

# Peninsula Belgian-American Club

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June 2004

## May Pole

### "The Tree of Life"

*May Day is celebrated around the world.  
It is a festival of happiness, joy and the coming of summer.*



↑  
Namur, WI  
2004

→  
Grez Doiceau,  
Belgium  
2004



The Wallonie-Wisconsin Club held their May Pole celebration in Grez-Doiceau.

"Le Grand Serment Royal de Saint Georges de Grez-Doiceau" is an old society with a tradition that dates back to 1312. In the beginning it was a military society. It was traditional for 2 soldiers to walk down the street, with one riding on a horse. After the defeat of Napoleon in Waterloo they were under domination of the Dutch King "Guillaume d'Orange" and the society was discontinued. In 1830, after they were free, the society was brought back and became a folkloric tradition. A procession is held on St. Georges day with horses, a mass is said for the people who have passed away during the year, and the May Poles are erected on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

A May pole is erected in front of the house of the societies President (white, blue and red - - colors of the society), the Parish Priest (yellow and white - - colors of the Pope), the Mayor (black, yellow and red - - colors of Belgium), the Vice President of the society (red and white - - colors of Grez-Doiceau) and the President of Honor (red and white - - colors of Grez-Doiceau).

Musicians play the National Hymn while the May pole is being erected. A rifle is shot 9 times for the President and the Mayor, and 6 times for the Vice President, President of Honor, and Priest.

Afterwards, the people who received a May Pole offer the members a glass of wine or beer, and dessert at their home.

The society has continued on since 1830, with Jacques Jacqmot being the 12<sup>th</sup>, and current, President.

Our club was not able to organize a full celebration this year but we would like to thank Ron Tillman for donating, and erecting our May Pole (*pictured top left*).

Next year we'll try to plan a larger celebration!

## Amish Country in Napanee, Indiana

### - - - would you like to Join us for a Club Trip?

A club trip is being organized to give members a chance to spend time together during the summer. We received a lot of suggestions for various locations, sent around a signup sheet at the last meeting, and the trip to Amish Country was the #1 choice.

A 3-day trip to Napanee is tentatively scheduled for August 6-8. We will travel by bus to the northern part of Indiana to visit an Amish Community. Package includes: a play at the Red Barn Theater ("Plain and Fancy"), House & Farm Tour, Farm Wagon Ride, Documentary Film, Award Winning Family Style Threshers Dinner, shopping time, and 2-nights at the hotel.

Approximate cost will be \$220. If you'd like to be put on the list for more information, call Kim at (920) 743-4973 or E-mail: [kmpd@charter.net](mailto:kmpd@charter.net).

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## "Opening" for Trip to Belgium

A couple seats have recently become available for the trip to Belgium....contact Kim immediately if you are interested in traveling with the group (920) 743-4973. Seats will be filled on a first come first serve basis.



## Let's Play Couillon

By Margaret & Ivan Draize

(24) Cards constitute the game of Couillon, namely 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and the Ace.

Most commonly it's played by (6) players, with partners being every other person around a table, and distributing all (24) cards, with the last card being turned face up, and that suit is also the trump used for that hand.

The first player starts next to the dealer going clockwise around the table; with either a go or a pass; if he has a possible winning hand (a pair of the larger trump, plus one or 2 Aces is considered a good hand) he can ask his partner to lead out with trump, if his partner is on the lead.

A player must follow the suit that is played out if he can, but is free to trump if he decides to do so.

The person that plays the highest card of that suit picks up that hand, unless it is trumped higher by someone else.

The person that picks up the hand, chooses a card from his hand to lead the next play.

This process continues until all 24 cards are played.

The partners total all their points, (namely Jacks as 1 pt., Queens 2, Kings 3, and Aces 4)

The partners with the most points win a chip.

If everybody passes and nobody goes, this is considered a pass (or passage) and that passage adds one chip to the next winning hand.

If the winning partners pick up all the cards, they are given 2 chips, a passage before would equal 3 chips. However, if they do not pick all the cards, but get 21 or more points, they are only given 1 chip.

The winning side must win 10 chips to win that game.

*NOTE: This game can be played with only 4 players, using the above rules, however that is a very challenging difference.*



### President - James Lampereur

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**Trustees** - Mary Ann Defnet, Bertha Villers, Roger Ferron  
**Chaplain** - Fr. Sam Jadin

## Welcome New Members

Sam Alexander.....	Boones Mill, VA
Roy & Betty DeBaker.....	Green Bay, WI
Michael Degrand.....	Green Bay, WI
Paul & Donna Janquart.....	Green Bay, WI
Lynne Jossart.....	Racine, WI
Charles & Mary Anne Moder.....	Neenah, WI
Thom & Julie Nooyen.....	Appleton, WI
Christine (Moder) Scoggs.....	Green Bay, WI

## Couillon (Version 2) - - Rules of the Game

By Arlene Jadin

Couillon can be played with 4 or 6 partners (2 + 2) or (3 + 3). Deck from 9s up. Aces are 4 pts., Kings are 3, Queens 2, Jacks 1, Tens & Nines 0.

Dealer has player to the right cut cards then deals them clockwise, 2 at a time. The bottom card is turned up and that is trump. Ace high then King, Queen, Jack, Ten & Nine.

First player clockwise either goes or passes; if he passes next player has a chance to go or pass, etc. If no one goes there is a passage put up that means 3 chips are up. If someone goes, the first player (past dealer) plays out. Whatever suit he wishes, next players must follow suit or cut with whatever is trump. Whoever gets that trick plays out next, etc. The aim is to get 21 points.

If the team that goes gets 21 or more they get 1 chip. If they lose they give one chip to the opponents. If there is a tie 20-20, 3 chips are put up. That means an extra chip for the next hand won, same as when there is a passage up. Then the next player clockwise deals, etc. The amount of chips to end the game varies. Most groups make it 7; some 10. Whatever your group chooses. Some play just for chips, some play quarters per game dime a bump, .50 per game and .25 per bump is a favorite.

There have been many variations developed. Like 8 handed, each 3 cards and the one with the ace.

Six hand, first player makes trump after receiving only first 2 cards called couillon foreseee. Meaning first player is first to go.

# Ancestral Corner



***Genealogy is fun, interesting, and a learning experience. It's a means of keeping our heritage alive!***

## Information from Belgium

by Mary Ann Defnet

Have you gathered all the information that is available here in the United States about your Belgian ancestors? Have you found their home villages?

Once you have achieved these goals, it is possible to further your lineage, in many cases, back to the 1600's. How? A first thought would be to write to the Clerk or Secretary at the village in Belgium to ask for help in obtaining photocopies of the birth, marriage, or death certificates. You must be aware, however, that all villages no longer have governmental offices.

On January 1, 1977, the 2359 villages in Belgium were merged so that there are now just 589 offices. The Registers (record books) from small villages were centralized in larger towns. That transaction was called "The Fusions". This is much like our County Courthouse system, but on a much smaller scale. Unlike our system where all the events occurring in a county are recorded in one Index, those in Belgium are still kept by individual locality. This is why it is important to know the exact village name. A directory is available indicating the larger commune to which each village belongs.

To write to the Secretary of a community in Belgium, you can use the following addresses:

### French-speaking village: Flemish-speaking villages:

Secrétaire du Commune	Ambtenaar van de Burgerlijke-stand
Bureau de l'Etat Civil	Gemeentebestuur B
Maison Communale	B (Zip) (Village),(Province),
B (Zip) (Village), (Province),	BELGIUM
BELGIUM	

It is best to write in French or Flemish (copies of request letters are available from the writer), but a letter in English will suffice. It cannot be stressed enough that your letter must be brief, clear, and specific as to name of village, and name and approximate date of event (birth, marriage, or death) you are looking for. The staff in Town Halls do not consider genealogical requests as part of their daily work. They will answer them if other business is concluded and time permits. Sometimes you will get lucky and receive a reply in two or three weeks; or it may take several months. If your letter is "long-winded" or if you ask for "anything you can find on this family", it will likely be put aside or go unanswered.

You should know, too, that this is not a free service. You will need to include \$5.00 or 5 Euros for each record requested (no checks and absolutely no more than three requests in one letter). If you are only asking for information about the village (no documents), you should include three International Postal Coupons. These coupons are available at larger Post Offices here and are used to pay for postage on the return letter. The present first class/airmail rate for letters to Belgium is 80 cents per ounce.

A second way of obtaining copies of birth, marriage, and death

records from Belgium is by use of the facilities of a Mormon Family History Center. The Mormons have microfilmed vital records and other governmental data in countries all over the world. They have more than 17,000 microfilms from Belgium alone. These films record events back to the 1600's. There are also some Population Registers (Censuses) from the mid-1800's, but not from all villages.

The films are catalogued (on microfiche and/or computer) by country, province, village/city; church and civil classification; and time period covered. Again, it is necessary to know the exact name of the village and province you wish to search. The Staff at these centers will assist you in using the Index. When you have found the correct film number, you will fill out an order blank and pay \$3.50 for the rental of each film. Orders are sent to Salt Lake City where the master films are stored in a huge mountain vault. The film will be sent to the local Center and you will be notified and given a month to six weeks to use the film at their site. You are allowed to make copies of records from the microfilm. (In Green Bay, the charge is \$.35 per page.) Mormon Centers are located in many cities. Those known to be in eastern Wisconsin are at Green Bay, Shawano, Appleton, Sheboygan, and Hales Corners. You do not have to be a Mormon to make use of this service. The Center in Green Bay is on the far east side on the corner of Finger Road and Pinehurst Drive---across East Mason Street from the East Town Mall. They are open only on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00, and on Wednesdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM and from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

The phone number there is (920) 406-8050. You can go in to order films or just learn about the Center during these open hours. To use a film reader after your film arrives, you must reserve a time slot. There is much more than can be said here about using a Mormon Center. We ask that you come to our pre-meeting sessions or contact us with your questions.

The third source of material is the Internet. This writer does not have access to this source, but there are many websites geared specifically to Belgian research. Perhaps one of our members will furnish us with a list of these sites which have proved to be worthy research tools. We will publish them in a later newsletter. Questions are always welcome, by snail mail, e-mail, or in person. Contact Mary Ann Defnet or Kim Potier Davis and we'll do our best to answer. HAPPY HUNTING !!!

**HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY!!**



The PENINSULA BELGIAN AMERICAN CLUB would like to thank the following people for their donations, volunteer help and support.

**Donations**

Sam Alexander                      Michael Degrand  
 Melvin Vandeveld                Merine Younkle  
 Norb Tlachac                      Marchant Foods  
 Anonymous Donors                Bertha Villers  
 Maplewood Homemakers/Barb Chisholm

**Volunteers of Time and Talent**

Mary Ann Jeanquart                Jim Lampereur                      Harry Chaudoir  
 Al Alexander                        Randy Bouche                      Kim Potier Davis  
 Bertha Villers                        Barb Chisholm                      Al & Bernie Moore  
 Shirley Fontaine                    Tony Debold                        Stanley Malcore  
 Myron Gilson                        Terry Potier                         Heide Arno  
 Mary Ann Defnet                    Jacques & Jacqueline Jacqmot

**Belgium Trip Itinerary!  
 September 2-20, 2004**

- ☐ Thurs., Sept. 2 Depart for Belgium
- ☐ Fri., Sept. 3: Arrive in Brussels. We will take the bus to Trois Cles Hotel (3 Keys) in Gembloux. A small breakfast will be served and we'll depart from there with our host family.
- ☐ Sat., Sept. 4: **Free Day**
- ☐ Sun., Sept. 5 : **Free Day**
- ☐ Mon., Sept. 6: Depart Gembloux at 5 a.m. to travel towards Vienna/Austria. Evening meal and folkloric show at Hofbrauhaus. Overnight in Germany.
- ☐ Tues., Sept. 7 : Visit Dachau & Concentration Camp.
- ☐ Wed., Sept. 8 : Depart Germany and travel to Vienna. Guided city tour of Vienna. Depart for Budapest.
- ☐ Thurs., Sept. 9 : Guided city tour of Budapest. Evening meal will be at the island of Ladik Csarda, with view of the Danube. Hungarian dinner and folk performance. Overnight in Budapest.
- ☐ Fri., Sept. 10 : Depart Budapest and travel towards Germany where we will overnight in Nurnberg.
- ☐ Sat., Sept. 11 : Depart Nurnberg, travel thru Frankfurt, Germany arriving in Belgium in the evening.
- ☐ Sun., Sept. 12 : **Free Day**
- ☐ Mon., Sept. 13 : **Group Day** - Visit the city of "HUY" – your host family will take you to Huy where we will meet at 10:00 a.m to visit the "Postainiers Hutois" (Pewter Factory) - lunch will be on our own. In the afternoon we'll visit the museum and at 4.00 p.m. there will be a reception at the City Hall with Mrs. Anne-Marie LIZIN, Senateur-Bourgmestre.
- ☐ Tues., Sept. 14 : **Free Day**
- ☐ Wed., Sept. 15 : **Free Day**
- ☐ Thurs., Sept. 16 : **Group Day** - Reception at 6:00 p.m. in the town of Grez Doiceau. Program to follow.
- ☐ Fri., Sept. 17: **Free Day**
- ☐ Sat., Sept. 18: **Group Day** – Farewell Dinner at the Airbase in Beauvechain - Museum visit (10:00 a.m.), 12:00 Lunch
- ☐ Sun., Sept. 19: **Free Day**
- ☐ Mon., Sept. 20: Depart for Home

**IN MEMORIUM**

We would like to extend our condolences to the families of **Margaret Draize and Yves Paquet**

Mrs. Ivan (Margaret) Draize, 77, Luxemburg, died May 26, 2004, at St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay, WI. She was born in the Town of Union to Mary Lampereur. In 1946, Margaret married Ivan Draize. Margaret taught elementary school for 44 years, and tutored students privately until 2003. Burial was May 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary of the Snows Cemetery, Namur.



**Margaret Draize**


"We felt deep sorrow when we heard that our very dear friend, MARGARET DRAIZE, had passed away - - she left us too soon. She was devoted to everyone, always ready to help, and always very concerned about our family. She was our "mother and grandmother" on the other side of the ocean. Margaret will always be in our thoughts.

Our deepest sympathy for Ivan who has been her companion for 57 years."

Jacques, Jacqueline, Carine and Olivier Jacqmot

**Yves Paquet**

*"Yves, C'esteëve ... on-ome avou on keûr grand au laudje po tot qui què l'concheëve èt po tos les cias qu'i saveëve aîdi. Si passion s'comuniqève come si-t-amouïr po sès racènes èt po l'Walon. C'esteëve on lûteû plûn d'coraûje. Nos lavans pièrdû; nos-avans tortos èt l'pwin.ne..."*

Generoso		Chaleureux
Idealista		Alegre
Généreux		Entusiasta
Persévérant		Sensible
Meneur		Disponible
A l'écoute		Conciliateur
Sincero		Obstiné

02/06/1953 – 16/05/2004

Rue de Loncée 165 5030 Gembloux

**NOTE:** A week before Yves passed away he talked about the CD that he had available for our members. It contains two separate videos of interviews with local Walloon speaking people, and the Belgian Days parade (2003) in Brussels, Wisconsin. The videos were also televised at CanalZoom in Belgium, and on the Internet at [www.canalzoom.com](http://www.canalzoom.com).

Yves had also expressed an interest in coming to Wisconsin during the summer to teach Walloon, and the possibility of doing theatrical plays in Walloon. He was very dedicated to keeping the Walloon language alive both here and in Belgium.

### Donate A Brick

We have started a fund raising project to help cover expenses for a sidewalk. We hope to raise enough funds to install a sidewalk from the parking lot up to the front steps of the school house. If we go over the amount we need, the extra money will be put into our general fund.

Please help support our "Donate A Brick" fundraising project! A space has been provided on the "Membership Form" for anyone who would like to make a donation of **\$1 per brick**.

*Thank you for your support!*



### Traveling Back.....

*Door County Advocate – Sturgeon Bay, WI*

#### April 27, 1928

The Luxemburg City Council will sell the 1926 Harley-Davidson motorcycle originally purchased for the city cop, there being nobody at present who knows how to operate it. Births: Boy to M/M Alvin DELFORGE, Rosiere, April 22; M/M Clarence LA LUZERNE, Gardner, April 22.

#### June 28, 1929

Wed: Louise MASSART and Louis DEQUAINE, Rosiere, June 19; Miss Virgil POTIER and William BOSMAN, Nasewaupsee, June 22.

#### May 14, 1904

The three Belgian towns are the only ones in the county not receiving rural delivery.

### News & Events

- The DOOR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY has presented our club with a plaque to commemorate the school's historical value. It will be placed on the outside of the school near the front door. A map will be published by the Historical Society that will include the location of the school.
- Volunteers needed for "**Belgian Farm Day**" at Heritage Hill. For more information, contact Kristen Alberts at (920) 825-1495.
- Next **Cleanup Day** will be Thursday, **July 15** – day of the meeting. Please contact Jim Lampereur prior to coming to confirm date and time. (920) 866-2189.

July 15 (Thursday).....	6:30 – Genealogy, Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
August 6-8.....	Club Trip to Napanee, Indiana
August 16 (Coun's C Club)	Door County Historical Society Barb Chisholm – presenter "The Peshtigo Fire"
August 19 (Thursday).....	6:30 - Genealogy, Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
August 21 .....	"Belgian Farm Day" at Heritage Hill
August (TBD) .....	WDOR Interview with Member of the Peninsula Belgian American Club
September 2-20.....	Club Trip to Belgium
September 23 (Thursday)..	Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
October 21 (Thursday) .....	Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

### Belgium Consulate to Close

The Belgian diplomats at 333 N. Michigan Ave. in Chicago have taken down their flag, and closed the doors at the same time that Mexicans welcomed a new consulate. The Belgium consulate was one of the oldest diplomatic postings that was eliminated June 30 after 150 years.

Mexicans welcome their new consulate as a validation of their growing stature, while Belgians are lamenting the closing as the continued dismantling of their legacy in Chicago.

Christina Reynen, who is researching a book about Belgians in Chicago, said the consulate's closing affirms that her people's stature in the Midwest has faded. "This is really the end of something," said Reynen, scholar-in-residence at the Newberry Library. "We may not have the numbers of the Germans or the Irish, but Belgians are part of Chicago history. This seems to be a moment in time where people are saying, "Don't let that disappear."

Historical accounts note that Switzerland became Chicago's first diplomatic presence in 1864. One Belgian government report describes the posting of Adolphe Poncelet as an unpaid consular representative on June 29, 1854. In a dispatch, Poncelet pays tribute to the "Queen of the Lakes" but complains about the cold. Europeans, many arriving through Ellis Island, fueled migration to Chicago in the late 19th Century and early 20th Century. The 1920 census reported 11,329 Belgian-born residents in Illinois, three times the Mexican population.

The share of Chicago's immigrants from Europe dropped from 88 percent to 26 percent between 1960 and 2000, according to a Roosevelt University study. The number of Mexican-born residents in the Chicago area increased 25-fold during that time.

### Peshtigo Fire

#### Do you have any stories to share?

Barb Chisholm is working on a speech about the Peshtigo Fire that she'll be presenting for the Door County Historical Society. If you have any stories that were passed down from your ancestors, please contact Barb at (920) 743-5969.

### Website Links

Searchable WWII Database of U.S. Veterans. **The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War.**  
<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/>

**Walloon Encyclopedia**  
<http://wa.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adjeyant>

Information on the **Red Star line**:  
<http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/lines/redstar.html>

**Additional website Links for research can be found on our website in the Resource and Links section at:**  
[www.rootsweb.com/~wipbac/resources.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wipbac/resources.htm)

# Membership Dues

**\$10 per Person**

Due by **May 31<sup>st</sup>** each year

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**Peninsula Belgian American Club**

**MAIL TO: Kim Potier Davis  
1255 N 12<sup>th</sup> Pl  
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235**

**Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want a membership card sent by mail.**

Member Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname of Spouse (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Do You Speak Walloon? \_\_\_\_\_

## Newsletter

Would you like to receive the newsletter or club updates by E-mail:

Newsletter  Updates Only

Provide E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Donation

Amount of Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *(If no designation is indicated below, donation will be put in the general fund)*

**Designation:** Donate a Brick:  General Maintenance Fund:  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Dedication:** To make a donation on behalf of or in memory of another person, please enter the person's name. \_\_\_\_\_



Peninsula Belgian American Club



1255 N 12<sup>th</sup> Place

Sturgeon Bay WI 54235-1159 USA