



Peninsula Belgian-American Club

www.rootsweb.com/~wipbac

March 2005

PBAC Meeting
April 21, 2005
7:30 p.m.

Happy Birthday
Belgium!

175 Yesrs

Belgium is celebrating the 175th anniversary of its independence and the 25th anniversary of the federal state. This will be a festive year!

Inside

- Belgium, Wisconsin
- New York City
- Keeping the Spirit Alive
- Book Donation - Algoma Library
- Lincoln School 1910



This thin covering of snow fell in Belgium at the end of February. There was no sign of snow on March 17th when it was 65 degrees and the Spring flowers were in bloom. Photo submitted by Jacques Jacqmot.

Belgian Visitors to Wisconsin July 7-25, 2005

- Louis BEULLENS
- Marcelle GUEULETTE
- Willy HANNON
- Lucienne MARICQ
- Jacques JACQMOT
- Jacqueline BORGERS
- Roger LECUT
- Roger MAWET
- Liliane LESAGE
- Mathilde MOUTOY
and granddaughter
- Marianne VANDERKELEN
- Monique WINAND
- Adh mar VAN MEERBEEK
- Huguette SMET
- Jos  MAYNE

What is the Wallonie-Wisconsin Society?

In 1972 Harry Chaudoir met Dr. Joseph Binnard, a doctor in Manitowoc and with his help, the first trip to Belgium was started. During their first trip they ended up in the Flemish sector of Belgium. Of course, their Walloon friends wanted to know why they were not staying with them. So, in 1974 with the help of Lucien Leonard of Namur, Belgium the club went on their second trip to Namur. The Walloon people were overjoyed to see them and they were all excited about meeting their relatives for the first time. They had about 170 members on this trip that was organized by Austin Allard and Harry Chaudoir.

And...so began the Wallonie-Wisconsin Society.

The Belgians started coming to the U.S. for the first time in 1975 with approximately 200 people, making it necessary for them to travel on two planes. Mr. Lucien Leonard was the first President of the Wallonie-Wisconsin Club and he also organized the trips to Wisconsin with his officers. This tradition of biennial visits continues today.

Current officers for the Wallonie-Wisconsin Society are Jacques Jacqmot, President; Jacqueline Borgers, Secretary; Willy Hannon, Treasurer; Trustee Willy Monfils and Adhemar Van Meerbeek; and Trustees Jacqueline Lefevre, Bernadette Rusmont, Huegette Smet.

Thank You Representative Gielow

Thank you to Representative Curt Gielow, 23rd Assy. District, for the U.S. and Wisconsin flags that were donated to our club.



*See New York City
With Our Belgian Visitors
July 11-20*

Day 1, Monday

Sit back and get acquainted with fellow travelers on our way to Maumee, OH.

Day 2, Tuesday

Enjoy the scenic countryside as we continue to the Amish country of Lancaster, PA

Day 3, Wednesday

This morning we'll sample the Amish customs of the area. Traveling on we arrive at beautiful Longwood Gardens, a magnificent horticultural showplace encompassing 1,050 gardens, woodlands and meadows. This evening we'll rest in Exton, PA.

Day 4, Thursday

A local guide takes us on a guided walking tour of the Philadelphia Historic District including Independence Hall, Society Hall and the Liberty Bell. Late afternoon we arrive in the "Big Apple" where the Crowne Plaza Hotel in midtown Manhattan provides our lodging for four nights. This award winning hotel is located in the heart of the Historic Theater District with 5th Avenue shopping only three blocks away.

Day 5, Friday

Our extensive narrated tour of New York City acquaints us with such New York City landmarks as United Nations Headquarters, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rockefeller Center, Ground Zero and Chinatown. Following our dinner this evening we have tickets to a popular Broadway Play.

Day 6, Saturday

We continue our extensive narrated tour of New York City with stops we missed on Day 5.

Day 7, Sunday

Our sightseeing today begins with a ferry ride to Ellis Island followed by a visit to the Statue of Liberty, the premier New York tourist attractions. Late afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy!

Day 8, Monday

Our day of travel takes us through the beautiful countryside of Pennsylvania into Wheeling, WV, where our accommodations are at the brand new Wheeling Island Hotel.

Day 9, Tuesday

Before departing Wheeling you will have an opportunity to visit the Oglebay Glass Museum and Outlet Shop. Our route takes us to Indianapolis, IN. We'll enjoy a delicious farewell dinner recalling our tour memories at the Hollyhock Hill Restaurant.

Day 10, Wednesday

We've had a wonderful nine days together, but today we must return home. Just think of all the wonderful sights and sounds we have experienced.

Please contact Care-Free Travel if you are interested in joining the Belgians on their trip to New York City

Cost: Double \$1849

**(920) 866-9733
carefree@centurytel.net**

OFFICERS

President - James Lampereur

5405 Oak Leaf Dr

Luxemburg, WI 54217

Tel: 920-866-2189

E-mail: joyce.lampereur@greenbaynet.com

Vice President - Allen Alexander

1262 Bayshore Rd

Brussels, WI 54204

Tel: 920-825-1328

E-mail: atalexander@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer – Kim Potier Davis

1255 N 12th Pl

Sturgeon Bay WI 54235-1159

Tel: 920-743-4973

E-mail: kmprd@charter.net

Trustees - Mary Ann Defnet, Bertha Villers, Roger Ferron

Chaplain – Fr. Sam Jadin

In Memorium

*We would like to extend our condolences
to the family of*

Dora Banenen

and to

*Mary Ann Defnet on the loss of her son in
January. Our thoughts are with you.*

Vandenhouten Reunion

There will be a Family Reunion for all Vandenhouten's on Sunday, August 21st, from 1-4 p.m. at the Brussels park.

For questions, call Gary Vanden Houten at (920) 887-2529 or email elhoot@charter.net

Traveling Back...

Door County Advocate – Sturgeon Bay, WI

125 Years Ago, March 25, 1880

Edward Vangintertaelen, treasurer of the Town of Brussels, informs us that diphtheria is raging in the Belgian Settlement. About 30 fatal cases have occurred. Among the dead are 5 of the 7 Alex LEGRAF children in the Kewaunee County Town of Lincoln and children of Matthais SWABODA of Brussels, Desire ENGLEBERT, Frank FUMAL and Charles VANGINTERTAELEN.

Ancestral Corner



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

Books Donated to Algoma Public Library

PBAC member Michael Dearing is donating the following books to the Algoma Public Library in March. They will join other holdings in the genealogy reference section.

17200 BELGES DEVENUS AMÉRICAINS 1620 – 1920

by Marcel Lacourt

(17,200 Belgians become American 1620-1920; a list of 17,200 Belgians by surname, given name, date of birth, Belgian village of origin, spouse's maiden name, spouse's given name, ship, date of departure, date of arrival, port, destination, state, date of death, and place of death)

li creûjète do p'tit «guèc»: lingadje walon do payis d'Moùse

by George Puissant, 1981, a special edition of Les Cahiers Wallons.

(A picture lexicon of 450 Wallon nouns with a glossary in Wallon, French and English.)

500 verbes wallons des bords de Meuse

by George Puissant, 1986, a special edition of Les Cahiers Wallons. (A picture lexicon of 500 Wallon verbs with an interspersed glossary in Wallon, French, English, and Italian.)

Wallonie IS TELLING YOU: His sumed up STORY, by Lès Rêls Namurwès, 1982 (translation), a special edition of Les Cahiers Wallons (A history of Wallonia from 500 BCE to 2500 CE; its language, its people, its geography, and its impact on the world; very poorly translated into English but you can get all the meaning.)

Sur des noms de famille namurois, by Omer Jodogne, a special edition of Les Cahiers Wallons. (An etymology of the names of the families of Namur, Belgium, with an appendix on the Wallons and history by M. Rousseau.)

Jean Baptiste Nazé, Family & Friends: A Pictorial History 1880 - 1970 by Michael Dearing, Agnes (Nazé) Mazur, and Libbie (Nazé) Dearing. (The first pictorial volume

of a family history, indexed and including an extensive family tree in table format.)

The King Baudouin Foundation United States

is pleased to announce that it is moving its offices. Starting **February 1, 2005**, our contact information is as follows :

King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS)
10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10020
phone (212) 713 7660 - fax (212) 713 7665

jeanpaul@kbfus.org - www.kbfus.org

The King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS) assists individuals, foundations and corporations with their charitable investments throughout Europe and in some countries of Central Africa. KBFUS also advises European nonprofits seeking to raise funds in the United States, and coordinates transatlantic study trips or longer term exchanges for men and women of talent. KBFUS is a Section 501(c)(3) public charity and is associated with the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF), based in Brussels, Belgium, a founding partner of the European Foundation Center.

Lincoln School - 1910



One of the students pictured above in this May 27, 1910 photo is Fred Bouchonville at the age of 5-1/2 yrs. He went to Lincoln School, Jct. 1, Kewaunee County. His teacher was Ruth Vollmer. Do you know anyone else in this photo?

Submitted by Pat Targett (ptargett@accnorwalk.com)

Belgium, Wisconsin



A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held in the Village of Belgium to open a new subdivision - Ardennes II. All the streets are named for Belgian cities. PBAC club members Fr. Sam Jadin (second from right) and Lila Mueller, Village Clerk-Treasurer (fourth from right), were in attendance for the ceremony and reception. Photo submitted by Lila Mueller.

“The Village with a Heart”

The Village of Belgium, population 1,800, is known as the village with a heart. The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is known as the “Green Heart of Europe” and the province of Luxembourg exists in the country of Belgium. While the first immigrants to the village came from Luxembourg, neighboring settlers referred to this as “the Belgium area” because at that time much of Luxembourg was ruled by Belgium. The current residents still celebrate their heritage throughout the year.

Belgique Luxembourgers -- from the part of old Luxembourg annexed by Belgium--settled in the area of the present Township and Village of Belgium, Wisconsin, in the middle of the 19th century. Descendants of the original families still live in the area today, and preserve their heritage.

Belgium, with it's old world charm and natural scenic beauty, is located on the shore of Lake Michigan in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, between Sheboygan and Milwaukee.

<http://www.village.belgium.wi.us/index.htm>

Belgian-American Research Digital Collection

“University of Wisconsin – Green Bay”

A pilot project was undertaken in 1975-1976 to establish a Belgian-American Ethnic Resource Collection in the Special Collections Department of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Cofrin Library. The objective was to record the undocumented historical, social, and cultural legacy of this unique ethnic group. Funding was provided by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial Commission and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Digital Collection

In an effort to make this unique historical and cultural collection more accessible, a project was undertaken to digitize components of the materials. The photographs, oral history tapes and abstracts, and select publications from the Belgian American Resource Collection have been scanned. As time permits and technology changes, additional materials will be made available digitally.

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/BelgAmrCol>

Website Links

St. Louis Catholic Church Cemetery
 “Red River Township”
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wikewau/cem27.htm>

Belgian License Plates
 The front plates are provided by the owner and can be obtained everywhere (in Belgium).

A web site with images of the plates:
<http://www.olavsplates.com/belgium.html>

The official website is:
<http://www.mobilit.fgov.be/>
 (French/Dutch) and click on DIV .
 For the addresses, phone numbers, .. click on the link Bruxelles/Brussel at the end of the page.

A page with the plates from 1899 on:
http://www.worldlicenseplates.com/world/EU_BELG.html

U.S. Census Online 1850, 1860, 1870

Census Data for Belgian born citizens has been extracted from the census records for 1850, 1860, 1870 and transcribed by **Kathleen Race and Guy Gallez** for the USGenWeb Census Project. **A BIG THANK YOU to BOTH!**

Follow the Links:

1. <http://home.tiscali.be/gallez.nic/index.htm>
2. “Belgians in America”
3. “American Census for 1850, 1860, 1870”
4. **Select State from List**
5. **Select County/Township**

21,989 names are listed in this index, most appear only once, but some are in two or three census.

They are transcribed as they have been deciphered from the original microfilmed pages so the same person can be referenced with different spelling variations, depending on the year of the census.

Keep
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MARY CHAUDOIR has long dreamed of living in Belgium, the homeland of her ancestors. That dream finally came true when she moved to Belgium at the end of December, arriving in time to celebrate New Year's eve.

During her 3-months in Belgium Mary has been working at the "Academy of Languages", a private school, where she has been teaching English to corporate employees and students of all ages. Mary was recently invited to speak to a class of 22 students at a school (shown above and below) in the Wallonie region which gave her the opportunity to talk about the Peninsula Belgian American Club and the Belgians who emigrated to America many years ago. The students were very surprised to hear that Walloon speaking people still live in Wisconsin today.

Since settling in with relatives in the Ardennes 3 months ago – Mary has had the opportunity to do a lot of sightseeing in Belgium in addition to visiting Rome, Swiss Alps, Germany, and many friends and relatives.



Membership Dues

\$10 per Person

Due by **May 31st** each year

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Peninsula Belgian American Club

**MAIL TO: Kim Potier Davis
1255 N 12th 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 Both

Provide E-mail Address: _____

Donation

Amount of Donation: \$ _____ **Designation:** 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 12th Place
Sturgeon Bay WI 54235-1159 USA