
NIELANDT
NIMMEGEER
NONNEMAN
NOORTS
NOTENBAERT
NOTENBERG
NUTTE
NYS
ONBEKENT
ONGENA
ONGENAE
ONGHENA
OOSTERLING
OTTEN
PALET
PALING
PALMKOEK
PANIS
PASSEMIER
PAULUS
PAUWELS
PECKSTADT
PEESMEESTER
PEETERS
PEIRSMAN
PENNE
PENNEMAN
PERSYN
PETERS
PICAVET
PIERSENS
PIERSSENS
PIESSENS
PIETERS
PILAET
PIRON
PISSES
PODEVYN
POPPE
PRAET
PRESENT
PREVOOST
PROVOST
PUYLAERT
PUYMBROECKRAES
RAMBOER
REISS
REYNS
ROEGES
ROELANDT
ROELS
ROGIERS
ROMBAUT
ROMBOUT
ROOMAN
ROOMS
ROTSAERT
ROTTHIER
ROUWENS
RUTHGEERTS
RUTS
RUYTHOORN
RYCKAERT
RYCKHAERT
SACK
SANTON
SCHADRON
SCHAEKERS
SCHAILLEE
SCHAUT
SCHEERDERS
SCHEERIS
SCHEERS
SCHEIR
SCHELFAUT
SCHELFHAUT
SCHELFHOUT
SCHOONVLIET
SCHRUTT
SCHUERMAN
SEGERS
SEGHERS
SIBOS
SIEBOS
SMET
SMITH
SNOEB
SNOECK
SOETENS
SPAENHOVEN
SPECHT
SPEECK
SPIESHAERT
SPILDOOREN
STAES
STAESSENS
STAUT
STEENSSENS
STEIBS
STEVENS
STROBBENS
STROOBANDT
STRYLEMANS
STUER
SUY
SYX
THIELENS
THIELMAN
THIESENS
THOEN
THOMAS
THUY
TILENS
TILLEMAN
TIMMERMANS
TINDEMANS
TOCK
TRIEST
TRUYENS
TRUYMAN
TUYTENS
VAEL
VAEREWYCK
VAN ACHTE
VAN ACKER
VAN AELST
VAN AKEN
VAN AS
VAN ASSEL
VAN BEECK
VAN BELLEGHEM
VAN BOCXLAER
VAN BOGAERT
VAN BOGGET
VAN BOXELAERE
VAN BRITSOM
VAN BROECK
VAN BRUSSEL
VAN BUEL
VAN BUNDEREN
VAN BUTSEL
VAN CAMP
VAN CAMPENHOUT
VAN CANSINCK
VAN CARPELS
VAN CAUTEREN
VAN COPPENOLLE
VAN
CRAENENBROECK
VAN DAM
VAN DAMME
VAN DE FONTEYNE
VAN DE
MOORTGATE
VAN DE PERRE
VAN DE VELDE
VAN DE VEN
VAN DE VLOET
VAN DE VOORDE
VAN DE VYVER
VAN DE WAETERE
VAN DE WALLE
VAN DEN ABEELE
VAN DEN BERG
VAN DEN BERGE
VAN DEN BERGH
VAN DEN BERGHE
VAN DEN BOSCH
VAN DEN BOSSCHE
VAN DEN BRANDE
VAN DEN BRANDEN
VAN DEN BROECK
VAN DEN EEDEN
VAN DEN EYNDEN
VAN DEN
NIEUWENHUYZEN
VAN DEN VELDEN
VAN DEN
WYNGAERT
VAN DER AA
VAN DER GRACHT
VAN DER GRAF
VAN DER HEYDEN
VAN DER KELEN
VAN DER LINDEN
VAN DER MERLEN
VAN DER POORTEN
VAN DER STRAETEN
VAN DER WATER
VAN DER WEEKEN
VAN DER WEKEN
VAN DONGEN
VAN DRIESSCHE
VAN DUYSE
VAN EETVELT
VAN ESBROECK
VAN EYCK
VAN EYNDE
VAN GANSEN
VAN GARWEE
VAN GASSE
VAN GAVEREN
VAN GEEM
VAN GEETRUYEN
VAN GEETSOM
VAN GEFFEN
VAN GERREWEY
VAN GHEEM
VAN GOETHEM
VAN GOEY
VAN GUYSE
VAN GYSEL
VAN HAELST
VAN HASSELT
VAN HAUTE
VAN HAVER
VAN HAVERMAAT
VAN HAVRE
VAN HECKE
VAN HESE
VAN HIEL
VAN HIMSTE
VAN HOAG
VAN HOECK
VAN HOEY
VAN HOEYLAND
VAN HOOF
VAN HOOST
VAN HOVE
VAN HOYLANDT
VAN HOYWEGHEN
VAN HULSE
VAN KEMSEKE
VAN KERCKHOVE
VAN LAECKEN
VAN LAERE
VAN LANCKER
VAN LANDEGHEM
VAN LANDSCHOOT
VAN LANGENHOVE
VAN LIEROP
VAN LINDEN
VAN LOO
VAN MARCKE
VAN MELCKEBEKE
VAN MELE
VAN MEYGROOT
VAN MIEGHEM
VAN MOER
VAN MOL
VAN MULLEM
VAN NIEULANDE
VAN
NIEUWENHUYSEN
VAN NOPPEN
VAN OPPENS
VAN OSSELAER
VAN OSSELAERE
VAN OVERLOOP
VAN OVERMEIRE
VAN OVERMEIREN
VAN PETEGHEM
VAN POECKE
VAN POELE
VAN POPPEL
VAN POUCKE
VAN PUYMBROECK
VAN PUYMBROUCK
VAN
QUECKELBERGE
VAN RAEMDONCK
VAN RANST
VAN REETH
VAN REMOORTEL
VAN REMOORTERE
VAN RENTERGHEM
VAN RIET
VAN ROEYEN
VAN ROMPU
VAN ROSSEM
VAN ROY
VAN SNICK
VAN STAPPEN
VAN STEENBERGEN
VAN STEENDAM
VAN STEVENDAEL
VAN STRYDONCK
VAN VAERENBERGH
VAN VLEM
VAN VLIERBERGHE
VAN VOSSELEN
VAN WASSENHOVEN
VAN WESEMAEL
VAN WEZEMAEL
VAN WIEL
VAN WIELE
VAN WOLVELAER
VEESAERT
VEIRMEIER
VEN
VENNE
VENS
VERBEKE
VERBERCKMOES
VERBRAEKEN
VERBUYST
VERCAMMEN
VERCAUTEREN
VERCRUYSSE
VERCRUYSSEN
VERDONCK
VEREECKEN
VERELLEN
VEREST
VERFLIEREN
VERGAUWEN
VERGHOOREN
VERGUCHT
VERGUTS
VERHAEGEN
VERHAERT
VERHAVERT
VERHELST
VERHILLE
VERHULST
VERLEY
VERMEIRE
VERMEIREN
VERMEIRSCH
VERMEULEN
VERMIELEN
VERNIMMEN
VERPLANCKE
VERSMISSEN
VERSTRAETEN
VERSTUYFT
VERTENTEN
VERTEZ
VERZELE
VINCK
VINCKE
VISCHPOEL
VLAEMINCK
VLYMINCK
VOET
VOGELS
VOLCKERYCK
VONCK
VRIESACKER
VRYDAG
WAEGHE
WAEM
WAGEMANS
WALSCHAERTS
WAMBEKE
WANT
WANTE
WAUMAN
WAUTERS
WETTACH
WEYDEMAN
WEYENBERG
WEYENBERGH
WEYN
WEYNACKER
WEYTENS
WIELANDT
WILLAERT
WILLEKENS
WILSSENS
WINDEY
WITTEVRONGEL
WOUMAN
WUYTACK
WYNEN
ZAMAN
ZEGERS

The Belgian Emigration Overseas 1896-1914: Concerning the VENESOEN* Report

Submitted by Hughette DECLERCK, Ixelles, Belgium
translated by R BRINDLE

H. DeClerck introduces an English database regarding the Belgian emigrants overseas. To date, more than 40,000 names have been included, among which 20,ooo make reference to the VENESOEN report. This very detailed database which will provide information about more than 60,000 people, will be available on CD-Rom at the beginning of the next century.

The emigration of its citizens to the New World represents one of the most important side of the social history of Belgium from 1830 to 1914. Unfortunately the public archives available to us to study this phenomenon are few and hard to find.
Consulting the archives of the shipping companies in the European ports which were bombed during WWII proves to be yet more difficult. In Europe, the passenger lists are about all gone.
Luckily in 1896, Eugène VENESOEN, the Emigration Commissioner, proposed to the Foreign Affairs Minister to ask the Belgian emigrants leaving from Antwerp to submit to a questionnaire similar to the one they had to fill out upon arrival at Long Island, NY. These interviews, held between August 1896 and June 1914, are similar to a series of biographical notes, organized chronologically according to departures.
At first they were brief (between 1896 and 1898), but become more detailed as early as 1899, giving information such as names, residence, age, occupation, language skills, the amount of money brought along, destination, name of the person to welcome them abroad.
Two copies of this report were produced: one for the Governor of Antwerp and the other for the Minister of Foreign Affairs (this one is still listed in the catalog of the Foreign Affairs Archives).
Unfortunately, the series available today holds only 2/3 of the original report[3].

- Only lists of names, followed by occupation and destination, are included in 1896, 1897, and 1898.
- One volume of bound notes is available for 1899.
- The 1900 notes are missing.
- The notes for 1901 and 1906 are complete.
- There are several months missing from the Archives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry for the years 1907-1909:
  1907 - January, February, September, October, November, and December
  1908 - May, August, September
  1909 - April, May
- For 1912, the notes are complete.
- For 1911, 1913 and 1914, the lists only give names, occupations and place of origins.
- 1911 is also missing January.

Only the volumes for 1899, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1912 are complete. They provide us with two thirds of the original report: about 25,000 biographical notes, taking into account that 20% of emigrants who returned to Belgium on vacation were again interviewed upon departure and that some passengers were merely travelers.
These 25,000 notes are limited to 3rd class passengers who were the only ones required to submit to this process. In fact only the people traveling on the big ocean liners, more particularly those of the Red Star Line, were interviewed systematically.
The cabin passengers, although numerous, were not submitted to the interviews, which were instead reserved more specifically for the poorest of the poor. In 1896 the Bulletin de la Société Belge de l'Archange Raphael, whose self-imposed mission it was to protect the emigrants, remarks that "many people who greatly fear the voyage in steerage, do not hesitate to sacrifice their money to escape the 3rd class promiscuity."
Let's also note that the biographical data given is not always reliable.

- The spelling of last names and even first names is often eccentric.
- The place of origins, which should indicate the place of last residence, sometimes is the place of birth.
- The age given does not always correspond with the passenger's real age. This is often the result of transcription error but can also be the result of a deliberate lie. It is necessary to check the civil registers to verify the data. It goes the same with the civil registration: the spouse is not necessarily the person indicated as such…
- The occupation is not necessarily the one indicated on the local administrative archives, or on other documents.
- The destination is not always spelled properly, the same for some small Belgian villages with similar sounding names, which are not differentiated in the report.

The passengers signed but without making a sworn statement. The clerks who took down the information were not all perfectly bilingual and probably encountered certain difficulties understanding certain forms of Flemish and Walloon dialects.
Finally, under the reign of Leopold II, about 20% of the population was illiterate.
Therefore, the declarations made by the passengers do not necessarily reflect the truth.

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*The VVF has published copies (Dutch translation of the notes) for the years 1901 through 1905, under the title of "Emigranten naar Amerika". Mr DeRuyter is preparing to release the translation of the 1906 notes while Mr G Bauwens will soon publish the 1899 notes, in Dutch. These works, which are strict copies of the report, have the advantage of being alphabetized.

Some made honest mistakes. Some, the new Americans for example, bragged easily. Then the delinquents, the unmarried couples, the prostitutes, the deserters, those who were running from military service, lied consciously.

So, the information given in these notes can be used only after verifying and matching them against other more reliable sources.

The VENESOEN Report is a unique document, rich in information for genealogists who search for a specific person or family.

For the demographers, sociologists, or historians, it brings less interest as it lacks greatly:

- all social groups are not represented as the interviews only focus on the steerage passenger.
- the emigrants who left on other types of boats or from other ports than Antwerp are not listed. Yet they represent a significant[4] number of emigrants.
- Numerous errors with names, dates and places do not offer reliable data to quantify and classify.

At best it allows us to sketch some great tendencies of the Belgian emigration at the beginning of the century.

That is how the systematic extraction of the more than 22,000 <<VENESOEN>> notes, together with information collected from other Belgian and American sources allows the following observations.

The great majority of steerage passengers who embarked in Antwerp between 1896 and 1914 were going to the Midwest and Eastern USA. All by itself, this country attracted more than 85% of the Belgian emigrants.

The states of Illinois[5], Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota welcomed the greatest number of Flemish immigrants. The Walloon workers were mostly scattered among several cities in Pennsylvania and Indiana, but also in Ohio, Kansas. The people from Antwerp and Brussels preferred New York. Finally the Flemish and Walloon weavers stuck to New Jersey and Rhode Island while the cigar makers mostly found work in Massachusetts.

Passengers to Canada, Argentina, Brazil and other popular emigration poles of the period, account for 12% of the people who were interviewed. It goes without saying that numerous emigrants traveling to these places left from other European seaports. It is normal that the emigrants in route to British colonies such as Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, preferred to leave from an English port on an English ship.

As for Latin America, the French and German ship owners attracted the greatest number of passengers.

If we believe the VENESOEN extraction: from 1896 to 1914, Flemings emigrated in greater numbers than Walloons.

The emigrants' linguistic disclosure allow us to confirm that among the residents in the South of the country were found many Flemish workers working in the mines and factories of the industrial basins of Liège, Charleroi, of the Borinage or Northern France.

It is difficult to locate the people from Brussels as most of those who left from there had not lived there very long and came from across the kingdom.

Among the majority[6] of the listed passengers came from both Flanders and from Hainaut. The people from Liège were few and those from Limburg, rare. Must we then believe they were less prone to dream of the American dream than the others were? No, it is more likely that they simply left from elsewhere: Liverpool, Le Havre or Rotterdam. Let's notice that the Liégeois of the time seem to emigrate mostly to Argentina or Canada.

The selection of the people to be interviewed explains why the first and second sectors dominate. Farmers and daylaborers made up the majority of passengers, followed by the miners, glassworkers, weavers, spinners, construction workers etc. Some craftsman, small merchants, and young employees accompanied them. But actually the small bourgoisie was not part of the steerage class.

Once in America, the rural immigrants most often became workers, miners or railroad workers. The luckiest ones fulfilled their dream: becoming farmers.

It would be absurd to limit ourselves to the data found in the VENESOEN report to draw any conclusions about the Belgian emigration at the beginning of this century.

The sample is not valid, the data, not enough and less than reliable. Other sources allow us to state that poverty was not the only cause for departure, the myth of the Eldorado touched the middle class, the intellectuals, the liberal professions, the artists and especially the investors from across the country.

As for the 1900 biographical notes[7], they bring out the fact that although the Flemings emigrate in greater numbers, the Walloons, often naturalized Americans, return in greater number.

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[4] Many passengers going to America left from Le Havre, Hamburg, or Bremen, Rotterdam and especially Liverpool. According to some sources the number of emigrants who were going to the New World via Liverpool after 1904, and especially during 1912 and 1913 could well be as high as that of those leaving directly from Antwerp. The prices were less expensive, the crossing was faster and the customs office, less strict.

[5] According to the extraction of the VENESOEN report, more than 25% of Belgian immigrants in the US settled in IL between 1888 and 1914.

[6] From 1896 to 1914 the emigrants from Eastern Flanders by far come in larger numbers. Those from Western Flanders and Hainaut also have impressive numbers. The emigrants from those 3 provinces together represent 2/3 of the people interviewed by Mr VENESOEN's clerks. Fifty years earlier it had been the people from Brabant, Luxemburg and Namur who left in masses.

[7] The 1899 notes are numbered from 2081 to 3376; the 1900 are missing from 3377 to 5….

1900 US Census Cumberland Co., NJ

submitted by Dan BRUYNELL, Woodbury, NJ

Name,First Name	Rel./Sex	Birthdate	Birthplace/Father/Mother	Imm./Status	Occupation
Millville Twp.					
105/131 **WARNIE,**Joseph	X/M	Apr 1871	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1889/ -	Wind. Glass Blower
WARNIE,Annie	W/F	Jul 1873 26	NJ/Germany/Germany		
WARNIE,Rosie	D/F	Apr 1893	NJ/Belgium/NJ		at school
WARNIE,Annie	D/F	Aug 1894	NJ/Belgium/NJ		at school
WARNIE,Mamie	D/F	Nov 1896	NJ/Belgium/NJ		
WARNIE,Julia	D/F	Nov 1899	NJ/Belgium/NJ		
Deerfield Twp.					
200/209 **GERARD,**Julius	X/M	Jan 186238	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1874/Al	Brickyard Labor
GERARD,Eliza	W/F	Oct 1869	England/England/England	1884/ -	
GERARD,Julius J	S/M	Feb 1890	NJ/Belgium/England		at school
GERARD,Charles P	S/M	Mar 1892	NJ/Belgium/England		at school
GERARD,Mary E.	D/F	Jan 18946	NJ/Belgium/England		at school
Maurice River Twp.					
127/143 **VANISTENDAL***,Louis	X/M	Nov 1854	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	Machinist
VANISTENDAL,Nathalie	W/F	Sep 1852	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	
VANISTENDAL Joseph	S/M	Nov 1879	France/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	Farmer
VANISTENDAL Frank	S/M	Mar 1882	France/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	Mechanical dentist
VANISTENDAL Bessie	D/F	Oct 1885	France/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	at school
VANISTENDAL Mary	D/F	Dec 1886	PA/Belgium/Belgium		at school
VANISTENDAL Jennie	D/F	Nov 1889	NY/Belgium/Belgium		at school
Landis Twp.					
249/252 **LEMOINE**,Nicolas	X/M	Mar 1840	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1871/Na	Farmer
LEMOINE,Annie	W/F	Sep 1849	Germany/Germany/Germany	1871/ -.	
LEMOINE,Servais	B/M	Jun 1842	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1880/Na	Farm laborer
53/58 **BOUTINE**,(?)Emile	X/M	May 1840	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1848/Na	Glass laborer
BOUTINE (?),Matitee (?)	W/F	Jul 1845	NJ/NJ/NJ		
Bridgeton Twp.					
124/131 **DETURCQ**,Mabel	W/F	Jun 1865	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1892/	Housekeeper
DETURCQ,William*	X/M	Jun 1843	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	Glass cutter/
DETURCQ,Marcel	S/M	Apr 1895	NJ/Belgium/Belgium		
DETURCQ,Lucia	D/F	Feb 1897	NJ/Belgium/Belgium		
DETURCQ,Pierre	F/M	Dec 1823	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1886/	
2/2 **HOUYOUX**,Horace	X/M	Dec 1869	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1892/Na	Glassblower
HOUYOUX,Eva	W/F	Dec 1869	Belgium/France/Belgium	1892/	
HOUYOUX,Horace	S/M	Jan 1891	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1892/	
HOUYOUX,Jennie	D/F	Dec 1894	NJ/Belgium/Belgium		
HOUYOUX,George	S/M	Oct 1899	NJ/Belgium/Belgium		
DE HARGOLIN? Aphier	Brdr./M	Jul 18.8	Belgium/France/Belgium		
207/217 **TILLMAN**,Henry	X/M	Feb 1816	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1893/Na	Trucker
TILLMAN,Pauline	D/F	May 1852	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1891/	Housekeeper
TILLMAN,Alfred	S/M	Feb 1854	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1890/Na	Glass packer
TILLMAN,Lea	GD/F	Sep 1882	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1891/	Housekeeper
TILLMAN,Celina	GD/F	Jan 188614	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1891/	at school
TILLMAN,Edgar	GS/M	Dec 1899	NJ/Belgium/Belgium		
CEULEERS,George	X/M	Mar 1853	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1889/Na	Glass maker
CEULEERS,Louise	W/F	Feb 1855	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium		
CEULEERS,Emil	S/M	Mar 1882	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1890/	Glassblower
CEULEERS,Hortense	D/F	Nov 1883	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1890/	spooler
CEULEERS,Emily	D/F	Jan 188415	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1890/	spooler
CEULEERS,Emina	D/F	Sep 1886	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1890/	at school
CEULEERS,Charles	S/M	Jul 1888 11	Belgium/Belgium/Belgium	1890/	at school
CEULEERS,Octave	S/M	Oct 1893	NJ/Belgium/Belgium		at school

The Belgian Club of Superior, WI

Submitted by John BUYTAERT

The 160 - member club (1983) dates to the turn of the century, when waves of immigrants settled the Northland. Hundreds of Belgians chose Allouez, drawn by relatives and friends who worked on the ore docks there, club members said.

In 1912, the Belgians formed a club and imported books in the "Belgian" language for the library. The club helped a generation of pioneers make the transition from Belgium to America and thus served well its purpose.

Val VAN HOLBECK left Bruges, Belgium when he was 22 years old, not so much for economic reasons as for adventure. In 1912, having reached Allouez, he went to work on the ore docks 'with everyone else' and met a dozen other fellows who spoke Dutch, but not English. The Belgians decided to form a club and met first in the basement of Jules BLEYENBERG's home. Other original members besides VAN HOLBECK and BLEYENBERG included Con SHEARS, Emil DESCHRYVER, Achil MESSINE and John GOTELEARE.

"We sent for books from Belgium and opened a library. Anybody who wished could take the books out," VAN HOLBECK said. The library of over 300 volumes still is in the Belgian Club - though nobody reads the Belgian books anymore.

"We started the Belgian club principally to educate the immigrants who were not educated and help all the Belgians get ready to pass their citizenship examinations," VAN HOLBECK explained.

"We conducted school two evenings a week; all studied English, American History and the duties of an American citizen. The course was about 5 months and then the students were ready to take out their citizenship papers. I had gone through the procedure so knew what the others had to learn."

After World War I the Belgian boys from Allouez returned from the war as full-fledged citizens having earned their citizenship by serving in the army. The need for the citizenship school diminished and the Belgian Club turned to other interests.

Father Rudolph HANSENS, a Belgian Franciscan priest secured specifically for the Belgian community, founded the Belgian Club. His chief help in raising funds to build SS Anthony and Margaret Church in 1914. The first trustees of the church were Belgian Club members Constance SHEARS and Rene LAGAE.

Before this church was built the Belgians walked 2 miles to St. Francis Church in East End. The 2 miles didn't bother the Belgians but the treacherous swamp four blocks long and ½ mile wide that lay between Allouez and East End did bother them. On stormy days the wind and water played roughly with the small foot-bridge crossing the swamp.

When Jules BLEYENBERG's basement got too small for the Club whose membership grew every year, an old saloon on St. Croix Street was purchased and in 1924 the Club bought the community dance hall on Bay Street for its clubhouse. "Ever since we bought the clubhouse in 1924, we've kept the boys together with smear games every Sunday afternoon" VAN HOLBECK said.

While the club is for men only, women are invited to social events and are "allowed" to prepare the meals at the big parties. When a Belgian girl marries, her reception will be in the Belgian hall and the whole community turns out to celebrate the wedding.

All the Lutefisk and lefsa in the world won't get you through the doors to this Northland ethnic club. But a picnic basket of Belgian cookies, Belgian waffles and "kriek" - Belgian cherry-flavored beer - would help.

You won't find many ANDERSONs or PETERSONs on its membership rolls. Instead, "it's VAN-this and VAN-that" as one member put it: VAN VYNCKT, VAN VLECK, VAN PUYMBROUCK, VAN OVERMEIREN, VAN DAMME, and VAN LANDSCHOOT, to name a few.

Most Belgian Club members are two or three generations removed from its original settlers. They still display the red, yellow and black Belgian flag at meetings, but that's about it, members say. No one sings Belgian songs or talks Belgian politics anymore. And although you might hear an occasional "Goede Morgen!" at meetings, hardly anyone knows Dutch.

Hard, sweet Belgian cookies - made two at a time in special waffle irons - remain favorites in many Allouez households. Recipes for dishes such as "rijst pap" or rice porridge are passed from parent to child.

A Belgian penchant for unusual festivals has also survived.

In Allouez, club members spend months, planning Smear Day, which falls the day after Easter. The day starts with the members lining up at the clubhouse at 8am and then walking to St. Anthony Catholic Church a few blocks away. (Most Belgians are Catholic).

A huge dinner follows and a dance is held that evening. But the highlight of the day is the marathon card tournament in the afternoon. Belgian-Americans from far and wide gather to play smear, the game for which the day is named. Club members used to skip work for Smear Day, and were fined by the club if they didn't take part.

Frivolities aside, club members say their neighborhood's character is a reflection of Belgian culture.

"The people around here - they remind me of Belgian horses," said 32-year-old Mark AMYS, president of the Belgian Club. "Honest. Hard working. Dependable. That's the kind of people I associate with Belgium. And that's why I'm a member of the Belgian Club."

Sources:

"Belgian brothers stick together" - Duluth News-Tribune, Duluth, MN - April 30, 1989, by Tom DENNIS

"'Smear Day', Easter Monday a Big One for Allouez Belgians."

Catholic Herald Citizen - April 4, 1953

Area News:

Wisconsin Corner

by Mary Ann DEFNET, Green Bay, WI

Twenty Belgian visitors arrived in Northeastern Wisconsin on June 15th. The Peninsula Belgian-American Club welcomed them at Dyckesville with a reception and meeting of host families. On the 21st, the group left for a tour of the Southwest: Bryce Canyon, Zion and Grand Canyon National Parks, Lake Powell, the Mojave Desert, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Although the weather was extremely hot, the people enjoyed their tour very much. After returning to Wisconsin they took part in the 4th of July festivities: boat rides in Door Co. and a typical Wisconsin fishboil. P.B.A.C. hosted a farewell dinner for the group on July 13th. All are looking forward to our visit to Belgium in 2000.

On June 26th, Dr. William LAATSCH, professor of Geography and Regional Analysis at the University of Wisconsin/Green Bay, gave a slide presentation on the Belgian settlement in Northeastern Wisconsin at the Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. He emphasized that this area the largest concentration of people of Walloon Belgian descent in the US. It is unique in its preservation of its ethnicity. Needless to say, we are proud of that!

GENIWAL (a non-profit genealogical association in Wallonia) is proud to announce the reprint of "Passagers Belges partis vers l'Amérique de 1833 à 1855." The price of this publication is Bef.850 or USD. 22.30 postage included. Payment to be remitted to the CGER Bank, Account # 001-3214200-84 to GENIWAL. Yves Heraly, President to GENIWAL (470000 people in the GENIWDEP Databanque)
You can also contact MaryAnn Defnet for more information

Belgian-American Heritage Society of West Virginia

From Vickie ZABEAU-BOWDEN, WVA

The Belgian-American Heritage Society of WV had their 8th annual picnic on Sunday, July 18, 1999 at Norwood Park in Clarksburg, WV. We have our annual picnic every year to coincide with the celebration they have in Belgian. An open invitation is sent out to all of our members and their guests and also to any Belgian that would like to come to our event.

Everyone brings a covered dish. The drinks and main item are supplied by the Club. This gives everyone a chance to cook Belgian and eat Belgian.

Many of our foods are prepared just as they were made by the parents that came to America. Belgian Music and plenty of beer is provided as well.

After we enjoy our Belgian lunch the children have games that are planned for them and the adults have a "White Elephant" raffle, in which everyone brings an item that is wrapped and as the ticket numbers are called, those people choose something from the table.

If you are visiting the West Virginia area next July we would love to have you.

Sincerely, Vickie Zabeau Bowden

The South Charleston Museum presents:
"Belgian Heritage in West Virginia"
August 16, 1999 - October 23, 1999

Schedule of Events:

August 16, 1999 MUSEUM EXHIBITION OPENING 6:00PM-7:00PM - So. Chas. Museum/ Library Auditorium
August 28, 1999 BELGIAN HERITAGE DAY 10:00AM-4:00PM
So. Chas. Museum/ Library Auditorium
September 18, 1999 TOURS OF LOCAL BELGIAN SITES
Tours depart from Museum on KRT Trolley
First Tour: 9:00AM-9:45AM / Second Tour: 10:00AM-10:45AM / Third Tour: 11:00AM-11:45AM
Tours leave promptly at scheduled time.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Kenneth Fones-Wolf, WVU
Belgian Heritage in the Clarksburg, WV Area
1:00PM-2:00PM: So. Chas. Museum/ Library Auditorium
October 2, 1999 BELGIAN ORAL HISTORY DAY
Come swap stories and recipes! (9:30AM-12:00PM)
STAINED GLASS DEMONSTRATION
by Blenko Glass Artist (2:00PM-3:00PM)
SPEAKER: Dr. Fred Barkey, Marshall Grad. Uni.
New Perspectives- So. Chas. Window Glass Workers
3:30PM-4:30PM - So. Chas. Museum/ Library Auditorium
October 23, 1999 : EXHIBIT CLOSES- SOUTH CHARLESTON MUSEUM
All events are free and open to the public.
For more information, contact the South Charleston Museum
312 Fourth Avenue, South Charleston, WV 25303
Tel 304-744-9711/ Fax 304-744-8808
E-mail SCMuseum@hotmail.com

To and From:

1- From José SCHOOVAERTS, Belgium

About 20 years ago, Lucien Léonard collected documents, among which the recording of songs (Vandertie for example) or of conversations. This was done with the help of the Wallonie-Wisconsin Association. Unfortunately, since the passing of Lucien Léonard, the exchanges seem to have become somewhat limited to tourism. In Wisconsin, the younger generations don't seem to speak Walloon either.

The older generation is getting older. The traditions might soon be lost forever!

I would like, if there is enough time left, to preserve these traditions. To achieve this goal, I need your help.

I would need for you to take the time to record your elders. The best way would be to get them to tell you stories of when they were growing up, stories about their parents. And this, even if you can no longer understand Walloon!

Let them talk, rather, make them talk.

It is urgent!

Without your help, all this experience will be lost forever!

Treasure these recordings as you would any old document that would have genealogical or family history value.

This work will no doubt enrich you.

In the past weeks I have sought out the help of bilingual Belgian citizen, prepared and qualified to give a hand. It was

not an easy task but I now have the pleasure (the dream is beginning to come true!) to announce to you the creation of a brand new list dedicated to the research of all traces of the Walloon language in the World and, mainly in Wisconsin. This new list will not interfere with the goal of Belgium-Roots. There will be no genealogy on it (but maybe you'll find on it a relative?)
On WorldWideWalloons (WWW), we'll only speak about culture, song, arts, history, etc. and mostly about the old Walloon language still in use by the Belgians abroad. Walloon was not written by the emigrants in the old days so we'll also use English (French and, why not other languages) on the list AND, you might even find a course of Walloon on it some day.
There are some people in Green Bay who want to study the language to better collect their parents' memories and cultural heritage...
Now, if you have Walloon ancestors or are interested in this language (or just curious?) don't wait any longer. Go to http://users.skynet.be/bs302306/worldwidewalloons
and follow the instructions to begin a tremendous new cultural adventure. I am sure that you will not regret being there.

2. From Marcel BLANCHAER, Canada

To the North American descendants of Belgians.
I am preparing a new section on West Flanders on my Website "Rural Belgium in the 19th Century": http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~blanch/Rural_Belgium_19Cent/index.htm
So far, I have received a lot of information (200+ pages!) on the history in the 1800s and early 1900s about 5 villages in West Flanders: Pittem, Egem, Tielt, Zwevezele and Roeslare. (I'd like to hear about other places in West Flanders from where your family came when they emigrated to Canada or the U.S.A.)
What I'm missing now is the 'human element'. The West Flanders village histories I have available consist mostly of general information but nothing about the lives of the people as human beings. I want to be able to add some faces and people's stories to the new West Flanders section, like I do on pages "Tremelo characters" and "Stories from Tremelo" on my current Web site.
My request to you:
Please phone me (204-284-1709) or send to me by regular mail or e-mail:
1) 'Human interest" stories about any person, family or group in West Flanders. Family stories are preferable; I will omit family names if you wish.
2) ANY photos, especially of people, preferably portraits related to family stories, or of any people just doing their regular work.
3) Information on what your family did for a living in West Flanders before they 'came over'. I am especially interested dairy farming, the linen industry in homes: spinning and weaving.
4) The names of villages/towns in West Flanders not in my list above from where your family came and any information you have about such towns/villages.
If you sent e-mail attachments:
- for text use the RTF (Rich Text Format) so I can read PC-generated stuff on my Macintosh.
- send photos, etc. as copies, GIFs or JPGs.
I would be pleased to acknowledge your contribution to the upcoming West Flanders section for the Web site "Rural Belgium in the 19th Century".
Many thanks for taking the time to help!
Marcel Blanchaer, 9P - 300 Roslyn Road, Winnipeg MB Canada R3L 0H4
Phone: 204-284-1709
FAX (c/o Professor Audrey Kerr) 204-789-3928

3. From Matt VERONA, TX

I have received more old newspaper articles from Louise Clamme, of the Blackford Co. Historical Society, in Hartford City, Indiana. The Society has a set of bound copies of the Hartford City Telegram and the Hartford City Evening News, published in the 1890s and early 1900s. I believe they have the only copies. I have found many Belgian ancestors mentioned in both newspapers. If you have ancestors in Hartford City from 1890 to 1910, contact Louise Clamme at 0792 N - 300 E Hartford City, IN 47348. Their web site: http://www.retiredusaf.com/historicalsociety.html
note: I always contribute $5 to $10 when she sends a package with newspaper copies, etc. I think the Blackford Co. Hist. Society helps fund the Cecil Beeson Museum, so the $ goes to very good cause...

QUERIES

BL99-371 - From Guy BONEMME

Looking for any trace of the following family:
MARKADIEU Michel, b. 17 Aug.1852 Bruxelles - d. 8 Jul 1878 Bruxelles, married to **DANSAERT Catherine** b. 15 Sep 1856 Bruxelles - occupation: tapestry-maker
Children :
- Nicolas b 7 Jul 1877, Bruxelles - fondeur en caract. typographiques
- Jean-Pierre b 3 Oct 1878, Bruxelles - fondeur en caract. typographiques
- Marie Françoise b. 3Oct 1880, Bruxelles - tapestry-maker
- Léopold b 21 Apr 1884, Bruxelles
- Jean Baptiste, b 21 Sep 1884, Bruxelles
This family arrived in the USA between 1882 and 1886. However Catherine DANSAERT died in Bruxelles on 24 May 1896. Their son Jean Baptiste MARKADIEU died in New York in Sep 1886.
Michel MARKADIEU was taken off the population registers on 30 Nov. 1886, having left for the US around 1885. He never returned to Belgium.
Would greatly appreciate any suggestions. Thank you.

BL99-372 - From Gerard LENSSENS

Looking for Emile FERY, glassworker, born in Malonne on 7 Mar 1865. A widower, he emigrated (leaving 2 daughters in Belgium) to James City in 1905 to work for the "American Plate Glass Company". In 1930, after the closing of this company, he went to work in Rochester, NY for Eastman Kodak. He remarried and had one son. Can anyone help find what became of him? Contact me at bbrindle@netusa1.net