



Peninsula Belgian-American Club

www.rootsweb.com/~wipbac

August 2002

A BIG thank you to the Wallonie-Wisconsin Club members, and host families, for the hospitality and generosity that was shown during our trip in June.

Everyone had a great time meeting friends and cousins, gaining new friendships, and learning more about their Belgian heritage.

We are now looking forward to the arrival of our Belgian friends in Wisconsin - 2003!!



"Chateau de Namur"

Location of our Farewell Dinner that was sponsored by the Wallonie-Wisconsin Club during our visit in June.

"From time-to-time people have asked what it's like to take a trip with the club to Belgium. If anyone would like to read more about our trip this year, and see photos of some of the highlights, let me know and I would be glad to send you further information."

We Need Your Help!

Mark your calendars for:

Saturday, September 14 - 8:00 A.M. - ?

This day has been set aside for "Work Day" at the schoolhouse. People are needed to help with various cleaning jobs and room organizing, in addition to scraping paint off glass, cleaning the wainscoting, painting the blackboard, etc.

Maintenance Update

The plastering project in the main meeting room has been completed by Baudhuin Plastering and it looks great.

The wood floor has also been refinished by members with the expert help and guidance of – Don LaLuzerne.

We appreciate the time already volunteered by our members for cleaning, staining, and painting but there is still more to be done.

Do you have special skills (plastering, antique restoration, etc.), and the time to volunteer your services? If so, we could sure use your help. Please contact Harry Chaudoir at (920) 856-6519.

Activity Committee Report

By Nellie P. DeBaker, Chairman

The first meeting was held August 15th at 6:45 pm at the Clubhouse with 16 members in attendance. A very fruitful discussion yielded two priority items for the club: First the Christmas Party is all set for Dec. 8th at the Rendezvous at noon. Second the 150th Anniversary Celebration will be next summer, possibly September. Fifteen of the sixteen members in attendance signed up to be part of this committee. Planning will commence in early Fall. Genealogy is a big part of the club and nine members signed up to pursue this interest. Other items of interest were card games, trips, fund-raising, and membership. These will be pursued a little later during the year.

Committees are open to all members of the Belgian Club. Some of us may not make all the special meetings set aside for committee work, however do not let that be a deterrent. The expertise of all members is needed for the good of our club.

Thank you.

Nellie De Baker
nell@gbonline.com
920.845.5033

In Sympathy

We would like to extend our condolences to the families of:

Alden DeBaker- Richard LaLuzerne - Marvin Villers

Thank You for Donations/Contributions

- Brussels Lions Club
- Julie Garbowski (*Sugar Mountain Farm*)
- Marty Baudhuin (*Baudhuin Plastering*)
- Norbert Tlachac
- Don LaLuzerne
- Al Vandertie Jr.



The Genealogy Committee will be holding their first meeting on Thursday, September 19, 6:45 p.m. at the schoolhouse, prior to our monthly club meeting.



Everyone is welcome!

OFFICERS

Harry Chaudoir, President

226 Cty Rd XC Forestville, WI 54213
Tel: 920-856-6519

James Lampereur, Vice President

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Kim Potier Davis, Secretary-Treasurer

1255 N 12th Pl Sturgeon Bay WI 54235-1159
Tel: 920-743-4973
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Trustees: Mary Ann Defnet, Bertha Villers, Roger Ferron

Welcome New Members

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Janice Brady</i> | <i>Galesville, WI</i> |
| <i>Kathleen DeJardin</i> | <i>Bearsville, NY</i> |
| <i>Don & Jillian LaLuzerne</i> | <i>Brussels, WI</i> |
| <i>Jean Mellblom</i> | <i>Lafayette, CO</i> |
| <i>Douglas Pierre</i> | <i>Green Bay, WI</i> |
| <i>Arthur Thomas</i> | <i>Monrovia, CA</i> |

Local Happenings

Brussels Kermis – September 1, 2002

Just in case you missed it, the Brussels Kermis was held at Sugar Mountain Farm Market on Sunday. It was a beautiful, sunny day and many people were there to enjoy the Belgian food, kids games, petting zoo, and all that the Farm Market has to offer. Of course our very own Mary Ann Defnet and Harry Chaudoir were there to talk with people and share their knowledge of their Belgian ancestry. Ivan and Margaret Draize were also on hand to talk about their cookbook.

International Fair – September 14, 2002

An International Fair will be held at St. Norbert's College in DePere, WI. Mary Ann Defnet and Kristen Alberts will be setting up a display booth to promote our Belgian Heritage.

UW-Green Bay Campus – Ancestral Pursuit V: A Genealogy Workshop

Friday & Saturday, September 20 & 21

Workshop is sponsored by the Friends of the Cofrin Library and UW-Green Bay Area Research Center
Friday will be "Nuts and Bolts of Genealogy", "Birth, Marriage and Death", "Census Records", and a depiction of real-life Peshtigo Fire survivor Amanda Stuart. Saturday there will be several workshops plus much more. Please go to the UWGB website for further information or call (920) 406-8200. <http://www.uwgb.edu/outreach/PROFED/genealogy/Genealogy.htm>

Mark Your Calendar!

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| September 19, 2002 (6:45) | Genealogy Committee Meeting at schoolhouse |
| September 19, 2002 (7:30) | Club Meeting |
| October 17, 2002 (7:30) | Last meeting of the year |
| December 8, 2002 (Noon) | Annual Christmas party will be held at the Rendezvous |

Cemeteries in Belgium

While in Belgium I did an ancestor search thru the cemeteries as I'm sure many of you have done, either here or in Belgium, and it left me with many questions such as: why are some of the cemeteries so run down; why are there so many notices posted next to the headstones, why can't I find my ancestors, and what are the burial procedures?

Many of the burial sites are located on small lots next to the churches, and are rented instead of sold which brings up many more questions: What is the normal charge for a burial site? How long can they be rented? What happens if the fee is not paid when it comes due? And...what happens to the original stone if someone else is eventually buried there?

I soon discovered that the notices next to the burial plots were to alert people that the rent was due. If not paid, the headstone would be removed within a certain period of time and the ground would be reused.

Some of the cemeteries seemed to be very run down. Apparently the small, old graveyards are being suspended and moved to the outskirts of town. So...either way, whether the rent was not paid or the cemetery was moved, the next time you go to Belgium your long lost ancestors may no longer be there! Their headstone may have been removed and destroyed, and their remains put in a little building on the cemetery. The "bone-house" must not be confused with some larger buildings with a cellar where more than one person is buried ... mostly owned by a rich family.

The Belgian law about cemeteries dates from 20 July 1971, and replaces specific articles of the Civil Law. Thirty years ago, or so, there were different ways to rent : Eternal, 100 years, and 50 years were common.

Since then the Eternal concession was suspended and replaced by the 50-year concession. At that same time cities/towns were beginning to make a section where old, or interesting architectural headstones or grave-buildings were placed together. The laws are as follows: everyone can be buried in non-conceded ground for free; a grave concession (for one or more persons) is given by the municipality for a maximum of 50 years -- renewable if a contribution is paid (could be 100/300% more if non-resident) and non-residents can be refused if specific conditions aren't full-filled; the concession can be renewed by anyone, but only those related by blood or marriage can be buried in that grave (if the concession is valid for more then one person); if someone is buried in the grave concession, then a new period can start with the same duration as the existing one if the concession taxes are paid for the supplemental period; the graves with an "Eternal concession" were converted in 1973 to the normal system (concessions of 50 years) but no taxes have to be paid if a renewal is asked each 50 years so the renewal problem will arise in 2023.



"HUPPAYE"

*A few surnames seen in this cemetery were:
POTIER. BERGER. THEYS. LIEGOIS. PARIS and JACQUET.*

least one year and a copy sent to the person who paid for the concession.

All deceased persons must be buried in a municipal cemetery. Private cemeteries aren't allowed anymore.

If buried in non-conceded graves, then 3 bodies can be buried in the same grave, with an interval of at least 5 years and the last body must be buried in a grave with a depth of at least 1,5 m. Once the grave is completely used, the grave can be emptied only after 15 years. When a grave is emptied, the remains that are found must be collected and buried again on a specific common place. The grave stone can be removed after a period of 5 years.

No taxes can be asked for burials in non-conceded ground.

The headstones of graves that aren't removed before the end of a non-renewed concession become the possession of the municipality.

EXAMPLE:

Parents died in 1976 and 1978.

- Concession for 2 persons was paid in 1976 for 25 years (price: 6000 BEF)
- The concession wasn't renewed in 1978.
- Person who paid the concession would receive a letter from the municipality asking if they wanted to renew.
- Plan would be to renew at the end of (2002) (as the initial concession was for 25 years, it can't be renewed for more then 25 years).
- Concession will then end in 2026 and can be renewed again.

“MEMBERS”

Do you need to pay your dues? If you see a RED BIRD stamped in the upper left corner – the answer is YES!!

Dues are payable by May 31 of each year. Fill out this form and mail along with your check made payable to "Peninsula Belgian American Club" in the amount of \$10 U.S. dollars. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a membership card mailed to you.

Kim Potier Davis • 1255 N 12th Pl • Sturgeon Bay WI 54235-1159

Member Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Surname of Spouse (if applicable): _____ Do you speak Walloon? _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Would you like to receive the newsletter by E-mail? Yes _____

Please give this form to anyone you know who might be interested in joining the Peninsula Belgian American Club

Visit us on The Web at - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wipbac>

“Updates Coming soon”

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