



Peninsula Belgian-American Club

www.belgianamerican.org

June 2006

BELGIUM TRIP 2006

"Seats Available"
due to cancellation

Contact Kim for Details
(920) 743-4973
kmpd@charter.net

BELGIAN DAYS July 8-9, 2006

Brussels, Wisconsin

Visit us at the "PBAC"
booth after the Parade!

Inside

- Letter from President
- June Meeting Notes
- Roosevelt School - Misere
- White Star Church
- Traveling Back - 125 Yrs.
- Belgian Recipes
- Red River County Park

Native American Indians in Red River Area

The peninsula between Lake Michigan and the waters of Green Bay had always been well-traveled by the roaming Indian tribes in search of food, or tribal trade. Travel was much easier by water than by going through the forests.

The Indian tribes found most often on the Door-Kewaunee County peninsula were mostly of Algonquin linguistic stock, such as the Potawatomi, Chippewa, Ottawa and Menominee. The Ottawas gradually disappeared from Red River in the early 1800s, but others came to take their place. Kewaunee County was inhabited by the Native American Potawatomi for more than three hundred years before Jean Nicolet set foot on the Kewaunee shore in 1634. The name "Kewaunee" is Potawatomi for "We are lost".

A group of Menominee Indians moved into the Red River area, replacing the Ottawas. When O KEE WAH was confirmed by the Milwaukee bishop of the Catholic Church in 1834, she was living at Red River. Two of her children continued to live there with their families for many years among their Belgian neighbors. Not all of the other Indians who held land there were so fortunate. Some sold their property, but many neglected to pay their taxes, resulting in the sheriff taking out tax deeds on their lands, forcing them to leave.

The Green Bay land office moved to Menasha in July 1852 and advertised numerous sections of wooded lands to the immigrants who were about to invade northeast Wisconsin. When the Walloon settlers came to the Red River area, they found only a few Indian cabins remaining in the wilderness north of Bay Settlement.

Belgian immigrants had very little contact with other settlers in the area. The people who came to visit the Belgians most often were the American Indians, most of whom had never seen white people before: "The years we were in the woods we saw savages, but they were honest. They would point to their mouth asking for something to eat. Before entering, they would leave their guns at the door."

When the first immigrants settled in Robinsonville, they found the Potawatomi

"The Native American from whom our family had gotten their land from in uptown Champion had lived in their barn and worked with them until he died years later. They invited him to come live in the house with them, but he was happy to have his own space near the animals"

DBAC Member



assured each other of their kindest feelings. The Belgians and Indians were on friendly terms, the Indians teaching the newcomers what they knew, and giving them advice when necessary.

The settlers suffered rugged winters but endured with the help of the Indians. In the spring the Indians taught them how to tap maple trees and make maple syrup and sugar out of the sap. They also taught them how to snare wild animals, such as bear and deer, which would provide the settlers with meat. In addition, the Indians taught them how to smoke meat for preserving quality.

Continued on page 2

*Native American Indians
in Red River*

Red River - - Kewaunee County, WI

Red River is located 2 mi. north of Dyckesville.

Col. Samuel Stambaugh described the Red River area after a visit in 1831.

"About seven miles below (northeast of) the Red Banks there is a recess in the land continuing a distance of probably three miles along which is a bold pebbly shore, the banks rising from three to six feet above the level of the Bay. Near the center of this recess there is a small stream of water gushing from the forest into the Bay, which is called Red River. About seven hundred yards above the mouth of this stream following its course over a bed of rocks, there is a natural cascade, over which this stream falls, perpendicularly, about thirty-five feet. This sheet of water is about twenty feet in width, and first strikes a solid rock, and then bounds over a space of about five feet more into a basin beautifully formed, where the water appears as clear as crystal, it is four feet deep. The water is very cold and delicious. The space immediately occupied by the cascade is probably one hundred and fifty feet in circumference; and may truly be called a lovely spot. The wall or bastions supporting it are composed of rock, arranged in horizontal strata with surprising regularity. On the east side of the cascade there are natural stairs...leading by a gradual and safe ascent to the level above and on every side there are large trees standing on the brink of the precipices. On the east and west side of the cascade are several pyramids formed of solid rock, standing entirely isolated. After the water leaves the basin, a short distance, it disappears under the rocky bed of the Bay...a rapid and handsome stream of water. There is a beautiful cove below the cascade, about a hundred and fifty yards, of an oval shape nearly surrounded by huge banks, which contain about twenty acres of the richest land, and is covered with a grove of Oak, Maple and Butter-Nut trees of vigorous growth."

The rushing waters of Red River and the natural harbor attracted people to the site. The waterpower was harnessed to provide power for gristmills and sawmills. Commercial fishermen and ice-gatherers used the site.

Today, Red River County Park provides a place to put in boats or have a picnic.

Sources:

- Our Marchant Relatives
- The History of the Belgian Settlements

Next Meeting

THURSDAY, JULY 20TH
Schoolhouse – Namur, WI
7:30pm

Roosevelt School, Misere, Door County - 1938



These students won first place in authentic Belgian square dancing and went to the State Fair in 1939. The students were in 6, 7, 8th grades. Harold Gilson was the teacher although primary teacher Clarice Dionne also worked with the students and with Mr. Gilson, taught music and researched Belgian dance, songs and costumes.

1. Betty Rubens, 2. Rouer, 3. - -, 4. Gilson, 5. - -, 6. Maccoux, 7. Vandertie, 8. Rouer, 9. Rubens, 10. Bouche, 11. DeDecker

Can anyone fill in the missing names above?

White Star Psychic Science Church

Have you searched for ancestors that you can't locate... maybe you'll find them here!



White Star Psychic Science Church, Brussels, Wis.

Spiritualism has been described as a Religion, Philosophy and Science in one

Founded in the 1880s by John B. EVEARTS, the White Star Church is located near Brussels in the Gardner area.

John EVEARTS owned a thriving tavern business in Green Bay when his wife became very ill. After doctors offered no hope, John turned to a spiritualist medium out of desperation who was said to possess the gift of healing. After a short series of treatments, John's wife made a complete recovery. The medium told John that he also had the gift of healing, and the gift of prophecy. Greatly impressed about what the medium told him, and his wife's recovery, John sold his business and began developing his powers as a medium. Soon he had a modest following.

Rev. Stevnard, pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church got wind of Evearts' activities and resolved to put an end to them. He declared that no one could communicate with the dead - such a feat would be impossible if he, a priest, were present and forbade it. A \$1,000 bet was made between one of the Spiritualist followers, a Mr. DUCHATEAU, and the priest. Duchateau bet that Evearts could indeed communicate with the Spirit world and the priest bet that he could not.

A confrontation was scheduled for June 22, 1885 at the home of an impartial local resident. Over one hundred spectators assembled on the chosen date, eager to witness the showdown. Most were members of St. John's Catholic Church. Evearts showed up on time, and the priest didn't show, but was eventually fetched in a horse and buggy. When the priest reluctantly arrived, he claimed

that he had never made the bet and rebuked his parishioners for attending such a spectacle. As a result of this debacle, the priest lost more than 40 families from his congregation, who then followed Evearts and became Spiritualists. They met in private homes until 1888 when the White Star Spiritualist Church was built.

It's important to note that the White Star Spiritualist cemetery (aka First Spiritualist Cemetery, Town of Brussels) is not located next to the church. Although the White Star cemetery was established in the early 1880's, the earliest markers are for three members of the CORBISIER family who died in 1888, 1896, and 1898. Other names referenced as of May 14, 1977 are AMBROISE, BALZA, BARNARD, BELZA, CONARD, COUNARD, DACHELET, DALEMONT, DANDOIS, DEBROUX, DELSART, DELVEAUX, DEWARZEGER, DERENNE, DRAIZE, FOSHION, HERLACHE, HERMAN, HERMIS, JENQUIN, KNAPP, LATOUR, LAVIOLETTE, LESSUISE, NEVUE, PELLTIER, TWELE, VANGINDERTAELEN, VRANKEN, VRANKIN, WEBER.

Before this burial ground was set aside, members of the faith were buried in a corner of the George DELVEAUX farm at the corner of Brussels and Cemetery road in Gardner Township. There are no markers of any kind at this spot although 18 persons are said to have been buried there.

The White Star Spiritualist Church thrived from its inception, and by 1917 it had 300 members. Although its congregation is smaller than in the past, it has been in continuous operation since the beginning. The White Star Church is the only Spiritualist church remaining in Northeast Wisconsin and one of the few remaining Psychic Science Churches in the state of Wisconsin.

French Spiritualist Church – Luxemburg, WI

After the Civil War, a group of veterans of Belgian nationalism brought back with them a new religion to Kewaunee County, called Spiritualism, this sect involved themselves in performances of bringing back the dead with séances.

The leader of this group was Desire LACOURT. He and his brother-in-law Francois "Frank" JACQUE, "Minister", turned an old house into a church.

The French Spiritualist church existed in nearby Luxemburg until the 1920s when the church was torn down and the sect ceased to hold services. One reason was that a gentleman of the same sect, who resided in Door County, cut his hand off to test the powers of his belief. When he died, so did the church.

French Spiritualist Cemetery

Frank Jacque deeded a portion of his farm to the church for use as a cemetery. Surnames recorded are: BARBIAUX, BOULANGER, FOCHION, GASPARD, GREZ, JACQUE, LACOURT, MELLERA, PETRY, PINCHART, and VINCENT.

Birth and Baptism records from the Record Book of the Spiritualist Circle

The medium of the French Spiritualist Church held services in Green Bay, Door and Kewaunee Counties. The record book (1973) is now in the possession of Mrs. Pearl Foshion, of Algoma. Translated from French and copied by George Richard Jr. Names referenced are BARBIAUX, PETRY, FOSSION, LACOURT, GASPARD, JACQUES, LOOZE, GERARD, LERAT, CHARNIER, WARY, VINCENT.

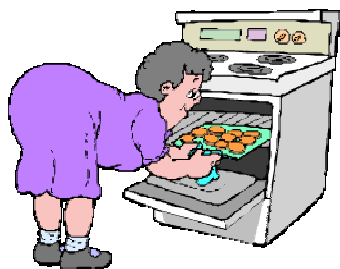
White Star Psychic Science Church

Sources Kewaunee County Website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wikewaun/cemetery.htm>
 White Star Spiritualist Website <http://whitestarchurch.tripod.com/index.html>
 The Door Voice – White Star Spiritualist Church by Paul & Frances Burton
 Spiritualist Cemetery list indexed by Judy Srnka and Beverly Diefenbach on May 14, 1977

Locations: **White Star Spiritualist Cemetery**
 Also referred to as “The First Spiritualist Cemetery” or “Town of Brussels Cemetery” - NW corner, NE ¼ SE ¼ Section 31, Gardner Township---about 0.1 mile off County Trunk C on County Trunk K; south side of road. Cemetery is about 1 mile from the church.

White Star Spiritualist Church
 If heading north on Highway 57, turn left on County “C” in Brussels, Wisconsin. The church is located 27 miles NE of Green Bay; and (4) miles north of Brussels at 2481 Cty Rd. “C”.

French Spiritualist Cemetery – Luxemburg Township, Kewaunee County.
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wikewaun/newcem.htm> Located on Hillview Road East of Walhain – ¼ mile North of State Hwy 54; and 1-1/2 mile west of the Village of Luxemburg. Parcel of land: NE ¼ SW ¼ Sec. 17 – T24N-R23E. Maintained in good condition by Township.



SAUCE for FRESH LETTUCE

Fry a few slices of side pork or bacon until done, but not crisp. Add a chopped onion and cook until translucent, stirring often. Add 1/3 cup of vinegar and 2/3 cup of water. Bring to a boil and then cool. If you don't want your lettuce to wilt, let sauce get almost cold. Set sugar bowl on the table for those who want it.

Strawberry or Raspberry Pie

Make a pie shell and fill it with about 2-1/2 cups of berries. To make a glaze simmer 1 cup washed, drained, hulled, and crushed berries with 2/3 cups water about 3 minutes. Blend in 1 cup sugar, 3 T. cornstarch and 1/3 cup water. Stir slowly into boiling mixture and boil 1 minute. Stir constantly, cool to lukewarm. Pour over the berries in the pie shell. Serve with whipped cream.

Some people like putting a layer of cold vanilla custard on the baked pie crust, and then covering it with fresh cleaned, washed and well drained berries before pouring on the glaze. This is also served with whipped cream. Strawberry pies in Belgium are similar to this but are in a sweet raised dough pie shell.

Source: *Belgian American Heritage – Customs and Cookbook* by Margaret Draize

PBAC June Meeting Notes

- School maintenance report: Roof needs to be replaced to prevent further damage - - currently has 3-4 layers of shingles, bid estimate is \$8,217 (40-yr warranty) and doesn't include gutters. Maintenance still required on steps; middle room and main area needs a coat of paint. Chapel has been painted. Insect spray that was used around building seems to have eliminated bug problem. New heater was installed, Windows have been caulked. More receptacles will eventually need to be installed. The upstairs living quarters has never been touched and would require a lot of work.
- New highway sign will be provided by the Department of Transportation when the new highway is complete that will direct visitors to the Namur historical district and monument.
- Finances were discussed with regards to the new roof. Certificate of Deposit will be cashed in early; and previous plans to do a fundraiser will not be necessary. However, a large portion of funds will be depleted and donations would be appreciated. Report by Nell DeBaker and a thank to the fundraising committee for the preliminary work they did.
- Belgian Days was discussed – thank you to Bruce Alberts for installing wheels on the giants. It should be easier to find volunteer(s) to roll them through the parade next year. Organizer needed for Belgian Days '07 to oversee the following: repair giants clothing; arrange for flatbed trailer to move giants to the parade; (2) people to maneuver giants; research options for future storage of giants; parade float; banner and (2) people to carry. Suggestion was made to obtain corporate sponsors for a banner. Booth space has been reserved for Belgian Days '06 - - club items will be sold, volunteers needed for booth.
- Discussion regarding status, and future, of St. Mary of the Snows Church.
- Thank you to Mary Ann Defnet for attending International Bay Fest at Leicht Park in Green Bay, on behalf of the PBAC - - (20) International flags were on the stage along with (8) people from different ethnic organizations.
- Discussion regarding new Flemish organization - - Dr. Joseph Binard was appointed the official rep of VFW (Vlaamingen in the Wereld – Flemish in the World) in Wisconsin and Florida. He will be organizing a club that groups people of Flemish descent; Green Bay has one of the highest concentrations of Flemish people. Members agreed that we would join efforts with the new group if the opportunity arises.

IN MEMORIUM

*With Deepest Sympathy
to the family of*

MARY HERLACHE

*“May the memories held deep
within your heart, help to soothe
your spirits.”*



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: kmpd@charter.net

Trustees - Mary Ann Defnet, Bertha Villers,
Randy Bouche
Chaplain – Fr. Sam Jadin

*Thank you for Helping to Preserve
Our Belgian Heritage*

Donations by...

Food Committee	Theresa Alexander
Michael DeGrand	Laverne Domach
Sue Havel	Janice Jandrin
Jeanne Koller	Joan Manduca
Owen Monfils	Fr. Pete Renard
Howard Roberg	Gary Vandenhouten
Sherman & Darlene VanDrise	William. Zingler

Norbert Tlachac (*In memory of Math Tlachac*)
John & Darlene Thenell (*In memory of Mary Herlache*)

TOTAL: \$277.00

Volunteers...

Bertha Villers for making the new curtains for the meeting room, and volunteering to be Trustee one more year. **Mary Ann Defnet** for representing our club at International Bay Fest in Green Bay. Cleanup at school to get ready for May's meeting: **Harry Chaudoir, Mary Chaudoir, Al Moore, Jim Lampereur, Bob LaLuzerne**. June meeting cleanup: **Harry Chaudoir, Jim Lampereur, Fr. Sam Jadin**. School Yard and Building Maintenance: **Al Moore; Al Alexander; Jim Lampereur; Randy Bouche**. Fundraising Committee: **Nell DeBaker (Chairperson); Barb Chisholm; Hillard DeKeyser; John and Barb Goral Lardinois; Debbie Matsen**. Food Committee volunteers: **Bernie Moore, Florence DeDecker, Barb Goral Lardinois, Joyce Lampereur, Bertha Villers, Nell DeBaker**.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Barrett.....Galt, CA
Bernard & Priscilla Baudhuin.....Brussels, WI
Neal & Mary (Renard) Bessett.....Green Bay, WI
Gary DeBauche.....Green Bay, WI
Bob DeGrave.....Green Bay, WI
Donat VandenHoutenSheboygan, WI
Lory VandenHouten.....Beaver Dam, WI
Mark VandenHouten.....Green Bay, WI

Wish List

- Copier for Genealogy Room
- Flags for the monument

TRAVELING BACK.....

Door County Advocate

125 Years Ago – June 30, 1881

The city of Ahnapee was visited Monday morning by a fire that destroyed five buildings. The fire originated in the barn of the Rosiere House owned by Joseph VILLERS. The blaze consumed both of Villers' buildings and then spread to the home and barn owned by Telesphore CHARLES and a granary belonging to Fax Bros.

**\$12 Due by
May 31st**

2006-07 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Have you paid your dues for this year?

- New Member Name(s) _____
- Renewal Address _____

"Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for membership card"

Amount Enclosed for Dues \$ _____

Amount for Donation \$ _____ *(Used for maintenance on schoolhouse in Namur)*

(In Memory of...) _____ (if applicable)

How would you like to receive your "Newsletter?"

- By E-mail (color) - - address: _____
- I'm unable to receive E-mail - - send a B/W paper copy by regular mail.

Coming Soon: www.belgianamerican.org

 Peninsula Belgian American Club 

1255 N 12th Place

Sturgeon Bay WI 54235-1159 USA