

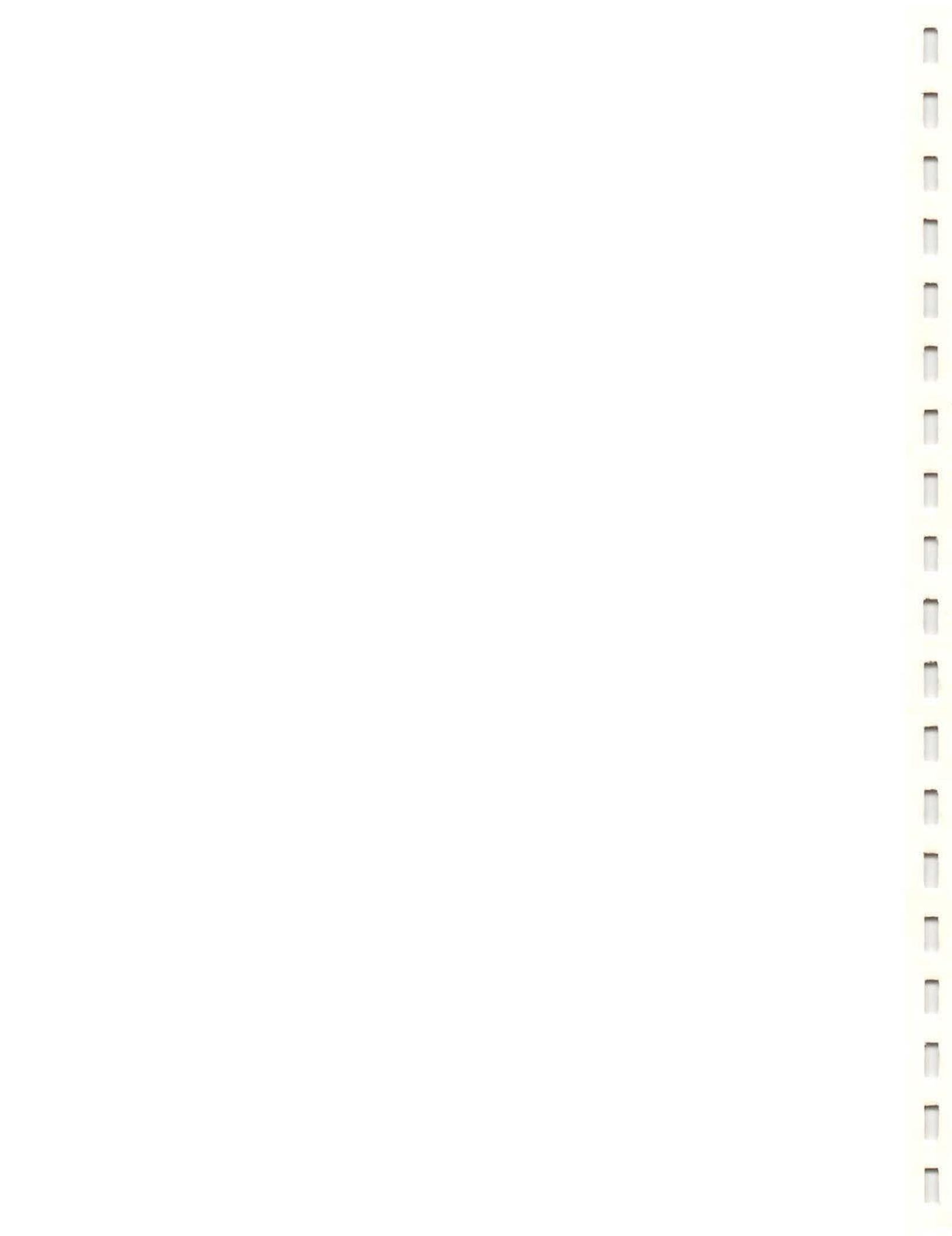
# The Flemish In Wisconsin



**De Vlamingen  
In Wisconsin**



**by Jeanne and Les Rentmeester**



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the Diocese of Green Bay.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PREFACE

While researching some Brown County, Wisconsin records for our book, Memories Of Old Duck Creek, we were surprised to find that over one-fourth of the early families living in that area during 1860-1880 were Flemish. Later, as we continued our research, we found similar percentages of Flemish families in other areas. This, to quote from Alice In Wonderland, made us "curiouser and curioser" about the Flemish settlements in Wisconsin.

To many people, the Flemish are a small and relatively unknown group. Quite often, when the name is heard, one thinks of the famous Flemish painters or of the poem, In Flanders Fields, which was so popular during the First World-War period.

Some people who were raised in the area east of Green Bay, which was almost solidly Flemish, remember a culture that in retrospect, was unique and special. They remember, for instance:

- hearing the Flemish language used widely in the area. Andrew W. Rentmeester and Anna Vander Kelen Rentmeester (parents of author Les Rentmeester) both spoke Flemish before they spoke English, although their parents came to Wisconsin around 1856.
- the wooden shoes. Many of the children wore wooden shoes for the first two generations of Flemish-Americans. (Anna Vander Kelen Rentmeester wore them.)
- the celebrations. The Flemish brought their customs over with them, such as the visit from Saint Nickolas who was called Sinterklass; the long Kermis celebration; the pensenkermis, etc., thus retaining their identity as an ethnic group for some time.
- the ethnic pride. The Flemish didn't think of themselves as Belgians. When asked where their folks came from, they generally gave the name of the province, e.g., Brabant. (Many of the early Flemish settlers were born before the Kingdom of Belgium was established.)
- the commons, a cow pasture. Joannes Park in Green Bay was named for

a prosperous Flemish family and was used by the people of Green Bay years ago, as a commons, to provide pasture for their cows in the summertime. When asked the reason for this, Andrew Rentmeester answered, "That's the way they did it in the Old Country."

- the stories. Talk about the "Old Country" - Flanders - was a common subject of discussion. The question was often asked, "When are you going to visit the Old Country?" Many did. However, many were like the Vanden Bornes, who responded, "Never!" Their memories were still vivid of the severe storms at sea, the broken masts, the fights over food, the cooking and sanitation conditions that were suffered enroute.

- the use of patronyms. Andrew Rentmeester and other Flemish men were addressed, years ago, by their patronym (the person's first name and the father's first name ).

- the Flemish pastors. A parish priest, who was a graduate of the Flemish University at Louvain\*, sowed ambitions in the minds of his mass-servers to go to The University Of Louvain. Parish priests gave sermons in Flemish to congregations at St. John the Baptist, Holy Martyrs of Gorcum, St. Willebrords and other churches until the turn of the century.

The memories of the early Flemish settlers in Wisconsin are fading and it is difficult to find many of their descendants who still speak the Flemish language. The last wave of Flemish immigrants came over just before the First World War. They were escorted to the train-station in Belgium, often to the music of the local band, and they were given a hearty welcome by their relatives as they arrived safely on this side of the Atlantic. Those who hold the memories of these exciting times are disappearing from the scene.

Thus, we are writing a history of those people to record the Flemish stories before they are lost forever. The American melting pot homogenizes the various cultures in such a way that the uniqueness, customs, language and characteristics of each ethnic group is soon gone and left only to history. Although many stories have been written in the past about the Walloon Belgians, we have seen only a few accounts written about the Flemish.

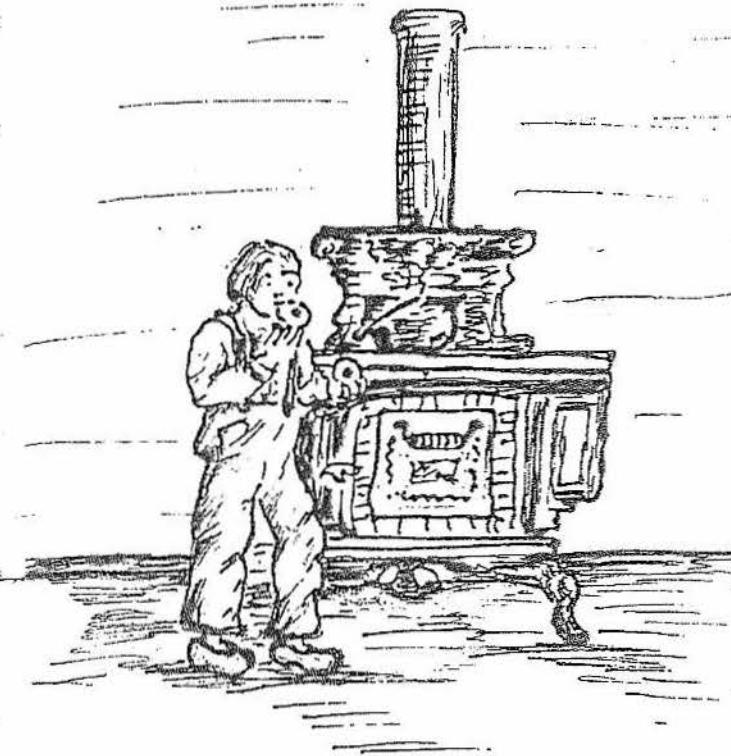
In particular, we tried to collect anecdotes from those

\*This is the French spelling, the Flemish spell it Leuven.

who remember what it was like to be Flemish in new American surroundings. We have combined these interviews with the data from official records and historical data in an effort to produce a readable, interesting narrative. In order to keep the story from becoming too long, we have tried to limit the content to events that occurred before 1900. Readers were invited, through the media, to give us comments, additions and corrections in order to make this Flemish history more accurate and complete. The response was overwhelming. Scores of people have provided us with family histories, anecdotes, mass-cards, photographs and other treasures. We hope that we have done justice to the Flemish heritage which we share with these wonderful people.

This story is dedicated to all of those Flemish pioneers who have contributed to this country's greatness and in particular to Anna Theresa Vander Kelen and Andrew William Rentmeester.

\* \* \* \* \*



#### A FLEMISH CUSTOM

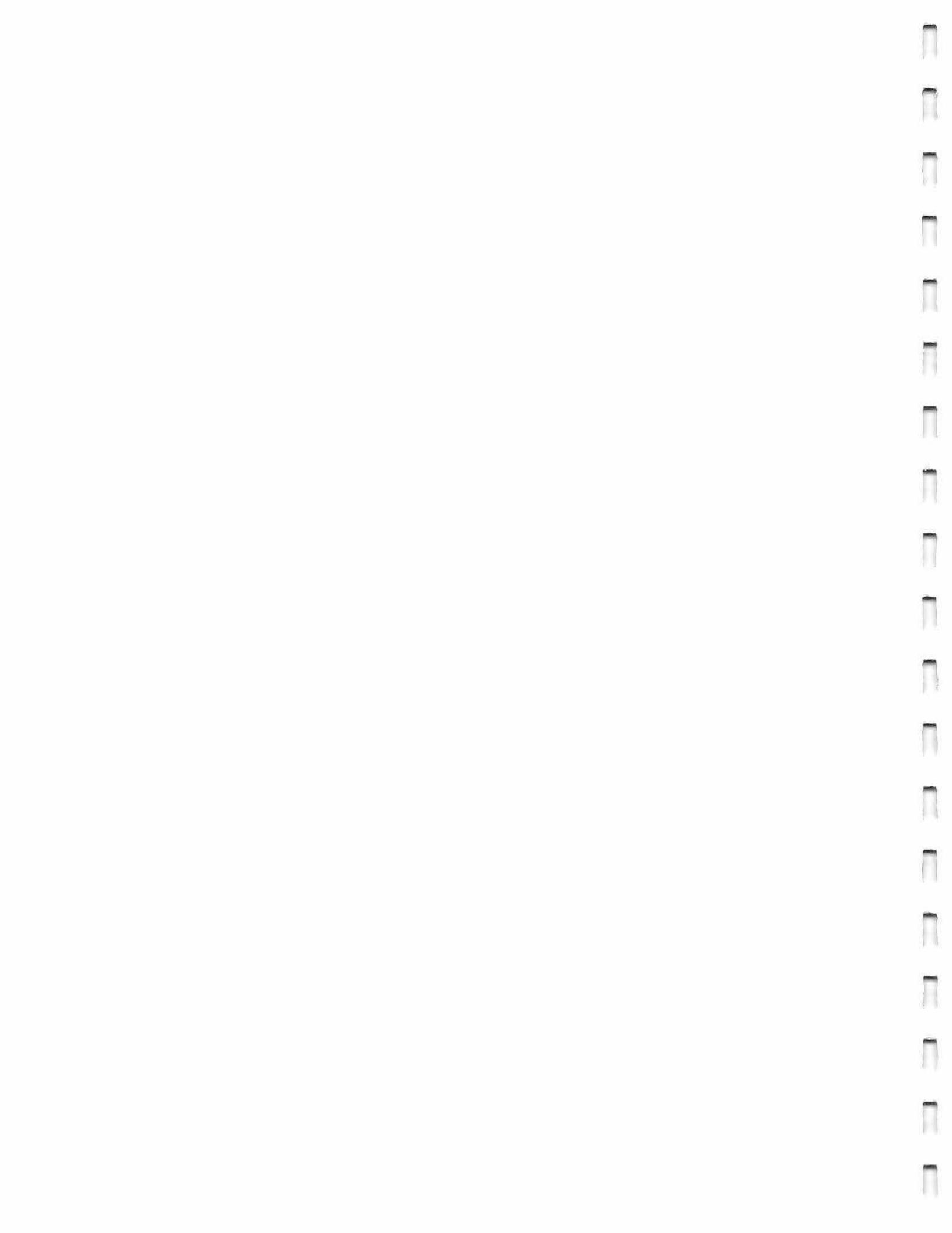
The traditional Flemish breakfast on Christmas morning was pensen (pork sausage) and smoutebollen (raised doughnuts). The smoutebollen were fried in deep, hot fat in a cast-iron kettle on the old wood stove. Children were fascinated as they watched each doughnut flip itself over when one side was cooked; then, after the doughnuts had been placed on a platter to cool, the youngsters waited impatiently for the delicious small cakes to cool off enough to be eaten.

There were many Flemish families from Holland in Wisconsin. Their name for raised doughnuts was fastnachts or feestnachts.



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure Number		Page
1.	Flemish Immigrants To Brown County, Wisconsin ——————	5
2.	Map of Belgium ——————	10
3.	The Lion Of Flanders ——————	15
4.	Watermolen - Watermill ——————	18
5.	Villages In The Dyle Valley ——————	21
6.	Home Villages In Brabant Province, Belgium, Of Some Early Flemish Families ——————	26
7.	Cross-Section Of The Ship ——————	27
8.	Part Of Title Page "Guide And Consultant For Emigrants" ——————	27
9.	Vander Kelen Stone Bottles ——————	28
10.	Vanden Borne Immigrant Trunk ——————	29
11.	Steerage Compartment ——————	34
12.	Sailing Ship ——————	36
13.	Part of 1856 Passenger List ——————	37
14.	Castle Garden Emigrant Landing Depot ——————	39
15.	View Of New York Harbor ——————	40
16.	Transferring Baggage ——————	42
17.	1851 Milwaukee Advertisements ——————	44
18.	Advertisement For Daguerreian Gallery ——————	45
19.	Steamboat Advertisement ——————	45
20.	1857 View Of Washington Street In Green Bay, Wisconsin ——————	50
21.	Scraping Tool ——————	51
22.	Surveyor's Bench-Mark ——————	55
23.	Verloren Land ——————	57
24.	Old Style House In Flanders ——————	60
25.	Pottowatami Arrow And Spear Heads ——————	61
26.	Mary Watermolen's Wampum Belt ——————	62
27.	The Indian Hole ——————	62
28.	Shingle Bench ——————	67
29.	Maple Tree Tap ——————	70
30.	Boiling Maple Sap ——————	71
31.	Well Sweep ——————	73
32.	Cradling Grain ——————	73
33.	Christopher Watermolen's Citizenship Papers ——————	75
34.	Donati's Comet ——————	77



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	i
PREFACE	iii
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
FLANDERS	10
FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN	23
LIFE IN THE NEW WORLD	47
THE FLEMISH SETTLEMENTS	49
THE CIVIL WAR PERIOD	80
THE POST WAR PERIOD	91
TOWARD THE END OF THE CENTURY	100
THE LAST PHASE OF THE MIGRATION	111
THE RELIGION OF THE FLEMISH-AMERICANS	116
FLEMISH-AMERICAN COOKING	122
SOME FLEMISH STORIES	136
EARLY FLEMISH FAMILIES	143
REFERENCES	395
INDEX	405
APPENDIX A. FLEMISH COMMUNITY CATHOLIC PRIESTS	A-1



## INTRODUCTION

In the Royal Art Museum at Antwerp, Belgium, there is a famous painting of Flemish emigrants by Eugeen Laermans,<sup>1</sup> titled De Landverhuizers (The Emigrants), which shows a determined, unsmiling horde of people with their faces turned toward the port of Antwerp and the promise of the New World. They all look poor, almost desperately poor, with many in their familiar wooden-shoes and one man is even walking barefoot, carrying his leather shoes to make them last longer. The women are wearing sombre clothes, with kerchiefs and shawls on their heads, the nondescript coats and trousers of the men are patched and the little girls wear bonnets and aprons. One man in wooden shoes has a pair of leather shoes dangling from his neck by their laces, and has a little dog on a leash.<sup>2</sup> This painting reflects the mood and character of the Flemish migration to America.

The first prominent Flemish person to come to the Wisconsin area was Father Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan Recollect friar, who was a member of the La Salle expedition of 1679. Father Hennepin is best known for his discovery of the upper Mississippi River and Minnesota and he spent but little time in Wisconsin.<sup>3</sup> A county in Minnesota and a township in Illinois are named Hennepin in his honor. Father Hennepin recorded in his Journal that he had met three fur-traders in Wisconsin who were Flemish.

These fur-traders were probably descendants of the early Flemish pioneers who settled in the New York area in 1624, following the voyages of Henry Hudson. The founder of the West Indian Company, which sponsored the settlement, was a Fleming named William Usselinx. One of these settlers, Michael de Pauw, bought

Staten Island, New York; Hoboken, New Jersey; and Jersey City, New Jersey for a basket of trinkets. The father of Peter Minuit, governor of the colony, was from Ohain, Brabant Province.

The son of a Fleming father and a Mohawk Indian mother became a famous Indian chief, known as THE FLEMISH BASTARD, who was a leader in the hostilities waged by the Iroquois Indians against the French and Algonquins, starting around 1630. Around 1666, he moved his tribe to Montreal and sued for peace with the French.<sup>4</sup> His people became involved in the fur-trade in Wisconsin; for instance, in 1686, a trading expedition was sent (to Michigan and Wisconsin) by the "flemings and the English of New York."<sup>5</sup>

Flemish soldiers served in the Revolutionary Army under George Washington. Charles De Pauw from Ghent, Belgium, accompanied La Fayette to America to help the Americans; he served as a general in Washington's army. (His grandson, Washington Charles De Pauw, was the originator of plate-glass manufacturing and gave his name to De Pauw University in Indiana.) Other Flemish officers in the Revolutionary War were Van Gaesbeeck and two Van Etten brothers.

Small colonies of Flemish families appeared on the East Coast, starting near New York City, with other settlements in Massachusetts, Vermont and Pennsylvania. Most of these people came from the eastern provinces of Belgium, near Antwerp, the seaport that beckoned adventurous souls to explore the New World. There was communication between these Flemish groups and some of them later moved to join other Flemish groups. As an example, the Town of New Flanders was established in Elk County, Pennsylvania in 1846 by a colony of Flemish families who were sponsored, jointly, by the Belgian government and a private entrepreneur.<sup>6</sup> When the business of the community became unprofitable, the families left for other settlements. There were a number of communities of this type in Pennsylvania; the Heyrman brothers tried two of them in 1855 before becoming discouraged and moving on

to Wisconsin.<sup>7</sup> One of the projects that they worked on was the clearing of a large tract of land near Wilkes-Barre, just west of the Susquehanna River, for an American firm which intended to sponsor a Flemish colony; there were probably many such burst-balloons in an era of wild land speculation.

In 1833, two Flemish priests arrived in Detroit with eleven skilled workers to serve as missionaries with the Indians and this was the start of a large and thriving Flemish settlement.<sup>8</sup> The first Flemish priest ordained in America was Florimond J. Bonduel, who was born in Komen and studied in Roeselare, West Flanders, where most of the Detroit Flemish originated. Father Bonduel had an outstanding career; he became one of the first pastors of a Green Bay Catholic church in 1838 and served Green Bay parishioners and Menominee Indians until his death in 1861.

A Flemish bishop, Paul Lefevere, came to Detroit in 1841, and, although Green Bay was no longer in his diocese after 1843, he still had great influence on Flemish immigration. His letters back to Belgium have careful instructions to travelers regarding how much to pay for goods and services and which trains and boats should be taken from New York to Detroit. He helped to establish the American College at the Flemish University of Louvain, which was to provide so many priests for American missionary work.

Flemish immigrants trickled westward from Detroit and the records show several coming to Green Bay every year, starting in 1845, but most were transients. A Flemish family headed by Charles De Smedt settled in Wisconsin in 1844 and sent optimistic letters back to Flanders.<sup>9</sup> In 1847, a Fleming by the name of Callewaerts bought land and settled in northern Outagamie County. It is likely that this family, plus other Flemish newcomers, were part of the migration of Hollanders to the area. By 1849, some Flemish families were reported in Wrightstown, which is located in southern Brown County.<sup>10</sup> Young Flemish men, like Guillaume

Horkmans, scouted the area before returning to Flanders to bring their families to America.

The Flemings, as we shall see later, spoke a Dutch patois - there were Flemish families living in Holland who migrated; other Flemings were related to the Dutch Catholics from North Brabant, Holland and to the Dutch refugees who settled in Flanders.<sup>11</sup> Many of these Hollanders heard about Wisconsin from Father Vanden Broek who came to Little Chute in 1834, to minister to the Menominee Indians. In 1847, he returned to Amsterdam and wrote an open letter, which was circulated throughout Holland, offering homes and employment on the Fox River waterway for four hundred families at Little Chute.<sup>12</sup> By 1850, eleven hundred and fifty-seven Dutch immigrants had come to the Wisconsin area and they were spreading north, up the Fox River to Green Bay and Bay Settlement.

The German immigrants also influenced the Flemish newcomers because they could understand each other's language and some of the families knew each other in Europe.<sup>13</sup> The first ten German families arrived in 1842; by 1845, there were German settlements at "Der Faenger" on what is now the Finger Road and at New Franken.<sup>14</sup> Starting around 1850, the Flemish, Germans and a sprinkling of Hollanders moved eastward from Green Bay until they found a land to their liking; there they started small farms.<sup>15</sup>

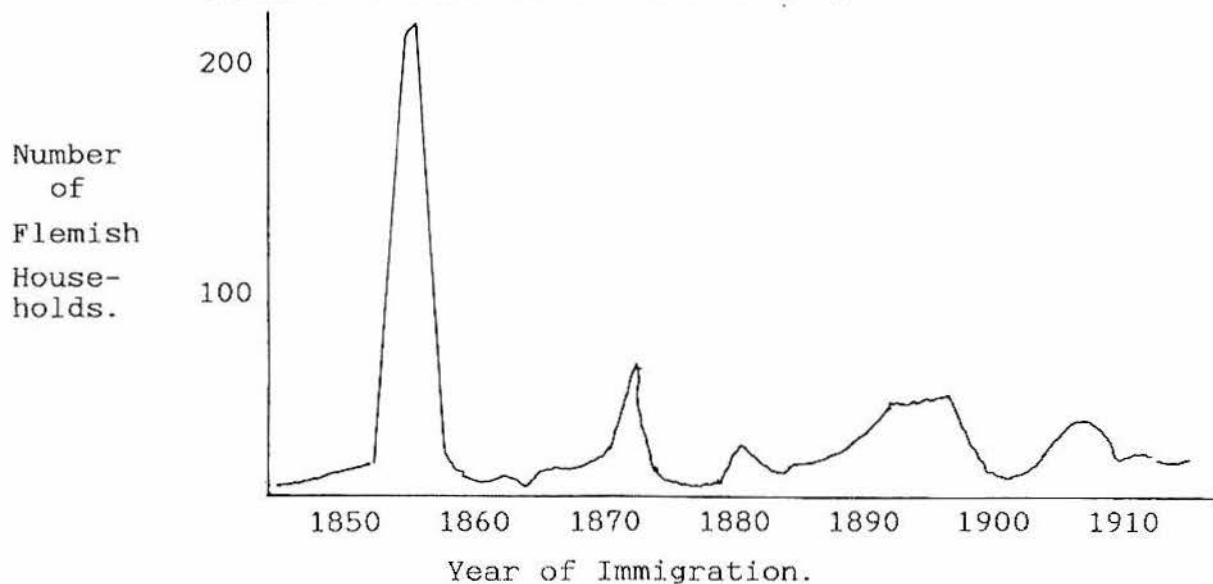
The Flemish-Dutch immigration was also spurred by pamphlets in their language, which were financed by the State of Wisconsin. The State Legislature, shortly after the 1848 statehood, had authorized this advertising campaign in Europe, offering cheap land to immigrants. In 1851 and 1852, the number of Flemish coming to Brown County increased.<sup>16</sup> In 1851, another Flemish priest, the Reverend Edward Daems of Schaffen, Belgium, was assigned to the Bay Settlement church. He spent 1852 at Little Chute, then was reassigned to Bay Settlement.

In 1853, Walloon neighbors of the Flemish in Brabant

read the Dutch-Flemish pamphlet concerning the cheap land in Wisconsin and joined the migration, which resulted in the large Belgian settlement in northeastern Wisconsin. The largest number of Flemish came to the Green Bay area in the years 1855 through 1857, with another large group emigrating around 1870, and then there was a surge of newcomers towards the end of the century - as shown in the following graph:

Figure 1.

FLEMISH IMMIGRANTS TO BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN.



SOURCE: Intent To Be Naturalized applications filed by Flemish immigrants.

The numbers shown in the graph only go up to the year 1914, when immigration stopped almost completely. The above graph can only furnish a rough guide as to total number of Flemish immigrants because: (1) almost no women filed for citizenship; (2) many of the older people never applied; and, (3) there were many errors made during the filing process.<sup>17</sup>

The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs gives the following figures on overall migration: "Altogether, Belgian immigration from 1820 to 1910 reached about 104,000; from 1910 to 1950, about

62,000; and since 1950 to 1976, about 10,000 - our present modest quota of 1,350 is usually never filled." About 135,000 of the Belgian newcomers were Flemish and most of this group (111,864) came during the 1882-1924 cycle of immigration.<sup>18</sup> Wisconsin received many of the Flemish-speaking rural-type immigrants during the first cycle of resettlement, but later new-comers were artisans and industrial workers, most of whom went to other Flemish settlements in America.

In 1860, the United States Census recorded 4,647 Belgians in Wisconsin.<sup>19</sup> This figure is much lower than unofficial estimates from other sources. The Boston Pilot newspaper reported that Father Daems returned to Green Bay in 1856, after he had spent two years in Belgium, and that 12,000 Belgians came with him. Another author says that an estimated 15,000 Belgians came to Wisconsin before 1856.<sup>20</sup> Our research reveals that about 19% of the Brown County population of approximately 12,000 in 1860, were Flemish, with the greatest concentrations in Humboldt (52%), Bellevue (33%), Eaton (28%), Howard (27%) and Preble (17%).

By 1870, according to official statistics, Wisconsin contained the largest Belgian population in the United States at 4,804; next was Illinois with 1,076.<sup>21</sup> Wisconsin had the third largest Dutch population, with 5,900. Both the Flemish and their Hollander cousins were mostly farm people, living outside of the cities.

There was some out-migration from Wisconsin after the Civil War, largely to Flemish settlements in states to the West and in Superior, Wisconsin. There were large groups of Flemish settlers in the southern counties of Minnesota, followed by the Ghent colony in 1880 and the Crosier Fathers' settlement in 1905.<sup>22</sup>

Large numbers of Flemings came to Chicago and Moline, Illinois from the provinces of East and West Flanders, which is the heartland of lace-making. It is estimated that twelve thousand

people of Belgian birth and origin live in western Illinois.<sup>23</sup> The first group to arrive in the 1850s were farmers; the larger group, which came around the turn of the century, were artisans and small-business types similar to those who settled in Wisconsin at that time.

The Flemish people of Mishawaka, Indiana started coming in significant numbers around 1875.<sup>24</sup> They are predominantly from East Flanders and make up about eighteen percent of the population. A second Flemish settlement at South Bend, Indiana, has produced several prominent people.

There are other scattered Flemish communities around the nation: What Cheer, Iowa; Eton County, Michigan; Delphi, Ontario; Los Angeles, California; San Antonio, Texas; St. Mary Settlement, Pennsylvania; Atlanta, Georgia; etc. There were several Flemish newspapers available nationwide, such as De Volksstem of De Pere, Wisconsin; Gazette Van Moline and the Gazette Van Detroit; the last one, a weekly, is now the only Flemish language newspaper.<sup>25</sup> There are also several enthusiastic genealogy societies which do research on Flemish family trees: (1) The Belgian Researchers in Holyoke, Massachusetts which publishes Belgian Laces, edited by Micheline Gaudette; (2) The Genealogy Society of Flemish Americans in Detroit, Michigan, which publishes the Flemish American Heritage (Margaret Roets, Secretary); (3) Bay Area Genealogy Society in Green Bay, Wisconsin (Mary Ann Defnet, Newsletter Editor), which publishes the Gems Of Genealogy; and (4) Center for Belgian Culture, Moline, Illinois, where the Gazette Van Moline was published (Dr. Dolores Bultinck, President and Consul of Belgium).

The Flemings in America have tended to live in groups for several generations, yet contributed their part to the social, economic, and political sectors of American life. They became government officials, lawyers, doctors, farmers, priests, saloon-keepers, bakers, - practically any occupation that can be named.

Wisconsin inventors produced the lawn-mower and "Strike-Anywhere" match; other Flemings invented the electric trolley-car, designed and built the Panama Canal, provided the head Archeologist at the Smithsonian Institution, and treated the lepers at Molokai.<sup>26</sup> One of the Flemish-American chemists, Dr. Leo Baekeland, was the inventor of bakelite, which is a chemical synthesis of carbolic acid and formaldehyde used as a substitute for hard rubber and amber; this was the start of the plastics industry. One of the authors of this story probably owes his life to another Flemish-American inventor, Father Julius Nieuwland of Notre Dame, who invented neoprene (synthetic rubber). During 1943, the Flying Fortress that Les was piloting over Germany was hit by a string of cannon shells from a Messerschmitt fighter. One or more of the shells exploded in the gasoline tanks inside the left wing of the aircraft, which instantly became a wall of flame. However, the tanks were lined with self-sealing neoprene and in several minutes, the tanks quit leaking, the fire went out and the aircraft made it safely back to the friendly coast of England.

In this introduction we have discussed the background of the Flemish immigration to Wisconsin. Next, we will look at the homeland of Flanders to find out more about its people and why they made this momentous decision to leave their familiar surroundings. Then, we will describe their voyage to the New World, the problems that were encountered during the trip, and their adventures in their new environment. The objective of this study is to find out more about this group of people, why they came, how they dealt with problems, and, in general, what makes them unusual and different. In doing this study, we followed about four hundred Flemish families from their entry into the United States until about 1914, using all of the data that we could find, such as: Belgian records; ship passenger-lists; citizenship procedures; birth, marriage and death records; census records; Brown County land-survey maps and Deed and Mortgage records; cemetery records; historical accounts; and information contributed by descendants of the Flemish immigrants.

The family histories that we used in our research are included in the last chapter of the book. Also included are typical Flemish food and drink recipes, a chapter on the character and religion of the Flemish people and some anecdotal Flemish stories.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### A FLEMISH KITCHEN

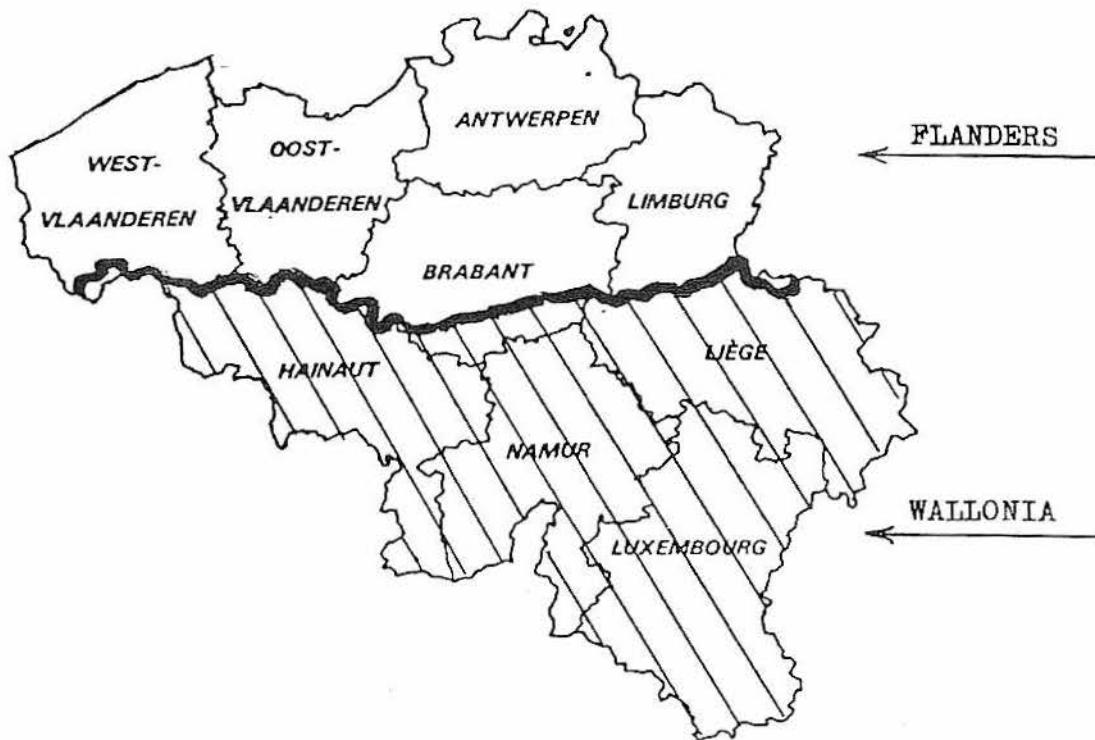
Below is a picture of a typical Flemish kitchen during the 1850-1890 time period. The Flemish women wove baskets of all types and sizes which were used by them in America until World War II. There are still chairs in Wisconsin made like the one shown in the photo. The "Leuvense Stoof" (Louvain Stove) was very popular in Flanders but few, if any, were brought to Wisconsin. The stove had a four-foot horizontal pipe to the chimney on which food could be cooked. Baking was done in an outside bake-house, sometimes called the Dutch Kitchen.



## FLANDERS

Most of the Flemings who came to Wisconsin were from the northern part of Belgium, which is called Flanders; modern Belgium is composed of two parts - Flanders and Wallonia (see Figure 2). Belgium has nine provinces; Brussels, the capital, is located in the middle Province of Brabant. It was this province which provided most of the Flemish settlers in Wisconsin.

Figure 2.  
Map of Belgium.



Much of the land in early Flanders was flooded. The water areas were called Vladen and the land in-between was called

Vladeren. The people who lived in the Vladeren were called Flemings (Flemings in English) and Vladeren became Flanders.<sup>1</sup>

The Flemish pioneers brought with them to America their hereditary traits and customs which were molded by centuries of history - sometimes violent, sometimes peaceful. The first mention of their homeland is in Julius Caesar's Commentaries, where he stated that all of Gaul is divided into three parts and the northern part contained the toughest, most belligerent people, the Belgae. It gave young Flemish-Americans in high-school Latin class a good feeling to know that old Jules Caesar was reluctant to take on their ancestors in battle.

The Romans brought Christianity with them, although it took several centuries because the Teutonic (Germanic) tribes fought with the Gallic Christians back and forth across what is now Belgium; the dividing line between the people speaking Flemish (a Dutch dialect) and the people speaking Walloon (a French dialect) is a result of this conflict. This linguistic dividing line has remained stable and very well defined for about one thousand years, a real challenge and enigma to historians.<sup>2</sup> To the north of the line, the language that was spoken was Flemish, the one that was written was Dutch, also called Low-German. The Dutch language, like German, English, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and Icelandic, developed out of Germanic dialects.<sup>3</sup> This is one of the reasons why the Flemings in Wisconsin often settled near Hollander and German neighbors.

Flanders was founded in 862 A.D. when the first Count of Flanders, Baldwin, came into power and soon Flemish soldiers roamed throughout Europe. They were active in the Crusades and in the service of French and other European kings. They were with William The Conqueror during his invasion of England in 1066 A.D.; William's queen was Matilda, Princess of Flanders. There is even an interesting story about how a group of Flemish mercenaries invented the dollar. Following, is the account that is current

in coin collectors' clubs in America.

A Flemish count, Van Schlick, with his troops was hired by a Bohemian prince to keep order in that country. They were stationed in an area called Joachimsthal (Joachim's Valley), which contained silver mines. To keep his men busy, the Flemish leader had them mine the silver and cast it into large silver coins, which were called Joachimsthallers, later shortened to thalers (pronounced tollers). This size of coin became very popular throughout Europe and is called the dollar in America.

The growing of flax and the cloth industry were introduced in Flanders in the 10<sup>th</sup> Century and the country grew prosperous and famous for its lace, cloth and tapestries. By the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, Flanders was the foremost textile producer in Europe and has retained much of its importance to the present day. Some of the early immigrants to Wisconsin were weavers and flax-growers who were unemployed during a recession in the textile market.

The Catholic Church played an important part in bringing prosperity and tranquillity to Flanders. Until the 12<sup>th</sup> Century only Benedictines had a limited number of monasteries there, but soon the arrival of the Norbertines (White Fathers) transformed the country with their influence, establishing new parishes and providing educational institutions.<sup>4</sup> To this day, there are many Flemish priests in the Norbertine Order.

The history of Flanders in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Centuries was turbulent because of political, economic and social tensions. The area was overrun by armies after the Count of Flanders left with the Fourth Crusade. In fact, it has been a battleground ever since. The most famous Flemish victory occurred in 1302 A.D. when the Flemish fought the French to protect their cloth industry. The Flemish soldiers made a unique weapon in their forges, producing a four-foot "goedendag" similar to a heavy baseball bat, topped with an iron piece which ended in a point. It was so heavy that both hands were necessary to use it, and when it was swung, those swinging it would end up in a bow - hence the name "goedendag" or "good-day" - a greeting which was customarily accompanied by a bow. After this victory, the soldiers removed

thousands of golden spurs from the boots of the dead French Cavalrymen. That is why Flemings treat the 11<sup>th</sup> of July as a special day, to commemorate the victory of the golden spurs (Gulden Sporen-slag). A popular Flemish novel about this battle, written by Hendrik Conscience in 1837, serves to remind many Flemings of their glorious past.

Industrialization in Flanders led to a struggle between the guild-workers and the patricians. The guilds which resulted were the first labor unions and the tradition of protecting the worker was brought to America by Flemish pioneers. The Flemish guilds turned their country, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, into one of democratic freedom and into the most highly developed capitalistic nation of its time. As a result, Flanders, which is now only 135 miles from its eastern to western boundaries and 45 miles long from north to south, at one time included the area of northern France through Amsterdam.

That the Flemish are great artists is well known. Flanders achieved special eminence in art for many centuries, ranging from such art-forms as manuscript illumination in printing to Romanesque cathedrals to tapestries to metalwork to the works of the famous Flemish painters. Some of the more famous painters are Rubens, Van Dyck, Wouters, Bruegel, Bosch (a.k.a. Jerome Bos) and the brothers, Hubert and Jan Van Eyck.

Flanders also gave birth to many soldiers of fortune. A ship, captained by a Fleming named Josse Vanden Berghe, was driven by adverse winds to the Azores in 1432 A.D., which led to the discovery of those islands. Some 2,000 Flemings settled there; the islands were called the Flemish Islands and the Flemish language was spoken there for several centuries thereafter. Vanden Berghe's Flemish partner, Ferdenand d'Olmen, led an expedition from the Azores to the New World (West Indies) in 1487, five years before Columbus' voyage. Columbus used d'Olmen's research and Flemish maps during his own voyages.<sup>5</sup> Other Flemish adventurers

were engaged in colonizing ventures in Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Portugal or Spain. Some were with the conquistadores in Spanish America and five accompanied Magellan on his historic voyage around the world. (As a consequence, United States census-takers were surprised to find people saying that they were Flemish but that their country of origin was Germany, France or Holland, etc.)

In 1384, Flanders entered a new phase when Philip the Bold of Burgundy married the daughter of the Count of Flanders. At first, the Burgundians were allies of the king of France, but in 1453, they started fighting for their independence from France. Instead, all of Burgundy was lost and in 1482, it was returned to the French crown. Because Mary of Burgundy married the son of the Austrian Emperor, there followed a period when the Flanders area became "Spanish" until 1713 and then "Austrian" until the French chased them out (for the second time) in 1794, marking the end of the Ancien Regime.<sup>6</sup> After the Battle of Waterloo, Flanders became part of The Netherlands and in 1830, it formed the northern half of Belgium. Jules Rentmeesters, in his book, Rentmeesters, traces the family back to the early 1400s; the book is not only a family history but a startling record of the Flemish people being continually harassed by these foreign troops on their own soil.<sup>7</sup>

An interesting story about the Spanish rule of Flanders is that the Spanish took back to their country the flamenco dance (from Los Flamencos - the Spanish word for Flemish), that vibrant, passionate, flashing dance so popular in the south of Spain. When their shoes did not duplicate the sound of the Flemish wooden shoes striking the floor, the Spanish built up their heels with wood or hard leather. If you watch the Flemish-Americans dancing the energetic polkas, mazurkas, square-dances and other favorites in Wisconsin, you can see a connection. In return, the Flemish legends of SinterKlaas and Black Pieter were influenced by the Spanish; the children of Belgium and Holland still hold the belief that SinterKlaas and Black Pieter (originally a Moor) come on

a boat from Spain for the holyday season.

Although Flanders and Wallonia became part of the Holland kingdom in 1815, the union lasted only fifteen years because of restrictions placed on religion and freedom of the press in the southern provinces. Flanders and Wallonia were united by their common religion; Flanders had not much more than a common language to hold them to the Hollanders. In 1830, a short revolution occurred in Brussels, in which some Wisconsin settlers participated, and in which the new country of Belgium gained its independence and Leopold I was placed on the throne. In their applications for United States citizenship, the early Flemish pioneers promised to "entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity" to Leopold I and later to his successor, Leopold II.

In the early years of the new country, Flanders suffered both culturally and industrially under government policies. The emphasis was placed on making Belgium a French-speaking nation and the Flemish people were forced to learn the French language.<sup>8</sup> As it turned out, this was a great help to the Flemish immigrants in communicating with the Walloons and French-speaking inhabitants of Wisconsin. It wasn't until 1870 that Flemish was given the dignity of an official language in Belgium.

At the right is a picture of the ancient Flemish lion, which appeared on their flags for many centuries. It is a black lion with a red tongue and claws on a golden field. The lion appears frazzled, as well it might be after so many years of struggle and hardship, but it looks like it is still ready to put up a good fight. It inspired this Flemish song of the Nineteenth Century:<sup>9</sup>



Figure 3.  
The Lion of Flanders.

They shall not tame him, the proud Flemish lion  
Although they threaten his freedom with chains and defeat.  
They shall not tame him, as long as Flemings live,  
As long as he has claws, as long as he has teeth.

In the first generation under the new Belgium, the Flemish worker had to fight to earn a living. Flanders became a backward and impoverished region, with the mass of people anemic and living on rye bread, potatoes, milk and a rare piece of bacon.<sup>10</sup> Between 1843 and 1849, the worst years in Flemish history, one-third of the population was on poor relief. Epidemics of typhus and cholera were followed by a potato disease that destroyed the food supply of the poor.

This led to a social struggle which took different forms; a labor movement demanding rights, freedom and a better education; formation of beneficial societies to support labor victims; transient workers seeking employment in other countries; and Flemings voting with their feet for a better way of life. Some emigrated to the mines of Wallonia where coal and iron still found a market.

The migration to America started first in those provinces that were close to the Atlantic Ocean - East Flanders, West Flanders and Antwerp. Undoubtedly, the most important motivation for the initial part of the migration came from the Catholic missionary movement. The earliest records of Flemings in America are generally missionaries.<sup>11</sup> Father Hennepin has given his name to localities in two states; Father Bonduel has a city in Wisconsin named after him, Father Damien De Veuster was honored by the State of Hawaii for his work with lepers; Father Pieter De Smet is regarded in Missouri as the greatest peacemaker and friend of the western Indians.

The migration from Brabant Province, which provided most of the Wisconsin Flemings, had its roots in the pamphlets written in Dutch that were circulated by the Church and by shipping agents, and in the letters from Dutch friends and relatives.

In time, these pamphlets and events were discussed with their Walloon neighbors, resulting in a concurrent Walloon migration.<sup>12</sup> Flemish families in Holland, Wallonia, France and other parts of Europe, migrated as well. For instance, some came from the previously Flemish city, Valenciennes, in France, and many Flemish families in Wisconsin came from the Walloon Province of Namur. Over the years, there has been intermarriage between the two groups, particularly those living close to the linguistic dividing line, so that it is often difficult to classify a person as Flemish or Walloon. Both in Wisconsin and in modern Belgium, it is often a problem to tell whether a person is Walloon or Flemish from their name.<sup>13</sup>

The Walloons, generally, are dark, active and vivacious and have brown eyes. The Flemings are lighter-haired, blue-eyed, larger, slower-moving and slower to anger. During the migration phase, the experiences of these two races differ. The Walloons had more hardships to report and were not as prosperous. The Flemish were reported to be better educated<sup>14</sup> and, while retaining their ethnic characteristics for several generations, fit more quickly into the economic and social life of their new communities.

Flemish men in Wisconsin were still called by their patronyms (e.g., Peter, son of Andrew) in the 1920s, because there were so many Peters, Andrews, Johns, etc. However, family names in Flanders came into use in the second part of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and the practice was firmly established during the next Century.<sup>15</sup> At first, they were patronymic, i.e., they added "son of" to the person's Christian name. Jan, son of Franz, became Jan Franzen (Franssen) and Jan, son of Adriaen, became Jan Adri-aenssen. Father Charles Denys of the Detroit Flemish Society has published several thorough studies of Flemish names and where they came from.<sup>16</sup>

He points out that the sen at the end of the name was often dropped, e.g., Adriaenssen became Adriaens. Some patronymic

names in the Wisconsin area are Adams, Adriaens, Daniels, Dennis, Franssens, Hendricks, Hermans, Heyrman, Joannes (John), Mertens, Powells, Pauwels (Paul), Philips, Peters, Renier, Simoens, Thomas, Willems and Wauters. Some names have been shortened, such as Basteyns from Sebastian, Coppens from Jacobus, Daems from Adams, Maes from Thomaes and Nys from Deneys.

Then, there are names that indicate where a person came from: Van Brabant (from Brabant), Van Hove or Van Hoof (farm), Vande Castle, Donks (marsh) and Vercauteren (cultivated land). Trees and vegetation led to Verboomen (trees), Vander Heyden (heather), Vanden Houten (woods), Vanden Busch (woods), etc. Vanden Plas (puddle), Van Dycke (ditch) and Vande Walle (embankment) are related to water and waterways. Vanden Avond means "of the evening," Van Deuren "of the doors," Grietens is the son of Griete, Pierquet is "little Pierre," Steeno refers to steen (stone) and Nuthals refers to hals (neck).

Originally, Meulemans was a miller. The Watermolen name came from the mill that was powered by a waterwheel. Rentmeester was a steward or accountant. De Baeker was the baker, Smet was the blacksmith, Timmerman was a carpenter, Mommaerts was a mummer or actor. Other names are De Jonghe (young man), De Witt (white), De Groot (tall), Calleweart (bald) and Crabbe (crab).

Most writers agree that the main reason why Flemish immigrants came to Wisconsin was because they wanted better living conditions for themselves and their families. There had been several crop failures which made the situation worse for the farmers and artisans, who had to work long hours to earn enough to feed

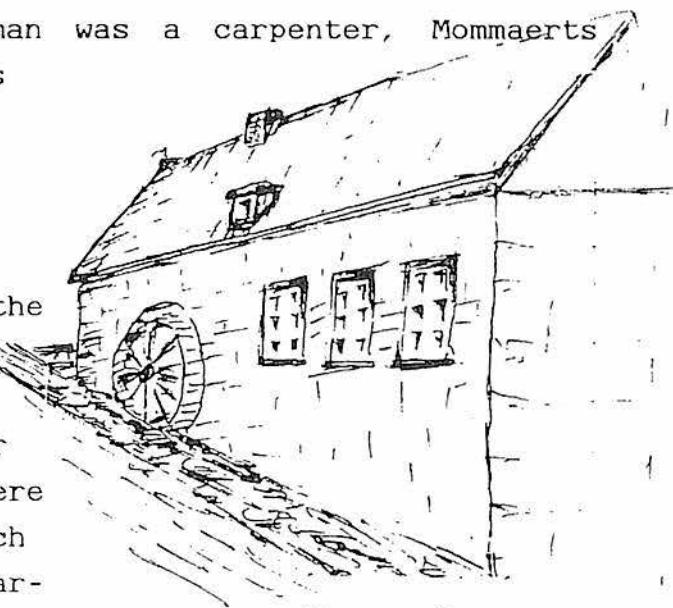


Figure 4.

Watermolen - watermill.

their families. Besides poor economic conditions, there were two other motivating factors to migrate during this time; overpopulation and religious dissent.

The Flemish area of Belgium, although mostly agricultural, could not absorb the growing population. Nor could the farmers of the Low Countries compete with the cheap grain produced by America and Russia. The economy in Europe was stagnant during that period and did not pick up until the Industrial Revolution, several decades later. When the impact of steam power and machines did make itself felt, it was Wallonia which benefited the most. Therefore, Walloon emigration never reached the dimensions of the Flemish; by the 1901-1919 period, only twenty-one percent of the Belgians arriving annually were Walloons.<sup>17</sup>

One book about the Flemish people, The Fair Face Of Flanders, states that a reason for migration was religious persecution.<sup>18</sup> The archives of the United Protestant Church in Belgium, located in Brussels, confirms that a small group of Protestants left because they objected to the role that the Catholic Church played as an official part of the government.<sup>19</sup> Our latest research shows that less than one percent of the migrating Flemish fit this category: Guillaume Horckmans, with his wife and daughter, came to Wisconsin in 1853 with some Protestant Walloon families; a year later, his father, Henri Horckmans, came from St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, with twenty-four other Flemish Protestants.<sup>20</sup>

The Brabanters who settled in Wisconsin generally did so because they wanted freedom of economic opportunity. One Flemish-American historian described his parents and others who came in 1856, this way,<sup>21</sup> "They were a hardy class of farm people who had spent most of their time working a small plot of land for a landlord. They loved freedom. They yearned to own their farm and become independent." We shall see later on, how this land-hunger expressed itself in America.

It is interesting to speculate on the physical characteristics of the Flemish men, which might have been a result of their diet. At Jamestown in 1607, the well-fed, six-foot-tall Indian warriors met the English settlers, who were, on the average, eight-to-ten inches shorter. Similarly, Flemish-Americans are several inches taller than their pioneer ancestors. The passports, naturalization papers and military documents that still exist show an average height of the Flemish male immigrant at around five and one-half feet.<sup>22</sup>

A typical menu for people in those small villages of Brabant was something like this: breakfast consisted of bread with lard, marmalade and bacon; the noon meal was soup, potatoes and vegetables; at the evening meal, there was bread with gingerbread and porridge.<sup>23</sup> Rye bread was baked once a week. The meat came only from their own hogs; each family slaughtered one or two per year, then salted the meat to preserve it. Each family had one to four cows, which provided their milk, butter and cheese. The women and children gathered wood for the fire from the nearby forest, generally in the Winter season. (Engelbertus Willems said that the reason he emigrated was because they were so poor that they had to steal firewood from their landlord at midnight.) The distances between these villages, which were located next to the Dyle River (in the center of the map on Figure 5), was not great; from Ottenburg to Leuven was about twelve miles. Flemish women considered it a pleasant break from their daily routine to carry buckets of milk in their hands and a basket of eggs on their head to the Leuven Market, then return similarly laden with their purchases.

In each small village, there was only one small shop and its owner was also a farmer. Once a week, the family took their eggs, butter and other produce to the Leuven market; with that money they purchased clothes, food and other necessities. (The Flemish settlers in Wisconsin followed this same routine for at least three generations.)

On big occasions, like a kermis or wedding, the Flemish villagers would have special dishes with their beer and music. At Kermis-time, nearly every family made up to thirty white (cheese) pies and black (prune) pies. (In Wisconsin, they made the same number of pies at one time, because of the traditional size of the Dutch ovens.)

The famous kermis paintings of Rubens, David Teniers and Breughel show the Flemish love for music, dancing and feasting. (Rubens, in 1630, spelled it in old Dutch "kermisse" from the Flemish words kerk and mis - Church Mass.) Andrew Rentmeester said that all of his uncles played a musical instrument. His uncle, Tist (John Baptiste), played his cornet when their neighbors accompanied them to the Brabant railroad station to say good-bye, and he played it at a pensenkermis in the Town of Bellevue a few days after he arrived there in October 1856.<sup>24</sup> (The Ponsa Kermis, as we called it, will be described later.) The Flemish people were fond of dancing, and reels, square-dances, quick-steps, waltzes, mazurkas and polkas were very popular. Because the government was French-oriented, there was a French influence on music from the upper-classes, which also influenced the villagers' taste in music.

The Flemish immigrants who came to Wisconsin wore their traditional Flemish clothes for about a generation. The men wore

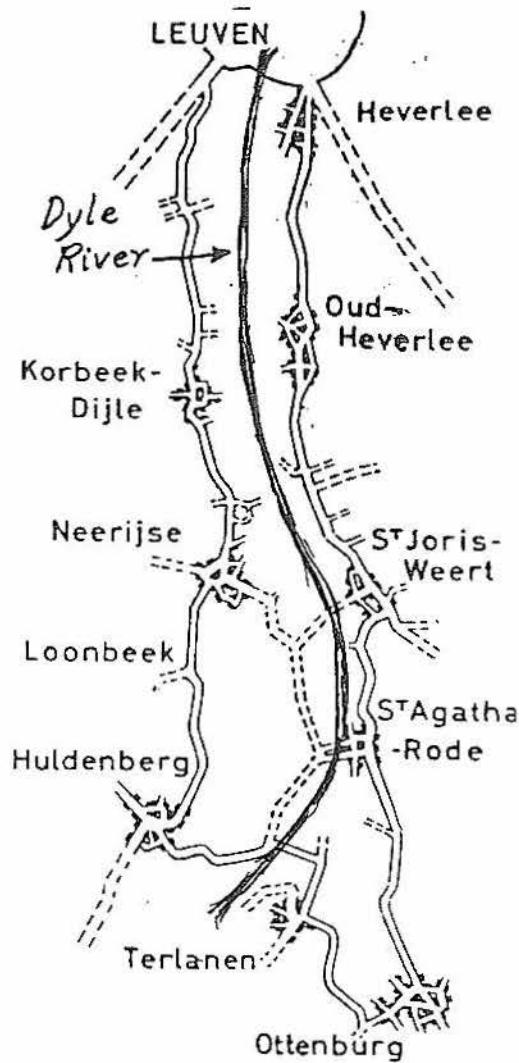


Figure 5.  
Dyle River Valley villages.

wide trousers, loose-fitting blouses, a Dutch cap and a large kerchief around the neck. The women wore a tight bodice, a very full skirt, a shawl and a bonnet. On holidays, they wore a white apron. Men, women and children all wore wooden shoes (called klompen, from the sound that they made). Some of the old photographs from Belgium show this style of dress, but most of the old American photographs picture the Flemish-Americans in the latest American styles.

\* \* \* \* \*

### IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields.  
Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.

(World War I poem by Lt-Colonel John McRae.)

## FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN

In the late 1840s, stories of cheap, fertile land in Wisconsin began to circulate through Brabant Province. Father Vanden Broek had sent a letter throughout Holland which offered homes and employment to settlers; news of this had spread to their relatives and friends in Brabant. The Port of Antwerp had an advertising campaign in Germany, offering reduced rates from Germany to Antwerp.<sup>1</sup> Some of the Flemish people heard about this program from their German friends.<sup>2</sup> However, most of the people heard about Wisconsin through the advertising campaign that Wisconsin had sponsored.

The Belgian government passed laws to promote an increase in emigration traffic, partly to ease over-population and partly at the insistence of Antwerp citizens who profited from this traffic. Various commissions were established to regulate all matters connected with emigration. The purpose of these laws was to welcome the emigrants, to keep a record of their stay in Antwerp and to verify that conditions were satisfactory on board ship. A Royal Decree of 1850 set forth the legal requirements that every ship had to meet. There were minimum limits set for individual passenger space, storage space for food and fuel, space for bed linens, and space for toilets and cooking facilities. Room dividers were provided to guarantee separation of the sexes in the steerage area.<sup>3</sup> The steerage area was between decks - the thriftest way to travel by ship. There was a health inspection of each passenger and a check on the necessary food and water for each passenger. Finally, the regulation had to be read aloud to the emigrants and then publicly displayed in French, German and English on each ship. So, it can be seen that the Belgian

government helped to increase emigration and tried to protect the emigrant.<sup>4</sup>

The Catholics, who had fled from Holland to Brabant, received letters from the Hollanders who were settling in the Little Chute area. These flowing letters were called "spekbrieven" or "bacon letters" (for gross exaggerations) and urged emigration - "In America one finds a good possibility to save money, to receive better food, no conscription, less taxes, more equality with employer, and simpler and more healthful living."<sup>5</sup> Spekbrieven comes from a Flemish slang expression, "Hij schiet met spek,"<sup>6</sup> still used to describe someone who is telling tall stories. In Flemish spek is bacon and brieven are letters.

Around 1850, some of the settlers from Holland had Flemish wives and there were a few Flemish settlers also in this group. Among them were a Callewaerts and a Van Caster, who settled in Outagamie County; the latter moved to Brown County later.

The major factor leading to the migration of Brabanters to Wisconsin was the advertising campaign initiated by that state after it gained statehood, in order to attract settlers. In 1852, the state legislature established an emigrant agency in New York, with G.W. Van Steenwyck as the first Wisconsin State Commissioner of Immigration.<sup>7</sup> His duties were to distribute literature to emigrants, to protect them from crooks and to report on the numbers, nationalities and occupations of emigrants. The literature included pamphlets, written in German, English and Dutch, and advertisements in European newspapers. The pamphlet urged the reader to come to Wisconsin where land was cheap - only three guilders (one dollar and twenty-five cents) per acre - and where there was freedom and opportunity to better their condition. The Flemish emigrants to Wisconsin by 1852 included the families of Anton De Greef, Casimer De Noble, Peter Deterville, Francois Petitjean, John Peeters and Peter Reigneir, but it is impossible to tell whether they came as a result of reading the Flemish pamphlet. Some Walloon

families also came in 1852 in response to advertisements in French for stone-workers needed in the Duck Creek Quarry.

There is a story about a Walloon, Francois Petiniot, having access to the pamphlet the next year, which led to nine Walloon Protestant families emigrating to Wisconsin and on the advice of Father Daems, settling in Robinsonville, northeast of Green Bay.<sup>8</sup> They were the vanguard of the large Walloon migration to Door, Kewaunee and Brown Counties in Wisconsin, most of which occurred in the next five years. This group was accompanied by Guillaume Horckmans, who had been in the United States several years before, as a worker on the Fox/Wisconsin River Navigation System.

The exodus of Flemish grew in 1853, 1854, 1855 and reached a peak in the next two years. Most of them came from a fairly small area, as is shown on Figure 6. The whole country-side that contains these seven towns is not much more than ten-miles square. For an idea of the scale of the map, the distance from Overijse to Waterloo is eight miles. When these people came to Wisconsin, they settled in an area not much larger than that shown on the map, and many of the families from a town in Belgium lived close to each other again in America. Many of those first pioneers talked about their poignant farewells in Belgium and the heart-warming cries of welcome they received on arriving in Wisconsin.

Most of the Flemish who were thinking about going to America already had set Wisconsin as their goal, and had some idea of what to expect from information in the letters received from the early Hollander and Flemish pioneers. These letters were passed from family to family and were read and discussed at community gatherings. On hand to urge them to take the big step of leaving their homes forever were agents of ship-owners, who tried to convince them how cheap and easy it was to make the trip. Some of these agents were known as "sharks" who cheated the migrants; the Belgian government warned the people again and

Figure 6.

HOME VILLAGES IN BRABANT PROVINCE, BELGIUM  
OF SOME EARLY WISCONSIN-FLEMISH FAMILIES

This is a representative sample of the early Flemish families who came to Wisconsin to show that most of them came from one small region in Brabant. The space on this page does not permit us to list all of the families, nor to show that families with common names, e.g., Wau-ters, Meulemans, etc., came from many different areas of Belgium. The heavy black line is the language frontier which was fixed by law in 1966; the Flemish language is the official language of the government, courts and schools north of the line; Walloon is the language south of the line. The capital city, Brussels, is officially bilingual.

OUD HEVERLEE

Basteyns  
Christens  
Grabbe  
Cauwenberg  
DeCoster  
DeGrave  
DeGreef  
Deraadt  
DeRidder  
Derwae  
DeVan  
DeVroey  
Doms  
Duchateau  
Engels

OUD HEVERLEE

Meert  
Mertens  
Nieuwenhuysen  
Poels  
Quatresol  
Rentmeester  
Rodaer  
Rondou  
Ronmans  
Tuyls  
VandenBosch  
VanderHeyden  
VanderLinden  
VanderWegen  
VanderZande

OUD HEVERLEE

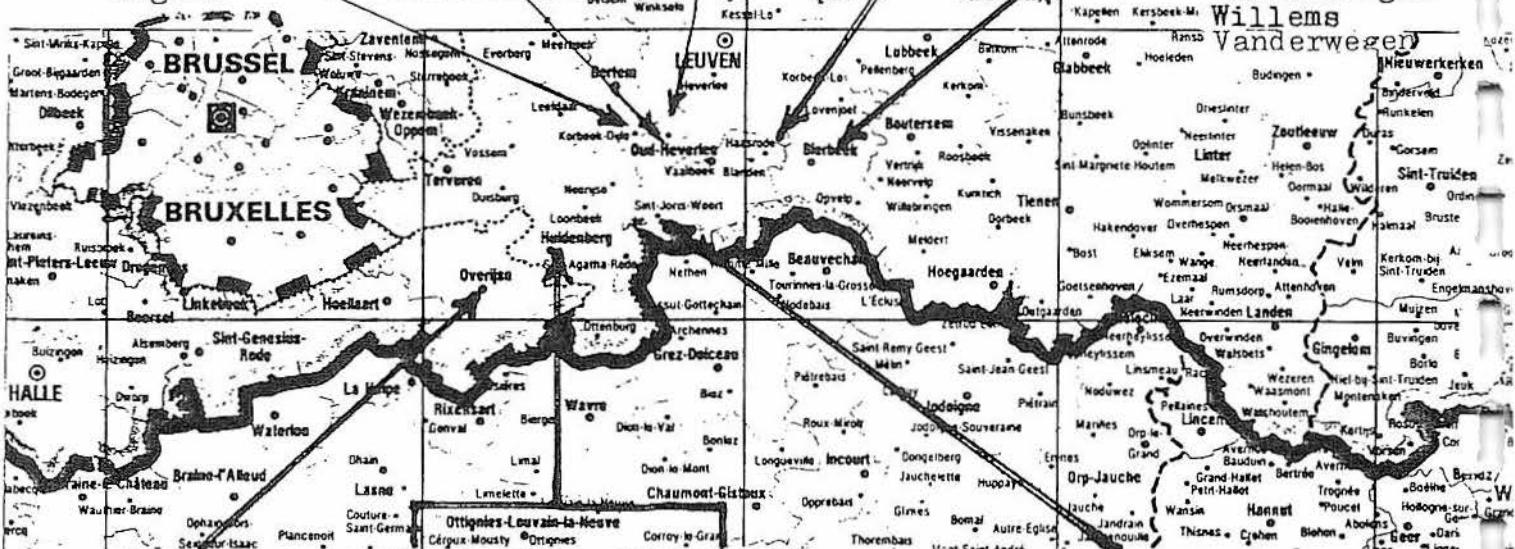
Van Vlasselaer  
Verhulst  
Verstoppen  
Guns  
Haesendonck  
Matheys  
VanGemert  
VanHoof  
VanThiel  
Goosens  
VanEss

BLANDEN

Haesaerts  
Lurquin  
Meulemans  
Mommaerts  
Peeters  
Verboomen  
Vervaeren  
Vonckx

BIERBEEK

Baeb  
Wouters  
Buijs  
Coopmans  
Debot  
Deneys  
Marteanu  
Meulemans  
Moes  
Mommaerts  
Niclaes  
Roskam  
Steno  
VanEyck  
VanBellinger  
Willems  
Vanderwegen



OVERIJSE

Adams  
Adriaens  
Bergiers  
Bolsina  
Boomis  
Guffort  
Tuttlemans  
VandenAvond  
VanDeuren  
Werge

HULDENBERG

Bendels  
Bombaers  
DeBaumer  
DeBecker  
DeKelver  
DeKeyser  
DeLeers  
DeWitt  
Naekerts  
Vanden Borren

HULDENBERG

Lamal  
Phillips  
Sporkens  
Thys  
VanderLinden  
VanderKelen  
Watermolen

SINT JORIS-WEERT

Broyleus  
Callewaerts  
Clabots  
Cleeremans  
Coppens  
Crab  
Daniels  
DeLang  
Flanders  
Haine  
Horckmans  
Maes  
Malliet  
Michaux  
Motif  
Nuthals  
Paeps  
Schroeders  
Steno  
Tielens  
VandenBerg  
VandenBosch  
VandenPlas  
VanErem  
VanErmens

again about these sharks.<sup>9</sup>

The ship-owners made it worthwhile for their agents to obtain as many passengers as possible for their westward trip. On the trip from America, the ship carried a cargo such as wood, cotton or tobacco, and they relied on emigrant passengers to increase their profit on the return trip. The hold of the ship was used to store luggage and cargo; the steerage area between decks was used for emigrant passengers. On larger ships, this steerage section had upper and lower compartments; between three hundred and four hundred passengers could be carried on such a ship. Sailing vessels averaged thirty-eight days going west and twenty-four days on the eastward trip, because of the prevailing westerly winds.

A pamphlet, entitled Guide and Counselor for the Emigrants, written by J.J. Conart in 1850, was made available in municipal halls of the major cities.

In 1855, a more complete version was prepared by J. Thielens and was widely circulated to the Flemish-speaking population.<sup>10</sup> Figure 8 shows part of the title page. This document was so complimentary

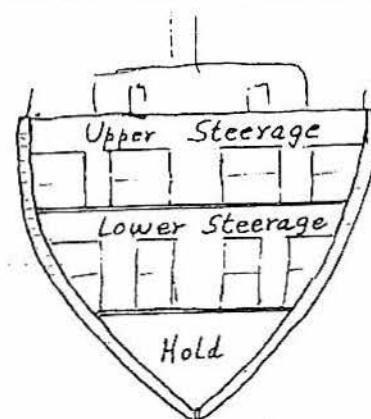


Figure 7.  
Cross-section of ship.

Figure 8.



to Wisconsin, that ship-owners obtained copies for their agents to give to prospective customers. The nine Walloon families, who came to America on the Quinnebaug in the Spring of 1853, studied this brochure during the voyage which their Flemish fellow-passengers translated for them.<sup>11</sup>

Generations of Vander Kelens and Rentmeesters have wondered why their ancestors brought heavy stone bottles with them from the city of Huldenberg, Brabant Province. Page 14 of the Emigrant's Guide contained advice to the emigrant to bring: clothing, bedding, a good tinned-kettle, some stone bottles for drinking water, some metal or porcelain plates, spoon, fork, knife, and a lantern. Drinking water for the passengers was stored in iron tanks in the steerage compartment. The lantern was needed because the steerage had only two port-holes or ventilators on each side and often these were blocked, resulting in foul-smelling air and scarcely any light.

The emigrant could take his own food, but the brochure recommended that it was easier and more economical to buy it as part of the boat-passage. Inspection of food and quarters for the passenger, they said, was carefully controlled by the Antwerp Port Commission. The food was mainly salted meat, salted fish and biscuits. However, they did recommend that the passenger take some special food: a piece of smoked meat, condensed milk, dried prunes, eggs packed in plaster (?), rum and lemons, wine, sugar, lime tea, etc. The condensed milk was prepared by boiling sugared milk to one third of its volume, then it was put in bottles until they were completely filled and capped, then put in cold water on the fire for a few hours and finally they were sealed with wax and packed in hay. There were no instructions on how



Figure 9.  
The Vander Kelen's  
stone bottles.

to pack eggs in plaster (in kalk in Flemish).

Raymond and Rita Marto Rentmeester still have one of the immigrant trunks used by the Vanden Borne family in 1857. It was made according to instructions in the Landverhuizers Guide: "Personal effects should be packed in boxes three-feet long, three-feet high and two-feet wide, and not in barrels, with a maximum weight of two-hundred pounds. Put some camphors or woolen sheets soaked in oil of turpentine among the clothes. The trunk must have solid handles and the name of the owner. You will not have access to this trunk during the voyage as it will be stored down in the hold."

Other interesting points in the Landverhuizers Guide:

- Wagon and wheelbarrow prices in America for hauling their baggage was shown in United States Money. (One dollar at that time was equal to 5.52 Belgian francs.)

- Railroad fares from New York to different places in the United States were shown. To Green Bay, Wisconsin, the fare was \$10; to Milwaukee, it was \$11. (In 1855, the railroad went only as far as Milwaukee, the cheaper fare to Green Bay must have been because the Detroit to Green Bay trip was by steamboat.)

- You have to get up early in the morning and work late at night to keep up with Americans. They say, "Who doesn't work, doesn't eat."

- Every emigrant must have the following documents:

- (1) A Traveling pass for himself and his family.
- (2) If he is married, a marriage-certificate.
- (3) A baptism-certificate.

(4) A certificate of good behavior, signed by the burgomeister (mayor) or priest of his village. (This was called the Good Conduct Pass; quite a few still exist.)

- Relatives should always travel together, to help each other and to protect each other from thieves, pickpockets and confidence-men. Convert your money to gold and keep it in a money-belt always strapped to your body.

- Everything considered, Wisconsin is the best place for immigrants to choose. The air is healthy, it rarely snows and there is very good drinking-water.

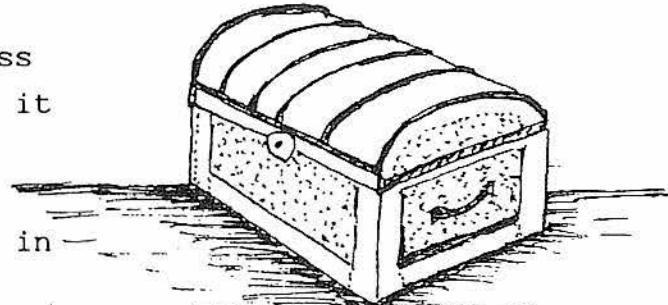


Figure 10.

The Vanden Borne Immigrant trunk.

Many of the Flemish people, reading this brochure and hearing the glowing news from the Flemish and Hollander settlers in America, got the itch to move. Some barely had enough money to get there while others were well-off, but almost all traveled in the cheaper steerage in typical thrifty fashion. Two of the few people to travel cabin class were John and Anna Heyrman and that was because she was ill; unfortunately, she died at sea.

Antoine De Both and his wife, Joanna Servais, represent another family that was well-off. When they left Ottenburg, Brabant Province, they sold their blacksmith shop, farm, tavern and the community center where the kermis was held. With their three daughters and two sons, they left Belgium on 4 July 1856, and, after a three month voyage, landed at New York and went straight to Green Bay. Anton and Joanna had prosperous businesses in De Pere and lived to a ripe old age. Their biographer described their typical Flemish dispositions, nonchalant and happy, not even remembering their birth-dates, but always ready to have a good time.<sup>12</sup> (This nonchalance accounts for the wild fluctuation of age and birthdates recorded by the Flemish settlers on censuses and other official papers.)

Many of the immigrants had little property to dispose of when they decided to leave. In some cases, most of the family would emigrate and leave one member of the family to settle their affairs. The Steeno family said that they sold their Bierbeek property to the government but never received payment although they sent letters and funds with friends in an effort to get their money. The Brabant churches made no record of the departing emigrants; however, it was shown on some of the population registers.<sup>13</sup> In some parts of Wallonia, efforts were made to slow down the migration because of the resulting labor shortage; there is no such problem recorded for Flanders.

Groups of Flemish families, who were almost always related, sold their belongings and made a contract with a shipping

agent for passage from Antwerp to the New World. About ninety-five percent of them went to New York City, the rest landed at Quebec,<sup>14</sup> Portland, Maine, Boston and Philadelphia. Once the contract was made, space was reserved on a ship. A ticket on the ship for an adult was about \$35 plus the cost of provisions for at least six weeks, unless they brought their own.<sup>15</sup> As far as we know, there was no problem encountered in obtaining the official documents, except where a young man had to complete his military service.

In 1855, the Wavre-Leuven railroad line was completed and Brabanters could take themselves and their baggage by train directly to Antwerp. Before that, they would go by stage-coach or hire wagons to get to the port. Every time that they had to change their mode of transportation, there was a frenzy of activity with every member of the group assigned a specific piece of luggage to watch. One family, on a sailing-ship leaving the Antwerp harbor, had to watch despairingly when the horses and wagons with their luggage came galloping up to the dock. Too late, the captain had the wind and outgoing tide and wouldn't turn back. Another family reported that they arrived in Green Bay in the Spring, and it was late Fall before their household goods were off-loaded at the Green Bay dock.

One of the most unusual items brought along was a heavy millstone, that required the help of several strong men when it had to be moved. One passenger even had two millstones. Yet, it was an urgently needed item in the Green Bay area, which was producing large crops of wheat and rye. There weren't many grist-mills, which before the advent of the first steam-engine in the area around 1856, required water or wind-power. (A stone windmill, reminiscent of the Dutch-Flemish landscape, had been erected in Bay Settlement in 1844, but it required a gale from the west to make it effective.) In those days there were only two sources of good millstones, either from Esopus, New York or from France, so the millstone around the immigrant's neck was worth its weight

in gold when put to use. It was 1879 before the millstone was replaced by the corrugated chilled-iron roller in the flour-grinding process.

What a variety of items there were in those Flemish trunks, bags, suitcases and other containers. Some held firearms to provide protection against the wild animals and the Indians. One group of three young men brought along a knife and revolver to protect themselves in this wild, turbulent, new land; when their ship came into New York harbor and they saw the tall buildings, bustling streets and other signs of civilization, they threw their weapons into the ocean.<sup>16</sup> Jan Franciscus Rentmeester had a sword and two stone bottles containing Rhine wine in his trunk. Many of the families brought seeds of their favorite crops; the Vander Kelens brought seeds of the rich hops of Flanders. For many years, the good home-brew quaffed in the community was made from these hops. One of the family later took some of these hop-seeds to Oregon and claimed that Oregon soil produced a much richer product.

Many of the Flemish men brought along the tools of their trade. Charles Geernaert had his barbering equipment; cobblers Charles Strubbe and Cornelius Van Bellinger brought along awl, last and wood-chipping tools; Cleeremans and Van Erem brought carpenter tools; J.F. Rentmeester had equipment for both his cooper and tailor trades. The women had their favorite items for cooking, sewing, nursing and for the thousand other tasks that were their labor of love in providing care for their families.

Generally, the shipping agents convinced the emigrants to sign a ship-contract and reserve a place on the ship while they were still in their home-village. The immigrants tried to travel during the Summer months when there were less ocean storms and they could avoid the freezing temperatures of the unheated steerage compartments. When the time came to leave, their neighbors, friends and prospective fellow-travelers escorted them to

the Leuven railroad station to say their good-byes.<sup>17</sup> It was a sad time for many, to know that they were saying farewell forever to family members, relatives, close friends and familiar surroundings. At the same time they knew that, in crossing the Atlantic, disaster might strike them at any moment in any one of three forms; fire, shipwreck or plague. From the Flemish and Hollander letters from Wisconsin, they also heard that on the sailing-ships, nearly all of the immigrants had to endure over-crowding, disorder, a foul atmosphere and poor food.

Conditions on sailing-ships were really bad before the 1850s, when hordes of Irish and Germans were packed on boats like sardines and arrived in port with many sick or insane and with many buried at sea.<sup>18</sup> During that same period, the newcomers were hounded by "runners" paid by trucking firms, hotels, boarding-houses and railway ticket-offices. As a result, there was United States legislation which improved conditions. Gradually, during the 1850s, the competition for the immigrant trade brought the use of mechanical ventilation, running water, separate berths, washrooms, medical facilities and more rigid inspection upon arrival at the New York port.

An example of a United States law to improve immigrant conditions was "An Act to Provide the Ventilation of Passenger Vessels and for Other Purposes" which stated that: "....

"...for vessels carrying over 50 passengers, for each passenger there must be 60 gallons of fresh water, 10 pounds salted pork free of bone, fuel for cooking, 5 pounds potatoes (or equivalent rice, peas, beans, etc.) cooking range....."

Even so, some of the Flemish still suffered abuses aboard ship. In 1856, a complaint was sent to the Belgian Consulate in New York, signed by Abs, Borremans, De Coster, De Keyser, Detry, Goffart, Marchant, Thielen, Vanlier and Verdoodt.

A major improvement was the introduction of steamships, which reduced the average time for the westward voyage from forty-four to thirteen days.<sup>19</sup> There was a dramatic decrease in the

number of deaths. In four months of 1853, 312 sailing-vessels arrived in New York with 96,350 passengers; of these, 1,933 died at sea and 457 were taken to hospitals upon landing.<sup>20</sup> As an example, the steamship carrying the Jan Francis Rentmeester family in 1856 lost three infants under six months of age out of the three hundred and eighty-six passengers that it carried. The fare for a steamship was up to sixty dollars.

The Rentmeesters were fortunate to be on one of the first motor-steamers in the emigrant trade, the Richard Morse, which made the trip in two weeks. The 326 steerage-passengers still had to be packed into the crowded, dark, poorly-ventilated area, but they knew that it wouldn't be for long. The compartment was only five and one-half feet high and had two double-deck rows of beds on either side of a five-foot aisle, (see Figure 11). The path through the center aisle was generally clogged with trunks and other luggage. The children played in this area and wherever else they could find room. Jacob and Joseph Pierquet were playing in these cramped quarters when their parents brought them to America. Their play turned into a scuffle in which Jacob threw one of his wooden shoes at his brother. The shoe split in two against a bulkhead and Jacob had to make the rest of the trip with only one shoe.

One young girl, tired of the crowded space, wandered up to the first-class section and ate a whole bowl of fruit. Never having seen a banana before, she ate it, peel and all. Little Rose Christens had a worse experience; the rats ate the brim off of her beautiful hat. Some of the Flemish, never having travelled much before, were suspicious of other nationalities.

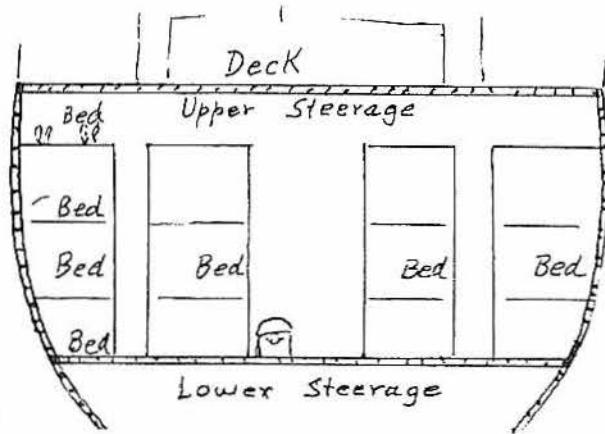


Figure 11.  
Steerage compartment.

Early in the voyage, some Flemish boys were having a game of ball. The ball bounced away into the midst of a group of German travelers and the Flemish emigrants were hesitant about retrieving it. To their surprise and delight, the Germans returned the ball, laughing and joking with their fellow-voyagers.

When the Mommaerts came to America, one of the worst fears of a ship's passenger was realized; their ship caught on fire. Although the fire was soon extinguished, young Paul Mommaerts had nightmares over this event for many years.

Many sick people suffered, and some died, in these cramped quarters on board ship. Many babies were born there. Frank April, John Van Hoof, Celia Quatsoe and Constant Watermolen first saw the light of day there. A look at the passenger-lists of these ships shows that not only were babies born on the ship, but that many young infants made the voyage. The ages of the emigrants ranged from the newly-born to many in their fifties and some in their seventies. It was surprising how many people were in their fifties, people who had seen the birth of the new country of Belgium and apparently were not satisfied with it.

The passenger-lists for ships out of Antwerp listed the passengers by name, age, sex, occupation, country-of-origin, destination and accommodation (cabin, poop-deck, between decks). Some lists before 1855 showed the village where people came from, for instance, Cornelius Wagner, age 46, and Amelia, his wife, age 43, on the ship, Gaston, were shown as coming from St. Joris-Weert. (Actually, his name was Wageneer, hers was Anna Maria Wouters.) Some passenger-lists also show the destination within the United States; an example is the Heyrman family on the William D. Smith, in 1856, who said that their destination was Pennsylvania. The country-of-origin was sometimes wrong; all of the Flemish on the ship, Graham Polly, which landed on 6 September 1856, were declared to be from Germany. Some of these Flemish names were Van Lielegem, Vander Smissen, Joannes, Verdoood, Thilmans, Van

Longeler, Cleeremans, De Vroom, Clabots, Van Ermen, Vanden Berg and Porugnings. Many names were mis-spelled, e.g., Porugnings was Bruynincks.

Figure 12.  
Sailing Ship.

Many Flemish emigrants came over to America in sailing-ships, a voyage which could take three months in adverse winds and storms. There were many stories of sails blowing away, masts snapping and fear of imminent drowning.

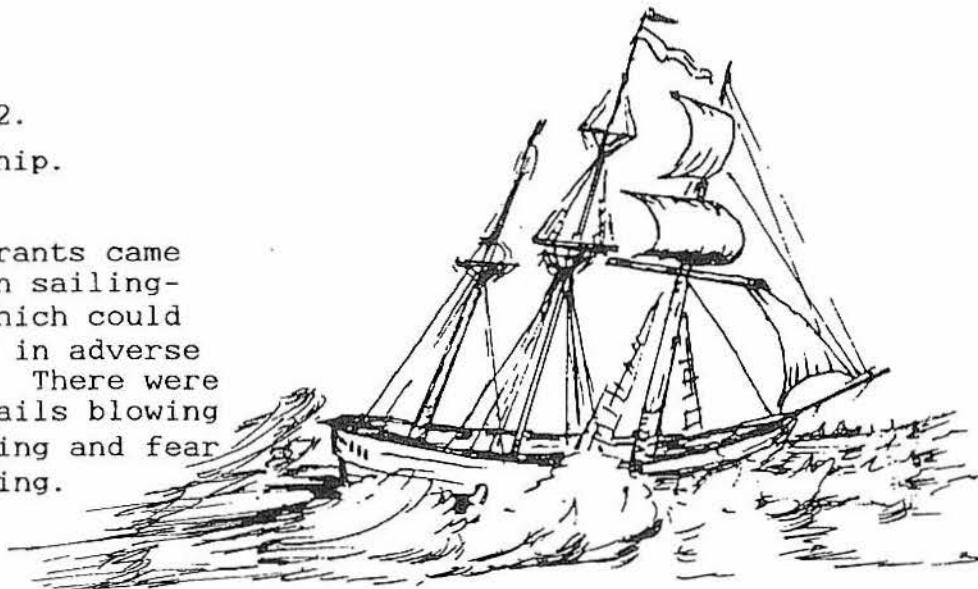


Figure 13 shows part of the passenger-list of the ship, Richard D. Morse; on this list, Jan Francis Rentmeesters has Holland listed as his country-of-origin and André Matheys has Germany for his native land. Also Van Hof should be Van Hoof, Van Sessel-aer is really Van Vlasselaer, Catherine Roeberge is Catherine Cauwenberg. Some ages are incorrect, perhaps to get lower fares.

There were no colorful stories about the Rentmeesters voyage. The trip was soon over. There were clear days and nights on shipboard with the stars, the moon and silvery glints on the waves, dancing, singing to the accompaniment of the accordion and games on deck. Earlier that year, a ship vanished and was never heard from again. Anna Vander Kelen said that her mother, Angelina Vanden Borne, considered that her punishment in purgatory for her sins was already completed during their voyage over the Atlantic. (Many women, when asked about their ocean voyage, said that they came over on their knees.) The Vanden Bornes had violent storms, broken masts, bouts of seasickness, fights over cooking-space at the one stove, one-third of the passengers dying, lack of food and water and one-hundred days at sea - the exact opposite of the Rentmeesters love-boat. During the worst storm, they had

Figure 13.  
Part of an 1856 ship passenger-list.

The Rodaer, Rentmeesters and Matheys families from Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant, were on the Motor Ship, Richard D. Morse, which docked at New York in September 1856. Of the 386 passengers, 272 were adults, 88 were children and 26 were infants. Under the law, the Captain had to pay a \$10 fine if anybody over the age of 8 yrs. died; the three who died on this voyage were infants.

Rodaer Jean Et	56	m	Belgium
Van Hof Maria	42	fem	3
Rodane Jean Th	19	m	3
" August	19	"	
" Guillaume	7	"	
Alphonse	4	"	
Barbu	6	s	
Rentmeeters Jean Jr	53		Gaillor
Van Seflaes Maria	35	fem	Holland
Rentmeeter Jean Et	10	m	3
" Andre	7	"	
" Catharinae	6	fem	3
" Guillerme	8	m	3
" Maria	2	fem	3
" Melanis	"	"	3
Taire Maria	27	"	
Matheys Andre	29		in Farmer
Rosberg Catharina	22	fem	Germany
Matheys Joseph	6	m	

to lash everything, including themselves, to the deck of the ship so they wouldn't be washed overboard. Every dish that they brought was broken. When the storm was over, they didn't know where they were. It took them almost three months of continuous sailing to get back to where they were when the storm hit. Joseph Verheyden's trip was another long one, lasting ninety-two days. The ship that the Steeno family was on was blown back to the east twice; when the food ran low, Maria Meulemans Steeno breast-fed four children to keep them alive. The longest crossing was about six months, and was caused by wind forcing the ship back to Europe several times.

When the early immigrant ships docked at the New York harbor, there was no Statue of Liberty to greet the pilgrim; it wasn't erected until 1886. There were plenty of runners and sharks ready to overcharge and/or rob the new arrivals. Engelbertus Willems told his grandson, Anthony Williams, that a friendly person offered him a cup of coffee, then made him pay one of his scarce dollars for it.

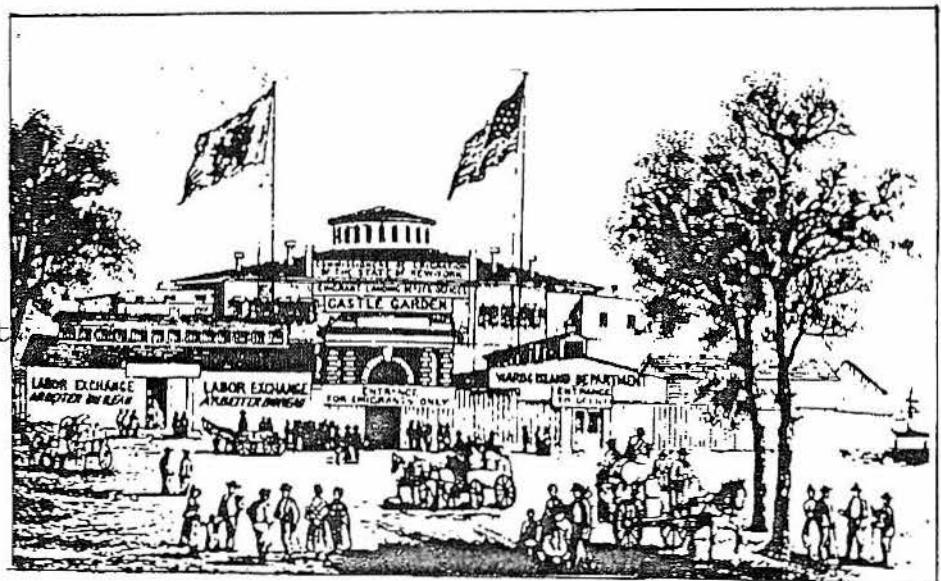
When Felix and Rosaline Lurquin arrived in New York, the inspectors found cholera aboard,<sup>21</sup> so the ship was quarantined for two weeks. One night during that period, the entire skyline of New York erupted in flame, causing the passengers to fear that the end of the world had come. They found out to their relief that it was the Fourth of July celebration in honor of Independence Day. In a letter to Flanders describing the Fourth of July holiday, another early settler wrote that it was the only "kermis" that Americans celebrated.

Many an emigrant got robbed of their hard-earned money. Peter Quatsoe, who later settled in the Town of Allouez, told about his experience. He arrived in New York in 1855 after an ocean trip which took 62 days because of unfavorable winds. As he was comparatively well-off, he converted his Belgian francs and gulden into United States gold; which he put into the money

belt around his waist. This was noticed by some thieves who tried to take it away from him. Another Fleming called a policeman who arrested the culprits. (There were quite a few Dutch/Flemish-speaking people around New York, particularly Hollanders, who were the first settlers there.)

In August 1855, the New York State Emigration Commission made landing at New York almost a pleasure for the weary, besieged emigrant.<sup>22</sup> They opened up a large auditorium, Castle Garden, at the tip of Manhattan Island, as a compulsory landing place for immigrants. Flemish children who passed through there remembered the fountain in the center where they played and sailed paper boats. (The story was passed down in the Hussin family that their ancestors were housed in a Cattle Barn upon arrival; Cattle Barn was a newcomer's version of Castle Garden.)

Figure 14.  
Castle Garden  
Emigrant Landing Depot



At Castle Garden, the immigrants were protected from runners, sharks and other unscrupulous people. The facility had a bureau of registration, ticket offices for railroads, exchange brokers, a city baggage delivery service, a labor exchange, a letter-writing department and a general information desk. Emigrants could send and receive mail there; the widower, John Heyrman,

received a letter from his two sons in Pennsylvania, telling him that the Flemish colony there was a failure and that they would rendezvous in the Flemish colony at Detroit.

The ships would enter New York Harbor and would dock on the East River side of Manhattan Island. A Flemish-speaking agent of the Wisconsin Emigration Agency would meet the ship and help the people get aboard the small steamboats which took them around the tip of the Island to the Castle Garden Depot.

As they entered, they were given a cursory medical inspection to identify cripples, lunatics, paupers and others who might become public charges. It was many years before rigorous physical examinations were given of the kind that led emigrants to renaming Ellis Island to Heartbreak Island. (When Ellis Island was used to process immigrants, starting in 1892, the Flemish newcomers would have to spend a week there.)

After the medical inspection, the immigrants were registered in the main auditorium and then were free to obtain food and information, collect letters, change money, book accommodation at a boarding house, buy rail and steamboat tickets and arrange for his luggage to be forwarded. Sometimes, there were goodbyes to be said to shipboard friends who had become as close as immediate family while sharing the dangers of the crossing. For instance, in 1854, John Baptiste Verhulst and his family were on a sailing-ship that took sixty-five days to make the crossing. During the last two weeks some families were starving, and the Verhulsts, who had plenty of food, kept these families alive. The close

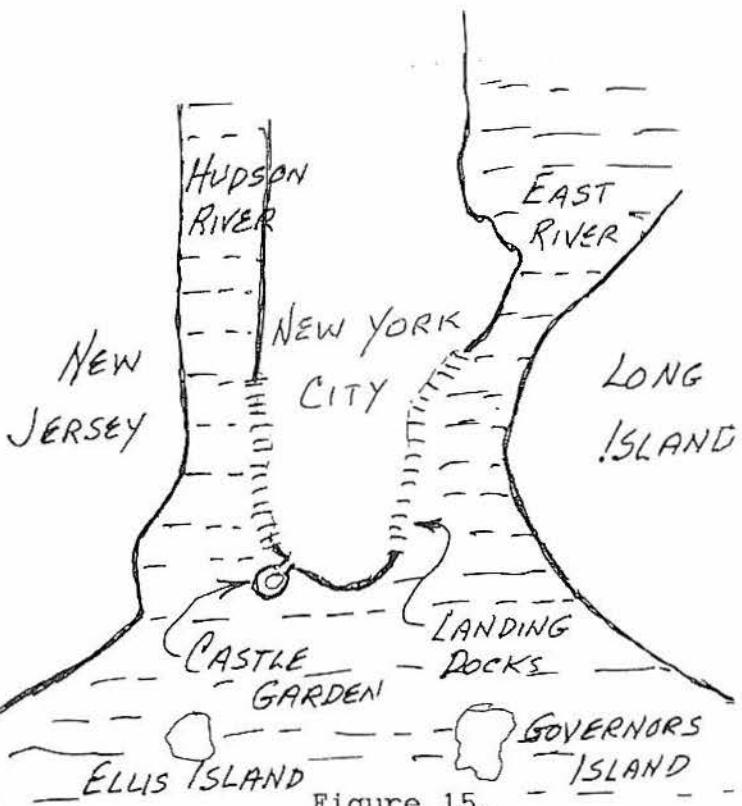


Figure 15.  
View of New York Harbor.

relationship that developed made parting a very sad experience.

After registration at Castle Garden, the Rentmeesters immediately bought railroad tickets to Milwaukee so that they could leave as soon as possible, as advised by the Emigrant Guide. In 1856, twenty-thousand immigrants came through New York on their way to Wisconsin:<sup>23</sup> it was a well-traveled road.

Some people still took the railroad to Albany, a boat on the Erie Canal to Buffalo, then a lake steamer or sailing-ship to Milwaukee, Sheboygan or the port at Green Bay. The water route was more comfortable and cheaper, but not as fast as the railroad. The Great Lakes route was used by the early French in their fur-trade and by the Germans and Hollanders in their earlier migration to Wisconsin. The Flemish bishop, Lefevere, at Detroit, sent instructions back to Holland and Flanders on how much the emigrant should pay for services along this route and which mode of transportation that he should select on the way to Detroit.

The Green Bay Advocate<sup>24</sup> published the schedules every week for the passenger steamers which docked in Green Bay. During the Summer season in the 1850s, the steamboat, Michigan, made a weekly round trip between Green Bay and Buffalo, New York. Another steamer, the Louisiana, made a weekly trip from Collingwood, on the Georgian Bay in Ontario, to pick up emigrants who had gone to Buffalo, then went by land over the Ontario isthmus to Collingwood. Most of the Flemish families took the Buffalo-Green Bay water route in the 1850-1855 period and the railroad route to Milwaukee in later years. Actually, the new railroad link from New York to Chicago was only completed in 1852 and the line from Chicago to Milwaukee was put into operation in 1855. The railroad from Milwaukee to Green Bay was not finished until 1862, so during the peak of Flemish emigration, the travelers had to complete the Milwaukee to Green Bay trip by lake-boat or by walking, stage coach, or by other means.

When the emigrant left Castle Garden, he was met by young men (generally Irish immigrants) who fought to handle their baggage. The Flemish emigrant was prepared for this onslaught because he had studied the recommended prices in the Emigrant's Guide,<sup>25</sup> which stated -

"b. Price for wagons with horses - for one-half mile: normal load, 33 cents, for a load needing special care 50 cents, for furniture 45 cents, for loading and unloading furniture, 50 cents extra. For each one-half mile more, pay one-third more of the above price. If the driver is not paid upon arrival, he is authorized to bring charges to the police.



"c. Price for push-carts and wheelbarrows. For wheelbarrows: less than one-half mile is 12 and 1/2 cents, from one-half to one mile is 25 cents. For hand wagons: less than one-half mile is 25 cents, one-half to one mile is 55 cents. For push carts: less than one-half mile is 18 cents, one-half to one mile is 31 cents. For porters: less than one-half mile is 12 and 1/2 cents."

Figure 16.  
Transferring Baggage.

The American currency was a puzzle for the newcomer for awhile. They had been warned to stay away from paper money which fluctuated in value, so they normally traded in their Belgian francs or Holland gulden for United States silver and gold. There were transactions recorded in gulden in Wisconsin up to the Civil War; for instance, Father Bonduel bought the old silver ostensorium, which had been given to the De Pere mission in 1686, for 28 gulden in Detroit in 1838 and returned it to the Green Bay Diocese.

It was the same with Spanish reales (pieces-of-eight), which were legal tender in the United States until just before the Civil War. This silver coin, which was patterned after the original silver dollar (thaler) designed by the Flemish mercenary, Count van Schlick, was made so that it could be cut into eight bits, each worth one real or 12 and 1/2 cents. Thus "two bits"

equaled one quarter and "four-bits" were fifty cents - expressions that are still used in this country.

At that time emigrants didn't have to show the immigration officials that they had money enough so that they wouldn't become public charges. The Emigrant's Guide only said that he should have at least enough money to pay his boat passage, from \$40 to \$50. However, it appears from the purchases of land and goods made by the Flemish settlers that most of them had at least one to two thousand dollars to start with. In our research, we found few of the Flemish people in the dire economic straits experienced by the Walloons to the North.

From Castle Garden to the central railroad station was a slow process, with children, trunks, porters and adult emigrants weaving a slow procession through the crowds. The railroad tickets had been bought at Castle Garden - \$11 for adults, children from 5 to 11 years old paid half-price, children under five years travelled free. Every person was allowed to have 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of luggage.

Because of the large number of immigrants going West from New York, many of the trains were crowded like cattle cars, with only rough wooden benches to sit or lie on. In those early days of the railroad, the gauge (width) of the railroad tracks was not standardized, with many of the states establishing their own standard, requiring transfer of passengers at some state borders. (The United States law which standardized widths of railroad tracks was passed in 1862.) At many of the stations where they stopped, peddlers of fruit and food passed through the train; the fresh food tasted doubly good after the drab ship-fare of salted meat, salted fish and hardtack. The train took several days to reach Chicago;<sup>26</sup> the Rentmeesters, Rodaer and Matheys families were struck by the immense forests, the beauty of the Fall colors and the hugeness of this vast land, as the train inched its way along.

At Chicago, the families had another battle with the porters as they transferred to the Milwaukee train. They arrived at Milwaukee in early October, secured lodgings and went out looking for a job, expecting to spend the Winter there before proceeding to Green Bay. In later years, this stayed in their memories as one of the hardest parts of their trip - the disappointment when they couldn't find employment. There were many Germans in Milwaukee at that time that the Flemish could communicate with, without much difficulty. There was also The Emigrant's Handbook and Guide To Wisconsin,<sup>27</sup> written in English and distributed to new-comers, with a lot of advertising to catch the emigrant's eye. It is very likely that Jan Francis Rentmeesters asked somebody to translate this document for him in his search for employment. Figure 17 shows some of the 1851 advertisements. Jan was a skilled tailor and cooper and he may have visited some of these shops.

**J. KIMBALL,**

**CARRIAGE MAKER.**

---

Constantly on hand  
One two Horse Buggies, Rockaways, &c., &c.,  
Also for sale, all kinds of  
**HARD WOOD LUMBER,**  
Suitable for Carriages and Waggons. All kinds of **BENT STUFF**—bent Feloes, bent Thills, Buggy and Waggon Bows; also, Hobs of every description.

**STEINHART'S CLOTHING STORE,**  
220 East Water-St, (six doors below U. S. Hotel,) MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.  
Cloths, Cassimeres, Satinetts, Vestings, Handk's, Shirts, &c., Cheaper than at any other Establishment in town.  
Garments made to order, in the best style, and warranted to fit.  
REMEMBER 120, EAST WATER STREET.

Figure 17. 1851 Milwaukee Advertisements.

There were many parts of the 1851 Guide To Wisconsin that were similar to the Belgian Emigrant's Guide. It advised newcomers to get out into the country immediately to look for acreage. (Real estate agents provided free transportation.) The smallest quantity of land sold by the government was forty acres, priced at 5 shillings sterling per acre (one shilling = two-bits). The steamboat schedules and fares to Buffalo and points in-between are given. It warns about the sharks and thieves in

New York City. It explains the Constitution and laws of naturalization, stating incorrectly that without naturalization, the emigrant has no power to hold or convey real estate or property.

Figure 18.

Advertisement for  
Daguerreian Gallery.

In Milwaukee, many of the immigrants saw a photography studio for the first time. They were intrigued by this new "American" invention - which was actually created by Louis Daguerre in France.

**H. S. BROWN'S  
DAGUERREIAN  
GALLERY.**

No. 199 & 201 East Water-St., Milwaukee.

H. S. BROWN has operated in this City over four years, and having new and improved Instruments, (the largest West of New York,) and a fine North light, is prepared to take

**SINGLE COPIES AND GROUPS,**

*Equal to any in the World—Likenesses Warranted.*

PICTURES PUT UP IN THE LATEST STYLES OF CASES.

*Gold Lockets always for Sale.*

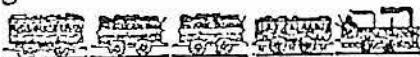
**TO OPERATORS.**

Instruments, Plates, Cases, Chemicals, Gold and Gilt Lockets, &c., always for sale. Agent for Anthonys Anhydrous Sensitive. Instructions and Outfits furnished young men who wish to engage in this pleasant and profitable business.

*(Remember Martin's Block, 199 and 201 East Water Street,  
corner of Wisconsin Street.)*

After a week of trying to find a job, the three families purchased tickets on a lake steamer, which took them to the port at Green Bay. They had many misgivings about this trip because, only a few weeks before, a ship with 200 passengers was lost just north of Milwaukee, at Port Washington. Shortly after their arrival in Green Bay, another steamboat loaded with emigrants, bound from Buffalo to Milwaukee, sank at almost the same spot, again with total loss of life.<sup>28</sup>

**Michigan Central Rail Road Line.**



Boats leave Milwaukee daily, at 7 o'clock A. M., for Chicago, Detroit, and Buffalo, reaching Buffalo in 45 hours.

The splendid Steamers

*Atlantic, May Flower, and Ocean,*

connect with the above line at Detroit,—leaving Buffalo daily at 9 o'clock, P. M.

THE STEAMER DETROIT,  
Leaves Milwaukee daily, at 8 A. M., (except Sunday,) for Port Washington, Sheboygan and Manitowoc.

Figure 19.  
Steamboat Advertisement.

In the 1850s, Green Bay was a major seaport, with several sailing ships and steam-powered boats arriving and departing daily. The passenger boats made connections with the railroad lines throughout the Great Lakes area. Some of the immigrants came directly from Europe to ports on the St. Lawrence waterway and on the Great Lakes.

The Green Bay Advocate reported every week the number of Belgians arriving on each steamship; a majority were Walloons. In one issue, the Advocate stated that more than half of these emigrants arrive destitute, having been fleeced at every point between New York and their destination.<sup>29</sup> The newspaper reported that 40 Belgians arrived on the steamer, Louisiana, on 30 June 1856 and over 300 arrived on 14 July 1856. A tragic report in the 7 February 1856 weekly concerns a party of Belgians that attempted to walk from Milwaukee to Green Bay three weeks before, in freezing cold. Two Laluzerne girls and a woman with three small children were separated from the group and disappeared. Some time later, a Belgian woman was found frozen to death near De Pere.

\* \* \* \* \*



#### SINT JORIS-WEERT

Many of the Wisconsin Flemish came from this village of farmers and grape-growers on the Dyle River. The modern village looks much the same as it did then.

At first, the Flemish settlers built their farm homes close together, as in Flanders, but their houses spread apart as the size of their farms became larger.

## LIFE IN THE NEW WORLD

When the Rentmeesters family arrived in Green Bay during the Fall of 1856, the city had a population of approximately 3,000 people and was growing weekly with the influx of immigrants. It had obtained a city charter two years before and extended from the Fox River eastward for five blocks to Madison Street. On the west side of the river and connected by a ferry-boat was the newly created borough of Fort Howard, with a population of approximately 1,300 people.<sup>1</sup>

The city had been settled first by French-Canadian fur-traders and that language was still heard a lot in the streets, a welcome sound to newly-arrived Walloons. In 1816, the American troops arrived, followed by Yankee traders, lawyers, surveyors and other entrepreneurs who installed American government and the American way of life. In the 1840s, the Germans and Hollanders arrived, followed by the Flemish, so that these languages were commonly heard and made the city truly multi-lingual. At that time, Wisconsin was the only state in the union that had more foreign-born than native Americans as its citizens.

When the Rentmeesters' party disembarked, they were greeted with loud shouts of welcome from old friends. It happened to be a Saturday, which is a traditional day for farmers to bring their farm products to market, and the Flemish farmers, out of curiosity, went to the dock to see if any of their old friends were arriving. There were hugs and kisses and the words flowed "a-mile-a-minute."

Elizabeth Van Vlasselaer, who was married to John Francis

Derwae, hugged her sister, Joanna Rentmeesters, and, with an expression of pity, asked about the ocean voyage. The Derwaes lived to the east of Green Bay, in the Town of Manitou\* (later called Bellevue), which was established that year. Joseph De Greef, also from Oud-Heverlee, had arrived the previous year and invited everybody to his lunch-roon and saloon across the river in Fort Howard. The Jean Baptiste Cauwenberg family, with an eighty-acre farm on the Finger Road, was bringing some wheat and potatoes to town; Jean Baptiste was soon hugging his sister, Catherina Matheys, and admiring his little nephew. There was Christoffel Maes with a clothing store; Jan Francis Rentmeesters would do tailoring jobs for him later. Other good friends, most of whom lived east of the City of Green Bay, were the Peter De Greef family, Jean Baptiste Tuyls and his wife, Mary Catherina Vander Heyden, Thomas and Maria Vander Wegen, and Anton De Greef. Many offered to provide shelter for the newcomers until they could get settled, but the families didn't want to be split up just yet. They had suffered together and laughed together so much on the trip that they felt like one big, happy family; this feeling was remarked upon by many other immigrants in describing their travel companions.<sup>2</sup>

Their friends left them agreeing that they would meet at mass the next day at St. John's "French" Church. There was a Flemish priest there, Father Florimond Bonduel, who preached in Flemish and who could give them advice. Joanna Rentmeesters wanted to settle close to a church and to her sister, Elizabeth Van Vlasselaer Derwae. The four Catholic churches in the area at that time were: St. John's; St. Mary's "German" church in Green Bay (later St. Francis Xavier Cathedral); St. John the Baptist at Duck Creek; and Holy Cross at Bay Settlement. However, services at the Bay Settlement church were suspended because its Flemish pastor, Father Edward Daems, was on an extended trip to Europe. (More on the Flemish religion in a later chapter.)

\*The Indians objected to this name, saying that it was the same as calling the town God.

The Green Bay that the Rentmeesters' party saw was a far cry from the ancient city of Leuven. Instead of cobbled streets, there were dirt roads, full of mud-holes in rainy weather. Instead of solid-stone buildings, there were dwellings and commercial structures, all made of wood. See Figure 20 for a view of Washington Street in 1857. In 1856, the Green Bay Advocate had reported that this stretch of Washington Street, between Main and Doty Streets, would be covered with planks by October 1856, at a cost of \$50 per rod, to be paid by the store-owners. The 1857 view shows that nothing was done to satisfy the Advocate's lament that "measures be taken to expunge the ragged, irregular, unsound and unsafe rows of awning-posts and sheds - and to keep the sidewalks clear of boxes, barrels and goods."

Newly arriving Flemish were delighted to see a sign of welcome in their native language - HOLLANDS AND BELGIENS WELVAREN - on H.J. Busch's store; he was married to a Flemish girl. Those arriving in 1856 were exhilarated by the air of prosperity and optimism that was the result of a banner-year in production of lumber, wheat and shingles. As a result, prices of land ranged to a new high of \$7 per acre for improved property. The Flemish farmers who were there long enough to put in a crop were getting what they considered to be fantastic prices for their products: beans \$3 per bushel; barley \$2; wheat \$1; potatoes 75¢; corn 60¢; and, oats 42¢. The wholesale price for butter was 15 cents per pound; lard was 12 and 1/2 cents per pound; flour was \$5 per barrel; salt pork \$18.75; whitefish \$9; and, salt \$2.50. Eggs were a penny apiece.<sup>3</sup> The three Oud-Heverlee families were buoyed by all of the good reports and now concentrated on finding a good homesite where they could settle down near each other.

#### The Flemish Settlements

Before Mass on Sunday morning, there was another joyous reunion with old friends from Oud-Heverlee, St. Joris-Weert, Huldenberg and the other nearby villages in Flanders. Anton De Greef

Figure 20.  
1857 View of Washington Street in Green Bay.

A sign in their own language welcomes the Flemish and Hollanders to Green Bay. For many years, this city was like Leuven had been to the Brabant Flemish - a place to bring their products to market and a place to buy tools, equipment, clothing and other necessities.

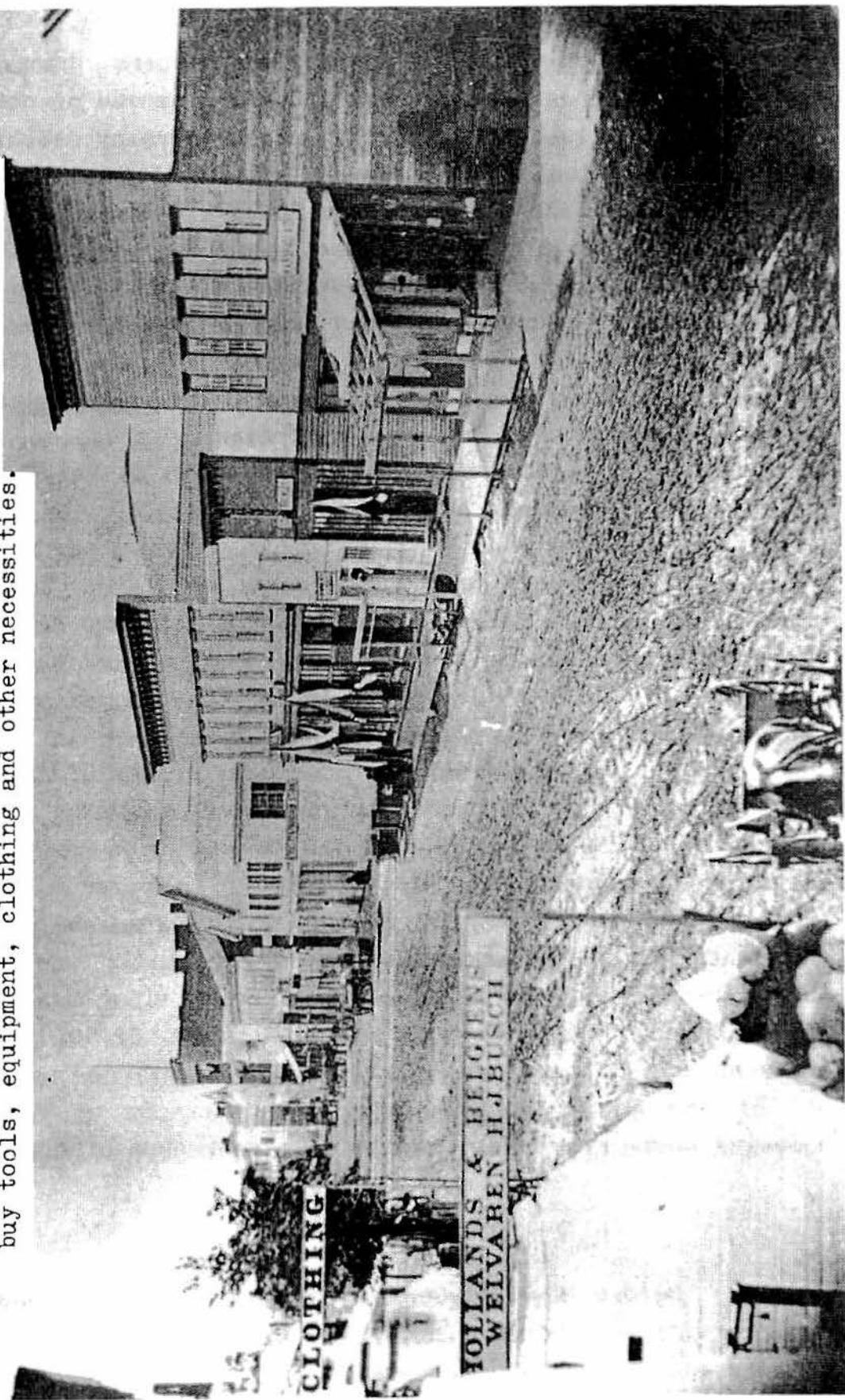


Photo: Courtesy of the Neville Public Museum.

and his wife, Anna Catherina Crabbe, who were close friends of the Rentmeesters, invited them to a pensenkermis at their home on the next Sunday.

The younger generation always called this celebration Ponsa Kermis. It took its name from pens, the Flemish name for pork sausage, and Kermis,<sup>4</sup> the word for the ancient Flemish celebration which was held in the Fall of the year. In the old Flemish villages, every family would kill a pig in the Autumn to provide them with meat for the following Winter. The practice was continued in Wisconsin, at least until World War II, and may still be followed by Flemish-American descendants. The work for the pensenkermis starts on Friday when the hog is slaughtered by the owner. He is generally helped with this task by several neighbors, who disembowel and bleed the animal, catching the blood in a container for later use. Usually, a pulley is used to dip the animal in-and-out of a tub of scalding water; the pulley is attached to an overhead beam in the barn or suspended between two trees. With the use of a scraping-tool, shaped somewhat like a bell, all of the hog bristles are scraped off of the hide.

On Saturday, the hind quarters are cut up and put in a smokehouse. Other parts, such as the side-pork, are salted for the Winter. Much of the fat part is used for lard, which is rendered in a big cast-iron kettle. With the surplus meat and the blood, both white and black sausage is made. (See Flemish Recipes.) On Sunday, neighbors and friends were invited to eat the sausage and have fun, hence pensenkermis. The guests would bring along containers for the excess lard and juice, which they would take home and use for cooking and in soups.

Peter Cattersol (Quatresols), who had settled in the City of Green Bay a year before, overheard Anton De Greef's pensenkermis invitation and told an amusing story about his brother,

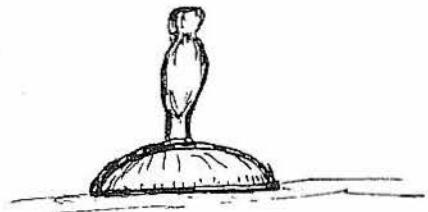


Figure 21.  
Scraping-tool.

Jan Frans (Frank), who was John Baptiste Rodaer's brother-in-law. Frank and his wife, Elizabeth Van Hoof, had settled in the Duck Creek area; Frank had shot a full-grown young black bear in his garden several weeks before. The meat was as sweet and tender as pork, so the family had a pensenkermis. They not only had meat for roasting and smoking, but they got over 10 gallons of bear-oil, which is used as a cure for rheumatism, sprains and baldness; in hair tonics and perfume; and as an olive-oil substitute.<sup>5</sup> In teaching the Flemish settlers how to use bear oil, the Indians would rub the settlers' eyes and joints with it. The Flemish women found bear oil to be an excellent cooking oil, some said better than lard for cooking purposes, especially for making the Flemish raised doughnuts. A favorite way of eating it was to mix it with maple-sugar and then spread it on bread.

After Mass was over, the new Flemish families were introduced to Father Bonduel, who had done so much for the Menominee Indians. When the Menominee Indians were talked into moving to Minnesota by the United States Government in an 1848 treaty, it was he who insisted that they be allowed to remain on part of their land. He spent the harsh Winter of 1853-4 with them at their new reservation at Keshena where many died. He still visited from time-to-time, but other missionaries were now assigned there. Father Gachet was one of these; in a letter he reports that he stayed with Flemish families at Duck Creek while traveling from Keshena to see Father Bonduel.<sup>6</sup> The Town of Bonduel, just south of Keshena, was named in honor of this pioneer priest.

Father Bonduel told the newcomers where other Flemish families were located: some at Wrightstown, some at De Pere, and others scattered south of Green Bay. The greatest concentration was in the new Town of Bellevue (which included the Towns of Allouez, Preble, Eaton and Humboldt) and there was a fair-sized settlement in the Duck Creek area. Many Flemish families settled near Walloon neighbors in the Towns of Green Bay and Scott; near the Red River; and in Door County. The Red River

settlement was known as Tonet; some of the Walloons called it Aux Flamands, for Flemish Settlement. The Flemish settlers at Red River included these families: Adams, Alsteens, Bredael, Hendricks, Lemens, Gillis, Kimp, Vanderstappen, Van Eycke, Vander Houten and Van Pee.

Their Flemish friends to the east of Green Bay wanted the Rodaer/Rentmeesters/Matheys party to settle in that area. They said that a priest had been holding services at Peter Faenger's house at least once a month and Father Bonduel agreed that a church would be built there someday. There was a passable road to Green Bay, which made travelling fairly easy; it was an ancient Indian trail improved by Peter Faenger and the German settlers. Their friends would provide shelter until their cabins were built and there were some Pottawatomi Indians there who were skilled in building cabins and would work for food and wampum.

There were herds of deer and bear in the area - which served as a good source of food and protein that was necessary in their diet. Many of the early Flemish settlers had merely squatted on government land without paying for it or recording it; so far the authorities hadn't demanded payment. (They did in 1865, when the Pre-emption Law was passed.) However, most of the government land was sold and would have to be purchased from private owners, unless the settlers were willing to live a distance of over ten miles from the City of Green Bay. If the cheaper government land was desired, it was necessary to go to the Land Office in Menasha and pay \$1.25 per acre for good land, or as little as 50¢ per acre for swampland.

Another argument for living in the Finger Road area was the presence of Germans and Hollanders, who could communicate with the Flemish farmers. Even though the Flemish had to learn French under the Belgian Government, and could converse with the local French-Creoles<sup>7</sup> and Walloons, they were more at ease speaking Germanic dialects. The difference between Flemish and Dutch

is much like the difference between American and British English. The German language is called Hochdeutsch (High German); Dutch and Flemish are called Niederdeutsch (Low German) and many words are the same in all three Germanic dialects.<sup>8</sup>

Jan Francis Rentmeesters wanted land that contained oak and maple trees, for building material and fuel. Hardwoods like alkali (sweet) soil; fir trees prefer acid soil. The oak and maple growth thus was indicative of good soil and also was easy to clear because the stumps soon rotted away.<sup>9</sup> John Baptiste Rodaer wanted to live in Bay Settlement, the beautiful site that he had seen from the steamboat on the way from Milwaukee to Green Bay.

The newly-arrived families stayed with friends and looked in earnest for a desirable location because the weather was cold and they wanted to get settled for the Winter. The men spent several days going out on foot, about two hours each way, looking at land, first at Bay Settlement, then east of Green Bay, and lastly towards De Pere. John Baptiste Rodaer was the first one to make a decision; on 17 October 1856, he bought 40 acres from De Pere land speculators for \$1,275.00.<sup>10</sup> This was choice land, with buildings on it, in Bay Settlement (called Bay Sechmo by the Flemish) and must have been bought on speculation, because he lived on it only that first Winter after his arrival.

To understand the various ways that the early Flemish pioneers acquired their land and some of their dealings with the Indians, let us review the steps taken in obtaining clear title to the property. In earlier days, the land to the east of the Fox River had been inhabited by the Pottawatomi and the Winnebago Indians; the land west of the Fox was Menominee Indian territory. In 1836, the Menominee Indians transferred most of their land to the United States Government; the Winnebago Indians followed suit by treaties in 1828, 1832 and 1840, when they ceded all of their Wisconsin lands. By 1846, the United States Government

had removed most of the Pottawatomi tribe to Kansas, but the three hundred or so who remained provided invaluable assistance to the Flemish. All at once, according to a Flemish observer, these too disappeared.<sup>11</sup>

After the Indian title was extinguished, the next steps were: survey of the townships; establishment of the land-offices; advertisements of land-sales; land-auction; and, selling the remaining land at bargain prices. The townships had been surveyed by men with compasses, chains and levels, slogging their way through swamps and dense woods. Two pioneer surveyors were A.G. Ellis, who gave his name to Ellis Creek and John Mullett.<sup>12</sup> They were paid \$3 per mile for their work, which consisted of putting in a bench-marker at the corner of every section (square-mile) of land, containing 640 acres. The law required that every quarter-section be marked, but this provision of the law was not always followed. Some of these first bench-markers are still preserved in the Brown County Surveyor's Office. They are timeworn hunks of stumps or wood, which were used as stakes and had the section, township and numbers carved into them, e.g., Section 12, Township 23 North, Range 21 East.

There are thirty-six sections of land in one township and any plot of ground can be located from north-to-south by township number and from east-to-west by range number. Surveying of this virgin land was very important in opening up frontier territory in America; both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were surveyors.

With the land surveyed, the sale of public lands started in Wisconsin's first land office, located at Green Bay, in November 1834. Within a few years, there was wild speculation in land because of easy credit and payment which could be made with paper

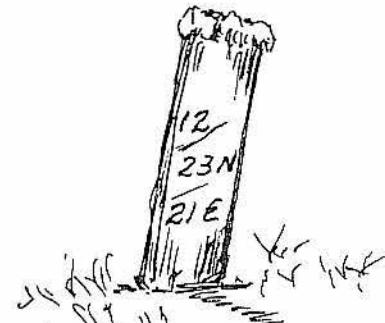


Figure 22.

Surveyor's Bench-mark.

money drawn on state banks. In 1836, President Andrew Jackson required that all land purchases be paid for in gold or silver, thus precipitating the 1837 Panic and the failure of many banks. Its effect was felt for many years in the Green Bay area because land had been bought and sold so fast that land-titles were difficult to straighten out. Most of the choice land that was situated eight miles to the east and west of the Fox River had been quickly snapped up by speculators.

In July 1852, the Green Bay Land Office was transferred to Menasha. However, its move had little effect on the Flemish settlers because most of them acquired their property in other ways. Here are some examples of how they obtained their land:

(1) Land-Office Purchase. On 3 November 1854, Anna Catherina Van Ermens (Mrs. William Coppens) bought 314.93 acres at 75 cents per acre in the middle of (what is now) the Town of Humboldt. She probably convinced the land-agent that it was swampland, hence the bargain price. Her relatives - Van Ermens, Coppens, and Clabots - lived on the property. William Duchateau bought an adjoining 37.85 acres at 50¢ an acre on 23 August 1855.

(2) Land-Grant for Education. By an Act of Congress in 1841, Wisconsin was given one section of land in each township which could be sold to provide money for the school-system. Generally, Wisconsin set aside Section 16 in each township for this purpose. In 1857, Wisconsin Governor Coles Bashford sold a section of land, under Patent No. 1114, in (what is now) the northeast corner of Bellevue, to Jean Baptiste De Coster for \$320.00.

(3) From an Individual. On 22 July 1857, Peter and Josephine (De Boers) Jedael bought 5 acres for \$25 from Henry Arkens. The land is in the northeast corner of (what is now) the Town of Eaton.

(4) Squatters. Many of the early Flemish simply occupied the land without paying, until forced to do so by the 1865 Pre-emption Law. Anton and Mary Vanden Berg paid \$1,400.00 for 147 acres on 5 March 1866.

(5) The Lost Section. How was it possible for squatters to preempt land in a highly desirable location which would normally be the target of land speculators? The answer lies in a surveyor's error; in 1834, Ellis and Mullett overlooked a whole section of land in the Town of Bellevue. The area was called the "Lost Section" or, in Flemish, Verloren Land.<sup>13</sup> One reason for the error was the unusual shape of the French-Creole lots which were narrow strips fronting on the Fox River; these lots were legitimized by the United States Government in 1821.<sup>14</sup> Action was taken for a new survey in early 1864 by John V. Suydam, which finally solved the problem.<sup>15</sup> Some of the early squatters in Verloren Land were

John Wigman, R. Donkers, Henry Vanden Leert, M. Vanden Leert, P. Heesecker and Joseph Pasingers. Its location is shown in the cross-hatched area on Figure 23, which is part of an 1875 map.

(5) Grants for Military Service. From the Revolutionary War onward, the Congress rewarded service in the military forces with grants of land. Here is an example. On 20 October 1856, John (Jan) Francis Rentmeester bought 53.32 acres for \$372 from Andreas and Magdalena Reis, who had come to the area in 1852 and who had the Reis Hotel in the City of Green Bay.<sup>16</sup> The land is unique in that it was originally a part of a Mexican War land warrant, given to soldiers for their service in that war. The land warrant is framed and is hanging in the home of Norbert Rentmeester,<sup>17</sup> grandson of John Francis Rentmeester; a copy is shown on the next page.

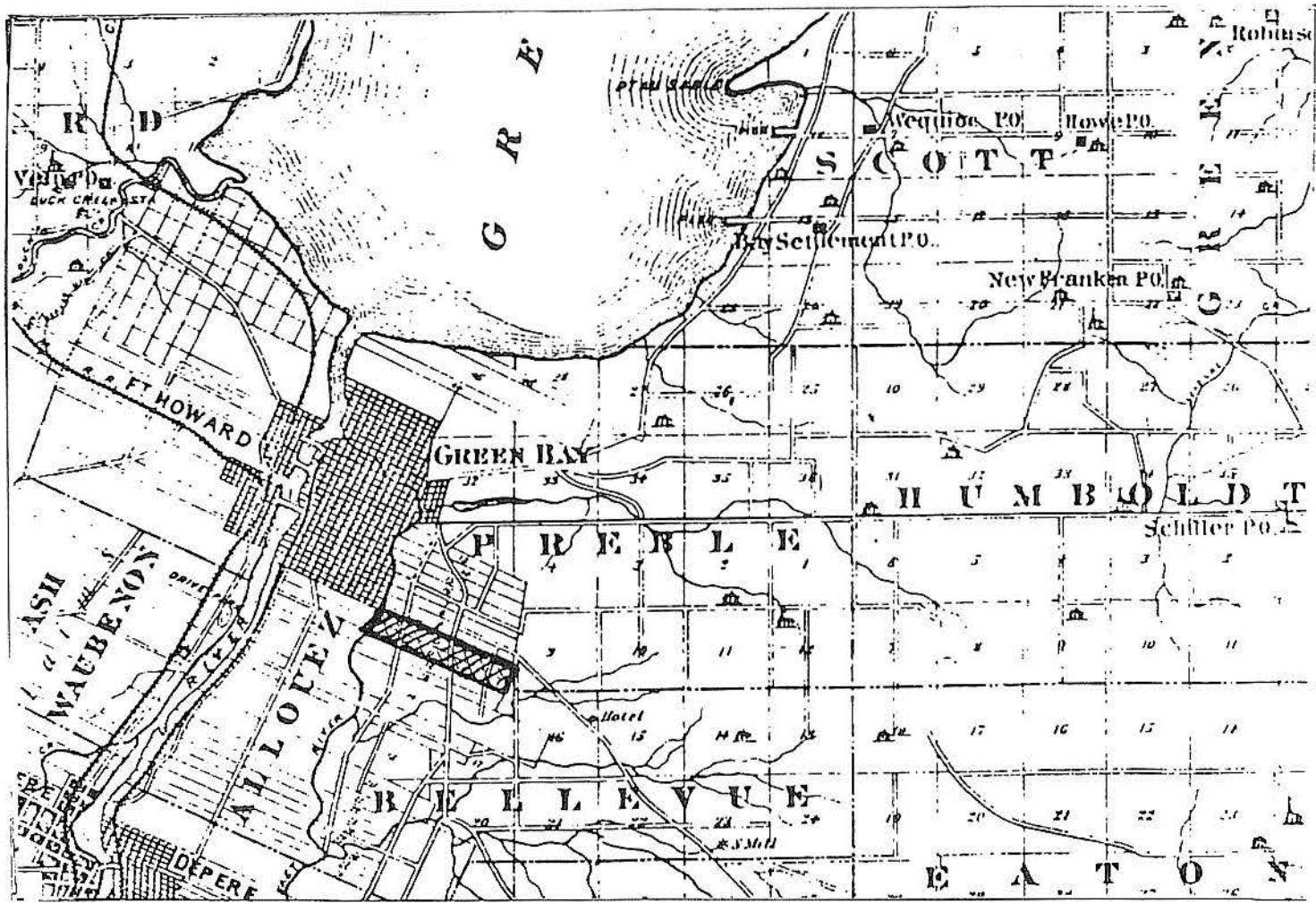


Figure 23.  
"Verloren Land."  
(the cross-hatched area)

MEXICAN WAR LAND WARRANT

Know ye, that by Act of Congress entitled "An Act to raise for a limited time, an additional military force, and for other purposes" approved 11 February 1847, George H. Colwell, a Private in Captain Sprague's company of Ninth Regiment of United States Infantry having deposited in the General Land Office a warrant in his favor numbered 35584.

There is therefore granted by the United States unto Peter Man assignee of said George H. Colwell by Henry P. George, his attorney in fact, and to his heirs, the West half of the North East quarter of Section Twelve and the West half of the South East quarter of Section One in Township Twenty Three North of Range Twenty-One East in the District of Lands subject to sale at Green Bay, Wisconsin, containing one Hundred and sixty acres - - - according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tracts have been located in satisfaction of the above mentioned warrant, in pursuance of the Act of Congress, above mentioned, approved February 11, 1847.

To have and To Hold, the said half-quarter section of land, with appurtenances thereof, unto the said Peter Man, and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I Millard Fillmore, President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made patent and the seal of the General Land Office.

Given under my hand - the fifth day of September in the year of our Lord 1850.

Recorded Vol 50 page 66 Ex.

A. Sargent  
Recorder of the General Land Office

Private Colwell's warrant for the land was issued in 1847; his lawyer sold it to Peter Man, one of the Germans living in "Der Faenger" in 1850; Man sold it to Andreas and Magdalena Reyes (Reis) 4 May 1852; John Francis Rentmeesters finally built on the property in late 1856.

To Jan Franciscus Rentmeesters (who was called Frank in America), his 53 and 1/3 acres must have seemed like a kingdom after his 25 ares of land (about 3/5 acre) that he had farmed in Oud-Heverlee. The Flemish who came to Wisconsin seemed to have a hunger for land, even though they could only clear an acre or two a year to make it suitable for farming. The huge oak, maple and other hardwood trees on the property, which were worth a fortune

in Flanders, was the attraction but they quickly found these huge trees to be more like a nuisance in this new environment.

Most of the Flemish bought 40 acres, which must have seemed like a gold-mine to them. Henry Cleeremans bought 80 acres and John Heyrman had a farm of 200 acres. Jean Baptiste De Coster had 640 acres. Jean Phillips sold 70 of his 200 acres to Jean Baptiste Loy. André Matheys bought 46 acres next to Frank Rentmeesters' property in late 1856. John Baptiste Rodaer Jr. purchased 87 acres from the Dennisons in June 1857 and moved next to his friends, the Matheys and Rentmeesters. Hendrick Verdoord gave his 40 acres to Georgina Stidemans, his wife, and her heirs on 12 November 1857 and left for Belgium (whether on business or permanently, we don't know. His wife's name is given elsewhere as Rosina Thielmans). Frank Rentmeesters bought another 45 acres on 19 June 1857; the sellers were Steven and Gertie Grossen.

It was a race against the approaching Winter in late 1856, for the Rentmeesters and Matheys families to build their cabins and have a snug protection against the bitter cold. The most talked-about event in the Flemish migration was the ocean-voyage; the second thing most important to them was building their cabin. William and Petronella Vanden Houten talked about how they built a 17' by 17' cabin in 1855, three miles from the nearest road. The De Boths built a temporary log-house in 1856 on their farm south of De Pere. In late 1856, the Cleeremans built their log-house across from Peter Faenger and his temporary church; the next year they built their saloon where the annual kermis was held for many years. (Before 1857, it was held near the temporary church.) The Flemish settlers in the Duck Creek area told stories of Indian wigwams close to their cabins.

The Flemish cabins were a far cry from what the pioneers were accustomed to in Flanders. See Figure 24, which shows a drawing by Jules Rentmeesters of an old-style farm house in Flanders.<sup>18</sup>

As can be seen in the drawing, the house and the barn were part of the same building in Flanders. This is still the custom on many farms in Europe. Everything is self-contained in one building for several reasons: the animals and the bake-oven provided extra warmth in Winter; less construction materials are required in a single building; and more precious land is made available for growing crops.

In America, there was plenty of wood for use as construction material and for fuel, also there was plenty of land available for cultivation. The shelter for animals was always built separately from the house; however, most early barns had the Dutch-door, as shown on the stable in Figure 24. For several generations, Flemish-American farmers banked the foundations of their houses in the Wintertime with a three-foot stack of manure, as their ancestors had done for centuries, so that the fermenting manure would protect against the cold temperatures that prevailed.

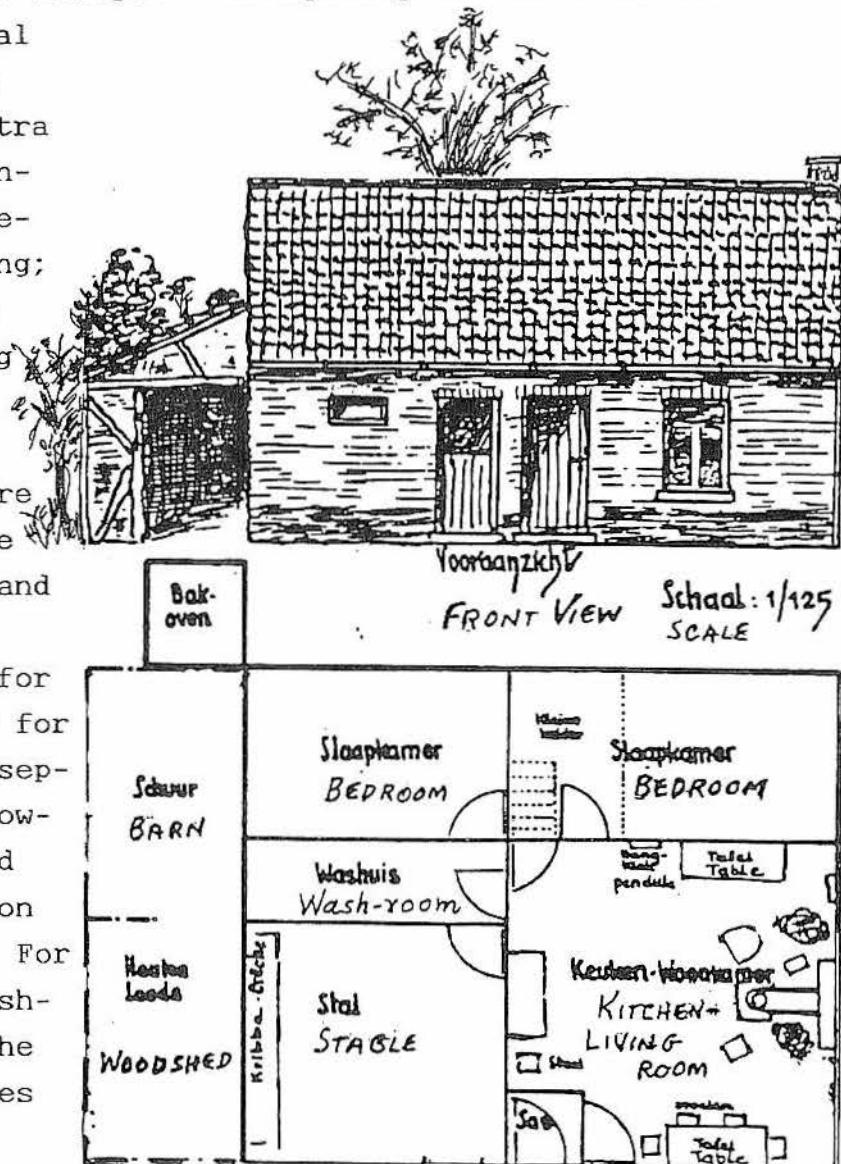


Figure 24.  
Old-Style house in Flanders.  
(Drawing by Jules Rentmeesters  
of Belgium.)

The woodshed and the bake-oven were also built separately

from the house in America. At first, the woodsheds were open on the sides, with just a roof to keep the snow off of the wood; a structure about 15-feet square was needed to hold enough wood for one year's supply of fuel for cooking and heating. The trees were cut and split during the Wintertime for the necessary supply for the coming year.

The Dutch-ovens (or bake-ovens) in the area east of Green Bay were made from red clay obtained in the Town of Bellevue. The oldest such oven, that is still in existence, was built by Christofel Watermolen in the Fall of 1857; another old one was the property of Harry Van Ess in the Elm Grove District of the Town of Green Bay. They were normally used for baking bread about once a week and for baking the large number of pies needed for the festivals - St. Nickolas Day, Corpus Christi, pensenkermis, weddings, etc. The Flemish bake-ovens gradually fell into disuse when stoves and the smoke-house became more and more popular. The Flemish soon learned from the Indians how useful the smoke-curing process was for preserving meats and fish.

In late October of 1856, Frank Rentmeester and Andrew Matheys started to build their cabins. Each family had purchased a span of oxen, a wagon, axes, cross-cut saws, a musket and other tools. Frank Rentmeester selected an oak-clearing of about an acre, located next to a spring, the former site of an Indian camp. The Matheys' cabin was about 200 yards to the South. Raymond Rentmeester has a large collection of Indian arrowheads that were found in that vicinity. The size of the spearheads indicate that they must have been used centuries ago to kill the buffalo that used to roam the area. The absence of the small arrowheads (or bird-points) indicates that they used larger animals as a food source or used other ways to kill rabbits, ducks and other small

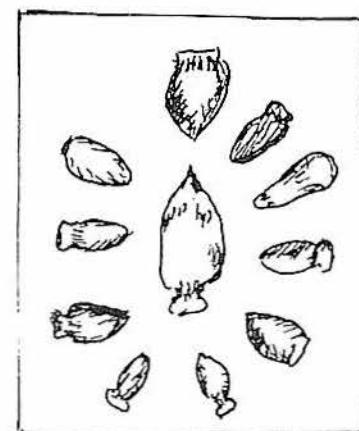


Figure 25.

Pottawatomi arrow and spearheads.

game. When Bob Pierquet, who lived on the old Matheys' homestead as a youngster, brought a stone mortar and pestle to the Finger Road School, the students were fascinated with these tools that were used by the Indians to grind their corn in the distant past.

The biggest surprise to the home-builders was the tremendous help given to them by these local Pottawatomi Indians. The Europeans had heard many stories about these savages, of their ferocious nature and of the cruelties inflicted on the Whites. Instead, they found that the natives, who could speak a few words of French, were ready to help them in return for food and for trade-items. The Flemish would purchase trade-items, such as mirrors, beads, ribbons, etc., in Green Bay to be used as barter with the Indians; in the 1920s, Mary Watermolen gave a wampum-belt to her grandson, Hubert Rentmeester, a belt that was obtained during the Civil War period. It is interesting to note that wampum-belts often portrayed historical events, similar to Flemish tapestries.

Within a day, the Indians were cutting down trees and digging a hole 6 feet deep, 6 feet wide and about 15 feet long, to be used for squaring-off cedar logs, so that they could be laid one on top of the other, to form the walls of the cabins. This hole, called the "Indian Hole," remained on the property for several generations before it was gradually covered over.<sup>19</sup>

A cabin could be erected swiftly if there was sufficient

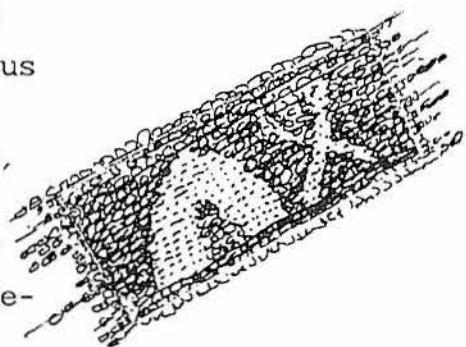


Figure 26.

Mary Watermolen's wampum-belt.

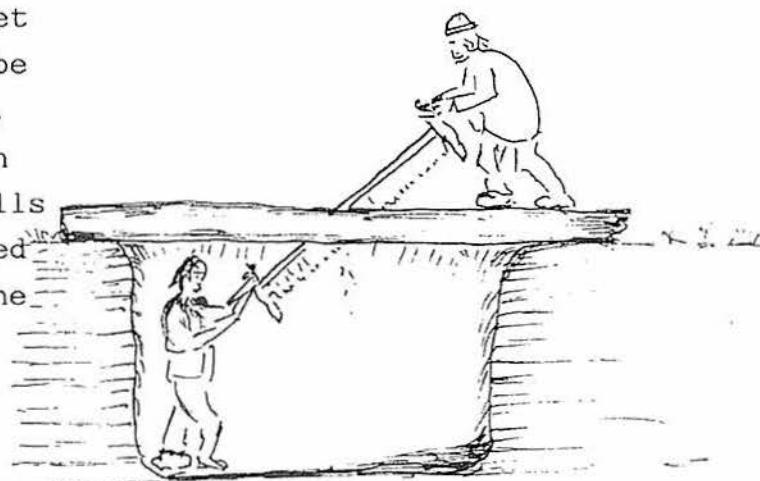


Figure 27.

The Indian Hole.

manpower available - Sister Mary Rose Champeau told a story about the cabin that was built for Father Edward Daems when he first came to Bay Settlement in 1851.<sup>20</sup> Sister Mary Rose told about a conversation between old settlers, Oliver Champeau and Nicholas Denissen, when Father Daems said that he would stay in Bay Settlement if they would build him a house. After Mass on a Sunday, Oliver Champeau called out, "If all you Hollanders come with your teams, I will have that house up in three days." It was built in three days and Father Daems said that it was better than the house that had been his home in Europe, because this one had three rooms while the other only had two.

There is no record of how long it took to build the houses for the Matheys and Rentmeesters, but with the help of the Indians and of their neighbors, it shouldn't have taken more than two weeks. Cedar logs were used for the cabin walls because they lasted so long before decaying. In fact, some are still standing. The dimensions of the cabin measured 18 to 20 feet on the longer side. When the tree was felled, the log was cut to the length which was decided upon for the long sides and the wide sides of the cabin. After the limbs had been trimmed off, the log was dragged over the Indian-hole by a span of oxen pulling a chain wrapped around the log. There, two men with a cross-cut saw or a whipsaw would get the desired cut started, with the log projected about five feet over one side of the hole, then the cut would be continued as shown in Figure 27. Enough of a slab would be taken off opposite sides of the log so that a nice, flat surface was made which would allow the logs to be placed snugly one on top of the other. If necessary, an adz was used to shave off any high places, so that the logs would fit better. Then, the bark was removed from the unsawn sides of the log; the finished logs which had been joined at the corners by notches, were then raised into place until the desired height of the wall was reached. One Flemish pioneer said that 138 logs were needed for his 18' by 20' cabin.

Gaps between the logs were filled in by chinking or driving in wood wedges. These wedges and any cracks between the logs were covered by clay "cats" which were handfuls of clay, brought by the Indians from a nearby clay bank, with hay worked into the clay to hold it together. The area between the logs was then smoothed over with wet clay. Hinges for the doors were made from leather straps.

The early cabins had large fireplaces and chimneys at one end of the cabin, generally on the east side away from the prevailing westerly wind. To make the fireplace, the corners of both the inside and the outside of the fireplace are marked by erecting poles of the proper length, tied together with a spider-work of small branches. Clay "cats" are then used to fill up the space inside the poles where the fire will harden it like brick. Wet clay was used to smooth over the outside of the fireplace to give it a good appearance. Hooks in the wall and andirons in the fireplace were used to hold cooking utensils and to hang meat while cooking.

The roofs were made from poles set on the walls and joined together with wooden pins at the apex. At first, the roofs were covered with cedar bark, with large sections overlapped to keep out the rain and the snow. Sometimes, small logs had to be placed on the bark to keep the wind from blowing sections away. Later, the bark was replaced with shingles.

At first, the immigrant-trunks were used as tables and chairs, then pinewood, which was easy to cut and saw, was used to make table-boards and benches. The beds first used by the immigrants, were made by laying canvas over piles of leaves (Indian-fashion) and dried hay. Once the first crop of corn was grown, the canvas was stuffed with cornhusks; this was the standard Flemish mattress for three generations. Bedsteads were erected in the cabin's corners by boring holes in the logs at the desired height, then forcing rails into the holes to construct a bed of

the proper width and length. The puncheon floors of the original cabins were made from the slabs taken from the sides of the logs used for the walls. Then, a root-cellar was dug under the floor to store potatoes, preserves, turnips and other root-type foods.

Other Flemish families that arrived late in 1856 - Arkens, Bombaers, Clabots, Cleeremans, De Both, De Vroey, Joannes, Lefebvre, Loy, Nuthals, Van Boomen, Vander Wegen, Van Erem, Van Tongeren, Wauters, - had to hurry to get their cabins built before the first snowfall. Many stayed with friends during that Winter; in fact, it was the rule rather than the exception with Flemish immigrants in later years, to stay with friends or relatives when they first arrived in the Wisconsin area.

The Green Bay Advocate reported that in November 1856, there were "one or two snowstorms of the first quality, and some second-rate cold weather, also some heavy snowstorms in November." The Indians taught the Flemish settlers how to make snowshoes and how to set snares for rabbits and other small animals. (Andrew W. Rentmeester claimed that his father caught rabbits by painting the center part of a fallen log with black paint. The rabbit, thinking that the log was hollow, would dash into the end of the log and knock itself out.)

The Green Bay Advocate was very popular with the new settlers. Those who couldn't read English would have somebody translate it. Every week the newspaper published a list of eagerly-awaited letters from home; all the letters from Flanders were sent to the post-office in Green Bay. The newspaper also published a list of current prices of commodities, steamship schedules, proceedings of the city and county governing bodies and even recipes for local foods.

The newspaper reported a record snowfall that Winter. Philip Coppens said that the snow was so deep that he got his venison by catching deer floundering in shoulder-high snowdrifts.

There were several such reports that hunters on snowshoes got a deer without firing a shot. Frank Rentmeester remembered that his Flemish Emigrant's Guide stated that it rarely snowed in Wisconsin; he had his mind set on becoming a big wheat-grower and wondered if the Guide was also wrong when it stated that Wisconsin soil was the best for growing wheat.

The snow kept his family close to home that Winter. In the forced solitude they set to work making shingles, first to replace the unsatisfactory bark on the roof, then later to be sold or traded for goods in the city of Green Bay. Frank had taught his two oldest sons, 26-year-old John Baptist and 22-year-old Andrew, woodworking skills and he had a complete set of tools - spoke-shavers, auger, draw-knife, rasp, plane, saws and wood-chisels. The candles and whale-oil lamp burned late at night as they turned out shingles, chairs, tables, stools, barrels, wagon-wheels, sleigh-runners, bowls, spoons, butter-churns, cupboards and other wooden items, not only for their own use but also for trade with their neighbors and for sale. Shingle-benches, similar to the one they used, are still kept in some of the old barns; Ray Rentmeester had one in an old barn that had been used by Andrew Matheys, Desiré Verheyden and George Lamar in turn. They are easily made and look like the one shown in Figure 28.

The shingle-bench used by the author in his youth included a miter-box and a jig that forced the draw-knife to follow a predetermined path, producing shingles of a standard thickness. The draw-knife was tapped with a mallet to make it cut through the soft pine or the red cedar block. Normally, the shingle was 6 inches wide, and a little over a foot long with a taper from 1/4" thick at one end to several inches thick at the other. Many farmers used the shingles for various other purposes; for instance, they were stuck into the bins of wheat, barley or oats when it looked like the green grain might ferment. The shingles allegedly drew the heat out of the grain.

A Brown County history describes the process of bringing the homemade shingles to market.<sup>21</sup> Bundles of 100 would be loaded onto the farm sleighs and, when the roads were passable, there would be as many as 100 sleighs waiting in line on Main Street. Shingle-buyers would bid against each other for every load; the



Figure 28.  
Shingle-bench. (Courtesy of the Neville Public Museum)

seller would receive a purchase certificate that he took to the shingle-yard where the shingles were unloaded and he was paid. Because money in the form of coins and paper currency was scarce before the Civil War, shingles and shingle-certificates were used as legal tender.

The Flemish living to the east of Green Bay participated in shingle-making more than the other settlements because it was easier to get their shingles to market. A bridge had been built over the East River in 1856; it consisted of a floating platform 20' by 60' that sank low in the water under a heavy load. During the shingle-making season, the river froze solid. The Flemish farmers would alternate in delivering the shingles and would always return with purchases, generally marsh-hay for fodder for the oxen. On one trip, 100 bundles of shingles were traded for a two-year-old pregnant heifer.

There was no idleness in Flemish cabins in the Wintertime. To go hunting was considered frivolous, because deer and bear could be shot from the cabin door, and there were far more urgent tasks that required attention.

Wooden shoes had to be replaced. They were made from willow or poplar limbs about 10 inches in circumference, which were free of knots or branches. The limbs were cut in half, each half to make a shoe. With special tools the soft wood was cut away to fit the foot, then the desired length of the shoe was reached. The whole process took about two hours. Anna Vander Kelen said that she had her shoes made by Alphonse Van Bellinger around 1900 and payment was made by barter. When it was necessary to walk around outside in the snow, a piece of cloth was tacked to the shoe and then wound around the legs and tied with string to keep out the snow. The children went barefoot all Summer; some of the adults had leather shoes made at home. The tanning of the leather was a tedious process. Manure from fowl was mixed with lime and put on the animal hide to loosen the hair. The

hide was soaked in oak or hemlock-bark solution for several weeks, then removed and dried. These shoes got very soft when they became wet.

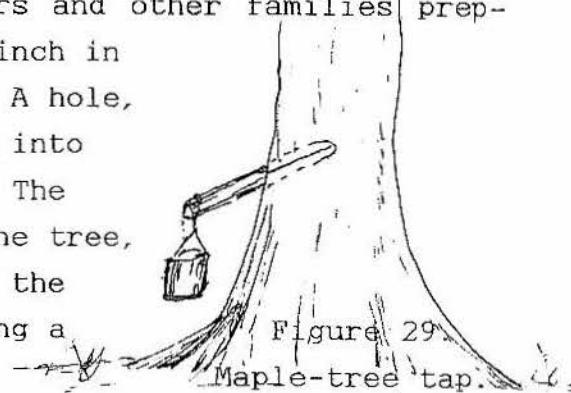
Clearing new land had a high priority in the Wintertime. Trees were felled; brush was cut down; dried-wood for fuel was stacked; poles to be used for rail-fences (called Lincoln fences) in the Spring were put aside; the surplus was burned. (The settlers were warned that their chimneys would be ruined if green wood was burned.) There was a fire burning continuously in the fireplace; if, by accident, it went out, live coals were available from one of the fires in the clearing. As the oxen and other livestock would roam free in the Summer, thus helping to clear out the brush, plans were made to put a rail-fence around the cultivated area to protect it. The parents gave in to the children's plea for a dog and a cat; dogs were important in protecting gardens from the army of squirrels, rabbits and other small animals, and the cats kept the rodent population under control. The Flemish housewives found that the rail-fences around the garden kept out the deer and domestic animals but not the black bears.

The church festivals were very important to the Flemish families. For most of the immigrants who came over in the Fall of the year, it was the first time that they had missed their annual kermis. Otherwise, they were faithful in observing the exchange of gifts on St. Nicholas Day (6 December); this was the biggest day for children who, if they were good, found gifts in their wooden shoes. Christmas day was more of a religious day, and the birth of Christ was religiously observed and celebrated. In the Duck Creek area, the Flemish celebrated their Christmas at St. John the Baptist Church; at Wrightstown, they still went to Little Chute for Mass; and in 1856, all 37 families gathered at Peter Faenger's house in Preble. Many families living to the East of Green Bay went to Father Daem's church at Bay Settlement. (In time, the tribute paid by the Flemish and Dutch to Sinterklass was switched to Father Christmas, and then to Santa Claus.)

The religious services also provided important social gatherings where people could learn from each other's experiences and find a pleasant interlude from their 18-hour workday. Henry Cleereman's saloon was the stopping-place for the men after church services in Preble; bachelor Peter Faenger's house was the gathering place for the ladies. Whole families were there, even to the newest infants. Henry Cleereman Jr. was 3-years-old in 1856; later he was the founder of the Cleereman Land and Lumber Company and the Green Bay Barker Company, which were major lumber producers in Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. The Cleereman lumber camps provided jobs for many of the Flemish men during the Winter months. Henry Jr. used to say in later years that he got his start by splitting shingles when he was five years old.

With the coming of Spring, those Flemish families with access to maple-sugar trees, prepared for the sugaring season. The French-Creoles around Green Bay had learned the art of making maple sugar from the Indians and it had become an annual festival, called Sucrerie, which means "sugar bush" or "sugar works."<sup>22</sup> Later, some of the Flemish families lived near the site of an old French-Creole sugar camp, now called Sugar Bush. The Indians also taught the newly-arrived Flemish how to gather sugar.

In March 1857, the Rentmeesters and other families prepared hollowed-out, straight dowels, one inch in diameter and about 15 inches in length. A hole, one inch in diameter, was drilled upward into the tree, about 3 feet from the ground. The dowel was then driven into the hole in the tree, after first cutting away the top half of the part that fit into the tree, thus creating a trough effect.



In March, when the weather turned warm, the sap would "rise." To produce a good flow of maple sap, the temperature should go below freezing at night and above thawing during the

day. The sap will flow for about 36 hours after this cycle, then cease until another freeze occurs.

The sap would be collected from the containers under the dripping taps and emptied into kettles which were suspended over roaring fires. These containers had to be made from either cedar or white ash; other wood gives the syrup a bad taste. The sap is boiled until the excess water evaporates and the mixture becomes maple syrup; further boiling reduces the syrup to sugar. It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of syrup; one gallon of syrup, when heated further, will result in 5 to 6 pounds of maple sugar. The Rentmeesters would collect about one pound of sugar per maple-tree.

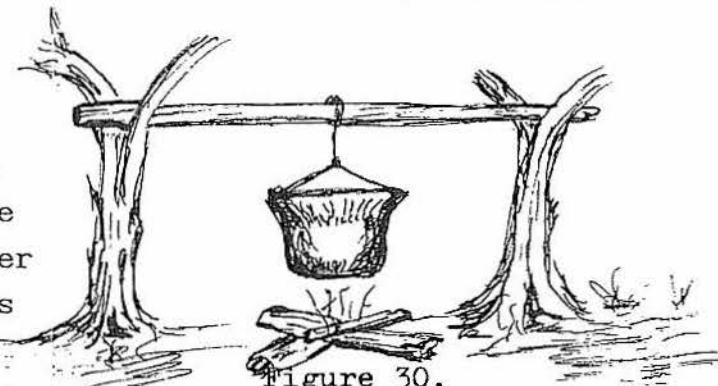


Figure 30.

Boiling maple sap.

The Meulemans in Wrightstown, the Poels in the Duck Creek area, the Heyrmans in Preble and others reported that the first crop that they planted was corn, which served as food for both humans and for oxen. Some said that the Indians provided them with seed for corn and also with navy beans, in exchange for barter items. Many a meal that year consisted of hasty pudding, which is made by stirring cornmeal into boiling, salted water, stirred with a wooden spoon.

Guillaume Steeno, one of the early settlers in the Duck Creek area, told his children and grandchildren many stories about the Menominee Indians. He said that the early Flemish immigrants would never have survived without the help of the Indians in telling them what to plant, how to get game, the maple-sugar process, etc. The Indian squaws wove baskets and mats (puck-a-way) for their floors, which were beautifully designed and colored. They obtained their dyes from the local trees and didn't follow a pattern, yet each finished product was a work of art. Steeno told an interesting story of a trip to Suamico with a group of Indians.

One of the Indian women told the group that she was going to rest for a while and to go on ahead. At their next rest-stop, she caught up to them, carrying a brand-new papoose.

In May 1857, the Green Bay Advocate urged every farmer to plant one more acre of corn, potatoes and oats. Most of the new farmers were working furiously to increase their acreage, cleared land was turned over and the soil around the stumps was made ready for planting with the grub hoe. Most of the stumps took several years to rot enough so that they could be removed. Yokes of oxen were hitched to wooden harrows which had wooden pins slanted backwards; these were used to break up the soil and to cover the seed.

Many of the Flemish immigrants who came in 1857 were from Huldenberg (which they pronounced Eulenberg) in Brabant Province. The Watermolens and Vanden Avonds settled in Bellevue. The Duck Creek area welcomed the Wouters, Marto, Callewaerts, Roskams, Sinclair and Tilly families. The Theunis family joined the Meulemans, Verboomen and Callewaerts families in Wrightstown. Wrightstown had the earliest Flemish settlers in Brown County as the Flemish who came over with the Hollanders in 1848 migrated to the North. As early historian wrote that the first Flemish came to Wrightstown in 1849.<sup>23</sup>

Edward Engels came to Green Bay in 1857 as an 18-year-old with only 15 cents in his pocket. He worked in the woods and cut shingles until he had enough money to buy land. He was one of the few Flemish pioneers who arrived with almost no money. Another was William Tielens who came to the Town of Humboldt in 1854; he bought 60 acres of land six months after his arrival and, with his remaining \$5, bought flour and an axe. Tielens served on the School Board and later became Town Chairman.

One of the first problems for new settlers was to find a good water supply. The oxen and other animals were fouling

up the Rentmeesters water supply (today, there is a shallow pond there), so like many others, they dug a well and lined it with stones. Most of the wells in that area were about 15 feet deep and had temporary covers. A well-sweep was built so that water could be dipped out of the well with a bucket attached to the end of a pole balanced on a fulcrum. See Figure 31.

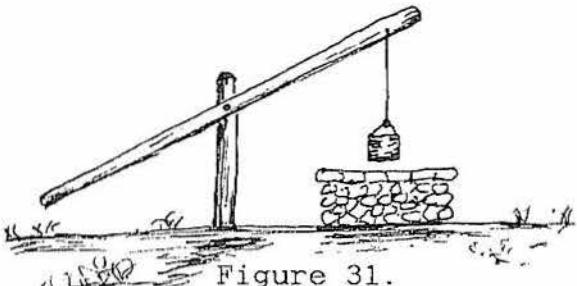


Figure 31.

Well-sweep.

The county commissioners set up a program to build roads, using mostly local people who would work on the roads in lieu of paying taxes. The road to Green Bay was rutted, bumpy, full of holes where a wagon could tip over or get stuck in the mud. Huge trees towered over the road so that travellers felt they were in a tunnel. On an appointed day, the farmers would meet with axes, shovels and grub-hoes. Ditches were dug to drain the water from the swampy areas and logs were laid side-by-side in the low areas to make a corduroy road, then covered with dirt to make a level surface. Hollow logs were placed in ditches and streams to form culverts.

Frank Rentmeester had a good crop that year. Also, he made a few mens' suits for \$15 each, providing his own materials. With the profit he made on the sale of one of the suits, he bought a cradle-scythe. This instrument consisted of a long, sharp, steel blade and five wooden fingers, by which in one sweep, a swath of grain could be cut and piled up for tying into a bundle. The cradle-scythe was developed around 1800 and replaced the hand-sickle, which had been used since Biblical days. A hard-working man could cut 5 acres of wheat in a day with a cradle-scythe.



Figure 32.

Cradling grain.

The harvest in 1857 was the best in years; Wisconsin ranked second in the nation for wheat production. However, there were but few buyers because of a financial panic that year. Paper currency was devalued and was worth between 70 and 80 cents on the dollar. Many of the stores wouldn't accept greenbacks. Banks throughout the nation had failed. Laborers were lucky to earn 50 cents per day. To make matters worse, the bay froze over early that year before supplies could be shipped in so that some items, such as sugar and hardware, were almost impossible to obtain.

In the Winter, the frozen rivers and creeks were used for travel where ever possible, in preference to the terrible roads. Eugene Joannes, who had brought his family from Brussels the year before, drowned under the Fox River ice that Fall of 1857. His family then moved from their farm in the Town of Lawrence to the City of Green Bay. His sons later founded Joannes Brothers Wholesale Grocers, the largest firm of its kind North of Chicago.

Only a few of the Flemish settlers voted in the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election that year. In order to vote and to hold petty office, the immigrant had to file an Intent To Be Naturalized form and be a resident of the state for one year. Some of those who could have voted in that election were Joseph Heyrman, G. Thys, Joseph De Greef and Andreas Nackaerts. There were state and local offices on the ballot and a question "Should suffrage be extended to colored persons?" There were 83 "yes" votes and 584 "no" votes in Brown County.<sup>24</sup>

Some Flemish pioneers held local offices, for instance on school-boards, as early as 1855. Most filed their Intent To Be Naturalized (first) papers in 1858, then waited a long time before applying for full citizenship, if they applied at all. We found only a half-dozen women who had filed their first papers, apparently to make sure that they could hold property in their name. See Figure 33 for an example of citizenship papers.

Figure 33.  
Christopher Watermolen's Citizenship Papers.

The Watermolen family came to America in August 1857 and immediately filed their Intent To Be Naturalized papers. Henry Watermolen, son of Christopher, went to school in Chicago and held many political offices. Unlike many other newcomers, all of the male members of the family became full citizens of the United States.

*To the Honorable, the Judge of the Tenth Judicial Circuit for the State of Wisconsin:*

The Petition of Christopherus Watermolen a native of

Belgium respectfully sheweth that your petitioner is about  
Seventy years of age; that he arrived in the United States of America, to-wit:

At the port of New York on the

day of August 1857 and that in pursuance of an act of Congress entitled, "An act to establish an uniform rule of Naturalization, and to repeal the acts heretofore passed on that subject," made a declaration of his intention to become a citizen, and a report and registry of his nativity, age, allegiance, emigration and arrival in the United States, conformably to the said act, before the

Clerk of the Circuit Court for the County of Wisconsin in the State of Wisconsin on the 30th day of October A.D. 1858

a certificate whereof is hereunto annexed; and that he has resided within the limits, and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the State of Wisconsin; that he has never borne any hereditary title, or been of any of the orders of nobility in the kingdom whence he came, or elsewhere. He, therefore, prays he may be admitted to become a citizen of the said United States.

*Christopherus Watermolen*

Petitioner.

BROWN COUNTY, {  
Circuit Court.

*Patrick Ryan*

and *F. Bach Rondon*

citizens of the United States, being duly sworn according to law, say that they are well acquainted with the above named petitioner, and that, to their knowledge and belief, he has resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for five years last past, and for one year last past within the State of Wisconsin; that during the same period he has behaved himself as a man of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the same.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me in open Court this  
day of March 3<sup>rd</sup> A.D. 1891.

*Patrick Ryan*  
*F. Bach Rondon*

*Henry Watermolen* Clerk.

BROWN COUNTY, {  
Circuit Court.

I, *Christopherus Watermolen* the above named petitioner, do, on my solemn oath, declare that the contents of my petition are true, that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I do hereby renounce and relinquish any title or order of nobility to which I am or hereafter may be entitled; that I do absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, State and Sovereignty whatever, and particularly to *Leopold II* King of Belgium of whom I was before a subject.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me in open Court this  
day of March 3<sup>rd</sup> A.D. 1891.

*Christopherus Watermolen*

*Henry Watermolen* Clerk.

BROWN COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT,  
March TERM, A.D. 1891

On reading the above verified petition, it is ordered by the Court now here, that the said petitioner be, and is admitted a citizen of the United States.

Dated at Green Bay, March 3<sup>rd</sup> 1891

BY THE COURT,

*Sam'l D. Hastings, Jr., Judge.*

The Flemish migration had peaked in 1856; only one-third as many came in 1857, and one-ninth in 1858, then only about a dozen families per year immigrated during the war years. The Philip Vanden Borne family came in 1858. When Philip saw Frank Rentmeester, he confessed that he was the author of a prank played when Frank was a game warden in the forest known as Devil's Hole, which lies between ZoetWater Lakes and the Village of Vaalbeek in Brabant Province.<sup>25</sup> Frank woke up from a nap one sunny day in the forest to find a note pinned to his jacket with this Flemish poem written on it:

When the game warden has a hard day  
Sleeping in this sylvan spot,  
The hungry poacher comes this way  
and finds something for the pot.

What was the reason for the decline in Flemish migration? The Walloon migration declined even more dramatically and somewhat earlier. The Walloons suffered a dreadful epidemic in 1854, which affected nearly every family. The disease resembled Asiatic cholera; death resulted in a few days, sometimes even in a few hours, with the corpse turning black immediately after death.<sup>26</sup> Father Daems kept his horse saddled for a period of seven weeks, attending to the sick both as a physician and as a priest. He tried to persuade people to bring their dead to the church for burial, but many were buried in the forest, where old graves still can be found. The disease in the Belgian settlement seems to be similar to the Black Death of the Middle Ages. The black plague is a bacterium that is transmitted to humans by fleas from infected rats, squirrels or other rodents in rural or wooded areas; the proper name of this disease is sylvatic plague. Without medication, mortality rates were up to 90 percent.

We heard that a Fleming, who had emigrated in 1852, died from this disease in New Franken in 1855. The Belgian Consul at Chicago, Poncelet, reported on the plague and other problems of the Walloon settlement in 1855 and warnings were posted by the Belgian Government in municipal halls in early 1856.<sup>27</sup> An 1855

letter from Father Perrodin, serving in the Brown County area, to Belgium states that the Walloons picked the worst possible place for their settlement. Other factors contributing to a decline in migration may have been the Belgian government's crackdown on unscrupulous ship-owners and the threat of war in America.

In 1858, Belgian Consul Henrotin at Chicago, reported back to his government that life was much better in Wisconsin, but that some emigrants died from starvation, poverty, or simply from wandering off in the wilderness. Most of the Belgian consul reports concerned the Walloons who were more concentrated in colonies and not the scattered Flemish settlements.

The Spring of 1858 was very wet and it was July before the seeding could be finished. With the moist conditions, the smut disease appeared on the grain. The harvest was about average, with wheat at 85 cents per bushel.

The most excitement that year occurred at harvest time when Donati's Comet appeared in the sky. Many people thought that the end of the world was coming. As the weeks went by, the head got brighter and the tail got longer, so that it seemed to be getting nearer. The Green Bay Advocate reported that it was seen all over the world.

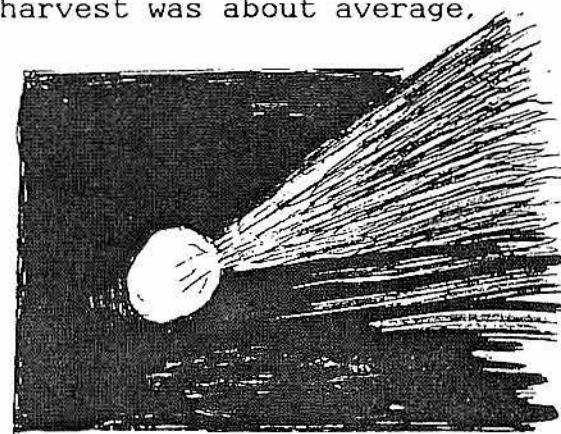


Figure 34.  
Donati's Comet.

In 1910, a similar event happened when Halley's Comet appeared. Some Flemish-Americans gave away their property, believing the end of the world was at hand. Many of their descendants can still remember exactly where they stood and how they felt when they viewed this extraordinary apparition in the sky. The newspapers reported that the tail of the comet held poison gasses and that life on earth might be wiped out if the tail came near.

In 1859, the grain crop was fairly good, but the Winter-wheat had to be seeded over because of a severe frost in early July. One settler wrote home about Wisconsin's "impetuous" weather, with extremely long, cold Winters and hot, short Summers leaving only four months for the growing season.<sup>28</sup>

The Vander Kelens and others had brought hop-seeds from Belgium and began planting them as a cash crop. They grew hop-vines around the back porch and on a string framework 9-feet high in the fields. The rows were always planted in a North-South direction to get the most sun. The harvested hops were piled in a shed on slats with a drying-fire underneath. Then they were bleached with sulfur; sulphur-saturated rags were burned on wires around the stove for one day. Bleaching with sulphur kept the hops from molding and produced a light-colored beer.

To use the hops, they were steeped in hot water for several hours, then the thick gooey resin from the flower was strained off. The other important ingredient of beer was malt, which is partially-germinated barley after it is dried and cured. The malt was crushed by the settlers with the use of hand-rollers. Almost every family made their own homebrew, which is the staff of Flemish life.

Hops were also used instead of yeast in making bread and in making poultices. A story was told about Susanna Wouters (Mrs. Peter De Grave) and her sourdough bread. Indians on their way to Kewaunee stopped at her cabin and asked for something to eat. If possible, the Indians were always fed, but this time there was nothing edible around. One of the Indians saw a coil of hop-flavored sourdough in a pan on the hearth, which was to be used as the "starter" for the next batch of loaves to go into the bake-oven. This Indian grabbed a handful of the dough-culture and started to eat it. It was just too much for him; he spat it out and stomped out of the cabin.

Many of the Flemish women had similar experiences with the Indians. They never really got used to them, but they always provided them with food. The Indians never knocked at the doors of wigwams and cabins; they just walked in. In the Duck Creek area, several walked into Constance Meulemans' (Mrs. Joannes Roskam) cabin when she was alone and asked for food.<sup>29</sup> She didn't have any water in the cabin and she was afraid to leave the Indians alone while she went out for water. Mixing flour, soda and salt with her dishwater, she made pancakes which the Indians ate with great relish.

In 1859, the Towns of Preble, Eaton and Humboldt were carved from the Town of Bellevue and the Flemish farmers started to receive tax bills. Anton De Greef paid \$7.53 on his 23 acres in 1859 for County, State, Town and School Taxes to the Town of Preble. The population of Brown County stood at 11,900 in 1860; that same year, J.H. Heyrman became the first Belgian elected to county-wide office.<sup>30</sup>

The economy turned upward in the election year of 1860. Wheat was over \$1 per bushel and the Flemish farmers were clearing more acreage every year. The slow but strong oxen were being replaced by horses. Andrew W. Rentmeester said that oxen were stronger than horses but his grandfather, Frank, couldn't stand their slow pace and their habit of turning the yoke and running away. The oxen would take three hours to travel the seven miles to Green Bay, while Frank could make the roundtrip on foot in less time.

Many people were replacing their fireplaces with stoves because they were easier to cook on and provided more heat. The Flemish children were going to school in Bellevue, Wrightstown, Duck Creek, Humboldt and Preble. Very few graduated, and the older children went only in the Wintertime, when there was less work at home. The students wore wooden shoes (in Winter), and they had only a slate and a writing-book. One of the students

was assigned the task of chasing a goose to pull off a feather which the teacher sharpened for his writing quill.

Amazing inventions were appearing. The camera and the photographs that it took were described in a letter to Europe as an American invention. There was a switch from whale-oil to petroleum products (kerosene, etc.) for lamps. Peter Quatsoe had one of the first threshing machines, which cost nearly \$100. It was driven by horses travelling in a circle around a rotating arm which transmitted power to a flailing apparatus. The Quatsoes later on had the first steam-powered threshing machine.

The number of Flemish immigrants and their American-born children in Brown County numbered in the thousands in 1860. Figure 35 shows how they were scattered around the country.

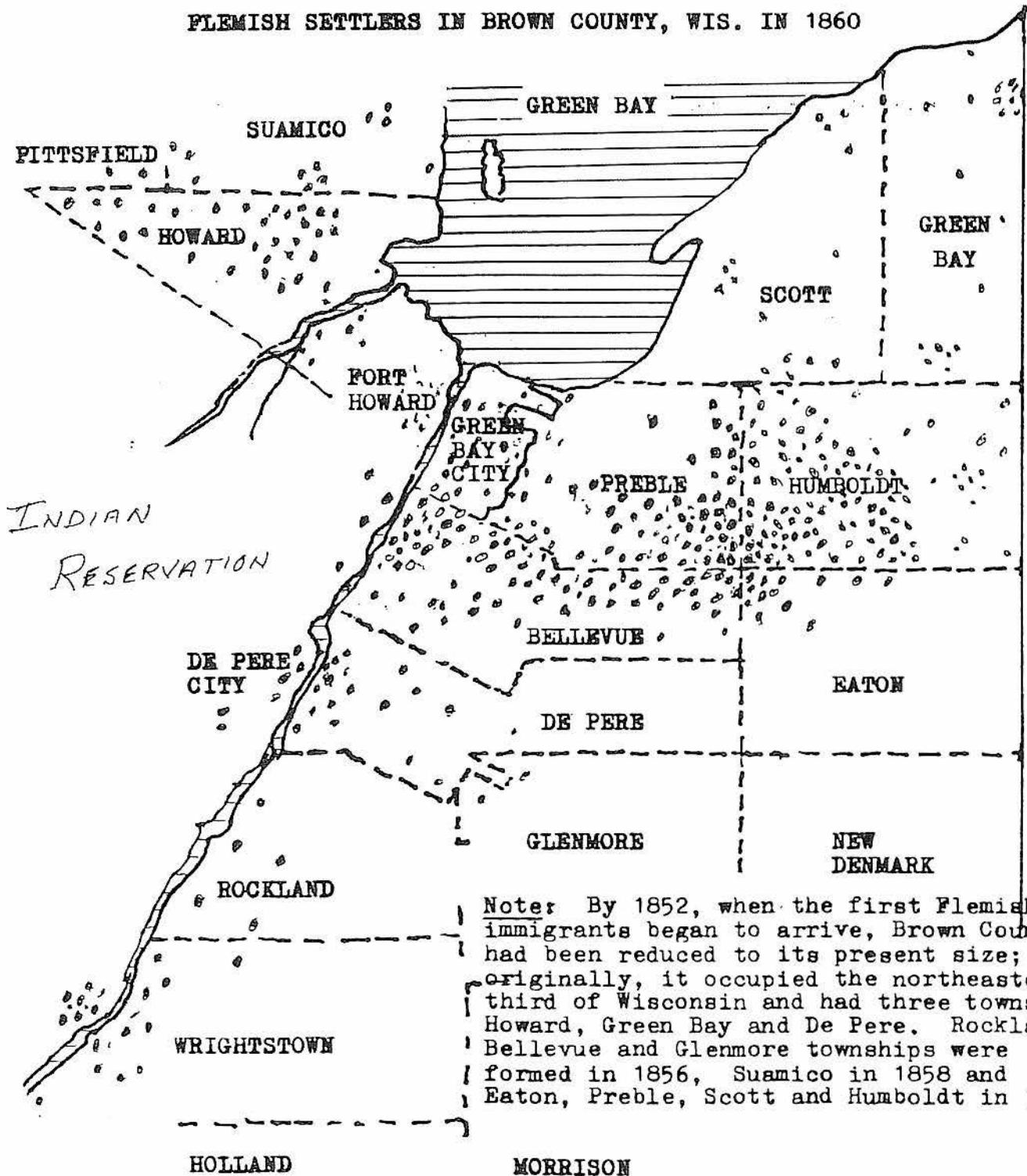
#### The Civil War Period

In 1860, Lincoln was elected president and in April 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon, thus starting the Civil War. Like many of the new immigrants, the Flemish didn't consider this their war; after all, they had left Europe to be free from that sort of thing. In general, they tried to keep the war out of their lives so that they could enjoy their increasing prosperity. Some did volunteer in Wisconsin, some volunteered directly from Belgium; 400,000 foreign-born volunteers from different countries served in the Union Army.

The Flemish priest, Father Bonduel, became involved in an effort to raise a French and Belgian regiment early in the war. A Captain William Mitchell was commissioned for that purpose and went around the countryside with Bonduel talking to young men. Father Bonduel was an enthusiastic supporter of his new country and an admirer of the military. Friends told stories about the energetic, convivial priest marching around the room

FIGURE 35

FLEMISH SETTLERS IN BROWN COUNTY, WIS. IN 1860



Note: By 1852, when the first Flemish immigrants began to arrive, Brown County had been reduced to its present size; originally, it occupied the northeastern third of Wisconsin and had three townships Howard, Green Bay and De Pere. Rockland, Bellevue and Glenmore townships were formed in 1856, Suamico in 1858 and Eaton, Preble, Scott and Humboldt in 1859.

Sources: D.B. Martin, History Of Brown County, Wis., S.J. Clarke Publishing Co, 1913 and Wisconsin Local Tract Books, U.S. General Land Office.

at a dinner party, singing the Marseillaise. The efforts to raise a regiment failed, and Father Bonduel died in late 1861.<sup>30</sup>

The first Civil War draft took place on 5 August 1861. Men aged 18 to 45 were eligible and were offered \$8.00 per month and 16 acres of land after the war. There was an eagerness to enlist among older established families; these enlistments were credited to the townships. Since the Flemish lived in diversified settlements, drafts were not necessary to fill township quotas until later in the war.

Following is a list of some of the Flemish soldiers who served in the Civil War:<sup>31</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	<u>Emigrated From</u>
Pierre Cermuller (1841-1864)	from Milwaukee	Ghent
Désiré Collard	17 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Nethen
Jean J. Coppens (1836-1910)	50 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	St. Joris Weert
Francois Daniel (1835-1908)	17 <sup>th</sup> Wis.	St. Joris Weert
Alfred De Beck (1845-1923)	from Green Bay	
Pierre De Cremer	1 <sup>st</sup> & 46 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Guillaume De Kelver(1843-1923)		Leuven
Joseph De Keuster	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Joseph Dhyne (1830-1901)	4 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Cav.	
Pierre Draye (1833-1900)		St. Agathe Rode
Joseph Dunks (1827-1905)	14 <sup>th</sup> Penn. Cav.	Bierbeek
Ferdinand Goffart(1836-1899)	22 <sup>nd</sup> Iowa Inf.	Huldenberg
Pierre Goosens (1828-1886)	4 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Cav.	Brussels
Ferdinand Haevers(1842-1909)	Confederate Army	St. Agathe Rode
Martin Horckmans (1837-1916)	17 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	St. Joris Weert
Charles Janee (1829-1880)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wis. Cav.	
Louis Janee (1837-1879)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wis. Cav.	
Mitchell Joannes(1847-1931)	41 <sup>st</sup> Wis. Inf.	Tervuren
William Joannes (1845-1930)	41 <sup>st</sup> Wis. Inf.	Tervuren
Antoine Kaye (1823-1892)	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Sebastien Kiepes(1836-1912)	bugler from Appleton	
André Lamal (1826-1863)	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Overijse

Joseph Lambert	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Edward Lefebvre(1845-1920)	wounded in action	
Leopold Lefebvre(1839-1896)	Confederate Army	
Francois Malliet(1840-1863)	4 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Cav.	Oud-Heverlee
Guillaume Meurens	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Jean Molitor (1837-1864)	died in prison camp	
Francis Nuthals(1828-1906)	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	St. Joris Weert
Peter J. Peters(1835-1907)		Gembloix
Jean J. Peigneur	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Louis Peus (1831-1914)	from Appleton	
Jean Bte. Raleigh	wounded in 1863	
Pierre Renier(1839-1920)	17 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Louis Ronsman(1825-1883)	18 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Nethen
Joseph Steffens(1820-1887)	from Appleton	
William Tilly(1825-1866)	4 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Bierbeek
Joseph Van Caster	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Ferdinand Vanden Ack(1846-	)18 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Ottenburg
Peter Vanden Ack(1837-1864)	died in Georgia	Ottenburg
Prosper Vanden Ack	18 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Ottenburg
Antoine Vanden Berg(1834-1917)	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	St. Joris Weert
John Bte. Vander Kelen(1835- 1913)	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Huldenburg
Francis Vander Zande(1833- 1863)	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	Oud-Heverlee
Charles Van Hacke(1820- )	from Wausau	Bovekerke
Guillaume Van Mulden(1820- )	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Joseph Verheyden (1823-1876)	17 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Cav.	Oud-Heverlee
Desiré Wery	34 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	
Joseph Willems	17 <sup>th</sup> Wis. Inf.	

These men saw action on all of the major battlefields. Some were killed, some were wounded, some were taken prisoner. More died from sickness than from gunshot wounds. André Lamal died in Memphis, Tennessee from water poisoning. Guillaume De Kelver returned from service after losing a lung and became a Catholic priest. The Joannes brothers became very successful in the wholesale grocery business. Ferdinand Haevers was working

in New Orleans when he was drafted into the Confederate Army; after the war, he returned to Wisconsin and raised a family.

The draft in 1862 set off four days of rioting in New York by the Irish immigrants. The November 13, 1862 draft in Brown County set off the Belgian rebellion; the number drafted that day was 150. The Belgian farmers reacted by marching on Green Bay from the NorthEast, armed with pitchforks. Henry Baird tried to stop them by closing the East River bridge, but without success, and the target of their wrath, U.S. Senator Timothy Howe, fled. Finally, John Last, a government official fluent in French, persuaded them to return to their homes. The townships hardest hit were those with a large percentage of Walloons, so that town officials had to select many from that group. Some went to Canada to escape the draft.<sup>32</sup>

The Conscription Act, early in 1863, allowed anyone to avoid military service provided he pay \$300.00 or enlist a substitute for his three years of service. There were four national drafts in 1863-64. Some of the names called in the October 1864 list were: Xavier Van Ham, Peter Engels, Francis Clabots, John Thede, John B. Clabots, Peter Vanden Bosch, Francis Vanden Plas, Louis Van Ermel, Joseph Mellin, John B. Vanden Houten and Andrew Rentmeester. There are no records showing that any of the above served in the Civil War.

There were ways to be excluded from serice, for example: over-age; alien; only son of a widow; hiring of a substitute; failing the physical exam; only son of aged parents; and, father of motherless children. Andrew W. Rentmeester told us that his "Oom Drick" (Uncle Andrew or Hendrick) hired a substitute for \$300.00 in late 1864.

With the supply of cotton from the South cut off by the war, the Green Bay farmers started raising sheep and growing flax. The sheep were sheared in the early Spring by hand. The

women carded the wool and spun the yarn, then dyed it with the liquid from red-oak, butternut or hickory-bark steeped in water. The color was set with copper, then the wool was made into blankets and clothing. Where to get the dyes and how to use them was an art taught to the settlers by the Indians.

Flax has been grown in Flanders for centuries and Flemish linen and lace have a world-wide reputation. It became popular in Wisconsin during the Civil War and was still grown several generations later, both for fiber and for linseed oil. When grown for linen, it is sown densely and reaped before maturity. It is then soaked to permit bacteria to break down the woody tissues in a process called retting. The next step is to beat the stems to separate the fibers from other material and to crush the pith; this is called scutching. Stories about scutching-bees have been handed down in Flemish families. The fibers are then spun to form linen thread; there was a flax factory in De Pere to process the flax into linen products. It burned down in 1869; later, there was a woolen mill on the site.

Prices went up during the war; Bella French tells a story about a Belgian woman who complained in a Fort Howard store about the high price of kerosene, then 75 cents per gallon. She said that she always paid 40 cents. The merchant explained that prices had gone up because of the war. "Oh," responded the woman innocently, "Do they fight by lamplight?"

It became popular to raise geese for the sale of feathers. Several years previously, a Flemish housewife became quite angry with an Indian who was chasing a goose around the cabin, pulling out its feathers for use in his headdress. Now, these housewives were practicing the art of live-plucking, because the feathers brought a high price for pillows and feather-beds. An old stocking was pulled over the goose's head to keep it from pecking, then the legs were tied together and the feathers were removed. This was an old European custom. Louis XIV of France (the Sun King)

referred to it when he was describing the art of taxation "It's like pulling feathers from a goose - get the maximum of feathers with the least amount of hissing."

In 1862, Belgian Consul Masse, in Green Bay, reported to his government that the Flemish settlers never could have dreamed of such prosperity when they had been in Belgium, as they were enjoying now.

At harvest-time in 1863, there was a big Indian scare all over Wisconsin. There had been a massacre of 500 Whites the year before by the Santee Sioux Indians in Minnesota. Although the farmers fled their fields in the Wrightstown/Little Chute area in false alarm, there were no reports of problems in the vicinity of Green Bay.

Many of the local Indians were employed at the Duck Creek Stone Quarry, because of a big labor shortage. The owner of this quarry, Lucas Rioux, was part Menominee Indian and the quarry was located on the site of an ancient Indian village. Many of the Duck Creek Flemish settlers worked in the quarry alongside these Menominees and found them to be pleasant companions. Some of these Flemings were: Henry Moes, Charles Williquette, Marshall Coppersmith, Abe La Count, Joseph Hussian, Felix Poels, John Huben, Joseph La Haye, Abram Vanden Berg, Herman Wertens and Peter Marto. The Indian women also worked for many of the Flemish housewives; they were loyal workers and reported to have soft, melodious voices. Figure 36 shows the early quarry when most of the stone was removed by hand. Holes were made with star drills and wedges were inserted in the holes and hammered until the stone block split off.

One of the Flemish families in the Duck Creek area told a story about hearing voices outside of their picket-fence all night and waited apprehensively, thinking that the Indians would walk in at any minute. Nobody locked their doors in those days.



Figure 36. Indian quarry-workers. (Photo - Courtesy of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.)

In the morning they found out that it was a group of Flemish women from the Suamico area, who had picked blackberries the day before and rested by their fence during the night.<sup>33</sup>

(Figure 37 shows two Flemish women with their baskets.) In the morning the berry-pickers each put a basket on their head and carried one by hand, then continued on to Green Bay to sell their berries and to buy necessities. The stories often told about the Flemish and Walloon women walking long distances with a bushel of wheat or other heavy loads were not exaggerated, and the Walloon women had much further to walk than did the Flemish.



Figure 37.

Two Flemish women on their way to the market.

It became popular during the Civil War and later, to exchange photographs between the Flemish-Americans and with their

relatives in Flanders. There are many photographs from Flanders still in existence, bearing the stamp of one of the two Leuven studios - Morrens or Guillaume Rentmeesters. However, most of these photographs have no names or dates on them and provide a puzzle to the frustrated researcher. See Figure 38 for photographs of early Flemish-Americans.

While oxen were still used in the area until around 1900, the Civil War period saw the introduction of horses on a large scale. Perhaps horses were not as strong, but they were faster and more adaptable to pulling reapers, providing power for threshing machines, pulling the fashionable buggies, pulling stage-coaches, etc. America owes much to the oxen; they provided the necessary power to open up the frontier. Stephen Vincent Benet gave us an apt description of them in his John Brown's Body:<sup>34</sup>

"And, here and there, an ox-cart from the hills  
Whose solemn team had shoulders of rough, white rock,  
Innocent noses, black and wet as snailshells  
And that inordinate patience in their eyes."

The innocent nose of an ox was involved in a dispute between Christofel Watermolen and an irascible Flemish neighbor over a boundary line. One day, the neighbor, with an axe in his hand, told Christofel that if the ox put his nose over his boundary line, he would cut it off with his axe. The ox did and the neighbor did.<sup>35</sup>

The ox got his name from aurochs, an old breed of wild cattle. It developed its nature after being castrated as a young bull-calf. Young stallion horses also were castrated (gelded) to make them more amenable to farmwork and more pleasant companions. Young boar hogs were castrated to make their meat more palatable. The horns of cattle were cut off with a saw in the Wintertime so that they wouldn't butt each other or any innocent bystanders. These were the type of jobs that made young Flemish boys seek their fortunes elsewhere. Incidentally, the bullhorns and cowhorns could be converted to musical instruments.

Figure 39 shows a yoke of oxen, with uncut horns, pulling

Figure 38.  
Photographs of early Flemish-Americans.



← Constance Meulemans was born in Bierbeek, Belgium in 1843 and married John Roskam of Duck Creek. Mother of 13 children, she died in 1929. She is wearing the traditional white apron, shawl and full skirt of the Flemish women. In the Winter, instead of overcoats, the women always wore shawls and capes.

Francis Nuthals (b. 29 1829 → d. 20 Jan 1900) came to America in 1856 with his wife, Maria Van-nieuwenhoven, from St. Joris-Weert. In this Civil-War-period photograph, he is shown in traditional Flemish costume - Dutch cap, kerchief around the neck and wide trousers. Normally, a loose blouse was worn under the coat. Home-grown tobacco was smoked in a clay pipe.



← Mrs. Joseph (Sylvia) Kimps shows the latest fashion in this 1869 photograph. The Kimps (Cumps) lived in the Duck Creek area and had twelve children. Sylvia was born 16 December 1853 and died 28 March 1893.

a load of hay. The yoke was made of hand-carved wood which fit over the shoulders of the oxen and could be attached to the wagon, harrow, etc. The bearded gentleman is holding a stick, which is called an ox-goad. One Flemish farmer commented that oxen were better than horses but only lasted a year.



Figure 39. Yoke of oxen. (Courtesy of the Neville Public Museum).

At the end of the Civil War period, Wisconsin was a major wheat-growing state and the price had gone up to \$1.50 per bushel. Workers in the lumber camps were paid \$26 per month, working from sun-up to sun-down every day of the week, except for Christmas. Flemish farmers had vastly increased their acreage.

The Wisconsin boys came marching home from the war, a scene so vividly described by Wisconsin author Hamlin Garland in writing about the return of his father from the army.<sup>36</sup> The war, and the Homestead Act of 1862, with its promise of free land, led to an expansionary period and a change in the Flemish-American community.

### The Post-War Period

The number of Flemish families coming to Wisconsin increased after the Civil War with the removal of the Confederate blockade. Many of the newcomers had familiar names - Basteyns, Clabots, Derwae, Duchateau, Meulemans, Rondou, Vander Busch, Vander Linden, Horckman, Devroy, Van Ark, etc. Many of these immigrants stayed with relatives and friends until they could get settled: The Frank Cleeremans family stayed with Henry Cleeremans; the Felix Lurquin family were guests of the Devroys; Josef and Mary Catherine (De Backer) De Leers stayed with her cousin, John "Frank" Vander Kelen; Frank and Henry Rentmeesters lodged with their Uncle Frank. The majority of the new arrivals were from the Province of Brabant, but the percentage from other provinces showed an increase each year.

In 1870, the population of Brown County stood at 25,180. During this period, the Flemish farmers and immigrants had branched out into many different fields of endeavor. Frank Vander Kelen had a shingle-mill in the Town of Eaton; J.B. Cauwenberg had a store and hotel in Green Bay; Frank Poels ran a brickyard in Duck Creek; Frank Du Chateau had a liquor-store; the Rodaers had a saloon in De Pere and a hotel and saloon in Duck Creek; Charles Williquette had a hotel in Duck Creek; Charles Lefebvre ran a gristmill; Joseph Devilez was a shoemaker; Florence Williquette was a physician; John F. Watermolen was a lawyer and a United States judge; Henry Watermolen was county clerk and sheriff - the list goes on and on. There is no pattern in the chosen careers of the Flemish-Americans; they were catholic in their vocations, although the majority were farmers.

Louis Detrie married Catherine Vanden Borne and opened a cheese factory on his 80-acre farm on the Finger Road in the Town of Humboldt. Their descendants said that there were many Pottawatomi and Menominee Indians living in the area; the Indians used this trail from Kewaunee to Green Bay and would scare the

children. Soon there were many cheese-factories in the area because of the flourishing dairy herds and the increasing demand for dairy products. Around the end of the century, the dairy industry replaced the wheat-farming and lumbering businesses as the number one industry.

The Detrie cheese-making process started with obtaining rennet, which came from the lining of calf's stomach. The calf must be very young and milk-fed. The rennet is put into a cloth bag which is soaked in water, then the juice from the bag is squeezed into the milk. The milk separates into curds and whey. The curds are put into a cheesecloth bag, drained, salted and pressed into the desired form. The outside of the form is then rubbed with butter and put into a cool place to ripen. The whey was used by the farmers to feed their hogs. There was a general store next to the Detrie Cheese Factory which was operated at one time by Edna Rentmeester Delfosse; she would visit her Aunt Catherine's cheese factory to sample the product.

Every farm-home had a butter churn. Milk was cooled in pans and when the cream rose to the top, it was skimmed and allowed to "ripen." The cream in the churn was stirred vigorously by a strong-armed member of the family until all the solids were formed as butter. These lumps were then squeezed into earthenware, butter-crocks of various sizes after being lightly salted. Some people drank the buttermilk; most fed it to the hogs. In the Wintertime, the cream produced white butter and carrot juice had to be added to give it the desired color. An old tin pan was punched full of nail holes to grate the carrots.

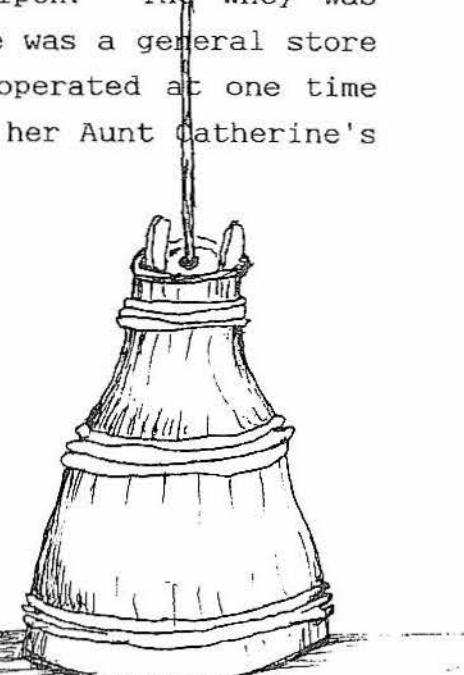


Figure 40.

Flemish butter-churn.

The centrifugal cream-separator, introduced around 1880, and a method devised by Stephen Babcock in 1890 to determine the

butterfat content of milk and cream, led to large-scale production. The cottage industry grew into Wisconsin's glory.

For many years, Wisconsin played a large part in the production of wheat and flour. The Flemish farmers grew wheat as their largest cash-crop and during the Civil War, Wisconsin wheat production reached a high point of twenty to thirty-million bushels each year.<sup>37</sup> Every port and every train-depot loaded wheat.

The Flemish farmers would take their wheat or rye to the nearest gristmill to have it ground. The mill was equipped with a millstone (see Figure 41 for an advertisement by a Milwaukee firm) which ground all five parts of the grain kernel together - the starchy center, the wheat-germ and the three outer coats. Some of the coats or husks could be sifted out with bolting cloths to produce a whiter flour. Around 1880, a Neenah inventor developed a non-cutting steel roller which didn't pulverize the husk and allowed this bran to be separated from the starchy flour and from the wheat-germ, thus giving us our now-familiar white flour. (In modern times some people prefer to buy stone-ground bread because of its higher bran content.)

**WISCONSIN  
FRENCH BURR MILL STONE  
MANUFACTORY,  
AND  
MILL FURNISHING ESTAB-  
LISHMENT.**

WEST WATER STREET,  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.  
DECKER & SEVILLE, Proprietors.

Manufacturers and dealers in French Burr Mill Stones, of all sizes, and with all the late improvements attached; Portable Mills for Horse Powers; Bolting Cloths; a general assortment of Dutch, Anchor, Swiss and French Brands, at prices to suit, all from the best known manufacturers; Pagin's, Grimes', and Springer's Smut Machines; Serows, Damson Irons, Conveying Flights, Proof Staffs, Screenery of all meshes; Steel for mill pocks; Mill Pecks; Calcined and Raw Plaster of Paris; Corn Crackers; Tram Pots; Bushes;— and all articles generally kept in the business.

☞ TO MILL BUILDERS.

We would say that our stock will at all times be found to be the largest and best selected there is west of New York,—and with practical attention to manufacturing, and a personal selection of material, we cannot fail to suit.

AGENTS FOR

Bogardus' Planetary one or two Horse Powers.

☞ Prompt attention given to orders, or communications to our address.

Figure 41.

1851 Millstone Advertisement.

However, a combination of wheat disease in Wisconsin and cheaper competition from prairie states resulted in a steady decline of wheat production.

For about twenty years, starting in 1868, the Flemish farmers felt the impact of the steel industry in Green Bay. It was cheaper for a while to bring iron ore through the waterways to the Fox River where charcoal-fired smelters were built. During this period there was a great demand for wood, even for stumps, which accelerated the land-clearing process. Finally, the coke-plants of Pennsylvania provided a cheaper fuel and the Wisconsin steel industry was no more.

The period after the Civil War saw the development of the Golden West, the trans-continental railroad and the offer of cheap land. The land advertisement in Figure 42 told the people where to go to become rich. Land was available to settlers under the Homestead Act of 1862 and states, railroads, and private land-companies had millions of acres at low prices on easy terms. Many of the new generation of Flemish-Americans went to seek their fortunes.

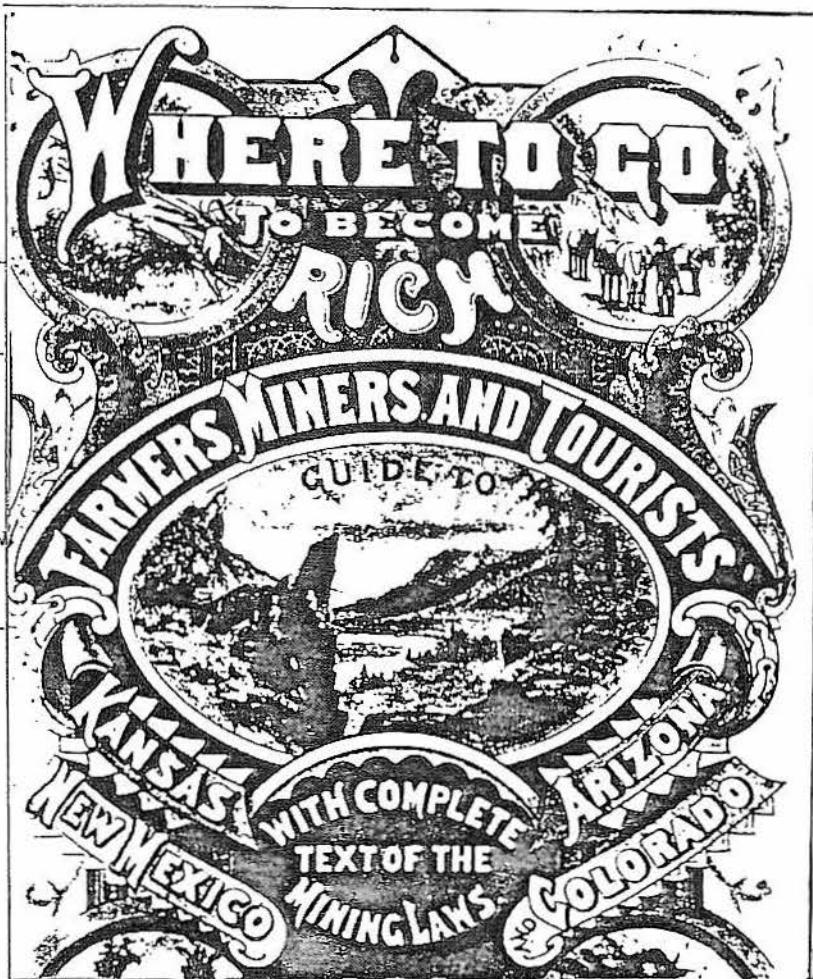


Figure 42. 1880 Land Advertisement.

Some went to the Flemish-Belgian settlement in the James River valley of North Dakota, some to Marshall, Minnesota, including names like Lefebvre, Horckmans, Reignier, Cumber, Wilmaert and Rodaer. William Rentmeester (son of Frank) walked from Green Bay to Minnesota twice, but decided to live in Brown County; his son, August, lived in North Dakota for awhile. Martin Horckmans moved from Humboldt to Minnesota, to Fort Dodge, Iowa, to Norton County, Kansas, and finally to Concordia, Kansas.

In 1874, a Dutch/Flemish colony went by rail to a new settlement in Nebraska. Some names of these settlers are: Adri-aens, Theuwsen, Peeters, Vosbeck, Vander Heyden and Vanden Berg. The Green Bay Advocate printed an article on 7 May 1874 about the fabulous corn-crop in Nebraska, almost 92 bushels per acre, which gave a farmer a profit of \$20 per acre.

Another colony of Dutch/Flemish went to Oregon under the leadership of Father William Verboort, who had started four parishes in the Green Bay Diocese. The group went in 1875; Father Verboort sent back wheat samples and an apple that was 14" in circumference to show the fertility of the soil. Another group went the following year, including Philip Vander Kelen, Catherine Meulemans and her husband William Hermans, and Mary De Both Van Straten. Father Verboort died there of lung fever in July 1876.

Some Flemish may have been part of the fourteen families sent by Xavier Martin to Sherburne, Minnesota in April 1879 to settle on some land that he had purchased. He sent 5 carloads of horses, cattle, furniture and farm equipment in April, then another group of families and their belongings in May.

This restless movement of some settlers is aptly described by author Hamlin Garland, whose family moved a half-dozen times from Wisconsin to other farms in the Mid-West. Another author, Laura Ingalls, who wrote stories for children, started with The Little Cabin In The Woods in Wisconsin, the scene of

her childhood, and then described a half-dozen locations in Iowa, Missouri and the Dakotas. By coincidence, her Little House On The Prairie was about her stay in De Smet, South Dakota, named after the famous Flemish priest.

Many tried other places, then returned to Green Bay. The Daniel Devroy family lived in Colorado from 1866 to 1880. William Joannes tried Nevada; his son, Arthur, was born there. Joe Van Dyne went to the Moline, Illinois settlement for awhile. Daniel Van Dyne moved south of Oshkosh; the village there is named for him. Peter De Cleene and John De Cleene lived with their families in California before settling in De Pere. Alex and Sophie Simeons Cleeremans lived briefly in the Oregon settlement in 1877; Sophie was born in Ohio before her parents ended up in the Duck Creek area. George Sinclair and three Horckmans families tried wheat-ranching in the Dakotas.

One Flemish family moved for another reason. The head of the family was making life difficult for a young housewife, whose husband was working in a lumber camp for the Winter. The young lady, at wit's end, asked Frank Rentmeester for help. Like most Flemish, he was slow to anger, but when stirred up enough, he exploded. He took his sword, and, placing the sharp point into the navel of the breaker of the Ninth Commandment, he said that if he ever saw him again, it would be with the sword protruding from his backside. The man sold out and moved out.

In 1870, Wisconsin held fourth place among the states of the union in producing lumber; in 1880, it was third; in 1890, it was second; and in 1900, it was first, with over a thousand sawmills. In Brown County, most of the marketable timber was gone by 1875, but working in the lumber-woods in Wisconsin and upper Michigan was a Winter-time occupation for many of the Flemish men, until after World War I.

In 1871, there were two fires of gigantic proportions.

one in Chicago, the other in Northeastern Wisconsin. The latter fire was by far the larger; an area of several hundred square miles was reduced to a wasteland of ashes and charred stumps. There were over 1150 deaths caused by this most destructive fire in the United States history. The area affected extended from Appleton to Marinette, and from the Wolf River to Lake Michigan, an area larger than the Flanders homeland. See Figure 43 for a map showing the extent of the 1871 Wisconsin fire.<sup>38</sup>

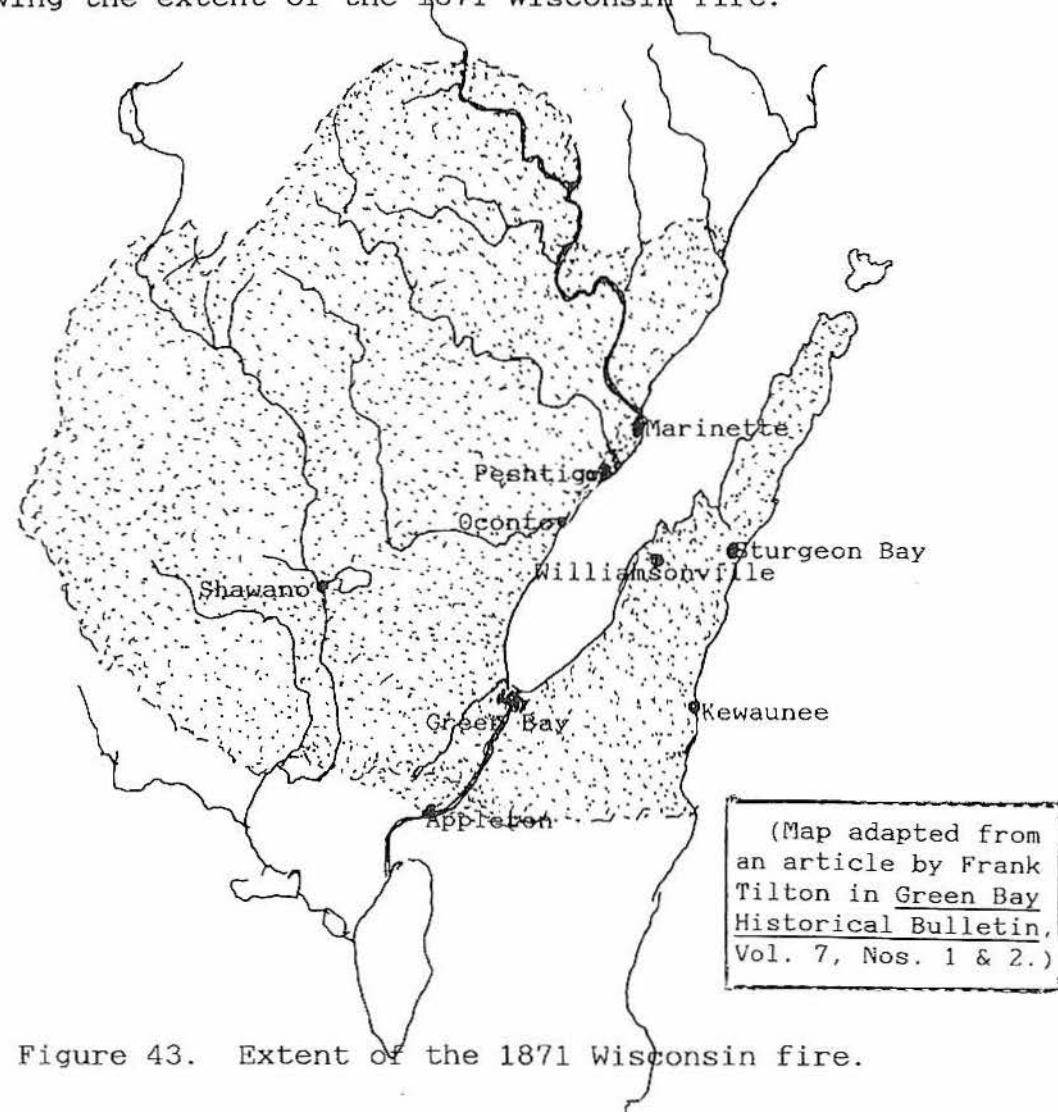


Figure 43. Extent of the 1871 Wisconsin fire.

The line of fire touched the Town of Wrightstown and swept through Glenmore, Rockland, De Pere, Bellevue, Preble, Eaton, Humboldt and the Town of Green Bay in Brown County. Dyckesville, New Franken and Sugar Bush were the towns with the most damage.

39

Marcella Kuypers gives this account of one family's experience:

"On Sunday, October 7, 1871, while driving to Green Bay, Antoine De Both was told of another raging fire threatening the counties North of Green Bay and that the whole Peninsula was on fire. Fearing for the safety of his two married daughters, Barbara (Mrs. John Heyrman) and Mary (Mrs. Frank Van Straten) and their families who lived in that area, he hurriedly took two wagons with two teams to rescue them. His son, Felix, then a boy of eight, was the only person available to drive the other wagon. Leaving De Pere at noon, they arrived at Williamsonville at eleven o'clock that night. Fire was spreading North and East of them and coming down the shore toward their settlement. In an hour, Antoine loaded all the belongings of the two couples and they started back. The blaze by that time had travelled far down the peninsula. Trees were burning all round them and they were forced to put wet gunny sacks on the horses' feet and cover their heads to drive them past some of the blazing sections. They were fortunate to have escaped, for out of 77 settlers at Williamsonville, only 17 survived...."

Four inches of ashes covered the Duck Creek area and many of the Flemish families took care of fleeing refugees.<sup>37</sup> William Rentmeester, son of Frank, was at Oconto at the time and survived by lying in the Oconto River for a day; his only injury came from a burning branch falling on his arm. Peshtigo, a city of lumber-mills, received major damage and many casualties from the fire. One observer said, "The sky was brass; the earth was ashes."

Every Flemish family was touched by the tragedy. Much of the remaining forest burned down, which helped in clearing the land. The log cabins were replaced by brick houses or, in the case of the cabin where one of the authors was born, a brick exterior wall was added. A belt of ashes was spread around the world and persisted in the atmosphere for several years.

It took about three years for the area to recover from the fires. The lumber-mills were partially replaced by cheese factories. The corduroy roads were being improved with planks and stage coaches connected the villages and cities with Green Bay and the railhead - see Figure 44. John Hendricks contracted with Frank De Greef and John Vande Castle to carry the mail from Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay for one year in 1874, which meant that

they ran the stagecoach line. To carry the mail, they needed



Figure 44. Travel by stagecoach.

a federal express license; the mail-carrier normally carried passenger and freight in order to make a profit. A ride in the stagecoach meant a trip through the dark forest, rumbling over corduroy roads and bouncing off of the many stumps.

Sickness and accidents were part of life in Wisconsin, as in Flanders. The families seemed to be larger in America, but the reason may have been that birth-rates are lower in over-populated areas. The largest family that we encountered in our research was that of Alphonse Van Bellinger and Minnie Verdoord; they had 21 children, seven of whom died in childhood. Contagious diseases took a dreadful toll, e.g., three Vanderwegen girls died within one-week's time.

For several generations, the women did most of the treatment for illnesses. They grew herbs for tea and poultices, knew what to use for purgatives and laxatives and were mid-wives for childbirths. Two of these midwives in Bellevue around the turn of the century were: Mrs. John (Tracy) Watermolen and Mrs. Louis

(Gertrude) Loy. They didn't charge for their services, but were always given a gift, such as a quilt.

There were many accidents. John Baptiste Theys, age 40, died in 1873 from a horse-and-buggy accident. Eugene Matheys, age 17, fell between the logs and was drowned. Philip Vanden Borne got his leg trapped in the evener behind his team of horses and had to have it amputated. Emma Collard Jauquet was struck by lightning while standing by her window. Peter Nackers, age 22, of Wrightstown, was killed by a horse. The newspapers carried reports of accidents in every issue published. In 1879, Frank Rentmeester was kicked by his horse and died. His widow went to live with her daughter, Catherine and Catherine's husband, Henry Berendson, in Green Bay. When the Berendsons built a new house on Walnut Street, Frank's sword was buried under the foundation.

#### Towards The End Of The Century

The Flemish who migrated towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century were generally artisans rather than farmers, and came from other Belgian provinces besides Brabant. Many settled in the City of Green Bay and worked on the railroad. Some of the new families who sought the farm-life were: Pierquet, Tilkens, Van Pee (Van Pay), Vervaeren, Willems, Balza, Verstappen, Hazaerts and Lathour. Some of those who preferred city-life were: Vanden Branden, Ysebaert, Willaert, Duchateau, Paeps, Maes, De Coninck, Lurquin, Motif, Pouwells, Rondou and Borremans.

The Christens and Deneys families also settled in Fort Howard (now west Green Bay) during that period. Gustav Christens and his wife, Isabella Haesaerts brought their four children from Oud-Heverlee in 1883 because of their friends, the Meulemans. Their trip on the ship, Peter The King, took two weeks; Gustav was sea-sick the entire trip and hoped that the ship would sink. (It sank on the return trip.) Processing at Ellis Island took

a week, then they took the train to Green Bay where they were met by Peter Haesaerts. The Christens bought four acres in the city where they erected a cabin and raised farm produce. Their bathroom was a hollowed-out tree stump. There is an interesting story about Gustav buying onion seeds from an envious neighbor who secretly baked them in an oven to make them sterile. When the ordinarily mild-mannered Gustav learned about the trick, he beat the trickster up with his wooden shoe.

Frank and Florentine (Wacker) Deneys brought their six children to America from Bierbeek in 1889 and were neighbors of the Christens family. Mrs. Clarence (Evelyn) Poels, granddaughter of Frank Deneys, says that when the Deneys family left Antwerp harbor, they were serenaded by this teasing song:

Stay in our land  
Stay in our land  
Why go over the sea?  
In America, in America  
There is no joy or glee.

The emigrants had much better accommodations than their predecessors who had traveled by steamship and train. However, it was still an unpleasant experience for many. The photograph of the Pierquet and Tilkens families at the New York dock in 1884 shows a tired and dispirited group. In describing her voyage in 1889, Theresa Vander Wegen said that it was not pleasant, but "you just had to make the best of it." Many immigrants had sponsors in Wisconsin and a Flemish agent in Flanders. For example, 27-year-old Theresa Vander Wegen of Blanden, Province of Brabant, was sponsored by the Rondou family, who owned and operated a grocery store in Green Bay.<sup>40</sup> In return, she worked at the Rondou store. The man who arranged her transportation to America was called by a well-known nickname, Be-Ca-Noika; \* he helped Belgians coming to the Door/Brown County area. Louis Rioux, who owned and operated the Rioux Stone Quarry, was another sponsor and an

\*Jules Rentmeester believes that this word is Beukenootje, which is a nickname for youngsters, meaning "Little Beechnut."

employer of many Flemish who came to the area, one of whom was Victor La Haye. Starting around 1850, the Rioux Quarry placed advertisements in French-language newspapers in Belgium which brought Belgian immigrants to Wisconsin.

The Flemish-Americans in America were enjoying an increasing prosperity. Young couples would go riding on a Sunday afternoon in a shiny buggy with a fast-stepping horse providing the power. The farms were growing larger and the Flemish in the cities were filling a vast variety of jobs successfully. John F. Watermolen taught school, then he became a lawyer and succeeded his father-in-law, John Wigman, as judge of the United States District Court. They contributed to important interpretation of the State constitution in two important areas: they prevented the reading of the Bible in public schools and they made environmental decisions which protected the purity and use of Wisconsin rivers. In his spare time, John Watermolen invented the reel-type lawn-mower. He carved the first model out of wood and sold the patent for \$1200.00 Another inventor was Alphonse De Leers, who developed a match which, for the first time, could be lit by striking it anywhere against an abrasive surface. This contributed to the successful operation of the Diamond Match Company, which opened a plant in Green Bay in 1894 and employed many people.

In 1874, A. Duchateau patented the Novelty Folding Pail, made of India rubber and iron, which could be collapsed so that it was one-inch tall. The Duchateau Brothers built the Duchateau



Figure 45.  
A Sunday afternoon drive.

Block in Fort Howard (later west Green Bay) where they had a wholesale liquor business.

When John Watermolen died, he left his set of several dozen volumes of early American law books to his nephew, Andrew W. Rentmeester, who started to read law in his uncle's office at an early age. Andrew really wanted to be a doctor and, after college, took a teaching job to make enough money to attend medical school. He taught for 44 years at the Finger Road School; the list of students enrolled at the school he attended is shown in Figure 46. Most of the students were of Flemish stock with a few Germans and Hollanders. Angeline Rentmeester, the owner of the list of pupils, later married Joseph Pierquet (Pearka).

A student remembers that the first thing that Andrew, as a new teacher, did was to prohibit the pupils from speaking Flemish at school.<sup>41</sup> This made for a quiet student-body, because Flemish was the first language of the students, even the non-Flemish. There are 86 pupils shown on the card and at one time, in the Winter, the attendance reached 120. Imagine that number of people in a one-room school!

Other schools in the Flemish communities had the same problem with overcrowding. The May 15, 1948 copy of the Green Bay Press-Gazette has a picture taken on a bitterly cold day in

1897-1898		
<i>"Ah me! those joyous days are gone I little dreamt till they had flown, How fleeting were the hours."</i>		
Name, <i>Angeline Rentmeester</i>		
<hr/>		
<i>SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 2,</i>		
<i>PREBLE, BROWN CO., WIS.</i>		
<hr/>		
Pupils		
Andrew Boehm	Mary Lothour	George Van Ermen
Mary Boehm	Lizzie Lothour	Nellie Van Ermen
Tony Boehm	Jake Pearka	J. us Van Ermen
Henry Boehm	Tony Pearka	Willie Van Ermen
Johnnie Boehm	Annie Pearka	Joseph Van Roy
Anning Boehm	Mary Pearka	Mary Van Roy
Peter Brienien	John Rentmeester	Rosi Van Roy
Henry Brienien	Andrew Rentmeester	Bennie Van Roy
Annie Brienien	August Rentmeester	George Van Roy
Josephine Cature	Peter Rentmeester	Katie Van Roy
Minnie Cature	Julia Rentmeester	Marta Van Roy
Sophia Cature	Philippine Rentmeester	Peter Van Roy
Joe Cature	Minnie Rentmeester	Eddie Van Roy
Annie Cleermans	Johnnie Rentmeester	Aiva Van Roy
Tony Cleermans	Angeline Rentmeester	Katie Verheyden
Hubert Cleermans	Peter Rentmeester	Joe Verheyden
Rosalie DeKeyser	Willie Rentmeester	Mary Verheyden
Frank Demuth	Albert Rentmeester	Tony Verheyden
Louis Demuth	Mary Rodaer	Johnnie Verheyden
Peter Demuth	Celia Rodaer	Pauline Verheyden
Johnnie Demuth	Matilda Thyes	Lizzie Verheyden
Barbara Georgia	Frank Thyes	Barbara Verheyden
Frank Georgia	Henry Thyes	Peter Watermolen
Louis Heyman	Sophia Tuyls	Ferdinand Watermolen
Johnnie Heyman	Joe Tuyls	Albert Watermolen
Annie Herten	George Tuyls	Virginia Watermolen
Rosie Hurkmans	Joe Tilkins	Edward Watermolen
Mary Hurkmans	Ross Vandenberg	Emily Watermolen
Laura Liebman	Nellie Van Ermen	
Directors		
Wm. Tuyls	Frank Heyman	A. Boehm
John B. Fournier, Co. Sup't		
<i>J. H. BOYLAN, Teacher.</i>		

Figure 46. Finger Road School pupils, 1897-1898.

February 1902 of the students at District School No. 2, Town of Bellevue. Seventy-seven of the 120 students attending the school braved the cold to be on the picture. Some of the Flemish families represented were: Lindsley (7), Phillips (7), Watermolens (6), Nockerts (5), Rentmeester (4), Renier (3), Van Pay (2), De Greef (4), Vanderwegen (3), and, Calewaerts (2). Most of those country schools have disappeared as farms grew larger, families were smaller and schools were consolidated.

The older generation of Flemish, those who made the early decisions to migrate, were dead or dying off toward the end of the century. Most of these deaths were recorded on memorial cards, which were printed in Flemish or English, see Figure 47. Some of the death notices appeared in De Volksstem, a Dutch/Flemish newspaper published in De Pere, Wisconsin by John Heyrman. His firm also printed many of the memorial cards.

The deaths were also recorded in church registers, county offices and in the cemetery records. However, we could not find a record on about one-third of the deaths of the earliest Flemish pioneers. One reason is that the records of the Bay Settlement church apparently were taken by a private individual. Other reasons are: the deceased were buried privately; the people left the area; and/or, there might be confusion because of a name change. For instance, Engelbertus Willems worked for the Larsen Canning Company and William Larsen told him that as an American, he should have an American name. Thus, he became Albert Williams.<sup>42</sup>



Figure 47.  
Antonius De Both's  
memorial card.

Truck gardens, like the one that Albert had, were common among the Flemish in the cities. Mary Ann Defnet wrote about the successful garden operated by her ancestors, the Lurquins; Felix Lurquin was also the City Marshall of Fort Howard.<sup>43</sup> These garden-farmers sold their cash crops to hotels, restaurants and boarding houses.

Many of the men had to work in the lumber camps during the Winter months to produce income and, as the years rolled by, they had to go further North as the insatiable demand for lumber reduced the forests. The man with the axe and cross-cut saw tore into the magnificent stands of virgin timber in Wisconsin and when that was used up, they followed their quarry into Upper Michigan. Some, like Weyerhauser, who got his start in Wisconsin, moved their operations into the Western States.

The power to harvest the lumber was provided by horses and men. In some cases the logs were hauled to the river, where they were floated down the stream when the ice melted. In the early days, they were floated to lumber mills, where waterpower forced whipsaws through the tree-trunks to provide boards and planks.

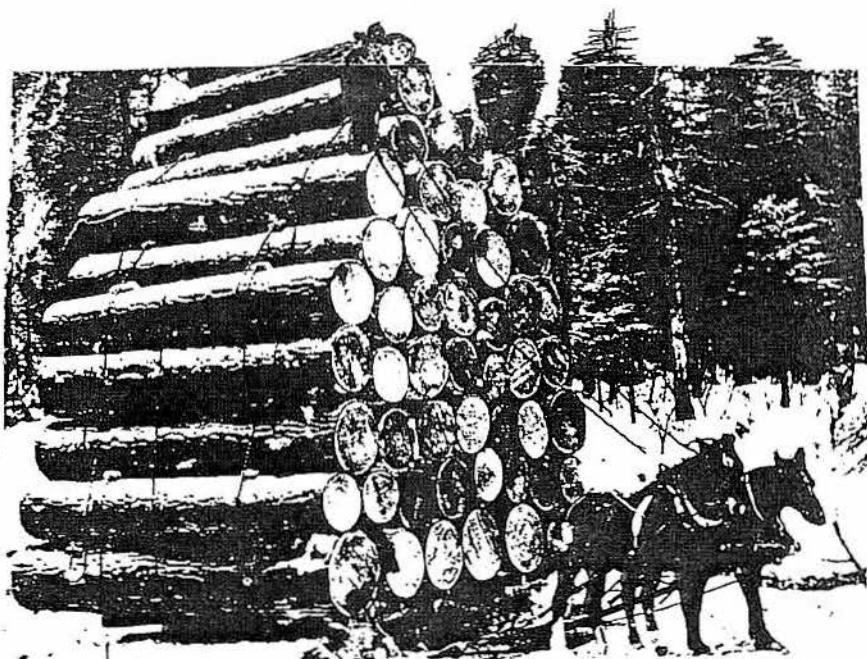


Figure 48. Logs and horsepower.

The whipsaw was replaced by a "muley" saw, a long stiff saw that was guided within the framework of a gate. This in turn was replaced by circular saws and band-saws which whined day and night to satisfy demands.

The Flemish lumberjacks left in the Fall and, because many couldn't write, nothing was heard from them until Spring. Lumber camps, like those operated by the Cleeremans and Jauquets, had a crew of about 20 and three teams of horses. A typical crew is shown in Figure 49; the photograph includes Joe Balza and his companions, with their axes, barkers, canthooks, froes, violin, cross-cut saw, pint of whiskey, grindstone and wash-tub. A typical day in the lives of these men would start at 3:30 A.M. when the stove-fire was lit. The teamsters were awakened at 4 o'clock, breakfast was 4:45 and work started at 5:30. A hot meal was carried to the crew at noon; they returned to the bunkhouse at 6:30 in the evening and had supper at 7:30 P.M. They worked a 12-hour day and generally a 72-hour week. They rested on Sundays, sharpening their axes, setting saws and repairing their gear. <sup>44</sup>



Figure 49. Lumber camp crew. (Courtesy of Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.)

There were many accidents, frost-bites, fights and bed-bugs. The men would become so infested with lice that even the horses, not a natural host, would be lousy. When the men came home in the Spring they would be given a hearty welcome, but were told, "First go to the woodshed, throw all of your clothes in one tub, soak yourself in another tub and give yourself a kerosene hair-rinse."

When the Flemish men weren't working, they might be found in local saloons, which were often under Flemish ownership. Figure 50 shows a typical saloon; this one was owned by Frank Lindsley in the Town of Bellevue during the 1880-1910 time period. Pictured from left to right are: John Phillips, Louis Loy, Frank Lindsley, John Lindsley, Leon Vanden Plas, Andrew W. Rentmeester



Figure 50. Frank Lindsley's saloon.

and a young boy who is either Bill Loy or George Lindsley. On the back bar is a picture of Fred, the stallion, and an advertisement for his stud services. Fred was given 25 raw eggs before each call to duty. Heavy draft-horses were a very important part of farm life up until the 1930s when tractors became available. Horse-dealers, horse-shoers and horse-breeders advertised their wares; in the Duck Creek area, Joseph Wouters had a prize-winning Norman Stallion, called Prince Waterloo.<sup>45</sup>

An important factor in Flemish economic life toward the end of the century was the growing importance of the dairy industry. A major obstacle in its growth was the ability to have enough fodder for the herds during that time of the year when the pasture-land was not available for grazing. Figure 51 shows a home-made device which was used to pile hay higher and wider on haystacks in the fields. It was used on the Peeters farm;

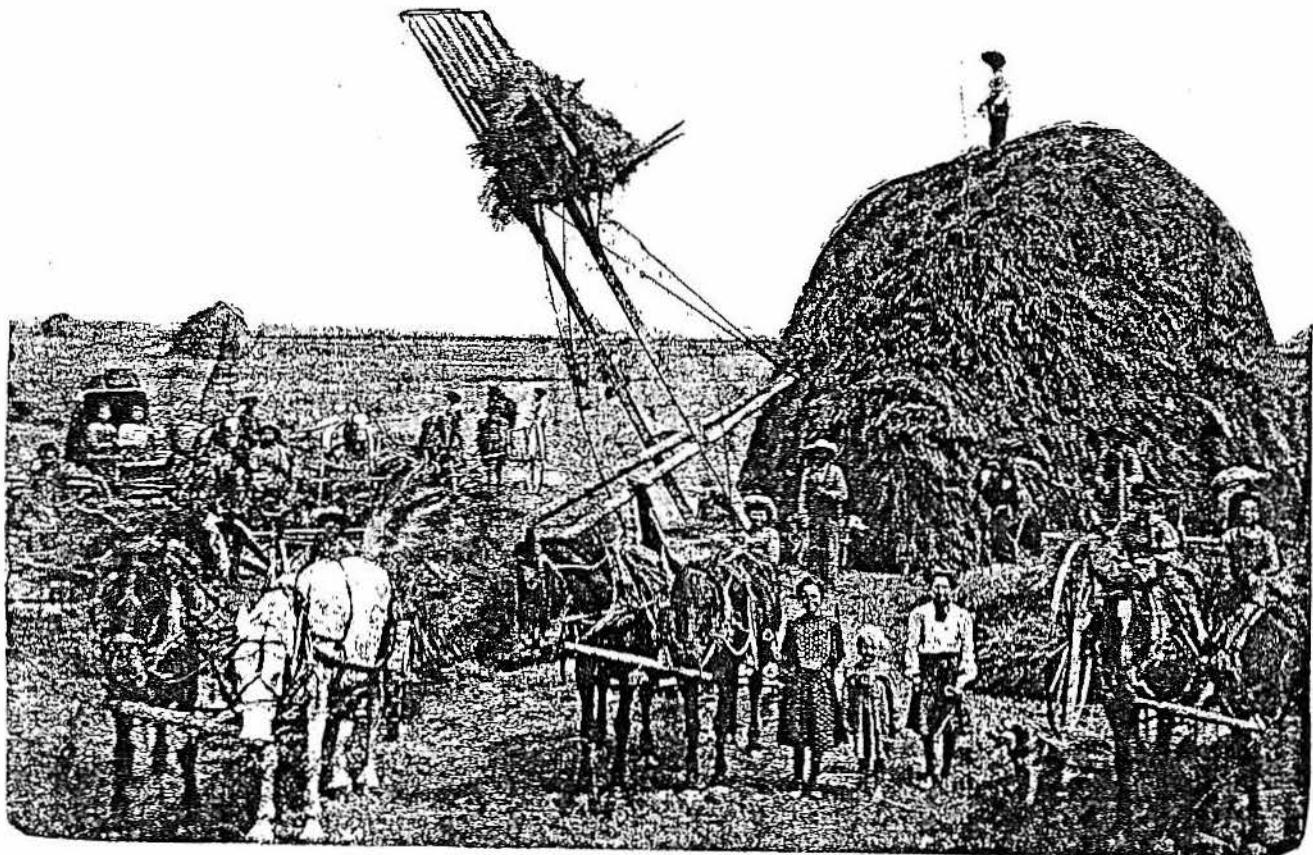


Figure 51. Hay-making on the Peeters farm.

John Peeters brought his family to America in 1848. The hay was brought on a wagon to the haystack site, where it was loaded on a wooden carrier which then swung it to the top of the haystack.

Barns for the storage of fodder were built larger and larger but it was the introduction of silos that solved the storage problem so that Wisconsin could become America's dairyland. The use of silo-type storage for preserving plants in their own juices is an ancient idea; Julius Caesar used excavated trenches for this purpose. The first Wisconsin silo was made of wood; some of the first concrete silos in Brown County were built by Jake Kaster, Andrew W. Rentmeester and John Watermolen.

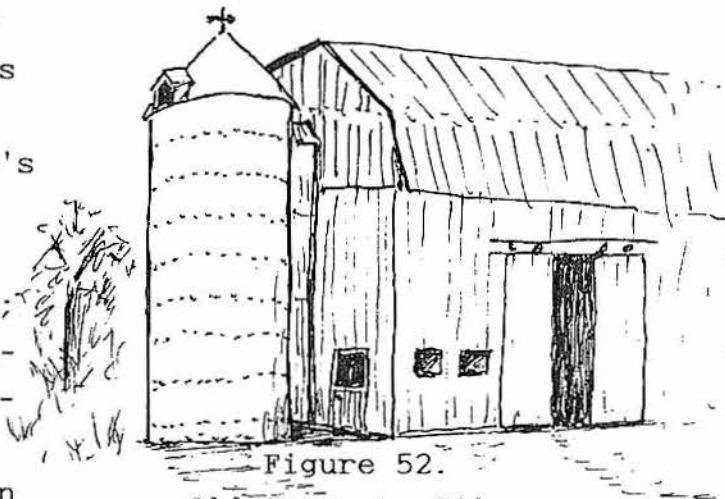


Figure 52.  
Old Concrete Silo.

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Flemish communities were still retaining many of their ethnic characteristics. Flemish immigrants were continuing to arrive, but in smaller numbers, perhaps a half-dozen families each year. Social contacts between the young men and young women occurred at church services, at community dances at places such as Cleereman's Hall or neighborhood functions. As a result, the Flemish immigrants and the first generation Flemish-Americans almost always inter-married. A look at the family histories in the last chapter of this book shows that this trend continued for several generations.

Figure 53 is a picture of Andrew W. Rentmeester and Anna Vander Kelen at their wedding just after the turn of the century. All of the people in the photograph are first-generation Americans, who spoke Flemish before they spoke English and who observed the customs of their ancestors.

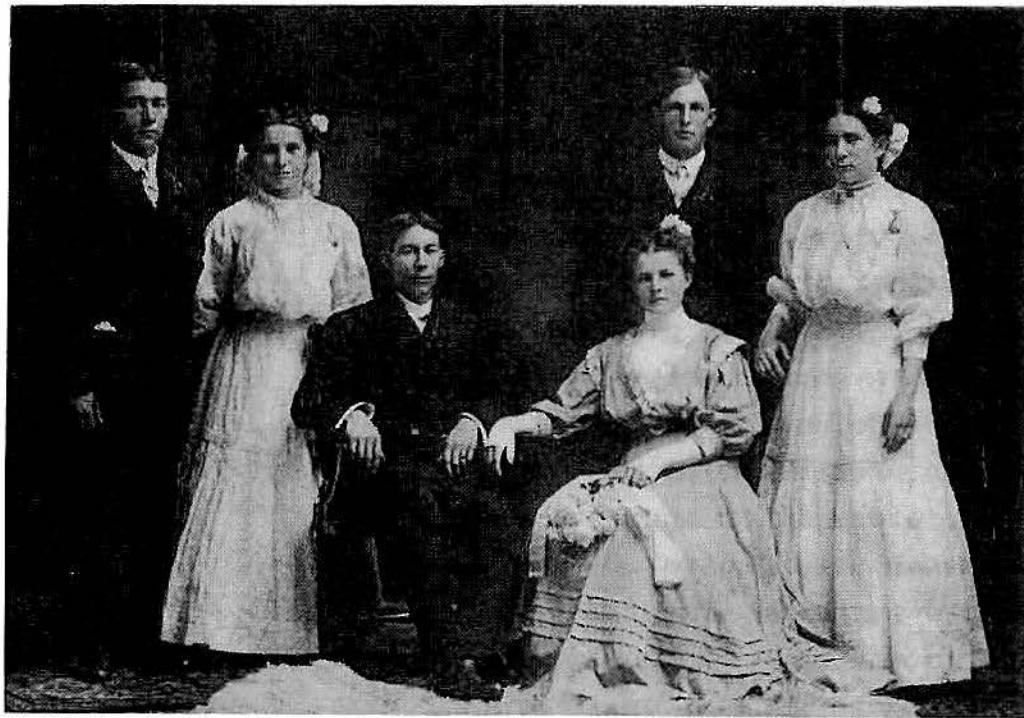


Figure 53. Wedding photo of Andrew W. Rentmeester and Anna Theresa Vander Kelen.

From left to right: Peter W. Rentmeester, Philipine Rentmeester Kountenay, Andrew W. Rentmeester, Anna Theresa Vander Kelen, John Vander Kelen and Julia Rentmeester Bowers.

Because travel was difficult and social activity was limited, there were many marriages between neighbors and between cousins. Many of the families had been related in Flanders and marriages within the Flemish community continued in this country. One Flemish mother was reported to have warned her youngster, "Don't get into a fight at school because most likely everybody there is a cousin of yours."

Marriage between first cousins required special permission from the Catholic Church because of the "bond of consanguinity." A Wrightstown priest commented that the immigrants never had a chance to get out and meet other people so it was all right for them to marry cousins. <sup>46</sup>

Sometimes, people were related to each other in several

different ways. In Figure 54, the wedding party of Joseph Pierquet and Angeline Rentmeester is shown. Anna Vander Kelen (in the photo) is Angeline's aunt; a few years later, Anna married Andrew W. Rentmeester, the first cousin of Angeline. Thus Desiré, father of Angeline, was both the uncle and brother-in-law of Andrew.



Figure 54. The Joseph Pierquet/Angeline Rentmeester wedding.

From left to right are Anna Vander Kelen, John Rentmeester, Josephine Pierquet, "Little" Peter Rentmeester, Angeline Rentmeester and Joseph Pierquet.

#### The Last Phase Of The Migration

In the early years of the new century, a larger number of immigrants left Flanders for Wisconsin, with the peak number leaving in 1906. As the war approached, very few made the move and immigration virtually came to a standstill after 1914. Most

of the newcomers had the same names as early settlers - Nuthals, Meulemans, De Coster, Matheys, Van Ess, Ronsmans, Coppens, Peeters and Vande Zande. Other new arrivals, generally from western Belgium, had names such as Buyens, Van Wassenhove, Bressinck, Vanden Brouck, Braet and Burnet.

The majority of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century immigrants became city dwellers and grew farm products for sale. The census data gives a great variety of occupations for them - railroad-workers, carpenters, masons, brewery-workers, colliers, teamsters, saloon-keepers, bicycle-shop owners and harness-makers. Their transition to a new way of life was made much easier because the Flemish language was often used on the streets and in the shops. It was commonly heard in the area until about the time of the Great Depression.

Many of the descendants of the early Flemish settlers retained their attachment to the land. As they grew more prosperous, their farms grew larger and their houses were not as close together as the first immigrants' cabins were. In the rural areas, there was now one farm where before there may have been as many as three.

Figure 55 shows a young couple proudly showing off their Duck Creek-area farm in the early years of this century. The use of a windmill augments their one-horse power but much of their work was still done by hand. Steam-engines were used by visiting threshing crews who were paid for their services.

We received a very good description of immigration in the early 1900s during an interview with Mrs. Samuel Crabb. She was born Anna Maria Coppens in 1893 at St. Joris Weert, the daughter of Guillaume Coppens and Rosalia Steenbeek. She received a primary education at St. Joris Weert but also helped out, starting at the age of eight, in her father's combination tavern, bowling alley and community hall. They had many friends who had emigrated; many wrote to them and some returned on a visit and



Figure 55. The Frank Tilly/Lucy Duchateau Family.

From left to right: Lucy Duchateau Tilly, Mabel Tilly (Mrs. Russell) Palmer, Fred Tilly and Frank Tilly.

talked to them about the opportunities in America. In January 1906, Guillaume went to Wisconsin with William Gillings and Joe Matheys to see if he would like life in America. A month later, his wife received an enthusiastic letter, so she held an auction sale and, with her family plus fourteen friends, took the train to Antwerp on 23 March 1906.

Anna Maria, at age thirteen, was the oldest of six youngsters in the family. Other members of the party were: Philip Vander Linden, Frank and Fred De Coster, Frank Nys, Philip Coopmans with wife (Louise Miller) and two boys, and Eugene Nutals with

wife (Marie Miller) and two children. The party took the boat to England, then a train to Liverpool where they booked passage on a Cunard liner for a stormy trip across the ocean that took five days. Processing at Ellis Island took only four hours, but the Flemish translators were no longer available. Although the baby had pink-eye, they weren't worried about the immigration medical inspection because "they had a letter from the mayor of Green Bay." When asked about her first impression of America and the Statue of Liberty, Anna Maria said that they didn't even think about it, that they were busy going where they were told to go, "like rabbits."

They arrived in Green Bay on 9 April 1906 and had steak for the first time at Joe Lurquins; he had visited them in Belgium the previous year. The next four nights they slept on the floor at Gillings, then they moved into the house that Vic Matheys vacated for his new tavern. By the Fall of that year, the family had moved into their own house on three acres of land in western Green Bay. The father had a good job working for the railroad and the youngsters worked in the fields for pay. All-in-all, their transition from Belgium to Wisconsin was exciting and without undue hardship.

#### Some Observations On The Flemish Migration

- The Flemish migration occurred over a period of about sixty years. During that time about 6000 immigrants came to Wisconsin; almost always they came in a group of several families.

- The first and second-generation families in Wisconsin were larger than the families that emigrated.

- The Flemish immigrants appeared to be equipped with the money and skills to make resettlement successful. Some, like the Heyrmans, made cash purchases of around \$4000 when they arrived. It appeared that Frank Rentmeester had at least

\$2500. The cost of the move to the United States was about \$900-\$1000 for a family of six; the average family that we researched appeared to have at least \$500-\$1000 with which to start their new life.

- They took advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

- They were willing to try any occupation or trade that appealed to them. Many participated successfully in the economic, social and political sectors of Brown County life.

- Their assimilation as an ethnic group into society was slow but it provided a richness and structure to the community. Some of their note-worthy contributions to the Wisconsin scene are the Kermis, booyah and Santa Claus.

- The bonds with Flanders are still strong, with Flemish-Americans curious about their Flemish roots, an exchange of letters and photographs, and many visits by Wisconsinites back to the "Old Country."

- One of the first Flemish families to settle in Wisconsin was that of Charles L. De Smedt.<sup>47</sup> In 1844, he wrote a long letter back to his family in Flanders, describing his experiences in wonderful detail and stating, "Here one has to do one's own work and can become rich in four years." By Flemish standards that's exactly what happened to our Wisconsin Flemish.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LETTERS FROM LOVED ONES

The letters which crossed the ocean between Flanders and Wisconsin expressed the anguish of the separation of loved ones. Each letter showed a desparate need for news, news of conditions in the New World and news about the family and friends left in the Old World. The following extract from a Bruffaerts in Huldenberg to his brother in Wisconsin is an example:

"Write as small as you can to give us more news because it is wonderful to get news from a brother who is living on this earth but who we'll see only in eternity. You remember our terrible farewell. We were still together but could not speak as our hearts were broken.....Finally you went outside and I went to the bedroom where I gave free rein to my tears. But that changed nothing. My brother emigrated to America and I'll never see him again....."

(Translation by Jules Rentmeesters, Mortsel, Belgium.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## THE RELIGION OF THE FLEMISH-AMERICANS

There is no doubt that the Flemish emigration was closely watched by the Catholic Church.<sup>1</sup> The Flemish in Belgium were almost all Catholic and the Catholic Church played a leading role there in government and in education. There are numerous communications between clergy in Belgium and America which concern the spiritual welfare of the Indians and of the Belgian emigrants and of the necessity to provide priests in the New World. The need for missionary priests led to the establishment of the American College at the Flemish University of Leuven, at the insistence of the Flemish Bishop Lefevere at Detroit. The Wisconsin clergy solicited funds in Belgium; for example, in 1848, Guillaume De Boey of Antwerp provided the funds for the acquisition of the land now occupied by Marquette University.

The first Flemish family to settle in Wisconsin, as far as our research shows, came in 1844, and one of the first persons they talked to was the Flemish priest, Florimond J. Bonduel.<sup>2</sup> Father Bonduel was an early pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Green Bay in 1838 and provided help to incoming Flemings until his death in 1861. St. John the Evangelist Church (known as the French Church) was established in 1831 and is the oldest in the state.

The next group of Flemings came with the Hollanders to Little Chute in 1848, and were reported in Wrightstown in 1849.<sup>3</sup> These people went to the St. John's Church at Little Chute until the frame church was built for St. Paul's Parish in Wrightstown in 1872. In 1900, the parish had 140 families, mostly Flemish

and Dutch.<sup>4</sup>

The Flemish in the Duck Creek area went to St. John the Baptist Church which had a visiting priest until Father Turcotte was assigned as the first resident pastor in 1853.<sup>5</sup> Early pastors would preach in English, French, Flemish and German, according to Reverend A. Broens, who was pastor in 1895-1897, and who wrote the History Of The Catholic Church In Wisconsin.

In the Bay Settlement area, there was a chapel almost since its founding in 1817. In May 1852, the Flemish priest, Father Edward Daems, was assigned to the church on a full-time basis and Catholics within a 10-mile radius would attend services there. A history of the Town of Eaton states that the residents in the northwest corner of Eaton would worship at the Bay Settlement church in the early days.<sup>6</sup> A young Fleming, Amandus Masschlein, who came to Bay Settlement in 1851, was the first priest to be ordained in that parish.

In 1853, the German church, St. Mary's, was founded and it is assumed that some of the Flemish went there because of the similarity of language. This church later became St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

Starting around 1850, services would be held in Peter Faenger's cabin (on what is now Finger Road) once a month. In 1856, it is recorded that 37 families, mostly Flemish, would gather there for services; about once a month, these families would go to Bay Settlement or Peter Faenger would lead the group in prayer. At about this time the local people built a 35' x 25' log-church a little to the south of the present church. In 1858, Bishop Henni of the Milwaukee Diocese, which included the Brown County area, appointed Father Bernard Benedict Smeddinck as a missionary at Preble and areas to the North. On 4 March 1859, Peter Faenger sold the ten acres, now occupied by the present church, to Father Smeddinck for one dollar; the next day, Father Smeddinck transferred

it to the Milwaukee Diocese for one dollar, the property to be held in trust for the new parish.<sup>7</sup>

In 1864, the parish of St. Willebrord was founded by 42 Dutch and Flemish families, including that of Peter Joseph Quatsoe and Joseph Heyrman. Many records of Flemish families are included in its register.

In De Pere, the Flemish went to several Catholic churches as they were established: St. Francis Xavier in 1864; St. Mary's in 1871; St. Joseph's in 1871; and, St. Boniface in 1883.

In 1867, Father Daems was put in charge of the Finger Road Church and in 1869, it received a permanent pastor and became part of the Green Bay Diocese. In 1883, the present church was built. The original statues in the old log church, which were carved from local basswood, were replaced by lindenwood statues from Bavaria, Germany.

The architect for the church was a parishioner, John Vander Zanden, a carpenter who built houses and barns. He worried and dreamt over the challenge of building such a large church. The Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church looks a lot like St. Anna's in Oud-Heverlee (see Figure 56); John Vander Zanden left Oud-Heverlee as a 7-year old child.

The lumber and labor were donated for building the church. Oxen were used to pull the logs from the woods to the church site



Figure 56.  
St. Anna Church, Oud-Heverlee.

and 16" x 16" timbers were hewn from the logs with an adz. Norbert Rentmeester still has the adz used by his father, Desiré, in shaping the timbers. It was some time before the planks, placed on barrels and used as seats, were replaced by oaken-pews. The records of the parish date back to 1869, and are mute evidence of both happy and sad events. On 4 July 1869, Ferdinand Van Ess of Oud-Heverlee married Frances Fontaine of O.L. Vr. Tielt. That same year, John Baptist Rentmeester and his wife, Philomena Dunks, lost five of their children in about six months time.<sup>8</sup>

St. Hubert's Church in the Town of Humboldt was built in 1872. The Holy Martyr's of Gorcum priest said Mass there until 1878, when the parish was assigned a pastor. St. Louis Church was established at Dyckesville; both the town and the church were named after Louis Van Dycke, who came from Antwerp.

The Flemings who came to America were about 99-percent Catholic. There was a small group of Flemish-Protestants in St. Joris-Weert; three came to America in 1853 with nine Walloon-Protestant families and 25 more people came in 1854, so that the little Belgian-Evangelical Society ceased to exist in Belgium.<sup>9</sup>

One of the Walloon-Protestants, Xavier Martin, has written disparaging remarks about the Catholic priests, using such terms as "poor specimens," "dissipated," "drunkards," etc. One historian called Martin "anti-Catholic" and said that he found no support for his accusation.<sup>10</sup> We could find no evidence for it either. Xavier Martin didn't arrive in Wisconsin until 1857, and found, to his chagrin, that most of the original Walloon-Protestants were now attending Father Daems' church. It was Father Daems who had urged them to settle near Bay Settlement; and Father Daems who nursed their sick and helped to bury their dead during the dreadful 1854 cholera epidemic; and Father Daems who was eulogized by the Belgians when he died in 1879 as a saint, doctor and priest.

The Flemish were a religious people who attended services regularly and prayed a lot at home. There was a family recitation of the rosary on Friday nights, morning prayers, evening prayers and prayers at meals. There were holy-water fonts on the wall and holy pictures hung in every room. When a bad lightning-storm approached, a holy candle was lit and everyone was asked to pray by the lady of the house. It was the women who set the religious and moral standards of the community, although the men were regular church-goers as well.

All the Flemish feast days were observed: Sint Niklaas Day, Christmas, St. Blaise Day (the blessing of the throat), Easter, Corpus Christi (the blessing of crops), the Fall Kermis celebration (giving thanks for a good harvest), rogation days (blessing of the fields), etc. Advent and Lent were periods of fasting and penance. St. Nickolas Day was a day for the children when the Bishop would leave gifts in their wooden-shoes; Christmas was a religious day. Bread was blessed in church on St. Hubert's Day and protected the family from rabid animals.

Corpus Christi was a fine festival in the Spring. A procession would wind from the church to a nearby chapel or wayside shrine, where prayers were said for a good crop. A cross-bearer would lead the way, followed by little girls strewing flowers, then would come the mass-servers and the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament. The choir was next, then the women and lastly the men.

When the harvest was in, there would be a church-mass (kermis in Flemish) to start off three days of celebration and give thanks for a good harvest. This celebration got shorter and shorter and was replaced in some areas with the church-sponsored "Chicken Booyah."

Their religion was an essential part of their lives for the Flemish people. They know that life isn't fair, but they

also are certain that there will be justice in an eternal life. Material success is to be worked for, but the real reward comes after this short temporal existence. This knowledge makes for some typical Flemish traits: hard-working, fatalistic, nonchalance about some things, a sense of fairness and justice, a stoic cheerfulness and a sense of humor.

Appendix A has a short history of the Catholic priests who served the Flemish-American community.<sup>11</sup>

\* \* \* \* \*



Wayside Shrine

The Flemings had a deep attachment to God and to the land. The early Flemish pioneers built little shrines on a corner of their land where they would go to pray.

On Corpus Christi Sunday, in the Spring of the year, a procession would wind from the church through the country lanes to a chapel in the fields and people would pray for a good harvest.

\* \* \* \* \*

Excerpt from a Flemish pioneer's letter to his brother in Huldenberg:  
"....The distance to church is the same distance as you go to Loonbeek. For me, the people in church are just like at home and our priest is originally from Diest. His name is Daems. He is very intelligent. He sends his regards to the priest at Sint Joris Weert; he knows him very well. The Indian woman that Father Daems was caring for is dead now at the age of 128." (Note: She was the daughter of Charles de Langlade, Father of Wisconsin.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## FLEMISH-AMERICAN COOKING<sup>1</sup>

There was an amusing story told in Wisconsin several generations ago about the lively rivalry that then existed between Milwaukee and Green Bay breweries. A Milwaukee brewery had selected a catchy slogan for its beer - THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE FAMOUS. Not to be outdone, a Green Bay brewery advertised its product with the phrase - THE BEER THAT MADE MILWAUKEE JEALOUS - which created considerable amusement in Green Bay until the slogan was withdrawn after threat of litigation.

There is a parallel situation with Flemish cooking which always had to live in the shadow of the reputation of its neighbor to the south, France. French cooking may have made France famous but many sons and daughters of Flanders believe that Flemish cooking should make the devotees of French cuisine jealous.

There are many differences between the two styles of cooking. For instance, in regard to soup, the French would say boire sa soupe (to drink the soup) and Flemish people say manger sa soupe (to eat one's soup); an example of the latter is the thick Flemish-American booyah so popular in Wisconsin (see following story about booyah). The French excel in wine sauces; the Flemish sauces are often made with heavy cream and many dishes are cooked in beer. Beer, by the way, is the national drink of Belgium. The English words - beer, malt and hops - are of Flemish origin.

Flemish cooks use shallots, leeks and onions while the French more often feature garlic. Nutmeg is a favorite seasoning of the Flemish - producing mouth-watering results on a variety

of meat dishes. Pork and rabbit are the most popular of these. Sage and juniper berries are used in the preparation of many Belgian dishes. Flemish husbands would sneak the pungent stinkkees<sup>2</sup> into the home and Flemish wives would hide it where the smell couldn't assault their nostrils.

Another feature of Flemish cooking is the use of sweet-salt and sweet-sour combinations in the same recipe. Examples of the sweet-salt mixture will be shown in some of the recipes which follow, for example, in sweet-meats the sweet-sour flavor was obtained by using honey or sugar in the same recipe with vinegar, beer or the juice of unripe fruit.

The Flemish women reached heights of perfection in their baked-goods and in their desserts. They have a tradition of good home-made bread, tasty noodles, cookies, cakes and other desserts. They called rhubarb "pie plant"; the Flemish colony at Detroit say that they made their city the rhubarb capitol of America. Some of the Flemish pastries - cookies and raised doughnuts - appear in special forms for religious feast days.

When the Flemish immigrants poured into Wisconsin, they brought their traditional cooking with them. We found in our contacts with the older Flemish-Americans that many of their recipes are still in use today. The old recipes were compared with modern Belgian cookbooks and with the marvelous cookbook published by the Center for Belgian Culture, Moline, Illinois. In addition, Jules Rentmeesters of Mortsel, Belgium, gave us information on the style of cooking practiced by the Flemish peasant families before such things as steak (which he calls raw meat) and salad became popular. He also provided the recipe-titles in Dutch and Flemish.

Flemish cooking is alive and well in America. We should extend that statement to include Belgian cooking because many of the Walloon and Flemish dishes are the same. The few Old Country

dishes missing in Wisconsin cooking are those flavored with juniper berries and the famous Belgian seafood dishes, like eels-in-green-sauce and mussels. The following recipes are intended to give a few examples of typical Flemish-American cooking. Many of these recipes do not call for precise measurements of ingredients. One reason for this might be because the Flemish cooks were like artists trying to produce the rich effects that Flemish painters were able to achieve in their paintings. However, a more practical reason is that they had to use whatever was available.

As they say in Flemish - EET SMAKELIJK!

#### CHICKEN BOOYAH

Chicken Booyah is a thick, stew-like Flemish soup and is a good example of the contrast between Flemish soups and thin French soups. Because it is not only a delicious meal but is also the name for a social event, a history of the CHICKEN BOOYAH is included with the recipe. The spelling of the word is unusual and happened in the following way.

When Andrew W. Rentmeester took over as teacher in the one-room Finger Road School in 1906, he suggested to the school board that a picnic be held to raise money to buy much-needed supplies for the school. It was decided that a thick chicken soup (known as chicken bouillon)<sup>3</sup> would be made by his mother from ingredients donated by parents of the school children and would be offered for sale. When Andrew (known as "Teacher" in the community) put an advertisement for the upcoming event in the Green Bay Press Gazette, he was asked how the word bouillon was spelled. Not knowing how to read French, he spelled it as it sounded, b-o-o-y-a-h, and that's the way it has been ever since.

The picnic was such a successful fund-raiser that the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church held a booyah each year and this gradually replaced the annual kermis sponsored by Frank Jauguet who owned the saloon across the road from the church. The recipe was improved by the joint efforts of Mrs. Charlie (Elizabeth Detrie) Allen, Mrs. Louis (Gertrude De Grave) Loy, Mrs. William (Mary Watermolen) Rentmeester, Jennie Tuyls Detrie, Mrs. John (Louisa De Greef) Phillips, Mrs. Albert (Mary De Grave) Vander Kelen, Tony Tilkens and Albert Allen; it enjoys an area-wide reputation to this day and has many imitators. Charlie Allen used to say that, if you ate this booyah, you could square-dance until you were one-hundred years old.

CHICKEN BOOYAH (DIKKE KIPPENSOEP)  
(Recipe from Anna Vander Kelen and Mary Watermolen)

Boil (covered) until tender four pounds of chicken and one cup of diced beef with salt. Skim off the scum. Add one-half cup of pork and cook. Dice one bunch of carrots, four stalks of celery, one and one-half quarts of potatoes, one-half medium cabbage and three large onions. Add two-thirds package of split-peas and cook until tender. Add one can of tomatoes, one can of pork-and-beans and one can of tomato juice (the celery can be added here instead of above). Cook about one hour. Add one-fourth pound of butter and the juice of one lemon. Salt and pepper to taste. Makes eleven quarts.

POULTRY

Before the days when turkey became popular in America, roast duck was the favorite holiday dish in Flemish households. A flock of squawking ducks roamed the farms in the Summer and constantly got under-foot in the barns in the Winter.

ROAST DUCK (GEBRADEN EEND)

Wash, singe and clean the duck. Rub it inside and out with sage and salt. Fill the cavities with a stuffing made from four cups of dried bread, a little hot water, three beaten eggs, pork sausage, giblets, nutmeg, four tablespoons of chopped celery and onion. Truss the duck. Roast it in an uncovered pan at 325°, allowing twenty to thirty minutes per pound. Baste it every ten minutes with butter. Thicken the drippings with flour, milk and seasonings for gravy.

ROAST PIGEONS (GEBRADEN DUVIVEN)

A very popular sport with Flemish Americans, up until World War II, was racing homing pigeons. They also made very good eating.

Clean and dress the pigeon, rub the inside with salt, stuff with pork dressing if desired, or cook with a piece of sidepork on top of them. Roast uncovered ar 325° for 45 minutes until tender. Baste.

### FLEMISH CHICKEN (KIP OP VLAAMSE WIJZE)

One sunny Summer day during our courting days, we had a delightful picnic at Peninsula State Park in Door County, Wisconsin, with two good friends, June Umberham and Peter Schumacher. Corrine Rentmeester prepared Flemish Chicken the night before and packed it in an earthenware crock for the picnic. Here is the recipe Corrine used:

Two sectioned skinned chickens  
One-half cup of butter  
One bay-leaf  
Two tablespoons flour  
Two sliced onions  
Three stalks of celery  
Salt, pepper and nutmeg  
One cup of cream

Melt three-fourths of the butter in the skillet, add the vegetables and bay-leaf. Sauté a few minutes, stirring constantly. Season the chicken, add to the vegetables. Cook over low heat for thirty or forty minutes; add a sauce made with the remaining butter, flour and cream. Cook or bake ten minutes more. An unforgettable taste experience!

### PORK RECIPES

#### FLEMISH MEAT BALLS <sup>4</sup> (FRIKADELLEN)

Mix one pound of ground pork with six slices of bread and four eggs, plus nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste. With floured hands form into meat balls. Drop into boiling water and cook until they float. Brown in butter when you want to eat them.

#### POTATOES AND SIDE PORK (AARDAPPELEN MET SPEK)

As both of these ingredients were easily obtained, many Flemish children were raised on this dish. Peel five or six potatoes and boil in salted water. Remove when three-fourths cooked, drain and cut in thick slices. Chop up a large onion and about a pound of sidepork and sauté in lard until they start to color. Add the potatoes and cook over medium heat until they are golden all over. The potatoes are particularly good if they get crusty and stick to the pan a little bit. Serve with a little salt and coarse, black pepper.

## PORK RECIPES (continued)

The old Chicago Stockyards had a saying about the efficiency of their butchering operations; they boasted that they used every part of the slaughtered hog except the squeal. The Flemish cooks have been doing that for centuries as a matter of necessity, as can be seen in the following recipes.

### HEAD-CHEESE (GEPERSTE KOP)

Head, ears and stomach of one pig  
Three ounces of nutmeg  
Three ounces of pepper  
Handful of salt

Cut meat into pieces and cook in a kettle until the meat falls off the bones. Cut the meat into small pieces, mix in the seasoning and put the mixture into a large cheese-cloth, allowing it to drain. The resulting solidified product will look like a large cheese, hence the name, head-cheese.

### SWEET MEATS<sup>5</sup> (ZUUR EN ZOET)

Pigs' ears and pigs' feet were boiled together until soft; then cut into small pieces, seasoned to taste, then recooked, adding syrup of prunes and raisins. Serve hot or cold.

### PIGS' FEET<sup>6</sup> (VARKENSPOTEN)

The feet and tail of one pig	Five large potatoes
Five onions	Five carrots
One cabbage	Handful of salt
Glob of lard	Three ounces of pepper

Put the meat in a kettle, cover with water and boil until the meat is soft (about one and one-half hours). Skim off the scum. Add the chopped-up vegetables and cook for another hour, then add the seasoning and quartered potatoes and cook for another half-hour, adding water if necessary.

A youngster in the household who had done a good job at chores (washing dishes, bringing in wood and water, etc.) would be awarded the pig's tail. It was always a special thrill to see that curled tail lying on one's plate, much like the gold medal for an Olympic athlete. It was Flemish tradition that the tighter the curl, the happier the pig had been.

## FLEMISH SAUSAGES (PENSEN)

In some areas, Flemish-Americans still celebrate an old Flemish custom which they call PONSA-KERMIS. This festival originated in the old Flemish villages where every family would kill a pig in the Fall to provide food for the coming Winter. With the surplus meat and the blood they made white and black pens (pork sausage). Generally, they killed the pig on a Friday and made the pensen on Saturday. On Sunday, friends and relatives were invited to a pork-sausage feast and merry-making, hence the name Pensen-Kermis. The famous Flemish artist, Breughel, immortalized the custom in one of his paintings.

### BLOOD SAUSAGE<sup>7</sup> (ZWARTE PENS)

Twenty-five pounds of ground pork	Five cloves
One and one-half pounds of salt	Ginger and <u>nutmeg</u> (to taste)
<u>or</u> one handful of pickling salt	Two loaves of white bread
Five teaspoons pepper	One quart of blood
Five teaspoons all-spice	

Break up the dried bread and mix with the other ingredients, preferably with a potato-masher. Add about two quarts of boiling water. Put into casings and make the links about six inches long. Boil on low fire. When the casings are picked with a needle and no blood escapes, the sausage is done.

### WHITE-PORK SAUSAGE (WITTE PENS)

This was made in the same way as the blood sausage, except that eggs, bread and milk were substituted for the blood.

The sausages were generally preserved in large earthenware crocks and stored in a cool place. Sometimes the sausages were covered with lard. It was an old Flemish custom to have pork sausages and raised doughnuts (smoutebollen) for Christmas breakfast.

The meat which wasn't made into sausages was dried, smoked or salted (Zout Vlees) to preserve it. Pickling meat was another method that was used. One popular recipe for using preserved meat is this:

### HAM AND APPLES (HESP MET APPELEN)

Cover a three-pound ham with cold water and cook it slowly for two hours. Add one quart dried apples which have been soaked in water overnight. Boil for one hour. Make a dumpling batter with two cups of flour, one egg, four teaspoons baking powder, three tablespoons lard, one teaspoon salt, pepper and milk using the following method: Sift the dry ingredients together, stir in the beaten egg, melted shortening and some milk to make a soft batter. Drop spoonfuls of dumpling into the hot liquid, cover and boil for approximately twenty minutes.

## RABBIT

Rabbit has always been a favorite dish in Belgium; over the years they developed several breeds of hares, which were larger and tastier than ordinary rabbit. The Belgians brought some of these hares to America and almost every young Flemish-American raised them for the table and for profit. In the 1930s, the going-price was fifteen cents for a buck and twenty-five cents for a doe. The two favorite breeds were Flemish Giants and Belgian Hares. In addition, young boys set out snares for the abundant wild rabbits and rabbit-hunting was the favorite sport for Flemish men and their dogs in the Fall and Winter of the year.

### FLEMISH RABBIT (KONIJN OP VLAAMSE WIJZE)

One Hare (or Rabbit)	Butter
One onion	Pepper and <u>nutmeg</u>
Two tablespoons cornstarch	One-third cup of wine-vinegar
Three bay-leaves	Salt
Two to three cups of water	

Wash the rabbit and cut it up. Fry in butter until both sides are brown. Slice the onions over the rabbit and add the bay leaf, water and seasoning. Cook slowly for one hour or until tender. Mix cornstarch with vinegar and pour over the rabbit while stirring the mixture. Let come to a good boil, then serve with the paste gravy.

### RABBIT STEW WITH PRUNES AND RAISINS (KONIJN GESTOOFD MET PRUILEN EN ROZIJNEN)

One Rabbit	One cup of stewed prunes
Four onions	One-half cup of large raisins
Two carrots	One bay-leaf
Two tablespoons of flour	Three cloves
One-half cup diced side-pork	Salt
Three cups water or beer	Pepper
One-fourth cup of butter	<u>Nutmeg</u>
Two tablespoons wine-vinegar	

Cut the rabbit into pieces, marinate with the vegetables, liquid and seasoning overnight. Remove the rabbit pieces and brown with the butter and bacon (side-pork). Add the flour and the marinade so that the rabbit is covered. Bring to a boil, add prunes and raisins. Cover and simmer for one hour. Put the nutmeg on before you cook it and the beer (or water) should be added toward the end. Serve with a small amount of melted butter added.

## VEGETABLES (GROENTEN)

Vegetables were always an important part of the Flemish menu; every household had a vegetable garden. The immigrants brought their seeds and roots with them, although some did not become popular in the New World. Brussels sprouts and Belgian endive never seemed to achieve the popularity they had in Belgium, but asparagus, wax beans, red cabbage, kohlrabi, beets, celery, peas, cauliflower and tomatoes were very popular. Tomatoes were sliced, sprinkled with sugar and served as a dessert.

### RED CABBAGE (RODE KOOL)

Red Cabbage was easily grown and inexpensive; sweet and sour was a favorite preparation. The red cabbage was boiled and sugar and vinegar were added to one's taste just before the cabbage becomes tender.

### VEGETABLE STEW (GESTOOFDE GROENTEN)

Casseroles of vegetables were prepared by cutting up cleaned carrots and turnips which were then scalded in boiling water for ten minutes. Then the other vegetables, a bay-leaf, salt and pepper were added. The vegetables are cooked over medium heat for five minutes, then over low heat until the carrots are cooked.

### PICKLED RED BEETS (GEKRUIDE RODE BIET)

Boil three pounds of young beets until tender. Remove skins. Tie one teaspoon of whole all-spice, one stick cinnamon and six whole cloves in a cheesecloth bag. Heat one pint of vinegar, one-half cup of water, one-half cup of sugar and the bag of spices to the boiling-point. Add beets and boil five minutes. Pack in sterile jars, fill with hot liquid and seal.

### RED BEET EGGS (EIEREN MET RODE BIET)

Cover shelled, hard-boiled eggs with the spicy, pickled-beet liquid and let stand until the eggs take on a color. Keep them in the beet liquid for a few days, use them in salads, etc.

## CROCK FOOD (BEWARING IN AARDEWERK)

Before the advent of refrigeration, food was stored many different ways. Meats and fish were smoked, meats and vegetables were pickled in apple-cider and in vinegar, some foods were canned, potatoes, apples, onions, turnips, etc., were stored on piles in cellars (sometimes called root-cellars) and some foods were stored in earthenware crocks, which ranged in size from one-gallon crocks for butter, to five, ten and twenty-gallon crocks for other uses.

### SAUERKRAUT<sup>9</sup> (ZUURKOOL)

Use good sound heads of mature cabbage with the outside leaves stripped off. About eighty pounds of cabbage and two pounds of salt are needed to fill a ten-gallon earthenware jar. Cut the cabbages in half and shred into the crock with a special cabbage slicer, which fits on top of the crock, alternating layers of cabbage and salt. Repeat until the crock is nearly full, then cover with a cloth, wooden cover which fits inside of the jar, and a heavy stone on top to provide pressure during the fermentation process. Keep temperature near eighty degrees fahrenheit. The sauerkraut needs daily attention, remove scum as it forms and scald the cloth to keep it free from scum and mold. Fermentation is complete in two weeks although some people wait two months. The kraut keeps better if canned in sterilized jars.

### PRESERVED EGGS (OPGELEGDE EIEREN)

Eggs were difficult to get in the Winter when the hens weren't laying. In the Fall, eggs were packed in layers of salt in large earthenware crocks and kept in a cool place for use during the Winter. By Spring, the eggs had a definite musty taste; fresh eggs were welcomed with a prayer!

### SPARE RIBS (MET ZUURKOOL EN AARDAPPELEN)

Cover 4 or 5 pounds of trimmed country-style spare ribs with sauerkraut (zuurkool), in a glass or enameled baking pan. Place potato halves (aardappelen) on top of this and cover with aluminum foil which has holes poked in (for steam to escape). Bake 325° for about 3 or 4 hours. This is our very own version of a delicious old recipe.

## FLEMISH BAKED-GOODS

At least once a week, the Flemish house would be filled with the wonderful smell of freshly-baked bread. On other occasions, there were noodles, doughnuts, cookies, honeycakes (lukken), waffles and other pastries. Here are some samples:

### RAISIN BREAD (ROZUNENBROOD or KRENTENBROOD)

Four cups of flour	Three eggs
Two tablespoons lard	One cup of warm milk
Two tablespoons butter	Two cakes of yeast
Two tablespoons brown sugar	A pinch of salt
One cup of raisins	A pinch of cinnamon

Sift the flour, salt and cinnamon into a large bowl, blend the yeast and warm milk together, mix with the flour, cover and let it rise for one hour in a warm place. Add the melted lard and butter, eggs, sugar and raisins. Knead for about ten minutes until the dough is elastic and doesn't stick to the bowl. Put in a buttered loaf pan so that the dough fills half the pan and let it rise until the dough fills the pan. Bake it about forty-five minutes at 375° F.

### NOODLES (NOEDELS)

Beat three eggs lightly. Add one tablespoon of melted lard and gradually stir in two and one-half cups of flour. Roll the stiff dough into thin sheets, cut into strips and dry. Many housewives added noodle-lumps to soup.

### MOM'S SUGAR COOKIES (KRAKELINGEN)<sup>10</sup>

Two cups of sugar	Four cups of flour
One cup of butter	One teaspoon baking powder
Two eggs	One teaspoon baking soda
One cup of sour milk	One teaspoon salt
One teaspoon of vanilla	

Cream sugar and butter, mix with the eggs, add sifted dry ingredients alternately with liquid. Bake at 375° until brown.

### RAISED DOUGHNUTS (SMOUTEBOLLEN)

Dissolve one cake of yeast in two cups of warm water for twenty minutes. Mix with four cups of sifted flour, cover, and keep warm overnight. Cream one-half cup of lard with one-half cup of sugar and one teaspoon of salt. Combine with the risen sponge: two whipped eggs and one-half teaspoon nutmeg. Stir in five cups flour and let the mixture rise. If desired, knead it and let it rise again. Flatten on a floured board and cut with a doughnut cutter. Fry in hot fat (375°) until done.

## FLEMISH DESSERTS (VLAAMSE NAGERECHTEN)

The delicious Belgian pie, which has a combination of prune and cottage-cheese filling, was never a Flemish dish, according to Flemish-American cooks. This was confirmed in a letter from Jules Rentmeesters of Belgium, who wrote that "at Kermis, nearly every family made up to thirty white (cheese) and black (prune) pies."

### PRUNE FILLING (PRUIMENVULLING)

Two cups mashed, stewed prunes	One tablespoon lemon juice
One-half cup of sugar	One-eighth teaspoon salt
Three egg whites	One-half teaspoon nutmeg
Beat the egg whites and salt until stiff, add the sugar slowly, then fold the egg whites into the prunes. Fill the pieshell and sprinkle the nutmeg and lemon over the top. Bake at 350° for twenty minutes or until set.	

### CHEESE FILLING (KAASVULLING)

Dissolve one cup of sugar in one-half cup of cream. Add:  
Four beaten eggs One teaspoon vanilla  
Three tablespoons of flour One-fourth teaspoon salt  
Three pints of dry cottage cheese  
Fill the pie-shell and sprinkle nutmeg and brown sugar over the top. Bake at 350° for about one hour.

### RICE POP (PAPE AU RIZ OR RIJSTPAP)

Often called Papa Ree by the youngsters, this was one of their favorite desserts.

Two cups of rice	One stick cinnamon
Six cups of milk	Two cups of brown sugar
Pinch of saffron	

Put the rice in the milk with the brown sugar and cinnamon. Bring to a boil, then simmer until rice is very soft. Add a strong pinch of saffron and pour into plates to cool. Sprinkle with brown sugar. This was a good way to use up milk which had the cream skimmed off.

### BREAD-PUDDING (BROODPUDDING)

Bread-pudding was another popular dessert and allowed the housekeeper to get rid of stale bread. Here's a typical recipe from Angeline Vanden Borne's 1860 cookbook.

#### 13. White Bread-pudding

For this, take four ounces of butter, three milk-rolls soaked in milk, and from which the crust has been removed, an ounce and a half of sugar, one ounce of stoned raisins and five eggs.

First stir the butter, gradually, with the yolks of the eggs, to a froth, then mix this well with the bread, which has been well squeezed out, the sugar and the currants. Before pouring it into the form, beat the white of the five eggs to a froth, and stir it in with the rest. This pudding is best served with wine-sauce. Instead of butter, you may use ox-marrow, and season it with some finely chopped citron, some pounded cinnamon and finely grated lemon-peel.

FLEMISH HOME BREW  
(VLAAMS FIERBROUWEN THUIS)

In their homeland, the Flemish were accustomed to making their own beer from malted barley and hops. Among the seeds in their immigrant trunks were the indispensable hops, used for making beer and bread.

The early Vander Kelen recipe went something like this:

Steep barley in water until it is partially germinated, then dry and cure it. Boil a pint of this compressed malt with six and one-half cups of sugar, a handful of hops and two and one-half quarts of water in a copperpot for ten minutes. Pour the resulting liquid into a ten-gallon crock which has five gallons of cold water in it and stir. Sprinkle one ounce of (top-fermentation) yeast into that, then let stand for ten minutes. Then, put the top lid on the crock with a heavy stone on the top and let the concoction ferment for a week. - To put a head on your beer, boil three cups of water in a pan; then add one cup of sugar. When it clears, pour it into the crock, stir it and bottle in sterilized bottles. Let it age for three to four weeks before drinking. (Lager is the word for this storage process.)

The modern Flemish-American recipe is different:

Three tablespoons of hop-shoots	One tablespoon of yeast
One cup of pearl-barley	Ten quarts of water
Two teaspoons chicory-grains	3/4 cup of invert sugar
Put the barley, chicory and hops in a small muslin bag and immerse in the boiling water for one and one-half hours, then remove the bag and boil for another half-hour. Let the brew cool to lukewarm, then add the yeast, also in a muslin bag, and let the beer stand in a warm room for twenty-four hours. Remove the yeast, skim off the froth and pour into bottles. Keep in a cool place for three days, then <u>GEZONDHEID!</u>	

When the early Flemish first made beer in America, they were astonished to find their beer bottles exploding in the cellar. This was because American cane-sugar, unlike their familiar beet-sugar, ferments twice. Their solution to the problem, which has a lot of appeal to it, was to drink up the beer quickly after three days and before the second fermentation.

DANDELION WINE<sup>11</sup> (PAARDEBLOEMENWIJN)

The most popular wines were elderberry and dandelion. For the latter, add four quarts of boiling water to three quarts of blossoms and let stand overnight. Strain in the morning, add three pounds of invert sugar, dissolve and boil one-half hour. When cool, add one-half cup of yeast and some lemon-peel. Let it ferment in the crock, after a couple of months, bottle it, putting two tablespoons of sugar in each bottle.

Figure 57.  
OLD COOKBOOK USED BY FLEMISH HOUSEWIFE.

When Angeline Vanden Borne married John Baptiste Vander Kelen after he returned from Civil War duty, one of her wedding presents was an 1860 cook-book printed in both German and English (see two sample pages shown below). As she could read German as well as French and Dutch, it also helped her to learn English. A look at the detailed recipes in the book shows the tremendous amount of time and effort that was expended on producing tasty meals.

# United States Cook Book.

## A COMPLETE MANUAL

FOR  
LADIES, HOUSEKEEPERS AND COOKS,

### WITH DIRECTIONS

FOR PREPARING IN THE BEST AND MOST ECONOMICAL MANNER, MEATS, VEGETABLES, BEVERAGES, PASTRY, JELLIES, ICEE, ETC.; TO LARD AND CARVE, TO DRESS, ETC., AND SEND TO THE TABLE THE DIFFERENT DISHES AND BEVERAGES AS ALSO, TO PRESERVE DIFFERENT FRUITS, ETC. ETC.

WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CLIMATE AND PRODUCTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

BY WM. VOLLMER,

Formerly "Chef de Cuisine" of several of the first Hotels in Europe; now Steward of the Union Club in Philadelphia.

TRANSLATED BY J. C. OEHLSCHLAGER

PHILADELPHIA:  
PUBLISHED BY JOHN WEIK & CO.  
1860.

### CONTENTS.

	Page
3. English Roast Beef. (Sirloin).....	87
4. A Larded Tenderloin.....	88
5. A Tenderloin with Sour Cream.....	88
6. A Tenderloin in Vinegar-pickle.....	88
7. Beef-steaks.....	88
8. Beef-steaks in another way.....	88
9. Fried Beef.....	89
10. Boiled Beef-tongue.....	89
11. Tripe.....	89

### SIXTEENTH SECTION.

#### XVII. VEAL.

1. Calf's head, with a piquant sauce.....	89
2. Fried Calf's Head.....	90
3. Calf's Brain.....	90
4. Fried Calf's Brain.....	90
5. Fricassee of Sweet-bread.....	91
6. Calves' Feet.....	91
7. Fried Calves' Feet.....	91
8. Fried Calf's Liver.....	91
9. Larded Calf's Liver with sauce.....	92
10. Calf's Liver dumplings .....	92
11. Boiled Chitterlings.....	92
12. A Hash of a Calf's Liver.....	93
13. Fricassee of Veal.....	93
14. Stuffed Breast of Veal.....	93
15. Roast Leg of Veal.....	94
16. Fricandeau of Veal.....	94
17. Meat-rolls for six persons.....	95
18. Veal Cutlets.....	95
19. Force-meat-balls of Roast Veal.....	95
20. Hash of Veal.....	96

### SEVENTEENTH SECTION.

#### XVIII. MUTTON AND LAMB.

1. Larded Mutton in Vinegar-pickle.....	96
2. Leg of Mutton.....	97

## SOME FLEMISH STORIES

The Flemings are an ethnic group which has met with many kinds of adversity during their long history. In the struggle for survival over the centuries, they have developed certain characteristics; they are religious, straightforward, nonchalant about certain temporary conditions, stoical, and they have the ability to laugh at themselves.

Most of the stories passed down from parents to children reflect their basic philosophy of life and many contained a moral. Young Flemish-Americans were told about St. Hubert, the avid hunter who would spend his Sundays enjoying himself rather than keeping holy the Lord's day. Then, one Sunday, he met a stag with a cross between its antlers and saw the light. Some Flemish folklore originated in the Middle Ages and had an allegorical style, using animals to depict certain virtues. For instance, Reynard the Fox (Reynaert de Vos) was a sly thief, the lion was brave, etc.

When we asked Andrew W. Rentmeester what kind of stories he has heard as a child in the 1880s, he told us a half-dozen astounding fables. One was about a man who had to clean out some huge barns as a punishment, and how he diverted a river to flow through the barns, which flushed them clean in short order. Another man was punished by having to roll a stone up a mountain and everytime that he pushed it up one step, it would roll back one step. When Andrew went to college, he was astonished to learn that these two men were Hercules and Sisyphus and that the narratives that he had heard as a child were from Greek mythology. Yet the Flemish immigrants who told the stories could neither read nor write.

Another tale told to the youngster was about a little Brabant boy who was lost; his frantic family promised to erect a statue of him whenever he was found. The statue shows his position when found; it is the famous Mannekin Pis, the symbol of Brussels. It exemplifies the ability of the Flemish to laugh at themselves.

There were some stories told about people who were bewitched (betoverd). The most popular story of this type is one about the devil, a farmer and a barn; the story is still repeated both in Belgium and in Wisconsin and is reminiscent of Goethe and Faustus.

According to Flemish legend, a farmer was so eager to have a new barn that he offered his soul for it. The devil said that he would build the barn, using some trees for the corner-posts, before the rooster crowed the next morning. The farmer's wife, eager to see the barn, woke her husband before cock-crow so the barn was never finished. The barn still exists at Bierbeek in Brabant Province and is named De Blauw Schuur (The Blue Barn). Just ask anyone in Flanders if you doubt this story and they will tell you that it is true.

The Belgian jokes told in Wisconsin are also good examples of self-deprecating humor. Both the Germanic-Flemish and the Gallic-Walloons can enjoy these jokes about themselves.

This type of humor has its roots in ancient Flemish folklore. One such story concerns the mayor and city council of the mythical village of Kallback during the Middle Ages.<sup>1</sup> The story goes like this:

One Summer day, the mayor noticed that grass was growing in the eaves-trough of the church. Immediately, he called a special session of the Village Council. During the meeting he told them about the problem and they discussed ways and means to get rid of the grass. Exactly who hit upon the solution to the problem is not known, but whoever it was, that person was carried around the church in triumph.

The people immediately set to work building a scaffold on the side of the church. Next, they brought a cow, tied a rope around her neck and started to hoist her to the top of the scaffolding so that she could eat the grass. As the cow was being pulled up, the noose of the rope got tighter and tighter, and soon the poor animal was choking. Her tongue was hanging out.

"Look!" the mayor shouted. "Look, she's smelled the grass and is licking her chops."

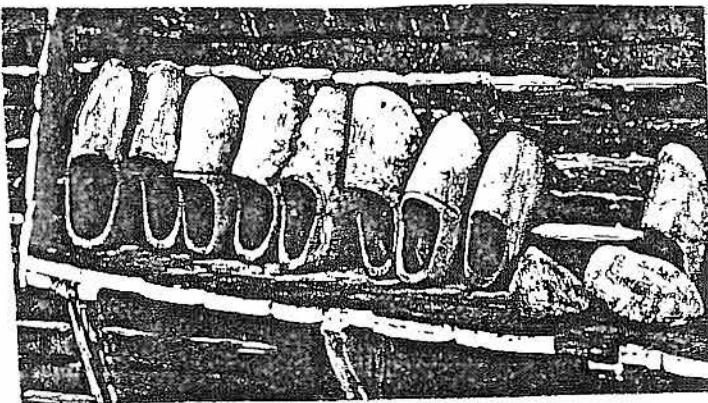
## FLEMISH-AMERICAN STORIES

The stories that we tell here are slightly different. They are narratives about events that happened to Flemish-Americans that tell a little bit about the people and their new environment.

### WOODEN SHOES

The Flemish people brought their wooden shoes with them to this country and continued to make them and use them well into this century. Wooden shoes are called Klompen in Flemish.

\* \* \* \* \*



Usually, when members of the family came into the house, they stacked their shoes on a shelf by the door. As a youngster grew in size, his or her shoe could be hollowed out more to accommodate the growing feet. Near the turn of the century, there were still groups of dancers, who called themselves the Klompers, who would do the old Flemish dances in wooden shoes.

\* \* \* \* \*

John Katers would leave his wooden shoes on the front porch at night. One Halloween, around 1910, Alphonse Heyrmans and Norbert Rentmeester nailed the shoes to the porch, then raised an awful ruckus in the barn, which caused Katers to come flying out of the house, jumping into his shoes on the run.

\* \* \* \* \*

There were a number of skilled wooden-shoe carvers in the Green Bay area. One was John De Witt (1853-1904) who came to this country as a stowaway in 1869 and married Maria Van Deuren. His grandchildren, Joseph and Beverly (Schmirler), still have the tools that he used for carving. Beverly also has a pair of shoes that he made for a child.

\* \* \* \* \*

When wooden shoes got dirty, it was the custom to shave off the dirty part with a sharp knife.

## A FLEMISH GHOST

by Les vee Drick

There was an old cemetery behind the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church which had many graves with inscriptions carved in wood. These wood markers have deteriorated in the cold Winters and hot Summers of Wisconsin, but we remember the marker for Jan F. Rentmeester and the one right next to it, for his daughter, Melanie, which was inscribed "girl."

Melanie, born in Flanders, was young when she died, a beautiful girl with long blond hair. She was vivacious, full of life, busy with farm chores, and especially devoted to her dog, who was her constant companion. It was a terrible shock to her family when she suffered an attack of influenza and died. A coffin was made and a wake was held at the house for a day, then the funeral service took place at the church which was about a half-mile away.

After the funeral-Mass the body was interred in the small cemetery behind the church and the relatives returned to their demanding tasks of clearing their land and tending their crops. That evening after supper, the family noticed that Melanie's dog was missing. Soon they realized that they could hear him howling in the distance, the sound carrying distinctly in the quiet country air. He was at the cemetery, crouched over his mistress's grave, pouring out a dismal sound of woe.

The next day the howling continued. One of the family dragged the dog home and tied it up. Before long its leash was broken and it was back in the graveyard, howling and digging at the grave. Again, it was dragged back to the farmhouse but now the family was really upset by its behavior. Finally, the father led the way back to the cemetery, followed by his boys with their digging tools.

The coffin was removed and opened. To their great astonishment and horror, they found that the girl had tried to open the coffin from the inside. Her beautiful blond hair had grown longer. Her fingernails had grown except for those which had broken in her struggle.



## A FLEMISH HOUDINI

In the early 1920s, the feats of Houdini were constantly in the news because he was always trying out some new death-defying trick. He was from Appleton; his real name was Erich Weiss. Although Houdini died when I was about seven, the stories of his escapes from all sorts of bonds - handcuffs, straitjackets, sealed chests under-water - were told around the world. One of his assistants was a Fleming helper, a cousin by the name of John Shoemaker.

Around 1924, Andrew W. Rentmeester arranged for a box-social at the new Finger Road School and persuaded Mr. Shoemaker, who had developed a reputation as an entertaining speaker, to give a short talk. The women of the school district prepared lunches which would be sold at auction to the highest bidder. The man that I called Pa and most people called "Teacher" had bought some cases of a new ice-cream product called "Eskimo Pies" which were being sold at a nickel apiece. The weather was hot and those were the days before refrigeration, so by the time the bidding started, the chocolate outsides were slipping off of the ice-cream. Soon, we youngsters were kept busy licking up soft ice-cream on tin-foil wrappers.

Ma's box-lunch was bought by big Felix De Grave. (There was Big Felix, Little Felix and Foxy Felix De Grave; the Rentmeesters had Gravel Pete, Little Pete, Chicken Pete and Railroad Pete. The Flemish were great on certain names). Charlie, Beatrice and I sat with Big Felix and Ma, eating the contents of the box-lunch. However, our appetites had been considerably blunted by free Eskimo Pies and we were seriously considering converting to the Eskimo persuasion because of their wonderful product.

Mr. Shoemaker gave his speech to an appreciative audience, because he was a colorful character. Some time later, he moved to Minnesota and ran for the House of Representatives seat previously held by the father of Charles Lindbergh. Although his talents were a bit thin for the heady atmosphere of Congress, his timing was perfect. He ran as a long-shot Democrat in Republican territory when the whole country went in a landslide for Roosevelt in 1932.

His victory provided him with the wherewithal to have the good times that he liked. His bouts with alcohol often landed him in jail from which he would promptly escape, using the tricks that he learned from Houdini. That his first election was a freak of luck was proved by a disastrous defeat during his try for reelection.

The last we heard from him was an item in the newspaper a few years later. Arrested and jailed for intoxication in Milwaukee, he had slipped off his handcuffs, picked the lock of his cell-door and escaped before his jailers got back to their desk.

## UNCLE "CHARLIE

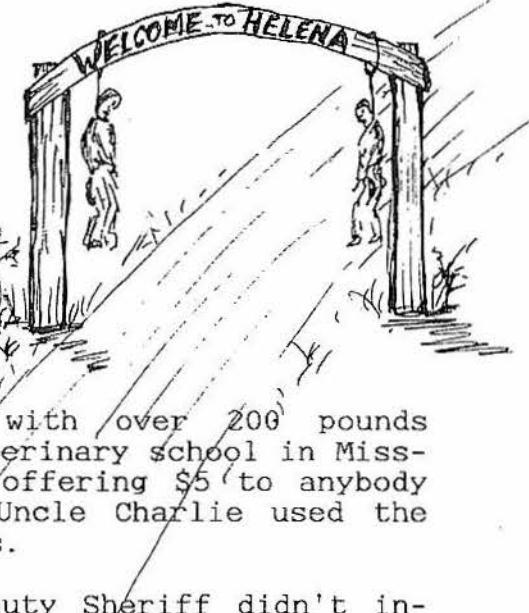
After the Civil War, many of the young men got itchy feet and went to seek their fortune in the Wild West. One such person was Uncle Charlie Gauthier (pronounced Go-chay) who married Theresa Vander Kelen. Not only did Uncle Charlie have a great variety of experiences during his travels - seminarian, sheriff, Texas Ranger, a boxer fighting John L. Sullivan, veterinarian, saloon-operator, snake-oil salesman, etc. - but he was also an accomplished story-teller. Before the days of radio and television, story-telling was a major art-form.

Uncle Charlie could evoke images in your mind with a few well-chosen words. When he entered Helena, Montana, there was a welcome sign on an archway over the road, festooned by bodies of two hanged rustlers. As a Montana State trooper, he had to shoot a lawbreaker. During the 87 days he served as a Texas Ranger, he was knifed in the wrist; he let us feel the entry and exit wounds. He didn't have to arrest the stabber because the man died during the alteration.

Uncle Charlie was a muscular man, with over 200 pounds on his six-foot frame. While attending veterinary school in Missouri, John L. Sullivan visited the area, offering \$5 to anybody who could last three rounds with him. Uncle Charlie used the money to buy steaks to put on his black eyes.

His position as Brown County Deputy Sheriff didn't inhibit him in settling personal feuds. One cold Fall afternoon, as he was driving his buggy, making a house-call at our barn, he met an enemy driving down the road. They got out of their buggies and met in the front of the horses to discuss their differences. Charlie's solution to the matter was to knock out his Flemish opponent with one punch, put the body in his buggy, turn the horse around and send him home.

When he told a story, the details made the story live and breathe. When he knocked a man down the stairs as a peace officer in a dancehall brawl, you would learn that there were 21 steps and a turn to the left on the way down. When one man bit off another's nose in a fight, you would see the plight of the bitee and the disposition of the nose fragment by the biter. Long after he told about the miracles that occurred at St. Anne de Beaupre' Catholic Church in Quebec, I visited there. It was exactly as he had described it - with the crutches and canes of the healed left hanging still on the walls at the back of the church - and the priests at the altar appearing as ants to the viewer at the rear of the church.



## THE FLEMISH-AMERICAN WAY OF SPEAKING\*

As there are no th's or aspirated "h" sounds in the Flemish or French languages, for a long time those sounds were considered to be Anglo-Saxon affectations which should be ignored. It was common for one youngster to tease another by saying, "Why don't you go 'ome and feed da 'orses some 'ay?" Many a youngster didn't know that he was being teased. In trying to get used to the unfamiliar "h" sound, people would put it where it didn't belong, as in "HEaster HEgg." This manner of talking was still common in the Flemish settlements up until World War II. One successful Flemish farmer was asked where a person should put his money for the best investment. The answer, "Put your money in Mudder Ert."

English words had a tendency to get mixed up, the result of Flemish sentence structure. Once, when I was very young, a relative took me to the city to watch the circus parade in the morning. (This was free; the circus performance in the afternoon cost money and was not for most thrifty folks.) As he was busy with other things, he asked me for a favor, "Would you run the street over and buy me a cigar?"

Another interesting Flemish inheritance was the question of names.

One Sunday afternoon, when I was very young, my Dad and I were walking home after a party at a cousin's house. "Pa," I said, "Who's Drick vee Yom? They were talking about Drick vee Yom."

"What were they saying about him?" he asked.

"They said that their big hay rope was busted and maybe they could get Drick vee Yom to splice it." (In the days of horse-power, ropes and pulleys, a person who could splice ropes was in great demand.)

"Oh," he said, "I'm Drick vee Yom. Drick stands for Hendrick which is Flemish for Andrew and Yom comes from Guillaume which stands for William, my Father's name. Hendrick from Guillaume. My brother, John, is Tist vee Yom, because his name is John Baptiste."

\*Note: This story and the preceding stories were written by Les vee Drick, co-author of this book, who is Lester F. son of Andrew W. Jules Rentmeesters wrote that in Oud-Heverlee, Henry, son of Guillaume, would sound like Ree Va Yom for Henri van Guillaume.

## EARLY FLEMISH-AMERICAN FAMILIES

As we traced the migration of Flemish families to Wisconsin, we accumulated stacks of data from citizenship-papers, census-records, records of births, marriages, deaths and military service, tax information, history-books, documents from historical and genealogical societies as well as information from other sources. In addition, many people provided us with their family histories. Although very little of this information was actually used in the story, much of it is of interest to the descendants of the early families, so we decided to condense it in this part of the book.

This chapter contains histories of the early Flemish families, condensed from the above data, tracing their migration and the transition period in the New World. Most of the errors in the original data, and there are many, may still remain in this version. Many of the immigrants could not speak English and when they were asked for official data, the result would be strange spelling of names and dates that were often in error by many years. An example of name changes: Dieudonne' St Clet became Tony Santley and the family is now known as Sinclair.

A team of Flemish experts in Belgium - Jules Rentmeesters, Godelieve Mathijs and Roger Paeps - have studied these family histories and have suggested what the original family names should be e.g., the Allen family name was originally Hallaux. This is important to researchers tracing their family histories in Europe.<sup>1</sup>

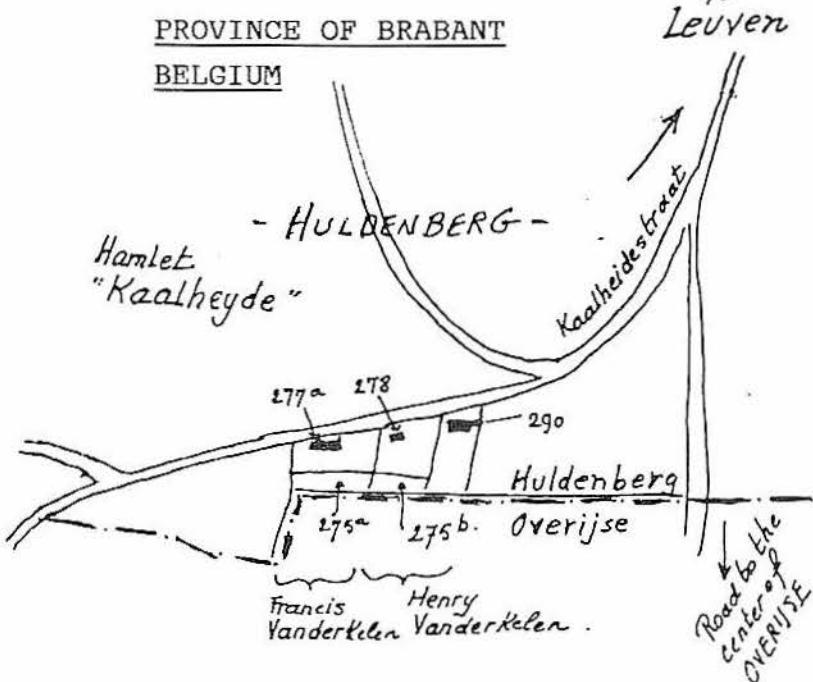
As we have mentioned before, the distinction between Flemish and Walloon families is sometimes hard to determine. Even in Belgium today, many families with Flemish names and backgrounds now consider themselves Walloons and the same is true with the Walloon families, many of whom consider themselves Flemish. We found some

instances where descendants of the same ancestor would disagree as to whether the ancestor was Walloon or Flemish. The confusion between the Dutch and Flemish families sharing the same name was settled by using the country claimed on their citizenship papers as their country of origin. In the 1910 census, heads of households were asked to give the nationality and also the country of origin for themselves and for their parents; that's when we found out that many Flemish came from Holland, Germany and France.

We asked Flemish descendants to send us their family histories; the response was enthusiastic, as can be seen by the many names of family historians which appear with the family histories. In particular, we want to thank Rosella Sconcert for her cheerful and heart-warming help; Rosella furnished us with supplemental information on scores of families! Her keen interest, dedication to detail and zealous pursuit of accurate data became a source of inspiration for us.

\* \* \* \* \*

PROVINCE OF BRABANT  
BELGIUM



FAREWELL TO THE FLANDERS HOME

In 1857, John Francis and John Baptiste, sons of Henri Vander Kelen, left their home on Kaalheid Street, Huldenberg, Province of Brabant, for America. Frank had a two-acre farm; Henri's farm was three acres. Henri's two daughters, Anne Maria (Mrs. Peter De Leers) and Maria Catherina, later lived in a Leuven convent.

(Source: Jules Rentmeesters and the Popp Collection, Maps Section of the Royal Library, Brussels.)

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ABTS, ADAMS, ADRIAENS FAMILIES.

ABTS / ABS

The first ABTS family came to America in 1855 from Ottenburg, Province of Brabant.

Antoine B. Abts (b. 1831), of the Red Door Farm in Huldenberg, came to the U.S. in 1856 with his wife, Maria Bruffaerts. Six of their seven children were: Leopold (b. 1852); Elizabeth (b. 1853) married Emil Pinchart (b. 1846); Anton Jr. (b. 1855); Marie (b. 1857); Louis (b. 1858); and Desiré (b. 1859), who with his wife, Adele (b. 1865), lived in Green Bay, Wisconsin in 1910.

ADAMS

On 21 October 1855, Edward Wallenfang, age 30, married Bellina Adams, daughter of Otto Adams and Anna Maria Vander Linden of Belgium at St. John the Evangelist Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

The following year, Otto (b. 1798) and Anna Maria Adams (b. 1801) left their hometown of Huldenberg, Brabant Province, with their family of six, landing at New York after a voyage aboard the PYRAMID, which lasted twenty-four days - from 1 July to 25 July 1856.

The Adams family settled in the Town of Scott. Their son, Julius (b. 1833 d. 1921), married Joanna Vanden Houten (born 1843 d. 1924) and later moved to Luxemburg, Wisconsin in 1872. Their children were: John Baptist married Sidonia Smets; George married Mary Etienne; Frank married Catherine Cravillion; Henry married Louise Popelian; Peter married Adele Jonet; Harriet married Frank Henry and had three children - Louise, Roland (who married Margaret Piumbroek), and William; and, Louis (b. 1880 d. 1962) married Adele Van Ness (b. 1887 d. 1976) and had three children - Elmer, Ida and Norman.

ADRIAENS

William Adriaens (b. 1800 d. 5 Jul 1873) and his wife, Joanna J. Woryce, brought their family from Overssyche, Brabant Province, to the U.S. in June 1861. Two of the older boys had preceded them, arriving in 1859. The Adriaens family settled on a farm near the Finger Road School in Preble, Wisconsin. Some of the family were:

Philip (b. 1833 d. 2 Oct 1888) married Isabella (Barbara) Vanden Houten (b. 1835) and had five children: Mary Angeline (b. 20 Sep 1859 d. 31 Oct 1896) married Joseph Cleeremans; Antonette

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ADRIAENS, ADRIAENSSSEN FAMILIES.

(b. 26 Dec 1861 d. 14 Oct 1946) married John Joseph Dunks; Anna (b. 1863); Virginia (Regina) (b. 26 Jun 1867 d. 6 Jan 1901) married Jacob Tilkens; William (b. 4 Dec 1870).

Peter (b. 1834) married Regina (Virginia) Rekkins (b. 1840) and had four children: William (b. 1867); Theodore (b. 1868); Mary Coletta (b. 27 Dec 1872) married Victor Van Meerbeek; Francis (b. 9 Feb 1872) married Philipine Tilkens.

Francis (b. May 1844 d. Jan 1890) married Catherine (Philipina) Tielaens (b. 1852), daughter of John Baptist and Annie Tielaens. Some of their thirteen children were: Mary (b. 1872); Tracy (b. 1873); William (b. 1875); Emily (b. 1876) married Albert Maes; Angeline (b. 2 Feb 1878 d. 4 Oct 1940) married Desiré Roskam; Frank (b. 1880); Antone (b. April 1881 d. 1942); Josephine (b. May 1883 d. 1 Oct 1956) married Peter Laes; Philip (b. Mar 1885); John b. 5 Mar 1890 d. 12 Jun 1953) married Julia (Jennie) Van Pee (b. 1 Jun 1886 d. 24 Aug 1980).

Maria Anna (b. 1847 d. 1892) married William (Philip) Tuyls (b. Sep 1832 d. 10 Apr 1928).

Joanna (b. 1850) married William Van Ermens (b. 1845).

#### ADRIAENSSSEN/ADRIANSON

Anton Adriaenssen (b. 1820) and his wife, Sidonia Gelbert (b. Jan 1822 d. 1901), brought their family from Belgium to Green Bay in 1873. They had three children: Arsene; Desere married Jules Polain; and, F.H. The oldest, Arsene (b. 10 Sep 1859), married Flora Biemeret, daughter of Gregoire Biemeret and Bertime Vander Vest, in 1884. Arsene and Flora had three children: Pearl (b. June 1886); Felix C. (b. Aug 1890); and, Alma (b. Mar 1891).

A cousin, Arsene Antoine Adriaenssens, came to America in 1871. Two children died in their youth - Helen in 1892 and Henry in 1895. A daughter, Margarita, married Joseph T. Thomas in 1906.

August Adrianson (b. May 1860) came to the U.S. in 1882 and married Sepharine Smet (b. 1863) in 1884. She was the daughter of Ferdinand Smet (b. Jan 1832) who had emigrated in 1868. The Adriasons lived on a farm in De Pere township; by 1910, they had fifteen children with fourteen living when the census was taken. The children were: Ferdinand (b. Sep 1884); Louis (b. Mar 1887); Mary (b. Aug 1889); Charlie (b. Dec 1890); Alice (born June 1891); Joseph (b. Sep 1893); William (b. Oct 1895); Benedictus (b. Feb 1897); Janet (b. Aug 1899); Frank (b. 1901); twins, Anton and Louise (b. 1902); Frances (b. 1904); and, John (b. 1906).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE AGAMAIT, ALLARD, ALLEN FAMILIES.

### AGAMAIT

This family migrated in 1873. Pauline Agamaite married Frank Timmermans. Joseph Agamaite (b. 1880) married Eliza Prevost; their first son, Felix, was born in 1909.

### ALLARD

Polet Allard (b. 1843) and his wife, Elidy (b. 1856, of Koekelberg, came to America in 1882 and lived in the City of Green Bay.

### ALLEN

The original name of this family was Hallaux and it was spelled ALLOO and ALLON after they arrived in this country.

Jean Baptiste Hallaux was born at Nethen in 1818; his wife, Josephine Coppens, was born at St. Joris-Weert on 13 Jan 1822. They were married in April 1834 and, with five children, arrived at the New York harbor aboard the CATHERINE AUGUSTA on 29 Jul 1854. Their children were: John Joseph; Maria; Isabella; Philip; and, Charles.

Jean Baptiste, Maria and Charles died of cholera at Little Chute on the way to Green Bay. Josephine and the remaining children went to the Town of Humboldt with the families of her brother and sisters and in 1856 she married Henry Fontaine (b. 1815 d. 1886) as her second husband. Their three children were: Sophie, Monica and August Fontaine. Josephine died at Oshkosh, Wisconsin on 31 Aug 1886.

The three surviving Allen children and their families are:

Joseph (b. 5 Jun 1843 d. 22 Feb 1918) married Mary Vanden Bergh (b. 14 Oct 1845 d. 30 Apr 1919) in 1865; they had thirteen children:

- (1) Anton I died in infancy in the late 1860s.
- (2) Andrew died in infancy in the late 1860s.
- (3) Josephine (b. 1870) married John Clabots.
- (4) Charles (b. Sep 1870 d. Feb 1965) married Elizabeth Detrie (b. 1867 d. 1936) and had these children: Joseph (b. Dec 1894 d. Apr 1925) married Amelia Forst (b. 25 Dec 1896 d. 24 Jul 1986) and had four children - Joseph, Celia, Raphael and Richard; Albert (b. 1896 d. 1961) married Catherine Boehm; Minnie (b. Feb 1898) married John Boehm; Mildred (b. Oct 1908) married Edward Gorzlancky.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ALLEN FAMILY.

- (5) August (b. Nov 1872) married Anna Rentmeester (b. 1885).
- (6) Lucy (b. 1875) married Fred Clabots and had one daughter.
- (7) Frank (b. 30 Jan 1877 d. 29 May 1961) married Josephine Greatens (b. 12 Sep 1878 d. 11 Sep 1950) and had these children: Mary (b. 27 May 1901 d. 7 Aug 1977) married Fred Cleeremans; William (b. 15 Jan 1903) married Jennie Spangler; Louis (b. 7 Sep 1904 d. 25 Jul 1982) married Bertha Dappern; George (b. 1906) married Dorothy Peot; Raymond (b. 1 Feb 1910 d. 23 Nov 1983) married Gertrude O'Brien; and, Lawrence (b. 1 Aug 1913 d. 11 Oct 1965) married Agnes Radart.
- (8) Ferdinand (Fred) (b. 6 May 1879) married Catherine Verheiden (b. 1883) and had these children: Wilson; Arthur; Robert; Milton; Lilian; Gladys; Esther; and, Lavira.
- (9) Anton II (b. 17 Sep 1881 d. 20 Sep 1968) married, as his first wife, Josephine Cleeremans and had these children: Henry; Elsie (Finnel); Edwin; Alvin; Sylvester; Mabel (Goral); Bernard; Myrtle (Kuchenbecher) (b. 1911 d. 1987); Colette (Wertel); Alice (Tilkens); and, Geraldine (Vanden Houten). Anton's second wife was Alice Brunner.
- (10) Annie (b. Feb 1884) married Jules Duquaine.
- (11) Rosie (b. 16 Mar 1886 d. Mar 1964) married Peter Pieschek.
- (12) John (b. Apr 1888 d. Dec 1955) was a bachelor.
- (13) Albert (b. Aug 1890 d. 1958) married Theresa Cleeremans (born 1894 d. 1959).

Philip (b. 12 Aug 1850) married Maria (Harriet) Dart (b. 1852), daughter of Philip and Wilhelmina Dart. Their ten children were:

- (1) Charles (b. 1874) married Catherine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1878).
- (2) Julia married T. Berceau.
- (3) Joseph was a bachelor.
- (4) Edward married Flora Simonet, daughter of Emanuel Simonet and Caroline Dart. Their children are: Clarence; Arthur; Edwin; and, Norbert.
- (5) August (b. 1879) married Clara Larscheid (b. 1881).
- (6) Flora married Florian Disteal.
- (7) Rosa married Isaac Sprudel.
- (8) Anna married Joseph Jossart.
- (9) Julius (b. 1885) married Lisa \_\_\_\_\_.
- (10) Harry (b. 1895).

Isabella (b. 8 Nov 1847 d. 15 Dec 1920).

Our thanks to Minnie Allen Boehm, Mrs. Ray (Gertrude) Allen and Hubert A. Rentmeester who contributed to this family history.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ALSTEENS, ANDEREGG, APPARIS, APRIL/AVRIL FAMILIES.

### ALSTEENS

The first Alsteens family came in 1855; two of the sons settled in Marinette County.

John H. (b. 1852) and his wife, Sidonia (b. 1856) lived in Amberg.

Joseph (b. 1854) and his wife, Elizabeth (b. 1860) had eleven children, three of whom were Martin (b. 1879); Josephine (b. 1897); and, Joseph (b. 1902).

Jacob Alsteens (b. 1835) and his wife, Catherine (born 1841), emigrated in 1871 and settled in Kewaunee County, Wisconsin; they had eight children. Their son, Joseph (b. 1876), married Louisa \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1884).

### ANDEREGG (spelled ANDEREGGE in Flanders)

The Anderegg family came to the De Pere area from Leuven in 1874. The father died soon thereafter leaving the mother, Adele (b. Oct 1836) to rear the children. Martin (b. 19 Feb 1862) became a priest and was the originator of St. Peter and Paul parish in northeast Green Bay. Martin, who died on 22 Jul 1942, had one sister, Adele H. (b. Nov 1864).

### APPARIS

Philip Apparis (b. 28 Aug 1856 at Blanden) was the son of Michael Apparis and Maria Theresa Vangestal. He came to the U.S. after the death of his mother in 1882.

### APRIL/AVRIL (Convent Sisters often named a foundling after the month when he was born.)

Francis Avril was born in Leuven, Belgium on 2 Oct 1810 and died in Pittsfield, Wisconsin on 18 Jun 1906. His wife, Anna Catherine Deliefde (or Van Lever), was born in Blanden, Belgium on 9 Apr 1825 and died around 1875. With their four children - Michael; Florentine; Joannes Baptista; and, Guillaume - they departed from Antwerp on 22 Apr 1856 and settled on a farm in

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE APRIL/AVRIL, ARKINS FAMILIES.

the Town of Pittsfield, belonging to the St. John the Baptist parish in Duck Creek, where four more children were born. Their eight children were:

Michael (b. 18 May 1848).

Florentina (Florence) (b. 21 Oct 1851 d. 1 Mar 1931) married William Tilly (b. 29 Jul 1848 d. 1936) and had eleven children.

Joannes Baptista (b. 9 Nov 1852 d. 19 Mar 1855) died at sea.

Guillielmus-Edward (Guillaume) (b. 13 Oct 1854).

Ferdinand (b. 6 Oct 1855) married Elizabeth La Belle (b. Nov 1859 d. 5 Dec 1922) and had seven children: Margarette (b. Sep 1882); Walter Frederick (b. 23 Dec 1884); Florence (b. 1887 died young); Floretta (b. Jun 1889) married Felix Coopmans (b. 15 Jul 1888 d. 1948); Irene (b. 20 Jun 1892); Cecilia (b. Jun 1895); Laura (b. Jun 1898).

Joannes II (b. 18 May 1852 d. 24 Nov 1914) married Emelia La Belle (b. 14 Aug 1868 d. 1949) and had four children: Joseph (b. 9 Jul 1890); Josephine (b. 23 Jun 1892) married Ernest Smith; William (b. Jun 1894); Mabel (b. 1896) married a Heineman.

Rosaline (b. Jun 1862 d. 1949) married William Nys (b. Apr 1844 d. 1930) and had nine children. Frank April lived with this daughter for over thirty years.

Peter (b. Jun 1863 d. 1917) married Victoria Nioule (b. May 1871 d. 1938), daughter of Albert Nioule and Josephine Van Esse. Their only child, Alexia (b. 22 Mar 1889 d. 19 Jul 1967) married August Kimps.

Charles April, who may have been a brother of Francis April, died 18 Jun 1906, age 88.

## ARKINS

(Henry Van Arkens is called Henry Kyllie in an 1868 letter to Flanders.)

Adolph Arkins (b. 1799) was the patriarch of this family. The family arrived at New York from Huldenberg in August 1856 and settled in the Northeast corner of the Town of Eaton.

Henry Arkins (b. 1822 d. 1890) and his wife, Barbara (born 1824) had these children: Angelina (b. 1855) was the second wife of Francis De Greef and had nine children; Philomena (b. 1858); Maria

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ARKINS, BAEB FAMILIES.

Louisa (b. Jun 1960); Mary (b. 1865); Felix (b. 1866) later lived in Marinette County with wife, Anna (b. 1879) and these children - Anna (b. 1899); Henry (b. 1900); and, Mary Louise (b. 1906).

John Baptiste and Johanna (Bendels) Arkins came from Huldenberg in 1856; their daughter, Caroline, married Charles Cleeremans in 1870.

Theodore Arken (b. 1862) and his wife, Sadie (b. 1864), had eight children.

The Arkin family is related to the early Nockerts family.

## BAEB

John Joseph Baeb (b. 29 Mar 1847 d. 29 Aug 1891) was the son of Henricus Baeb and Maria Augustina Niclaes of Bierbeek, Brabant Province. He married Maria Willems (b. 2 Jul 1847 d. 7 Jan 1933), the daughter of Lambert Willems and Maria Elizabeth Meulemans. The couple immigrated to Green Bay with their children, arriving 23 Apr 1887. Their children are:

Maria Rosalie (b. 31 May 1874 d. 24 Jul 1949) married Joseph Mommaerts.

Maria Virginia (b. 13 Jul 1875 d. 15 Nov 1957) married Robert Dyce at Hermansville, Michigan. They had five children.

Peter Felix (b. 15 Aug 1876 d. 12 Aug 1914) married Mary Parton (b. 1882) who emigrated in 1890. They had six children.

Peter (b. 9 Apr 1878 d. 22 Jun 1878).

Eliza Christina (b. 16 May 1879 d. 22 Aug 1880).

Herman Francis (b. 14 Dec 1880 d. 29 Nov 1965) married Virginia Roskam (b. 23 Jul 1884 d. 9 Aug 1948) and had five children.

Engelbertus Albert (b. 27 May 1882 d. 1 May 1980) married Caroline Sevenants (b. 17 Aug 1885 d. 27 Jun 1980) and had seven children.

Julius (b. 6 May 1885 d. 13 Oct 1886).

Josephine Clementine (b. 13 Oct 1886 d. 10 Nov 1963) married Joseph Geohegan at Chicago, Illinois and had six children.

Julius (b. 29 Dec 1890 d. 28 Sep 1895).

Our thanks to Dianne Mommaerts De Both, great-granddaughter of John Joseph Baeb for the above information.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BALZA, BASTEYNS FAMILIES.

BALZA

There are German, Walloon and Flemish descendants in Wisconsin with the name of Balza and Balsa.

Anton Balza married Pauline Louis and raised a family in the Duck Creek area of Brown County; they probably migrated in 1876. Their daughter, Henrietta, married Julius La Haye on 6 Feb 1888. Other daughters were: Mary (b. 24 Oct 1882) and Erma (b. Jun 1876).

BASTEYNS

After his wife, Anna C. Voncks (b. 31 Jan 1812 d. 20 Jun 1859) died, William Basteyns (b. 23 Aug 1810) brought his family from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant, Belgium, to America in February 1867; they had a farm in the Town of Suamico. Their children were:

Peter (b. 27 May 1838).

John (b. 15 Nov 1839 d. 5 Oct 1895) married Roselia Poels (born 1860 d. 3 Jul 1943). Their five children were:

- (1) Felix (b. 25 Oct 1881 d. 27 Dec 1962) married Rosa Willquette (b. 1887 d. 13 Jul 1943), daughter of Joseph Willquette Jr. and Barbara Devroy.
- (2) Jennie (b. 1883 d. 1929) married Theodore Lemerond (born 1875 d. 1937).
- (3) Elizabeth (b. 3 Apr 1891) married Edward Dobbins.
- (4) Anna married Frank Minckler.
- (5) Fred (b. Mar 1895).

When John Basteyns died, Rosalia married John Duchateau and moved to Washington State. The two children, Anna and Fred, took the name of Duchateau. Rosalia and John Duchateau had a son, Louis.

Frank (b. 9 Oct 1841 d. 27 Nov 1910) married Elise Deloy (born 17 Jan 1841 d. 29 Nov 1922). Their son, Noel (b. 1874 d. 1972) married Josephine Van Hoof (b. 1878 d. 1960).

Joanna (b. about 1845).

Albert (b. 1848) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_. Their son, John, was born in 1900.

Philip (b. 5 Oct 1849) married Maria Louisa Peeters (b. 1844) in 1868. Their children were:

- (1) Joanna married Peter Wauters, son of Peter Wauters Sr. and Anna Coopmans.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BASTEYNS, BENTZ, BERANSEN, BEQUR FAMILIES.

(2) Alphonse (b. 1868) married Elizabeth Poels (b. Feb 1871) and had these children - John, Stella and Catherine.

(3) Rose (b. 1871 d. 22 Jun 1949) married Henry Callewaerts.

(4) Susan (b. 1874 d. 2 Nov 1951) married Edward Vervaeren, son of Peter and Elizabeth Vervaeren.

In July 1881, two more Basteyns families came to America from Oud-Heverlee. Frank Basteyns (b. about 1840) was married to Theresa Maria Melane (b. Jan 1841). Jean Francois Basteyns (b. about 1840), son of William Basteyns and Anna Vonckx, was married to Elizabeth Derwae (b. 27 Jan 1841) at Oud-Heverlee; they were accompanied by an adopted child, Maria Reeren (b. 2 May 1867 at Brussels d. 11 May 1940). Maria married Peter Poels in 1886; after he died in 1900, she married Charles Delvoy (b. 21 Jun 1870 d. 26 Jan 1951).

### BENTZ

John Bentz (b. 1861) emigrated in 1883. He lived in Pound, Wisconsin, with his wife, Bertha (b. 1871), and these children: Nicholas (b. 1894); Alfred (b. 1896); Leona (b. 1899); John Jr. (b. 1901); Elaine (b. 1903); and, Henry (b. 1905).

### BERANSEN

A variation of this name is Berendsen, which is shared by the Flemish and Dutch. A Beransen family came from Belgium in 1870. A member of this family, Gerome (b. Jul 1862), and his wife, Mary (b. Sep 1866), lived in Green Bay with their children: Camille (b. Jul 1885); Alphonse (b. Jul 1887); John (b. Feb 1888); Harry (b. Oct 1892); Willie (b. Jan 1894); Henry (b. Jan 1896); and, Frank (b. Oct 1898).

Another family of Henry Berendsen (b. 1873), his wife, Katherine (b. 1874), and four children claimed to be Flemish from Holland and are listed in the 1910 census.

### BEQUR

Newly-weds Eugene (b. 1878) and Mary (b. 1872) Bequr came to the U.S. in 1905. Their first three children were: Serafin, Peter and Margaret.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BERGER, BIEMERET, BILLIAN, BLOMME, BOEL FAMILIES.

### BERGER

Ferdinand Berger married Adolphine Prevost in Leuven, Belgium. Their daughter, Maria, married Gustave Collart.

### BIEMERET

Some descendants of this family say that they are Flemish, others say that they are Walloon. The family, headed by John (b. 1822 in Brabant) and Josephine (b. 1814 in Brabant) arrived in Green Bay in 1854 and settled on a farm located on the east side of Green Bay. Some of their children were:

Gregoire (b. 1842) had a wife, Albertine (b. 1844), and daughters, Florentine (b. 1865) and Josephine (b. 1868).

Gabriel (b. May 1844) had a wife, Rose (b. Sep 1857) and seven children: Peter (b. Jun 1875); Florent (b. Sep 1880); Albert (b. Jul 1882); Lily (b. May 1884); John (b. Apr 1886); Barney (b. Sep 1893); Anton (b. Oct 1897).

Adele (b. 3 Sep 1847).

Marie Joseph (b. 7 Oct 1848).

John Baptiste (b. 3 Jan 1851).

### BILLIAN

John Billian (b. 1861) came to the U.S. in 1889. His wife, Minnie, was born in 1881.

### BLOMME

Henri Blomme (b. 1856) came to Wisconsin in March 1899.

### BOEL

Charles Boel (b. 1872) came to Wisconsin in 1892 and lived in Pound, Wisconsin, with his wife, Justine (b. 1881), and their children: Frank (b. 1902); Mary (b. 1904); Lizzie (b. 1907); and, Louis (b. 1910).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BOGART, BOLINA, BOLSSSENS FAMILIES.

### BOGART

Louis (b. Sep 1849) and Elizabeth (van) Bogart (b. Mar 1847) brought their family from Belgium in 1878 and settled in De Pere township. Their six children were: August (b. Jun 1875); Mary (b. Aug 1876); Charley (b. Sep 1879); Felix (b. May 1882); Joseph (b. Nov 1887); Emma (b. Jul 1890).

### BOLINA

The Bolina family came from Overijse, Brabant Province. Martin Bolina (b. 1827) was the head of the family that migrated in August 1862 and settled in the Town of Bellevue. His wife, Maria Anna Boomis, was born in 1830. Their children were: Maria Theresa (b. 1850) married Henry Bombaers (b. 1842 in Huldenberg); Julia (b. 1855); Mary (b. 1859); Katie (b. 1862); and, Sophie (b. 1868).

### BOLSSSENS

In June 1880, 26-year-old Constant Bolssens (b. 1855 d. 1925) emigrated to the United States. He married 18-year-old Pauline Vander Linden (b. 1865 d. 2 Feb 1952) from Wrightstown; they settled in the Duck Creek area. Their children were:

Tracy (b. May 1886 d. 22 Jan 1964) was married, first, to Louis Luedke (b. 1880 d. 1937); her second husband was Matt Monfils.

Peter (b. Nov 1887).

August (b. Mar 1889 d. 10 Feb 1948) was a bachelor.

Felix (b. Aug 1890 d. 1918).

Louis (b. Oct 1891 d. 1916).

John (b. Jan 1893 d. 2 Apr 1947) married Josephine Dunks (b. 23 Feb 1896 d. 26 Dec 1964), daughter of John and Antonetta Dunks. Three of their children were : Clarence (b. 16 Nov 1916 d. 13 Oct 1986) married Esther Thym; Clara; and, Ethel.

Philip (b. Apr 1897 d. 1939) married Josephine Dunks' sister, Clara Dunks (b. 18 Jun 1900).

Alexander (b. Nov 1897 d. 1916).

Emma married Adam Wallenfang.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BOLSSSENS, BOMBAERS, BONCHER, BORREMANNS FAMILIES.

Theophile Bolssens (b. 1863) followed his brother, Constant, to the U.S. in January 1888.

### BOMBAERS

Aegidius (Julius) Bombaers (b. 1812) and Elizabeth Philips brought their family to the U.S. from Huldenberg, Brabant Province, in August 1856. In 1867, their daughter, 23-year-old Anna Catherine, was married to Martin Van Beek of Gemert, Brabant, at St. Willebrords Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. In April 1869, her 27-year-old brother, Henry, was married to Maria Theresa Bolina (b. 1850) of Overijse, Brabant, and lived in Marinette County; their first child was Maria Anna (b. Jan 1870).

John Bomber, brother of Henry and Anna Catherine, was born in 1850, but there is no record found for him except his citizenship papers.

Isadore Bombaers (b. 1830) came to the U.S. in 1871).

### BONCHER

Matthias Boncher (b. 1800) and his wife, Theresa (born 1799), of Dongelberg, Brabant Province, brought their family of seven to the U.S. in August 1855; they purchased property in the middle of the Town of Humboldt.

Jean Baptiste Boncher (b. 1837) and his wife, Mary (born 1845), raised ten children on their farm.

Constant Boncher (b. Feb 1868) and his wife, Barbara (b. Mar 1874), were married in 1893 and took over his father's hotel next to the town hall, church and saloon. The first children born to them were: Willie (b. Apr 1894); Christina (b. Sep 1895); and, Harry (b. Sep 1897).

### BORREMANNS

Henry Bormans (b. 1844) came to America in 1855.

Peter Borremans (b. 4 Aug 1837) married Joanna P. Derwae at Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, and raised a family there. When Joanna died in 1885, Peter moved his family that same year

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BORREMANS, BOSSE, BOSSCHAERTS FAMILIES.

to the U.S. Some of their children were:

John Francis (Frank) (b. Jul 1867) married Louisa (born Jul 1878) and had these children: Lizzie (b. 1903) and Marie (b. 1909). There may have been other children born after 1910.

Alphonse (b. Mar 1870 d. 29 Sep 1910) married Anna Marto (born Jan 1877) and had these children: Celina (b. Jul 1895); Peter (b. Apr 1897); Frank (b. Jul 1899); Angeline (b. 1902) married Louis Brunette (b. 1 Nov 1897 d. 30 Jun 1933) and had two children - Alphonse and Leone; Philomene (b. 1904) married Raymond Brunette and had a son, Raymond; and Audrey (b. 1909). Anna's father, Peter Marto (b. Jun 1881) lived with them.

Joseph (b. Apr 1871) came to the U.S. in 1885. His wife, Mary (b. Dec 1877), and he had a son, Henry (b. 1902).

Joanna Maria (b. Jul 1873) married Emanuel Rondou (b. May 1869) in 1896.

Louis (b. Feb 1861), Peter's oldest son, came to the U.S. in 1887, after disposing of their property. Louis' wife, Josephine (b. Jul 1866), also came over in 1887; they were married in 1894.

### BOSSE

August Bosse (b. 1866) came to the U.S. in 1883; his second wife, Emma (b. 1874) came in 1892. Their children included: Elmer (b. 1893); Nettie (b. 1896); Emilia (b. 1898); Foella (born 1901); Alfred (b. 1903); Viola (b. 1905); Leona (b. 1906); Emma (b. 1908); Isabella (b. 1910).

### BOSSCHAERTS

This name was also spelled Bossharts and Buchard.

Charles Bossharts (b. 4 Mar 1866 at St. Joris Weert) came to the U.S. in 1885 with an offer of a job in the burgeoning railroad system at Green Bay. His wife, Rosa (b. Jul 1869), also came over in 1885; they were married in 1891 and had six children, four of whom were living in 1900. These children are: Mary (born Aug 1891); Josephine (b. Jul 1894); Lizzie (b. Nov 1896); and, Annie (b. May 1899).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BOSSCHAERTS, BOYCE FAMILIES.

Jules Bosschaerts (b. 27 Jun 1891) was the son of Frans Bosschaerts (b. 17 Jul 1861) and Isabella Vanniewenhoven (b. 2 Oct 1862 d. 31 Mar 1942) of St. Joris Weert, who brought Jules to America in May 1892. Jules married Mary Vanderwegen, the widow of Henry Laes.

BOYCE

The various spellings of this name are Beuys, Boyse, Buys and Buijs. Anna Catherine Buijs (b. Feb 1825) married Bernard Meulemans (b. Sep 1828) at Bierbeek, Brabant Province in 1854 and they migrated to America, landing in July 1856.

A brother and sister from Bierbeek followed on 7 Jul 1871. Also, Francis Buys (b. 16 Apr 1837 d. 1906), the son of Petrus Buys and Elizabeth Dibets, and his wife, Philipina Thress (Tre) (b. 10 Nov 1841 at Blanden d. 1911), left Antwerp, Belgium, with two children. They settled, first, next to the Meulemans in Wrightstown, then moved to various places ending up in Rudolph, Wisconsin. Of their ten children, six were living in 1900.

August (Gustaaf-Joseph) (b. 23 May 1867 at Blanden) married Josephine Rodaer (b. 28 Feb 1870), daughter of John Baptiste Rodaer and Catherine Van Hoof, in 1890. Their children were: Frank W. (b. 1892); John H. (b. 1893); and, Henry G. (b. 1896).

John (Jan Baptiste) (b. 22 Dec 1869 at Blanden) married Philomena Rentmeester. Their children were: John (b. 1907 d. 1987); Howard; August; Betty (Angel); Hazel married a Rabideau; Sister Philomena; and, Emma.

Mary (b. ) married L. Loudy.

Rosa (b. Apr 1879) married A. Rentmeester.

Louis (b. ).

Henry (b. Aug 1898).

Anna Maria Buys and her husband, Henry Moes also came over in 1871. (See the Moes family sketch).

Alois Buys (b. 1830) came to Wisconsin in Sep 1885.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BOYKINS, BREDAEL FAMILIES.

**BOYKINS**  
(Also spelled Boeykins.)

Arkin Boykins (b. Dec 1864) immigrated to the U.S. in 1883. His wife, Pauline (b. Jul 1868), and he, lived in De Pere, where they had three children by the year 1900: Mary (b. Nov 1889); Louis (b. Feb 1895); Emma (b. May 1898).

Charles L. Boeykins (b. 1859) came in March 1891. Joseph Boeykins (b. 1861) came in May 1891. Joseph A. Boeykins (b. 1864) came in May 1893.

**BREDAEL**

Three Bredael boys from St. Agathe Rode came to the U.S. in August 1855, followed by their widowed father, Philip Bredael (b. 1796), in August 1856. Philip was the son of John Baptiste Bredael and Elizabeth Teron, and married his first wife, Virginia Tiels, at Ottenberg. Their children were:

Michael (b. 1825) married Maria Hardmann (b. 1825 at Neerijse) and had five children:

- (1) Philip (b. May 1848) and his wife, Rosalie (b. Nov 1849) lived in the Town of Howard after their marriage in 1874, and had six children - Michael (b. Oct 1874); Joseph (b. Sep 1879); Matilda (b. Jun 1885); Frank (b. Sep 1887); Adeline (b. Jul 1891); and, Josephine (b. Nov 1887) married Mose Dashnier.
- (2) Catherine (b. 1853) married Ferdinand Haevers.
- (3) Philip (b. 1856).
- (4) Victoria (b. 1858).
- (5) Desire (b. 1862).

John (b. 1831) and his wife, Elizabeth (b. 1837), adopted a son, Joseph (b. 1865).

Joseph (b. Mar 1833) married Antonia Detrie (b. Jan 1836) in 1857. Their daughter, Sidonia, married William Coppens in 1837, son of Philip Coppens and Catherine Van Erum. One of Frank Bredael's sons, Joseph, was born in Michigan in May 1866.

Antoine (b. 1842) and his wife, Jennie (b. 1846) had thirteen children.

Philip (b. 1847) and his wife, Rosa (b. 1858) emigrated in 1864.

In 1869, Philip Bredael Sr. married his second wife, Petronella Vander Veeken (b. 1806), daughter of Michael Vander Veeken and Joanna Macheels and widow of William Vanden Ohe of Tombeek.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BRIES, BRUFFAERTS FAMILIES.

### BRIES

Oliver Bries, nephew of Mrs. Peter Meulemans, came to Wrightstown in 1885 with his wife, Josephine Baeb, and their children. John Baptiste (Oliver) Bries (b. 18 Aug 1848 d. 23 Feb 1932) was the son of Engelbert Bries and Barbara Stroobants. He married Josephine Baeb (b. 11 Mar 1860 d. 3 May 1931) of Bierbeek. Their children were: Jerome (b. 3 Jun 1882); Jules (b. 14 Oct 1883); and, Mary (b. 5 Nov 1884). They arrived in New York in July 1885 and went to Wrightstown where they had six more children: Peter Joseph (b. 28 Nov 1885); Albert John (b. 11 May 1887); Rosalia (b. 13 Sep 1888); John Francis (b. 30 May 1894); and, Josephine (b. 14 Nov 1897).

### BRUFFAERTS

John Philip Bruffaerts (b. 21 Feb 1824), son of Francis Bruffaerts and Maria Elizabeth Vandevelde, and his wife, Josepha Joanna De Caffmeyer (b. 22 Dec 1818 d. 1871), daughter of Jean Baptiste De Caffmeyer and Maria Huybrechts, brought their family from Neerijse to America in 1868. Their two sons were:

Philip (b. 23 Aug 1852 at Huldenberg) was married, first, to Josephine Goffart (b. 1850 d. 1871) of Huldenberg. His second marriage, on 5 Dec 1871, was to Eugenia (Jennie) Vanden Houten (b. 1852 at Overijse d. 26 Dec 1917), daughter of William Vanden Houten and Petronella Vanderwegen. Their children were:

- (1) Lizzie (b. 5 Sep 1874 d. 1956) married Anton Pleasters and had six children - Alvina (b. 24 Jan 1898); Julia; Edward (b. 6 Jul 1901); Elsa (b. 27 Dec 1902); Irene (b. 18 Dec 1904); and, Alvin (b. 6 Oct 1906 d. Apr 1985).
- (2) John (b. 29 May 1878 d. 9 Feb 1955) married Mary Pleasters. (b. Aug 1877 d. 12 May 1931).
- (3) Joseph (b. Mar 1882 died young).
- (4) Peter (b. 15 May 1883 d. 19 Jul 1956).
- (5) Alphonse (b. 14 Mar 1885 d. 7 Dec 1959).
- (6) Louis (b. 21 Nov 1887 d. 7 Mar 1940).
- (7) Mathilda (b. 27 Oct 1889 d. 17 Jul 1958) married Frank Vander Wegen.

Francis William (b. 11 Dec 1859 d. 1921) was a bachelor.

Our thanks to Helen Vander Wegen Klubertanz and Florence Laes Burrows for the above information.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BRUYNINCKX, BRUYS, BUILDINGS, BURKEL FAMILIES.

### BRUYNINCKX

Louis Bruyninckx (b. 19 Feb 1861 at Oud-Heverlee) was the son of John Baptiste Bruyninckx and Marie Poels. He came to the U.S. in 1887; his wife, Josephine (b. 1867) came in 1893 and they were married in 1894. Two of their children were: John (b. 1896) and Mary (b. 1898).

Henry Bruyninckx (b. 21 Jul 1860 at St. Joris Weert) married Nathalia Derie (b. 6 Jun 1864). Their three daughters were: Regina; Seraphina; and, Adelia.

Some of the Engels family who came to Green Bay were children of Andre Engels and Anna Catherine Bruyninckx of Oud-Heverlee.

### BRUYS

Augustine Bruys (b. 1856) came to America in August 1891.

### BUILDINGS (Probably spelled BULTINCKS in Flemish.)

Charles Buildilng (b. Aug 1826) and his wife, Hannah (b. Sep 1825), came to America in 1883 with their son, Lawrence (b. Sep 1864). Lawrence and his wife, Minnie (b. Oct 1871), were married in 1888 and had a farm in the Town of De Pere. Their children were: Frank (b. Dec 1889); William (b. Sep 1892); and, Mary (b. Sep 1893).

### BURKEL

Henry Burkel (b. Jun 1856) married Margaret Letourneau (b. Mar 1859 d. 1900) in 1875 and emigrated to America in 1882. Their children were: Henry (. Apr 1878); Charles (b. 1880); Nickolas (b. Nov 1881); Michael (b. Mar 1884); Margaret (b. Feb 1888); Frank (b. Feb 1890); Mary (b. Mar 1892); and, Barbara (b. Sep 1894). After Margaret's death, Henry married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (born 1861 in Wisconsin) in 1903 or 1904, a widow with 2 children: Clarence (b. 1890) and Harriet (b. 1892). Margaret's mother, Armenia Letourneau (b. Oct 1830) lived with her daughter when the 1900 census was taken in the Town of Howard.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE BURNET, CALLEWAERTS FAMILIES.

### BURNET

John Burnet (b. 1830) and his wife, Mary (b. 1857), were married in 1875 and had four children: Henry (b. 1881); Peter (b. 1884); Joseph (b. 1885); and, Mary (b. 1890). They all immigrated to Wisconsin in 1902.

### CALLEWAERTS

This name was also spelled CALAWAERTS, KALEWAERTS, CALVERTS, CALAVAR and CALEWERTS; most of the Callewaerts came from St. Joris Weert and St. Agatha Rode.

John Callawarts was one of the first Flemish to settle in Wisconsin. The Local Tract Books for the Little Chute area reveals that he bought eighty acres there for \$1.25 per acre on 17 August 1847.

One of the first to arrive in Brown County, was Jean Baptiste Callewaerts (b. Sep 1823 at Brussels). With his wife, Maria Rosa De Keyser (b. 1833), and two children, he came to Wisconsin in 1857 and settled on a farm in the Town of Lawrence. Their children were:

Francis (b. May 1855) and his wife, Mary Droog, lived in the City of De Pere and had eight children listed in the 1900 census.

Louisa (b. 22 Jan 1853 d. 24 May 1926) married Albert Quatsoe.

Teresa (b. Feb 1857).

Dorinda (b. Dec 1859).

Albert (b. 1863).

Felix (b. Apr 1865), who with his wife, Sarah, later lived in the City of De Pere.

Josephine (b. 1868).

Maria (b. 1870) married Edward Nackers of Wrightstown.

Rose (b. 1872) married a Nadolny.

Peter Callewaerts (b. 25 Sep 1835 d. 6 Mar 1906) emigrated in 1857 and married Elizabeth Duchateau (b. Sep 1830 d. 1902) in 1859. They lived in the Duck Creek area and had one child.

Another Jean Baptiste Callewarts (b. 9 Dec 1836 d. 17 Apr

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CALLEWAERTS FAMILY.

1905) also came to the U.S. in 1857 and settled in the Duck Creek area. He married Antonette Tilly (b. 3 Jun 1843 d. 8 Aug 1896). Their six children were:

- (1) William (b. 24 Apr 1866 d. 30 Jul 1944) married Anna C. Athey (b. 30 Dec 1874 d. 17 Jan 1947). Their eight children were:  
(1) John L. (b. 26 May 1898 d. 2 Feb 1951) married Margaret Streckinback.  
(2) Clarence (b. 22 Jun 1899 d. 12 May 1975) married Sophie Barkowiak (b. 3 Apr 1899 d. 15 Sep 1965).  
(3) Herman (Pat) (b. 3 Sep 1900 d. 6 Aug 1985) married Lilian Calewarts.  
(4) William (b. 3 Mar 1903 d. 21 Jan 1971) married Lola Hussin (b. 21 Jan 1907 d. 22 Apr 1979).  
(5) Paul (b. 23 Jul 1904 d. Nov 1983) married Delia Strebler.  
(6) George (b. 2 Feb 1906 d. 17 May 1973).  
(7) Mabel (b. 25 May 1908 d. 5 Jan 1981) married Louis Van Campenout.  
(8) Archie (b. 14 Mar 1915 d. 14 Nov 1923).

Andrew (Henry) (b. 9 Oct 1868 d. 10 Aug 1952) married Rose Basteyns (b. 1871 d. 22 Jun 1944), daughter of Philip and Rose Basteyns. Their three children were:

- (1) Louise (b. 1 Apr 1894 d. 27 Dec 1960) married John Roskom, son of Louis and Mary Roskom.  
(2) Alphonse (b. 17 Jan 1896 d. 17 Feb 1958) married Minerva Swaerts (b. 16 Jun 1897 d. 11 Jun 1981), daughter of William and Elizabeth Swaerts.  
(3) Bess (b. 15 Dec 1903 d. 28 Jun 1983) married Clarence Vander Verren (b. 12 Mar 1900), son of Henry and Mary Vander Verren.

Jacob (b. 17 Sep 1871 d. 23 Feb 1960) married Lilian Grady (b. Jan 1883 d. 23 Feb 1946). Their eight children were: Roland (b. 1904); Roy (b. 1906); Harvey (b. 14 Apr 1908 d. 23 Apr 1986); Laura; Ray (b. 24 Jan 1913 d. 18 Apr 1984); Harry; Donald; and, Mae.

Barbara (b. 1876) married Frank Lemerdond.

Herman (b. 1878 d. 7 Oct 1934) married Flora Nys (b. 1881 died 1948) and had four children, including Nettie (b. 12 Mar 1904 d. 23 Apr 1987) and Joseph (b. 1903 d. 1983).

Teresa (b. Jul 1882).

A Peter Calawerts (b. May 1847 d. 1928) emigrated in 1881 with his wife, Anna Catherine Van Meerbeek (b. Oct 1844 d. 1917). Their five children were:

Rosa (b. 5 Sep 1871 d. 5 Oct 1926) married John Van Ark (born 27 Jul 1869 d. 24 Nov 1943) and had five children:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CALLEWAERTS FAMILY.

(1) Lawrence.

(2) Mabel (b. 5 Jun 1897 d. 1982) married Archie Fournier.

(3) Edward (b. 29 May 1899 d. 1 Sep 1983) married Anne Roskom, daughter of John and Mathilda Roskom.

(4) Alvina (b. 13 May 1903 d. 4 Sep 1943) married William Vander Perren, son of Alphonse and Elizabeth Vander Perren.

(5) Madeline (b. 2 Oct 1916) married Clifford Wright.

Emil (b. 1875 d. 14 Nov 1965) married Jennie Roskom, daughter of John Baptiste and Constance Roskom and had two children:

(1) Joseph (b. 13 Mar 1903 d. 16 Jun 1983) married Nettie Callewaerts, daughter of Herman and Flora Callewaerts.

(2) Lily married Herman (Pat) Callewaerts, son of William and Anne Callewaerts.

Mary (b. 31 Aug 1879 d. 4 Nov 1934) married Charles Van Ark (b. 20 Mar 1873 d. 15 Nov 1949) and had six children:

(1) Fred (b. 18 Mar 1900).

(2) Sylvester (b. 27 Jul 1903).

(3) Irene (b. 23 Sep 1909).

(4) Catherine (b. 14 Nov 1912).

(5) Henry (b. 21 Sep 1916).

(6) Charles (b. 27 Jul 1918).

Lettie (b. 16 Dec 1881 d. 23 Jul 1957) married Victor Peters Sr.

Pauline (b. 8 Oct 1885 d. 15 Aug 1945) married August Peters.

Peter Callewaerts (b. Apr 1843) and his wife, Philomene (b. Sep 1842), emigrated in 1873 and had a farm in the Town of De Pere. His brother, Daniel (Desire) (b. Mar 1877), emigrated in 1887 and lived with them.

In the Town of Bellevue lived Frank Callewaerts (b. 15 Aug 1851 d. 1921) and his wife, Virginia Gillings (b. 5 May 1855), who came from St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province, in April 1882. Their ten children were:

Mary (Ann Mary) (b. 12 Apr 1877) married Frank Vonckx and had two children.

Rose (b. 19 Jul 1879) married Joseph B. Crabbe, son of Jean Crabbe and Pauline Vande Zande, in 1894, and lived in Preble.

Henry (b. Jun 1885).

Edward (b. Jun 1888) married Anna Umentum and had three children.

John (b. May 1890) married, as his first wife, Lizzie Van Bellinger, and had three children; then he married Margaret Samarski and had one son.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CALLEWAERTS, CATTERSOL\*, CAPPELLE,  
CATTHOUR FAMILIES.

Louis (b. Mar 1893) married Mary Gageski.

Mabel (b. 1897) married Chester Barlamant.

Emanuel.

Josephine.

Fannie (b. 8 May 1882).

In 1882, Anna Callewaerts, age 44, the widow of Henry Nackers, married John Nackers (Nockerts). Anna was the daughter of William Callewaerts and Anna M. Yarels of St. Agatha Rode.

Peter Callewaerts and Collette Gebers of Antwerp had a child, Rose marie (b. 28 Feb 1902 d. 24 Jan 1988) before they emigrated. Rose Marie married Gilbert Williquette of Duck Creek. Other children were: Henry; Emily married a Smith; Sophie married Howard Van Rite; Josephine married Joseph Lorblatt; and, Louise married Peter Mertens.

### CAPPELLE

Jules A. Cappelle (b. 26 Nov 1886 d. 8 Feb 1968) was the son of Coletta Dick of Kortemark, West Flanders. He came to America in 1911 and married Libble Dupont (b. 1 Oct 1895 died 2 Jan 1962). They had five children:

Marcella (b. 10 Aug 1920) married Clarence O'Radnick.

Anthony J. (b. 12 Dec 1922).

Myron (b. 6 Mar 1925).

Iris (b. 17 Mar 1928).

Aloysius (b. 8 Dec 1931 d. 9 Nov 1982).

Our thanks to Marcella Capelle O'Radnick for the above information.

### CATTHOUR

Frank Catthour (b. May 1860) and his wife, Maria (b. Feb 1864), emigrated in 1893 and had a farm in the Town of Preble. Their son, Joseph, was born in June 1892.

\* CATTERSOL (see QUATSOE).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CAUTERELS, CAUWENBERG FAMILIES.

## CAUTERELS

Peter Cauterels (b. 1856) came to Wisconsin in April 1884.

## CAUWENBERG

John Baptiste Cauwenberghs (b. 1835 d. 1895), his wife, Sophie (b. 1841), and his father, Philip, crossed the Atlantic Ocean during May and June of 1856. John Baptiste's sister, Anna Catherine (Mrs. Andre Matheys), followed them in Sep 1856.

The Cauwenberghs bought one hundred and twenty acres of land in Preble but soon had a grocery store and later a hotel in Green Bay. They had twelve children, ten living when the 1900 census was taken. Some of the children were:

Gustav (b. 1860) married Elizabeth Gruner (b. 1865) and had these children: Olive M. (b. 1892); Winford J. (b. 1897); and, Delores E. (b. 1904).

Joseph (b. 1862) was a bachelor.

Eugene (b. Feb 1864) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Sep 1869) and had three children.

Edward (b. 1866) married Mary Thomas (b. 1870) and had these children: Sophie; Harry; August; Joseph; Clyde; Mabel; and Gladys.

Louis (b. 1868).

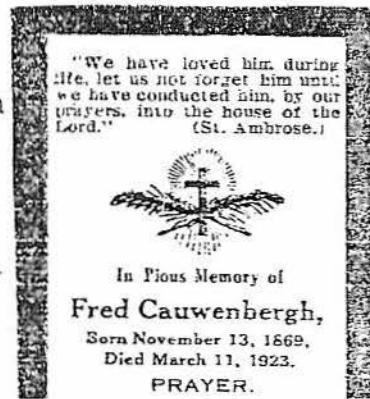
Fred (see Mass Card) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Nov 1873) and lost their first child. Their second child, a daughter, Edna (b. Sep 1897) is listed in the 1900 census. Fred's occupation is a beer peddler.

Jules (b. May 1874) married Henrietta Heyrman (b. Mar 1877), daughter of Joseph Heyrman.

John Baptiste Jr. (b. May 1875).

Amelia (b. Oct 1880).

Guillaume (b. Sep 1885).



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CHRISTENS FAMILY.

CHRISTENS

This Flemish name is also spelled CRISTENS.

Gustaaf Christens (b. 7 Oct 1844 d. 1 May 1939), son of Franciscus J. Christens and Barbara Coopmans, married Isabella Haesaert (b. 21 Mar 1851 d. 13 Dec 1942) on 6 Aug 1873 at Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province. Isabella is the daughter of Philip Henricus Haesaert and Maria Catherine Peron of Blanden. In 1883, Gustave and Isabella went to America with four children and Gustave's brother, Johannes Franciscus Christens (b. 15 Aug 1841). Their children were:

Philip Henri (b. 1 Aug 1874 d. 6 May 1965)  
married Mary Puyleart (see Mass Card).

They had ten children:

- (1) Rosie married Norris Terrien.
- (2) Isabel married Arthur De Greef.
- (3) Mabel married Philip De Bot.
- (4) Mathilda was married, first, to Emil Engebos, then she married Carl Lardinois.
- (5) Josephine married Peter Tilque.
- (6) Mary married Henry Tilque.
- (7) Alma married Joseph Belschner.
- (8) Chester was married, first, to Sarah Tilque, then he married Ethylene Hanson.
- (9) Florence married Arthur Peters.
- (10) Charles married Agnes Tilque. (Note: 4 Christens married 4 Tilques). After Mary died, Philip Henry married Emma Deneys as his second wife.

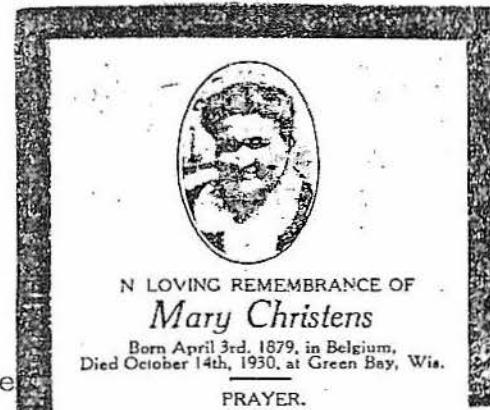
Joseph (b. 12 Mar 1878 and died young).

Rosine (b. 1 Jul 1879 d. 15 Aug 1958) married Jules Deneys and had seven children: Eli married Josephine Tilque; Henry married Lorraine Deneys; Charles married Eva Paral; Lawrence; Clarence; Norbert; and, Woodrow.

Josephine (b. 5 Nov 1882) married Emil Deneys. Their children were: Ervin married Lillian De Bauche; Mary married John Morrow; Lorraine; Norris married Esther Morrow; and, Josephine.

Mary (b. 28 May 1894 d. 12 Apr 1978) was married, first, to Frank Deneys (b. 19 Oct 1885 d. 5 Apr 1936) and then married George Morrow (b. 4 April 1903). Mary's eight children were: Chester; Irene married Lawrence Williquette; Beatrice married Albert Bottott; Evelyn married Clarence (Tom) Poels; Milda married Bernard Ness; Marie married Ray Stencil; Lavern married Ray Lasee; Ronald married Elizabeth Meyers.

Antoinette - no birth or death dates on either Antoinette



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CHRISTENS, CLABOTS FAMILIES.

or Mary. Antoinette and Mary died 3 hours apart from diphtheria - and were age seven and nine, but Mary — - we do not have exact information.

Our thanks to Mrs. Clarence (Evelyn) Poels, granddaughter of Gustav Christens, for the Christens family information.

### CLABOTS

Frans Clabots sailed on the Catherine Augusta with a group of Flemish families from St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province, landing at New York on 29 Jul 1854. Frans (b. 12 Oct 1828) was the son of John Baptiste Clabots and Catharina Abs.

On 6 Sep 1856, the Peter Clabots family landed in New York aboard the Graham Polly. Peter (b. 21 Jul 1797 d. 17 Jan 1888), his wife, Anna Maria Michaux (b. 23 Aug 1799 d. 2 Nov 1872), and their children came from St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province; they were accompanied by a married daughter, Catherine, her husband, Henry Cleereman Sr. and their two-year-old son, Henry Cleereman Jr. Another son, Frank Clabots, had preceded them aboard the Pyramid which docked in New York on 25 Jul 1856. The family settled in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

Catherine (b. 22 Dec 1822 d. 6 Jul 1907) married Henry Cleereman Sr. (see Cleereman Family sketch).

Peter (b. 1826 d. 1902) was a bachelor.

John Baptiste (b. Jul 1829 d. 1918) married Tracy Vanden Houten (b. 1845 d. 1929) and had six children: Rosalie (Virginia) (b. 1867); Frank (b. 1870); Joanna (b. 1872); Louise (b. 1876); Philip (b. 1878 d. 1909) married Sophie De Keyser; Harriet (b. Nov 1882); and, Joseph (b. Apr 1886).

Maria Theresa (b. 15 Dec 1832 d. 2 Feb 1912) married Jacques Collart.

Francis (b. 13 Jul 1836 d. 16 Nov 1896) married Johanna Adams Lamal (b. 16 Jun 1829 d. 1920) (see Adams family sketch). Their seven children were: Jule (b. 1858); Frank (b. 1860); Peter (b. Dec 1861 d. Jul 1948) married Sidonia Vanden Berg and had these children - Lilian (b. 1902 d. 1985) married Bernard Vander Kelen, Rev. Francis, Charles, Albert and William; John (b. 1866); Joseph (b. 1870); Francis (b. 1871); Fred (born Dec 1874 d. 1943) married Lucy Allen (b. Feb 1875 d. 1955).

William (b. 14 Nov 1839) and his wife, Victoria (b. 1846), had two children: Adele and John Baptiste.

Joanna (b. 4 Apr 1843).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CLABOTS, CLEEREMANS FAMILIES.

In the late 1850s, another Clabots family settled in the Town of Rockland. Peter (b. 1830), his wife, Elizabeth (born 1840), and her parents, Frank (b. 1798) and Elizabeth (b. 1797) Roundere (?), lived on a farm with their three sons: Francis (b. 1858); George (b. 1865); and, Frank (b. 1868).

In the 1880s, several Clabots families lived in the Towns of Howard and Suamico. William Clabots (b. 18 Feb 1823 d. 26 Oct 1899) and his wife, Elizabeth Vande Zande left Oud-Heverlee with their seven children, departing from Antwerp on 30 Jul 1881. Their children include:

William (b. 1843).

Pauline (b. 1863).

Emil (Cornelius) (b. May 1868 d. 1933) married Catherine Verheyden, daughter of Jan Baptiste and Cecilia Verheyden.

Fred G. (Ferdinand) (b. Feb 1870) married Mary L. Brunette, daughter of Emanuel Brunette and Therese Walker and had three daughters - Lucille (b. Dec 1897); Beulah (b. Jan 1901); and, Muriel.

Desiré (b. Feb 1875) married Marian La Haye.

Maria Theresa (b. 1878).

William Clabots died at Duck Creek on 26 Oct 1890 at the age of 76. Another William Klabots, perhaps his son, married Catherine Ronsmans, daughter of Jean Baptiste Ronsmans and Catherine Mertens, on 3 April 1888.

Emil Clabots (b. 1868) came to Wisconsin in Aug 1881.

## CLEEREMANS

The Henry Cleeremans family arrived aboard the Graham Polly, which landed in New York on 6 Sep 1856. The family, from St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province, consisted of: Henry (b. 9 Mar 1810 d. 26 Mar 1884), his wife, Catherine Clabots (b. 22 Dec 1822 d. 6 Jul 1907), three children and his brother Charles (born 1827). The family bought eighty acres across from the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church in Preble; there they built the traditional saloon and kermis hall. Their children were:

Joseph (Peter) (b. Nov 1851 d. 18 May 1917) married Maria Angeline Adriaens (b. 20 Sep 1859 d. 31 Oct 1896) and had a farm in Humboldt. Their children were: Joseph (b. May 1881); Virginia (b. 1882 d. 1887); Josephine (b. Mar 1884); Julia (b. Sep 1885); Louisa (b. Aug 1887); Anna Margaret (b. Mar 1889 d. May 1962) married Fred Stimpson; John (b. Sep 1890); Pauline (b. Jan 1892); Frederick (b. Sep 1893); and, Theresa (b. Nov 1894).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CLEEREMANS, COLLARD FAMILIES.

Henry (b. 17 Jun 1854 d. 31 Dec 1931) (a twin) married Louise Draye (b. Feb 1859 d. Jan 1917). They owned and operated a lumber company. Their six children were: Henry (b. Sep 1882) married Sadie Fontaine; Anna (b. Apr 1884); Anton (b. Nov 1890); Hubert (b. Mar 1893); William (b. Mar 1895); and Irene (b. 1901).

William (b. 17 Jun 1854 d. 30 Oct 1918) (a twin) married Julia Bourguignon (b. Nov 1857) who emigrated in 1872; they ran a sawmill in Preble. Their children were: Julia (b. May 1884); Flora (b. Jan 1892); and, William (b. Mar 1898).

Joanna (b. 1858 d. 1870).

Rosalie (b. 1859 d. 1870).

Another Cleeremans family from St. Joris Weert came to the Green Bay area in August 1867. Frank Cleeremans (b. 20 Mar 1803 d. 1877) and his wife, Joanna Maria De Lang (b. 1806 d. 1872), departed from Antwerp with their five children. Joanna's name appears in various documents as Hannah and Josie De Jong. Their children were:

Maria Elizabeth (b. 6 Nov 1839).

Charles (b. 14 Jul 1841) married Caroline Arkins, daughter of John Baptiste Arkins and Joanna Bendels of Huldenberg, in Oct 1870. Some of their twelve children were: John Baptiste (b. 1874); Jennie (b. 1875); Mary (b. 1876) married Charles Wetts; Joseph (b. 1877); Susanne (b. 1879); Frank (b. Mar 1881); Alex (b. Sep 1884) married Anna Forsythe; Peter (b. Nov 1886); Jules (b. Mar 1887); Felix (b. Apr 1889); Rose (b. Jun 1891); Susan (b. May 1892); and, Anton (b. Feb 1894). They lived in the Red River area.

Frank (b. 8 Apr 1845) was a blacksmith at Bay Settlement and lost his wife early. Their children were: Minnie (b. May 1882) and August (b. Nov 1883).

Henry (b. 19 Apr 1847).

Alexander (b. 28 May 1850 d. 1901) married Sophie Simeons (born Apr 1855 in Ohio) of Duck Creek. Their eight children were: Cecilia (b. Oct 1875); Joseph (b. Aug 1879); Rosa (b. Feb 1882); Angeline (b. Sep 1885); Anna (b. Oct 1887); Lucia (b. Jan 1890); William (b. Mar 1892); and, Lorene (b. Jun 1894).

## COLLARD

In Flemish, the d at the end of a word is often pronounced as a t, so this name was often spelled as COLLART. Families with this name, who came to America, were mostly from the Village of

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE COLLARD FAMILY.

Nethen, which is close to the dividing line between Walloons and Flemish; some Collards considered themselves Walloon, others said that they were Flemish. Two early Collart families settled in the Town of Humboldt, two in the Town of Scott.

August Collard (b. 23 Jun 1816 d. 1898), son of Pierre Collart and Maria Ronsmans, and his wife, Barbara Demanet (b. 1817 d. 19 Dec 1898), and their family departed Antwerp on the Emerald Isle on 22 Sep 1855 for Liverpool where they transferred to the ship, Calbarina, for the trip to New York. The occupation of August was given as mason and his hometown was Nethen, where his brewery still stands. The Collarts bought property in south-central Humboldt but spent their declining years in the City of Green Bay. Their children were:

Desiré (b. Feb 1841) and his wife, Fernanda (b. Oct 1851) had thirteen children, some of whom were: Hortense (b. 1869); Joseph (b. 1870); Gregory (b. Aug 1879); Flora (b. Mar 1882); Philomena (b. May 1884); and, Ida (b. May 1891). Desiré served in the 17th. Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.

John Baptiste (b. 1842) was a bachelor.

Maria Theresa Melanie (b. 1843) married Francois Daniels.

Philippe Edward (b. 1847 d. 29 Aug 1910) married Elizabeth (Desiré) Peigneier (b. Dec 1854) and had seventeen children, ten were living at the time of the 1900 census: Lallie (b. Mar 1883); Rosine (b. Jun 1885); Julia (b. Feb 1886); Annie (b. 1889); Desere (b. Feb 1891); Josephine (b. Aug 1893); Willie (b. Jun 1894); Soncha (b. Apr 1897); and, John (b. Apr 1899).

Jacques Theophile (b. 5 Mar 1850 d. 1908) married Nathalia Giel (b. Oct 1857). Some of their children were: Philomene (b. 1872); Josephine (b. Sep 1878); Flora (b. May 1880); Octave (b. Jan 1888); Lilly (b. Feb 1891); Viola (b. Aug 1894); and, Armand (b. May 1898).

Jean Joseph (b. 26 Aug 1851) was a bachelor.

Prosperina (b. 1855) married (1) Victor Kaye, (2) Desiré Giel (Gille) in 1873, (3) a Jadin, and (4) a Bayan. Her daughter, Lilian Giel, married Ameil Umberham.

Octavia (b. 1860).

Jacques Joseph Collard (b. 1 Sep 1833 d. 20 Dec 1906) accompanied his older brother, August, to America. There he married Maria Theresa Clabots (b. 15 Dec 1832 d. 2 Feb 1912). Some of their children were:

Desiré (b. 1858) married Octavia Barse and had a son, Henry.

Julia (b. 1862) married Adrian Van Oss and had six children.

Hortense (b. 15 Jul 1863) married Nicolaus Barras and had two daughters.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE COLLARD, COLLE, COLLUYING FAMILIES.

Gustave (b. 1866) married Maria Berger and had a daughter, Maria.

Edward (b. 1868) married Sylvia Simonet and had a daughter, Alvina.

Victor (b. 9 Jan 1878 d. 15 Sep 1921) married Maria Theresa Beth; their children were: James; Arthur; Clement married Virginia Bell; Norbert; Victor; Josephine; Edward; Roman; Armella married Al Maricque; and, Lawrence.

The Desiré Collard family settled in the Town of Humboldt. Desiré (b. 1815 d. 1896) was married to Antonette Dassis (b. 1820). Desiré was probably a cousin of August and Jacques Joseph Collard. Some of the children of Desiré and Antonette were: Mary A. (b. 1844 d. 9 Mar 1892); Anna (b. 1846 d. 1893); Ferdinand (b. 1850 d. 16 Nov 1908); and, Jan Baptista (b. 1861 d. 1948) married Josephine (born July 1868 d. 1939) and had these daughters - Julia (b. June 1884), Emma (b. Oct 1885) married Frank Jauquet, Clara (b. Aug 1887) married Frank Jauquet after Emma's death, Ida (b. Mar 1890), Nettie M. (b. Aug 1891), Jennie (b. Oct 1894) and Nora J. (b. Nov 1897).

The John J. Collard family settled in the north part of the Town of Scott, next to the Verhulst family. John (b. 1815) and his wife, Anna (b. 1818), had at least two children: Antoine (b. 1858) and Mary (b. 1862).

Louis Collard (b. Dec 1840) and his wife, Flora (b. Nov 1843), both came to the U.S. in 1856. In 1900, six of their children were living - three are listed here: John (b. Feb 1875); Augustin (b. Mar 1877); and, Frank (b. Mar 1887).

Our thanks to Mrs. Clement (Virginia) Collard for sending us her Collard Family History.

### COLLE

Eugene Colle (b. 1840) came to the U.S. in 1881. His wife, Josephine (b. 1852), followed the next year. Their children were: John L. (b. 1879); Herman (b. 1886); Alfred (b. 1886); and, Amelia who married a Shilker.

### COLLUYING

Francis Colluying (b. 8 Feb 1871) and his wife, Rosina Coopmans (b. 18 Jun 1874), both of Oud-Heverlee, left for America in December 1907.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE COLOGNE, COOPMANS FAMILIES.

COLOGNE

Alphonse Cologne (b. 1871) and his wife, Virginia (born 1874), brought their four children to America in 1905. The children were: Felix (b. 1896); Jules (b. 1899); Julia (b. 1907); and, Henry (b. 1909).

COOPMANS

(Also spelled KOOPMANS)

The first members of this family to arrive in the U.S. were three brothers who came over in May 1856 from Huldenberg. These brothers were: Peter Koopmans (b. 1792) who settled in the Town of Scott; Alex Koopmans (b. 1811); and, Jan and his wife, Johanna (b. 1814), whose son, John, died as a youth. One of Peter's daughters married John Vande Zande. Jan Koopmans settled in the Town of Humboldt.

A generation later, four more Coopmans emigrated from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province. Frank Coopmans (b. 18 Dec 1859), son of William Coopmans and Barbara Devan, came to West Green Bay in 1885 and farmed there. His wife, Catherine (b. Jul 1869), and he, had three children: Elizabeth (b. Jul 1894); Henry (b. Feb 1896); and, Mary (b. 1898). Frank had a twin brother, Henry (born 18 Dec 1859), who left Belgium on 18 May 1889 and married Philipine Roskom.

Peter Coopmans (b. Dec 1872) came to the U.S. in April 1888. He married Amelia Crabbe (b. Feb 1876) in 1895 and settled on a farm in the Town of Howard. Their children were: John (b. Jan 1895); Henry (b. Oct 1897); Elizabeth (b. Sep 1899 d. Feb 1903); Rosina (b. 1903); Edward (b. 1905); Louisa (b. 1908); and Mary J. (b. 1909).

Henri and Catherine Coopmans, both born around 1860, migrated in June 1889. Their children were: Henry (b. 1891); Elizabeth (b. 1894); Mary (b. 1898); Anna (b. 1901); Felix (b. 1905); and, Rose (b. 1909).

Jean Baptiste Coopmans (b. Nov 1863) migrated in April 1892 and married Maria Wauters (b. Apr 1870) in 1894. Some of their children were: Annie (b. Mar 1894); Rosa (b. Jun 1896); Lily (b. Apr 1900); Joseph (b. 1904); Hattie (b. 1906); and, Emma (b. 1908). Maria's mother, Mary Coopmans Wauters (b. Feb 1826) lived with them in 1900.

Philip Coopmans (b. 1876) and his wife, Louise (b. 1870) came to America in 1906. Their children were: Louise, Arthur,

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE COOPMANS, COPPENS FAMILIES.

Lucy married Paul Muldoon, Rosa, Francis, Mary and Elizabeth.

Felix Coopmans (b. 15 Jul 1888 d. 1948) married Flora April. Their children were: Mrs. W.E. Reimer, Mrs. Otto Woechner, Mrs. Frank Hall and a son, Walter Coopmans.

### COPPENS

Most, if not all of the Coppens came from St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province. Two families landed in New York on the Catherina Augusta on 29 Jul 1854 and proceeded to Wisconsin where they settled in the middle of the Town of Humboldt. Frank Coppens (b. 26 Mar 1804) and his wife, Elizabeth Jooris (b. 10 Jun 1798 d. circa 1875), had one child, John Joseph (b. Sep 1836 d. 1902), who married the local school marm, Emilia Martha Hendricks (b. May 1848) in 1871. Their children were: Allyce (b. 1872); William (b. Jul 1874); Frank (b. Mar 1877); Charles (b. Oct 1879); Rose (b. Dec 1882); Albert (b. Mar 1885); Fred (b. Sep 1888); and, Edward (b. Mar 1891). John J. Coppens served in the 50th. Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.

The second family was headed by William Coppens (b. 18 Sep 1818 d. circa 1875) and his wife, Anna Catherine Van Ermel (b. Sep 1820 d. 29 Dec 1896). Their children were: Rosalie (b. 1844); Philip (b. 19 Nov 1847 d. 1906) married Sidonia Bredael (b. 1849 d. 1921) and had six children - Henry (b. Aug 1875 d. 1949), John (b. Apr 1877 d. 1931), Adeline (b. Jan 1879 d. 1922), Frank (b. 1880), Mary (b. Aug 1881) and Joseph (b. Nov 1888 d. 1946); Virginia; Philipine (b. 1859); and, Janette (b. 1868).

Jean Baptiste Coppens (b. 22 Aug 1831) and his second wife, Pauline Vanden Plas (b. 1825 d. 1900), from Oud-Heverlee, landed at New York City on 16 Oct 1878 and settled in the Town of Preble. The children from the first marriage were: John B. Jr. (b. 1858); Felix (b. 1860); Josephine (b. 1862). Children from the second marriage were: Maria Louisa (b. May 1868); Anna (b. 9 Mar 1874) married John Peters (b. Oct 1870) in 1895.

William Coppens (b. 1861) came to the U.S. in August 1881. His wife, Mary, came in 1883. Their children were: Frank (b. 1889); Annie (b. 1893); and, Edward G. (b. 2 Jun 1902 d. 30 Nov 1966), see Mass Card.

Another John Baptiste Coppens (b. 1858) came to the U.S. on board the Belgenland on 15 Oct 1881 and settled in the Town

"We have loved him in life, let us not forget him in death."



In Loving Memory Of

Edward G. Coppens

BORN JUNE 2, 1902

DIED NOVEMBER 30, 1966

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE COPPENS FAMILY.

of Humboldt with his wife, Tracy (b. 1863). Three of their five children were: William (b. 1891); Alphonse (b. 1894); Katherine (b. 1890) married Wenzel Shimek.

Philip J. Coppens (b. Nov 1857) arrived in 1882 and settled in the Town of Humboldt with his wife, Therese (b. Oct 1862) in 1884. Their children were: Charles (b. May 1883 d. 1944) married Celia Boucher; John (b. Mar 1885); Kate (b. Jun 1889); Willie (b. Feb 1892); and, Alphonse (b. 1893).

Christofel Coppens (b. 1863) and his wife, Rosa (b. 1873), came to the U.S. in 1890. Two of their children were: John (b. 1906) and Irma (b. 1908).

Fred Coppens (b. Sep 1863), son of Bernard Coppens and Constance Lievens, married Rosa Loignon of Bellevue, daughter of Charles Loignon and Mary Rousseau in 1891. They settled in the Duck Creek area.

William Coppens (b. 27 Apr 1872) came to the U.S. in early 1906, then sent for his family. They arrived in Green Bay on 9 Apr 1906 from St. Joris Weert. Mrs. Coppens was Rosalia Steen-beek (b. 27 Jan 1871); their children were:

Anna Maria (b. 3 Nov 1892) married Vital (Sam) Crabb and had four children: Mildred, Donald, Robert and Marian.

Henry (b. 1894) married Josephine Mommaerts (b. 1893) and had four children.

Nettie (b. 1898) married Carl A. Stark (b. 1900) and had one child.

Jules (b. 1900) married Marie Lemerond (b. 1902) and had three children.

Florence (b. 1902) married Veniah Langer (b. 1901) and had one child.

Julia (b. 1904) married, first to Dale Abe, and then married Gordon Brink. There were no children.

Celia (b. 1907 d. 1910).

Margaret (b. 1909 d. 1909).

George (b. 1910 d. 1910).

Norman (b. 1911) married Margaret Goulder and had three children.

Elisa Coppens emigrated about 1906 with her husband, Joseph Motif.

The 1880 census for the Town of Humboldt, lists the following family: Coppens, Dennie (Denis?), age 60; his wife; her son,

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE COPPENS, COPPERSMITH FAMILIES.

Paul, age 29; Paul's wife, Philipine, age 22; and Paul and Philipine's son, Joseph, age 6 months.

We thank Anna Marie Coppens (Mrs. Samuel) Crabb and her daughter, Mildred Crabb Klimek for information on the William Coppens family.

COPPERSMITH

(Also spelled COPPERSMETTE)

Coppersmith (Copismet) families settled in the Town of Green Bay, Wrightstown and Howard. Alex Coppersmith (b. 1811) and his wife, Deseree Mairener (or Meuron) (b. 1819) of Nethen, brought their family to the U.S. on board the Francis Cutting, which landed at New York harbor 14 April 1856. Their family included: Desiré Coppersmith (b. Aug 1835), his son, Matthias (b. Nov 1860), who was a stone-cutter like his father, Matthias' wife, Martha (b. Sep 1867), and their children - Ella (b. Aug 1886), Lilie (b. Mar 1892), Clara (b. Apr 1895), Clarence (b. May 1897), and Myrtle (b. Aug 1899); Marcel (b. 1839), his wife, Mary (b. 1844), and their daughter, Mary (b. Aug 1869); Isadore (b. 22 Nov 1842); Clotilda (b. 1845); Stephanie (b. 1850); and, Flora (b. 20 Oct 1854). (Clotilda is also Apollonia and Stephanie is Louisa).

Albert Coppersmith was a stone-cutter in the Rioux Quarry at Duck Creek. His wife, Mary (b. Jan 1843), and he had these children: Albert (b. Feb 1870) and his part-Menominee-Indian wife, Philomene (b. Apr 1874), had three children - Reginald (b. Jun 1894), Mildred (b. Apr 1896) and Chester (b. Mar 1898); John (b. Apr 1880); and, Sarah (b. Nov 1882).

Maria Koppersmith (b. 1872 d. 8 Jul 1906), wife of Albert Vanden Berg, was a member of St. John the Baptist Church at Duck Creek and is buried at Fox Hill Cemetery.

Louis Coppersmith married Camille Vander Meulen; their son, George, was baptized at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in September 1893.

Marshal Copsmet is listed as an employee of the Rioux Stone Quarry at Duck Creek in 1882.

Theodore Coppersmith (b. 1866) and his wife, Mary (b. 1870), had these children: Mary, Gladys, Hazel and Henry.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CORSTENS, COULARD, CROMBRUGGE, CRABB FAMILIES.

### CORSTENS

This name was also spelled Korstjens. Both Dutch and Flemish Corstens came to Wisconsin; most settled in the Town of Scott. Henry Corstens (b. 1794) and his wife, Anna (b. 1801), are shown on the 1860 census as Belgian, and these children are listed: Joseph (b. 1826); Catherine (b. 1832); Vervis (b. 1840); and, Theresa (b. 1858).

### COULARD

Peter and Colette Coulard, both born in 1880, migrated to the U.S. in 1908. Their children were: Emily (b. 1900); Rose (b. 1902); Louise (b. 1903); Desiré (b. 1907); twins, Sophie and Josephine (b. 1910).

### CROMBRUGGE

René Crombrugge, who was later the Belgian consul at Green Bay, was born on 29 Apr 1880 at St. Josse-Ten-Noode, Brussels, the son of Victor van Crombrugge and Catherine Vander Smessen. René came to the U.S. in 1907 and worked for the Joannes Brothers Wholesale Grocery Company. He married Melanie de Moor, the daughter of Jacques de Moor and Hortense De Raeve. Their children were: Georgette, Lucien and Prudence.

### CRABB

The most common Flemish spelling is CRABBE and CRAB. In America, some families spell it CROPP and KROPP.

Philip Crab (b. 19 Mar 1807) and his wife, Frances Coppens (b. 10 Mar 1811), daughter of Joanna Horckmans and Francis Coppens, brought their family from St. Joris Weert to America on the Catherina Augusta which docked at New York on 29 Jul 1854. Their children were:

Josepha (b. 8 Aug 1834).

John Francis Kropp (b. 13 Apr 1835 d. 23 Feb 1912) married Katherine Goebel (b. 28 Nov 1840 d. 1 Nov 1911). Their ten children were:

- (1) John married Maria Kraus on 14 Mar 1895.
- (2) Josephine married Charles Decker.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CRABB FAMILY.

- (3) Frank (b. 1871).
- (4) Philip (b. 1875 d. 14 Nov 1938) married Lucy Pellegrin (b. 4 Oct 1889 d. 1927).
- (5) Henry (b. 12 Mar 1878 d. 5 Dec 1960) married Lucy Tilly (b. 4 Oct 1881 d. 9 Jan 1974).
- (6) Anna (b. 1879) married a Brown.
- (7) Fred (b. 19 Jun 1881 d. 5 Mar 1956) married Elsie Jane Herring (b. 30 Apr 1888 d. 26 Jul 1964).
- (8) Charles (b. 11 Apr 1883 d. 26 Aug 1966) married Clara Nys (b. 26 Jun 1890 d. 15 Apr 1965).
- (9) Hubert (b. 1867 d. 25 Dec 1969) was a bachelor.
- (10) Elizabeth (b. 6 Jun 1888 d. 16 Nov 1975) married John Lewis (b. 24 Jun 1885 d. 29 Jun 1967).

John Baptiste (b. 7 Nov 1840).

Philomena (b. 8 Oct 1847).

Joseph (b. Dec 1849) married Rosalia Callewaerts and had a son, Herbert (b. 1894 d. 27 Dec 1969).

Felix (Fred) (b. Aug 1853) married Anna \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Sep 1859) and had ten children: William (b. Aug 1882); Josephine (b. Jan 1884); Frances (b. May 1886); Anna (b. Aug 1888) married Ted Nockerts; Mary (b. Oct 1890); Rosa (b. Nov 1892); Hubert (b. Jul 1894); Catherine (b. Aug 1895); Jennie (b. Jul 1898); and, Albert (b. 1900).

Leopold (b. 1855).

Francis Philip Crabbe, born in Oud-Heverlee on 16 Dec 1833, was the son of William Crabbe and Maria Anna Tuyls. He departed from Antwerp aboard the Gaston on 2 May 1855. In 1860, he was living in the Town of Humboldt with Henry Crabbe (b. 1854) and Philomena Crabbe (b. 1852) who married Frank Vincent. Francis Philip Crabbe and his wife, Gertrude, had one son, Philip, who married Catherine Tillmans and settled in De Pere. They had only one son, Frank (b. May 1862), who married Alice Vander Heyden (b. Feb 1859) of Oconto. Frank and Alice had five children: Katie (b. Dec 1880); Cecilia (b. Jan 1882); Philip (b. May 1884); Tracy (b. Jan 1887); and, George (b. Jan 1891). After Catherine Tillmans died, Philip's second wife was Gertrude Sanders of De Pere. Their son, Joseph (b. Nov 1871) married Nellie Kersten - two of their children were: Philip and Gertrude.

Joseph B. Crabbe, son of Jean Crabbe and Pauline Vande Zande, was born in Oud-Heverlee on 11 Jun 1867 and arrived in New York on 13 Apr 1889. His wife, Rosa Callawaerts (b. 19 Jul 1879), daughter of Frank Callewaerts and Victoria Gilling, arrived in the U.S. in 1882; they were married in 1894, lived in Preble and some of their children were: Virginia (b. Jun 1896); Henriette (b. Oct 1899); and, Frank (b. 1901).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE CRABB, CUMPS, DACHELET, DAEMS FAMILIES.

On 2 Aug 1892, Henry Crabb (b. 6 Dec 1862) and his wife, Amelia Schroeders (b. 2 Aug 1892), arrived in Green Bay with their family from St. Joris Weert. Their seven children were:

Sophie (b. Mar 1884) married August Van Meerbeek.

Flora (b. May 1885) married Frank Rondou.

Louis (b. Oct 1887) married Nettie Vande Zande.

Samuel (Vital) (b. 6 Nov 1891) married Anna Maria Coppens and had four children: Mildred, Donald, Robert and Marian.

John (b. Feb 1893) married Rose Lurquin. Their daughter is Margaret Crabb Nickodem.

Louisa (b. Mar 1896) married Oliver Eugene.

Lucy (b. Apr 1898 d. 1927) married Anton Monfils.

After his wife, Antonette De Raymakers, died in 1893, Frank B. (Joseph) Crabbe (b. 9 Dec 1847) left Oud-Heverlee for America and lived in Mill Center and later in Mobridge, South Dakota. Their children were: Emil (b. Oct 1875 d. 1938) married Emma (b. 1880), and had these children - Louise, Elizabeth married Joseph Michael, Leona married Philip Vande Zande, William and Emil Jr. (b. 3 Apr 1905 d. 1967) married Christina Schoeck (b. 21 May 1939); Henry; and, Francis.

CUMPS (see KIMPS)

DACHELET

Felix Dachelet (b. 1873) married Louise De Keyser (b. 1877) and had these children: Mayme (b. 1901); Elenor (b. 1903); Joseph (b. 1906); and, Cecilia (b. 1908).

DAEMS

Reverend Edward Daems (b. 1826 d. 1879) served in parishes around Green Bay from 1851 onward. See Appendix A.

August Daems was born in Langdorp, Brabant Province, on 19 Feb 1846, the son of Jacobus Daems and Petronella De Kock. He married Regina Bekaerts (b. Sep 1843) in 1867 at Langdorp; she was the daughter of Norbert Bekaert and Sophia Vander Zecker. They came to Green Bay with a Belgian colony in August 1882, where he first cooked in a lumber camp, then opened his own bakery in

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DAEMS, DANIELS, DANSEY FAMILIES.

the City of Green Bay. Their children were: Theodore (b. Jul 1874) married Vina Schaetzle; Irma married Henry Willart; Celina (b. Nov 1879); and, Emma. They were not related to Father Daems but were cousins of Father Damien of Molokai leper fame.

### DANIELS

Jean Baptiste Daniels (b. 1811) and his wife, Joanna Vanden Bosch (b. 1809), each had previous marriages. They left their hometown of St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, and sailed to the U.S. aboard the Lochinvar, landing in November 1855. They settled, originally in the Town of Humboldt. Joanna had three children with John Baptiste Vanden Plas - they were: Anna Marie (b. Apr 1836); Fred (b. Mar 1843); and, William (b. Dec 1845).

A son of Jean Baptiste Daniels, by his first marriage, was:

Francois (b. May 1835 d. 1908) married Melanie Collard (b. 1843) and had ten children:

- (1) Emil (b. 1856).
- (2) Edward (b. 1867) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Aug 1872) and had these children: Frank; Elizabeth; Joseph and Margaret.
- (3) Adele (b. 1869).
- (4) Clara (b. 1871).
- (5) Tilly (b. 1872).
- (6) Joseph (b. 1873) married Adeline Van Bever and had these children: Felix Victor; Walter; Lilian; and, Violet.
- (7) Moses (b. May 1878).
- (8) Desire (b. Apr 1879).
- (9) Frank (b. Jan 1883).
- (10) George (b. May 1885).

Francois Daniels served in the Civil War.

Jean Baptiste and Joanna Daniels had these children during their marriage:

Joseph Peter (b. 13 Apr 1849) married Mary Christina VeKielmans(?) (b. Apr 1854), daughter of Louis McKielmans(?) and Mary E. De Lang of St. Joris Weert in 1873. Of their thirteen children, eleven were living in 1900 and three in 1910. Some of their children were: Edward (b. 1870); Rosa (b. May 1875); Frederick (b. Aug 1880); and, Elizabeth (b. Sep 1888).

Anna Maria (b. 1854).

In 1912, another Daniels family emigrated from St. Joris Weert to Green Bay. William Daniels (b. 11 Aug 1878) and his wife, Virginia Bervoets (b. 15 Sep 1885 at Oud-Heverlee), brought their family of three children to the United States. Their children were: Albert John (b. 1904); Francis (b. Nov 1905); Maria Theresa (born 1911); and, Fred (b. 1914).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DANSEY, DANTINE, DART, DAWE, DEALEN FAMILIES.

### DANSEY

Frank Dansey (b. Jun 1840) came to the U.S. in 1868. He lived in Marinette County with his wife, Lucy (b. Jul 1853), and these children: James (b. Aug 1875); John (b. Dec 1878); Joseph (b. Jul 1881); Frank (b. Nov 1883); Mary (b. May 1887); Josephine (b. Jan 1889); Rosa (b. Jul 1890); Maggie (b. Jul 1896); and, Irvin (b. Jan 1898).

### DANTINE

In 1910, Julian Dantine (b. 1881) listed himself as Flemish. He lived at Pound, Wisconsin with his wife, Ida (b. 1887), and daughter, Leona (b. 1908).

### DART

There were several Dart families that emigrated, some Walloon and some Flemish. One of the latter, from Nethen, settled near Luxemburg. Eugene Dart (b. 1845 d. 1924) married Joseph Hermans (b. 1851 d. 1930). Their children are: Eli; August; Deseree married Louis Vanden Houten; Odile married Eugene Vanden Houten; John; Jule; Louise married Charles Matheys; Mary married Victor Lourent; Wilbert; Charles; and, William.

In 1900, the Felix Dart Family was living in De Pere. Felix (b. Mar 1859) and Mary (b. May 1858) had ten children living when that census was taken: Julia (b. Feb 1881); Bertha (b. Feb 1883); Ida (b. Apr 1885); Simon (b. Jul 1886); Geneva (b. Oct 1888); George (b. Nov 1890); Tillie (b. May 1892); Philip (b. Feb 1894); and, Lorina (b. Aug 1899).

### DAWE

A Dawe family emigrated in 1872. Isadore Dawe (b. May 1836) and his wife, Frances (b. Oct 1836), had seven children, two in Green Bay: Euphrasie (b. Nov 1875) and Mary (b. May 1878).

### DEALEN

Frank Dealen (b. 1872) emigrated in 1896. He lived in Pound, Wisconsin with his wife, Barbara (b. 1883), and children: John (b. 1903); Dorothy (b. 1907); and, Mary (b. 1908).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE BECKER, DE BOERS, DE BOT FAMILIES.

### DE BECKER

Leopold De Becker (b. 1798) and his wife, Theresa (b. 1799), brought their family from Huldenberg in July 1855. The early censuses show Leopold (b. 1836) and Sidonia (b. 1841).

Alfred De Beck (b. 1845 d. 1923) served in the Civil War.

Mary Catherine De Becker came to the U.S. in 1869 with her husband, Josef De Leers.

Joseph De Becker (b. 1857) came to the U.S. in April 1881.

### DE BOERS

This name has been spelled De Booss, Du Bois, De Bos and De Boes. The family came from Huldenberg to the Town of Eaton in the mid-1850s, headed by Philip De Boers (b. 1810) and Maria Watermolen. Peter De Booss (b. 1857) married Elizabeth Bomska in 1878. Maria De Booss (b. 1821 d. 24 Apr 1889) was the wife of Henry Kumps. Josephine De Booss married Peter Yedael of Smeiburg (Huldenberg), Brabant Province, in 1870. Anna Maria De Booss married Jean Baptiste Laye (Loy) in Belgium. There was also William De Booss (b. 1830) who lived with the Loy family.

### DE BOT

Some family members have changed their name to De Both. Bot means blunt or flat in Flemish.

Victor and Sophie De Bot, both born in 1849, emigrated in 1886.

John Baptiste De Bot (b. 23 Oct 1845 d. 18 Sep 1919) was the son of Peter De Bot and Anna Maria Van Vlasselaer of Bierbeek, Brabant Province. John Baptiste married Anna Catherine Lefevre (b. 1 Aug 1850 at Bierbeek d. 1 Sep 1887); they brought their seven children to America, landing at Philadelphia in March 1887. Their children were:

Felix (b. 7 Jul 1873 d. 23 Jun 1938) married Mary Neerdaels; and had nine children: Lena, John, Rose, Philip, Joseph, Clara, Margaret, Lorraine and Ruth.

Peter (b. 4 Aug 1875) disappeared after marrying Elizabeth

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE BOT, DE BOTH FAMILIES.

Roskam (b. 4 Jun 1878 d. 25 Feb 1964) and fathering these four children: Nettie, Mabel, Arthur and Philomene.

Anna Maria (b. 2 Jun 1876 d. 7 Jul 1954) married Joseph Puis-sant and had three children: Bertha, Alma and Mabel.

Victor (b. 19 Aug 1878 d. 14 Sep 1935) married Maria Elizabeth Van Ermens (b. 9 Sep 1873 d. 7 Feb 1955) and had eight children: Louis, Harry, Agnes and five others who died as infants.

John Joseph (b. 19 Jul 1880 d. 7 Dec 1962) married Anna Hlinak (b. 3 Sep 1888 d. 8 Jul 1965) and had six children: Catherine, Lillian, Edward, Earl, Vernon and Angeline.

Anton (b. 16 Nov 1882 d. 24 Oct 1953) married Mary Ann Maier (b. 30 May 1902) and had five children: Eileen, Dolores, Donald, James and Marilyn.

Bertha (b. 3 Aug 1884 d. 14 Feb 1959) married Joseph Charles Neerdeael (b. 26 May 1887 d. 17 Oct 1963) and had five children: George, Alfred, Robert, Maurice and Adolph.

Baby died in infancy; mother died in childbirth in 1887.

John Baptiste married, as his second wife, Leona Dessar Befay (b. 21 Jun 1855 d. 19 Dec 1918). Leona had four children from a previous marriage: Frank, Joe, Denny and Mary.

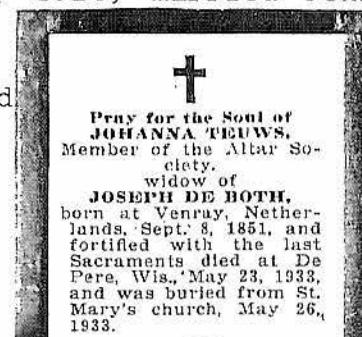
Condensed from Branches And Twigs by Dianne Mommaerts De Both.

### DE BOTH

Antoine De Both (b. 2 Jun 1811 d. 20 Feb 1899) married Johanna Maria Servaes (b. 2 Apr 1813 d. 1 Feb 1905); they lived in Ottenburg, Brabant Province. When their daughter, Sophie, was nine weeks old, they sold their farm, blacksmith shop, tavern and community center and left Antwerp aboard a sailing ship on 4 Jul 1856. The De Boths had a farm and lime-kiln south of De Pere for awhile, then moved to the city and ran a saloon. They had nine children:

Barbara Isabella (b. 7 Feb 1843 d. 16 May 1924) married John 1924) married John B. Heyrman (see Heyrmans family sketch).

Joseph (b. 9 May 1845 d. 20 Nov 1924) married Johanna Teeuws (b. Sep 1850 d. 23 May 1933) (see Mass Card) and lived in the Town of Glenmore. Nine of their fourteen children were living in 1900: Louis (b. Dec 1875); Marie married Charles Wolf; William (b. Oct



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE BOTH, DE BREWER FAMILIES.

1879); Josephine (b. Feb 1880); Henry (b. Mar 1882); Mina (b. Jul 1884); John (b. Oct 1886); Lottie (b. Mar 1890) married Fred Boyce; and, Frances (b. Apr 1892).

Frances (b. 1847).

Mary (b. 1849 d. 1928) married Frank Van Straten and moved to Portland, Oregon. Among their sixteen children were: Helena, Charles, Anna, Albert, Sophie, Mae, Hattie (Mrs. Smythe), Gertrude, and, Anthony married Mary Mertens of De Pere .

Sophie (b. 28 Apr 1856 d. Feb 1933) married, as her first husband, Peter Van Straten; her second husband was a Mathis; her third husband was a Van Dyke and they had one adopted daughter, (Mr. Van Dyke had a son who was a Norbertine priest).

Frank (b. 9 Jan 1858 d. 22 Dec 1936) married Joanna Maes (b. Sep 1857). Their twelve children were: Anton married Nettie De Brien; Louisa (b. Jan 1878); Albert (b. Sep 1879); Mary N. (b. Dec 1881); Sophie (b. Nov 1883) married Albert Secor; John (b. Oct 1885); August (b. Sep 1888); Lena (b. Oct 1890); Harry (b. Nov 1892); Rosella (b. May 1895) married Howard Macco; Clara (b. May 1898); and, Margaret (b. May 1900).

Martin (b. 15 Mar 1859 d. 1 Jan 1940) married Mary Villiesse on 28 Oct 1884. Their three children include: Mary (b. 1891); a doctor; and a son who died in the 1918 flu epidemic. Father Martin Anderegg was best man at Martin's wedding and also celebrated his funeral-mass.

Felix (b. 2 Apr 1861 d. Oct 1948) married Anna Clark (b. 1848 d. 1931). Their children were: Mamie, Carl and Alfred.

The research on this family history was by Mrs. Harold (Marcella) Kuypers and was sent to us by Jean and Mark Dobereiner, who received it from Gordon Wolf of Willard, Wisconsin.

## DE BREWER

The Flemish name for this family is DE BROUWER.

Anton De Brewer (b. 1825) brought his family to the U.S. around 1858 and settled in the Wrightstown area. His wife was born in 1823 and they had at least six children: Joseph (b. 1855); Mary (b. 1856); Elizabeth (b. 1861); Charles (b. 1864); Lewis (b. 1866); and, Philomena (b. 1868).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DECKER, DE CLEENE FAMILIES.

## DECKER

On some records this name is spelled DELCORTE and DECKERT.

Constans Decker (b. 1831) and his wife, Mary Hortense (b. 1827, came to the U.S. in 1854 and settled in the Town of Howard. Some of their children were:

Sylvia (b. 16 Dec 1853 d. 28 Mar 1893) married Joseph Kimp and had twelve children.

Mary (b. 1857) married Frank Steeno.

Charles (b. 1859) married Josephine Crab.

Louise (b. 1861).

Henry (b. 1862) married Lydia \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1864) and had seven children: Josephine (b. 1886); Arthur (b. 1888); Fred (b. 1890); Tilly (b. 1893); Elena (b. 1895); David (b. 1898); Lena (b. 1904).

Alex (b. 1867).

A Maria Theresa Decker married Francis Oryall.

## DE CLEENE

Peter and John De Cleene emigrated to America in 1872 from Verrebroek, Belgium. They were married in the U.S. and started their families in California.

Peter (b. Mar 1846) and his wife, Coleta Piumbroek (born May 1849) emigrated in 1872 and settled on a farm in the Town of De Pere in the Summer of 1879. Their children were: Mary (born Apr 1875); Frank (b. Oct 1877) married Mary Van Straten (b. 1877) and had these children - Ellsworth, Herbert and Raphael; Lydia (b. Nov 1878); twins, Louise (married Peter Van Straten) and Josephine (b. Feb 1880); Peter (b. Nov 1883); Joseph (b. Feb 1885); Bernard (b. Jan 1888) married Florence Doherty; Aloysius (b. Apr 1890); and, William (b. Aug 1892).

John De Cleene (b. Jun 1847) and his wife, Morgana Piumbroek (b. 22 Dec 1858 d. 1939), emigrated in 1872, and returned to the Town of Rockland from California around 1882. Their children were: Antoine (b. Dec 1877); Frank (b. Aug 1878); John (born May 1883); M. Dorothy (b. 1886); Louis (b. Apr 1893); and, Peter (b. Jun 1895). Both Louis and Peter became priests.

Aloyse De Cleene (b. 1858) came to the U.S. in 1890 with his wife, Delaphine (Hermans) and stepdaughter, Ida Hermans.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE CLERK, DE COCKX, DE COSTER FAMILIES.

DE CLERK

Charles De Clercq (b. 1870) came from Beernem, Belgium in 1890. His wife was born in 1876 and their son, Loyal, was born in 1904.

DE COCKX

The Flemish spelling for this name is DE COCK.

Felix De Cockx (b. 1846) came to America in 1870. His wife, Antonette (b. Sep 1857) emigrated in 1872. Felix and Antonette were married in 1877 and had six children: Louisa (b. Jul 1879); Joseph (b. Jul 1881); Henry (b. Jul 1883); Felix (b. Feb 1885); Emma (b. Jan 1892); and, Willie (b. Apr 1894).

DE COSTER

Jean Baptiste De Coster (b. 1818) and his wife, Mary Stark (b. Nov 1819 d. 13 Sep 1897), brought their family from Oud-Heverlee to Wisconsin around 1857. They bought a section of land in northeast Bellevue but moved to Freedom Township in Outagamie County in the early 1860s. Their children were:

Lambert (b. Mar 1844 d. 9 Oct 1922) married Johanna van Kilsdonk of De Pere (died 19 Feb 1932). Their eight children were:

- (1) Florin.
- (2) Thomas (b. 16 Sep 1877 d. 10 Nov 1946) married Mary Vanden Bergh (b. 22 Feb 1880 d. 19 Dec 1946).
- (3) John (b. 23 Nov 1879 d. 28 Nov 1956) married Anna Coonen.
- (4) Mary (b. 7 Nov 1883 d. 22 Aug 1957) married Martin De Witt.
- (5) Andrew (b. 26 Jul 1884 d. 20 Jan 1951) was a bachelor.
- (6) Delia (b. Dec 1889 d. 6 Jul 1904).
- (7) Martin (b. 22 May 1891 d. 24 Apr 1931).
- (8) Wilbert (b. Nov 1895 d. 30 May 1917).

Joseph (b. 1847 d. 8 Mar 1921).

Felix (b. 1853) married Johanna Raquet.

Henry (b. 10 Jun 1856 d. 19 Jul 1931).

Andrew (b. 4 Jul 1859 d. 12 May 1940) married Elizabeth Lance.

Maria Louisa De Coster (b. 10 Feb 1842) departed Oud-Heverlee in April 1871 for America.

Five children of Frans Prosper De Coster and Maria Williams of Halle came to America around the turn of the century.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE COSTER, DE CREMER, DEERSMAN,  
DE GRAVE FAMILIES.

The children were:

Maria (b. 1873 d. 1957) married August Michiels of St. Joris Weert. They came over together.

Elizabeth (Liza) married Hermand Vande Zande; they came over together.

Ferdinand (Fred) (b. 1883) married Elizabeth Devroy and had a son, Lawrence.

William (b. 30 Jun 1890) married Elizbeth Coopmans.

Frank (b. 11 Dec 1875 d. 1927) married Lucy Wouters.

Ferdinand and Frank De Coster emigrated in 1906, and William left St. Joris Weert for America in September 1909.

We thank Dan De Witt, a great-grandson of Lambert De Coster, and also Gladys Willems De Coster, who both provided us with most of the De Coster family history.

### DE CREMER

Pierre De Cremer served in the Civil War. One of his descendants was August De Cremer, who married Emerence De Bouche and had these children: Jean Baptiste (b. 1899 d. 14 Jun 1988); William; Arthur; Elmer; Ervin; Laura married a Vanden Houten; and, Josephine married a Malcore.

### DEERSMAN

The Flemish name for this family should be MEERSMAN or DE MEERSMAN.

The Deersman family emigrated in 1855. A son, Charles (b. 1850), lived in Green Bay with his wife, Maggie (b. May 1860), and eight children: Emil (b. Jun 1877); Charles (b. May 1881); Hattie (b. Aug 1883); Eva (b. Jan 1890); Oliver (b. Jun 1894); Eldon (b. Oct 1895); Alice (b. Mar 1897); and, Isabella (b. Jan 1899).

### DE GRAVE (see DE GREEF)

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE GREEF FAMILY.

DE GREEF

The De Greef name, when spoken in Flemish, sounds like De Grave and was soon written that way. The De Greef newcomers came to Brown County, Wisconsin, in at least a dozen different groups, all from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province. This section of the De Greef families will be arranged by early families.

PETER DE GREEF

Peter De Greef (b. 25 Mar 1806 d. 27 Apr 1877) and his wife, Susanna Wouters (b. 27 Oct 1814), sailed on the Gaston and landed in New York on 2 May 1855 with five children. They purchased land in the southeast corner of the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

Francis (b. 12 Dec 1838 d. 1910) was married, first, to Joanna M. De Ritter of Brodigh and had three children:

- (1) Theresa (b. 10 Jul 1870) married George Martell.
- (2) Mary married Joe Feldhausen.
- (3) Gertrude (b. 1872 d. 1959) married Louis Loy.

Francis married as his second wife, Angeline Arkins Nockerts (b. 1855 d. 18 Jul 1955) of Huldenberg, Brabant Province, and had nine children:

- (1) Barbara (b. Jul 1872) married Peter Van Bellinger.
- (2) William lived in Bimiji, Minnesota.
- (3) Josephine (b. Jan 1881) married William Detrie.
- (4) Charlie (b. Jan 1883 d. Mar 1939) married Mary Le Mal.
- (5) Emilia (b. Mar 1885) married Arnold Cleereman.
- (6) Clara (b. Aug 1887) married Albert Detrie.
- (7) Harry (b. 1890 d. 1966) was a bachelor.
- (8) Lucy (b. Oct 1893) married John Cleereman.
- (9) Lily (b. Oct 1898) married Joseph Renquin.

Anton (b. 21 May 1844 d. 3 Apr 1917) married Mary Wageneer (b. 1844) and had twelve children:

- (1) Colette (b. 1864) married Frank Heyrmans.
- (2) Pauline (b. 1867) joined the convent.
- (3) Peter (b. 1871) married Elizabeth Nockerts.
- (4) Joseph (b. 1872) married Nettie Van Ermel.
- (5) Tracy (b. 1874) married Alphonse Renier.
- (6) Frank (b. 1876).
- (7) Josephine (b. 1878).
- (8) Alphonse (b. Aug 1881).
- (9) Philip (b. Feb 1883 d. Oct 1912).
- (10) Lizzie (b. Feb 1885).
- (11) Nettie (b. Mar 1887).
- (12) Nellie (b. May 1889).

Desiré (b. 6 Mar 1846 d. 18 Mar 1919) married M. Theresa Yedael (b. Mar 1848 d. 22 Oct 1900) and had eleven children:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE GREEF FAMILY.

- (1) Barbara (b. Jan 1871).
- (2) Mary (b. 28 Dec 1873 d. Jun 1954) married Peter Vander Wegen.
- (3) John (b. Jan 1875).
- (4) Emilia (Philomene) b. Feb 1877).
- (5) Albert (b. Dec 1881).
- (6) Virginia (b. Mar 1883).
- (7) Lena (b. Nov 1884).
- (8) Felix (b. Jan 1887).
- (9) Fronna (b. Mar 1889).
- (10) James (b. 10 May 1892 d. Sep 1956), married Lilian Vander Kelen (b. 31 Mar 1895 d. 20 Feb 1981), daughter of Peter and Anna Rohn Vander Kelen, on 20 Feb 1914.
- (11) Edward (b. Jun 1893 d. Mar 1919) married Mary Lamal and had three children.



Desiré De Greef and Terese Jedaal.

Ferdinand (b. 8 Mr 1849) married Catrina Schwegel (b. 16 Feb 1850 d. Feb 1931) and had six children:

- (1) Michael (b. 1872 d. 1956) married Rosalia Vanden Bush (b. 1867 d. 1941) and had four children - Mayme, Lorraine, Frank (b. Jul 1886) and Emma (b. Apr 1898).
- (2) Anton (b. Feb 1874) married Katherine De Leers.
- (3) Mary (b. 1876) married Albert Vander Kelen.
- (4) Louis (b. 1878) married Louisa De Leers.
- (5) Louise (b. 1881) married (1) John Philips, (2) a Lindsley.
- (6) Rosalia (b. Jun 1887) married Frank Danielski.

Zachary Joseph (Sander) (b. 3 Mar 1852 d. 26 Jan 1917) married Mary Yedaal (b. 10 Sep 1857 d. 24 Nov 1934), daughter of Peter Jedaal and Josephine De Booss, and had an eighty-acre farm in east Bellevue. Of eleven children, eight were living in 1900:

- (1) Josephina (b. 1880) married John Vanden Boomen.
- (2) George (b. Mar 1892 d. 1927).
- (3) Clara (b. Dec 1884).
- (4) Ida (b. Jun 1885 d. 1906).
- (5) Minnie (b. Apr 1889).
- (6) Henry (b. Sep 1890 d. 1966).
- (7) Benjamin (b. May 1893).
- (8) Ernest (b. 14 Mar 1896 d. 1 Jan 1929).

Frank (b. 1858) married Mary Lindsley (b. 1862) and had these children: Felix (b. 1882); Julia (b. 1893); Lawrence (b. 1903).

Annie married John Verheiden.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE GREEF FAMILY.

ANTON DE GREEF

The Anton De Greef family accompanied the Peter De Greef family to America; Anton and Peter were probably brothers. Anton's Belgian passport says that he was 5'4" tall with reddish-brown hair. Anton (b. 29 May 1804) and his wife, Anna Catherine Crabbe (b. 28 Jul 1823 d. Jun 1896) had five children with them when they emigrated. Their children were:

Barbara (b. 27 Jan 1836) daughter of Anton's first marriage to Joanna Mathijs.

Jean Francois (b. 14 Jun 1846) and his wife, Pauline (b. 1845), had four children: Tracy (b. 1870); Trote (b. 1872); Barbara (b. 1877); and, William (b. Mar 1879) who had a farm in the Town of Green Bay in 1900.

Mary.

Joseph (b. 15 Mar 1849).

Philip (b. 1852).

Bridget.

Pauline (b. 1855 lived in a convent in Green Bay in 1900.

Julia (b. 1857 d. 25 Nov 1931) remained single.

Elizabeth (b. 1862) married a Van Ven Roy.

Joseph (b. Mar 1864) married Richardis Neoler (b. Sep 1872) who came to the U.S. in 1894.

William.

Joseph De Grave (1864-1933) and his wife, Anna (b. 1874 d. 1940 are buried at Lena, Wis.

OTHER DE GREEF IMMIGRANTS

On board the same ship with the Peter and Anton De Greef families was Peter De Greef (b. 5 Jul 1832), son of Jean Baptiste De Greef and Anna Maria Dewever. His sister, Coletta De Greef (Mrs. Bernard van Gemert), had come to America earlier; when her husband died, she married William Van Deuren on 18 Aug 1868.

Joseph De Greef (b. 1855) came to the U.S. in 1861 and married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1858) in 1880. They had seven children, some of whom were: George (b. 1884); Clara (b. 1886); Henry (b. 1891); Benjamin (b. 1893); and, Ernest (b. 1896).

The earliest De Greef settler in America, outside of Coletta, was Joseph De Greef (b. 1832), who came aboard the Lochinvar which landed at New York on 14 Mar 1855. Joseph lived in the old city of Fort Howard with his wife, Mary (b. 1847), and

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE GREEF, DE JONGHE, DE KELVER FAMILIES.

and daughter, Anna (b. 1899).

A John De Greef (b. Jun 1832) emigrated in 1857. In 1900, he was a widower, working on the railroad, living with his daughter, Maggie (b. Sep 1874).

Mike De Greef (b. 1842) came in 1865; he was the father-in-law of Frank Vanden Bush.

Desiré De Grave (b. 1846) came in 1879 and had at least two children: James (b. 1893) and Edward (b. 1895).

Louis De Greef (b. 1867) came to the Duck Creek area in 1889, where he had a saloon. He married Philomene Poels (b. Mar 1872). Their children were: Frank (b. 1894); Fred (b. 1895); Lena (b. 1901); Arthur (b. 1903); Seraphine (b. 1904); Sophie (b. 1907); and, Clarence (b. 1908).

Two De Grave families settled at Red River, Kewaunee County, in the mid-1880s. Philip De Grave (b. 1820) and Hubert De Grave (b. 1825) each had large families there. (The Red River area = Kewaunee County - Town of Tonet).

## DE JONGHE

Anna Catherine De Jonghe Heyrman, of Bornhem, Antwerp Province, died in 1857 on board the ship carrying her to America. Her brother, Francis (b. 1818), lived in Preble as a bachelor.

Constant De Jonghe, born in Herzele, Province of East Flanders, in October 1834, was the son of Francis De Jonghe and Angela Tack. With Louis Horkmans, who was a friend and fellow-baker, he landed at New York on board the bark, Alice Tainter, on 25 Aug 1856 after a fifty-day voyage. In 1867, he married Catherine Forsythe as his first wife. In July 1882, he took as his second wife, Rosina Vande Walle (b. Oct 1854), who emigrated in 1882. They had one child, Mary (b. Jan 1879 at De Pere).

## DE KELVER

Pierre De Kelver (b. 1812 d. 11 Mar 1894) and his wife, Anna Justina Daems (b. 1817), brought their family to America in 1856 and settled in the Red River area of Kewaunee County. Their children were:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE KELVER, DE KEUSTER, DE KEYSER FAMILIES.

John Baptiste (b. 30 Oct 1841 d. 30 Jan 1904) - see Mass Card - married Mary Le Clou (b. Sep 1845). Some of their ten children were: Angeline married William Van Erem; Frank (b. Dec 1866); Catherine (b. 1868); Mary (b. Jun 1878); Harriet (b. Sep 1880); Peter (b. Dec 1882); and Florence (b. Nov 1889).

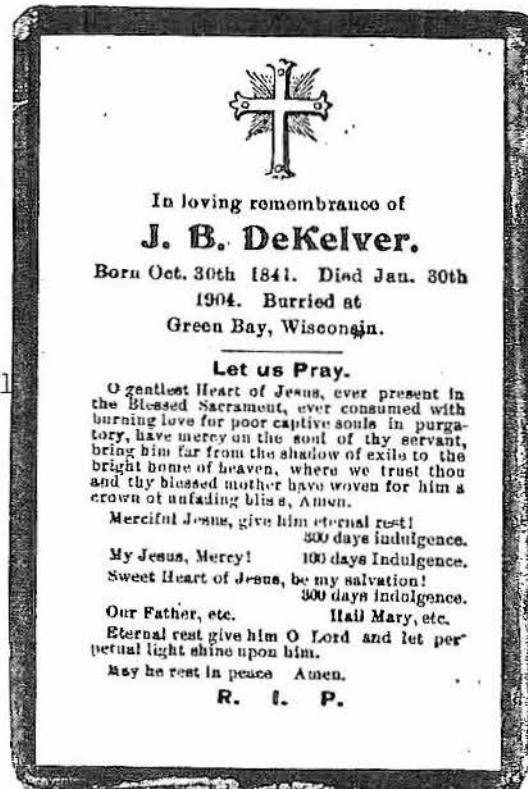
William (b. 1843 d. 1923) served in the 27th. Wis. Inf. during the Civil War and later became a Catholic priest. He was pastor of the Irish Catholic Church in De Pere in 1876. His military record shows that he was 5'7" tall, with blue eyes and auburn hair.

Jean (b. 1846).

Francois (b. Jun 1848) had a wife, Mary (b. 1856), who emigrated in 1880. Their children were: Mary (b. Nov 1882); Rosa (b. Feb 1884); Minnie (b. Jul 1885); Agnes (b. Jun 1888); Lilirosa (b. Sep 1890); Gertrude (b. Dec 1892); Frances (b. May 1897).

Catherine (b. 1851).

Angeline (b. 1856).



### DE KEUSTER

Joseph De Keuster (b. 1829 d. 1896) served in the 3rd. Wis. Inf. in the Civil War.

Michael De Keuster (b. 1865) was a bachelor. His brother, Jules (b. 1871), and Jules' wife, Emma (b. 1880), had a son, Albert (b. 1908).

### DE KEYSER

This name was also spelled DE KUYSER, DE KEIZER, DE KAISER, DE KIZER, and, even KAISER. Several families came to this country and several women came as mothers in other families.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE KEYSER FAMILY.

e.g., Elizabeth De Keyser (b. 1813 d. 1885) came to the U.S. as Mrs. Philip Vanden Borne.

The first De Keyser family to arrive came from Kessel-Loo, Brabant Province, in 1855 and settled in the City of Green Bay. The parents were Theodore De Keyser and Anna Maria Meulemans, both born around 1808. Two of their children were:

Gerard (b. Sep 1824) married Antonette Goossens (b. Jun 1836) who emigrated in 1863, the daughter of Egidious Goossens and Maria Wauters of Leuven, and the widow of Jean Baptiste Van Deuren. They were married in 1869 and four of their eleven children were living in 1900. They also had adopted Pearl Catman (b. Nov 1892) and Norris Catman (b. May 1890), probably the children of a sister.

Walter (b. Jun 1831) and his wife, Josephine (b. Aug 1838), were married in 1858 and had thirteen children. Some of their children were: Joseph (b. Apr 1862); Edward (b. Mar 1874); Frank (b. May 1877) and his wife, Clara (b. 1877), had a son, Harold (b. 1901); Emma (b. Jan 1880); Jule (b. Jan 1882); and, Victor (b. Jan 1887).

Peter Joseph De Keyser (b. 1824 at Duisburg d. 17 Jan 1887) and his wife, Louisa De Volder (b. 1824), came to America in 1869 from Huldenberg, Brabant Province, and bought forty-four acres on Finger Road in the Town of Preble. Their children were:

John Baptiste (b. Jul 1850) married Joanna M. Van Erum (b. Feb 1863) in 1882 and had eight children: Louise (b. 1877 d. 1963) married Felix Dachelet (b. 1873); Barbara (b. Mar 1883); Philip (b. Mar 1884); Katie (b. Apr 1885); Minnie (b. May 1888); Henry (b. Nov 1890); William (b. Oct 1894); and, Julia (b. Jun 1899).

John William (b. 21 Sep 1850 d. 17 Apr 1933) married Josephine Rentmeester (b. 19 Jul 1854 d. 26 Dec 1927), daughter of John Francis Rentmeesters. Their eleven children were:

- (1) Emilie (b. 1875) married Paul Sandre.
- (2) Maria Louisa (b. 1876) married Oscar Mishel.
- (3) John (b. May 1878) married Charlotte Brandt.
- (4) Philomene (b. Feb 1880 d. 1962) married Paul Le Capitaine.
- (5) Alphonse (b. 7 Sep 1882) married Victoria De Muyser.
- (6) Andrew (b. Oct 1885 d. 1954) married Margaret Larscheid.
- (7) Anna (b. Dec 1887) married Archie Cardinal.
- (8) William (b. 15 Jan 1891 d. 14 Dec 1960) married Varna Danan.
- (9) Elizabeth (b. Jan 1892) married Charles Rothe.
- (10) Florence (b. Jan 1894) married George Belanger.
- (11) Mathilda (b. Apr 1897 d. 1960) married Peter Van Iten.

Rosalia (b. 1853) married William Neys on 20 Jul 1873.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE KEYSER, DE LAET, LELARUELLE FAMILIES.

John (b. Jul 1855) and his wife, Joanna(?) (b. Feb 1863), had seven children: Barbara (b. Mar 1883); Philip (b. Mar 1884); Katie (b. Apr 1885); Minnie (b. May 1888); Henry (b. Nov 1890); William (b. Oct 1894); and, Julia (b. Jun 1899).

Henry (b. May 1860) and his wife, Catherine (?) (b. Jul 1868), had six children: Anna (b. Mar 1890); William (b. Mar 1892); Joseph (b. Mar 1894); Emily (b. 1896); Mary (b. Mar 1898); and, Henry Jr. (b. Mar 1899).

Anastasia (b. 1864).

Victor (b. Sep 1872) married Sophie Clabots (b. Aug 1880). Some of their children were: John (b. Apr 1900); Joseph (b. 1902); Edward (b. 1905); and, Alice (b. 1909).

Mrs. James (Amelia) De Keyser helped with this family history.

#### DE LAET

Albert De Laet (b. 23 Jun 1879 at Burcht-Antwerp d. 30 Apr 1954 at Wagner, Marinette County) came to America in 1899 and married Katerina Therese Sebero (b. 23 Jun 1890 Brown County d. 23 Jan 1933). Some of their seventeen children were: Dominick (b. 1906); Alexander (b. 1908); and, Anna (b. 1909).

Roger De Laet of Leopoldsburg, Belgium is the family historian.

#### DELARUELLE

(Also spelled DELARWEL).

Vital Delaruelle (b. 1867) and his wife, Catherine (b. 1867), who emigrated in 1890, had seven children: Joseph, Mary, John, Louis, Henry Josephine and Lucy.

Charles Delarwell (b. 1878) lived in Marinette County with his wife, Adele (b. 1885), and son, William (b. 1908).

#### DE LEERS

Joseph De Leers (b. 8 Oct 1841 d. 5 May 1923) of Loonbeek, Brabant Province, married Mary Catherine De Becker (b. Jan

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE LEERS FAMILY.

1841 d. 25 Mar 1907) of Huldenberg, a village just a few kilometers from his home. A few months after their marriage, they emigrated to America, landing at New York in June 1869. They bought ninety-five acres in the northeast corner of Bellevue, where they raised eight children:

Philip (b. 5 Jan 1871 d. 12 Aug 1944) married Antonette Tuyls (b. Oct 1874), daughter of William Tuyls and Anna Maria Adriaens, in June 1899. They had five children:

- (1) Dorothy married John Smits and had these children: Bernardine, Phyllis, William, Richard and Mary Lou.
- (2) George "Art" married Lorraine Dupont and had one son, George.
- (3) Alvina married Clarence Champeau - no children.
- (4) Lilian married Leonard La Plant and had these children: Marilyn and Leonard Jr.
- (5) Norbert.
- (6) Esther married Howard Campshire and had these children: Donald and Kenneth.
- (7) JOseph A. "Jake" married Zita Rotzenberg and had four children: Jerome married Jeannie Pigeon and had these children - Paul, James, Thomas and John; Jane married Dr. John Rank and had these children - Matthew, Joseph and Peter; Susan married Donald Halloran and had these children - Michael and Catherine; and, Philip.

Henrietta (b. 1871 d. 1953) married Hugh Van Laanen, son of Jean Van Laanen and Josephine Lienne, on 4 March 1895.

Katherine (b. 1873 d. 1914) married Anton De Grave, son of Ferdinand, on 27 Aug 1902. Their children: Clarence, Gordon and Margaret.

William (b. 14 Sep 1876 d. 24 Jan 1950) married Lena \_\_\_\_\_ (born 1888 and had two children: Viola and Ethylene.

Louise (b. Nov 1877) married Louis De Grave, son of Ferdinand, on 11 Sep 1901.

Elizabeth Mary (b. 8 Mr 1879 d. 11 Apr 1976) married William Barlamant.

Alphonse J. (b. 3 Sep 1882 d. 13 Mar 1966) married (1) Edna Corbeille (b. 1915) and had these children - Lawrence, Vivian and Lucille; (2) Alice Vincent (b. 1893 d. 1935) and had these children - Vincent, Virginia, Maxine and Lois; (3) Gertrude Laird. Alphonse lived in Marinette.

Louis (b. 1884 d. 1886).

We thank Zita and Jake De Leers, George De Leers, Vincent De Leers and Betty Rioux Jerry for their help with the De Leers family sketch.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE LUSTER, DELVOYE FAMILIES.

### DE LUSTER

The original Flemish spelling of this name might be DE CEUSTER.

Henry De Luster (b. 28 Nov 1853) and his wife, Maria Anna Callawaerts (b. 15 Sep 1854) were both from St. Joris Weert. They came to the U.S. in 1887 with their seven children: Amelia (b. 1877); William (b. Sep 1878); John Philip (b. Oct 1880); Mary (b. May 1882); and, Desire (b. Mar 1884).

William De Luster (b. 4 Jun 1859 at St. Joris Weert) and his wife, Josephine Maes (b. 2 Sep 1860 at St. Joris Weert), came to America on the Switzerland in 1893 with their four children. William and Josephine were married in 1882.

### DELVOYE

Theresa Vannieuwenhoven (b. 13 Oct 1824), the widow of John Delvoie, left St. Joris Weert for America on 23 Jan 1888, accompanied by her three children:

John Francis (b. 17 Mar 1859 d. 25 Oct 1919) married Mary Johann (b. 1848 d. 1930), daughter of Margareta and Nickolas Johann.

Anna Maria (b. 20 Jun 1862).

Charles Louis (b. 21 Jun 1869 d. 26 Jan 1951). He married Mary Basteyns Poels (b. 2 May 1867 d. 11 May 1940) as her second husband. Their five children were:

- (1) Joseph (b. 15 May 1901 d. 21 Jul 1967) married Alvina Luedke.
- (2) John Francis (b. 27 Feb 1903 d. 26 May 1974) married Gladys Van Kessel.
- (3) Alfred P. (b. 2 Mar 1905 d. 8 Dec 1972) married Yvonne Vervaeren.
- (4) Andrew F. (b. 27 Apr 1907 d. 23 Feb 1947).
- (5) Willard (b. 23 Feb 1913 d. 20 Dec 1970) married Ione Hussin (b. 1921).

The stepchildren of Charles Delvoye and Mary Basteyns Poels also lived with them: Felix Poels (b. 1894) and Elizabeth Poels (b. 1897).

We thank Jan Vanderlinden Strei for this family history.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DEMAN, DE MINNICK, DE MULDER, DE MUYSER,  
DENEYS, FAMILIES.

### DEMAN

Victor Deman (b. 1869) and his wife, Elizabeth (b. 1873), came to America in 1870. Their two children were: Raphael (born 1896) and Anastasia (b. 1900).

### DE MINNICK

Charles De Minnick (b. 1862) came to America in 1882. His wife, Gertrude, was born in 1877; their son, Peter was born in 1908.

### DE MULDER

The Flemish spelling for this name is probably De Mulver.

Joseph De Mulder (b. 29 Mar 1828 d. 29 May 1903) came to the U.S. in 1858 and married Maria Clabots (b. 6 Apr 1842 d. 29 Apr 1911) in 1864. They lived in the Town of Humboldt. Three of their six children are: Victoria (b. 9 Dec 1870); John (b. 6 Feb 1877); and, Lucy (b. Mar 1882) married Theodore Watermolen.

Isabella De Muylder (b. 18 Aug 1832) came to the U.S. in 1871 from St. Joris Weert with her husband, Henri Vanden Plas.

### DE MUYSER

William De Muyser (b. Oct 1837) and his wife, Philomena (b. Jun 1842), were married in 1867 and emigrated from Bierbeek with their four children in May 1889. They lived on a farm in the Town of Preble. Their children were: Louis (b. 1876) and his wife, Sohpie (b. 1880), had these children - Arthur (b. 1900), Edward (b. 1902) and Walter (b. 1904); Minnie (b. Sep 1877); Emma (b. Jun 1879); and, Victoria (b. Dec 1880) married Alphonse De Keyser and had seven children.

### DENEYS

Frank Deneys (b. 25 May 1841 d. 20 May 1904) is the son of Frank Deneys and Joanna Vanderwegen of Bierbeek, Province of Brabant. In 1870, he married Florentine Wacker (b. 24 Oct 1845 d. 9 Jan 1926, daughter of John William Wacker and Maria

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DENEYS FAMILY.



Joseph, Rudolph and Mary Ann. Her second husband was William Kaiser.

Frank (b. 19 Nov 1885 d. Apr 5, 1936) married Mary Christens (b. 1895 d. 12 Apr 1978) and had eight children.

Emma (b. 31 Oct 1887 d. 23 Dec 1971) married Bert Slye (died 8 Apr 1925) and had six children: Clifford, Margaret, Mildred, Irene, Norman and Wilbert.

Mrs. Adolph (Antionette) Deneys paid to have her name changed to Denys.

Theresa Denonville, also of Bierbeek. They came to America in 1889. Their children were:

Emil (b. 29 Oct 1873 d. 21 Sep 1960) married as his first wife, Josephine Christens (b. Nov 1882) and had five children. His second wife was Rose Deneys, widow of Jules Deneys.

Jules (b. 30 Apr 1875 d. 30 Nov 1919) married Rose Christens (b. 1 Jul 1879 d. 15 Aug 1958) and had seven children, including: Eli, Henry, Charles, Lawrence, Clarence, Norbert and Woodrow.

Adolph (b. 21 Jan 1877 d. 12 Nov 1964) married Antionette Vander Wegen (b. 16 Jun 1881 d. 7 Sep 1964), daughter of Peter Vander Wegen and Theresa Briennen. (See Mass Card.) Adolph and Antionette had four children: Glen, Kenneth, Ethyl and Fern.

Adella (Ida) (b. 27 Feb 1879 d. 3 Oct 1958) married Joseph Neisius and had five children: Frank, Albert,



Our thanks to Mrs. Clarence (Evelyn) Poels for the Deneys family history.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DENOLVEN, DENRUYTER, DE PRINCE,  
DERBE FAMILIES.

### DENOLVEN

This name might be DE VOLDER but sometimes was spelled NOLVEN.

John Nolven (b. May 1830) and Frank Nolven (b. Jul 1845) came to the U.S. in 1855. Louis Nolven married Joseph De Keyser in Huldenberg. Anna Maria Nolven (b. 1823 d. 1899) came to America from St. Agathe Rode.

### DENRUYTER

Members of this family came from Oud-Heverlee to Wisconsin at four different times. Philip Denruyter (b. 30 Jan 1858), son of Michael Denruyter and Maria Theresa Malcaux emigrated in July 1881. John Joseph (b. 17 Jul 1864) left on 30 Apr 1889. His brother, John Frans (b. 2 Apr 1874) left on 15 June 1889. Emanuel Denruyter (b. 1874) and his wife, Josephine (b. 1876), came in 1901; their children were: William (b. 1896); Janet (born 1903) married Clinton Walker; Felicia (b. 1905); Pauline (b. 1908); and, Florence (b. 1910).

Frank Denruyter (b. 1860) and his wife, Felicia (born 1856), came to America in 1889 with three daughters: Mary, Nettie and Rose.

Another Frank Denruyter (b. 2 Apr 1874) and his wife, Maria Vande Zande (b. 9 May 1875), came to the U.S. in 1902 with two children: William and Joanna.

### DE PRINCE

Antoine De Prince (b. 1838) married Florence Nys (b. 1839) and some of their children were: August (b. 1856); Mary (b. 1857); Apollonia (b. 1862); Victoria (b. 1864); Alvina (b. 1866); Cecilia (b. 1870); and, Adele (b. 1873). Antoine served as a substitute in the latter part of the Civil War.

### DERBE

The Flemish spelling for this name is DERBIE.

John Derbe (b. Feb 1865) and his wife, Harriet (b. Jul 1870), were married in Belgium in 1889 and came to Green Bay in

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DERBE, DE ROOST, DERRICKS, DERWAE FAMILIES.

1895. Their children were: Jennie (b. Jun 1889); Arthur (b. Oct 1892); Emil (b. Jul 1895); Joseph (b. Jun 1896); and, Flora (b. Sep 1899).

### DE ROOST

Frank De Roost (b. Aug 1837) and his wife, Maria Theresa (b. Feb 1843), were married in 1863 and came to the Town of Humboldt in 1869 from Belgium. In 1900, they were living in the City of Green Bay. Their children were:

Fred (b. Nov 1863) and his wife, Lizzie (b. Mar 1871), had these children: Anna (b. Mar 1891); John (b. Nov 1892); Cecilia (b. Apr 1894); Henry (b. Mar 1896); William (b. Jul 1898); Edmund (b. 1901); Clara (b. 1906); and, Marie (b. 1907).

Adeline (b. Aug 1868) married a Kimer and had three children: Maria (b. Dec 1891 in Michigan); John; and, Henry (b. Nov 1897).

John (b. 1874) married Annie Hurckmans (b. 1891) and had these children: Tracy; Nellie; Antonette married Edward Steeno; Mabel; Milton; and, Wilbur.

Rosa (b. 1877).

Josephine (b. Jan 1880).

Antonette (b. Dec 1881) married Peter Roskom (b. 1880).

Alphonse (b. Sep 1888).

### DERRICKS

The Flemish name for this family should be DIERICKS.

Louis Derricks (b. Jun 1827) and his brother, Frank, came to America in 1858. Frank (b. 9 Jan 1829 d. 22 Jun 1921) married Philipine Horkmans (b. 9 May 1841 d. 21 Mar 1896) and lived in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were: Mary (b. 1863); Joseph (b. 1864 d. 1924); Charles (b. 1868 d. 1929); Henry (b. 1 May 1871 d. 6 Nov 1896); Theresa (b. 1873) married Fred Michael (b. 1868); Victor (b. 1 Apr 1881 d. 1 Jun 1954) married Anna Borenson (b. 1887 d. 1928).

### DERWAE

John Francis Derwae (b. 1844) came to the U.S. from Oud-Heverlee in Jan 1855. With him were his wife, Mary Elizabeth

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DERWAE, DE SMEDT FAMILIES.

Van Vlasselaer and two brothers, Arnold (b. 1845) and William (b. 1851), Mary Elizabeth's sister, Johanna Van Vlasselaer Rentmeesters, had come in 1856; another sister, Angeline (b. 29 Apr 1816 in Oud-Heverlee), came later, departing from Belgium 10 Feb 1883 with the Tuyls and Devan families.

After John Francis Derwae died, Mary Elizabeth (b. 26 Apr 1816 d. Jan 1888) married Joseph Rondou. She died at age 71.

Arnold Derwae (b. 1845) married Joanna Volke soon after his arrival in the U.S. and settled on a farm in northern Bellevue. After several years of farming, he moved his family to Green Bay around 1872 where he became a successful grocer. Their children were:

Peter (b. 1868).

Victor (b. 18 Oct 1869) and his wife, Laura (b. 1872), had four children: Claude; Gladys; Arlene; and, Evelyn.

Cecilia (b. 8 Apr 1871).

Elizabeth (b. 1873) married Francis Basteyns.

John (b. 1875).

Willie (b. 1876).

Louis (Robert) (b. Jun 1877 in Wisconsin) and his wife, Clementine (b. Dec 1878) were married in 1895 and had these children: Elmer (b. Apr 1896) and Carl (b. Feb 1898).

Mary (b. Apr 1880).

Arnold's brother, William (b. 1851), and his wife, Julia O. (b. May 1853) were married in 1874 and had three children:

Mamie M. (b. Jan 1875).

William L. (b. Oct 1876).

Tillie B. (b. Jun 1880).

Two Derwae girls, probably sisters of Arnold and John Francois, came to the U.S. with their families:

Elizabeth Derwae (b. 27 Jan 1841 at Oud-Heverlee) departed Belgium with her husband, John Francois Basteyns and daughter on 30 Jul 1881.

Maria Anna Derwae and her husband William Duchateau and five children left Belgium on 17 Jul 1883.

DE SMEDT

Jan De Smedt (b. 1867) came to Wisconsin in Feb 1892.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE STARKA, DETRIE FAMILIES.

DE STARKA

This family is also called STARKEY and DE STARKEY.

Jacob De Starka (b. 1838) and his wife, Ursula (b. 1837), came to America around the turn of the century with four children. Henry De Starka (b. 1877) married Pauline Van Eyck (b. 1879) and had these children: Adolph (b. 1903); Clara (b. 1906); Rosa (born 1907); Mary (b. 1909).

Emil De Starkey married Helen Marto (b. 1908).

DETTRIE

In either 1856 or 1857, the Peter Deetrie family arrived from Vertrijk, Brabant Province. The parents were Petrus Dettrie and Elizabeth Van Steenbeek, both born about 1815. The family settled in east Humboldt but Peter died soon thereafter; Elizabeth married Andrew Philips as her second husband on 13 Jun 1859. Peter and Elizabeth had seven children:

Antonia (b. Jan 1836) married Francis Bredael (b. Mar 1833) in 1857.

Louis (b. 13 Sep 1840 d. 20 Jul 1876) married Catherine Vanden Borne (b. 2 Dec 1842 d. 11 Feb 1915) and had six children:

(1) Albert (b. 21 Jul 1866 d. 23 Nov 1943) married Jennie Tuyls (b. 15 Feb 1872 d. 5 Mar 1940) and had these children: Louis (b. Jan 1896); Bernard (b. Jan 1898); Francis (b. Feb 1900); Mabel (b. 1902); and, Arthur (b. 1906).

(2) Elizabeth (b. 1867 d. Dec 1936) married Charles Allen, son of Josef and Mary Vanden Bergh.

(3) Angeline (b. 3 Dec 1869).

(4) Maggie married Henry Vanden Busch in 1894.

(5) John (b. 1874 d. 1934) married Philomena Philips (born 1874 d. 1949) and had these children: Frank (b. 1897); Leonard (b. 1900); Charles (b. 1904 d. 1970); and, Lawrence (b. 1908).

(6) Theresa married Frank Vanden Busch.

Lucy (b. 13 Sep 1840 d. 23 Apr 1896) - a twin sister of Louis, married John Francis Vander Kelen (see Vander Kelen family sketch).

Joanna (b. circa 1845) married Jean Baptiste Pannier (Peignier).

Henrietta (b. circa 1847) married Theodore Denissen in 1867.

Alexander (b. Mar 1848) married Prosperina Connors (b. Mar 1847) in 1877 and had eight children: Carrie (b. Oct 1877);

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DETRIE, DE VERTTIE, DE VOLDER FAMILIES.

Frank (b. Oct 1878); Lyman (b. Aug 1880); John (b. Sep 1882); Joseph (b. Jun 1884); George (b. Jan 1887); Paul (b. Sep 1892 d. 1875) married Frieda \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1895 d. 1972); and, Alexander (b. 1895).

Peter (b. Jun 1855 d. Dec 1935) married, as his first wife, Mary Pleasters (b. 1857 d. 1913) and had seven children:

- (1) William (b. Jun 1880) married Josephine De Grave (born 1881).
- (2) Louise (b. Sep 1883).
- (3) Albert (b. Sep 1886) married Clara De Grave (b. Aug 1887).
- (4) Mary (b. Apr 1889).
- (5) Henry (b. Feb 1891).
- (6) Thomas (b. Nov 1892).
- (7) Alvina (b. Sep 1895) married William Van Laanen.

After Mary's death, Peter married, as his second wife, Louise Van Pay.

### DE VERTTIE

The Flemish name for this family is probably VERTHE.

Emil De Vertte (b. Mar 1858) and his wife, Elizabeth (b. Jun 1860), were married in 1877 and migrated to the U.S. in mid-1880. Their children are: Julia (b. Aug 1878); Elmer (born Jan 1880); Arthur (b. Jan 1883); Jennie (b. Oct 1886); Bertha (b. Aug 1888); Eddie (b. Feb 1890); John (b. Feb 1892); Felix (b. Jan 1894); Eva (b. Feb 1896); and, George (b. Jan 1900).

### DE VOLDER

Louis De Volder (b. Oct 1872) and his wife, Louisa (born (Dec 1878), came to the U.S. in 1891 and settled in Green Bay. Their first child was Joseph (b. May 1898). Sometimes this name is confused with De Volver, e.g., Anna De Volver married Peter De Keyser.

Ferdinand De Volder (b. 1863) came to the U.S. in 1881 and married Catherine Nettie Lurquin, daughter of Felix Lurquin and had nine children: Felix; Rosaline (b. 1894); Catherine (b. 1895); Joseph (b. 1897); Florence (b. 1898); Edward (b. 1900); Marie (b. 1904); Cecile (b. 1907); and, Beatrice.



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE VOLDER, DE VROY FAMILIES.

Maria Louise De Volder married John Baptist Lurquin; they emigrated from Neeryshe in 1892 (see Mass Card).

DE VROY

In Flanders, the usual spelling of this name is DEVROYE.

Five different emigrant families are discussed here, with name variations that include D'OVROEY, DE VROEYS, DE VROEY and DEVROEY.

1) Anton Devroy (b. 17 Sep 1818 d. 2 Feb 1900) and his wife, Joanna Van Donsel, brought their son, August, to America from Leuven in August 1856. August (b. 18 Jul 1855 d. 1923) married Barbara Schneider (b. 1856 d. 20 Jul 1893) and had these children: Peter; Elizabeth married Fred Decoster; Nicolaus; and, Grace married Alphonse Duchateau.

2) The De Vroeys who settled in old Fort Howard were descendants of Jean Baptiste De Vroey (b. 25 Nov 1805 d. 11 Sep 1852), who was the son of Jean Francois De Vroey and Catherine Malliet of Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province. Jean Baptiste married Angeline Quatsoe (b. 27 May 1808 d. 17 Mar 1871), daughter of Jean Baptiste Quatsoe and Susanna Van Hoof. After her husband died, Angeline brought her family to the U.S., arriving in April 1866. Her son, Daniel (b. 25 Feb 1845 d. 11 Dec 1928) married Elenora Gotto (b. 20 Nov 1857 d. 29 Mar 1842), daughter of Joseph Gotto and Josephine Vander Vest. Daniel and Elenora, who lived in Colorado for twelve years, had seven children: Daniel J. married Kate Sloan; Lilian married Herman Greiling; Evangeline married L. Daggett; Frank; Louis married Victoria De Keyser; Leslie married Beatrice Campbell; and, Myrtle. (This De Vroey family is related to Mary Ann Defnet, the Green Bay historian and genealogist).

3) The Devroy family living in the Duck Creek area was headed by Jean Baptiste Devroy (b. 1822 d. 10 Mar 1911) and his wife, Joanna Van Erum (b. 1819 d. 9 Oct 1903), who came from St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province, in 1856. Their children were:

- Peter (b. Apr 1852 d. 1935) married Mary Van Ark (b. Feb 1859 d. 25 Dec 1941) who emigrated in 1866, and had nine children:
- (1) Rosa (b. 30 Dec 1877 d. 18 Apr 1943) married John Poels (b. 27 Mar 1877 d. 12 Dec 1943).
  - (2) Natalia (Nettie) (b. 28 Feb 1879 d. 23 Oct 1957) married Joseph Fonder.
  - (3) Frank (b. 23 Nov 1881 d. 20 Apr 1949) married Agnes Brunette and had these children: Alvina married Alfred Fonder; Margaret; and, Josephine.
  - (4) Joseph (b. 20 Oct 1883 d. 15 Dec 1970) married Lena Kaiser.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE VROY FAMILY.

- (5) Herman (b. 15 May 1884 d. 28 Jun 1963) married Elizabeth Vervoren (b. 1892 d. 7 Dec 1951) and had these children: Laura, Elsie and Florence.
- (6) Philomene (b. 7 Dec 1887 d. 1985) married Paul Duchateau.
- (7) John Sr. (b. 3 Aug 1889 d. 19 Feb 1986) married Mathilda Schwartz (b. 11 Sep 1890 d. 1978) and had these children: Marvin, Charles, Laverne, Milton, John Jr., Merlin, Pearl and Marion.
- (8) Henry (b. 7 May 1892) married, (1) Antonette Vervaeren (b. 1893 d. 30 Aug 1927), and (2) Philomene Marchant Depas (b. 1893 d. 1955).
- (9) David (b. 2 Sep 1896 d. 19 Jan 1981) married Clementine Wauters (b. 9 Sep 1899 d. 29 Oct 1962).

Adele Barbara (b. 1855) married Joseph Williquette.

Francis (b. 1856).

Lucy (b. Mar 1860) married Louis Williquette.

4) The D'OVROYE family living in the Town of Suamico started when Peter D'OVROYE, son of Antone D'OVROEY and Joanna BRENNICKS of Bay Settlement married Theresa Wauters, daughter of Peter Wauters and Anna M. KOOPMANS, at St. John the Baptist Church in Duck Creek. Peter and Theresa were both born in 1862 and had these children: Frank (b. 25 Oct 1881); Mary C. (b. Mar 1884); Peter B. (b. May 1886); August H. (b. Oct 1890); Mary (born Oct 1891); Earl C. (b. Mar 1894); Estelle M. (b. Jun 1896); Flor- ence (b. Nov 1898) married Martin Wright; Joseph (b. Oct 1899); and, Raymond (b. 1902).

5) John Batise Devroy (b. 22 Dec 1821 d. 31 Oct 1895) and his wife, Catherine Citte (b. 7 Feb 1825 d. 13 Dec 1915), brought their family from Ottenburg, Brabant Province, to the Town of Bellevue, Wisconsin, in April 1855 and later took up residence in the City of De Pere. Their children were:

Rosalie (b. 7 Sep 1849 died about 1870) married John Mac Donald and had one son, Donald.

Mary (b. 6 Oct 1851 d. 9 Mar 1892) married Charles Carrick and had four children: Ora, Minnie, Charles and Fred.

John William (b. 9 Apr 1853 d. 26 Dec 1946) married Philomene Augustine. They were parents of Catherine, John, Minnie, Anthony, Lewis, Norbert, Elizabeth and Clarence.

Francis (Franke) (b. 9 Mar 1860 d. 3 Jun 1863).

Elizabeth (b. 28 Mr 1862 d. 27 Feb 1880).

William (b. 31 May 1864 d. 5 Apr 1919) was a bachelor.

Augustine John (b. 28 Aug 1866 d. 29 Sep 1867).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE VROY, DE WAELS, DE WAN, DE WITT FAMILIES.

Peter (b. 7 Jul 1870 d. Aug 1933) married Jennie Anderson and had two children: Irene and Robert.

We thank Gladys Willems De Coster for the Anton Devroy family history, and Diane Devroy for the John Baptiste Devroy family information.

### DE WAELS

Jean Dewaels (b. 1862) came to Wisconsin in December 1887.

### DE WAN

In Flanders, the spelling of this Flemish name is DE VAN.

After the Civil War, several De Wan (De Van) families came to Green Bay. Joseph De Wan (b. 1867) was brought to the U.S. in 1870. His wife, Marie (b. Nov 1867), emigrated in 1884. Their children were: Eugenia (b. Jun 1895) and Henry (b. Nov 1897). Joseph's mother, Eugenia (b. Jan 1843), was a widow in 1900 with two other children: Mary (b. Sep 1870) and Frans (born June 1886).

Maria Theresa Devan (b. 30 May 1863 at Oud-Heverlee) is the daughter of Jean Baptiste Devan and Louise Devroey. She left Belgium for Green Bay on 10 Feb 1883.

Four Coopmans boys who came to Green Bay were the sons of William Coopmans and Barbara Devan of Oud-Heverlee.

### DE WITT

The spelling of this name, in Flanders, is always DE WIT.

John Baptiste De Witt (b. 1824 d. 1879) and his wife, Josephine (b. 1834), came to Wisconsin in 1855 and settled in the Red River area of Kewaunee County. Their children were: Charles; Melanie (b. 1851); Laura (b. 1852); and, Antonette (born 1858).

Ferdinand De Witt (b. 1820) and his wife, Lizzie (b. 1823), lived in the Duck Creek area in the 1870s.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DE WITT, DHOOGES FAMILIES.

John De Witt (b. 30 Jan 1853 d. 4 Nov 1904) came to America as a stowaway in 1869. He married Mary Van Deuren (born Sep 1857 d. 5 Oct 1930). Ten of their thirteen children grew to maturity:

Anna (b. 1876 d. 28 May 1939) married Peter Coopmans (b. 1873 d. 14 Feb 1938).

Elizabeth (b. 27 Apr 1877 d. 16 Dec 1946) married Ben Waerzeggers (b. 1869 d. 2 May 1940).

Edward (b. 1885 d. 11 Jul 1954) married Mary Ashley (b. 1896 d. 4 Apr 1978).

Margaret (b. 27 Mar 1886 d. 25 Nov 1965) married Joseph Van Kauwenberg (b. 1883 d. 2 Jan 1967).

Philip (b. 1882 d. 19 Aug 1945) married Agnes Maus.

Herman (b. 1890 d. 1 Jan 1955) married Flora Jacquet (b. 12 Jan 1894 d. Jun 1987).

Mary (b. 21 Jun 1891) married Henry Massey (b. 15 Oct 1882 d. 26 Dec 1970).

Louis (b. 24 Aug 1893 d. 27 Jul 1966) married Daisy Marks (b. 31 Jul 1897).

Joseph (b. 29 Mr 1896 d. 14 Mar 1970) married Julia Marks (born 10 Apr 1904 d. 17 Jan 1981).

Hendrica (Hattie) (b. 9 Jan 1901 d. 15 Aug 1973) married (1) Harry Yunger, and (2) Frank \_\_\_\_\_.

John De Witt's father came to this country after the death of his wife in 1873; he brought another son and a daughter who married an Alsteen.

William De Witt (b. 1857) and his wife, Lena (b. 1867); had these children: Charles (b. 1887); Edmund (b. 1889); Raymond (b. 1891); Hattie (b. 1893); Walter (b. 1903); Lawrence (b. 1905).

The John De Witt family history was furnished by his granddaughter, Mrs. Archie (Arleen) Pamperin.

#### DHOOGES

Felix Dhooge (b. 1878) emigrated to America in 1901. His wife, Isabella was born in 1884; their son, Lawrence, was born in 1904.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DHYNE, DICK, DICTUS, DOMS FAMILIES.

DHYNE

Joseph Dhyne (b. Feb 1829) came to the U.S. in 1855 and served in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War. His wife, Mary Martin (b. Nov 1841) emigrated in 1854; they were married in 1871. Their children were: Olive (b. Feb 1876); Frank (b. Feb 1874); and, Constant (b. Mar 1878).

Francis Dyne (b. 1842) lived with his wife, Adolphine (b. 1841), in Illinois until 1876. Their children were: Victorine (b. 1870); Rosalie (b. 1871); Henry (b. 1875); and, Mary (b. 1877).

Julien Van Dine (b. 1841) and Sidonia (b. 1843) were living in Preble in 1870.

DICK

Hector Dick of Kortemark, West Flanders, settled in Manitowoc. Coletta Dick was the mother of Jules Capelle of Green Bay.

DICTUS

William Dictus (b. 25 Mar 1889 d. 20 Jan 1965) came from Meir, Belgium to the U.S. in 1906. He married Catherine Schiks (b. 25 Feb 1887 in Holland d. 1 Aug 1954) in Faribault, Minnesota, then moved to Kimberly, Wisconsin. Their children were: John F (b. 26 Mar 1920); Henry (b. 12 Sep 1921); Joseph A. (b. 8 Apr 1924) and Mary G. (b. 12 Mar 1927).

Our thanks to Henry Dictus for this family history.

DOMS

The Oud-Heverlee family spelled their name, DOMS, but it may have been DAEMS at one time. Peter Doms (b. 1810) and Maria T. Vannieuwenhoven (b. 1815) brought their family to America on the Gaston in July 1855 and settled in the Town of Humboldt. They brought their two children: Johannes (b. 1847) and Catherine (b. 1852). Peter's sister, Anna, was the wife of Peter De Keilver.

The son, Joannes Albert, married Maria De Keizers (b. 1841) of Huss, Brabant Province, the daughter of Francis De Keizers

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DOMS, DOOGAN, DRAYE, DROOG FAMILIES.

and Catherine Soghers, and had four children. Two of their children were: Frank (b. 1875) and Minnie (b. 1879). The name De Keizers is believed to be De Keyser, and the name Soghers probably is Seghers. The name of the place, Huss, is probably Haasrode.

In 1900, another John Doms (b. Nov 1855) who emigrated in 1858, is listed in the census as having a shoestore in De Pere; also listed are his wife, Mary (b. Feb 1839), and a daughter, Minnie (b. Jan 1882).

### DOOGAN

Charles Doogan (b. Jan 1844) and his wife, Mary (born 1849), came to Michigan from Belgium in 1880 where their daughters, Jeannette (b. Nov 1881) and Irena (b. Jul 1883) were born. In 1900, they were living on a farm in the Town of De Pere.

### DRAYE

Pierre Draye Sr. (b. 1806) and Pierre Dray Jr. (b. 1833 d. 1900) from St. Agathe Rode, Brabant Province, departed Antwerp, Belgium on 22 Sep 1855. Peter Jr. served in the Civil War. His wife was Anna Van Pee; two of their children were: Peter (b. 1857); and, Justine (b. 1865).

Antoine Draye brought his second wife and three daughters from Nethen, Brabant Province, to America in August 1872. Antoine (b. 26 Aug 1817 d. 25 Sep 1909) was the son of Antoine Draye and Maria Agnes Quatsoe; he was a sawmill worker and a soldier in the Franco-Prussian War. He had a daughter, Antoinette, by his first wife, Maria Therese De Bruel; after her death he married Maria Theresa Bourguignon (b. 1824 d. 1917), daughter of Jean Bourguignon and Maria Elizabeth Maguey. They had three girls: Antoinette married Felix De Cock; Louise married Henry Cleeremans (see the Cleeremans family sketch); and, Adele married Frank Shep- eck.

### DROOG

Felix Droog (b. Dec 1823) and his wife, Bernardine Evrard (b. Aug 1826) were married in their home town of Antwerp on 15 Apr 1856 and immediately sailed for Quebec on board the Mary Goodwin. It took them nine days to travel from Quebec to Green Bay, arriving on 14 July 1856. They lived in the City of De Pere.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DROOG, DU CHATEAU FAMILIES.

Some of their children were: Mary married Frank Callewaerts; Leona married August Matzke; Josephine married Matthias Matzke; Jennie; and, Henry J. (b. Oct 1869).

### DU CHATEAU

The Du Chateau families came over at various times; 1854, 1855, 1856, 1868, 1883 and 1890; most were from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province.

William Lambert Duchateau (b. 26 Oct 1825 d. 12 Jan 1910) was born at Oud-Heverlee, son of Gerard Duchateau and Petronella Raymaekers, and arrived at New York on board the Catherine Augusta on 29 Jul 1854. He married Josephine Crop (Crabbe) (b. 9 Aug 1833 d. 8 Apr 1911) of Oud-Heverlee in 1855 and settled in the middle of the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

Francis (b. Dec 1855) married Theresa Verheyden (b. Dec 1856) and had seven children: Willie (b. May 1892); Josephine (b. Feb 1884); Mary (b. Dec 1886); Henry (b. Dec 1888); Pauline (10 Apr 1896 d. 23 Jan 1987) married John Rollin; Edward (b. Dec 1899); and, George (b. 1906).

Joanna (b. 1857) married a Crop; their son, John (b. 13 Oct 1882 d. 17 Nov 1949) married Rose Phillips.

Felix (b. 1860).

Victor (b. Nov 1862) married Theresa Horkmans, daughter of Frank Horkmans. Their daughter, Sophie, was the mother of Arnold and Peter Herber.

Joseph (b. 1863 d. 1898).

Philip (b. Dec 1871 d. 1945) and his wife, Joanna (b. 1874 d. 1945) had these children: Josephine (b. 1903) and Sylvester (b. 1910).

Jean Francois Duchateau (b. 1821) arrived in October 1856, along with his father, J.J. Duchateau (b. 1803), and his wife, Joanna Poels (b. 1816) and three children: Elizabeth, age 16; Fanny, age 11; and, Theophile, age 10. Elizabeth married Peter Callawaerts in 1859; they lived in the Duck Creek area.

Adelard (Etienne) Duchateau (b. 1838 d. 1888) and his brother, Aristophe (b. 1834), came to the U.S. in 1856 and opened a liquor store in Green Bay. Adelard and his wife, Felicia (born 1845), had several children: Eloise (b. 1862); Arthur (b. Jan 1864) married Florence \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Dec 1865); Eliza (b. 1866); Frank (b. 1867); and Rosa (b. 1869) married William Hope. Both Frank and Arthur had liquor stores and were active in local government.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DU CHATEAU FAMILY.

Jean Baptiste Duchateau (b. 17 May 1827 d. 5 Jul 1903) of Oud-Heverlee and his wife, Theresa Wauters (b. 1 Jul 1829 of St. Joris Weert (died 27 Jun 1912), left Belgium on 7 May 1868 with these children: Felix (b. 27 Apr 1862); Alphonse; Jean; Jeanne (b. 4 Feb 1865); and, Maria Theresa (b. 31 May 1867). They settled in the Town of Howard near the old Monette school. Their childrens' families were:

Felix (b. 27 Apr 1860) married Eugenia Poels, daughter of Franciscus Poels and Joanna Roskom, and had five children: Lucia (b. Jun 1885); William (b. Feb 1890 d. 1958) married Theresa Tilly; Alphonse (b. Aug 1892) married Grace \_\_\_\_\_; Mabel (b. Aug 1894) married Alphonse Peeters; Alice married a Fraser; and, Lucy married Joseph Tilly.

Maria Theresa (b. 31 May 1867) married Victor Vanderveren.

Alphonse (b. 15 Aug 1870 d. 1949) married Lucy Vervoren and had three children: Mamie (b. 29 Jan 1898 d. 1979) married John Mommaerts; Clarence married Theresa Vanden Langenberg; Arthur (b. 7 Feb 1907 d. 1969) married Arvilla Marks.

Rose (b. 26 Dec 1872 d. 9 Mar 1938) married John Hubens (born 1868 d. 1945). (See the Hubens family sketch.)

Mabel (b. Aug 1894).

Theodore Du Chateau (b. 1869) came to Wisconsin in 1874 and married Josephine (b. 1869), who had emigrated in 1877. Their first two children were: Ida (b. 1885) and Lucy (b. 1891).

Victor Duchateau (b. 1861) emigrated in 1875 and had two daughters listed in the 1910 census.

On 17 Jul 1883, another Duchateau family from Oud-Heverlee departed from Belgium. Franciscus Duchateau (b. 26 May 1815) and his wife, Maria Michaux (b. 25 Oct 1823), had four children with them:

William (b. 3 Apr 1847) married Philomena Derwae (b. 19 Aug 1843) and had these children:

- (1) Peter (b. 6 Sep 1874 d. 1942) married Lilian Peterson.
- (2) Anna Maria (b. 10 Dec 1876) married a Crabbe.
- (3) Maria Elizabeth (b. 23 Apr 1878 d. 1944) married a Peters.
- (4) Lucy (b. 1 Oct 1880 d. 12 Jan 1955) married Frank Tilly.
- (5) Alphonse (b. 6 Feb 1882) married Grace Devroy.
- (6) Paul (b. 27 May 1884 d. 8 Nov 1952) married Minnie Devroy (b. 7 Dec 1887 d. 17 Dec 1984) and had these children: Alice, Raymond, Ervin, Elmer, Laverne and Lilian.

John (b. 30 Aug 1856) and the widow, Rosalina Poels Basteyns (b. Oct 1861), had these children: Alphonse (b. Mar 1897) and Annie (b. Feb 1900) in Washington State.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DU CHATEAU, DUNKS FAMILIES.

Fred (b. 9 Jan 1859) and his wife, Mary (b. Oct 1857), had these children: Grace (b. Feb 1891); Edward (b. Jan 1893); Charles (b. Nov 1894); Bernard (b. Oct 1896); and, Herbert (b. Nov 1898).

Philipina (b. 5 Jun 1862).

Daniel Duchateau (b. 1860) was living in the City of Green Bay in 1900 with his wife, Kate (b. May 1860). Their children were: Peter (b. Jun 1870); George (b. Oct 1893); Maria (b. Feb 1885); Jane (b. Sep 1887); Agnes (b. Oct 1892). Daniel's grandchildren - Charles Niol (b. Apr 1896) and Ethel Niol (b. Jun 1897), both born in Illinois, lived with them.

Pauline Duchateau of Green Bay (b. Jan 1840) emigrated in 1890. A widow in 1900, she was living with her son, Frank (b. Apr 1870), and Josephine Langendonk (b. 1881), probably a granddaughter.

J.B. Duchateau (b. 1801) and his wife, Angelique (born 1800), settled at Red River with their children: Daniel (b. 1830); Hubert (b. 1834); Rosalie (b. 1840); Celeste (b. 1843). They were a Flemish family from Valenciennes, France. (Red River is in Kewaunee County.)

The Francois R.J. Duchateau (b. Sep 1794 d. 25 Oct 1861) family settled in the Town of Marchant (now Duval), in southwest Door County. They came from the Flemish city of Valenciennes, which is in France.

## DUNKS

The Flemish spelling for this name is DOCKX but it is often also spelled DONCKS AND DONKS.

Two Doncks brothers came from Bierbeek, Brabant Province, to America in June 1856. Henry (Andreas) (b. 1800) was married to Theresa Vander Wegen (b. 1814). Their nine children were:

Joseph (b. 1831 d. 1905) married Maria Josephine Bins upon his return from Civil War service. Their children were: Anton (b. 1867); Louis (b. 1869); and, Virginia (b. Jul 1871).

Henry (b. 1833).

Catherine (b. 1835) married Joseph Verheyden.

Philipine (b. 1841) married John Baptiste Rentmeester, son of John Francis Rentmeester.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE DUNKS, ENGELS FAMILIES.

Barbara (b. 1845) married Felix Vanden Plas.

Maria Theresa (b. 1848) married Jacob Velsheusen.

John Joseph (b. 26 May 1850 d. 8 Nov 1932) married Antonette Adriaens (b. 26 Dec. 1861 d. 14 Oct 1946), daughter of Philip Adriaens and Barbara Vanden Houten and had these twelve surviving children out of twenty:

- (1) Theresa (b. 26 Feb 1882 d. 10 Jun 1958) married Theodore Sinclair.
- (2) Jennie (b. 17 Jan 1884 d. 19 Nov 1964) married Albert Cumps.
- (3) Lucy (b. 10 Mar 1885 d. 14 Mar 1948) married William Vanden Avond.
- (4) Rose (b. 16 May 1886 d. 7 Jun 1962) married (1) a Luedke, (2) Felix Roskom.
- (5) William (b. 17 Jan 1889 d. 15 Jul 1956) married Lena Tilque.
- (6) Harriet (b. 9 May 1890 d. 29 Dec 1979) married Peter Nys.
- (7) Joseph (b. 14 Oct 1894 d. 22 Nov 1950) married Delia Le Mere.
- (8) Josephine (b. 23 Feb 1896 d. 26 Dec 1964) married John Bolssens.
- (9) Sophie (b. 7 Nov 1897 d. 5 Jul 1931) married Nick Larsen.
- (10) Clara (b. 18 Jun 1900) married (1) Philip Bollsens, (2) Matt Monfils.
- (11) Susan (b. 8 Nov 1902) married George Le Mere.
- (12) Grace (b. 1 Feb 1905) married (1) Art Le Comte, (2) Elmer Sipple.

Desire (b. 1853).

Peter (b. 1856) married Anna Jobelius.

The other Doncks brother, Joseph Dunks (b. 1801, filed a declaration of Intent To Be Naturalized; and in 1876, a Joseph Donk was a member of the Brown County Board of Supervisors from the Town of Eaton, but we have no other recorded information to present for him.

We thank Susan Le Mere for her help with the Dunks family history.

## ENGELS

The first Engels family arrived in Green Bay in 1854, and consisted of Nicholas Engels and his two sons, Henry and William.

Henry Engels (b. Aug 1850) lived in the Town of Preble with his wife, Appolonia (b. Apr 1857). Their children were:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ENGELS FAMILY.

Emily (b. Nov 1884); Edward (b. Feb 1887); and, Bernard (b. Aug 1899).

Jean Baptiste Engels (b. 13 Jun 1809 d. 16 Dec 1887) and his wife, Gertrude Serron, brought their family to Green Bay from Elixem, Province of Liege, in 1857 (see Mass Card). Two of their children were:

Edward (b. Sep 1839) came to Green Bay in 1857 and married Veronica Vincent (b. 1843 d. 1885), daughter of John and Mina Vincent. Edward and Veronica had six sons: John (b. Jan 1869) and his wife, Mary (b. 1868), had a daughter, Marie (b. 1896); Louis; Henry (b. Nov 1869); William; Edward (b. 30 Jan 1876); and, August (born Dec 1879). After Veronica's death, Edward Sr. remarried in 1895; his second wife, Virginia Vander Wegen (b. Jan 1852 died 1947), emigrated in 1856.

William (b. 9 Nov 1852 d. 18 Oct 1907) lived on a farm in the City of Green Bay with his wife, Emily Van Nieuwenhoven (b. Oct 1856), and son, John Baptiste (b. Apr 1879 d. 17 May 1966) who married Barbara Pepp. (See Mass Card.)

Charles Engels (b. 11 Mar 1842 at Oud-Heverlee d. 28 Oct 1912), the son of Jean Baptiste Engels and Angelina Drappier, left Belgium for America on 20 Sep 1871. On 29 Jan 1889, he married Mary Verhulst (b. 1860 d. 13 Dec 1933), daughter of Jean Baptiste Verhulst and Catherine Vander Heyden, at Duck Creek. Their five children were: Barbara (b. Jan 1892 d. 15 Jul 1972); Rosa (b. Jun 1892 d. 31 Jul 1953); Minnie (b. 1896 d. 1977) married Steve Marjanovich; Elizabeth (b. 1898); Henry (b. 1903 d. 1968).

Joseph Engels (b. 27 Jul 1862 at Oud-Heverlee) was the son of Andre' Engels and Anna Catherine Bruyninckx. He came to the U.S. in 1883; his wife, Mary Wauters (b. Oct 1870), also came in 1883. They were married in 1891 and had these children: Pauline (b. May 1892); Felix (b. Oct 1893); and, Catherine (b. Oct 1895).

Peter Engels (b. 20 Dec 1860 at Oud-Heverlee), Joseph's brother, departed Belgium on 13 Mar 1891.



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ENGELS, EVERIX, EVRAETS, FABRY,  
FLEMINGS, FONTAINE FAMILIES.

Desire' Engels (b. 1877) emigrated in 1909. The next year, his family came, consisting of his wife, Amelia (b. 1881), and two sons: Jules (b. 1901) and John (b. 1909).

We thank Lucille Engels Busch for information on the John Baptiste Engels family.

### EVERIX

Emil Everix (b. 1872) arrived in Marinette County in 1893 and married Mary A. (b. 1873) who came to America in 1884. Their first offspring were: Victor (b. 1899); Richard (b. 1902); Elsie (b. 1905); and, Frances (b. 1909).

### EVRAETS

There was an Evraets family in Wrightstown by 1856. Jean Evraets was drafted there during the Civil War.

### FABRY

There were many Fabry families living in the Walloon communities. One family that was Flemish consisted of Herman Fabry (b. 1866), who came to America in 1871, and his wife, Emelia (b. 1869). Their First child, Alvin, was born in North Dakota in 1893. The second child, Hattie, was born in Green Bay in 1901.

### FLEMINGS

August Flemings (b. 1863) came to America in 1883. His wife, Annie, was born in 1867.

### FONTAINE

Henry Fontaine (b. 1815) married Elizabeth Pleesters in Onze Lieve Vrouw Tielt, Brabant Province; they emigrated to the Town of Humboldt in 1854. Their daughter, Frances married Ferdinand Vanes. After Elizabeth Pleesters died, Henry became

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE FONTAINE, FRANSENS, GILBERT, GILLINGS FAMILIES.

the second husband of Josephine Coppens Allen. Their children were: Sophie; Monica; and, August. August had seven children, including Sadie (Mrs. Henry) Cleeremans (b. 22 Feb 1888 d. 26 Nov 1985) and Pearl (Mrs.) Tielens.

Ralph Fontaine (b. 1862) and his wife, Louisa (b. 1862) were married in 1881 and had seven children, including: Benjamin (b. 1883); Florence (b. 1888); Blanche (b. 1891); Viola (b. 1894); Edna (b. 1896); and, Adeline (b. 1898).

There was a John Henry Fontaine on board the Lochinvar, which left Antwerp on 14 Mar 1855. With him were his wife, Maria Elizabeth Vander Ells, and their children: Benjamin; Maria Theresa; Antoine; Adele; Othelle; and, Victor.

Joseph Fontaine (b. 1853 d. 20 Aug 1932) and his wife, Sarah (b. 1855 d. 1934) lived in the Duck Creek area.

### FRANSENS

John M. Franssens, the son of John M. Franssens Sr. and Nathalia Verlaet, was born in Verrebroek, Province of East Flanders on 2 Apr 1848. In 1868, he came to Green Bay where he married Mary C. Delwiche in 1872. Mary (b. Sep 1850) came to the U.S. in 1855 with her parents, William Delwiche and Virginia Beaulin. John and Mary had six children: Adele (b. Sep 1873) married H.E. Nelson; Charles (b. Aug 1875) married Grace Vincent; Alphonse (b. Jul 1879) married Jennie Marsland; Cecilia (b. May 1881); Natalia (b. Dec 1886) married Edward Woodcock; Modeste (b. Jun 1888).

### GILBERT

Louis Gilbert (b. 1866) and his wife, Rosella (b. 1867), were married in 1889. Their children were: Kate (b. 1890); George (b. 1892); William (b. 1895); Myrtle (b. 1897); Edward (b. 1899); Martin (b. 1902); Adele (b. 1905); and, Florence (b. 1907).

### GILLINGS

This name is spelled GILIN in Belgium.

Joseph Frans Gillings (b. 17 Mar 1828 d. 17 Jun 1877 in Belgium). His widow, Anna Maria Nuthals (b. 2 Feb 1831), came

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE GILLINGS FAMILY.

from St. Joris Weert to the U.S. with her five children. They were on the ship Amsterdam, landing at New York on 21 Apr 1881. The children were:

Virginia (b. 5 May 1855) married Frank Calewaerts (b. 15 Aug 1851 d. 1921) and had ten children. (See Calewaerts family sketch.)

Rosalia (b. 13 Jan 1860 died young).

Desiré (Jerry) (Henry) (b. 15 Mar 1862) married Theresa Swette (b. Aug 1869) and had nine children:

- (1) Francis (b. Jan 1890) married Margurite Mayer and had these children: Andrew, Ruth, Sylvia, Rita, Carol and Louis.
- (2) Harriet (b. Sep 1890) married Edwin O'Brien and had one daughter.
- (3) Joseph (b. Jun 1893), a dentist, married Josephine Conard and had one son.
- (4) Lawrence (b. Jul 1896), a dentist, married Josephine Wedemeijer and had three daughters and two sons.
- (5) Earl (b. Jun 1898) married Gertrude Fasshender as his second wife. He had three daughters.
- (6) Margaret (b. 1900 died young).
- (7) Rosalia (b. 1904) married Bert Michaels.
- (8) Marion (b. 1906) married David William Thompson and had two sons and three daughters.
- (9) Faustin (b. 1910) had two daughters with his first wife, Betty.

Maria Victoria (b. 19 Oct 1866 d. 1940) married Frederick Netols.

Coletta (Katie) (b. 1 Oct 1872) married Joseph Bins and had these children:

- (1) Florence (Flosie) married Frank Jaeques and had two children: Mildred married Bob Cleerman; and, Lester.
- (2) Grace married William Wallenfang and had four children.
- (3) Elsie married Norbert Selessen and had one son, Robert.
- (4) Mandy - no children.
- (5) Eleanor had one son and one daughter.
- (6) Walter - no children.

Felix Gilin (b. 18 Jan 1881), his wife, Stephania Le Lang (b. Oct 1882), and their daughter, Maria Theresa (b. Jun 1905), left St. Joris Weert for Wisconsin in 1910.

William Gillings came to Green Bay, from St. Joris Weert, in January 1906.

Mrs. Joyce A. Boehm of Green Bay and Sylvia Gilling Benham of Little Rock, Arkansas, furnished this family history.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE GILLIS, GOFFART, GOOSSENS FAMILIES.

## GILLIS

A Gillis family came to Kewaunee County from Flanders in 1880.

## GOFFART

The first Goffart family of seven came to America from Huldenberg, Brabant Province, on board the ship Francis Cutting, landing in April 1856. The father was Alexis J. (b. 1814). His daughter, Josephine (b. 1850 d. 1871) married Philip Bruffaert of Neerijse, Brabant Province. His son, Joseph (b. 1838), and Joseph's wife, Pelagie (b. Dec 1857), lived in the Town of De Pere and had these children: Rachael (b. Apr 1885); Isaac (b. Nov 1886); Rebecca (b. Mar 1888); Moses (b. Sep 1889); Aaron (b. Jun 1893); and, Deborah (b. Oct 1895).

In April 1857, Mrs. Peter J. Goffart (b. 16 Oct 1804 d. 23 Oct 1888) made the eight-week trip on board the Westphalia, from Belgium to Quebec to Green Bay, with her children. Widowed six years before, the former Maria Catherine Rappe was from Thisnes, Liege, Belgium. Her children were:

Ferdinand J. (b. 18 Nov 1836 d. 8 Sep 1899) served in the 22nd. Iowa Inf. during the Civil War. He married Julia Frederickson (b. 1842 in Iowa); lived in the Dakotas during the Civil War period, then settled in De Pere. Their children were: Henry (b. 1862); Christine (b. 1863); Sylvester (b. 1867); Mary (b. 1868); Adeline; Noah; Isabella; Sidonia; Emily; and, Victor. Ferdinand's second wife was Pelagie Bell.

Zachariah (b. 1 Aug 1842) married, first, Mary Theresa Daix (b. 1846 d. 1879), and had five children: Elizabeth, Catherine, Helen, Hortense and Leo. He married, as his second wife, Elizabeth Beecher (b. 7 Mar 1861) and had these children: Amy (born Feb 1881); Joseph (b. Feb 1885); John (b. Sep 1886); Edward (b. Mar 1888); Zachariah (b. Mar 1892); Francis (b. Mar 1893); Lizzie (b. Feb 1895); George (b. Sep 1898); and, Sylvester (b. Dec 1899).

Amelia J. (b. 3 Mar 1844 d. 9 Jul 1930) married Leon Matty in 1862.

Noel later settled in Ontario, Canada.

## GOOSSENS

The Goosen family came from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province,

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE GOOSSENS, GOSSART, GOUDEN, GREATENS FAMILIES.

The first family came in the mid-1850s and settled in the Town of Scott. The 1870 census shows Joseph Goosen, age 44; Veronica, age 32; Joseph, age 11; Anna K., age 70; and a son-in-law, Henry Van Mulder (b. 1857). Pierre Goosens, of this family, served in the Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War.

On 21 April 1871, another Goosens family departed from Belgium. Jean Francois Goosens (b. 27 Sep 1832) and his wife, Maria Vande Zande (b. 16 Jan 1840), both of Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, brought their family of six children to America: Marie-Justine (b. 14 Mar 1858); Marie-Felice (b. 25 Oct 1859); William (b. 29 Oct 1861); Philip (b. 8 Jun 1863); William Joseph (b. 24 Sep 1865); and, Pierre Frederick (b. 15 Mar 1869).

Jean Francois' married daughter, Marie Goosen (b. 14 Mar 1858), wife of Frederick Piron, followed with her family a few years later, leaving Belgium on 28 Apr 1883. Frederick Piron was born at Oud-Heverlee on 15 Feb 1851. They came to America with three children: Frank; Louis; and, Fred.

### GOSSART

The Gossart family settled in Marinette County.

### GOUDEN

Jan Baptista Gouden (b. 1790) and his wife, Maria (born 1790) brought their family to America around 1855. Some of their children were: Mary (b. 1828); Louis (b. 1844); John (b. 1850); Baptista Jr. (b. 1853); and, Adeline (b. 1857).

### GREATENS

The Flemish spelling of this name is GRIETENS.

The William Grietens and Louis Ronsmans families departed Antwerp on the Sea Garth on 25 Aug 1855. William (b. 1825) and his wife, Maria L. Henry (b. 1825), had two young girls with them.

Thomas Joseph Greeten (b. 22 Dec 1839 d. 16 May 1936) married Angelina Vincent (b. 15 Feb 1839 d. 27 Jul 1920) on 29 Oct 1864 and emigrated to Wisconsin in 1870. Their children were:

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE GREATENS, GROSSEN, GUILLAUME FAMILIES.

Maximilien (Mike) (b. 18 Jun 1867 d. 1936) married Stephanie Heraly and had these children: Mike married a Barret; Joseph; Emma; Eleanor married Elmer Marchant, son of Joseph Adelbertus Marchant and Flora Fiol, and had three children - Eunice, Kenneth and Robert.

Mary (b. 23 Nov 1870 d. 1953) married William Ronsman and had ten children.

Joseph (b. 1875 d. 1954) married Julia Tasquin and had thirteen children.

Josephine (b. 12 Sep 1878 d. 11 Sep 1950) married Frank Allen and had five children.

August (b. 1880 d. 1957) married Mary Pigeon and had nine children.

We thank Norbert E. Greatens (grandson of August) for most of the above information.

### GROSSEN

Stephen Grossen (b. 1802) and Dorothe (b. 1813) brought their family to the Town of Bellevue in May 1855. In 1870, their son, John (b. 1843) was living in Green Bay with his wife, Elizabeth (b. 1846), and their one-year-old daughter, Mary; John was working at a sawmill. Their second child, Louis (b. 1849), was living in Green Bay in 1900 with his wife, Tonette (b. 1850), and seven children. Their third child, a son, John Baptiste (born 1852 d. 1897), had a wife, Mary (b. B. 1855), and these children: Elizabeth (b. Apr 1877); Celia (b. Dec 1884); Alice (b. Mar 1887); Octavia (b. Jun 1890); and, Myrtle (b. Aug 1895). The fourth child of Stephen and Dorothe was Cecilia (b. 1853).

The name GROSSEN, was also spelled GRASSEN and GROSSEL.

### GUILLAUME

Emil Guillaume (b. 1854) and his wife brought their family to the Town of Suamico in 1893. His wife died around 1900; the children were: Mary (b. 1886); Julius (b. 1888); Julia (born 1893); Louisa (b. 1895); and, Emma (b. 1900).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE GUNS, HAEVERS FAMILIES.

GUNS

This name was spelled Goens when the family emigrated in 1858. Peter Goens (b. 1812) and his wife, Anna (b. 1818), came from the hamlet of Wolfshagen (near Huldenberg) and settled in the Town of Bellevue with their son, William (b. Jun 1854). In 1900, William Guns was a carpenter in Green Bay, and lived with his wife, Philomene (b. Dec 1859), and these children: Henry (b. Oct 1880); Louise (b. Mar 1882); Lucy (b. Apr 1892); and, Thomas (b. Mar 1894). This census shows only four of their eleven children were living in 1900 and again in 1910.

Andrew Goens (b. 1826) and Anna Catherine Vanden Plas (b. 1838) settled in the City of Fort Howard with their family. The 1870 census shows these children: William (b. 1860); Antonette (b. 1862); Lizzie (b. 1865); and, Felix (b. Jan 1870). In 1900, Edward Guns is listed in the census. He was born Oct 1876 and his wife, Lena, was born Oct 1873. Their children were: Arlene (b. Apr 1896) and Gladys (b. May 1898).

Henry Guns (b. 28 Jan 1855 at Oud-Heverlee), the son of Jean Baptiste Guns and Joanna Delqui, left Belgium in Oct 1883 with his wife, Angeline (b. Oct 1857), and two children. The 1900 census shows them living in the Town of Bellevue with these children: William (b. Apr 1879); Lizzie (b. Mar 1883); Frank (b. May 1885); Ballera (b. Jul 1889); Mary (b. Oct 1891); Corrine (b. Sep 1893); and, Albert (b. May 1896).

Henri T. Guns (b. 1820) and his wife, Elizabeth Van Negen (b. 1816), brought their family to America in Sep 1856. Their family included: Amelia (b. 1849) and Philippe (b. 1826), who may have been Henri's brother.

HAEVERS

Ferdinand Haevers (b. 1842 d. 1909) was born in St. Agathe Rode and came to the U.S. with the Pierre Draye family in August 1855. When the Civil War started, he was in New Orleans, where he was drafted into the Confederate Army. After the war, he married Catherine Bredael, daughter of Michael Bredael and Maria Hartmann. Their children were: Anton J. (b. 1868); Mary (b. 1869); Elizabeth (b. 1871); Josephine (b. 1872); Louisa (born 1874); Emil (b. 1875); and, Martin (b. 1879) who married Anna Van Castor.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HAEZAERTS, HALLAUX, HAUTERBROOK,  
HENDRICKS FAMILIES.

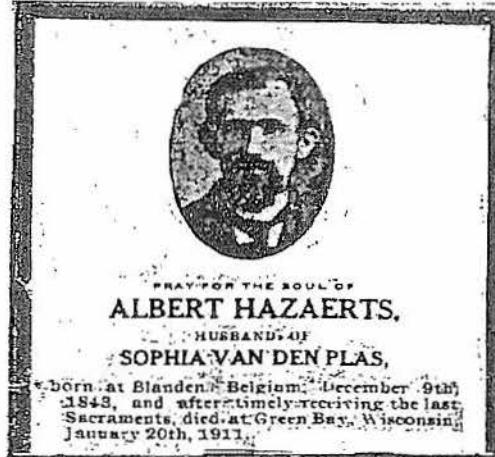
### HAEZAERTS

The Flemish spelling of this name is HAESAERTS.

Peter Albert Haesaerts (b. 9 Dec 1843 d. 20 Jan 1911) was the son of Philip Haesaerts and Maria Catherine Piron of Blanden. With his wife, Sophie Vanden Plas (b. 8 Apr 1849 at Bierbeek), and two sons, he emigrated to Wisconsin in April 1881. His sons were:

Joseph (b. 20 Mar 1869) had a wife, Mary (b. May 1870 d. about 1902), who emigrated in 1888. They were married in 1892 and were living in the City of Green Bay in 1900 and had these children: Albert (b. Jun 1893); Rosie (b. May 1895); Emma (b. Apr 1897); and, Eddie (b. Sep 1899).

Philip (b. 18 Oct 1877 d. 1933) married Theresa Van Erem (born 1877 d. 1958). Their oldest children were: Henry (b. 1902); Josephine (b. 1905) married Edward Heyrman; Eli (b. 1906 d. 1933); Helen (b. 1909); and, Felix married Eleanor Adrians.



### HALLAUX (see ALLEN)

### HAUTERBROOK

The Flemish spelling for this name is UYTTEBROEK.

Emil Hauterbrook (b. Feb 1865 in Wisconsin) married Mary La mar in 1896. Mary (b. Jul 1867) was brought to America by her mother, Virginia La mar (b. May 1831) in 1870. Emil and Mary had a daughter, Alice (b. Feb 1897).

### HENDRICKS

The Flemish spelling for this name is HENDRICKX.

William Hendricks from Antwerp, Belgium, was one of the earliest settlers in the Town of Humboldt. The records show Nickolas Hendricks and John Baptist Hendricks (probably his sons) as landowners. They also show Nickolas Hendricks as the husband

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HENDRICKS, HERMANS, HEYRMANS FAMILIES.

of Mary Vanden Borne and of Anna Schmitz. Emilia Hendricks (born 1848) married John J. Coppens.

Desire' Hendricks (b. 1825) and his wife, Johanna Van Malderen (b. 1828), came to America from Ottenburg, Brabant Province, departing 1 Mar 1856. In 1870, he was a drayman and they were living in the First Ward of the City of Green Bay. Their children were: Julia (b. 1857); Josephine (b. 1859); William (b. 1862) married Kate Vanderwegen; Celia (b. 1863); Jennie (born 1865); and, Angeline (b. 1868). Their relative, Julian Joseph Hendricks, born in Belgium in 1842, died in Brown County on 5 Oct 1889.

John B. Hendricks (b. 1856 d. 1923) and his wife, Alexandrine (b. 1850 d. 1938), came to Kewaunee County from Ottenburg in 1886. He was a mason and a farmer. Their children were: Louis (b. 1883 d. 1940) married Deseria De Longville (b. 1887 d. 1947), and had seven children - Wilfred, Lorraine (Mrs. Fred Williquet), Eva, Regina, Myrtle, Marie and Mabel; William married Julia Charles; Katherine married Charles Hoebreckx.

## HERMANS

Desire' Hermans (b. 1871 d. 1956) married Mary Laurent (b. 1877 d. 1924). Their children were: Frank; Henry; Elsie; Fred; Agnes; Joseph; William; and, Josie (Mrs. Art Adams).

Anton Herman (b. Oct 1855) came to the U.S. in 1856. He lived in Marinette County with his wife, Cecilia (b. Mar 1868) and children: Agnes (b. Mar 1881); Louisa (b. Dec 1883); Ruben (b. Sep 1886); Eva (b. Aug 1890); Ralph (b. Oct 1892); Charles (b. Jun 1894); Alexander (b. Jul 1897); and, Clarence (b. Jul 1899).

## HEYRMANS

This family was unusual in several ways; they were from west Belgium and not Brabant; they went to two other Flemish colonies before coming to Wisconsin; and they had more money than most Flemish immigrants. This section is split into two parts: the John Heyrman family and the Frank Heyrman family.

### JOHN HEYRMAN

John Heyrman (b. 10 May 1902 d. 25 Aug 1874) and his wife, Anna Catherine De Jonghe (b. 1799 d. 1856), lived in Bornhem,

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HEYRMAN FAMILY.

Province of Antwerp, where they had three sons. In 1855, two of the sons, John Baptiste and Pierre, sailed on the ship Served from Antwerp to New York. After landing in April, they went to a Belgian colony in Pennsylvania. The next year, they met their father and their brother in Detroit (their mother had died at sea of consumption) after they had crossed the ocean aboard the William D. Smith, and proceeded to Green Bay, where they bought a quarter-section of land in the Town of Preble. The three sons were:

Charles Louis (b. 8 Sep 1827 d. 8 Sep 1899) married Monica Van Lent (b. 20 Dec 1827 d. 1 Oct 1901) on 6 Jan 1857. They farmed the original homestead and had six children: Francis (see following history); Peter (b. 1860 died young); August (b. 1862 died young); Mary (b. 1864) married Martin Lindsley; Cecilia (b. 22 Nov 1866 d. 18 Dec 1948) married Julius La Mal; Edward (b. 1868 d. 1893).

John Baptiste (b. 4 Feb 1831 d. 24 Jun 1899) married Barbara Isabella De Both (b. 7 Feb 1843 d. 16 May 1924) from Ottenberg in the Province of Brabant. They lived in the City of De Pere, and after trying several occupations, published several newspapers. Of their ten children, six reached adulthood. They are: Henry (b. 13 Feb 1868 d. 9 Jun 1843) married Mary Toonen (b. 1871 d. 1964); Anna Catherine (b. 1870); Mary Magdalena (b. 1872) married a Williamson; Peter (b. Jun 1874); Julia (b. Jun 1876); and, Alexander (b. Sep 1887).

Joseph Pierre (b. 1833) married Elizabeth Van Deuren (b. Feb 1848), daughter of William Van Deuren and Anna Catherine Vanden Avond of Huldenberg, Brabant Province, on 17 Apr 1866. They lived in the City of Green Bay where Joseph was the city surveyor and held a number of official positions. The couple had eight children, five surviving until 1900. Five are shown here: Charles L. (b. 1869); William J. (b. Jul 1870); Frank (b. May 1875); Caroline (b. Jan 1879); Henrietta (b. Mar 1877) married Jules Cauwenberg (b. May 1874).

There was another Joseph Heyrman (b. Dec 1869) who emigrated in 1897 and was a music director in Green Bay. His wife, Harriet (b. May 1876), came over with him. Their children were: Eugenia (b. Sep 1897) and Alis M. (b. Feb 1900).

Much of this information was furnished by Jean and Mark Doeberleiner of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

FRANK HEYRMAN

Francis Heyrman (b. 25 Nov 1858 d. 26 Nov 1922) was the first child of Charles Louis Heyrman (see the family history

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HEYRMAN, HINNENDAEL FAMILIES.

preceding this one) and Monica Van Lent. Frank married Coletta (Clara) De Greef (b. 27 Nov 1866 d. 30 Sep 1932), the daughter of Anton De Greef and Mary Wageneer, on 18 Feb 1889; they took over the old Keyrman farm and had twelve children:

Louis (b. 1889 d. 1974) married Annie Van Lanen and had two children - Frank and Peter.

John (b. 1890) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ and had two children - Christine and Elmer.

Catherine (b. 1892 d. 1975) married Peter W. Rentmeester (see William Rentmeester family sketch).

Peter (b. 1894 d. 1973) married Jennie Collard and had four children - Marion, Marvin, Adeline and Leland.

Marvin (b. 1895 d. 1976) married Caroline Vanden Avond and had four children - Eleanor, Raymond, Francis and Laverne.

Nettie (b. 1897 d. 1980) married Henry Vanden Avond and had an adopted child, Kenneth.

Alphonse (b. 1899) married Mary Forst and had eight children - Lucille, Jeanette, Earl, Fabian, Madeleine, Rita, Lawrence and Vernon.

Edward (b. 1901 d. 1963) married Josephine Hazaert and had eight children - Evelyn, Mary, Audrey, Robert, Elizabeth (Betty), Roger, Margaret and Richard.

Harry (b. 3 Apr 1903 d. 22 Jun 1970) married Pearl Panure (Peig-neier) and had four children - Myron, Elmira, Delores and JoAnn.

Philip (b. 1905 d. 1927).

Florence (b. 1907 d. 1976) married Peter Holl and had five children - Clifford, Roy, Patricia, Marcella and Clara.

Carrie (b. 1911) married Arthur Philips and had one child - James.

This family history was written by Mrs. Marvin (Myrtle Gonion) Rentmeester.

### HINNENDAEL

Joseph Hinnendels (b. 1834) emigrated to the U.S. in 1865. His son, John (b. 1864), and wife, Mary, appear in later records.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HOSKINS, HOYKENS, HUBENS FAMILIES.

## HOSKINS

Peter Hoskins (b. 4 Feb 1838) and his brother, Thomas, sons of Peter J. and Catherine Hoskins of East Flanders Province, Belgium, departed from Antwerp for the U.S. in August 1868. After their arrival, Thomas went to Michigan and Peter worked at various jobs in the Green Bay area. On a return trip to Antwerp, Peter married Louisa Van Remoortel (b. 24 Jun 1836) on 16 May 1874. Peter and Louisa lived in the City of De Pere with their son, Joseph (b. Jan 1879).

Thomas and Rose Hoskins had six surviving children in 1910. They include: Clothilda (b. 1874 in Michigan); Joseph (b. 1879) and his wife, Katherine (b. 1884), had a son, Peter (b. 1910); and, Victoria (b. Jan 1900).

## HOYKENS

John Hoykens (b. May 1851) came to America in 1882 with his wife, Joanna (b. Sep 1858). They settled on a farm in the Town of Humboldt after a stay in Minnesota for two years. Their children were: Ferdinand (b. Sep 1884 in Minnesota); Peter (born Nov 1885); Theodulus (b. May 1887); Louis (b. May 1888); Mary (b. Jan 1890); Edward J. (b. Feb 1891); Angeline (b. Nov 1892); Emilia (b. Oct 1893); Ida (b. Jan 1895); Louis (b. Jan 1896); and, John Jr. (b. 1902).

## HUBENS

A Hubens family arrived in America on the ship J.H. Elliott, landing in New York on 31 Jul 1856. The family consisted of Jean Joseph Hubens, age 40; Catherine Sarg, age 40; Charles L., age 13; Augustin, age 11; and, Sinclair, age 7. Jean's sister, Henrietta, age 32, was on the same ship with her husband, Jean Van Horndenne, and his family. They lived in the Town of Humboldt; however, the 1860 Census shows only one Hubens family in the Town of Humboldt, headed by Francis (b. 1827) and Anna (b. 1825). In 1860, a Huben family was living at Red River, Kewaunee County: Louis Huben (b. 1810) and Catherine (b. 1813) and their two sons - Louis (b. 1839) and Robert (b. 1846).

In 1880, Arnold Hubin (b. Dec 1842) and his wife, Julia (b. Dec 1850), came to the City of Green Bay. In 1900, there were three children in their household: Clemence (b. Oct 1879); Mary (b. Jun 1881); and, Vinnie (b. May 1882).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HUBENS, HUENS, HUISMAN FAMILIES.

John B. Huben (b. 6 Sep 1868 d. 5 Nov 1945) came to the Town of Howard with his sister, who was a teacher, and John Wery from Belgium in 1888. He married Rosa Duchateau (b. 26 Dec 1872 d. 9 Mar 1938), daughter of John Duchateau and Theresa Wau-ters, in 1872. Their children were:

Elizabeth (b. 3 Aug 1894 d. 24 Oct 1960) married Felix Poels (b. 3 Sep 1893 d. 24 May 1975).

Fred (b. 8 Apr 1896 d. 6 Apr 1987) married Eva Reschke (b. 1892 d. 30 Jul 1966).

Felix (b. 2 Oct 1898 d. 2 Jan 1972) married Irene Swaerts.

William (b. 8 Apr 1900 d. 4 Oct 1986) married Alma Steeno (born 24 Mar 1905), daughter of George Steeno and Clara Verstoppen.

Peter (b. 17 Sep 1901 d. 30 Jan 1988) married Alice Poels, daughter of Frank Poels and Theresa Nys.

Clara (b. 19 Jan 1906) married Antone Kasper.

Ben (b. 19 Oct 1908 d. 23 Oct 1971) married Evelyn Stordeur.

John (b. 8 Jun 1912 d. 14 Aug 1959) married Viola Doering (born 1912), daughter of Otto Doering and Barbara Verstoppen.

Four other children died in infancy.

Information on John Huben and his family was furnished by Joyce Huben Powers and Margaret Poels Duchateau.

## HUENS

Constant Huens was a Green Bay fisherman (b. Dec 1857) who migrated to the U.S. in 1882. In 1884, he married Virginia (b. Dec 1857 in Wisconsin). Some of their seven children were: Emily (b. Apr 1885); Felix (b. Mar 1887); Alphonse (b. Mar 1889); Alice (b. Nov 1893); Isabella (b. Feb 1896); and, Louis (b. Feb 1898).

## HUISMAN

This name was changed from HAESMAN.

Charles L. Haesman (b. 23 Mar 1839 d. 28 Nov 1904) became Huisman when he brought his family to Oconto, Wisconsin in 1880. He was the son of Bernardus Haesman and Maria Joanna De Kezel of Assenede, Province of East Flanders, Belgium. Charles Haesman

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HUISMAN, HULKMAN FAMILIES.

married Stephanie Van Hecke as his first wife; after Stephanie's early death, Charles then married Sophia Van Hecke (b. 1 Apr 1842 d. 17 Apr 1908) on 12 Mar 1873. When they migrated to America in 1880, they brought their five children; the oldest, Bernard (b. 10 Apr 1874) died at sea. Their other children were:

Henry (b. 13 Jul 1875 d. 2 Dec 1949) married Minnie Hundt in 1903 and moved to Ghent, Minnesota. Their children are: Charles L., Sophia, Helen, Mary, John, Irene, Henry, Esther and Elizabeth.

Ida (b. 30 Sep 1876 d. 1901) married Ed Van Dorpe in 1896 and lived in Ghent, Minnesota and Indiana. They had a daughter, Emily.

Polydor or Leo (b. 1 May 1878 d. 1919) married Ann Schulart and had two children - Marie and Cecile.

Edward (b. 13 Nov 1879 d. 3 Aug 1951) married Elodia (Ella) D'Hondt (b. Aug 1878 d. 8 Apr 1938) on 8 Apr 1902 and had six children: Joseph, Jeanette, Grace, Howard, Clarence and Edward.

Frank (b. 22 Feb 1882 d. Jun 1934) married Alice D'Hondt in 1906 and had eight children: Alice, Flora, Frank, Cecilia, Carl, Clara, Jane and Paul.

Charles (b. 1883 d. 1948) married Theresa Loberger and had two children: Mirelda and Viola.

Frances (b. 1887 d. 1946) married Frank Befay and had three children: Louella, Janice and Frank.

Ben (died young).

Our thanks to Wayne Huisman of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, who compiled the Huisman genealogy, and to Patricia Huisman Hansen, who made it available to us.

## HULKMAN

This name is also spelled HAUKMAN.

Louis Hulkman (b. Jun 1865) came to the U.S. in 1868. His wife, Mary (b. Mar 1865), came in 1889. Their six children were: Rosa (b. Jul 1891); Nettie (b. Jun 1893); Frank (b. Dec 1894); Sophie (b. Jan 1896); Joseph (b. Jan 1898); May (b. 1901); and, Elizabeth (b. 1903).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HURKMAN/HORKMANS FAMILIES.

### HURKMAN

The most common spelling of this name in St. Joris Weert is HORCKMANS. In America, it is spelled HURKMAN. This is one of the oldest Flemish families in Wisconsin; William (Gillan) Horchmans came to America around 1849, returned to St. Joris Weert, then emigrated with the Walloon Protestant families in 1853 with his new family. His spirit of adventure was shared by other Horckman immigrants, many of whom left Green Bay for greener pastures. This section is split into three parts: first, the early Horckmans; second, the William Horckmans family; and, third, the Horkmans who emigrated later.

### EARLY HORKMANS

Three members of a Horckmans families from St. Joris Weert on the Catherine Augusta, landing at New York on 29 Jul 1954. They were: William; Anna Catherine married John Francis Malliette; and, Henri.

William Horkman and his wife, Anna Mario Dino, were both sixty-two years of age when they arrived on board the Catherine Augusta with their two children, Frank and Josephina, plus their son, Anton, and his family. Anton (b. 15 Oct 1821) was married to Anna Maria Thielens (b. 10 Oct 1822); some of their children were: Maria, Theresa, Joannes and Wilhelm. On board the same ship were a batch of Horckman relatives: Malliet, Vannieuwenhoven, Crabb and Coppens families.

Henri Horkman (b. 1795) was married to Maria Nuthals, then he married Maria Vaness as his second wife; his third wife, Elizabeth Cleeremans (b. 1801) was married to him when they emigrated to America - their children were:

William who emigrated in 1853. See next family sketch.

Frans (b. 1834) married Rosalia Van Hoof and had eight children:  
(1) Mary (b. 1863) and (2) Catherine (b. 1863) twins.  
(3) Louis (b. 1865) married Mary Lustraten.  
(4) Joseph (b. 1867) married Pauline Phillips (b. 1869).  
Their children: Rosa (b. 1891); Mary (b. 1893); Minnie (b. 1896); Arthur (b. 1898); Anna (b. 1899); Fred (born 1903); Florence (b. 1905); Mabel (b. 1908); and, Harry (b. 1909).  
(5) Alphonse (b. Feb 1870).  
(6) Maria (b. Feb 1872).  
(7) Anton (b. Jan 1874).  
(8) Theresa (b. 1876).

Martin (b. 30 Sep 1836 d. 30 Oct 1916 in Kansas) served during the Civil War and married Marie Depas (b. 4 Feb 1851 d. 20 Jul

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HORKMAN FAMILY.

1912). They had eleven children:

- (1) Joseph (b. 19 Apr 1869 d. 9 Jul 1953) married Lena Myers and had four children.
- (2) Samuel (b. 27 Jan 1871 d. 29 Mar 1949) married Mary Kregline.
- (3) Maria Theresa I (died as an infant).
- (4) Maria Theresa II (b. 8 Feb 1874 d. 26 Sep 1943) married O.M. Quakenbush.
- (5) David (b. 8 Feb 1876 d. 6 Aug 1951).
- (6) Lillian (b. 14 Dec 1877 d. 3 Dec 1894) married Russell Ward and had one son.
- (7) Anton (b. 22 Jan 1880 d. 26 Jul 1959) married Fannie Klotz and had two children.
- (8) Anna (b. 20 Mar 1882 d. 6 Jan 1971) married Harold Elstrom.
- (9) Alfred (b. 1884 d. 1981) married Ruth Hughes and had three children.
- (10) Emma (b. 19 Apr 1886 d. 8 Apr 1955) married Craig Pigman and had two children.
- (11) Alice (b. 16 May 1888 d. 2 Mar 1894).

Pieter (b. about 1838).

Philipina (b. 1841 d. 1896) married Frank Derricks.

### GILLAN HORKMAN

William (Gillan) Horkman (b. May 1830 d. 2 Jun 1901) returned from his exploratory trip to America and married Theresa Vanden Busch (b. Oct 1826 d. 14 Feb 1915). They arrived back in America in March 1853 with their infant daughter. Their eight children were:

Virginia (b. 1852 in southwest Belgium) married Alex Cleeremans (b. 1850 d. 1901).

John (b. 14 Sep 1854 d. 6 Jul 1923) married Minnie Verheyden (b. 1 Mar 1857 d. 14 Feb 1920) and had ten children: William (b. 10 Aug 1880); Louis (b. Feb 1882); Pauline (b. Oct 1883) married Albert Vanden Plas; John (b. Jul 1885); Frank (b. May 1887); Josephine (b. Mar 1890) married George Schoen; Charles (b. Nov 1891 d. 1960) married Alma Norberg; Edward (b. Nov 1893) married Frances Lathour; Arthur (b. Jan 1896); and, Harry (b. Feb 1900).

Charles (b. 1856).

Josephine (b. 1858) married Frank Tielens.

Peter (b. 1859) and his wife, Christina (b. 1863) had four children.

Fred (b. 1863 d. 1945) married Tracy Vanden Bush (b. 1867) and lived in Kunesh.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HORKMAN, HUSSIN FAMILIES.

Pauline (b. 1864) married William Tielens.

Mina (b. 1868) married John Moes.

### OTHER HORKMANS

Louis Horkman, age 21, arrived at New York on 25 Aug 1856 aboard the Alice Tainter.

John Horckmans (b. 24 Sep 1818) and his wife, Mary Goosens (b. 14 Jun 1821), both born in St. Agathe Rode, brought their family from Huldenberg to the U.S. in 1866. Their children were: Frances B. (b. Apr 1856); Henry (b. 1858); Joseph (b. Jan 1859); Philomena (b. 1860) married Frank Derwae. The three boys were still bachelors in 1900, living in the Town of Scott.

Francis Horkman (b. 1835) came to the U.S. in 1869 and married Barbara Smits that same year; they had seven children. Martin Hurkman emigrated in 1870 and Francis in 1872.

Theresa Hurkman (b. 1863 in Antwerp d. 1946) came to the U.S. in 1870 with her parents, her brothers, Louis, Alphonse H. and Henry H., and her twin sister, Nettie (Mrs. Shraw). Theresa married Victor Duchateau.

Other Hurkman information: J.F. Horkmans married Petronella Noyen; Frank Horkman (b. 1887 d. 1958) and his wife, Angelina Lathauer (b. 17 Apr 1894 d. 19 Feb 1966) are buried in the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum cemetery; Frank Hurkmans (b. 1866 d. 1942) is buried in the Bay Settlement cemetery; Henry Horkman (b. 8 May 1896 d. 14 Sep 1903) is buried in St. Mary's cemetery in the Town of Humboldt.

We thank Roger Paeps of St. Joris Weert, Province of Brabant, Belgium, who provided much of the emigration data on the Hurckmans. We also thank Fabian Horkman of Green Bay, and Vada Ruth Lantz of Tecumseh, Kansas, for their help with the Hurkman history.

### HUSSIN

In response to advertisements for stone-workers needed at Duck Creek, Joseph Hussin (b. 1812) and his wife, Florence Toussaint (b. 1816), left the Province of Liege, Belgium, and came to America with four children on board the ship Clara, landing in New York on 5 Aug 1856. Joseph worked in the Rioux Stone Quarry at Duck Creek for many years, well into his seventies, and is

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HUSSIN FAMILY.

listed as "Old Hussin" in the Rioux ledgers. Joseph and Florence had ten children, eight are listed here:

- Joseph (b. 20 Jun 1842 d. 6 Oct 1913) married Octavia Lumaye (b. 12 Aug 1849 d. 20 Jan 1919). Their eleven children were:  
(1) Paul (b. 11 Jun 1869 d. 21 Jul 1962) married, as his first wife, Mary Rodaer (b. 12 Jun 1868 d. 26 Apr 1952) and had these children:  
-Harry (b. 20 Feb 1890).  
-Claude (b. 3 Mar 1892).  
-Lester (b. 27 Feb 1894 d. 18 Jun 1950).  
-Delores (b. 23 Feb 1897) married Frank Davis.  
-Hilda (b. 1 Mar 1889) married Earl Cumps, son of Frank and Susie Wallenfang Cumps.  
-Eloise (b. 13 Jan 1901) married (1) to Michael Eger, and (2) to Raymond Bolduc.  
-Lyle (b. 29 Aug 1904).  
-Lola (b. 21 Jan 1907 d. 22 Apr 1979) married William Callewaerts.  
Paul, married as his second wife, Rose Strong.  
(2) Veronica (b. 1871 d. 1911) married Fred De Lorme.  
(3) Edward (b. 1882).  
(4) Josephine (b. Nov 1873 d. 1956) never married.  
(5) George (b. 1876 d. 1946) was a bachelor.  
(6) Alexander (b. 19 Jun 1878 d. 13 Nov 1945) married Edith Brunette (b. 1886 d. 15 Feb 1924) and had these children:  
-Linus (b. 22 Sep 1905 d. Mar 1968) married Janice Smith.  
-Mae (b. 1 Jan 1908) married Roy Pamperin and had three children: Gerald, Bill and Debbie.  
-Aloysius (b. 13 Jul 1911) married Edna Pamperin and had two children: Dennis and Jane.  
-Margaret (b. 22 Jun 1913) married Austin Van Erem and had three children: Wayne, Marilyn and Rick.  
-Germain (b. 9 Feb 1916) married Forrest Elsner and had two children: Janice and James.  
-Betty (b. 12 Feb 1918 d. 28 Jan 1956) married William Pamperin and had five children: Judy, Sue, Gary, David and Jeff.  
(7) Michael (b. Jun 1883 d. 1929) married Elsie Greenwood.  
(8) Alice (b. Sep 1885 d. 1969) married Emil Stordeur.  
(9) Mary (b. 11 May 1888 d. 1981) married Charles Sorenson.  
(10) Irma (b. Oct 1890) married Lucien Dupuis.  
(11) Leo (b. May 1893 d. 1969) was a bachelor.

Joseph owned a saloon and hotel in Duck Creek.

Rosene (b. 5 Jun 1845) married August Deterville (b. 23 Oct 1842) and had these children: Mary (b. 1867; Alex (b. 1868); Josephine (b. 1874); Guilda (b. 1877); Emilia (b. 1886) married Jules Friex.

Marie (b. 1847) married Gideon Belleau and moved to British Columbia.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HUSSIN FAMILY.

Alexander (b. Nov 1851) married, as his first wife, Adeline \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1858 d. 26 Feb 1882) and had two children: Florence and Lucy. Alexander married, as his second wife, Louise Kanouska (b. Feb 1862), on 25 Oct 1884, and had four children: Joseph Michael (b. Aug 1885); Salvatore B.A. (b. 16 Jul 1888 d. 7 Jan 1889); and, twin daughters, Beatrice and Chloe (b. Mar 1892). Alexander owned a general store in Duck Creek.

Rosalie (b. Jul 1854 d. 4 Oct 1944) married Constantine St. Clet (Sinclair) (b. 1847 d. 1916), and had five children: Katherine (b. 8 Feb 1873); Theodore (b. Nov 1874); Mary (b. 13 Aug 1879); Joseph (b. Jun 1887); and, George (b. 11 Nov 1888).

Veronica (b. 18 Nov 1857 d. 9 Oct 1918) married Peter Tonnon (b. 1852 d. 1936) and had nine children:

- (1) Arthur (b. Jul 1882) married Minnie Aebischer and had one son.
- (2) Sophie married Dave Williquette.
- (3) Mabel married Ed Rabideau and had four sons and two daughters.
- (4) Florence married Felix Williams and had five sons and four daughters.
- (5) Josephine married Ed Johnson and had one daughter.
- (6) Cecilia married Lloyd Bell and had two sons.
- (7) Alzada married Lawrence Steeno and had one son.
- (8) Edith married Ray Porter and had two sons.
- (9) John married Rose Fournier and had these children: Archie; Lloyd; Norbert; Irene married Philip Peters; Isabella married Clarence Kropp; Dorothy married Arnold Pamperin; and, Romaine married Lawrence Mommaerts.

George (b. 18 May 1860 d. 4 Jun 1947) married, first, Maria Williquette on 19 Jun 1883. He married, as his second wife, Emma Kanouska on 24 Jan 1886. He married, as his third wife, Amelia Dionne on 21 Apr 1889. Amelia Dionne (b. 9 Jul 1869 d. 13 Sep 1930) and George had these children:

- (1) John (b. 24 Dec 1889 in Washington State d. 23 Jun 1912).
- (2) Archie (b. 1892 d. 5 Sep 1969) married Mabel Wallenfang (b. May 1892 d. 10 Jul 1943).
- (3) Beulah (b. 16 Oct 1895 d. 24 Oct 1984) married (1) Robert Krause, and (2) Henry Zuidmulder.
- (4) Walter (b. Jan 1894 d. 17 Jun 1960) married Clara Vervoren (b. 1894 d. 3 Dec 1972).
- (5) Willard (b. 21 Apr 1897 d. 2 Feb 1987) married (1) Lucy Vanderperren, and (2) Rose Wallenfang Tilly.
- (6) Hiram (b. Jun 1899 d. 28 Mar 1983) married Mary Vervoren (b. 1901 d. 1964).
- (7) Alfrieda (b. 6 Nov 1902 d. 13 Jun 1975) married (1) Joseph Vervoren, then (2) William Crabbe.
- (8) Dorothy married Louis Kocian.
- (9) Marie (b. 10 Jul 1910) married (1) Andrew Delvoye, then (2) Marlin Miller, then (3) George Vander Meulen.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE HUSSIN, HUYBRECHTS, JACKMAN  
FAMILIES.

Mary (b. 17 Sep 1864 d. 25 Mar 1810) married Peter Joseph Evrard (b. 15 Apr 1865 d. 20 1936) and had six children:  
(1) Leo (b. 18 Apr 1891 d. 5 Aug 1957) was a bachelor.  
(2) Pauline (b. 9 Feb 1893 d. 2 Jun 1981) was a schoolteacher and not married.  
(3) Raymond was a lawyer.  
(4) Francis was a lawyer.  
(5) Alma.  
(6) Josephine married Einar Eliason.

Margaret Hussin Van Erem and Robert G. Kornowski provided the information on the Hussin family.

### HUYBRECHTS

Ferdinand Huybrechts (b. Apr 1844) came to the U.S. with his mother, Anna (b. 1802), in 1856. He married Theresa Van Leoo (b. 1844). Their children were: Philomene (b. 1862); Peter (b. 1865) married Nancy Schultz and lived in Kunesh; Charles (b. 1868 d. 1891); Rose (b. Mar 1887); Mamie (b. Aug 1886); and, Josephine (b. Feb 1889).

Paul Huybrecht (b. Sep 1874), his wife, Theresa (b. Mar 1876), and Ellen (b. Jun 1889); Ethyl (b. 1904); and, Irene (b. 1904) lived in the City of Green Bay. William (b. 1880), his wife, Louise (b. 1880), and family lived next door.

### JACKMAN

This Flemish name was probably spelled JACQMAN in Flanders.

Grediumu Jackman (b. 1817) and his wife, Elizabeth (born 1822), brought their two young sons to America in 1855; they lived in Pennsylvania until the Civil War, then moved to the borough of Fort Howard. Their sons are:

George (Desiré) Jackman (b. Sep 1863) and his wife, Sarah (born Sep 1856 in Pennsylvania), were married in 1872 and had these children: Lily (b. Feb 1884); Harry (b. Aug 1889); and, Mabel (b. 1892).

Justin Jackman (b. Aug 1854) and his wife, Adeophia (b. Jul 1860 in Pennsylvania, were also married in 1882 and had these children: Roseta (b. Nov 1883); Arthur (b. Aug 1885); Cecile (b. Nov 1887); Astor (b. Apr 1890); Harris (b. Nov 1894) and, Mortel (b. 1896).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE JANE, JEDAE, JENKINS FAMILIES.

### JANEE

Two Janee brothers, Charles and Louis, came to the U.S. in 1855 and served in the Third Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War.

Charles Janee (b. 1829 d. Jun 1880) married Julia Grignon (b. 1832 d. 1895), daughter of Robert Grignon and TESH KAU NA KIEW. Their children include: Louisa (b. 1856); May (b. 1860); Maria (b. 1862) married a Delabroux; Louis; and, Maria Theresa married a Duquaine.

Louis Janee married Appolonia Bartlery and had a daughter, Mary (b. 1868).

### JEDAE

This name was generally spelled JADOUL in Flanders.

Peter Jedaal (b. 1826) and his wife, Josephine De Boers, brought their family of four from Smeiberg (Huldenberg), Brabant Province, in August 1856. Their children were:

Mary married John Van Ven Rooy.

Mary J. (b. Mar 1848 d. Oct 1900) married Desire' De Greef.

Louis (b. 1854).

Jacob (b. 1856).

Mary T. (b. Sep 1857 d. Nov 1934) married Zachariah De Greef.

Francis (b. 1860).

Frank (b. 1864).

Peter (b. 1865).

Both Peter Jedaal and Josephine De Boers died shortly after the Civil War.

### JENKINS

Frank Jenkins (b. Nov 1819) emigrated in 1855; in 1900 he was living in the City of Green Bay with his nephew, Victor (b. Jan 1863).

Another Jenkins family emigrated in 1864 and lived in the Town of Scott; in 1900, there were two families listed there.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE JENKINS, JOANNES FAMILIES.

Eli Jenkins (b. Aug 1850) and his wife, Mary (b. Jul 1862), had his mother, Rosalie Jenkins (b. Aug 1828), living with them. Rosalie emigrated in 1856. Eli's children were: Alice (b. Jan 1884); Louisa (b. Mar 1886); Mary (b. Mar 1890); Hattie (b. Sep 1893); Laurie (b. Dec 1895); Rosa (b. Jun 1897); Joseph (b. Oct 1899)

The second Jenkins family consisted of Victor Jenkins (b. Aug 1855) who came in 1864, his wife, Liste (b. Jun 1860), whom he had married in 1877, and these children: Willie (b. Jul 1879); Joseph (b. Aug 1880); John (b. Dec 1882); Ida (b. Oct 1884); Andrew (b. May 1885); George (b. Dec 1888); Aggie (b. Mar 1890); Henry (b. Feb 1893); and, Celia (b. Mar 1898).

Charles Jenquin (b. 1845) and his wife, Philipine (b. 1842), emigrated in 1870 and had seven children. One of their children was Richard (b. 1879).

### JOANNES

The Flemish spelling of this name is JOHANNES.

Eugene C. Joannes and his wife, Maria Elizabeth Vander Smissen (b. Sep 1813), brought their family from Tervuren, near Brussels, to the U.S., landing at New York in August 1856. They settled on a farm in the Town of Lawrence, but Eugene drowned under the Fox River ice the following year, so the family moved to the City of Green Bay. Two of the boys, William and Mitchell, served during the Civil War. The children of Eugene and Maria Joannes were:

Charles (b. 24 Apr 1844) married Harriet Lambdin (b. May 1848) and had three children: Eugene (b. Oct 1875); Ralph (b. Sep 1877); and, Harry (b. May 1880).

Josephine (b. May 1847) was a spinster.

William (b. Aug 1847) married Jane Yeates (b. Jan 1855) and had these children: Francis (b. 1876) and Arthur W. (b. Nov 1878); both born in Eureka, Nevada.

Mitchell (b. Dec 1848 d. 1935) married Fannie Goodhue (b. Nov 1851) and had these children: Arlene (b. Sep 1889); Gertrude (b. Mar 1879); and, Harold V. (b. Jun 1892). Mitchell served with the Forty First Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.

Thomas (b. Nov 1852) married Emma Heath (b. Jan 1855) and had these children: Jennie (b. Jul 1881); Hortense (b. Aug 1883); and, Leland (b. Oct 1892).

Elizabeth (b. 1853) married a Belsinger.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE JOANNES, JOHNSON, JOLLEY, KATERS,  
KAYE FAMILIES.

Felix (b. Jan 1855) married Kunigunde \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Oct 1861 and had these children: Edith (b. Jul 1888); Roy (b. Jun 1890); and, Bernice (b. Jan 1893).

### JOHNSON

Charles Johnson (b. 1863) came to Wisconsin in August 1887.

### JOLLEY

Florentius Jolley (b. 1870) was married in 1891 to Mary (b. 1866) who emigrated in 1881. Their children were: Sarah (b. 1892); Eddie (b. 1893); Sadie (b. 1894); Flora (b. 1896); Ada (b. 1897); Libby (b. 1899); Rosella (b. 1906); and, Harold (b. 1908).

### KATERS

The Katers family was one of the Flemish families that came from Holland. William Katers (b. 1866) and his wife, Anna (b. 1867), emigrated in 1882 and lived in the Town of Preble with these children: Tony (b. 1893); Mary (b. 1896); Henry (b. 1898); Charles (b. 1900); Anna (b. 1904); Nettie (b. 1906); Margaret (b. 1908) married Garfield Dart; Irene (b. 1910) married Gerhart Dimmer.

John Katers married Harriet Watermolen (b. 1 Mar 1894 d. 11 Oct 1963).

### KAYE

Some of the Kaye families were Walloon; others listed themselves as Flemish.

Kaye families came over in May 1856 and in 1872. John Joseph Kaye (b. 1814) and his wife, Catherine (b. 1806), had a daughter, Mary (b. 1843), and a son, Victor (b. 1857 d. 1891). Victor later married Prosperina Collart and had these children: Edward (b. 1871); Minnie (b. 1872); and, John (b. Nov 1879).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE KAYE, KIMPS FAMILIES.

Jean Baptiste Kaye (b. 1820) and his wife, Antonette Draye (b. 1827), settled in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were: Joseph (b. 1844) and his wife, Louisa (b. 1836), had these children - Clementine (b. 1855), Clement (b. 1858), Adele (b. 1862), John (b. 1864), Victor (b. 1866) and Anna (b. 1868); Octavia; (b. 1858); Leon (b. 1861); Hortense (b. 1865); Julia (b. 1868) married Alphonse Vander Kelen; Joshua (b. 1870) and his wife, Josephine (b. 1870), had these children - Rosie (b. 1893), Elmer (b. 1898), Walter (b. 1907) and Roland (b. 1909).

Antoine Kaye served in the Civil War. He and his wife, Maria Peusman, had these children: Josephine (b. 1854); Mary (b. 1858); Natalia (b. 1860); Julia (b. 1863); Victor (b. 1865); Joseph (b. 1868); and, Josiah (b. 1869).

Alex Kaye (b. Feb 1870) emigrated in 1872. His wife, Louisa (b. Jan 1873), and he had these children: Louella (b. Sep 1893); Hazel (b. May 1895); Lilly (b. Aug 1898); and, Walter (b. Jun 1899).

## KIMPS

This name is spelled CUMPS in Flanders.

George E. Cumps (b. 1807 in Blanden) married Anna Catherine Meulemans (b. 14 Feb 1820 d. 1 Nov 1913), daughter of August Meulemans and Maria Verboomen, at Blanden, Brabant Province. The family migrated to Wisconsin in two groups, in 1857 and 1859, and settled in the Duck Creek area. Some of their children were:

Henry (b. 1835 d. 16 Dec 1897) married Maria De Boers (b. 1821 d. 24 Apr 1889), sister of Mrs. John Baptiste Loy, and lived in Preble. They had a son, John (b. May 1873).

Peter (b. 1836) worked in an early Duck Creek sawmill.

Joseph (b. 1 Nov 1848 d. 16 Jan 1929) married Sylvia Decker (b. 16 Dec 1853 d. 28 Mar 1893) and had twelve children:

- (1) Clara (b. 1 Sep 1870 d. 21 Apr 1951) married, first, Octavius Stordeur (b. 1870 d. 19 Jan 1896) and had a daughter, Sadie; then Clara married John Wallenfang (b. 15 Oct 1867 d. 15 Sep 1936) as her second husband - see Wallenfang family sketch.
- (2) Seraphine (b. 9 Apr 1874 d. 18 Apr 1954) married William Aebisher and had seven children.
- (3) William (b. 6 Mar 1876 d. 16 Jan 1967) married Rose Peters and had six children.
- (4) Louise (b. 6 Mar 1878 d. 1 Aug 1960) married John Arthur Brown and had six children, including: Mabel (Keull); Mildren (Lepak); and, Alice.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE KIMPS FAMILY.

- (5) Alice (b. Feb 1880 d. 21 Feb 1909) married David Williquette and had five children.
- (6) Josephine (b. 15 Jun 1882 d. 2 Jul 1952) married William Peters and had five children.
- (7) Leonard (b. 16 Feb 1884 d. 23 May 1970) married Victoria Williquette (b. 1887 d. 16 Nov 1983) and had ten children.
- (8) Gustave (b. 15 Mar 1886 d. 1 Oct 1960) married Alice April and had two children.
- (9) Adelia (b. 25 Dec 1887 d. 11 Aug 1964) married Joseph Lannoye and had five children.
- (10) Theresa (b. 9 Sep 1889 died as an infant).
- (11) Magdalena (b. 16 Mar 1891 died as an infant).
- (12) Walter (b. 16 Mar 1892 d. 12 Oct 1971) married Laura Harrigan (b. 1894 d. 1974) and had nine children.

Louis (b. Dec 1854 d. 12 Aug 1950) married Johanna Wiedenhuft (b. Apr 1855 d. 1928). Their seven children were:

- (1) Edward (b. 1876 d. 1899).
- (2) Seraphim (b. 1878 d. 1906) married Anna Crevecour (born 1880 d. 1908).
- (3) Albert (b. 2 Aug 1882) married Jennie Dunks (b. 17 Jan 1884 d. 19 Nov 1964).
- (4) Louis, a twin (b. 30 May 1890 d. 10 Dec 1978) married Laura Pellegrin (b. 1893 d. 1974).
- (5) Anna, a twin (b. 30 May 1890) married Peter Roskom (born 27 Jan 1892).
- (6) Arthur (b. 1892 d. 25 Jun 1900).
- (7) Alfred (b. 1903 d. 19 Jul 1957).

Bernard (b. about 1858) married a Van Elzen in the Town of Preble.

Francis (b. 5 Mar 1860 d. 30 Aug 1941) married Susanna Wallenfang (b. 10 Oct 1860 d. 21 Oct 1941) in 1884 and lived on a Farm in Suamico. Their four children were:

- (1) Grace (b. Mar 1886 d. 28 Nov 1957) married John Moes.
- (2) George (b. 20 Apr 1890 d. 24 Mar 1918).
- (3) Rose (b. 26 Jun 1892 d. 16 Mar 1962) married Henry Tilly (b. 29 May 1890 d. 14 Apr 1985).
- (4) Earl (b. 17 Sep 1897 d. 26 Mar 1985) married Hilda Hussin (b. 1 Mar 1899).

John (b. 1862).

The Jan Baptiste Kumps family lived in Casco during the Civil War.

Another Joseph Kump married Caroline Mitler in 1874 and lived in Kewaunee County with two children in 1881.

We thank Bernice Lannoye (Mrs. Anthony) Williams, granddaughter of Joseph Cumps for most of the above information.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE KNELL, KROPP, LAES FAMILIES.

KNELL

Matthew Knell (b. Apr 1825) stated on his naturalization papers that he came to the U.S. in 1846. He married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Sep 1835) in 1852 and had a son, John M. (b. May 1856).

KROPP - see CRABBE

LAES

Lambert Laes (b. 1849) and his wife, Josephine (b. 1849), both came from Belgium in 1856 and were married in 1869. Here are two of their five children:

Joseph (b. 1871) and his wife, Esther (b. 1874), were married in 1897 and had seven children listed in the 1910 census: Lilian (b. 1898); Irene (b. 1901); Norman (b. 1902); Mae (b. 1905); Clarence (b. 1907); Pearl (b. 1908); and, Myron (b. Feb 1910).

John (b. 1874) and his wife, Josephine (b. 1875), were married in 1894. In the 1910 census, they have three children listed: Albert (b. 1896); Loretta (b. 1901); and, Genevieve (b. 1904).

Henry Laes (b. 19 Mar 1877 d. 24 Jan 1944) was born in Berthem, Brabant Province, the son of Joseph Laes and Julia De Volder. He arrived in New York on the vessel Kroonland, on 13 Mar 1906, and married Marie Antoinette Vander Wegen (b. 30 May 1895 d. 27 Feb 1979), daughter of William and Caroline Vander Wegen, on 5 Jun 1918. They had six children:

Caroline (b. 8 Feb 1919 d. 12 Mar 1981), a twin, married Clarence Carriveau and had one child.

Julia (Caroline's twin) (b. 8 Feb 1919 d. Jan 1980) married Louis De Jardin and had five children.

Martha (b. 17 Mar 1921) married Robert Skorczewski and had three children.

Walter (b. 22 Jun 1924) married Joan Fischer and had four children.

Agnes (b. 1 May 1927) married Donald Tuyls and had three children.

Florence (b. 15 May 1829) married Robert Burrows and had three children - David, Susan and Connie.

Peter Laes (b. 31 Aug 1884 d. 25 Sep 1947), brother

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LAES, LA HAYE, LAMAL FAMILIES.

of Henry, arrived on the vessel Kroonland on 15 Apr 1907. He married Josephine Adriaens (b. May 1883 d. 1 Oct 1956), daughter of Francis Adriaens and Catherine Tilkens, on 19 Jan 1910. They had one daughter, Bernice (b. 17 Feb 1924 d. 9 Apr 1928).

Florence Laes Burrows furnished information on the Henry and Peter Laes families.

### LA HAYE

Two of the La Haye sons, George Barney and Julius William, emigrated in 1870 and the rest of the family followed in 1872. Joseph La Haye (b. 1812 d. 1892) and his wife, Eugenia Wilmen (b. 1 Oct 1822 d. 25 Feb 1909). They had five children who lived with them in the Town of Howard:

George Barney (b. Jul 1852) married Kate \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Jan 1850) and had these children: Barbara (b. Dec 1880); Benjamin (b. May 1882); Katie (b. Jul 1884); Rosa (b. Aug 1886); and, Elsie (b. Jul 1889).

Joseph Benjamin (b. 17 Apr 1851 d. 21 Mar 1897) married Barbara Strak (b. 16 Jul 1859 d. 6 Feb 1920) and had a son, Joseph (b. 27 Mar 1883).

Victor (b. 25 Sep 1861 d. 27 Jun 1946) was a bachelor.

Julius William (b. Dec 1862) married Henrietta Balza (b. Dec 1868), daughter of Antonio and Paulina Louis Balza, on 6 Feb 1888. Henrietta emigrated in 1880. Some of their eight children are: Rose (b. Jul 1888); William (b. Dec 1892); Lizzie (b. Oct 1894); Benjamin (b. Jan 1897); and, Elsie (b. Mar 1899).

Rosalia (b. 1867 d. 26 Oct 1941) married, first, to Paul Tonnon and had a daughter, Rosalia; her second marriage was to Arthur Walker (b. 1853 d. 1927), son of Jacob and Sarah Welsh Walker, on 19 Oct 1885.

### LAMAL

Andre' LaMal, son of Andreas Lamal and Joanna Maria Bergers of Overijse, Belgium, came to Door County with some other Flemish immigrants and settled on the Red River in an area called Aux Flamands (the Flemish Settlement). Andre' Lamal (Loemel) came to the U.S. aboard the ship Pyramid on 1 July to 25 July 1856, with Otto Adams, age 58, and his wife, Anna Marie, age 55, and their six children. Others on board the Pyramid were Joseph Huylderman; Petrus Van Pee, age 25; Henry Alsteens, age 37, with

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LAMAL FAMILY.

four members of his family who traveled to Wisconsin; and, another passenger was John Francis Clabots, age 20.

André had married Johanna Adams (b. 16 Jun 1829 d. 25 Aug 1920) from Huldenberg, Belgium, on 2 May 1855. After André joined the Union Army and died in Memphis, Tennessee on 15 Jul 1863, Joanna married Frank Clabots (see Clabots family sketch).

André's first son, Andreas (b. Sep 1855 d. Apr 1874), died in New Franken.

André's second son, Julius, had a forty-acre farm near Bay Settlement when he married Cecilia Heyrman (b. 22 Nov 1866 d. 18 Dec 1948) on 12 Apr 1887. She was the daughter of Charles L. Heyrman and Monica Van Lent (see Heyrman family sketch). Julius Lamal (b. 16 Oct 1857 d. 1 Oct 1923) and Cecilia had these children:

John (b. 3 May 1889) married Nellie Van Beckum - their daughter, Marion, married Milton Van Lieshout.

Charles (b. 28 Apr 1891 d. 30 May 1981) married Pauline Phillips and had these children: Alvin married Gladys Horkman; Hubert; Bobby; Lorraine; Marie; and, Anna Mae.

Fred (b. 8 Jul 1893 d. 2 Mar 1967) married Anna Watermolen (b. 3 Aug 1896 d. 20 Nov 1965). Their children were: Raymond married Rosalie Vanden Langenberg; Helen married Richard Phillips; Florence married Leland Blajeski; Lucille married Clifford Phillips; Clarence married Geraldine Michiels; Leona married Joseph Marcelle; Dolores married Merrill Ronsman; and, Bernard married Mary Young.

Mary (b. 18 Oct 1895) married (1) Ed De Greef, and (2) Charles De Greef. Mary and Charles had three children: Alice, Evelyn and Alvin.

Ann (b. 8 Jan 1899 d. 3 Feb 1980) married Joe Hinnedale and had these children: Jim and Bernice.

James (b. 8 May 1904) married Katherine Toonen and had three children: Jim, Dick and Susan.

Julia (b. 3 Nov 1908) married Henry Pauls and had two children: Kenneth and Roger.

André's three other sons were: Jules (b. 1857); Frank (b. 1859); and, Peter (b. 1863).

Our thanks to Raymond Lamal, who compiled the Lamal history, and to Clarence Lamal for sending it to us.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LAMBEAU, LAMBERT, LANGELIER, LANNOYE FAMILIES.

### LAMBEAU

On the 1910 census, the Larceline Lambeau family stated that they were a Flemish family from France. Larceline (b. 1877) and his wife, Mae (b. 1878), had these children: Earl (b. 1898); Raymond (b. 1901); Oliver (b. 1902); and, Beatrice (b. 1905). Earl is the Curly Lambeau of Green Bay Packer fame.

### LAMBERT

Theodore and Suzanna Lambert, both born in 1830, came to the Town of Bellevue in the mid-1850s. Their children were: Mary (b. 1862); Philomena (b. 1864); Josephine (b. 1857); Joseph (b. 1870); and, Elizabeth (b. 1874).

Joseph Lambert, probably a brother of Theodore, served in the Third Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War.

In 1870, another Theodore Lambert came to the U.S. He and his wife, Cecilia, were both born in April 1830 and had five children in the City of De Pere.

### LANGELIER

Charles Langelier (b. Mar 1842) came to the Town of Suamico from Belgium in 1871. His wife, Mary (b. May 1859), and he had these children: Barbara (b. Jan 1890); Rosa (b. Jun 1893); Philomena (b. Apr 1896); and, Elizabeth (b. Jun 1899).

### LANNOYE

This family was originally Walloon but is included because so many Lannoys married Flemish spouses.

Frank Lannoye (b. 1812) and his wife, Theresa (b. May 1814), brought a large family to America in 1855; they settled in the Town of Howard. Their children were:

Desiré (Jerry) (b. Jan 1843) and his wife, Josephine (b. Mar 1850), had eight children living in 1900. Some of the children were: Jerry (b. Oct 1871) married Rosa Raleigh (b. Jun 1879 in Missouri) and had a son, George (b. May 1899); Laura (b. Oct 1878); Mary (b. Dec 1879); Edward (b. 1879); Seraphine (b. Jan 1884); Clara (b. Sep 1886); John (b. May 1889); and, Gordon (b. Mar 1892).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LANNOYE, LATHOUR FAMILIES.

Hubert (b. Jun 1843) married Victoria Demaine (b. May 1854) who emigrated to the U.S. in 1871. No children known.

Louis (b. May 1847) married Victoria \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Oct 1858) and had these children: Angeline (b. Dec 1878); Leo (b. Jan 1880); Albert (b. Dec 1881); William (b. Jul 1884); and, Earl (born Jul 1895).

Frederick (b. 1848) married Marie Cenueur.

Peter P. (b. 1849) married Josephine Tonnon (b. 1852) and had these children: Mary (b. Oct 1879); Moses (b. Jul 1881); J. Frank (b. Mar 1883); Joseph (b. Sep 1884); Louisa (b. Mar 1887); Freddie (b. Aug 1889); Paul (b. Feb 1891); Nestor (b. Mar 1894); and, Arthur A. (b. Aug 1898).

Charles (b. 1851).

Josephine (b. 1853 d. 1902).

Louis (b. 1855).

Seraphin (b. 31 Jan 1862 d. 24 Jan 1902) married Mary Lardinois (b. 19 Oct 1856 d. Apr 1952) and had these children:

- (1) Josephine (b. 8 Jan 1882 d. 1 Dec 1918).
- (2) Joseph (b. 21 Oct 1884 d. 6 Dec 1970) married Odelia Kimps (b. 25 Dec 1887 d. 11 Aug 1964).
- (3) Amelia (b. 4 Mar 1887 d. 1 Dec 1981) married Louis J. Oryall (b. 1884 d. 20 Apr 1952).
- (4) Mamie (b. 13 Oct 1890 d. 1983) married John La Fave.
- (5) Victoria (b. 11 Mar 1892 d. 17 May 1969) married Elmer Oryall (b. 1891 d. 15 Mar 1948).
- (6) Benjamin (b. 21 Nov 1895 d. 30 Sep 1909).
- (7) Alice (b. 21 Jun 1898 d. 27 Jan 1983) married Carl Schiebel (b. 1895 d. 21 May 1982).
- (8) Rosella (b. 1 Apr 1900 d. 26 Jun 1988) married Reuben Peterson (b. 1896 d. 11 Oct 1981).

Another Lannoy emigrated in 1881 and settled in the Town of Ashwaubenon. Peter Lannoy (b. May 1844) and his wife, Marie (b. Apr 1851), had a son, Paul (b. Jun 1878), with them when they came to the U.S. Some of their other children were: Andrea (b. Jan 1884); Mary (b. Mar 1886); and, Annie (b. Jul 1889).

We thank Bernice Lannoye Williams for the Lannoye family information.

### LATHOUR

This family may have been Walloon originally.

The Lathour family left Mehaigne on 1 Nov 1881 and entered

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LATHOUR, LAYMAN FAMILIES.

the U.S. at Portland, Maine, in March 1872. Louis Lathour (b. Aug 1849), son of Melchoir Latheur (b. 3 Sep 1825) and Marie Josephine Sarton (b. Jul 1821), was the oldest of the boys; his wife, Sylvia (b. Oct 1850), also emigrated in 1872. Their children include: Octavia (b. May 1879); Oliver (b. May 1883); Elva (born Nov 1884); Alice (b. Feb 1887); Ida (b. Feb 1889); and, a daughter, Laurice (b. Aug 1891).

Charles Joseph Latour (b. 17 Feb 1856) and his wife, Mary C. Geniesse (b. May 1861), lived in the Town of Preble. Their children were: Leona C. (b. Mar 1884); Rachael (b. Feb 1886); Louisa (b. Dec 1887); Ernest (b. Oct 1889); Homer (b. Mar 1892); Janet (b. Mar 1894); Sarah (b. Oct 1897); Fannie (b. Aug 1899); and, Joshua (b. 12 Aug 1901 d. 1 Oct 1987).

Henry L. Lathour (b. 1867 d. 1939) married Caroline J. Van Eyck (b. 1866 d. 1948). Their daughter, Mamie (b. 13 Apr 1888 d. 28 May 1978) married (1) John Vander Kelen, and (2) Peter A. Rentmeester; Angeline (b. 17 Apr 1894 d. 19 Feb 1966) married Frank Horkman (b. 1887 d. 1958); Nellie Lathour married a Vanden Bush; Louise (b. 1890); Lena (b. 1894); Frances (b. 1896) married Edward Horkman; Henry (b. 1906); and, Ella (b. 1909).

## LAYMAN

The original spelling of this name was probably LEEMANS. Other versions are LEMANS, LIMENSE AND LEMENSE.

Anton Leemans (b. 1822 d. 1905) and his wife, Theresa (b. 1822), emigrated with their son, Francis, in 1858 and bought a farm in the eastern part of Humboldt. Their children were: Constant (b. 1839) had a wife, Adele, and daughter, Leona (b. Apr 1860); Francis (b. Aug 1848) married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Sep 1854) and had a daughter, Mary (b. Jun 1890), and a son, Frank (b. Nov 1893); Mina (b. 1865); and, M. Colette (b. 1868).

August Lemmens (b. Mar 1872) emigrated in 1884. He was a house painter and married his wife, Lydia (b. Oct 1874 in Wisconsin), in 1899 and had two children listed in the 1910 Census: Joseph (b. 1901) and Nathalie (b. 1903). This family was listed under Lentmans in the 1900 census.

Ferdinand Lemence (b. 1853) arrived in 1871. He and his wife, Josephine (b. 1870) had these children in Kewaunee: Joseph (b. 1894); Mary (b. 1895); Frank (b. 1898); Agnes (b. 1899); John (b. 1903); Alvin (b. 1905); Rose (b. 1910).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LEEBMAN, LE FEBVRE FAMILIES.

LEEBMAN

Adolph Leebman (b. Oct 1853) married Josephine Daish (b. May 1856) in 1876 in Belgium, and emigrated to America in 1889. Their children were: Frank (b. Dec 1877); Lentina (born Apr 1879); and, Charles (b. Jul 1892).

LE FEBVRE

This Flemish name is spelled LEFEVERE in Flanders.

Bishop Peter Paul Lefevere (b. 1804 in West Flanders) became bishop of the Detroit diocese which included Green Bay at one time. He set up parishes and provided Flemish-speaking priests for the Wisconsin area.

Edward Le Febvre (b. Jun 1846) came from Belgium in 1855. He married his wife, Della (b. Aug 1856), in 1874 and had these children: Joseph (b. Sep 1876); Josephine (b. Apr 1879); Arthur (b. Jun 1886); Mary (b. May 1888); Charlotte (b. Apr 1891); and, Carrie (b. Jun 1893 in Michigan).

Jean T. Lefebvre (b. 1831) came to the U.S. in 1855 with his wife, Henrietta (b. 1830) and his oldest son, Joseph (b. 1851). Their other children were: Pauline (b. 1857); Edward (b. 9 Sep 1861) married Mary Abst; Joseph (b. 1866); and, Gilbert (b. 1867). Edward and Gilbert later took their father's place in the firm of Lefebvre and Schumacher.

Jean Baptiste Lefebvre (b. Apr 1834 d. 1893) emigrated in 1857. His wife, Albertine (b. May 1843), came to the U.S. in 1858 and they were married in 1859. Three of their children were: Joseph (b. Aug 1873); Jules (b. Nov 1880); and, George (b. Feb 1883). Jean Baptiste was a Union soldier and Green Bay businessman. Two nephews of Jean B. served on opposite sides during the Civil War: Leopold (Paul) (b. 1839 d. 1893) served in a Louisiana regiment and later married Clotilde Gillon; his brother, Edward, was in the union Army.

William Lefever (La Fave) (b. 11 Jul 1853 at Oud Heverle, Brabant Province, and his wife, Virginia Guns (b. 29 Aug 1860) were married in 1880. They departed Belgium on 28 Apr 1883 along with their oldest son, Joseph (b. Dec 1880). Some of their other children were: Peter (b. Jun 1883); Mary (b. Jan 1887); Catherine (b. Jul 1889); and, John (b. Jul 1892).

Eugene Le Febvre (b. Nov 1861) emigrated in 1880, and his wife, Virginia (b. May 1862), emigrated in 1884. Some of their

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LE FEBVRE, LENOYE, LENTMANS, LETELLIER,  
LEURQUIN FAMILIES.

children were: Marie (b. Sep 1886); Joseph (b. Dec 1888); Felix (b. Jan 1891); Mamie (b. Sep 1893); Helen (b. 1894); Alma (b. 1897); Clara (b. 1899); and, Elaine (b. 1901).

### LENOYE

Louis Lenoye (b. Aug 1854) came to Marinette County in 1877 and married Matilda (b. Jun 1855). Their children were: Maggie (b. Jun 1884); Arthur (b. Aug 1886); Delphina (b. Sep 1889); George (b. Nov 1890); William (b. Oct 1892); Harry (b. Dec 1894); Irene (b. Dec 1896); and, Clarence (b. Jan 1899).

Constant Lenoye (b. 1861) came to the U.S. in 1879. He and his wife, Jennie L. (b. 1861), had these children: Joseph J. (b. 1882); Edward (b. 1884); Frank (b. 1885); Mary (b. 1888); Anna (b. 1890); Elizabeth (b. 1891); Henry (b. 1895); John (born 1897); Jacob (b. 1898); and, Margaret (b. 1899).

### LENTMANS (see LAYMAN/LEMMONS)

### LETELLIER

Joannes Philippus Letellier (b. 6 Jun 1830 d. 28 Dec 1915) of Brabant, and his wife, Pauline Matheys (b. 16 Nov 1825 d. 1 Dec 1915), migrated to the City of Green Bay on 28 Nov 1868. Their children were: Antoine (b. 3 Sep 1855 d. 13 Jan 1934); Elizabeth (b. 25 Aug 1858); Marie Virginie (b. 26 Apr 1862); Theresa (b. 31 Jan 1866 d. on sea passage 1868); and, Francois (b. 25 Mar 1868).

The family settled in Wisconsin for several years, then moved to Center Township, Nebraska, sometime after 1870. They later moved to Bloomington, Indiana, around 1913.

The Letellier information was given by Mrs. Godelieve Mathijs, Heverlee, Belgium.

### LEURQUIN

Nickolas Leurquin (b. 1808) brought his family from

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LEURQUIN, LIBERT, LINDSLEY FAMILIES.

Flanders in 1854 and settled in the Town of Humboldt. His wife, Mary De Keyser, was a sister of Mrs. Philip Vanden Borne. They had three boys:

Francis (b. 1835).

Peter (b. 1842) married Mary Reynolds (b. 1849) on 13 Nov 1867.

John Baptiste (b. 1848) married Augustina Charlier (b. Jun 1863) and had two children. Their daughter, Theresa, married Henry Panure (Peigneir).

Dan De Witt of Kaukauna, provided the information on this family.

### L I B E R T

This family is listed as Flemish on the U.S. Census.

Nickolas Libert (b. Dec 1848) came to the U.S. in 1871 and married Rosa \_\_\_\_\_ (b. May 1852) in 1872. Some of their children were: Mattie (b. Mar 1884); Adeline (b. Feb 1886); Zepherin (b. Sep 1887); Alfred (b. 1890); Palmyria (b. Dec 1892); and, Louis (b. Jun 1895).

Adolph Libert (b. 1854) came to Wisconsin in June 1888.

Joseph Frank Libert (b. 1876) came to the U.S. in 1889. He and his wife, Melanie (b. 1879) were married in 1900. Their first four children were: Orion Joseph; Alva; Norris; and, Dolores.

Charles Libert (b. 1882) came to the U.S. in 1890. His wife, Minnie was born in 1882; their first four children were: Isabel; Velma; Hortense; and, Irvin.

### L I N D S L E Y

Frank Lindsley (b. Jun 1831 d. 6 Jul 1909) married Maria Joanna Leonard (b. Nov 1829) in Belgium in 1853. They emigrated to America in 1858 and settled in the Town of Eaton. Later census data indicates that their fathers, Henry Lindsley (b. 1801) and Henry Leonard (b. 1795), accompanied them. Of their ten children, seven were still living in 1900:

Martin (b. May 1855 d. 1930) married Mary B. Heyman (b. Aug 1864 d. 1958). Their children were: Peter (b. Feb 1888 d. 1945); Anna (b. Aug 1889 d. Jul 1972); John (b. Oct 1892 died 1968) married Anna \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1889 d. 1972); August (b. Dec 1895 d. Aug 1976); and, Louis (b. Sep 1897).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LINDSLEY FAMILY.

Philip (b. 6 Dec 1858 d. 29 Apr 1939) married Joanna Maria Vander Elzen (b. 8 Sep 1858 d. 1 Sep 1925) and had these children:

- (1) Frank (b. Jan 1880 d. 1970) married Veronica De Grave (b. 1884 d. 1 Jun 1958).
- (2) Andrew (b. Aug 1882 d. 8 Dec 1921) married Louise De Grave Philips (b. Jul 1881 d. 25 May 1969).
- (3) Elizabeth (Lizzie) (b. 17 Apr 1884 d. 29 May 1958) married Joseph E. Brosteau (b. Dec 1878 d. Oct 1961).
- (4) Alphonse (b. 28 Mar 1886 d. 25 Apr 1958) married Lena Steffens.
- (5) Henry (b. 21 Mar 1888 d. 25 Feb 1958) married Barbara Loy (b. 18 May 1892 d. 25 Aug 1949).
- (6) John (b. 1892 d. Dec 1927).
- (7) Henrietta (b. 1 Mar 1894 d. 2 Mar 1971) married Dr. Alfred Ascher.
- (8) Louisa (Sister M. Viola) (b. 22 Feb 1896 d. May 1965).
- (9) George (b. 5 Jul 1898 d. 31 Oct 1972) married Theresa Vickman (b. 11 Jun 1899 d. 26 Nov 1967).

Felix (b. Nov 1860 d. circa 1905) and his wife, Lena (b. May 1866) had nine children:

- (1) Lucy (b. Jan 1888 d. 1974) married George Lom.
- (2) Katie (b. Mar 1889).
- (3) Margaret (b. Feb 1890 d. 1978) married Edmund Mc Carey.
- (4) Felix (b. Mar 1891).
- (5) Joseph (b. 1893).
- (6) Henry (b. 1894).
- (7) Madeline (b. 1896).
- (8) Benjamin (b. Nov 1896 d. 1971).
- (9) Barbara (b. Jun 1898 d. 1979) married James Cornell.

Emerance (Mary) (b. 1863) married Francis De Greef.

Louis (b. 1865) married (1) Elizabeth Watermolen (b. 1868 died circa 1890), daughter of Christofel Watermolen and Petronella Van Hoegaerden, in 1889; married (2) Louise Bins (who later married Frank Basten as her second husband).

Theresa (b. 1868) married a Brunette.

Louise Joanna (b. Jul 1873).

Anton (b. Mar 1877).

Eleanor Lindsley, granddaughter of Philip Lindsley, sent us most of the information on the Lindsley family.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LOY, LUCIEN FAMILIES.

LOY

This Flemish name was also spelled LAYE, LAEE, LAIE and LAY.

Jean Baptiste Loy (b. 22 Feb 1822 d. 5 Nov 1911) married Anna Maria De Boers (b. 1 Feb 1824 d. 26 Jan 1900) in Belgium, probably in Huldenberg; they came to America in August 1856. A year later, they bought seventy acres in the Town of Eaton from a relative, Jean Baptiste Philips, for fifty dollars. Her brother, William De Booss (De Boers, De Boes), lived with them. Their three children were:

John Baptiste (b. May 1858) married Appolonia Vanden Avond (b. Feb 1855) and had these children:

- (1) Barbara (b. Apr 1883) remained a spinster.
- (2) Mary (b. Apr 1886).

(3) Carrie (b. Aug 1889) married a Lewis from South Dakota. John Baptiste also raised a niece, Annie Philips (b. Feb 1896).

Louis (b. Jun 1866 d. 2 Jun 1952) married Gertrude (Barbara) De Greef (b. 22 Jul 1872 d. 6 Sep 1959), daughter of Frank De Greef and Joanna M. De Ritter. Their twelve children were:

- (1) Barbara (b. 18 May 1892 d. 25 Aug 1949) married Henry Lindsley.
- (2) Theresa (b. 25 Apr 1893 d. 23 Mar 1894) married William Rentmeester, son of Desiré.
- (3) Mary (b. 19 Dec 1894) married Norbert Rentmeester, son of Desiré.
- (4) George (b. 27 Jan 1896 d. 29 May 1939) married Virginia Daul.
- (5) John (b. 8 Oct 1897 d. Nov 1985) married Ella Vanden Plas.
- (6) William (b. 6 Jan 1899 d. 9 Aug 1982) married Mabel Puylaert.
- (7) Elfie (b. 14 Nov 1903 d. 11 Jan 1909).
- (8) Eva (b. 26 Dec 1900) married Andrew (Carl) Anderson.
- (9) Florence (b. 22 Mar 1906) married Cletus Brunette of Duck Creek.
- (10) Walter (b. 6 Sep 1908) married Viola Rentmeester, daughter of August Rentmeester and Petronella Philips.
- (11) Lorraine (b. 14 Nov 1910) married Russell Shaha.
- (12) Gladys (b. 4 Jul 1913) married Joseph Romuald.

Teresa married Hubert Schaut of Lena. They had three daughters, Elizabeth, Katie and Barbara. The first two married Schuessler brothers from Lena.

Our thanks to Marion Rentmeester Ripp for her help with this family history.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LUCIAN, LURQUIN FAMILIES.

### LUCIAN

Evras Lucian (b. 1847) and his wife, Tillie (b. 1850), and their son, Arthur (b. 1887), came to America from Flanders in 1902.

### LURQUIN

Henry and Mary Catherine Lurquin, both born in 1802, came to America in the 1850s with their son, Hubert (b. 1840), and his wife, Elise (b. 1842). The young couple had a son, Hector (b. 1865); they all lived in the Town of Red River in Kewaunee County.

John Lurquin (b. 1856) and his wife, Mary (b. 1863), had five children and lived in Green Bay. Two of their children were: Alice (b. 1898) and Josephine (b. 1903).

At least three Lurquin families came to Brown County, Wisconsin from Blanden, Brabant Province, Belgium.

Felix Lurquin (b. 12 Mar 1842 d. 23 Nov 1909), of Blanden (see Mass Card), and his wife, Rosaline De Vroy (b. 16 Nov 1840 d. 1 Mar 1922) of Oud-Heverlee, came to the U.S. in 1866. Their children were:

Joseph (b. 23 Apr 1866 d. 24 Feb 1940) married Frances Deuster and had these children: Henry (b. 1893); Felix (b. 1895); Fred (b. 1897); Dorothy (b. 1899); Louis (b. 1902); and, Agnes (b. 1903).

Catherine Nettie (b. Sep 1868) married Ferdinand De Volder and had these children: Felix; Rosaline; Catherine; Joseph; Florence; Edward; Marie; Cecile; and, Beatrice.

Joseph A. Lurquin (b. Mar 1872 d. Oct 1940), nephew of Felix, emigrated to Green Bay in 1888. He married Justine Wouters (b. Jul 1872 d. Sep 1937) in 1895; they had three children: Felix (b. Jul 1898); Cecilia (b. 1901) married an Adriaens (born 1901); and, Elizabeth (b. 3 May 1896 d. 8 Nov 1986) married Fred Crevecouer.

John Baptiste Lurquin (b. 10 Nov 1836 d. Jul 1915) was



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE LURQUIN, MAAS, MAES FAMILIES.

the older brother of Felix. He married Maria Louisa De Volder (b. May 1853 d. 25 Sep 1924) of Neerijse, Brabant, in 1876 and they arrived in the U.S. in 1892. One daughter, Rosa (b. May 1892 d. 1983) married John Crabb, the other daughter was Mary (b. 1888 d. 1895).

We are indebted to Mary Ann Defnet for information on her Lurquin relatives and for the many other family sketches she has shared with us. Felix Lurquin is her great-grandfather.



### MAAS

Jan Baptist Maas (b. 10 Sep 1828 at St. Joris Weert d. 25 Jan 1902) (see Mass Card) and his wife, Elizabeth Michiels (b. 10 Aug 1839 at Oud-Heverlee d. 3 Jan 1907), brought their four children from Belgium in May 1893. Their daughter, Josephine, came as Mrs. William De Luster on the same ship.

### MAES

John Maes (b. 11 Jun 1829 d. 30 Jul 1919) and his wife, Josephine Rowat (b. 1 Sep 1834 d. 11 Jul 1910), brought their family from Oud-Heverlee to Brown County in 1880 and 1881. Some of their children were:

Joanna (b. Sep 1857) married Frank De Both and had thirteen children.

Desire (b. 1861) married Pauline Leavens (b. 1865). Their children are: Ida (b. 1887); Joseph (b. 1891); Mary (b. 1899); and, Irene (b. 1900).

Jules (b. 18 Aug 1863 d. 23 Jan 1919) married Mary Vanden Ack (b. 2 Apr 1872 d. 27 Sep 1935) and had these children: Willie (b. 1898); Alice (b. 1900); Wila (b. 1902); Earl (b. 1905); and, Clarence (b. 1907).

Alfred (b. 1873).

Homer (b. 1874) married Jennie (b. 1875) and had these children: Homer Jr. (b. 1903); Marjorie (b. 1906); Gordon (b. 1908); and, Dorothy (b. 1909).

Oscar (b. 1877) married Margaret (b. 1881) and had these children: Oscar (b. 1906); Ethel (b. 1908); and, Vernon (born

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MAES, MAHECHAUFFE, MALLIET, MARTENS FAMILIES.

1910).

Albert Maes (b. 1875) emigrated in 1893, married Emily (b. 1888) and had these children: Arthur (b. 1897); Francis (b. 1900); Elizabeth (b. 1901); Margaret (b. 1906); and, Elenora (b. 1908).

### MAHECHAUFFE

Francois Mahechaufee (b. 1846) came to the U.S. in November 1891.

### MALLIET

This Flemish name is also spelled MALLIETTE.

John Francis Malliette 9b. 25 Jul 1815 at Oud-Heverlee) and his wife, Anna Catherine Horkmans (b. 29 Oct 1821 at St. Joris Weert), came to the U.S. aboard the Catherine Augusta with their three children and many relatives. They landed at New York on 29 Jul 1854 and settled at Bay Settlement in the Town of Scott. Their three boys are Frans, Felix and Joseph. In 1900, Joseph (b. 30 Dec 1845 d. 2 Jul 1926) and his wife, Anna Hermans (b. 28 Aug 1848 d. 31 May 1918) were still living at Bay Settlement with these children: Mary (b. 1871); Rosa (b. 1872); Pauline (b. 1874); Delia (b. Jul 1877); John (b. 24 Feb 1879 d. 7 Jan 1946); Albert (b. 1881); Frank J. (b. 20 Jun 1883 d. 23 Sep 1916); Hannah (b. 29 Mar 1885 d. 4 Nov 1918); and, Jennie (b. 22 Jun 1894 d. 15 Apr 1947).

In 1881, another Malliet family crossed the ocean. Jules Malliet (b. 19 Jun 1853 at Oud-Heverlee) and his wife, Philomena Vande Vande (b. 15 Mar 1856 at Oud-Heverlee), departed Belgium on 8 Jul 1881 with their daughter, Marie-Josephine (b. Jan 1880).

### MARTENS

Louis Martens (b. 1867) emigrated in 1889. His wife, Kate (b. 1879), and he had five children: Clara (b. 1896; Julia (b. 1897); Carl (b. 1899); Evelyn (b. 1905); and, Margaret (b. 1908).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MARTO FAMILY.

MARTO

This name is also spelled MARTEAU (means hammer in French). Peter Marteau (b. Sep 1824) and his wife, Angeline Wauters (born May 1821), left Bierbeek, Brabant Province, and landed in New York City in July 1857. They were accompanied by their two children, Peter Jr. and Lucy.

Peter Jr. (b. Apr 1852 d. 1926) married, as his first wife, Ricka Adolphs (b. 1856 d. circa 1882), and they had two children:

- (1) Annie (b. 4 Jun 1875) married Alphonse Borremans (b. Mar 1870 d. 29 Sep 1910) and had seven children: Lena (b. Jul 1895); Peter (b. Apr 1897); Frank (b. Jul 1899); Angeline (b. 1902; Philomene (b. 1904); Audrey (b. 1909); and, William (b. 1911).
- (2) John Henry (b. 1881 d. 1936) married Angelina Tonnon (b. 1884 d. 1977) and had nine children: Lucille married Walter Rentmeester; Ruth married Clarence Cormier; Cora married (1) Mike Stencil (2) Cletus Vanderperren; Marvin (b. 1907 d. 1971); Bernard (b. 1910 d. 1954); Wilbert; Alan; June married Melvin Brunette; and, Rita married Raymond Rentmeester.

After Ricka's death, Peter married her sister, Bertha Adolph (b. Nov 1867). The Adolph family came from Holland in 1868. The children of Peter and Bertha were:

- (1) William (b. Aug 1895).
- (2) Walter (b. Nov 1899).
- (3) Alma and (4) Minnie (b. 1902) - twins.
- (5) Theodore (b. 1906 d. 1969) married Joanna Roskams, daughter of Alphonse Roskams and Mary Kocha.
- (6) Helena (b. 1908) married Emil De Starkey.
- (7) Catherine (b. 1909) married an Eger.
- (8) Irene (b. 1911).

Lucy (b. 7 Oct 1854 d. 4 Aug 1890) married Oscar Tonnon (born 1853 d. 1936) and had one child, Angelina Henrica (b. 1884 d. 1977), who married John H. Marto. Lucy Tonnon is buried in the Memorial Cemetery in Duck Creek.

There was also a colorful character who assumed the identity of Peter Marteau, but who was better known as Beukenoontje, a nickname, Little Beechnut. He spent much of his time traveling between Wisconsin and Belgium, arranging transportation for immigrants to this country. His career came to an end in a lurid scandal in 1896 and he died in 1907. His son, Peter (b. 1881) was adopted by the Reinhard family; his daughter, Josephine (b. Oct 1886) married a Vander Put; Jennie (b. Nov 1892) married Alexander Motiff; and another daughter married Sam Motiff.

Information on the Marto family was provided by Rita Marto Rentmeester.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MASSCHELEIN, MATHU, MATHEYS FAMILIES.

### MASSCHELEIN

Amandus F. Masschelein (b. 22 Feb 1822 d. 27 Sep 1895) came from Gullegem, West Flanders to America in 1850 with his parents. They lived in Bay Settlement; Amandus became a Catholic priest and died in De Pere.

### MATHU

The original spelling of this Flemish name is MATHIEU. Other spellings are MATTHEW and MATHU.

The Mattheu family came from Walshoutem which lies in the southeast part of the Province of Brabant. The first to come over from Belgium was Jean Baptiste Mathu (b. 7 Mar 1849 d. 14 Jul 1921) who emigrated in 1871. His wife was Julia Sconcert (b. 30 Jun 1865 d. 15 May 1942). The next to come was his brother, Pierre (b. 1842 d. 23 Feb 1902), and Pierre's wife, Theresa (born 5 Nov 1943 d. 19 Oct 1925). Their cousin, Katie, daughter of Johannes Mathieu and Elizabeth Ruysevelts, and her husband, Jacob Pierquet, came to the United States in 1884. The two brothers settled in the Town of Humboldt near Sugarbush and are buried at the St. Hubert's cemetery there, along with Joseph P. Mathu (b. 1891 d. 1873), Joseph's wife, Mary (b. 1897 d. 1967), and Charles Mathu (b. 28 Aug 1880 d. 28 Mar 1856) and Charles' wife, Theresa (b. 20 May 1883 d. 15 Jun 1965). (Joseph P. Mathu is Jean Baptiste's son.)

John Baptiste Mathu and Julia Sconcert had another child besides Joseph P.; her name was Mary (b. 19 Jan 1895 d. 1922), and she married Theophile Jadin.

Carl Pansaerts, Walshoutem, Belgium, is the Mathieu family historian.

### MATHEYS

This Flemish name is also spelled MATHIJS, MATHYS and MATHIYS.

André Matheys (b. 10 Mar 1827 d. 6 Sep 1911) and his wife, Anna Catherine Cauwenbergh (b. 10 May 1832 d. 7 Dec 1897), both from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, brought their six-month-old son to America on the Richard Morse, landing in September 1856. Her father, brother and other relatives had preceded her by several months and her sister, married to Jean Baptiste Rodaer

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MATHEYS FAMILY.

Jr., would come several months later. André settled in the south-east corner of the Town of Preble. Their children were:

Joseph (b. 13 Feb 1856) married Mary Vanden Berg.

Philipine (b. 18 Mar 1859 d. 9 Mar 1902) married Andrew Verheiden.

Mary Colette (b. 1860) married Anton Boehm.

Rosalia (b. 1861).

Andre (b. 1863) married Mary Collard.

Felix (b. 1864).

Philomene (Pauline) (b. 1866) married Jan Basten.

Thomas (b. 1868).

Maria (b. 1870).

Desiré (b. May 1873).

Theresa (b. Feb 1881) married Edward Vanden Avond.

André's brother, Louis, also lived with the family.

John J. Matheys (b. 3 Oct 1824 d. 12 Mar 1917) and his wife, Clementine (b. Nov 1828 d. 18 Nov 1903) brought their family to the U.S. in 1871, landing at Portland, Maine. Their five children were:

David (b. 1855).

Mary (b. 1858).

Victor (b. Mar 1860) and his wife, Adele (b. Aug 1862), had these children: Mary (b. Jun 1881); Lucy (b. Jan 1884); Helen (b. May 1886); Louise (b. Apr 1888); Maggie (b. Mar 1890); Laura (b. Oct 1893); John (b. May 1897).

Emil (b. 1863 d. 1926) and his wife, Felicia (b. 1871 d. 1966) had these children: Mary (b. 18 Oct 1891 d. 21 Jun 1938) married Peter Tielens; Rosa (b. May 1893) married a Davister; Zoe (b. Jul 1895 d. Aug 1985) married Arthur Conard; Emma (b. Feb 1899) married a Conard; Clara married a Borley; Henry; and, Martha (b. 7 Mr 1908 d. Jun 1987) married Louis Delvaux.

Simon (b. 1868).

Some members of a St. Joris Weert family came to America, including Francis Mathijs (b. 1883) who came around 1903. Josephine emigrated with her husband, Louis Bruyninckx of Oud-Heverlee; they arrived on 30 Jul 1887.

On 3 Jul 1892, Victor Mathijs (b. 5 Aug 1871 d. 1951) sailed on the Belgeland with his wife, Maria Louisa Calewaerts (b. 21 Feb 1868 d. 1909). Victor and Maria had these children:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MATHEYS, MEERT, MERMUYS FAMILIES.

John (b. 28 Feb 1892 d. 1 Jun 1972); Louis (b. 28 Sep 1894); Charles (b. Jun 1897); Mary (b. 6 Sep 1899); Sophie (b. Sep 1903). Victor's second wife was Mathilda Maria Coppens (b. 10 Oct 1882 d. 1967).

In Feb 1904, the Joseph Victor Mathijs family emigrated from St. Joris Weert. Joseph V. (b. 8 Jul 1880) was accompanied by his wife, Josephine Criegers of Oud-Heverlee and their son, Daniel (b. 25 Nov 1903).

Daniel A. Mathys (b. 1903 d. 1988) came from Brussels and operated a saloon in Green Bay. He and his wife, Helen, had three sons and a daughter.

### MEERT

William Meert (b. 26 Feb 1849 at Oud-Heverlee) is the son of Francis Meert and Maria Vonckx. He departed from Belgium on 20 Sep 1871.

Jean Baptiste Meert (b. 20 Dec 1843 at Oud-Heverlee d. 14 May 1921) and his wife, Adele Michaux (b. 19 Jan 1850 at Vaalbeek d. 2 Apr 1921), left Belgium on 3 Jul 1881 with their infant son. They settled in Green Bay where Jean Baptiste had a job working on the railroad. Their children were:

Frank (b. Apr 1882) married Louise \_\_\_\_\_.

Alphonse (b. Jan 1886 d. 20 May 1956) married Louise Tuyls (b. 30 Sep 1890), daughter of Frank and Catherine Tuyls) and had these children: John; Norbert; and, Lorraine married Arthur Tursby.

Twins: Cecilia (b. Mar 1887) married Robert J. Steeno; and, Christina (b. Mar 1887) married James Kohler.

Rosalia (b. 26 Sep 1889 d. 1974).

### MERMUYS

Andreas Mermuys (b. 29 Nov 1825 at Meetkerke, Belgium) was the second husband of Joanna Timmerman (b. 1 Feb 1831 at Damme, Belgium). They came to Wisconsin around 1880 with their three children and with Peter Van Servern, son of Joanna by her first marriage. The children were:

Julius moved to Moline, Illinois.

Camille (Emil) (b. 1864) married Katherine Bonn and had three children: Eva (1894); Edward (1895); and, Arthur (b. 1909).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MERMUYS, MERTENS FAMILIES.

Louise (b. 14 Jul 1874 at Bruges) married Louis Van Gheem (b. 12 Jul 1864 at Kallo, Belgium).

Our thanks to Dorothy Van Gheem Hoffman of Menasha, Wisconsin.

MERTENS

Joannes Petrus Mertens (b. 1838 d. 1911), son of Joannes Josephus Mertens and Marie Hertmans, and his wife, Maria Theresa Wauters (b. 1837 d. 1917), daughter of Petrus Joseph Wauters and Maria Vanderstappen, left St. Agathe Rode, Brabant Province, for America on 30 Mar 1881. They sailed on the Belgian ship, Switzerland, and arrived at the Port of New York on 17 Apr 1881; their family of six children accompanied them. On 9 May 1881, the Mertens family purchased forty acres in the Township of Red River, Kewaunee County, for \$240; there they resided for the next seventy-five years. The children are:

Peter (b. 1866 d. 1941) married Ida Disterbeck and moved to northern Michigan lumber country in the 1890s. Their children were: Peter, George and Leonard.

Mary (b. 1868 d. 1949) married John Bouche. Their children were: Fred, Wilbert, George, Louise and Josie.

George (b. 1870 d. 1914) married Mary Denaux. Their children were: John, Fred, Henry, Rose, Alice and Louis.

Henry (b. 1874 d. 1951) married Augusta Colette. Their children were: Louise (Van Ess); Julian; Josephine (Geyer); Mary (Fox); Dorothy (Atkinson); Ernistine (Orszulock); Peter; and, John.

Nettie (b. 1876 d. 1928) married Oliver Tombal. Their children were: George, Louise and Laura.

Louis (b. 1878 d. 1957) married Emma Feron and had these children: Margaret, Michael, John, Goldie, Rose, Mary, Louis, Emma, Josie, Harold, Richard, Hamlin and Emily.

Often the youngest son on the farm would continue its operation. Louis Mertens purchased the family farm and also had many other successful enterprises, such as a sawmill, machinery shop, blacksmith shop, threshing crews and watch repair.

The Mertens family history was written by John Henry Mertens of Kewaunee, the son of Richard Mertens and Bertine Englebert.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MEULEMANS FAMILY.

MEULEMANS

This name means "miller" in English and like the Millers, there are numerous Meulemans who came from various parts of Flanders. The Meuleman families who settled in the Towns of Wrightstown, Preble and Howard came from the Bierbeek-Haasrode-Blanden area.

Jan Baptista Meulemans (b. 1822 in Bierbeek) and his wife, Catherine Vannieuwenhoven (b. 1812 in St. Joris Weert), appear to be the first of their family to emigrate. They came on board the Catherine Augusta, landing at New York on 29 Jul 1854 with two children, Pierre and Gerard. The records show that several other Meulemans families were early settlers in the Duck Creek area with daughters who married Flemish men there:

Constance (b. 1843 d. 3 Apr 1929) married John Roskam (b. 5 June 1833 d. 17 Apr 1905).

Other Meulemans documented were:

Catherine (b. 1820) married George Cumps.

August (b. 1835) married Mary Ver Boomen.

Anna (b. 1836 d. 1891) married Simon Van Arck.

Mary Catherine (b. 1839 d. 1887) married Adam Meetze.

Teresa (b. 23 Jan 1853 d. 21 Feb 1930) married Peter Vander Linden (b. 17 Jan 1846 d. 11 Sep 1908).

Anton married Elinor Daniels and their daughter, Catherine, married John Baptist Verhulst.

Another group to emigrate to Duck Creek left Antwerp on the Wabama on 16 Jun 1855. Included in this group were: Guillaume Meulemans, age 35; his wife, Catherine Van Eyck, age 30; and their children - Johanna, age 9; Theresa, age 5; and, Philippine, age 3. Jacob Meulemans, age 27, was in the party. Also on board was Maria Meulemans, age 20, who was the wife of William Steeno.

Those who came in June 1856, were the families of brothers, Peter and Frank Meulemans, their nephew, Dominic Bernard, and their sister, Anna Marie Meulemans Verboomen. These four families all settled in Wrightstown; in 1857, they were joined by Joanna Meulemans and her new husband, August Theunis. The family of William Joseph and Barbara Verboomen arrived in the summer of 1865. Dominic's brother, Francis, arrived with his family in 1883.

Peter Meulemans (b. 30 Dec 1807 d. 1871) of Bierbeek,

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MEULEMANS FAMILY.

married Rosalia Bries (b. 10 Sep 1810 d. 20 Sep 1886) of Blanden. Their children were:

Mary Leone (b. 10 Jun 1836 d. 24 Aug 1909) married Albert Nackers and had eleven children.

Catherine Natalia (b. 1 Jun 1840 d. 28 Jun 1910) married William Hermans and had ten children.

Louis Englebert (b. 9 Nov 1842 d. Dec 1894) married Rosalia Ver Boomen and had eleven children.

Elizabeth (b. 1844 d. 1865).

Adelia (b. 5 Jan 1850 d. 24 Mar 1923) married Martin Vanden Berg.

Constance (b. 21 Aug 1852 d. 27 Jul 1892) married Francis Tillman and had three children.

Francis Meulemans (b. 15 Apr 1818 d. 14 Feb 1900), brother of Peter, married Anna Catherine Van Neck (b. 15 Aug 1821 d. 12 May 1904). Their children were:

John Joseph (b. 3 Mar 1844).

John Stephen (b. 1845 d. 1863).

Philipine (b. Nov 1848 d. 1876) married Henry Van Dommelen.

Maria Theresa (. 3 Dec 1851 d. 4 Jan 1890) married Henry Vosbeek and had five children.

Rosanna (b. 1857) married Frank Rodaer and moved to South Dakota.

Caroline (b. 9 Dec 1860 d. 4 Nov 1942) married (1) to a Pleasters, and (2) William Vander Wegen.

Peter (b. 1864).

Bernard Dominic Meulemans (b. 26 Sep 1829 d. 3 Apr 1903), nephew of Peter, married Anna Catherine Buijs (b. 2 Feb 1825 d. 10 Feb 1906) of Haasrode, Brabant. Their children were:

Maria Anna (b. 15 Nov 1854) married Michael Ver Boomen.

Louis Andrew (b. 22 Aug 1858) married Rose Theunis and had seven children listed in the 1900 census.

Victoria Rose (b. 26 Mar 1861 d. 1 Dec 1909) married Joseph Nackers and had six children.

Peter (b. 24 Apr 1865) married Mary Klister and had three children listed in the 1900 census.

Louis (b. 12 Jan 1868) married Magdalena Kettenhoven and had three children listed in the 1900 census.

Mary Carolina (b. 19 Dec 1872) joined a convent.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MEULEMANS, MICHAUX, MICHIELS FAMILIES.

Frank Meulemans (b. 16 Apr 1842 d. 20 Jan 1933) of Blanden (see Mass Card) married Lucia Goethuysen (b. 19 Oct 1839 d. 14 Apr 1920) of Bierbeek and emigrated in 1883, settling in Wrightstown. Their children were:

Anna Catherine (b. 10 Feb 1867) married Henry Coopmans.

Mary Elizabeth (b. 29 Aug 1865) married Felix Coppens.

Joanna (b. 14 Jun 1873) joined a convent.

Edward (b. 7 Sep 1875) married Barbara Beuchel

Rose (b. 27 Nov 1878) married William Theunis.

William Joseph Meulemans (b. 11 Oct 1830 at Vaalbeek) and his wife, Barbara Ver Boomen of Blanden (b. 6 Oct 1831), departed Belgium on 17 Jul 1865 and settled in Wrightstown. Their children were: Anthony (b. 1857); John P. (b. 27 Feb 1860); Alexander (b. 17 Mar 1862); Charles (b. 29 Sep 1863); Joanett (b. 1866 in Illinois); and, Rosella (b. 1869). William's sister, Joanna (b. 22 Mar 1838), emigrated with him; their parents were John Baptiste Meulemans and Maria Neerdaels, who may have emigrated in 1855 and settled in the Town of Howard.

The Meulemans families that settled near Wrightstown are documented in A Look At The Nackers And Meulemans by Sister Mary Arnold. The study is available at the university of Wisconsin-Green Bay Area Research Collection.

### MICHAUX

John Michaeux (b. 1858) and his wife, Mary (b. 1858), emigrated in 1872. Their six children were: Delia (b. 1889); Lizzie (b. 1890); Katie (b. 1892); Frank (b. 1894); Rosa (b. 1896); and, Joseph (b. 1899).

Edward Michaux (b. 14 Aug 1887 at Blanden) came to America in 1906. Aloysius Michaeux (b. 23 1881 at Antwerp) arrived in April 1911.

### MICHIELS

This name is also spelled MICHAELS.



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MICHELS, MOERCKX FAMILIES.

Felix Michaels (b. Aug 1861) and his new bride, Rose (b. 1865), came to the U.S. in 1885, settling in Green Bay. Two of their eight children were:

Josephine (b. Jul 1886).  
Philipine (b. Feb 1888).

Fred Michael (b. 1868) emigrated in 1886 and married Theresa Derricks (b. 1873), daughter of Frank Derricks and Philipine Horkmans. Their children were:

Louis (b. 1892).  
William (b. 1894).  
Frank (b. 1896).



Bid voor de ziel van Zaliger

MIJNHEER

## AUGUST MICHELS

SCUTGBNOOT VAN

MARIA B. DECOSTER

geboren te St-Joris-Weert den 6 Februari 1871 en overleden te Green-Bay (Wisconsin); Noord Amerika, den 9 Maart 1926, voorzien van de HH. Sakramente der siervenden.

Betrouw aan God en aan al de plichten van zijn staat heeft hij zijn leven doorgebracht in deugd en eer. Hij genoot de algemene achtung van zijn medeburgers en hij was omringd van de liefsde zijner familie en van al die hem kende. St-Franc. Sal.

Dat de rust der overledenen de drouwfeld over zijn dood verzachten moge en troost hengen over zijn astieren. (Eccles. XXXVIII).

Leuven. — Druk. Charpentier, Naamsche str., 105

Jan Baptista Michiels (b. 1873) arrived in the U.S. in November 1902. August Michiels (b. 6 February 1871 d. 9 Mar 1926) (see Mass Card) left St. Joris Weert with his wife, Maria De Coster in July 1908.

Maria Elizabeth Michiels (b. 10 Aug 1839 at Oud-Heverlee d. 3 Jan 1907) came to America as the wife of Jan-Baptist Maas (see Mass Card).

## MOERCKX

This Flemish name was probably spelled MERCKX in Flanders.

Felix Moerckx (b. Jul 1853) and his wife, Melanie (born Nov 1849), were married in 1880 and emigrated in 1884 to Green Bay where he was employed as a railroad worker. Two of their children were: Theresa (b. Dec 1885) and August (b. Jan 1887).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MOENSSEN, MOES FAMILIES.

MOENSSEN

Nick Moenson (b. 1881) emigrated in 1898. His wife, Matilda (b. 1887), and their three children are listed in the 1910 census: Joseph (b. 1906); Francis (b. 1908); and, Julia (b. Apr 1910).

MOES

Henry Moes (b. 18 Oct 1825 at Werchter d. 1898) and his wife, Anna Maria Buijs (b. 29 Oct 1828 d. 1905), from Bierbeek, crossed the ocean from Belgium during July 7, 1871 through July 28, 1871, with their seven children. They settled in the Duck Creek area, where her brother lived for a while. Anna Maria's sister was Mrs. Peter Meulemans of Wrightstown.

Henry bought a farm along the highway to Suamico; by 1889, he had 122 acres and two of his sons each had forty acres. The Moes had fourteen children, eight of whom were living in 1900:

John Baptist (b. 31 Jan 1953) married Mary Elizabeth Van Arck (b. Apr 1853) and had these children: Peter (b. 8 Mar 1885); John (b. 29 Oct 1887); and, Andrew (b. 26 Mar 1893).

John (b. 15 May 1857) married Philomena Herkmans and had these children: Henry (b. May 1880); Mary Elizabeth (b. 3 Dec 1881); Peter (b. 31 Aug 1884); Adolph (b. 26 Aug 1886); and, William (b. 20 Sep 1890).

Anna Catherina (b. 8 Oct 1861 d. 1874).

Peter (b. 25 May 1863) married Clara Devilez (b. 1874) on 12 Aug 1890 and had a son, Michael (b. 1891).

Frank (b. 21 Jan 1865) married Mary Balza (b. 1867) on 29 Jun 1886 and had these children: John (b. 1892); Ernest (b. 1893); Nettie (b. 1896); and, Frances (b. 1897).

Henry (b. 24 Apr 1866 d. 1938) and his wife, Josephine Denissen (b. 1867 d. 26 Jun 1923) had these children: Mary (b. May 1899); John (b. 22 Sep 1894 d. 8 Nov 1923); Edward (b. Jan 1893 d. 1946); Willie (b. Mar 1894); Clara (b. 9 Apr 1896) married Charles Belschner (b. 27 May 1892 d. 27 Oct 1974); Albert (b. Nov 1897); Ben (b. Mar 1900 d. 1971); Cecilia (born 8 May 1904 d. 21 Dec 1949) married Edward Belschner (b. 19 Nov 1900 d. 17 Oct 1979).

Joanna Antonia (b. 1868 d. 1874).

Antonette (b. 13 Sep 1870).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MOES, MOMMAERTS FAMILIES.

William (b. Apr 1872 d. 4 Aug 1953) married Rosa Van Bellinger (b. Dec 1869 d. 1 May 1940) and had these children: Mary (born May 1897 d. 20 Jan 1980) married Gus Ruechel; Alphonse (b. Aug 1898); Antonette (b. 1900 d. 1 May 1979) married Gerald Lax (b. 1902 d. 3 Mar 1982).

Philip (b. 1875).

Natalie (b. 1881).

### MOMMAERTS

Jan Francis Mommaerts (b. 29 Feb 1845 at Bierbeek d. 3 Apr 1915), son of John Joseph Mommaerts and Magdalena Meulemans, married Maria Josephina Neerdaels (b. 25 Feb 1854 at Blanden d. 12 Oct 1932) on 28 Jul 1875. They came to the U.S. in March 1887 with six children and Maria-Josephina's widowed mother, Joanna Vanderveren Neerdaels. Their children were:

Jerome (b. 7 Oct 1876 d. 1910) never married; he died in a train accident in the State of Washinton.

Victor (b. 20 Dec 1877 d. 19 Oct 1953) married Mary Krause and had eleven children.

Francis (b. 5 Nov 1879) married Mary Engels and moved to Washington State.

Joseph (b. 13 Nov 1881 d. 4 Aug 1883) died as a small child in Alsace-Lorraine.

Marie-Adelia (b. 16 Dec 1882 in Aisace-Lorraine d. 5 Jun 1963) married Charles Williquette.

Paul (b. 8 Nov 1884 d. 19 Dec 1951) married Amelia Dashnier.

Philip (b. 15 Jan 1891 d. 31 Jan 1971) married Elizabeth Vanden Plas.

John William (b. 15 Oct 1892 d. 18 Oct 1954) married Mayme Duchateau.

Josephine (b. 19 Jan 1894) married Henry L. Coppens.

Rosa (b. 16 Feb 1897 d. 11 Aug 1970) never married.

Joseph Mommaerts (b. 18 May 1870 d. 13 Aug 1944) came to the U.S. in May 1891 on the ship Northland and stayed with his Uncle Jan Francis for a while. Joseph is the son of Jerome Mommaerts and Philipina Neerdaels. He married Maria Rosalia Baeb (b. 31 May 1874 at Bierbeek d. 24 Jul 1949) and they had thirteen children:

Jules (b. 13 Jul 1896 d. 16 Apr 1971) married Mary Louise Brown.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MOMMAERTS, MOTIF FAMILIES.

Edwin (b. 31 Oct 1898 at Michigan d. 26 Sep 1981) married Mary I. Gatzke.

Walter (b. 9 Jan 1900 at Michigan d. 18 Jul 1981) married Marie Vos.

Albert (b. 1 Aug 1901 d. 25 Apr 1983) married Ethel Borman.

Clarence (b. 12 May 1903 d. 29 Jun 1974) married Louella Aebischer.

Lorraine (b. 31 Mar 1904 d. 19 Jan 1907).

Lucille (b. 8 Mar 1907) married Ken Cummings.

Marie Josephine (b. 8 Apr 1909 d. 29 Aug 1911).

Jerome (b. 2 Nov 1911 d. 1 Sep 1982) married Catherine Vanden Heuvel.

Daniel (b. 20 Oct 1913 d. 8 Aug 1973) married Bernice Zeutzius.

Edmere (b. 3 Sep 1916) married Lawrence Danen. Edmere is a twin.

Edna (b. 3 Sep 1916) married Alvin Ouradnik. Edna is a twin.

Geraldine (b. 15 Apr 1920) married John De Nell.

We thank Dianne Mommaerts De Both. Her Mommaerts Family History is available at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

## MOTIE

Frank Motif (b. 1860) and his wife, Louisa, came to the U.S. in July 1888, but Frank died in 1893, leaving two sons: Charles (b. 7 Dec 1889 d. 21 May 1912) (see Mass Card) and John (b. Jun 1891).

In July 1892, cigar-maker, Constant Motif (b. 19 Nov 1870 at St. Joris Weert) emigrated and married Virginia Wauters (b. 17 Jul 1868). Their children were: Maria Louisa (b. 11 Dec 1890); Rose (b. 1894); Frank (b. 1897); Elizabeth (b. 1899); Maria (b. 1901); Irene (b. 1904); George (b. 1908) married Estelle Landry.

Gregory Motif (b. 9 Mar 1841 at Leuven) emigrated in 1893 with part of his family. In 1910, his widow, Rosa Van Effen (b. 14 Jun 1849 at St. Joris Weert), said that she and two of her sons came over in 1906. Their children were: Frank (b. 15



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE MOTIF, NEERDAELS, NEERING, NIOULE FAMILIES.

Aug 1868); Alexander (b. 8 Dec 1887) married Jennie Marto; Sam (b. 1885) married Pheenie Marto; Adolphe (b. 26 Mar 1893).

In May 1906, Victor Julius Motif (b. 12 Apr 1883) and his wife, Anna Maria Daniels (b. 16 Apr 1884) of St. Joris Weert came to Wisconsin. Their children were: Louisa (b. 11 Jan 1906) and George (b. 24 December 1908).

In April 1912, Fred Motif (b. 30 Nov 1877) and his wife, Stephanina Daniels (b. 2 Feb 1877) emigrated from St. Joris Weert.

### NEERDAELS

The Neerdaels first emigrated in April 1887 with the Baeb, John Francis Mommaerts and De Bot families.

Joseph Charles Neerdaels (b. 26 May 1887 d. 17 Oct 1963), the son of Philip Joseph Neerdaels and Celina Stordeur, came to Wisconsin in 1906 and married Bertha De Bot. His sister, Mary Neerdaels (b. 24 Aug 1874 d. 25 Jun 1950) married Felix De Bot.

### NEERING

The original spelling of this name was probably NEERING(K)X.

Edward Neering (b. Jun 1830) arrived in the U.S. in 1868. He married Theresa (b. Oct 1849) in 1874 and lived in De Pere. In 1900, only four of their eleven children were living: Joseph (b. Jan 1882); Mary (b. Apr 1883); Edward (b. Apr 1884); and, Peter (b. Feb 1886).

### NIOULE

Albert (Hubert) Nicoule (Nehoul) (b. 1832) married Josephine Van Ness (b. Apr 1829 d. Dec 1900) in Belgium in 1858 and they migrated to the U.S. accompanied by her brother, Joseph Van Ness. The family settled in the Duck Creek area. Their children were: Mary (b. 1862 died young); Joseph (b. 1864); Leander (born 1869 d. Jan 1891); Mary (b. Jan 1873 d. Jul 1965) married Louis Williquet and had seven children.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE NOCKERTS/NACKERS FAMILY.

NOCKERTS/NACKERS

The original Flemish name for this family when they lived in Blanden and Huldenberg, Province of Brabant, was NACKAERTS. It went through various spellings before the Eaton branch of the family settled on the NOCKERTS spelling and the Wrightstown branch of the family spelled it NACKERS.

Andreas Nockerts, with his wife and three children, plus Andreas Nackers (apparently, his younger brother), landed in the U.S. on 24 Jul 1856. They bought land in the Town of Eaton, on the road to Lily Lake, where they were living side-by-side during the 1860 census. It is possible that Henry Nockerts and his wife, Barbara Smits, came over with them because their two daughters were married at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church. Philomene (b. circa 1852) married William Giers from St. Agathe Rode, son of Peter Giers and Joanna Vander Maas, in Oct 1875. On 7 Aug 1876, Angeline (b. Jul 1855 d. 1937) became the second wife of Francis De Greef (b. Apr 1838 d. 1910). They had seven children. In 1900, there was also a widower, Leonard Nackers (b. Jun 1835), living in Wrightstown with two daughters: Polly (b. Apr 1870) and Anne (b. Feb 1879).

ANDREAS NOCKERTS

Andreas Nockerts (b. circa 1816) married Elizabeth De Wit (b. 1822 in Belgium) and had at least two children:

John Baptiste (b. 15 Apr 1855 d. 8 Jul 1936) married Harriet Vander Kelen (b. 29 Apr 1861 d. 24 Oct 1928), daughter of John "Frank" Vander Kelen and Lucy Deetrie. Their children were:

- (1) Louis (b. 10 Nov 1878 d. 1945) married Clara Vanden Avond (b. 1881 d. 7 Feb 1949).
- (2) Eleonara "Lizzie" (b. 7 Aug 1880) married Peter De Greef.
- (3) Alphonse (b. 12 Jan 1882) was a bachelor.
- (4) Theodore (b. 22 Dec 1884 d. 1925) married Anna Kropp.
- (5) Henry (b. 11 Jul 1886 d. 17 Aug 1965) married Anna Kelly.
- (6) Francis (b. 8 Jan 1888) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_.
- (7) John (b. 17 May 1889 d. 3 Jul 1950) married Anna Van Lyssel.
- (8) Albert (b. 1 Jan 1891 d. 14 Dec 1956) married Agnes Abts.
- (9) Julia (b. 4 Aug 1893) married Emil Van Weddingen.
- (10) Mary (b. 3 May 1897) married John Backer.
- (11) Mayme Lucy (3 Sep 1904) married Hector Banta.

Louis (b. 17 Dec 1858 d. 6 Feb 1916) married Theresa Rentmeester, daughter of John Baptiste Rentmeester and Philipine Donks (see

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE NOCKERTS/NACKERS FAMILY.

Mass Card). Of their thirteen children, six died in infancy. The others were:

- (1) Philipine (b. 20 Sep 1886 d. 1954) married Charles Van Pay.
- (2) Lucy (b. 24 Oct 1889 d. 6 May 1963) married John Boehm.
- (3) Antoinette (b. 3 Feb 1895 d. 23 Dec 1928) married Martin Van Beek.
- (4) Anna (b. 11 Apr 1896 d. Sep 1985) married (1) John Van Beek, (2) Constant Paul.
- (5) Joseph (b. 24 May 1899).
- (6) Alice (b. 11 Jul 1907 d. Oct 1977) married Edward Klimek.  
After Louis died, Theresa married Charles Boehm as her second husband.

We thank Dr. Ken Nockerts for his help with this family history.



#### ALBERT NACKERS

Albert Nackers (b. 15 Jan 1825 d. 4 Feb 1897) of Huldenberg, Brabant Province, bought property in Eaton in 1857, the year after he arrived in Brown County. He married Maria Leonia Meulemans of Bierbeek (b. 10 Jun 1836 d. 24 Aug 1909), daughter of Peter Meulemans and Rosalia Brijs, in 1859; the Nockerts and Meulemans families came to America together and the Meulemans settled in Wrightstown. The young couple moved from Eaton to Wrightstown around 1863. Their children were:

Peter (b. 1861 d. 1882).

Joseph (b. Sep 1863 d. Aug 1935) married (1) Victoria Meulemans (b. 1861 d. 1909) and then married (2) Mary Meuller (b. 1869 d. 1932) and had these children: Frank, Mary, Henry, Bill, Peter and Bernard.

Edward (b. Oct 1864 d. Aug 1902) married Mary Callewaerts (born 1870 d. 1943) and had these children: John, Theresa, Barbara, Albert, Leo and Veronica.

Rosella (b. Jul 1866 d. Nov 1954) married Louis Gilbert (born 1860 d. 1928) and had these children: Catherine, George, William Jr., Rose, Edward, Martin, Philomena, Florence and Viola.

Andrew (b. Jan 1867 d. Apr 1947) married Cornelia Vande Hei (b. 1871 d. 1943) and had these children: Albert, Leona and Adolph.

Pauline (b. Apr 1869 d. May 1936).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE NOCKERTS/NACKERS, NOLVAN, NOWEE FAMILIES.

Mary (b. Feb 1871 d. Jun 1932) married Joseph Krautkramer (born 1869 d. 1932) and had twelve children.

Martin (b. Jul 1872 d. Jan 1962) married Anne Nelessen (b. 1881 d. 1959) and had these children: Albert, Mary, Joseph, Marion, Clara, Iletephonsa, Bud, Gertrude, Rose, Anne, Jane, Mary Catherine and Howard.

Cecelia (b. Sep 1874 d. Oct 1969) married Francis Nelessen (b. 1880 d. 1926).

Janette (b. Dec 1876 d. May 1957) married Philip Bueche (born 1877 d. 1910) and had these children: Albert P. and Joseph.

Anna (b. Feb 1879 d. Feb 1938) joined a convent.

There is a wonderful booklet, A Look At the Nackers and Meulemans by Sister Mary Arnold, at the Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

## NOLVAN

The original spelling of this Flemish name is probably DENOLF.

John Nolvan (b. May 1830 d. Jan 1905) and his brother, Frank (b. Jul 1845), came from St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province. John's wife, Anna Maria (b. 1823 d. Jun 1899), came from St. Agathe Rode; all three came to America in 1855. Philomene de Nolvan, daughter of John and Anna Maria, was born in Mar 1870 and married Henry Tilkens. Louise Nolvan married Joseph De Keyser of Huldenberg.

## NOWEE

This Flemish name is also spelled NOWE.

The Nowee family was from Huldenberg. Felix Nowe (born 1849 d. 1932 at Thiry Daems) brought his wife, Catherine (b. 1848), and their baby girl to America in 1881. They had four children:

Mary (b. 13 Feb 1881 d. 14 Apr 1932 at Tonet) married Jule Hallet and had five children: Agnes (b. 1903) married Victor Jonet; William (b. 1904); Mayme (b. 1905) married Henry Jonet; John (b. 1908); and Rose married Elmer Boulanger.

Jean Baptiste (b. 9 Sep 1887 d. 11 Jun 1915).

Mrs. Frank Glime.

Josephine married Herbert Boucher.

We thank John (Jack) Hallet and Beatrice Rentmeester Weidner for this family history.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE NUTHALS FAMILY.

NUTHALS

Nuthals is also spelled NETOLS and NEWTOLS; it is often pronounced needles. There were several groups with this family name who emigrated to America.

Francis Nuthals (b. 29 May 1829 d. 20 Jan 1900) married Philipina Vannieuwenhoven (b. Jul 1825 d. 1 Jul 1910) at St. Joris Weert, Brabant Province, in 1850. They arrived at New York on the Graham Polly with three children on 6 Sep 1856 and settled in the Town of Humboldt. Their ten children were:

Frederick Netols (b. Jan 1850 d. 1924). In 1883, he married Maria Victoria Gillings (b. 19 Oct 1866 at St. Joris Weert d. 1940), whose family had emigrated in 1879. They had twelve children:

- (1) Frank B. (b. 24 Apr 1885 d. 25 Nov 1954) and his wife, Bertha (b. 1881) had one daughter, Elaine.
- (2) Henry (b. 21 Mar 1887 d. 21 May 1947) had one son.
- (3) John (b. 22 Feb 1889 d. 29 Dec 1955) never married.
- (4) Mary (b. 9 Jul 1892 d. 22 Jun 1954) never married.
- (5) Louise (b. 30 May 1895 d. 26 Feb 1974) married Leo Kwaterski and had these children: Agnes married Meredith Nielsen; Beatrice; Celestine married Paul W. Bickel; Dominic married Patricia Ihde; Edmund married Agatha Schott; Felicia married Herman Van Beckum; Genevieve married Raymond Huemphner; Helen married Cletus Pierquet; Isadore married Carol Priebe; John married Nance Nooren; Kathleen married Richard Hujet; Sister Louise; and, Mitchell married Carol Simons.
- (6) Anna (b. 10 Jul 1897 d. 4 Nov 1970) married John Delaruelle and had four children: Joyce married Robert Boehm; Elaine married Donald L. Johnson; Donald married La Verne Guns; and, Rita married Harold Vanden Avond.
- (7) William (b. 23 Dec 1899 d. 13 Oct 1961) never married.
- (8) Albert (b. 11 Oct 1903 d. 21 Jan 1974) married Maria Theresa Panure (Peigneier) and had six children: Robert; William married Ione Couvillion; Kenneth; Carol married Eugene Nooyen; Marilyn married Kenneth Schwartz; and, Joan married Dale Skarzynski.
- (9) Louis (b. 24 Aug 1905) never married.
- (10) Henrietta (b. 5 Sep 1907 d. 31 Jul 1971) married Frank Reimer and had six children: Frank Jr.; Anne Marie married a Miller; Evelyn married Vernon Ferron; Eleanor married Marcel Schott; Grace; and, Vonnie married Ronald Korowski.
- (11) Joseph died in infancy.
- (12) Edward died in infancy.

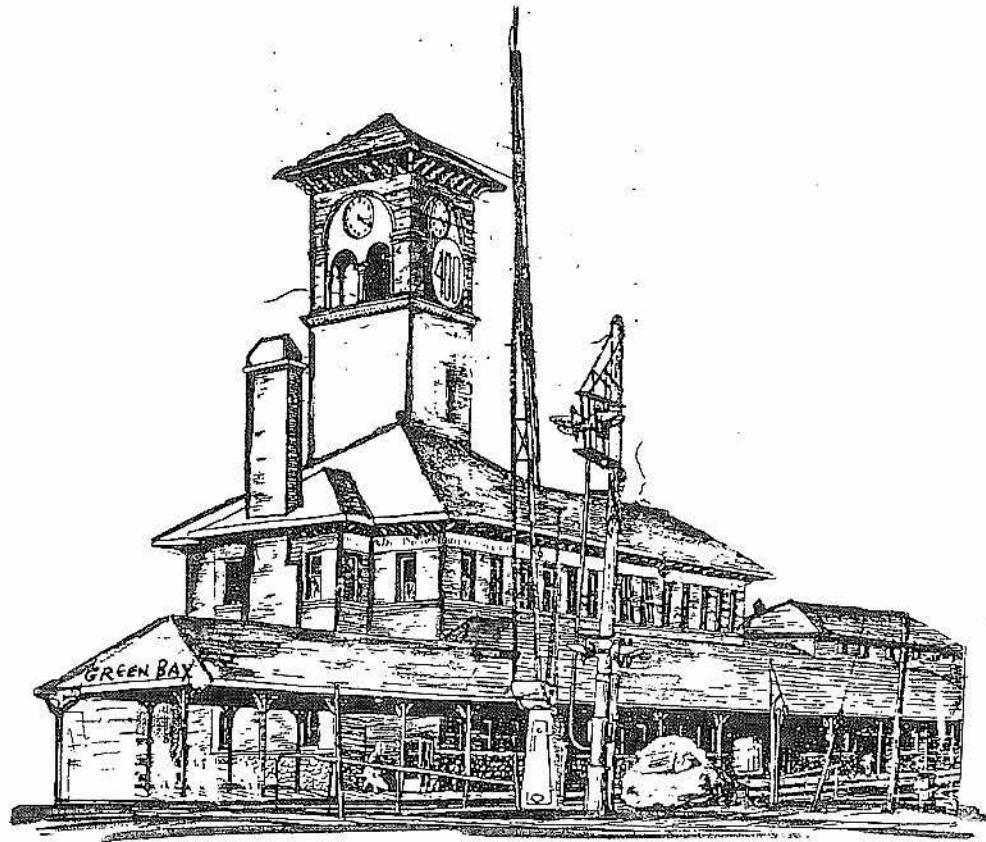
John (b. 8 Mar 1851 d. 8 Jul 1896).

Mary (the first) (b. 1854) married John Cropp; they had one son, Clarence.

### THE FLEMISH HERITAGE

The Flemish settlers brought their booyah, kermis, wooden shoes, Flemish cuisine and other distinctive Flemish characteristics with them to America.

The Flemish painters and Flemish lace were also well-known in Wisconsin. A notable example of Flemish Renaissance architecture is shown below:



THE RAILROAD STATION IN GREEN BAY:  
FLEMISH RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE NUTHALS FAMILY.

John F. (b. 1857).

Theresa (b. Feb 1860) married Henry Watermolen (b. Sep 1852) and had these children: Josephine (b. Mar 1883 d. 19 Nov 1902); John (b. Jan 1885) married Flora Pannure; Jennie (b. Jun 1888) married Warren Spoffard; Louisa (b. Oct 1892) married Ernest Lathour.

Frank (b. 1860) married Natalia Roskam (b. Jun 1867).

Henry (b. 1865) married Josephine Bertrand (b. 1869) and had these children: Josephine (b. 1892); Joseph (b. 1895); Emma (b. 1901) married Earl Steeno Sr.

Virginia (Julia) (b. 1867) married John Swette; their children were: Frank; George; Margaret; Richard; and Alfred.

Mary (the second) (b. 1868 d. 24 Mar 1938) married Louis Roskam. Their children were: John married Louise Caelwarts; Stella married George Leitermann; Margaret; and Francis.

Edward (b. 1872) married Gertrude Schout. Their children were: Margaret; Frank; Edward; Caroline; Evelyn; Marcella; Sylvester; and Genevieve.

Eugene Nuthals (b. 16 Sep 1881) and his wife, Maria Miller (b. 13 Dec 1882) emigrated with their two children from St. Joris Weert, arriving in Green Bay on 9 Apr 1906. Their children were: Constant (b. 1903); Lucille (b. 1905); George (b. 1911); Elmore (b. 1912); Gilbert (b. 1914); Arthur (b. 1916); Lawrence (b. 1919); and, Clarence (b. 1922).

Victor Nuthals (b. 15 Mar 1885 at St. Joris Weert) arrived at New York on the Lusitania on 3 Jan 1908. In early 1912, he was followed by his widowed mother, Maria Theresa (b. 15 Oct 1858) and his siblings; Francis (b. 25 Jan 1884); Justina (b. 27 Apr 1892); and, Camille (b. 13 May 1894). Victor married Jennie Schroeder (widow of Desire Schroeder) and their son, Felix, was born 12 Oct 1923.

Philip Nuthals (b. Jan 1889) and his wife, Elisa Van Weddingen (b. 15 Jul 1890), both from St. Joris Weert, emigrated to the United States after 1910. Their children include: Gustave (b. 1900); Bernard; John; Raymond (b. 8 Aug 1910 d. 24 Dec 1987) married Lucille Kimpf; Ann married a Lorrig; Theresa (b. 19 Mar 1912); Lorraine married a Wickman; Mildred married a Johanski; and Margaret married a Larsen.

Mary Rose Nuthals (b. 25 Sep 1863 d. 3 Apr 1926), daughter of Henry Nuthals and Mary Fable of Leuven, married Joseph De Kelver (b. 12 Apr 1861 d. 4 Oct 1939).

Anna Maria Nuthols (b. 2 Feb 1831 at St. Joris Weert) married Joseph Gillings.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE NUTHALS, NYS FAMILIES.

Joyce Delaruelle Boehm furnished information on her grandfather's (Frederick Netols) family, and Mrs. Al (Mae) Netols also furnished information on the Netols family history.

NYS

Other spellings of this Flemish name are NYES, NYSE, NUYS and NEYS.

John Francis Neys and his wife, Elizabeth De Brouwer, came from Huldenberg, Province of Brabant, in 1856, and settled in the Town of Preble. Their son, William (b. 1846), married Rosalie De Keiser (b. 1853) in 1873, at the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church. Florence Nys (b. 1840) married Antoine De Prince.

Peter Nys (b. 1816 d. 24 Sep 1896) of Meldert, Brabant Province, and his wife, Joanna (b. Jun 1826), came to the U.S. in 1856 with their infant son and settled in the City of Green Bay. Their children were: Louis (b. Jan 1856) and his wife, Josephine (b. Feb 1858) had these seven children: Peter (b. Jan 1879), Jules (b. Oct 1881), Louis (b. Feb 1883), Mary (b. Dec 1886), Frank (b. Aug 1888), Edna (b. Aug 1892), Raymond (b. Sep 1897); Mary (b. 1858); Henry M. (b. 1860); Frank (b. 1862); David (b. 1866) married Anna Forst; and, Solomon (b. 1868) married Nathalia \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1868).

William Nys (b. Apr 1844 d. 1930) and his brother, Walter (b. Apr 1840), emigrated to Wisconsin in 1871. William married Rosalina April (b. Jun 1862 d. 1949) in 1879. Their children were:

Flora (b. 11 Sep 1881 d. 14 Jul 1948) married Herman Calewarts.

William (b. 9 Oct 1882).

Peter (b. 13 Jun 1885 d. 16 Jan 1924) married Harriet Dunks (b. 8 May 1890 d. 29 Dec 1979).

Theresa (b. 20 Oct 1887 d. 1 Oct 1969) married Frank Poels.

Clara (b. 26 Jun 1890 d. 15 Mar 1965) married Charles Kropp.

Susan (b. 17 Jul 1895 d. 1919).

Elizabeth (b. 4 Nov 1897 d. 14 Nov 1983).

Anna (b. 23 Sep 1901) married Edward Winnesheimer.

Pauline (b. 1 Mar 1907) married Clarence J. Roskom.

Frank Nys (b. 1880) came to the U.S. in 1906; his wife, Mary, was born in 1886.

We thank Pauline Nys Roskom for information on the William Nys family.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ORDE, PAEPS, PANURE FAMILIES.

ORDE

Joseph Orde (b. 1873) was brought to this country in 1874. In 1910, he was living with his wife, Mary (b. 1868), and son, Clarence (b. 1907).

PAEPS

Frederick Paeps (b. 8 Apr 1851 at St. Joris Weert) married Melanie Wauters (b. Aug 1857 at Oud-Heverlee) in 1879. With their five children, they left Antwerp aboard the Switzerland on 18 Apr 1893 and arrived in Philadelphia on 3 May 1893. The family settled on the west side of the City of Green Bay. These children were listed in the 1900 census: Matilda (b. Aug 1881); Flora (b. Jun 1886); John (b. Jun 1890); and, Alphonse (b. Jul 1893). Another daughter, Mary (b. 10 Oct 1904) married Frederic Piron Jr.

Roger Paeps of St. Joris Weert, Province of Brabant, who has furnished valuable information on emigrees from St. Joris Weert, is related to this family. He is writing a book on this subject.

PANURE

This Flemish name is spelled PEIGNEUR in Oud-Heverlee.

John Peter Peigneur (b. 18 May 1820 d. 1875) and his wife, Joanna Deetrie (b. 29 Jun 1819 at Vertrijk d. 31 Jul. 1909), came to America and settled on a farm in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

Xavier (b. 15 May 1849 d. 22 Aug 1920) married Maria Theresa Tasquin (b. Dec 1854 d. 6 Aug 1924). They had fourteen children, eleven living in 1910:

- (1) Desireé (b. 2 Aug 1876 d. 28 Jul 1948) married Marie Victoire Vanden Plas.
- (2) Mary M. (b. Apr 1878) married Leon Vanden Plas.
- (3) Eugene (b. 28 Dec 1881 d. 13 Nov 1939) married Katherine Tillman.
- (4) Joseph (b. 17 May 1883 d. 1960) married Anna Schott.
- (5) Florence (b. Apr 1885 d. 1953) married John Watermolen.
- (6) John (b. May 1887 d. 1968) married Rose Schott.
- (7) Gustav (b. Jun 1889).
- (8) Josephine (b. 22 Feb 1892 d. 26 Jun 1959) married Joseph Vanden Plas.
- (9) Anna (b. 6 Oct 1894 d. 12 Jun 1973) married William Cornell.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PANURE, PENSIER, PETERS FAMILIES.

(10) Adele (b. 29 Feb 1897 d. 3 Nov 1901).

(11) Lena (b. 5 Apr 1899 d. 1930) married Abe Peronto.

Henry (b. 1851) married Theresa Leurquin, daughter of John Baptiste Leurquin and Joanna Tasquin.

Elizabeth (b. 1854) married Edward Collard (b. 1847 d. 1910), son of August and Barbara Collard and had seventeen children.

Sidonia (b. 1854) married Victor Dessart (b. 1851), son of Charles Dessart and Louisa Sumieer.

Desireé (b. Feb 1863 d. 1940).

Eugene (b. 1864 d. 1940) married Maria Catherine (b. 15 Apr 1881 d. 6 Jan 1918).

Mrs. Wayne (Margaret) Buntin, granddaughter of Xavier Pannure, helped with this family history.

### PENSIER

Gustave Pensir (b. Sep 1848) came to America in 1871. He was married in 1892; his wife, Florence (b. Aug 1869), emigrated in 1888. In 1900, he lived in the City of Green Bay with two children: Alice (b. Feb 1894) and Alex (b. Apr 1898).

### PETERS

We found about a dozen PEETERS families that emigrated from Belgium and one family that said they were a Flemish family from Holland. By 1900, most of these families had changed their names to PETERS.

John Peters (b. 1785) and his wife, Johanna, brought their family to America in 1849 and spent one year in New York before proceeding on to Green Bay. Their children were:

Mary (b. 1827).

Peter (b. 1832) married Julia Van Caster (b. 1826 d. Jul 1905). One son, John, married Anna Coppens; another son, Francis, became a Catholic priest.

Joseph (b. 1839 d. 1924) and his wife, Annie (b. 1858), emigrated in 1883. Their children were: Rosie (b. Jan 1889); Bertie (b. May 1891); Annie (b. May 1894); Felix (b. Aug 1895); and, Henry (b. Jul 1898).

John B. (b. 1838).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PETERS FAMILY.

Joanna (b. 1841).

Petronella (b. 1844).

Elizabeth (b. 1848).

William (b. 1850).

John F. (b. 1856).

Pierre J. Peters was in the Union Army. He had a wife, Sylvia, and these children: Joseph (b. 1857); Mary (b. 1861); and, Erma (b. 1866).

Felix and Emerence Peter(s) were born in 1836; they came to America before 1857. Their children were: Eugene (b. 1858); Constant (b. 1861); Mary (b. 1864); and, Emil (b. 1868).

Joseph Peters (b. May 1835 d. 1937) ran a bakery in the Duck Creek area. He and his wife, Julia (b. Jun 1826 d. 1924), both came to the U.S. in 1855; they were married in 1856. Three of their six children were: Joseph (b. 1876 d. 1892); Victor (b. 27 Oct. 1879 d. 8 Oct 1944) married Lettie Calewaerts; and, August (b. 1880 d. 1937) married Pauline Calewaerts.

Frederick Peters (b. Mar 1830) emigrated in 1860. In 1900, he was a shoemaker, widowed, with these children: Reddehad (b. Sep 1862); Carrie (b. Jul 1876); and, David (b. May 1881).

William Peeters (b. Sep 1866) came to the U.S. in Jul 1888, about the same time as Frank and Louisa Wauters Motif. After Frank died, William married Louisa (b. Dec 1866) in 1895. Their eight children were: John Motif (b. Jun 1891); Charles Motif (b. 1889 d. 1912); Joseph (b. 1894); Mary (b. 1895) married a Liederbach; Mae (b. 1898) married a Stutleen; Lucille (b. 1900) married a Poreth; Frank (b. 1903); and, Margaret (b. 13 May 1906 d. 4 Nov 1985) married a Matzke.

Paulus Peeters (b. 1865) came to the U.S. in Jun 1880.

Paul William Peeters (b. 10 Dec 1853 d. 27 May 1948) married Anna Catherine Willio (b. 21 Jul 1861 d. 5 Apr 1896) in Bierbeek, and emigrated in May 1887, living first in Duck Creek, then in Merrill, Wisconsin. Their children were:

John (b. 29 Jan 1888 d. 26 May 1983) married Elizabeth Collins.

Frank (b. 3 Aug 1889 d. 17 Mar 1964) married Ina Gooch.

Julia (b. 7 Apr 1891 d. 28 Apr 1945) married William Quinner.

George J. (b. 9 Jun 1893 d. 5 Mar 1985) married Marjorie Van Riper.

Matilda (b. 9 Mar 1896 d. 27 Mar 1896).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PETERS, PETITJEAN, PHILLIPS FAMILIES.

Ernest Peters (b. May 1863) and his wife, Louisa (b. May 1857), were married in 1885 and left Hoboken, Belgium in 1892 for America. Their children were:

Arthur (b. May 1886) married Mary De Deycker (b. 22 Jul 1889) and ran a bakery.

Mary (b. May 1887) married Alphonse Perion.

Louis (b. Nov 1889).

Frank (b. May 1891).

Rosa (b. Feb 1893) married T. Rasmussen.

John (b. Apr 1895).

Amanda (b. Feb 1898).

Nora.

Lucy.

John Peters (b. 1871) and his wife, Mary (b. 1872), emigrated in 1903 with their son, Alphonse (b. 1892). Two other children were: Philip (b. 1903) and Alice (b. 1906).

### PETITJEAN

Francois C. Petitjean (b. 1832) emigrated in Jul 1852, followed in August 1855 by his father, M. Petitjean (b. 1795), and Jean Petitjean (b. 1831). A granddaughter, Maria Petitjean, arrived in Jan 1884 as the wife of Jean Tilkens.

### PHILLIPS

Andrew Phillips (b. 1816 at Huldenberg, Brabant Province) came to the U.S. in Jan 1853. In 1859, he married Elizabeth Van Steenvoort (widow of Peter Detrie); they settled on a farm in the Town of Lawrence. Andrew's sister, Elizabeth, married Egidius Bombaers in Huldenberg and they came to the U.S. in 1856.

Jean Baptiste Philips (b. 1833 d. 1928) and his bride, Anna Maria Parmentier (b. 1839 d. circa 1866), probably came with the Bombaers; they arrived on the ship Philip Elliott from Antwerp on 31 Jul 1856. They bought property in the Towns of Bellevue and Eaton and lived on their Bellevue farm. Their children were: Edward (b. 1860 d. 1944) married (1) Mary Vanden Avond and (2) Nellie Denissen (b. 1871 d. 1934); Peter (b. Aug 1863) married Polonia Vanden Bergh; Mary married Peter Van Iten.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PHILLIPS, PIERQUET FAMILIES.

Jean Baptiste took another Huldenberg girl, Anna Maria De Bloem (b. 1850 d. 1925), as his second wife. Their children:

Pauline (b. 1868 d. 1926) married Joseph Hurckman.

Anna Catherina (b. 1870 d. 1916) married Louis Vanden Avond.

William (b. 1872 d. 1921) married Lizzie Zuidmulder.

Philomena (b. 1874 d. 1949) married John Detrie.

John (b. 1876 d. 1916) married Louisa De Greef.

Elizabeth (b. 1878) married John Schumacher.

Rose (b. 1883 d. 1955) married John Cropp (b. 13 Oct 1882 died 17 Nov 1949).

Clara (b. 1885 d. 1952) married John Baptiste Rentmeester.

Petronella (Nellie) (b. 1886 d. 1972) married August Rentmeester.

Louis (b. 1889 d. 1948) married Pauline Verheiden (b. 1890 d. 1919).

Sophia (b. 1890 d. 1964) married Anton De Grave.

Mamie (b. 1892 d. 1967) married John Verheyden.

Henry J. (b. 1894 d. 1961) married Lucy Verheyden.

We will show the next generation of Philips only for the oldest son, Edward. He and Mary (b. 1865 d. 1889) had four children: John; Pauline married a La Mal; Katherine married a Detrie; and Ann married a Lindsley. After Mary died, Edward married Nellie Denissen (b. 1871 d. 1934); they had nine children: Henry; William; Bernard; Norbert; Lucille married a Calewaerts; Joseph; Clarence; Lawrence; and Alice (Gladys) married a Vanden Langenberg.

We thank Joanne Philips Hansford, Mrs. Clarence Cropp and Della Renier for furnishing the Philips family information.

### PIERQUET

Variations in the spelling of this name are PIERKE, PEARKA, PIERQUETTE and PIERCQUET.

Jean Baptiste Matteu had emigrated from Walshoutem, Belgium to Wisconsin in November 1871 and persuaded his cousin, Maria Catherine (b. Jan 1857 d. 1933), and her husband, Jacob Pierquet (b. Jan 1851 d. 1932), to join him. Maria Catherine was the daughter of Johannes-Josephus Mathieu (b. 1830 at Liege) and Elisabeth Ruysevelts (b. 1833 at Walshouten). Maria Catherine (also called Katie) had five sisters and three brothers - some

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PIERQUET FAMILY.

of them also came to America. Jacob and Mary Catherine had at least fourteen children:

John (b. Mar 1877 d. 1970) married Anna Van Egeren and had these children:

- (1) John (b. 1897 d. 1987) married Marion Loritz.
- (2) Joseph (b. 1903) married Gladys Greenwood.
- (3) Alice (b. 1905) married Benny Clark.
- (4) Elmer (b. 1907) married Freda \_\_\_\_\_.
- (5) Harry (b. 1909) married Vivian Terrilli.
- (6) Helen (b. 1909) married Thomas Fruzena.
- (7) Ted married Rita Gilling.
- (8) Marie married Bud Malotte.

Joseph (b. Mar 1879 d. 22 Oct 1933) married Angeline Rentmeester (see the Desiré Rentmeester family sketch) and their eight children were:

- (1) Alice had one child.
- (2) Clarence married Rosella Dollar and had seven children.
- (3) Gordon married Lorraine Detrie and had six children.
- (4) Alvin married Evelyn Vanden Avond.
- (5) Robert married Fern Krueger and had five children.
- (6) Emerine married Al Gay and had seven children.
- (7) Raymond married Pat Vander Muss and had six children.
- (8) Audrey married Norbert Vanden Plas and had four children.

Henry (b. Jun 1881) was a bachelor.

Josephine (b. Mar 1883).

Jacob (b. Sep 1885 d. 1976) was a bachelor.

Anton (b. Jul 1887 d. 1969) married Laura Kriescher (b. 1895 d. 1949). Their sixteen children were:

- (1) Cyril married Betty Sheldon and had two children: Cyril and Betty.
- (2) Bernice married Fred Christensen and had two children: Melvin and Dale.
- (3) Rita married Walter Raleigh and had four children: Gary, Patricia, Ellen and Greg.
- (4) Leroy married June Hetzler and had four children: Barbara, Diane, Julie and Cindy.
- (5) Marvin married Jean Pohlman and had five children: Jeffery, Holly, Patrick, William and Christine.
- (6) Clayton married Agnes Walsh and had three children: Sharon, Michael and Linda.
- (7) Cletus married Helen Kwaterski and had seven children: Richard, Mary, Tom, Judi, Susan, Laura and Patty.
- (8) Clement married Lucille Allen and had four children: Carol, Ronald, Donna and Daniel.
- (9) Anthony married Delores Roznowski and had two children: Catherine and Peggy.
- (10) Dolores married Ray Heyrman and had four children: Dennis, Laurie, Steve and Janice.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PIERQUET, PIRON, PITTINGS FAMILIES.

- (11) Quintin married Marian Begans and had seven children: Mark, Gary, James, Robert, David, Jacqueline and Jill.
- (12) Jerome married Regina Le Grave and had five children: Bridgette, Tony, Joe, Ann and Kim.
- (13) Shirley married James Morgan and had five children: Joanne, Colleen, Russell, Paul and Jayne.
- (14) Kathleen married Irvin La Luzerne and had eight children: Bruce, Becky, Bonnie, Brad, Barbara, Brian, Bill and Bobbie.
- (15) Myrna married Robert Pasterski and had four children: Daniel, Kevin, John, Mike.
- (16) Loreen married Larry Cumber and had three children: Wendy, Janeen and Terri.

Anna (b. May 1891).

Mary (b. Jan 1892).

Frank (b. Jan 1894) married Helen Caesar.

Christina (b. Sep 1894) married Armstead Alexander - no children.

Katie (b. Oct 1896) married Joe Moore - no children.

Albert (b. Oct 1898 d. 1919) was a bachelor.

Barney (b. 1902) married Helen Neier and had a son, Bernard.

Edward (b. 1904 d. 1934) was a bachelor.

We thank Joseph Pierquet, Clarence Pierquet and Mrs. Anthony (Delores) Pierquet for their help with the Pierquet history.

### PIRON

Frederic Piron (b. 15 Feb 1851 at Oud-Heverlee d. 9 Feb 1893) and his wife, Maria Goosens (b. 19 Feb 1858 at Oud-Heverlee d. 30 Apr 1926), left Belgium on 28 Apr 1883. Their children were: Francois; Louis; Frederic Jr. (b. 18 Aug 1883) married Mary Paeps; Francis Alphonse; Joseph; Mary (b. 30 Sep 1888 d. 29 Aug 1943) married a Devroy; and, Christine married a Kolb.

### PITTINGS

The Pittings family owned forty acres in the Town of Preble, where the Woodside Golf Course is presently located, corner from the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Catholic Church. William Pittings (b. 11 Aug 1833 d. 27 May 1914) and his wife, Catherine (b. 25 Dec 1842 d. 17 Apr 1912), are buried in the church cemetery.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PIUMBROEK, PLEASTERS FAMILIES.

### PIUMBROEK

The original spelling of this Flemish name is PUYMBROEK.

Alexander Peter Piumbrock (b. Feb 1862 at Verrebroek) emigrated in 1882. His wife, Anne (b. 1874 in Wisconsin), and their daughter, Tracy (b. Apr 1890), lived with him in the Town of De Pere in 1900. His second wife was a Van Remortel; their children were Sylvia; Florence; and, Marvin.

Julius Piumbroek (b. 1865 d. 1934) and his wife, Celia (b. 1870), lived in the Town of Scott. Their children, all born in America, are: Louis (b. 1894); Peter (b. 1897); Mary (b. 1899); Valentine (b. 1901); Alfred (b. 1909); and, Leo.

Two sisters of Alexander and Julius were Coletta and Morgana, who married De Cleenes. A third sister, Adele, remained in Belgium.

### PLEASTERS

The original spelling of this Flemish name is PLEESTERS.

William Pleasters (b. Oct 1824 at Huldenberg d. 11 Apr 1910) and his new bride, Anna Maria Tielens (b. 1819 at St. Joris-Weert d. 27 Feb 1894), daughter of Andrew Tielens and Petronella Weetes, came to the U.S. in Jul 1854 and settled on seventy acres on the eastern boundary of the Town of Humboldt. Their children:

Francis (b. 1855) married Anna Jobelius in 1877.

Mary (b. 1857 d. 1913) married Peter Detrie (b. 1855 d. 1955).

Mary Theresa (b. 12 Aug 1860 d. 5 May 1879) married William Vander Wegen.

Anton (b. Dec 1867 d. 1956) married Lizzie Bruffaerts (b. 5 Sep 1874 d. 1956) and had six children: Alvina, Julia, Edward, Elsa, Irene and Alvin (b. 1906 d. 1985).

Frank and Anna Pleasters may have died young, because their daughter, Mary (b. Aug 1877 d. 12 May 1931), lived with the Anton Pleasters family; she later married John Bruffaerts.

Elizabeth Pleasters (probably, William's sister) married Henry Fountaine in O.L. Vr. Tielt, Province of Brabant; they emigrated at about the same time as the Pleasters. Their daughter, Frances (b. Feb 1850) married Ferdinand Van Ess.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE POELS FAMILY.

POELS

Louis Poels (b. 1821 at Oud-Heverlee) came to the U.S. on board the Gaston in 1855 with the Jan Tuyls family.

Sebastian Poels married Barbara Duchateau on 9 Nov 1792 at Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant. His son, Sebastian, and Sebastian's wife, Elizabeth, both born in 1820, came to America in August 1856, along with their son, Frank (b. 4 Oct 1841 d. 27 Feb 1905). They settled in the Duck Creek area where, in 1859, Frank married Maria Joanna Roskam (b. 23 Oct 1839 d. 23 Feb 1907). Their children were:

Rosalia (b. 1860 d. 3 Jul 1943 in Washington State) married John Basteyns (b. 5 Nov 1839 d. 5 Oct 1895). Their five children:

- (1) Felix (b. 23 Oct 1881 d. 27 Dec 1962) married Rosa Williquette.
- (2) Jennie (b. 1883 d. 1929) married Theodore Lemerond.
- (3) Elizabeth (b. 3 Apr 1891) married Edward Debbins.
- (4) Anna married Frank Munckler.
- (5) Fred married Edith \_\_\_\_\_.

Rosalia's last two children listed here took the name of Duchateau, after Rosalia married John Duchateau.

Peter (b. 16 Mar 1862 d. 12 Feb 1900) married Mary Basteyns (b. 1867 d. 11 May 1940). Their children:

- (1) Frank (b. 21 Jul 1887 d. 10 Sep 1971) married Theresa Nys (b. 20 Oct 1887 d. 1 Oct 1969).
- (2) Arthur (b. 12 May 1889).
- (3) Clara (b. 12 Mar 1891 d. 10 Jun 1963) married Earl Pamperin.
- (4) Felix (b. 3 Sep 1893 d. 24 May 1975) married Elizabeth Huben.
- (5) Elizabeth (b. 3 Nov 1896 d. 5 Mar 1983) married Fred Vanderveren (b. 11 May 1897 d. 31 Jan 1978).

Felix (b. 29 Dec 1863 d. 14 Jan 1921) married Sarah Lemerond and had a son, Lawrence (b. 1889 d. 1923), who married Margaret Salscheider.

Eugenia (Joanna) (b. 29 Dec 1863), Felix's twin, married Felix Duchateau (b. 1860).

Philipina (b. 1866) married Peter Van Bever (b. 1860 d. 30 Mar 1932).

Alphonse (b. 1869 d. 7 Mar 1952) married Maria J. Williquette (b. 1868 d. 1928). Their children: Anna married Bruce Pamperin; Elizabeth married Anthony Reinhard; Francis; Alphonse Jr. (born 23 Jun 1910 d. 13 Feb 1985) married Marie Kimps (b. 29 Apr 1914).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE POELS, POWELLS, PUTTEMANS, PUYLEART FAMILIES.

Elizabeth (b. 1871) married Alphonse Basteyns on 3 Oct 1892.

Philomene (b. 1872) married Louis De Greef on 15 Nov 1892.

John (b. 27 Mar 1877 d. 12 Dec 1943) married Rose Devroy (born 30 Dec 1877 d. 18 Apr 1958). Their children: Lily; Lawrence; Irene; and, Edward.

Marie Stephanie Poels (b. 6 Oct 1846 at Oud-Heverlee), daughter of Peter Poels and Barbara Van Ermel, departed Belgium on 21 Apr 1871. Julius Poels (b. 1864) came in May 1878. Francis Poels (b. 5 Jan 1860 at Oud-Heverlee) came to America, departing Belgium on 8 Jul 1881; he was the son of Lambert Poels and Anna Maria Matheijs.

### POWELLS

In Belgium, this Flemish name is always spelled PAUWELS.

Edward Pouwells (b. Jan 1868) and his wife, Nettie (b. Feb 1866), came to America in 1881 and settled in De Pere where he was a saloon-keeper. Some of their children: Mary (b. Mar 1888); Christina (b. 1889); Frank (b. May 1895); Matilda (b. Feb 1896); Rena (b. May 1898); Henry (b. 1901); and, Rosa (b. 1903).

### PUTTEMANS

Henry Puttemans and his wife, Catherine, both born in 1814, came to America in 1854; they operated a saloon in the City of Green Bay. Their two sons were: Anton (b. 1854) lived in Ohio where his wife, Maggie, was born Dec 1861 - their Children were - Anton H. (b. Feb 1883), John B. (b. Apr 1887), Matilda (b. Jun 1888) and Mary (b. Jul 1894); and, Thomas (b. 1856) married Elizabeth Verheyden.

### PUYLEART

Two Puyleart brothers, Henry and Frank, came to America in 1879 and lived in Detroit, Michigan for several years before settling in the Town of Scott.

By 1900, Frank (b. May 1848) was widowed and had these children: Mary (b. 1879 d. 1930) married Henri Christens; Emil B. (b. May 1885 d. 15 Nov 1951) married Mary Bildings (b. 1886); Jennie (b. May 1886); August (b. 1891); and, Leona (b. 1897).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE PUYLEART, QUATRESOLS/QUATSOE/CATTERSOL FAMILIES.

Henry died about 1895 and left his widow, Leona (born Oct 1848), with these children:

Augustus (b. 1881) whose wife, Mary, was born in 1882 and daughter, Gladys, was born in 1909.

Henry Jr. (b. 1882) and his wife, Frances (b. 1886), had these children: Margaret (b. 1907) married Ray Vanden Avond; Mabel (b. 1908) married William Loy; Florence (b. 1909) married Alvin Vanden Avond.

Victor (b. 1885) and his wife, Helen (b. 1887), had a son, Edward (b. 1904).

Victoria (b. 1890).

Matilda (b. 1891).

### QUATRESOLS

This Flemish name means "Four Coins." The Quatresols families in America spelled their name in various ways: QUATSOE, QUATSOUS, CATTERSOL and CATHERSAL. They came from Oud-Heverlee, County of Leuven, Province of Brabant.

Susanna Van Hoof (b. 1775), the widow of Jean Baptiste Quatsous (b. 1775 d. 17 Feb 1840), accompanied three of her children - Elizabeth, Peter and Jan Frans - to America on the ship, Gaston. The voyage took over sixty days, starting on 2 May 1855. All three of her children were married to Vander Heydens, and had families. A fourth child, Angelina, married to Jean Baptiste De Vroey, followed with her son in 1868. The four children were:

Angelina (b. 27 May 1808 d. 17 Mar 1871) married Jan Baptist Devroy.

Jan Frans (b. 16 Dec 1810) and his wife, Elizabeth Vander Heyden (b. 9 Feb 1817) settled in Suamico and were listed as KATTERSOLS in the 1860 Census. Their children were:

- (1) Ferdinand (b. 1844) married Elizabeth Verhulst (b. 22 Jul 1858) and had three children: Ferdinand (b. 1881); Peter (b. 1882); and, Louisa (b. 1890).
- (2) Catherine (b. 1848 d. 1887) married August Rodaer and had nine children (see Rodaer family sketch).
- (3) Frank (b. 16 Mar 1849) married Elizabeth Duchateau (born Dec 1849) in 1872 and had six children, including:  
-Susanna (b. Jul 1874) married William Steeno (b. Feb 1874).  
-Therese (b. Circa 1876) had four daughters: Ethel, Alice, Irene, and Loraine.  
-John Baptiste (b. May 1879) married Sadie Johnson and had three children: Florence, Frank and Gladys.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE QUATRESOLS, RALEIGH FAMILIES.

-Frances (b. May 1881) had two daughters: Doris and Dorothy.

-Jennie (b. Dec 1886) married a Kiley.

-Joseph (b. Aug 1887) married Rosemary Vander Griffen.

Peter Quatsoe (b. 2 Mar 1812 d. 26 Jul 1870) and his wife, Maria Vander Heijden (b. 17 Feb 1810), settled in what is now the Town of Allouez; these were their children:

- (1) Angelina (b. 14 Aug 1833) married Henry Rahr (b. 1813 d. 1891); their children were - Henry Jr., Frederick, Angeline and Florence married a Gotfredson.
- (2) Albert (b. 6 Sep 1842 d. 26 Mar 1925) and his wife, Louise Callewaerts (b. 22 Jan 1853 d. 24 May 1926) had eleven children: Sophia (b. 1872 d. 1877); Deseree (b. 1873 d. 1877); Louis A. (b. Feb 1875); Dorinda (b. Nov 1878); Frank (b. Nov 1880); Nettie (b. Sep 1882); Cornelius (b. Sep 1884); Joanna (b. Aug 1886); George (b. Oct 1891); Rosalia (b. Mar 1896); and Ross (b. Jul 1898) who married Helen Gilmette (b. 1902).
- (3) John (b. Sep 1847) came to the U.S. in 1862 and married Mary Verberkmoes (b. 1849 at Vorreboek, Brabant Province) who had emigrated in 1869. Their four children were: Heloise (b. 1871); Frank (b. 1875); Louis (b. 1877); and Henry (b. 1887).
- (4) Desire (Arnold) (b. 17 Mar 1849) married Celia Delgore (b. Oct 1857 at sea). Their children are: John (b. 6 Nov 1879); May (b. Apr 1882); and Florence (b. 1883) married a Ryan.

Elizabeth (b. 21 May 1819) married Jan Vander Heyden.

We thank Donald L. Quatsoe and Ann Kesler of Green Bay and Carole Catharsal of Seattle for their help with this family history.

## RALEIGH

An earlier spelling of this name was RAWLEY. At least two Rawley brothers said that they emigrated in 1850. Jean Baptiste served in the 14th. Wisconsin Infantry, was wounded at Vicksburg, and discharged in 1863. Frank (b. Apr 1835) and his wife, Josephine (b. Dec 1841), had four children and lived in Green Bay. Henry Raleigh (b. 1843) and his wife, Rose (b. Mar 1854), had these children listed in the 1900 Census: Alice E. (b. Sep 1879); Albert J. (b. Jun 1881) and his wife, Cecilia (b. 1889); Katherine (born May 1883); Frederick (b. Jan 1887); and Elsie (b. Mar 1889). A descendant, Walter Raleigh, married Rita Pierquet.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RAYMAKER, RENARD, RENIER FAMILIES.

### RAYMAKER

Another spelling "RAEMAEKERE: is Flemish for 'wheelwright."

Peter Raymaker (b. 1869) and his wife, Gertrude (born 1870), brought their Flemish family from Holland in 1902. Their children were: Mary (b. 1897); Lambert (b. 1900); Anna (b. 1902); Helen (b. 1903); Gertrude (b. 1905); Hendrika (b. 1907); and, Nellie (b. 1909).

William Raymaker (b. 1871) and his wife, Hattie (born 1880) were also Holland-Flemish. Their children were: Emma (b. 1904); Robert (b. 1906); and, William Jr. (b. 1909).

Other Raymakers documented were: Rose Raymaker (b. 1854); Henry (b. 1890); Frank (b. 1892); and Annie (b. 1895).

### RENARD

Anton Renard came to America in 1863. Anton (b. Jun 1835) and his wife, Josephine (b. Mar 1835), who came to America in 1858, were married in 1867. Their children were: Celina (born May 1877); Alex (b. Jun 1884); Emma (b. Jun 1886); and, Frank (b. Aug 1888).

### RENIER

Other spellings of this Flemish name are RENGNER, RINGER, REIGNIER and REGNIER. Most of these families came from areas close to the linguistic border; some were Flemish, some were Walloon. Four family histories are shown here for people who settled in different areas.

Peter Renier (b. 7 Aug 1839 d. 1920) emigrated in 1852. He was in the 17<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War. First he married Ella Peeters, then on 6 May 1873, he married Adeline Tordeur (b. Jul 1849). His children were: Julius (b. 1871); Virginia (b. 1873) married Henry Holl; Alifa(Olive) (b. 30 Jan 1875); Constant (b. 3 Sep 1878); Adeline (b. 3 Jun 1880); Oliver (b. 3 Nov 1882); Clara (b. 25 Mar 1885); Alvena (b. 1 Apr 1887); Anton (b. 2 May 1889); Alma (b. 2 May 1891); Elmer (b. 2 Oct 1896).

Peter J. Renier and his wife, Catherine Tresles came to the Town of Humboldt in 1853. Their children were:

Eugene (b. 1842) married Amelia Verheyden who died shortly thereafter and Eugene married Odilia Tickler as his second

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENIER, RENTIER, RENTMEESTERS FAMILIES.

wife. Two of their children were - Charles and Louis. Eugene was in the Seventeenth Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.

Desire (b. 1847) married Theresa Smits of St. Agatha Rode.

Theodore (b. Dec 1850) and his wife, Josephine (b. Feb 1865) had these children: Louis (b. Jun 1883); Josie (b. Dec 1887); Joseph (b. Apr 1890); Justin (b. Sep 1892); and, Mike (b. May 1895).

Francis Renier (b. Nov 1841 d. Jan 1906) married Josephine Tielens; they came to America from Nethen, Province of Brabant, in 1860. Their children were: Melanie (b. 1864); Hortense (b. 1866); Alphonse (b. 1869) married Katie De Greef; Charles (Joseph) (b. 5 Feb 1871) and his wife, Kate (b. Jun 1878), had a son, Benjamin (b. May 1900); Lizzie (b. 1873) married Alphonse Tilkens.

Peter Renier (b. Jan 1814) and his wife, Mary L. (b. Apr 1834), came to America in 1868 and settled in the City of Green Bay where he was a painter. Their children were: G.G. (b. Dec 1861) and his wife, Gustina (b. Mar 1887), had these children - Carrie L. (b. Jun 1885), Annie (b. Mar 1887), Ida (b. Jun 1891), Clara (b. Jul 1899); Prosper G. (b. Jan 1879).

### RENTIER

John Rentier (b. Dec 1843) brought his family to America in 1885 and was a worker in the Sioux Stone Quarry at Duck Creek (he is listed as J.B. Rantier in the quarry records). His wife, Josephine (b. Feb 1846), and he had a daughter, Mary (b. Jun 1876).

### RENTMEESTERS

All of the Rentmeesters who came to the Green Bay area were from Oud-Heverlee, Arrondissement (County) of Leuven, Province of Brabant. They arrived at three different times; variations of spelling are RENTMEESTER, RENTMEISTER and RENTMASTER. There are now so many families with this name that we discuss them here in six different groups.

Jules Rentmeesters of Mortsel, Belgium published a book, Rentmeesters, which contains a detailed history of the family back to the 15th. Century, when written records first became available. His story, written in Dutch, French and English, is not only a family history but a model for any researcher of genealogy.

### JOHN FRANCIS RENTMEESTERS

John Francis Rentmeesters (b. 20 Jun 1803 d. 1879) was

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENTMEESTERS FAMILY.

born at Vaalbeek. His first wife was Maria Rondou (b. 28 May 1804 d. 10 Oct 1845); after her death he married Joanna Catherine Van Vlasselaer (b. 30 Jun 1828 d. 1891). They emigrated in 1856 with six children and a servant, landing in New York in September 1856 and settling in what became the Town of Preble. Their children were:

Jan Baptista (b. 22 Jun 1830 d. 12 Aug 1916) married Philipina Duncks (b. 1841). Their children were:

- (1) Desire' (b. 1862) married Antonetta Van Bellinger.
- (2) Theresa (b. 9 Mar 1863 d. 29 Nov 1930) married Louis Nockerts.
- (3) Trinette (b. 1865 d. 1879).
- (4) Andrew (b. 1867 d. 1879).
- (5) Josephine (b. 1869 d. 1931).
- (6) Henrica.
- (7) Anna Maria.
- (8) William.
- (9) Joseph.

Andrew (b. 7 Dec 1834 d. 29 Nov 1923) married Henrica Vanden Elzen (b. 8 Dec 1847 d. 2 Jun 1914). Their children were:

- (1) Mary (b. 1869).
- (2) John Baptiste (b. 22 Apr 1870) married Gertrude Heezen (b. Oct 1868) and had fourteen children, including Mary, Lambert, Petronella, Anna, Henrietta, Andrew, Anton Bertha and Clem.
- (3) Henry (b. 23 Dec 1872) married Lizzie Linsen.
- (4) Anna (b. 1875) married August Allen.
- (5) Alphonse (b. 1877) married Antonetta Smits.
- (6) Peter A. (b. 2 Feb 1869 d. 12 Sep 1957) married, first to Sophie Vanden Plas and had these children: Wilhelmina, Florence, James, Agnes, Alice, Sister Dolorosa (Margaret), Lawrence, Richard, twins-Dan and Don, and Elaine. Peter's second wife was Mamie Lathour Vander Kelen.
- (7) Maria married Anton De France.
- (8) Philomene married John Boyce.
- (9) Anton.

Catherine (b. 1851) married Henry Berendson and had these children: Catherine, Mary, Henry, Alphonse, William, Bernard, Clyde, and Norbert.

William (b. 1852) (see following family sketch).

Josephine Maria (b. 1854) married Guilhelmus De Keyser.

Melanie (b. 1856) died young.

Alphonse (b. 1857) married Elizabeth Schumacher. Their children were: Alphonse (b. 1885), Engelbert (b. 1892) married Gladys Tibeau, Walter (b. 1900) married Lucille Marto, and Joanna who married Henry Vander Hyden.

Desire' (b. 1859) (see the following family sketch).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENTMEESTERS FAMILY.

Philipina (b. 1862) married Adrian De Groot and had these children:

- (1) Joanna married John Krause.
- (2) Anna married Frank Banen.
- (3) John married Anna Kahanski.
- (4) William married a Lemieux.
- (5) Alphonse.
- (6) Jennie married Oscar Sandaick.
- (7) Virginia.
- (8) Lizzie married William Vander Steen.
- (9) Andrew.
- (10) Agnes married Clarence Olson.
- (11) Charles married Bertha Puscent.
- (12) Walter married Grace Penok.
- (13) Ralph married Liola Banen.

WILLIAM RENTMEESTER

The son of John Francis Rentmeesters and Joanna Van Vlasselaer, William (b. 30 Sep 1852 d. 17 Dec 1930) married Maria Watermolen (b. 26 Jun 1854 d. 23 Jul 1926) who was born in Huldenberg, Province of Brabant. Their children were:

John Baptist (b. 1881 d. 1949) married Clara Philips (b. 1885) and had two children: Clarence (b. 1906 d. 1972) married Eleanor Tasquin; Helen (b. 1911) married Harold Pigeon.

Andrew W. (b. 11 Jul 1883 d. 16 Apr 1969) married Anna T. Vander Kelen (b. 12 Aug 1886 d. 21 Feb 1961) and had nine children:

- (1) Edna (b. 12 Apr 1908) married Elmer Delfosse and had four children: Larry, Mary Ann, Alice and Kathleen.
- (2) Raymond (b. 2 Dec 1910) married Rita Marto - they had four children: Patricia, Alan, Eric and Kurt.
- (3) Hubert (b. 3 Nov 1912) married Marie Schauer and had six children: Carol, Gerald, Jeanne M., David, Joseph and Daniel.
- (4) Corrine (b. 8 Nov 1913 d. 7 Sep 1977) married Leo O'Leary and had four children: Eugene, Patrick, Eileen and Margaret.
- (5) Earl (b. 7 Oct 1915 d. 29 Nov 1954) became Father Charles, O. Praem.
- (6) Beatrice (b. 20 Apr 1917) married Arthur Weidner and had four children: Kenneth, Mary, Kay and Mark.
- (7) Lester F. (b. 18 Feb 1919) married Jeanne M. Rioux (born 2 Oct 1919).
- (8) Myrtle (b. 30 Nov 1925) became Sister Andrea, C.S.J.
- (9) Kenneth (b. 26 Apr 1931) married Marjorie Petersen and had one daughter, Jacqueline.

August (b. 1885 d. 1963) married Petronella Philips (b. 1886 d. 1972) and had five children:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENTMEESTER FAMILY.

- (1) Irene (b. 2 May 1906) married Albert Delmarcelle.
- (2) Irma (b. Apr 1908) married Charles Boehm.
- (3) Viola (b. 24 Sep 1910 at Mott, So. Dak. d. 17 May 1988) married Walter Loy.
- (4) Gladys (b. 1914) married Edward Rybicki.
- (5) Gordon (b. 1917) married Almira De Kelver.

Peter (b. 1886 d. 1974) married Catherina Heyrman (b. 1892 d. 1975) and had six children:

- (1) Clement (b. Jan 1918) married, as his first wife, Eunice Collins and had these children: Clifford, Shirley, Sharon, Janet and Wayne. Clement then married, as his second wife, Jean.
- (2) Francis (b. 11 Feb 1919) married Betty Coenen and had these children: Carol, Grace, Gloria, Dale, Wayne and Janet.
- (3) William A. (b. 3 Apr 1921) died as an infant.
- (4) Marvin (b. Dec 1922) married Myrtle Gonion.
- (5) Ralph (b. May 1927) married Lois Williquette and had two children: Dennis and Debra.
- (6) Fabian (b. Nov 1928) married Enola Verheyen and had four children: Earl, Phyllis, Linda and Ronald.

Julia (b. 1889 d. 1970) married Fred Bowers (b. 1887 d. 1960) and had twelve children:

- (1) Minnie married a Labine.
- (2) Hilda married Kyles.
- (3) Mildred married a Sacho.
- (4) Viola married a La Plant.
- (5) Eleanor married a Brosteau.
- (6) Helen married a Zellner.
- (7) Ruth married a Kuyper.
- (8) Gordon.
- (9) Arlene married a Larschied.
- (10) Fred (b. 11 Apr 1926 d. 27 Dec 1968).
- (11) Clifford.
- (12) Patrick.

Philipine (b. 1891 d. 1980) married (1) Ned Kountenay and had two children: Ned and Elmer. She married (2) Peter Laux.

We thank Edna Rentmeester Delfosse and Beatrice Rentmeester Weidner for their help with this family history.

DESIRE RENTMEESTER

Desiré Rentmeester (b. 25 May 1859 d. 16 May 1929), son of John Francis and Joanna Van Vlasselaer, married Maria Elizabeth Vander Kelen (b. 28 Jul 1864 d. 5 Apr 1943). Their children:

- John (b. 18 Oct 1884 d. 24 Mar 1963) married Julia Cannard,

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENTMEESTER FAMILY.

daughter of Jules Cannard and Dolphine Bourguignon. Their children were: Arthur, Clayton, Eunice married Nick Eleos, Elaine married Erich Strassburger.

Angelina (b. 9 Mar 1886 d. 23 Dec 1962) married Joseph Pierquet.

Peter (b. 26 Feb 1888 d. 1 Dec 1918) married Mary Vanden Avond, daughter of Louis Vanden Avond and Kate Philips. Their children:  
(1) Florence married Frank Doyle.  
(2) Alwin (b. 17 Feb 1911 d. 16 Jan 1986).

(3) Eleanor married (1) Ray Axberg and (2) Lee Manthei.  
(4) Gladys married (1) Raphael La Plant and (2) Wilfred Sisel.

William (b. 4 Nov 1889 d. 9 Oct 1970) married Theresa Loy, daughter of Louis Loy and Gertrude De Grave. Their children: Robert, Ervin, Helen married Harvey De Grave, Adeline married Edwin Phillips, Arlene married Anton Skaleski, Jr.

Albert (b. 23 Oct 1891 d. Jan 1985) married Mary Boehm, daughter of Charles Boehm and Mry Tillmans. His second wife was Vera Van Bellinger. Albert and Mary had these children:

- (1) Laverne married (1) William Vanden Plas and (2) Goldie Hermans.
- (2) Anthony.
- (3) Lawrence.
- (4) Wilbert.
- (5) Emma became Sister Mary Albert.
- (6) Reuben.
- (7) Harold.
- (8) Lucille married Clem Vanden Bush.
- (9) Doris married Ralph Vanden Bush.
- (10) Joseph Boehm was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Boehm after his mother's death.
- (11) Katherine, a step-daughter, married Wilbert De Grave.

Mary (b. 17 May d. 25 May 1892).

Norbert (b. 25 Jan 1897) married Mary Loy, daughter of Louis Loy and Gertrude De Grave. Their children: Irma married Harold De Grand, Milton, Arnold, Reynold, Marion married Ervin J. Ripp, and Eugene.

Bernard (b. 2 Nov 1899 b. 20 Sep 1982) married Ella Tilkens, daughter of Charles Tilkens and Mary Van Roy. Their children: Myron, Delbert, James, Geraldine married Melvin Deprey, Sharon married Leo Witopalek.

Anne (b. 12 Aug 1900 d. 10 Apr 1983) married Fred Vanden Busch and had two sons: Elwood and Donald.

Lucille (b. 28 Apr 1902) married Walter Baumgart and had a daughter, Lucille, who married Wilson Allen.

Edward (b. 4 Nov 1904 d. 21 Dec 1977) married Irma Tilkens,

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENTMEESTER FAMILY.

daughter of Charles Tilkens and Mary Van Roy. Their children: Dolores married Marvin Heezen; and, Roger.

Mabel (b. 1 Sep 1906 d. 23 Sep 1912).

Barbara (b. 21 Apr 1909 d. 30 Apr 1909) died as an infant.

We thank Marion Rentmeester Ripp for information on this family.

### FRANK AND HENRY RENTMEESTERS

Two sons of Andrew Rentmeesters and Therese Bruyninckx of Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant, departed from Antwerp on 24 Jun 1873 and landed in Philadelphia. From there, they took the train to Green Bay where they stayed with their Uncle Frank until they could get settled.

Henri Rentmeesters (b. 9 Apr 1848 d. 16 Oct 1935) was accompanied on the trip by his wife, Anna Elizabeth Derwae (b. 25 Jul 1848 d. 1 Jan 1905). Her mother, Angeline (b. 1816 died 1878), returned to Belgium after one year; she was the widow of Joseph Rondou and also the widow of Jan Frans Derwae. Henri and Anna had these children: Sophie (b. 1873); Sidonia (b. 1874); Frank (b. 1876); Mary (b. Apr 1883) married Charles Edges; Clara (b. Apr 1885) married Max Vanden Berg; William (b. Apr 1888); Anna (b. Apr 1891); and, Celia (b. Mar 1895) married Walter Hill.

Frank Rentmeesters (b. 6 Oct 1844 d. 21 Dec 1928) married Sidonia Rodaer (b. 10 Aug 1854 d. 26 Sep 1922) in 1875. Their children were:

Andrew (b. 6 Dec 1876 d. 26 Mar 1921) married Rose Boyce.

Hattie (b. 10 Jan 1878 d. Jan 1930) married Frank Paul.

Virginia (b. 20 Feb 1881 d. 1 May 1951) married Julius Delvaux.

Alphonse (b. 22 Apr 1883 d. 3 Feb 1960) married Carrie Bouche.

John (b. 2 Sep 1885 d. 18 Dec 1963) married Maria Van Hoof.

Josephine (b. 4 Mar 1888 d. 17 Mar 1961) married James Robinson.

August (b. 16 Jun 1890 d. 15 Apr 1968) married (1) Minnie Kopple and (2) Eunice Morgan.

Anton (b. 13 Nov 1892 d. 28 Sep 1976) married Lilla Robinson (b. 1894) as his first wife, and Gladys Bopp as his second.

Maria (b. 20 Nov 1894 d. 2 Jan 1973) married Harry Matheys.

Mrs. Anton (Gladys) Rentmaster furnished the information on the Frank Rentmeester family.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RENTMEESTER FAMILY.

WILLIAM RENTMEESTERS

William Rentmeesters (b. 15 Aug 1854 d. 5 Aug 1906) was the son of Barbara Delqui and Judocus Petrus Rentmeesters of Oud-Heverlee. He landed in New York in August 1882 and settled in the Duck Creek area where he married Mary Roscam (b. 23 Apr 1862 d. 28 Jul 1923), daughter of J.B. Roscam and Constance Meulemans, on 3 Jul 1883. Their children were:

Stella (b. 21 Apr 1883 d. 18 Dec 1982) married August Maes (b. 1902 d. 1957) on 12 Dec 1902 and had these children: Earl, Eugene, Alfred, Ernie, William, Lorraine "Min" married a Van Ark, Marcella Beth "Sally", Pearl married Frank Celusek, Germaine married Ed Hundt, Delores "Mitzi" married Llewellyn Pouwels.

Jane (b. Jun 1885 d. 21 Sep 1966) married John Vander Linden (b. 2 Jun 1887) on 19 Apr 1904 and had these children: George, Gilbert, Henry and Rosella Leona.

Alphonse (b. 22 Oct 1891 d. 2 Nov 1963) married (1) Alma Bunnow and (2) Amelia Lange. His children were: Louella married an Asher, Nina, Wyona, Germaine and Herbert.

Teresa (b. 21 Jan 1890 d. 10 Sep 1978) married George Funk on 15 Oct 1907 and had these children: Wilbur, Percy, Mildred, Priscilla, Herman, Clarris, George Jr., Leroy, Maxine, Raymond (John).

Laura (b. 1891 d. 1953) married George Arkens and had a son, Harold.

Frances (b. 1893 d. 12 Jan 1980) married Arthur Eastman and had these children: Arlene married a Washenawotok, Mabel married a Fitzgerald, Eleanor married a Raasch, Rose married a Radtke, Martha married a Hoppe, Luke and Bernard.

Josephine (b. 14 Nov 1894 d. 11 Jan 1902).

Joseph Henry (b. 6 Jul 1897) married (1) Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ but had no children. Joseph married (2) Grace Philips and they had three children: Beverly, Burton William and Bennett.

Elizabeth (b. 2 May 1900 d. 5 Dec 1977) married Walter Breecher and had these children: Gertrude married Floyd Marchand, Jack, Willard, Mary Jane married a Magnuson, Dorothy married Dale Gaffaney, Donna married Herbert Nieft.

Our thanks to Rosella Leitermann Sconcert, great-granddaughter of Jean Baptiste Roscam, for her help with the William Rentmeesters family. We also thank Pam De Grand and Jean R. Rentmeister for the information that they sent to us.

Another Rentmeester that we have documented is: Peter L. Rentmeester (b. 10 May 1870 at Oud-Heverlee), who arrived in America on 1 Mar 1906.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RODAER FAMILY.

RODAER

Jean Baptiste Rodaer (b. 6 Jul 1800 d. circa 1865) and his wife, Anna Maria Van Hoof (b. 1802 d. 1891) came from Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant, to the U.S. in September 1856, staying in Bay Settlement the first winter. In June 1857, Jean Baptiste Jr. brought his family, his aunt Mary Rodaer (b. 1810) and some members of his wife's family (the Cauwenberghs). Jean Baptiste Jr. lived in the Town of Preble but his father later moved to the Town of Rockland, where his sons, August and Philippe, both started their families. Both sons moved to the Duck Creek area later, although Philippe lived in the Dakotas for awhile. The children of John Baptiste Sr. are:

John Baptiste Jr. (b. 9 Nov 1827 d. 18 Dec 1906) married, as his first wife, Isabella Mathijs, then married Catherine Cauwenbergh (b. 21 Jul 1830 d. 26 Feb 1913) and had these children:

- (1) Sidonia (b. 1854 d. 1922) married Frank Rentmeester.
- (2) Virginia (b. 1857 d. 1933) married Martin De Groot.
- (3) Alphonse (b. 1 Jul 1860 d. 16 Nov 1893) married Nellie Denissen.
- (4) John (b. 1864 d. 1898).
- (5) Antonette (b. 1886 d. 1943) married Anton Denissen.
- (6) August (b. 6 May 1868) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. May 1866).
- (7) Josephine (b. 1870 d. 1947) married Boyce (Buijs).

Philippe (b. 19 Mar 1838) married Pauline \_\_\_\_\_; they had two children: John Baptiste (b. 1866) and August (b. 1879). Philippe's second wife was Colette Vander Heyden.

August (b. 14 Dec 1840 d. 10 Mar 1906) married, as his first wife, Katherine Cattersol (b. 1848) and had nine children:

- (1) Mary (b. 2 Dec 1868 d. 26 Apr 1952) married Paul Hussin (b. 6 Nov 1869 d. 21 Jul 1962).
- (2) Polina (b. 1871 d. 30 Dec 1890).
- (3) Frank (b. 9 Aug 1873 d. 27 Oct 1964) married Clara Sal scheider (b. 1883 d. 10 Apr 1952).
- (4) Natalia (b. 8 Jun 1874 d. 30 Jan 1964) married a Beecher.
- (5) Lizzie (b. 1877).
- (6) Barbara (b. 1879) married a Van Domelen.
- (7) Ferdinand (b. May 1880 d. 9 Jun 1882).
- (8) Benedict (b. 4 May 1882) died early.
- (9) Joseph (b. Sep 1886).

August's second wife, Anna Wauters (b. 14 Nov 1865 d. 25 Jan 1904), bore him five children:

- (1) John Baptiste (b. 10 Apr 1890 d. 17 Jan 1932) married Louise \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) Blanche (b. 25 Mar 1892 d. 8 Dec 1940) married a Lemercier.
- (3) Cora (b. May 1897).
- (4) Lyell (b. 1900 d. 1901).
- (5) Alta (b. 1905 d. 1908).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RODAER, ROELS, ROETS FAMILIES.

William (b. 8 Feb 1849) married Annie \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Oct 1858) and had a saloon in De Pere. Their children were: Mary (b. Sep 1881); Willie (b. Oct 1884); August (b. Apr 1886); John (b. Oct 1887); Maurice (b. Aug 1888); George (b. Mar 1890); Barney (b. Sep 1891); Hattie (b. Jun 1893); Carl (b. Feb 1895); and, Eddie (b. May 1896).

Alphonse (Frank) (b. 16 Jan 1852) married Roseann Meulemans (b. 1857), daughter of Frank Meulemans. This couple moved to South Dakota (Big Stone City).

Mary (Barbara) (b. 14 Feb 1855).

Catherine (b. 1859).

We thank Ronald Rodaer, grandson of Frank, for his help with this family.

### ROELS

Jules Roels (b. May 1864) was brought to America in 1870. His wife, Carrie (b. Jul 1862), bore him these children: Harvey (b. Sep 1893); Wesley (b. Aug 1896); Carleton (b. Jan 1897). The family lived in De Pere.

### ROETS

Petrus J. Roets (b. 18 May 1798) and his wife, Seraphine Vincke (b. 1803), brought four of their five sons with them when they emigrated from Tielte (near Antwerp) to Wisconsin in June 1858. Petrus was the son of Jan Baptista Roets and Rosa Theresa Debal and was a cartwright by occupation. The family settled in the Milwaukee area; these are the children of Petrus and Seraphine:

Constant (b. 15 May 1838 d. 21 Apr 1913) married Mary Zimmer (b. 1850 d. 1919) and had seven children:

- (1) John (b. 1870 d. 1933) married Anna Whipp.
- (2) Mary Jane (b. 1872 d. 1912).
- (3) Elizabeth (b. 1876 d. 1946) married William Friesch.
- (4) Henry (b. 1880 d. 1959).
- (5) Margaret (b. 1884 d. 1974) married Edward Delaney.
- (6) Joseph (b. 1886 d. 1969) married Elizabeth Vaughn.
- (7) Perry (b. 1891 d. 1973) married Mae Harriet Murray.

Pieter (b. 20 Jun 1832 d. 22 Mar 1921) married Bridget Crawford.

Jan Baptista (b. 1837 d. 1874) married Margaret Guilfoyle and had one child, Margaret, who married Dr. Young.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ROETS, ROLLIN, RONDOUT FAMILIES.

Desiré (b. 1827 d. 1861) had two sons, John and Frank.

Henri (b. 1831 d. 1901) married Melanie Pieters and had eight children.

This family history was provided by Mrs. Joan Mulligan, granddaughter of Constant Roets. We also thank Margaret Roets of Detroit for her help.

### ROLLIN

Joseph Rollin (b. Dec 1847) and his wife, Mary (b. Dec 1856, were married in 1873 and emigrated in 1883. Joseph was employed as a brewer in the City of Green Bay. Their children were: Denis (b. 1880); Joseph (b. May 1886); Arthur (b. 1895); and, Mae (b. 1897).

### RONDOUT

The Rondou emigrants all came from Oud-Heverlee, Province of Braant, but they came at six different times.

The first arrival was Francis Zachariah Rondou (b. 15 Mar 1843 d. 13 May 1907), who arrived in 1865 and became a school teacher in east Bellevue. He married Christina Francois (b. 8 May 1850 d. 2 Jul 1908) in 1874.

His father, Francis J. Rondou (b. 14 Aug 1799 d. 1876) and his mother, Elizabeth Vande Zande (b. 17 Mar 1897 d. 5 Apr 1875) departed from Antwerp on 16 Jul 1867.

Alphonse (b. Apr 1853) came to Detroit in 1868, then traveled to Green Bay where he lived with his aunt. In 1876, he married Joanna Carton and had these children: Joseph; Frank (b. Sep 1879); Anton (b. Jan 1882); Mary (b. Feb 1884); Catherine (b. Nov 1855); Antonette (b. Nov 1887); Frederick (b. Dec 1889); Rosa (b. Apr 1893); and, Maria Elizabeth (b. Oct 1896).

Francois Rondou (b. 24 Apr 1853 at Oud-Heverlee) was the son of Louis Rondou and Marie Catherine Devroye. He left Belgium for America on 21 Apr 1871.

On 16 Sep 1889, Louis Rondou (b. 21 Jan 1868) left Oud-Heverlee, Belgium for America. He was the son of Jean Rondou and Marie Elizabeth Devroye. His wife, Mary (b. 1873), bore these children: Nettie (b. Sep 1896); Bessie (b. Oct 1897); Alfred

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RONDOU, RONKERS, RONSMANS FAMILIES.

(b. May 1900); Norbert (b. 1903); Edwin (b. 1905); Richard (b. 1908); and, Clayton (b. Jan 1910).

Emmanuel Rondou (b. 17 May 1869 at Oud-Heverlee), the brother of Louis, left for America on 26 Apr 1889. He married Joanna Borremans in 1896; their first children were: Pauline (b. Mar 1897); John (b. Mar 1898); Edgar (b. 1903); and, Joseph (b. 1907). Peter Borremans (b. 1837), who had emigrated in 1885, lived with them in 1910, as did Emanuel's nephew, Fred Vande Zande (b. 1888), who had come over in 1908.

### RONKERS

This Flemish name is also spelled RUNKERS. Peter and Mary Ronkers, both born in 1830, came to America in 1856 and settled first in the Town of Eaton. Their children were: James (b. Jan 1861); Mary (b. 1865); and, Theresa (b. 1868).

### RONSMANS

Several Ronsmans families emigrated from Nethen and Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant. Jean Ronsmans, age 33; Maria Catherine Mertens, age 40; Marie, age 7; and, Maria Katherina, age 5, were on the David Hadley which departed Antwerp 1 Apr 1856 and arrived in New York on 14 May 1856. Maria Katherina (b. 1853) married William Clabots at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Duck Creek in 1888.

Louis Ronsmans (b. 1826), his wife, Rosalie Collard (b. Mar 1831), and one child, came from Nethen aboard the ship, Sea Garth. Louis served in the 18th. Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War. Their oldest son, Joseph (b. 1853, married a Basten girl and settled in the old Town of Preble. Their other children were: Maria (b. 1859); William (b. 1861 d. 1947); Matilda (b. 1866); Josephine (b. 1870); and, Louisa (b. 1875). William settled in the Town of Humboldt with his wife, Mary (b. 1870 d. 1953), and their children: Joseph (b. Aug 1892); Louis (b. Mar 1894); Angeline (b. Jul 1896); Flora (b. Feb 1898); Mary (b. Aug 1900); William (b. 1902); Matilda (b. 1904); Harry (b. 1908); and, Arthur (b. Feb 1910).

Ferdinand Ronsmans (b. 27 Dec 1882 at Oud-Heverlee) and his wife, Isabella Vanes (Van Ex) (b. 26 Nov 1881 at Oud-Heverlee) departed Antwerp on 6 Jun 1902. Their children were: Philip (b. 8 Jul 1901); Marie (b. 6 Sep 1903); Elizabeth (b. 31 Jul 1905); Harry (b. 18 Mar 1909); and, Victoria (b. 23 Jan 1915)

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RONSMANS, ROSKOM FAMILIES.

married William T. Renier.

Our thanks to Mrs. William (Victoria Ronsmans) Renier for her help with the Ronsmans family sketch.

### ROSKOM

In Belgium, this Flemish name is always spelled ROSKAM; it means "curry-comb" in Flemish. It is also spelled ROSCAMP and ROSCOMS on various official records in the United States.

The family came from the Village of Bierbeek, Province of Brabant. Peter Roskam (b. 1809) and his wife, Maria Catherina Van Nerum (b. 1800 d. 30 Jan 1897), left antwerp with their children in July 1856 and landed in Buffalo, New York in September. They settled on a farm north of the old Duck Creek Post Office. Their children were:

John (b. 5 Jun 1833 d. 17 Mar 1905) married Constance Meulemans (b. 1843 d. 3 Apr 1929). In 1900, eleven of their thirteen children were living:

- (1) Elizabeth Mary (b. 23 Apr 1862 d. 28 Jul 1923) married William Rentmeesters (b. 15 Aug 1854 d. 5 Aug 1906) on Jul 1883 and had nine children - see William Rentmeesters family sketch.
- (2) Louis (b. 19 Nov 1865 d. 11 Aug 1958) married Mary Netols (b. 1868 d. 24 Mar 1938) and had four children: Stella (b. 29 April 1893 d. 28 Aug 1955) married George Leitermann and had three children - Orval, Rosella Marie married Roy Sconcert, and Melvin; John (b. 13 Apr 1895) married Louise Caelwarts (b. 1 Apr 1894 d. 27 Dec 1960); Francis (b. 9 Aug 1905 d. 19 Apr 1964) married Agnes Perret and had four children - Betty Mae, Patricia, Violet and Carol; Margaret (b. 5 Nov 1908) married Milton Giese (b. 28 May 1908 d. 12 Oct 1987).
- (3) Antoinette "Nettie" (b. 6 Jun 1866 d. 1952) married Francis Netols (b. 1860 d. 1939) on 3 Jul 1888.
- (4) Henry (b. 11 Nov 1869) married Anna Schaut (b. Apr 1877) and had three children: Alvin J. (b. Jan 1897); Henry (b. Mar 1899); and, George (b. 1901).
- (5) Desiré (b. 3 Mar 1870 d. 29 Dec 1932) married Angeline Adriaens (b. 2 Feb 1878 d. 4 Oct 1940) and had eleven children, including: Clara married Joseph Tilque; Lucy married Harvey Caelwarts (b. 13 Mar 1908 d. 19 Dec 1987); Rose married (1) John De Moulin and (2) Ralph Braddock; Mabel married Henry Gillis; Alvera married William Van Hoof; Andrew married Frances Schultz; Pinkie (Josephine) (b. Mar 1898 d. 7 Feb 1875) married Joseph Vanden Plas.
- (6) John (b. 1872 d. 17 Jan 1957) married Mathilda Vander

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ROSKOM FAMILY.

- Linden (b. Feb 1881 d. 31 Oct 1949) and had five children.
- (7) Felix (b. 15 Oct 1874 d. 30 Jun 1958) married Clara Luedke (b. 30 May 1884 d. 28 Mar 1924) and had eight children; his second wife was Rose Luedke (b. 16 May 1966 d. 4 Jun 1962).
  - (8) Joanna "Jennie" (b. 1877 d. 1 Jun 1962) married Emil Calewarts (b. 7 Nov 1874 d. 14 Nov 1965) and had two children: Lily and Joe.
  - (9) Elizabeth (b. 16 Jan 1880 d. 17 Nov 1968) married Frank Vannieuwenhoven (b. 16 Oct 1867 d. 4 Oct 1962) and had sixteen children.
  - (10) Lucy (b. 27 Oct 1884 d. 16 Feb 1906) married Sylvester Landwehr (b. 1878 d. 15 Jun 1926) and had one daughter, Tina.
  - (11) Peter I (b. 15 Apr 1888).
  - (12) Peter II (b. 27 Jan 1892) married Anna Cumps (b. May 1890).

Joanna (b. 1840) married Frank Poels in 1859 and had nine children; see the Poel's family sketch.

Felix (b. 4 Nov 1844) married Joanna Antonia Duchateau (b. 15 Aug 1844 d. 30 Jan 1925), daughter of Frank Duchateau and Johanna Poels. Joanna emigrated from Oud-Heverlee in 1862 and married Felix on 20 Oct 1868. Their children were:

- (1) Theresa (b. 1869) married Jack Vonckx (Alphonse Van Ex) - no children.
- (2) Peter (b. 11 Aug 1870 died young).
- (3) Frank (b. Oct 1873) married Colette (b. Jun 1871) in 1896. Colette came to the U.S. in 1891. They had ten children: Lena, Alma, Antonette, Dora, Dorothy, Margaret, Clarence, Ray, Herman and Joseph.
- (4) Lena (b. 1875 died young).
- (5) Stephanie (Frances) (b. 1877) married Victor Collaer and had three children.
- (6) Lizzie (b. 1878) married (1) Peter De Bot and had four children; then married (2) Jules Beque.
- (7) Peter (b. 1880) married Ann De Roost - no children.
- (8) Alphonse (b. Jul 1882) married Mary Kocha and had three children: Felix; Joanna married a Marto; and Mildred.
- (9) Virginia (Jennie) (b. 23 Jul 1884 d. 9 Aug 1948) married Herman Baeb (b. 14 Dec 1880 d. 29 Nov 1965) and had five children.
- (10) Phillipine (b. Mar 1886) married Henry Coopmans and had two children.
- (11) Rosaline (Lena) (b. Jul 1888) married Adolph Motiff and had one son.

Rosella Leitermann Sconcert, grand-daughter of Louis Roskom, and Joan Roskom, great-granddaughter of Felix Roskom, furnished much of the information for the Roskom family sketch.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE RUBENS, SAYERS, SCHAUER, SCHAUSERS FAMILIES.

### RUBENS

In 1630, Peter Paul Rubens, the great Flemish painter, captured the soul of his fun-loving, hard-working Flemish compatriots in his famous canvas, The Kermesse. The figures in the painting are bursting with energy, drinking, arguing, eating, dancing; converting their energy into action. The painter and his creation are typically Flemish.

There were Rubens families that came from Belgium and settled in the Town of Scott, e.g., the three sons of Joseph Rubens (b. 1781 d. 1855) and Amilie Lebrun (b. 1789 d. 1851). Another Rubens family, the J.J. Rubens' settled in the Town of Humboldt. Most of the Rubens who migrated came from the Flemish area of Belgium - Towns of Tongeren and Hasselt - and from a Walloon Village near the linguistic border, Pietrebais. The families in Wisconsin have been traced back to a Jean Rubens and his wife, Anne Van Hulst, in 1495, who were close relatives of the famous Peter Paul Rubens.

Information on the Rubens genealogy was supplied by Mrs. Glen (Lorraine) Naze of Hopkins, Minnesota, and Jules Rentmeesters of Mortsel, Belgium.

### SAYERS

John Sayers (b. Jan 1865) and his wife, Katherine (b. May 1863), were married in 1890 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1893. In 1900, they were living in Green Bay with John's older brother, Peter (b. Jun 1860), and Peter's wife, Mary (b. May 1855). Peter and Mary had come to the U.S. in 1887.

### SCHAUER

The Flemish spelling of this name is DE SCHOUWER.

Many of the early Flemish families intermarried with the German Schauer families of New Franken, whose leader was Joseph Schauer in 1845. There were a few Schauer emigrants from Flanders; an example is Felix Schauer (b. Dec 1853) who emigrated in 1890 and was employed as a mason in Green Bay.

### SCHAUSERS

Felix Schaussers (b. 1854) came to Wisconsin in June 1890.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SCHELPHAUT, SCHOONER, SCHRIEVEN,  
SCHROEDERS FAMILIES.

### SCHELPHAUT

This Flemish name is spelled SCHELFHOUT in Flanders.

John Schelphaut (b. 29 May 1849 at Melsele) and his wife, Louise Van Gheem (b. 12 Apr 1850 at Kallo) brought their family of five children to America in 1892. He was employed as a brickmaker in De Pere. Their children were:

Adolph (b. 17 Nov 1879 at Burcht) married (1) Annie Smith and had five children: Edmund (b. 22 Dec 1904); Isadore (b. 26 Dec 1908); Raymond (b. 25 Aug 1910); Joseph (b. 12 Jun 1913); and Servenius (b. 27 Feb 1915). Adolph's second wife was Nellie Mc Cabe.

Josephine (b. 15 Sep 1881 at Beveren) married George Kromenaker (b. 29 Sep 1877) and had four children: John (b. 30 Aug 1902); Francis (b. 18 Jun 1905); Joseph (b. 10 Aug 1908); and Edward.

Frank (b. 22 Jul at Beveren) married Adelaide Fox (b. 3 Feb 1891) - no children.

Juliana (b. 20 Jul 1886 at Beveren) married John Van De Loop (b. 25 Oct 1880) and had three children: Louise (b. 1 May 1905); Lorraine (b. 6 Sep 1913); and Edith (b. 22 Sep 1915).

Joseph (b. 18 Dec 1889 at Kallo) married Idelle Knudtson and had one son, Robert (Shelfout).

Our thanks to Dorothy Van Gheem Hoffman of Menasha, Wisconsin for the information on the Schelphaut family.

### SCHOONER

Julian Schooner (b. Jan 1841) brought his wife to America in 1871. In 1900, he was a widower with seven children, two of whom were listed in the census: Jules (b. Jun 1881) and Mathilda (b. Nov 1883).

### SCHRIEVEN

Victor Schrievens (b. 1867) and his wife, Mary (b. 1882) emigrated in Feb 1891. Two of their children were: Victor (born 1907) and Mary (b. 1908).

### SCHROEDERS

Some American variants of this name are SCHROEDER, SCHRA-DERS and SCHRODERS.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SCHROEDERS, SCHUMACHER FAMILIES.

Peter Joseph Schroeders (b. 1834) came to the U.S. in 1855. His wife, Antonette (b. Nov 1850), emigrated in 1858. Their children were: Julius (b. 1869); Frank (b. Feb 1872); George (b. Nov 1879) married Elizabeth Neumann and had these children - Lloyd and Emily; Nettie (b. Jan 1881); and, Arthur (b. May 1883).

Anna Schroders (b. 1799 at St. Joris-Weert) came over on the Graham Polly as the wife of Jan Frans Van Ermens, landing at New York on 6 Sep 1856.

Rosalia Schroeders came to the U.S. in 1881 as the wife of Julius Van Bever; they lived in the Duck Creek area.

Another Rosalia Schroeders (b. 2 Aug 1862 at St. Joris-Weert) came to the U.S. in July 1862 with her husband, Henry Crab, and four children.

Albert Schroeders (b. 29 Jun 1885 at St. Joris-Weert) arrived in the U.S. in 1893. August Schroeders (b. 13 Apr 1887 at St. Joris-Weert) came to the U.S. on 19 Apr 1906.

Louis Desiré Schroeders (b. 29 May 1884 d. 1 Sep 1922) from St. Joris-Weert arrived in the U.S. on 30 Jul 1907 and married Virginia Vanderwegen (b. 28 Feb 1889 d. 25 May 1968). Their three daughters were: Margaret (b. 5 Mar 1915) married Harold Krumpos and had two children; Marie (b. 22 Jul 1916) married Henry Bohm and had two children; Alice (b. 27 Jan 1919) married Octavian Zeutzius and had three children - Alice's second husband was George McLeod.

Maria Theresa Schroeders (b. 10 Nov 1881 at St. Joris-Weert) also came to the U.S. in 1907 with her husband, Julius Vande Zande.

### SCHUMACHER

Peter Schumacher (b. Jan 1839 d. 1919) was brought to the New Franken area in 1849. He married a Flemish woman and most of his children married Flemish wives. One of his sons became a U.S. representative from Minnesota.

Peter married Mary Joanna Vanden Borne (b. 8 May 1846 d. 21 Sep 1908) in 1862. They had eighteen children, eleven of whom were living in 1900. Some of these children were: Elizabeth (b. 1864) married Alphonse Rentmeester; Mary married Peter Ver Heyden; John (b. May 1876 d. 1916) married Lizzie Philips (born 1878) and had a daughter, Tillie; Frank (b. Sep 1878) married Kate \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Oct 1879) and had a daughter, Barbara; Joseph (born

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SCHUMACHER, SCONZERT FAMILIES.

Sep 1881); Annie (b. Apr 1883); Rosa (b. Mar 1885); Henry (b. Dec 1886); Peter (b. May 1888 d. 1918); and, Louise (b. May 1895) married William Gerstner.

A Peter Schoemaker (b. 1828) from Fond du Lac served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

### SCONZERT

The original Flemish spelling of this name is SCHOENSETTERS; a schoensetter is the shoemaker who makes the upper part of the shoe.

Peter Schoensetter (b. 21 Feb 1820 d. 11 Aug 1900) and his wife, Petamienne Cesar (b. 25 Feb 1826), came to America around 1860 with two children and Peter's brother, Jacques (b. 2 May 1818 d. 5 Jun 1885). The two brothers were the sons of Jacques Schoensetter and Angelique De Greve. Apparently, the name was changed to Sconcert by an immigration official.

Jacques Sconcert and his wife, Pauline Tischler, had one son, Edward (b. 22 Dec 1884).

Peter and Petamienne's children who reached adulthood were:

Peter (b. 23 Mar 1853 d. 11 Nov 1926) married Catherine Bairl (b. 7 Jan 1863 d. 17 Nov 1947) and had these children:

- (1) Barbara (b. 26 Mar 1888 d. 5 Aug 1980) married George Dorner.
- (2) Peter (b. 28 Mar 1893 d. 12 May 1968) married Caroline Finendael.
- (3) Ann (b. 26 Apr 1895) married Edward Pirlot.
- (4) Joseph (b. 22 Feb 1897 d. 22 May 1944) married Rose Rank.
- (5) Henry (b. 26 Nov 1898 d. 19 Jan 1982) married Gladys Godshoul.
- (6) Louis (b. 1900 d. 1912).
- (7) William (b. 20 Oct 1902 d. 21 Feb 1981) married Louise Monfils.
- (8) Albert (b. 10 Nov 1904 d. 14 Oct 1984) married (1) Mabel Leudtke, and (2) Laverne Schauer.

Clementine (b. 11 Jan 1856 d. 27 May 1910) married Marshall Lohst.

Virginia (b. 30 Jul 1862 d. 23 Oct 1946) married Emil Ferry.

Felix (b. 1863 d. 25 Sep 1906) married Josephine Vanden Ack. Their children were: Rosa, John, Idella and Clarence.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SCONZERT, SERVAES, SIMOENS FAMILIES.

Julia (b. 30 Jun 1865 d. 15 May 1942) married John B. Mathu. Their children were: Joseph; and Mary married Theophile Jadin.

Victor (b. 1868 d. 10 Mar 1924).

Tavie (Lizzie) (b. 1872 d. 23 Apr 1917).

This information was furnished by Rosella Leitermann Sconcert, who helped us with so many of these family histories.

### SERVAES

It took the Henry Servaes family from Rode St. Agathe, Brabant, almost two months to cross the Atlantic Ocean on the Wabama, which departed Antwerp on 16 Jun 1855. The family consisted of Henry, his wife, Maria Lember (b. 1818) and three children: John Baptist (b. 1844); Philip (b. 1848); and, Joseph (b. 1850). Joseph settled in Kewaunee County with his wife, Alice (b. 1845), and daughters, Marie, Louise and Josephine.

Joanna Maria Servaes (b. 1813 d. 1905) married Antoine De Both at Ottenburg, Brabant Province; they emigrated to De Pere in 1856. The Flemish generally spelled their name "SERVAES" and the Walloons spelled it "SERVAIS."

### SIMOENS/SIMONS

Frank Simeon (b. 1925) came to the U.S. around 1850 and lived in Ohio until 1857 when he moved his family to Duck Creek. He married Theresa Houtaert (b. 1826 d. 1886); some of their children were: Notly (b. 1849); Sophia (b. 1855 in Ohio) married Alex Cleeremans; Cecilia (b. 1858) married a Vanderbeeck; Henry (b. Jan 1861) married Lucy Wauters (b. Feb 1867) and had these children - Frank (b. May 1892), Lefa (b. Dec 1894) and Wesly (b. Sep 1899).

Peter Simon (b. 1820) and his wife, Philistine (b. 1824), emigrated some time before 1857 and lived in the Town of Humboldt. Some of their children were: Mary (b. 1844); Seraphine (b. 1847); Ferdinand (b. 1849); Philistine (b. 1853); Stephanie (b. 1853); and, Desire (b. 1857).

Michel Simons (b. 16 Apr 1841 at Oud-Heverlee) and his wife, Elizabeth Vander Heyden (b. 18 Sep 1842 at Oud-Heverlee), left Belgium for America on 21 Apr 1871.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SINCLAIR FAMILY.

SINCLAIR

Although the family emigrated from Wallonia, some listed themselves as Flemish.

The name was first spelled ST-CLET, then SANTLEY, ST. CLAIR and SINCLAIR. Dieudonné (Tony) St. Clair (b. 25 Dec 1814 d. 3 Jan 1892) and his wife, Catherina Bara (b. 5 Jan 1816 d. 3 Feb 1884) brought their family from the Province of Namur to the U.S., landing at Boston in May 1856. He and his son bought one-hundred acres of land between Burdon's Hill and Glendale Avenue in the Town of Howard. Dieudonne and Catherine are buried in the Memorial Cemetery in Duck Creek under the names of D.D. Santley and Catherine, wife of Doney Santley - (see Memories Of Old Duck Creek, page 173). Their two children were:

Eugenia (b. Oct 1844 d. 1924) married Eugene Williquet (born Jul 1842 d. 9 Jan 1929) and had ten children, nine are shown here:

- (1) Mary (b. 1865) married George Hussin.
- (2) Margaret (b. 2 Aug 1867 d. 29 Apr 1907) married a Devilez.
- (3) Malot (b. 1870).
- (4) Emil (b. 1873).
- (5) William (b. 18 Sep 1875).
- (6) George (b. 1877).
- (7) Anna (b. Jul 1879).
- (8) Mary Lucy (b. Sep 1882 d. 1936).
- (9) Rosa (b. Jun 1885 d. 1922).

Constant (b. 3 May 1847 d. 8 May 1916) married Rosalia Hussin (b. Jul 1854 d. 4 Oct 1943) in Duck Creek on 11 Dec 1871.

Their five children were:

- (1) Katherine (b. 2 Aug 1873 d. 1949) married Joseph Vander Perren (b. 23 Oct 1868 d. 11 Dec 1923) and had twelve children.
- (2) Theodore (b. Nov 1874 d. 21 Jun 1942) married Theresia Dunks (b. 1882 d. 10 Jun 1958) and had eight children.
- (3) Mary F. (b. 13 Aug 1879 d. 17 Jun 1947) married John W. Kornowski (b. Apr 1885 d. 20 Feb 1935) and had nine children.
- (4) Joseph Sinclair (b. 4 Jun 1881 d. 1951) married Mary Reinhard (b. 1883 d. 1941) and had four children.
- (5) George Sinclair (b. 11 Nov 1888 d. 13 Feb 1965) moved to North Dakota. He married (1) Julia Tobin (b. 12 Oct 1881 d. 28 Aug 1919) and had five children; he married (2) to Rose Meyers (b. 12 Apr 1883 d. Aug 1863) who bore him three children.

We thank Robert G. Kornowski, great-grandson of Dieudonne St-Clair, for most of the Sinclair family information.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SLAETS, SMEKENS, SMEESTERS, SMEETS,  
SMET/SMITS FAMILIES.

### SLAETS

Louis Slaets (b. May 1864) and his wife, Jennie (b. Mar 1859), brought their family to Marinette County in 1892. Some of their children were: George (b. Apr 1879); Mary (b. 1892); Rosie (b. 1894); Alphonse (b. 1896); and, Stella (b. 1899).

### SMEKENS

Peter Smekens (b. 1881) emigrated to the U.S. in 1895 and married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1884).

### SMEESTERS

Nickolas Smeesters (b. Jan 1826) and his wife, Frances (b. Mar 1830), were married in 1856 and left Belgium in 1860 to settle in the Town of Scott. Some of their children were:

Eli (b. 1857) and his wife, Flora (b. Jun 1861) had these children: Eli (b. Jun 1882); Minnie (b. Apr 1883); Louis (b. May 1887); Alex (b. Jun 1889); Lucy (b. Mar 1891); Louisa (b. Feb 1893); Rosa (b. Jul 1895); and, Raymond (b. Oct 1897).

Hector (b. 1859 d. 1939) married Flora Deprey (b. 1861 d. 1931) and had these children: Eli, Leona, Louis, Alex, Rose, Raymond, Anna, Lucille, Louise and Henry. (Hector and Eli may be the same?)

Joseph (b. 1862) and his wife, Nettie (b. 1864) had ten children in Marinette County, including John (b. 1894); William (b. 1896); Mary (b. 1898); and, Jules J. (b. 1900).

Melanie (b. Aug 1872) married Gustav Vanden Ack.

### SMEETS

Jacobus Smeets (b. 1854) came to Wisconsin in December 1892.

### SMET / SMITS

William Lambert Smits and his wife, Joanna Vande Vroede brought their family from St. Agatha Rode, Brabant Province, in the 1850s. In 1869, two of their daughters were married: Theresa (b. 1849) married Desire Regnier; Anna M. (b. 1851) married John Van Eyck from Huldenberg.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SMET/SMITS, SPREUTELS, STARKEY FAMILIES.

William Schmidt (Smith) (b. Apr 1828) and his wife, Catherine (b. Apr 1819), brought their family to America in 1865 and settled in the Village of Wrightstown. Their children were: Herman (b. May 1852) and his wife, Ann (b. Mar 1859), had these children - Ann (b. Nov 1878), Frank (b. Apr 1881), Fedie (b. Oct 1884) and Matt (b. Aug 1893); William (b. May 1854); Felix (b. 1858); Flora (b. 1860); and, Jean (b. 1862).

Ferdinand Smet (b. 12 Jan 1832), son of Albert, married Constance Baert (b. 1844). They sailed to America on the Colorado with three children. Some of their children were: Czarine (b. 1864) married August Johnson; Martha (b. 1866) married John Van Vedron; Martin; Louis; Mary; Alice; Henry J.; and, Edward. In 1871, Joseph Smet (b. Jan 1847) and his wife, Barbara (b. Jan 1852), visited them in De Pere, then settled on a farm in the Town of Glenmore. Their children were: Martin (b. 1869); Frederick (b. Dec 1876); August (b. 1884); Joseph (b. Apr 1886); John (b. Apr 1891); Frank (b. Apr 1892); Henry (b. Oct 1894); Mary (b. Jun 1895); and, Annie (b. Jul 1896).

John Smits (b. 1862) was a Flemish immigrant from Holland. He emigrated in 1886 and married Lizabeth (b. 1874) in 1894. Their children were: Mayme (b. 1898); Harriet (b. 1899); William (b. 1899) married Emma Vander Kelen; Anna (b. 1902) married Edward Vander Kelen; Helen (b. 1904); Theodore (b. 1906); and, Minnie (b. 1909).

Another Flemish SMITS family from Holland was that of Henry (b. 1875) and his wife, Anna (b. 1877). They came to the U.S. in 1900; their children were: Nellie (b. 1904); Anton (b. 1906); Anna (b. 1907); and, Hattie (b. 1910).

### SPREUTELS

Henry Spreutels (b. Apr 1838) and his wife, Maria (b. Jun 1842), were married in 1861 and emigrated in 1888. They lived on a farm in the Town of Preble. Their two sons were: John (b. Oct 1863); and Isaac (b. Mar 1881) married Rose (b. 1885) and had these children - Edward (b. 1902), August (b. 1905), Agnes (b. 1907) and Clara (b. 1908).

Felicien Spreutels (b. 1865) came to Wisconsin in March 1892.

### STARKEY

This is the same family as DE STARKA.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE STARKEY, STEENO FAMILIES.

Peter Starkey (b. 1874) and his wife, Philipina (born 1872) emigrated to Wisconsin in 1890. Their children were: May (b. 1902); Emma (b. 1903); and, Emil (b. 1906).

STEENO

Steen is the Flemish word for stone.

This name is also spelled STENAU and STANAU. Guillaume Steeno (b. 8 Mar 1819 d. 22 Sep 1898) and his wife, Maria Meulemans (b. 29 May 1830 d. 18 Apr 1817), brought two young sons with them when they left Bierbeek, Province of Brabant, for America. They departed from Antwerp on 16 Jun 1855 aboard the Wabama, arriving in New York two months later. The family settled on forty acres of property just east of the Duck Creek River, where they farmed and ran a saloon. The Steeno family has preserved many fascinating stories of the early days, e.g., sale of Bierbeek property, the arduous voyage, the life-saving help provided by the Indians, the extinction of the passenger pigeon, Indian courting customs, etc.

The Steeno children were:

Francis (b. 26 Feb 1853 d. 14 Jun 1838) married Mary Decker (Delcord) (b. 1859 d. 21 Apr 1941) and had ten children in Green Bay, Wisconsin and Nathan, Michigan.

- (1) John married Della Holt of Nathan, Mich.
- (2) Edward (b. 7 Oct 1881) married Antonette De Roost.
- (3) George (b. 14 Jul 1884) married Laura Verstoppen (b. Jul 1885).
- (4) Constantine Louis (b. 2 Nov 1886 died young).
- (5) Arthur (Earl) (b. 2 May 1889) married Emma Nuthols (born 1901).
- (6) Robert (b. 26 Oct 1891 d. 15 Jun 1974) married Cecilia Meert (b. 21 Mar 1887 d. 15 Jan 1969).
- (7) Rolo W. (b. 23 Dec 1893) married Minnie Berger in Michigan.
- (8) Regina (Rose) (b. 25 Jun 1898) married Jerry Lannoye.
- (9) Bertha (b. 23 JUn 1897) married John Schetter in Michigan.
- (10) Gordon (b. 1900) married Lillian Swaerts.

John (b. 1855) was a bachelor.

Peter (b. Jun 1857 d. May 1928) married Mary Louise Lemere (b. Apr 1870 d. 1905), daughter of Louis Lemere and his wife Celina Rabideau, on 22 Jan 1889. Their children were:

- (1) Mary (b. 14 Jan 1890).
- (2) Louis (b. 22 Feb 1892 d. 1913).
- (3) Elmer (b. 10 Apr 1892).
- (4) Ralph (b. 23 Aug 1893 d. 20 Jan 1937) married Florence Pelligrin.
- (5) Lawrence (b. 6 Apr 1895 d. 1929) married Elsie Tonnon (b. 1896 d. 25 Sep 1971).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE STEENO FAMILY.

(6) Arthur (b. 20 Feb 1896).

(7) Eva (b. 15 Oct 1896).

Rosalin (Elizabeth) (b. 1861) married Fred Pamperin on 2 Aug 1890. Their son, Fred was born 6 Feb 1891.

Henry (b. Jul 1862 d. 17 Dec 1942) married Laura Fournier (born Oct 1865 d. 22 Apr 1951) in 1886. Their children were: Lilly (b. 15 May 1887); Walter (b. 13 May 1888 d. 3 Jul 1976) married Cora Williquette (b. 1897 d. 3 Jul 1950); Peter (b. 8 Oct 1891); Elmer (b. Apr 1892 d. 12 Sep 1921); Alfie (b. 2 Jan 1893 d. 23 Nov 1966) married Lilian Dionne; Rena (b. Jun 1898); Eva (b. Apr 1899); and, Lawrence (b. May 1900).

Louis (b. 1862 d. 1886).

Fred (b. Oct 1866) married Lydia Fournier (b. 1866) in 1886. Their children were: Nelson (Narcissus) (b. 26 Mar 1887); Cora (b. 27 Jan 1891); Eli (b. 22 Jan 1893); Clifford (b. Aug 1896); George (b. 16 Feb 1899).

Charles (b. Jan 1869 d. 1936) was a court clerk; married Mary (Katherine) Peppelreiter (b. Jun 1876). Some of their children were: Corina (b. 14 Aug 1899); Esther (b. 1905); and, Baby (b. 1910).

Mary Elizabeth (b. Mar 1871) married John Weri on 27 May 1890 and had seven children.

William (b. Feb 1874) married Susan Cattersol (b. Jul 1874) and had these children: Francis (b. Jun 1897); Clarence (b. 1901); Arthur (b. 1909 died young); and, Paul.

In 1874, another Steeno family came to America and settled in Green Bay. Theodore Steno (b. May 1837) married a Jessogne girl and they brought their three sons with them:

George (b. Jun 1868) married Christine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Nov 1869) and had these children: Jennie (b. Aug 1889); Tillie (b. Sep 1892); Austin (b. Mar 1894); Mary (b. Mar 1896); and, Celia (b. Feb 1898).

Theodore Jr. (b. Apr 1870) married Tilly \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Jul 1864).

Louis (b. Nov 1873).

In 1879, Emil Steno (b. Jun 1868) arrived and became a painter in Green Bay. His wife, Emilia Lemere (b. Jan 1867), married him in 1892. A daughter, Theodorine, was born in January 1893.

We thank Lillian Swaerts Steeno for her help with the Steeno family history.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE STRAK, SWAERTS FAMILIES.

### STRAK

The original spelling of this Flemish name is STRACKE. It is also spelled STRIKE.

Two Strak brothers came to the Duck Creek area around the Civil War period. Joseph Strak (b. 23 Mar 1823 d. 12 Aug 1907) and his wife, Caroline Landwehr (b. 20 Mar 1844 d. 15 Jun 1914), were members of St. John the Baptist parish. Peter Strak (b. 22 Jan 1832 d. 27 Nov 1911) married Gertrude Webber (b. 15 Jan 1839 d. 22 Aug 1907) and had a daughter, Mary (b. 16 Jul 1859 d. 6 Feb 1920) who married Joseph Dionne in Duck Creek. Another Mary (b. 1866 d. 18 Feb 1891) died of childlbirth. Barbara Strak (b. 16 Jul 1859 d. 6 Feb 1920) married Joseph La Haye (b. 17 Apr 1951 d. 21 Mar 1897), and had a son, Joseph (b. 27 Mar 1883). Dora (Mary) Strak (b. 1861 d. 27 Jun 1945) married George Wenneh-eimer (b. 1858 d. 16 Apr 1933) and they had a son, Edward (b. 7 Jun 1891 d. 20 Mar 1966). Joseph Strak and his wife, Caroline, also had a son, Edward (b. 23 Dec 1874 d. 13 Apr 1902).

There was also a Paul Strak (b. 1886 d. 30 Oct 1940) listed.

### SWAERTS

This name was also spelled SCHWARTZ and SWARTS in this country.

Henri Swarts (b. 12 Nov 1848 at Oud-Heverlee), son of Guilelmus Swaerts and Anna Duchateau, came to America in 1871 and married Rose Wiese (b. 1869) in 1891. The family lived in the Town of Howard. Their children were:

Martha (1891) married John Devroy.

Susan (b. 1893) married a Peterson.

William (b. 1898) married Mary Vander Steen.

Clara (b. 1903) married George Greene.

Lizzie (b. 1906).

Lavena (b. 1908).

William Swaerts (b. 1859 d. 1919) was the son of John Baptiste Swaerts and Anna Poels of Oud-Heverlee in Brabant. He emigrated on 13 Apr 1889 and married Elizabeth Van Ark (b. 1871), the widow of Frank Van Meerbeek, in 1891. The family lived in the Town of Suamico. Their children are: Sophia (b. 1896) married Albert Schmitt; Minerva (b. 16 Jun 1897) married Alphonse Caelwaerts;

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE SWAERTS, TASQUIN, TAHLIER, TEASE FAMILIES.

Bertha (b. 1899) married Raymond Staudt; Irene (b. 1902) married Felix Huben; Lillian (b. 1903) married Gordon Steeno.

We thank Mrs. Gordon (Lillian) Steeno for her help with this family history.

### TASQUIN

Desiré Tasquin (b. 1838 d. 1915) and his wife, Theresa (b. 1839 d. 1918) settled in the Town of Humboldt, as did John and Joanna Tasquin. Jule Tasquin (b. 1880 d. 1953) and his wife, Hattie (b. 1880 d. 1918), farmed in Humboldt as did August Tasquin (b. 1884) and his wife, Helen (b. 1887). Joanna Tasquin married John Baptiste Leurquin. Theresa Tasquin, daughter of John, married Xavier Peignier (Pannure).

### TAHLIER

Desiré Tahlier (b. 1855) emigrated in 1863 and married Christina \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1855) who came to the U.S. in 1858. Two of their seven children were: John (b. 1890) and Fred (b. 1894).

### TEASE

This Flemish name was probably THEYS or THYS.

The Tease family came to America in 1871, settling in the northeast part of the City of Green Bay. The elder of the family was Henry Tease (b. 1813 d. 8 May 1896). His two grandsons were:

Victor (b. Sep 1862) married Ernestine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Aug 1864) and had these children: Louis (b. Feb 1886); Mary (b. Jan 1888); Joseph (b. Dec 1890); Jennie (b. Apr 1892); and Rosie (b. Jul 1895).

Joseph V. (b. Jan 1866) married Cecilia \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Dec 1867) and had these children: John (b. Sep 1894); Frank (b. Apr 1896); Agnes (b. Oct 1897); and, Elizabeth (b. Jul 1899).

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE THEIS, THEUNIS, THOMAS FAMILIES.

### THEIS

The original spelling of this Flemish name was probably THEYS or THYS. Other spellings are TICE, TYS and THAYS.

Francis Thys and his wife, Elizabeth De Brouwer, brought their family over in the 1850s. Their son, William (b. 1844 d. 3 Sep 1893), married Rosalie De Keisser (b. Jul 1852 at Huldenberg) and brought her to the U.S. in 1864. Their children were: John (b. Aug 1876); Lucy (b. Sep 1882); Matilda (b. Apr 1884); Henry (b. Jul 1889); Frank (b. Mar 1892); and, Anna (b. Apr 1895).

Matilda Tice (b. 1854) and Victor Thays (b. Mar 1855) are mentioned in the records, but without family ties.

Gregoire Thuys (b. 1828) came to America on the ship Clara landing at New York on 9 Aug 1856.

### THEUNIS

August Theunis (b. Jun 1830 at Linden, Brabant Province) married Joanna Maria Meulemans of Bierbeek, Brabant, on 2 Aug 1856; they left a few weeks later for America where they settled in Wrightstown. Their children were: Pauline (b. 1861) married Bernard Coppens; Rose (b. 12 May 1865 d. 14 Jun 1908) (see Mass Card) married Andrew Meulemans; Constance (b. 1867) married Herman Bauer; Victoria (b. Nov 1869); William Joseph (b. 31 Jul 1872) married Rose Meulemans (b. 1880), who came to the U.S. in 1889. Their children were: Anna (b. 1900); Francis (b. 1903); Edmund (b. 1905); Agnes (b. 1907; and, Colette (b. Dec 1909).



### THOMAS

Joseph and Theresa Thomas, both born around 1807, brought their family to America in the mid-1850s and settled in the Town of Bellevue (later Allouez). Joseph Thomas Jr. (b. 15 Sep 1832 d. Mar 1906) married Louisa Beno (b. 8 Sep 1842 d. 4 Aug 1916). They had seven children:

John Baptiste (b. 28 Mar 1859 d. 10 Aug 1942) married Lena Brockman (b. 17 Apr 1864 d. 14 Aug 1934). Their eleven children were:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE THOMAS FAMILY.

- (1) Joseph (b. 23 Jul 1882 d. 15 Jun 1950) married Pearl Adriaensen.
- (2) Anna (b. 18 Aug 1884 d. 17 Oct 1953) married William Fix.
- (3) Rose (b. 22 Nov 1886 d. 25 Jan 1959) married Frank Aerts.
- (4) John (b. 14 Mar 1889 d. 18 Feb 1962) married Marie Vanden Heuvel.
- (5) Catherine (b. 23 Sep 1891) married John Schoenhofen.
- (6) Mary (b. 23 Sep 1891 died the same day).
- (7) Winford (b. 4 Dec 1894 d. 11 Nov 1965) married Harriet Vanden Heuvel.
- (8) Francis (b. 13 Feb 1897) married Jeanette Lathour.
- (9) Harry (b. 13 Oct 1899) married Helen Geyer.
- (10) Theresa (b. 21 Jan 1902) married Rome Krupp.
- (11) Louis (b. 6 Jan 1905) married Erdine Dietrick.

Rosalie (b. 9 Sep 1864 d. 5 Sep 1927) married Peter Janssen (b. 18 Feb 1861 d. 10 May 1922) and had these children:

- (1) Louise (b. 2 May 1884).
- (2) John (b. 2 Sep 1885 d. 16 Aug 1958).
- (3) Mathilda (b. 1887 d. 1907).
- (4) Augusta (b. 4 Nov 1888).
- (5) August (b. 7 Oct 1890).
- (6) Bessie (b. 10 Sep 1892).
- (7) Adolph (b. 7 Jan 1894).
- (8) Eva (b. 17 Feb 1896).
- (9) Edward (b. 8 Jan 1898).
- (10) Urban (b. 14 May 1901).
- (11) Charles (b. 26 Mar 1903).
- (12) Ernest (b. 14 May 1905).

Edward (b. 16 Aug 1860 d. 7 May 1920) married Christine Leisch (b. 17 Aug 1864 d. 26 Jul 1924) and had these children: Carl (b. 19 Apr 1882 d. 2 Apr 1964); Arthur (b. 25 Dec 1887 d. 1 Aug 1961); Helen (b. 9 Oct 1892 d. 3 Jan 1939); and Fred (b. 1 March 1896 d. 3 Mar 1928).

Mary (b. 13 Jan 1870 d. 28 Jan 1960) married Edward Cauwenbergh (b. 30 Jan 1865 d. 5 May 1919) and had these children: Sophie (b. 16 Aug 1892); Harry (b. 6 Mary 1893); August (b. 9 Sep 1894); Joseph (b. 20 Jan 1897); Mabel (b. 3 Apr 1900); Gladys (b. 11 Mar 1902); and, Clyde (b. 8 Mar 1898).

Joseph (b. 5 Jul 1873 d. 15 Sep 1925) married Anna Lefebvre (b. 25 Apr 1875 d. 21 May 1948) and had these children: Edna (b. 3 Jan 1899); Urban (b. 8 May 1903); Dorothy (b. 17 Jun 1905) married Robert Quatsoe; Leland (b. 10 May 1911); Alden (b. 29 Mar 1909); Mildred (b. 10 May 1914).

August (b. 12 Jan 1876 d. 19 Feb 1940) married Catherine Lefebvre (b. 14 Nov 1878) and had these children: Earl (b. 16 May 1903); Merrill (b. 1 Jul 1905); Orville (b. 30 Aug 1907); Donald (born

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE THOMAS, TIELENS FAMILIES.

20 Feb 1910); Norbert (b. 12 Mar 1913); Ruth (b. 14 May 1916); Kathleen (Sister Marianne) (b. 6 Jan 1925).

Dolphine (b. 1868 d. 11 Jan 1923).

Peter Thomas (b. Oct 1854) came to America in 1880 and his wife, Barbara (b. Jun 1861 in Wisconsin) were married in 1855. They lived six years in Michigan before settling in the Town of De Pere. Their children were: Janet (b. May 1886); Frank (b. Oct 1887); Louise (b. May 1889); Louis (b. Feb 1891); Mary (b. May 1892); Sophie (b. Apr 1893); John (b. Feb 1895); Barbara (b. Jan 1898); Prosper (b. 1899); and, Wilbur (b. 1904).

Walter J. Thomas (b. 1857) came to America in 1882 where he married Mary Leglise (b. Jun 1865) in 1885, and later became the State Reformatory Superintendent. They had a son, Alex (born May 1886).

A.L. Thomas (b. 25 Sep 1867 at Antwerp) was the son of Francis Thomas and Hattie Borm. He emigrated in 1887, working in Michigan, Oregon and Chicago before settling in Green Bay where he started the Thomas Produce Company. He married Lizzie Keene (b. 1874) and had these children: Francis (b. 1898); Edith (born 1899); Wilbur (b. 1901); Elizabeth (b. 1907); and, Lincoln (born 1909).

We thank Donald L. Quatsoe for the information on the Joseph Thomas family.

### TIELENS

This name is sometimes spelled THELANS or THIELENS and is pronounced Teeleens.

William Tielens (b. 1832 d. 1901) and his new bride, Johanna Soquet (b. Apr 1833 d. Apr 1911) left St. Joris-Weert, Province of Brabant in July 1855 and settled in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

Peter (b. Jun 1857 d. 1883).

Frank (b. Nov 1860 d. 1918) married Josephine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1858 d. 1934) and had these children: Theresa (b. Apr 1883); Joanna (b. Mar 1885); Charlie (b. Jul 1888); John (b. May 1892); and, Willie (b. Feb 1897).

Theresa (b. Oct 1863) married Philip J. Coppens.

Philip (b. 1865 d. 1894).

William (b. 15 Jun 1867 d. 1955) married Pauline Horkman and had these children: Peter married Mary Matheys (b. 18 Oct

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE TIELENS, TILKE FAMILIES.

1891 d. 21 Jun 1988); Josephine married an Ouradnik; Frank; Edward ; and, Joseph.

Colette (b. 1869) married J. Magley.

Sophie (b. 1871) married A. Vanden Busch of Holland, Michigan.

John (b. May 1876) married Hortense \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Jul 1879) and had these children: Lily (b. Apr 1897); Mary (b. Jan 1899); Myrtle (b. Apr 1900); and, Arthur (b. 1904).

Jean Baptiste Tielens (b. 1822) and his wife, Mary (b. May 1828 d. 1911), had twelve children, but only one was living in 1900: Anna K. (b. 1860) married Frank Adriaens.

John J. Thelan (b. 1802) and his wife, Celestine (b. 1811), settled in the Town of Eaton before 1858. Their children were: Leopold (b. 1848); Fred (b. 1852); and, Mary (b. 1858).

### TILKE

This Flemish name is spelled TILCAERTS in the Province of Brabant. It was sometimes spelled TILQUE in America.

Englebert Tilke (b. Apr 1864 d. Mar 1950) came to the U.S. from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, in 1889. He bought a farm in the Town of Pittsfield and was married in 1893. His wife, Anna D. \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Jul 1873 d. Oct 1950), bore him these children:

Joseph (b. Sep 1894 d. 15 May 1973) married Clara Roskom.

George (b. Feb 1897).

Mary (b. 3 Oct 1898 d. 21 Nov 1984) married August Vervaeren (b. 3 May 1890 d. 15 Nov 1979).

Lena (b. 12 Mar 1900) married William Dunks.

Peter (b. 7 Aug 1901) married Josephine Christians.

Josephine (b. 1902) married Ely Deneys.

Henry (b. 16 Apr 1905) married Mary Christians.

Clarence (b. 27 Nov 1906) married Lilian Engebos.

Agnes (b. 30 Oct 1908).

Lucy (b. 5 May 1910) married a Bernetzke.

Harriet (b. 27 Jun 1912) married Lawrence Wagner.

Emily (b. 20 Nov 1914) married Francis Landwehr.

Sarah (b. 18 Mar 1916) married Chester Christians.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE TILKENS FAMILY.

TILKENS

Jean Baptiste Tilkens (b. Apr 1836) and his wife, Maria M. Petitjean (b. Jun 1841), landed at New York harbor in January 1884 with their family. Their children were:

Henry (b. Sep 1865) married Philomena Nolven and they had these children: Charles (b. Nov 1893); Peter (b. Dec 1895); Delia (b. Mar 1897); Mary (b. Jul 1899); Joseph (b. 1905); Raymond (b. 1907); and, Eddie (b. 1910).

Jacob (b. Dec 1866) married Eugenie Adriaens (b. 26 Jun 1867 d. 6 Jan 1901) and had these children: Barbara (b. Mar 1890); William (b. Apr 1891); Raymond (b. May 1892); Jerome (b. May 1893); Mary (b. Aug 1894); and, Mitchell (b. Sep 1896).

Eliza (b. 1868) married Constant Van Erem.

Alphonse (b. Apr 1870) married Lizzie Renier (b. Mar 1873) and had a son, Frank (b. Jun 1897).

Charles (b. Sep 1874 d. 1947) married Mary Van Roy (b. Apr 1879 d. 1934) and had these children: Gertrude (b. Apr 1899) married Henry Katers; Agnes (b. May 1900 d. 1919); Ella (b. 1902) married Bernard Rentmeester; Erma (b. 1903) married Edward Rentmeester; Leona (b. 1905) married Walter Van Pay; Norbert (b. 1907); Esther (b. 1908) married Joseph Dachelet; Ida (born Dec 1909)d. 2 Apr 1988) married Ray Gonnering; and, Isabelle married Bernard Rukamp.

Mike (b. Sep 1874 d. 1927) married Alvina Oldenberg (b. Nov 1879). Their children were: Gerald, Bob, Henry, Florence, Antonette, Margaret, Natalia, Leo, Jerome, Louis, Marie and Norris.

Philipine married Frank Adriaens.

Anton (b. Jul 1880) married Elizabeth Watermolen (b. 1885 d. 1983) and had these children: Ruth (b. 1904); and, Myrtle (b. 1917) married Alvin Pringle.

Odelia (b. Nov 1882 d. 27 Jun 1902).

Joseph (b. Mar 1887) married Rose \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1890) and had a son, Ralph (b. 1909).

Celia (b. Mar 1898).

Jack Tilkens (b. 1869) emigrated in 1888. He and his wife, Rose (b. 1876) had these children: Barbara (b. 1890); William (b. 1891); Raymond (b. 1892); Jerome (b. 1894); Mary (b. 1895); Michael (b. 1896); Lorraine (b. 1903).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE TILLY, TIMMERMANS FAMILIES.

T I L L Y

William Tilly and his wife, Anna Maria Wouters Van Rooy, brought their family to America in 1857, accompanied by a sister, Antonette Tilly Van Roy (b. 26 Sep 1813 d. 25 Aug 1898). William Tilly served in the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry and died right after the Civil War; his widow, Anna Maria, daughter of Jean Baptiste Wauters and Anna Maria Speekman, married Jan Van Rooy, age 55, at St. Willibrords on 29 Jul 1868. The Tillys had at least two children:

Antonia (b. 3 Jun 1842 d. 8 Aug 1896) married Jean Baptiste Callewaerts.

William (b. 29 Jul 1848 d. 1936) married Flora April (b. 21 Oct 1851 d. 1 Mar 1931). Their eleven children were:

- (1) Peter (b. 17 Jan 1870) married Adeline Williquette.
- (2) John (b. 21 Jun 1871) married Marion Wilson.
- (3) Paul (b. 21 Dec 1874 d. 19 Aug 1964) married Susan Wallenfang (b. 29 Jul 1855 d. 26 May 1957).
- (4) Frank (b. 23 Jul 1877) married Lucy Duchateau (sister of Paul).
- (5) William (b. 28 Feb 1880 d. 20 Jun 1962) married Caroline Herring (b. 24 Feb 1885 d. 29 Sep 1952).
- (6) Lucy (b. 4 Oct 1881 d. 9 Jan 1974) married Henry Kropp (b. 1878 d. 5 Dec 1960).
- (7) Joseph (b. 9 Jul 1883) married Lucy (Lucille) Duchateau, daughter of Felix and Joanna Duchateau.
- (8) Nettie (b. 10 Jul 1885 d. 11 Dec 1979) married Albert Pamperin.
- (9) Clara (b. 22 Nov 1887 d. 13 Apr 1959) married Frank Williquette.
- (10) Henry (b. 29 May 1890 d. 14 Apr 1985) married Rose Cumps (b. 1892 d. 16 Mar 1962).
- (11) Theresa (b. 6 Aug 1893 d. 20 Feb 1954) married William Duchateau.

The above information was furnished by Edna and Mae Williquette, daughters of Clara Tilly and Frank Williquette.

T I M M E R M A N S

Franciscus Timmerman (b. 7 Aug 1859 at Moorsel d. 1906), son of Petrus J. Timmerman and Maria Brigitta de Kegel, emigrated to the U.S. in 1880. His wife, Pauline Agamaite (b. 1868 d. 1936), came to America in 1873; they were married in 1889 and lived in Green Bay. Their children were: Peter (b. 1890); Frank (b. 1892); Laura (b. 1893); Louis (b. 1897); and, Mary (b. Oct 1899).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE TONNON FAMILY.

TONNON

Two or three Tonnons (Tono) families emigrated in 1856. The older members of the family appear to be: Leopold (b. 1802); Joseph (b. 1809); and, C.J. (b. 1819). This Flemish name is also spelled TONEAUX and TONON.

The 1860 census lists two Tonnons families in the Duck Creek area, those of Joseph and Julius.

Joseph Tonnons (b. 1809) and Sophie (b. 1810), his wife, had three children: Justin (b. Sep 1846); Emil (b. 1850); and, Oscar (b. 1853) married Lucy Marteau (b. 7 Oct 1854 d. 4 Aug 1890) and had a daughter, Angelina (Lena) (b. 11 Jan 1884). Oscar's second wife was Katherine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1861 d. 1947).

Julius Tonnons (b. 1821) and his wife, Florence (Rose) (b. 1823 d. 1896), had six children:

Mary Victoria (b. 1847 d. 14 May 1933) married Gustave Louis.

Paul (Leopold) (b. Sep 1847 d. 1908) came from Belgium in 1864 and married Mary La Haye (b. 1855 d. 1918). Their children were:

- (1) Joseph (b. Jun 1876 d. 1945) married Lucy \_\_\_\_\_ (born 1880 d. 1967).
- (2) Benjamin (b. Jun 1878 d. 1935) married Emily Gegare (b. 1884 d. 8 May 1968) and had a son, Donald (b. 1910 d. 1975).
- (3) Rosalia (b. Jul 1883) married George Cormier in 1908 as his second wife; they had no children.
- (4) Sophie (b. Aug 1884).
- (5) Frederick (b. Apr 1886).
- (6) and (7) Twins, George and Mary (b. 25 Nov 1888).

Peter J. (b. 1852 d. 1936) married Veronica Hussin (b. 1857 d. 1918) and had these children:

- (1) John (b. 4 Jun 1879 d. 14 Aug 1945) married Rose Fournier.
- (2) Florence (b. 1880 d. Dec 1964) married Felix Williams.
- (3) Arthur (b. 18 Jul 1882 d. 7 Apr 1955) married Mina Aebischer.
- (4) Sophie (b. 29 Aug 1884 d. 23 Apr 1971) married David Williquette.
- (5) Edith married Ray Porter.
- (6) Mabel married Edward Rabideau.
- (7) Josephine married Edward Johnson.
- (8) Cecilia married Lloyd Ball.
- (9) Alzada (b. 1896 d. 25 Sep 1971) married Lawrence Steeno.

Josephine (b. 1852) married Peter Lannoye and had a son, Peter (b. 9 Nov 1884).

Mary Celina (b. 1854) married August Louis and had two daughters:

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE TONNON, TORDEUR, TUYLS FAMILIES.

Philomena (b. 20 Dec 1881) and Seraphine (b. 22 Jan 1886).

Oscar (b. Jul 1859) married Catherine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Mar 1861) and had these children: Herman (b. Dec 1884) and Augusta (born Feb 1889).

### TORDEUR

Etienne Tordeur (b. 1818) came to the U.S. in 1854 with his wife, Maria Theresa (b. Aug 1825), and three children. They lived on sixty acres in the "Lost Section" in the Town of Bellevue. In March 1857, Steven Tordeur, age 35, son of Steven and Maria Theresa Tordeur, married Maria Theresa Williquette, age 32, daughter of Charles and Maria T. Williquette.

Adeline Tordeur (b. 1832) married Peter Renier. Some other Tordeurs listed are: Mary (b. 1858); Gregoire (b. Sep 1864); Oliver (b. Aug 1872) married Ferdinand Van Kaster.

### TUYLS

John Baptiste Tuyls (b. 1810 d. 1889) and his wife, Mary Katherina Vander Heyden (b. 1806 d. 1890), brought their family from Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant, to America in 1855. (Mary is listed as Mary Van Lydenborch from Wilsele on the Gaston passenger list.) The family settled on an eighty-acre farm on the Finger Road in the Town of Preble. Their children were:

William (b. Sep 1832 d. 10 Apr 1928) married Anna Maria Adriaens (b. 1847 d. 1892) of Overijse, Brabant Province. Their children were:

- (1) Frank (b. 1867) married Mary Watermolen..
- (2) Josephine (b. 1869) married Theodore Vanden Hoven.
- (3) Jennie (b. 15 Feb 1872 d. 5 Mar 1940) married Albert Detrie.
- (4) Regina.
- (5) Nettie.
- (6) William (b. Jan 1878) lived in De Pere with his wife, Lilian Vieau (b. Jan 1881), daughter of Henry and Malaca Vieau.
- (7) Sophia (b. Jan 1884).
- (8) Joseph (b. 1886).
- (9) George (b. May 1889).

Elizabeth (b. 1840).

Cesarius (b. 1841).

Isabella (b. 1842).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE TUYLS, VAN AA, VAN ARK FAMILIES.

John Jr. (b. 1843) married Phoebe \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1852) and had seven children, including: William (b. 1891); Ralph (b. 1899; and a daughter who married a Bender.

Joanna H. (b. 1846) remained single.

Peter (b. Apr 1850) and his wife, Mary (b. Mar 1862), had these children: Norbert (b. Nov 1885); Leo (b. Sep 1886); Perlinda (b. Jul 1892); Edith (b. Jun 1894); and, Clarence (b. Apr 1900).

Ferdinand Tuyls, the nephew of John Baptiste and son of John Francis and Elizabeth Tuyls was born in 1837 and died 16 Jul 1889.

Frank Tuyls (b. 29 Aug 1855 at Oud-Heverlee) was the son of Peter and Joanna Bisschop; he left Antwerp on 10 Feb 1883 and married Catherine \_\_\_\_\_ around 1890, but she died around 1896. Their children were: Louisa (b. Sep 1890) married Alphonse Meert; Pauline (b. Jul 1891); August (b. Aug 1893); and, Jennie (b. Apr 1896).

#### VAN AA

Albert Van Aa (b. Jun 1864) came to Marinette County in 1881. He married Matilda \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1864); two of their children were: Gilbert (b. 1885) and Minnie (b. Jan 1889).

#### VAN ARK

The original spelling of this Flemish name is VAN HERCK.

Simon Van Ark (b. 1823 d. 27 Feb 1911) arrived in the U.S. in May 1855 and married Anna Meulemans (b. 1836 d. 23 Feb 1891), daughter of John Meulemans of Vaalbeek, Brabant. They lived in the Town of Pittsfield and had these children: Henry (b. 1866); Sarah (b. Mar 1869); and, Mary (b. 1876) married William Van Campenhout.

Henry Van Arck (b. 1832) and his wife, Maria Louisa Volckaert (b. 1835 d. 1909), the widow of Frank Verstoppen, arrived in the U.S. in May 1866 with their family; they lived in the Town of Howard. Their children were: Mary Filomene (b. 1859) married John Baptiste Moes; Joseph (b. 1862); Theresa Elizabeth (b. 1864) married Peter Devroye; John (b. 27 Jul 1869 d. 24 Nov 1943) married Rosa Callewaerts and had these children - Alvina (b. 1903 d. 4 Sep 1943) married William Vander Perren, Edward married Anna Roskom, Madeline married Clifford Wright, and Mabel married Archie Fournier;

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN ARK, VAN ARKENS, VAN ASMAL,  
VAN BELLINGER FAMILIES.

Elizabeth (b. 1871) married (1) Frank Van Meerbeek, and (2) William Swaerts; Theresa Married Thomas Collins of Ingalls, Michigan; Charles (b. 20 Mar 1873 d. 15 Nov 1949) married Mary Callewaerts (b. 31 Aug 1879 d. 4 Nov 1934) and had these children - Fred (b. 18 Mar 1900), Sylvester (b. 27 Jul 1903, Irene (b. 23 Sep 1909), Catherine (b. 14 Nov 1912) married Herman Krausert, Henry (b. 21 Sep 1916) and Charles (b. 27 Jul 1918).

We thank Madeline Van Ark Wright and Catherine Van Ark Krausert for the Van Ark family history.

VAN ARKENS - see ARKENS

VAN ASMAL

Originally, this Flemish name was spelled VAN O(R)SMAEL.

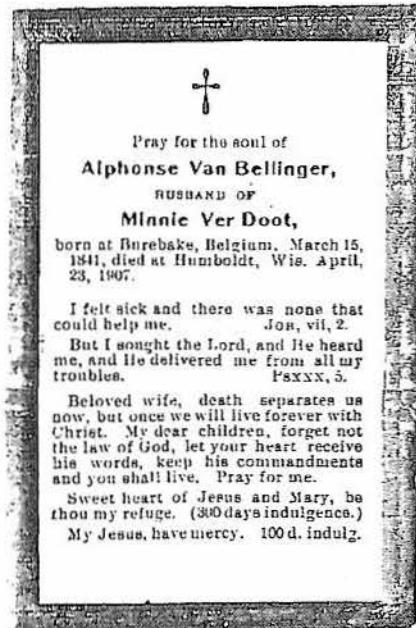
Constant Van Asmal (b. Dec 1827) was a widower when he emigrated to the U.S. in 1890 and became a stone mason in the City of Green Bay. His daughter, Victoria, married Victor Remie.

VAN BELLINGER

Originally, this Flemish name was VAN BELLINGEN and means "The Bellringers."

Cornelius Van Bellinger, a shoemaker from Bierbeek, Brabant Province, was born in 1806 and brought his family from Belgium to America in 1857. His family included his wife, Maria Theresa Basel (born 1801), and two boys. The family had a sixty-acre farm in Humboldt in the early days. Cornelius and his wife both died between 1870 and 1880. One of their sons, Thomas (b. 1854), died in childhood.

Alphonse, their surviving son (b. Mar 1841 d. 23 Apr 1907) (see Mass Card) married (Minnie) Emelia Verdoot (b. 15 Mar 1841 d. 23 Apr 1907) and had twenty-one children. Fourteen of their children reached adulthood: Rose (b. 25 Dec 1869



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN BELLINGER, VAN BEVER FAMILIES.

d. 1 May 1940) married William Moes (b. 1873 d. 4 Aug 1953), son of Henry Moes and Mary Boyce; Polina (b. 5 Sep 1870 d. 23 Jan 1944) married Gotfried Mercelles; Antonetta (b. 19 Nov 1871 d. 26 May 1934) married Desiré Rentmeester; Henrietta (b. 19 Jun 1874 d. 15 Apr 1930) married Peter Zolper and had three children (1) John (b. 1900 d. 1976) married Margaret Vanden Langenberg, (2) Lena (b. 1901 d. 1975) married Edward Pautz, and (3) Irene (b. 1910 d. 1987) married Earl Delmarcelle; Peter (b. 2 Dec 1875 (d. 11 Nov 1934) married Barbara De Greef; Jan Baptista (b. 5 Oct 1877 d. 23 Dec 1946) married Louisa Hoykens; Louisa (b. 18 Jun 1879 d. 28 Mar 1949) married John Gronnert; Amelia (b. 3 Jul 1880 d. 9 Feb 1940) married Paul Vanden Plas; Joseph (b. 5 Nov 1881 d. 19 Jan 1927) married Mary Schaut and had a son, Elmer (b. 1910); Frank (b. 23 Dec 1885 d. 7 May 1947) married Louis Lathauer and lived at Duck Creek; Charles (b. 20 Jun 1886 d. 2 Feb 1940) married Hazel Aubin; Henry (b. 14 Nov 1887 d. 11 Sep 1933) married Vera Kleespies; Lizzie (b. 19 Feb 1889 d. 1 Jul 1926) married John Callewaerts; and, James (b. 28 Aug 1892 d. 25 Aug 1939).

Our thanks to Vicki De Main, granddaughter of Frank Van Bellinger, for the information on the Van Bellinger family history.

### VAN BEVER

Peter Van Bever (b. 1860 d. 30 Mar 1932) accompanied his parents, Julius Van Bever and Rosalia Schroeders, to the Duck Creek area in 1881 from Belgium. On 3 May 1887, he married Philipina Poels (b. 1860 d. 1892) and had these children:

Frank (b. 4 Mar 1888 d. 5 Jul 1982).

Elizabeth (b. 10 Mar 1890) married Peter (Barney) Devroy (born 18 May 1886).

Edward (b. 20 Jan 1892 d. 24 Sep 1971) married Ella Brunette (b. 1898 d. 4 Nov 1978).

Ellen (b. 1898).

When Philipina Poels died, Peter Van Bever married Barbara Devroy, the widow of Joseph Williquette. They had a son, Fred (b. 1902), who married Constance Landwehr.

Adeline Van Bever probably came at the same time. She married Joseph Daniels (b. 1873). Their four children were:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN BEVER, VAN BOGART, VAN CALSTER,  
VAN CAMP FAMILIES.

Felix (b. 6 Nov 1899 d. 28 May 1964). His children were:

- (1) Leola married Wilbert Vander Linden.
- (2) Edith (b. 15 Jul 1921) married Don Amerson.
- (3) Thomas (b. 9 Aug 1922) married Oramae Farr.
- (4) Walter (b. 26 Oct 1923) married Fannie Maddix.

Walter (b. 15 Jun 1902 d. 10 Feb 1933) - never married.

Lilian (b. 9 Jul 1904) married Charles Johnson.

Violet married Sam Tichenen.

Frank Van Bever (b. 1837 d. 1904) arrived in 1881 with his wife, Mary (b. 1837). They had five children, probably John Baptiste and Adeline mentioned above, plus Victor (b. Aug 1877); William (b. 1879); and another son, whose widow married Alphonse Gillis.

Charles Van Bever (b. 1863) came to Wisconsin in August 1887.

We thank Jan Strei for some of the above information.

#### VAN BOGART

This name is spelled VAN BOGAERT in Flanders.

Alois Van Bogart (b. 1850) and his wife, Mary Ver Meulen (b. 1847) came to America in 1878. Her father, Peter Ver Meulen (b. 1857), came with them.

There was a Vanden Bogart family from Belgium living in the Duck Creek area prior to 1857. Peter Vanden Bogart (b. 1824) and his wife, Maria (b. 1822), had two girls: Joanna (b. 1849) and Celestine (b. 1857).

#### VAN CALSTER

Emile Van Calster (b. 20 Apr 1840) emigrated to the U.S. in the Spring of 1865. He married Constance Daix on Christmas 1867 and settled on a farm in the Town of Bellevue. Their children were: Joseph (b. 1869); Constance (b. Oct 1877); Julius (b. Sep 1879); and, Sarah (b. May 1881).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN CAMP, VAN CAMPENHOUT, VAN CASTER FAMILIES.

### VAN CAMP

In 1860, Anselmus Van Camp was living in Kaukauna with his aged parents.

### VAN CAMPENHOUT

William Van Campenhoult (b. Jan 1867 d. 27 Dec 1947) left his birthplace, Korbeek-Dijle, in 1893, for America. He married Mary Van Ark (b. Feb 1876 in Wisconsin d. 1908) and had five children:

Elizabeth (b. Jan 1900) married (1) James Cooney, and (2) Fletcher King.

John (b. 8 Apr 1901 d. 1979) married Marian Longdon.

Mathilda (b. 14 Sep 1902 d. 6 May 1981) married John Cooney (b. 1890 d. 1978).

Edward (b. 24 Oct 1904 d. 21 Sep 1985) married Frances \_\_\_\_

Louis (b. 17 Jul 1907 d. 26 Dec 1987) married Mabel Callewarts (b. 1908 d. 5 Jan 1981).

### VAN CASTER

There is a story that the first Van Caster came to Green Bay around 1850 after hearing about it from the Flemish priest, Father Florimond Bonduel. His name is Joseph Van Caster (b. 1824) and he lived in the Town of Humboldt and had a son, Florimond (b. 1856).

Three Van Caster families settled in the Town of Bellevue, headed by Catherine Van Caster (b. 1799). Her son, Peter (born 1820), with his wife, Mary (b. 1824), and grandson, Emil (b. 1842), who married Hortense Duquaine (b. 1842). In 1864, Gaspar Van Caster (b. 1838) married Mary J. (b. 1838) and had these children: Mary (b. 1862); Anna (b. 1865); Josephine (b. 1867); Ferdinand (b. May 1873); Elsie (b. Jul 1878); and, Virginia (b. 1880) who had two children listed in the 1910 census - Louis (b. 1895) and Genevieve (b. 1909)).

There were at least three Van Caster families who came to the Town of Green Bay. Joseph (b. Apr 1842), his wife, Mary (b. Jun 1849), and these children are listed: Teresa (b. Mar 1880); Willie (b. Mar 1882); Mary (b. Aug 1884); Henry (b. Jul 1886); Charles (b. Dec 1888). Joseph Van Caster came to the U.S. in

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN CASTER, VANDE CASTLE, VANDE CORTEL,  
VANDEGAM, VANDEN ACK FAMILIES.

1856, as did Desiré Van Caster (b. Aug 1847). Desiré's wife, Mary (b. May 1847), bore him these children: Julian (b. Oct 1874); John B. (b. Jun 1880); Joseph (b. Sep 1882); Mary (b. Jan 1885); Max (b. Jun 1887); Louis (b. Sep 1889). Didier Van Caster (b. Aug 1848) was brought to America in 1854, his wife was born in May 1840 and they had these children: Maggie (b. Jun 1879) and Charles (b. Aug 1881).

### VANDE CASTLE

The original spelling of this Flemish name is VANDE CASTEELE.

Louis Vande Castle (b. Aug 1926) and his wife, Maria Theresa (b. May 1828), came to the U.S. in 1867. He was a shoemaker and they lived in the City of De Pere. Their children were: Reva (b. 1852); Edward (b. 1855); Lucy (b. 1860); and, Mary (b. 1862).

### VANDE CORTEL

The original spelling of this name may have been CORTHALS.

Edward Vande Cortael (b. Mar 1855 in Wisconsin) married Mary (b. Jan 1859). The family lived in the City of De Pere and had these children: Mary (b. Mar 1883); Agnes (b. Feb 1885); Raymond (b. Aug 1886); Edward (b. Sep 1888); Clara (b. Oct 1890); Henry (b. Sep 1895); and, Louis (b. Dec 1896).

### VANDEGAM

This name is Holland/Flemish.

Leonard Vandegam (b. 1848) emigrated around 1890. His wife, Mary was born in 1856; they had these children: Joseph (b. 1891) and George (b. 1898).

### VANDEN ACK

This name is generally spelled Vanden Acker in Flanders.

The Vanden Ack family emigrated in 1855. Three Vanden Acks - Ferdinand, Pierre and Prosper - served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: VANDEN ACK, VANDEN AVOND FAMILIES.

Ferdinand died in Georgia.

Prosper married Victoria Willems (b. 1841) and had these children: Joseph (b. 1960); Clement (b. 1865); Gustave (b. 1865) married Melanie Smeesters (b. Aug 1872); Louis (b. 1870); Constantine (b. 1871); Mary (b. 1873); and, Clemence (b. 1877).

Pierre had a son, Henri (b. 1865) and a daughter, Tillie (b. 1880).

### VANDEN AVOND

In August 1857, the Vanden Avond family from Huldenberg, Province of Brabant, landed at New York City. The family was headed by John Fancis Vanden Avond (b. 1801 d. 11 Aug 1883), and his wife, Magdalena Peeters (b. 1791 d. 10 Feb 1873), and includes their son, Peter, with his wife and two children. Maria De Bloem, granddaughter of the elder Vanden Avonds, was also in the group; she later became the second wife of Jean Baptiste Phillips. Two Van Deuren families from Overyssche were in the party; Anna Maria Vanden Avond, daughter of John, was married to William Van Deuren.

Peter Vanden Avond (b. 27 Mar 1817 d. 17 Apr 1908) married Anna Catherine Sporkens (b. 3 May 1833 d. 11 Sep 1901), (see Mass Card) and had these children:

Pauline (b. Feb 1855 d. 22 Dec 1910) married Jean Baptiste Loy and had three daughters.

The next four children (b. from 1857 to 1865) died as infants.

Mary Trina (b. 15 Jan 1865 d. 15 Nov 1896) married Edward Phillips (b. 5 Dec 1860 d. 11 Jun 1944) and had four children.

Louis (b. 1867 d. 1926) married Katherine Phillips (b. 1870 d. 1916) and had these children:

- (1) John (b. Jan 1890) married a Verheyden.
- (2) Mary (b. Oct 1891) married (1) Peter Rentmeester (Little Pete) and (2) John Schumacher.
- (3) Pauline (b. Oct 1893).
- (4) Willie (b. Nov 1895 d. 1971) married Ida Heyrman (b. 1902 d. 1964).



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN AVOND FAMILY.

- (5) Henry (b. May 1898).
- (6) Benjamin (b. 1903) married Ceil Melon.
- (7) Lizzie (b. 1905) married Ed Bins.
- (8) Peter (b. 1907) married Eleanor Bins.

Frank (b. 1870 d. 1933) married Annie Vincent (b. 1878 d. 1950), daughter of Frank Vincent and Philomene Cropp, and had these children:

- (1) Henry (b. 1897) married Nettie Heyrman.
- (2) Minnie (b. 1898) married Victor Derenne.
- (3) Edward (b. 1900) married Mamie De Grave.
- (4) Caroline (b. 1901) married Martin Heyrman.
- (5) Raymond (b. 1906) married (1) Mayme Puyleart and (2) Mary Jane Delair Charles.
- (6) Alvin (b. 1910) married Florence Puyleart.
- (7) Bernard married (1) Gertrude Ostrenga and (2) Dorothy Krawczyk.
- (8) Reuben never married.
- (9) Alice married Alvin Ullman.

Henry (b. 1874 d. 6 Feb 1937) married Mary Tuyls (b. 21 Dec 1877 d. 3 Mar 1937) and had these children: William (b. 1900); Harry (b. 1902); Clarence (b. 1904); and, Bessie (b. 1906).

Edward (b. 1877 d. 1974) married Theresa Matheys (b. 1881 d. 1950) and had these children:

- (1) Florence (b. 1902) married Clem Laurent.
- (2) Irene (b. 1904) married Wenzel Nachtwey.
- (3) Fred (b. 1906) married Irma Schuber.
- (4) Irwin (b. 1908) married Lucille Nelson.
- (5) Agnes (b. 1910) married Peter Gerrits.
- (6) Clement married Leona Nys.
- (7) Harvey married Beatrice Petosky.
- (8) Gerald married Adeline De Grave.
- (9) Earl married Florence Jauquet.
- (10) Myrtle married Chester Ocrosinsk.



August (b. 1879 d. 1948) married Jennie De Grave (b. 1880 d. 1942). Their daughter, Mabel, married Sylvester O'Leary.

Clara (b. 1881 d. 1949) married Louis Nockerts (b. 10 Mar 1878 d. 1945).

We thank Earl Vanden Avond and Beatrice Rentmeester Weidner for the information on the Vanden Avond families.

(The picture is of Irene Vanden Avond Nachtwey and one of the authors, Jeanne Rioux Rentmeester, taken at the Frank Champeau Maple Lawn Dairy Farm where Irene was employed in 1924/25, and Jeanne was visiting).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN BERG FAMILY.

VANDEN BERG

In Flanders, this name is always spelled VANDENBERG(H).

The Vandenburgs from St. Joris-Weert, Province of Brabant, came to the U.S. in two groups. Arriving at New York harbor on 29 Jul 1854, were Joseph Vandenberg (b. 1832), son of Henry and Elizabeth Wauters and his cousin, Peter Vandenberg, Jr. (b. 18 Mar 1824 d. 31 Jan 1897), son of Peter Joseph Vandenberg and Catherine De Lang. They settled in the Town of Humboldt and waited for their cousins to arrive.

Joseph Vandenberg (b. 1823) and his wife, Philipine (b. 1822), had three children. His bachelor cousins, Frank (b. 1822) and William (b. 1825) lived with them in Humboldt. Peter also had a wife named Philipina (b. 1824); their children were:

Felix (b. 1856) married Petronella \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1872) and had these children:

- (1) Peter (b. 1893).
- (2) Frank (b. 1897 d. Jun 1979).
- (3) Hattie (b. 1899 was a nun).
- (4) Willie (b. 1901).
- (5) Julia (b. 1902).
- (6) Alfred (b. 15 Sep 1903 d. 5 Aug 1966) married Regina Roskom.
- (7) Elvina (b. 1905).
- (8) Clarence (b. 1907).
- (9) Mayme (b. 1908).

Pelagie (b. 6 Aug 1862 d. 14 May 1944) married Peter Phillips.

Fera (b. 1865).

When the ship Fanny arrived in September 1855, a large contingent of Vandenburgs and their relatives were on board. The widow of Henry Vanden Bergh of St. Joris-Weert, Elizabeth Wauters (b. 23 Sep 1906 at Leuven), led the group. Henry and Elizabeth had these children:

Frank (b. 1828) was a bachelor.

John Baptiste (b. 27 Oct 1830 d. 16 Feb 1912) wasn't on board the ship Fanny with his relatives, because he had to complete his military duty first. (See his authorization to go to America on the next page.) Jean Baptiste arrived in America on 5 Oct 1858 and married Anna Maria (Josephine) Vanden Plas (b. 22 Apr 1836 d. 15 Dec 1918) in 1859 and had these children:

- (1) William Desiré (Felix) (b. 14 Jul 1859) married Josephine Gaspard.
- (2) Maria Natalia (b. 8 Dec 1861).
- (3) Charles (b. 28 May 1866) married Minnie Watermolen.
- (4) Elizabeth (b. 1869 d. 10 Dec 1943) married Alphonse Vander Perren.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN BERG FAMILY.

*Le Ministre de la Guerre,*

*En vertu Des dispositions de l'arrêté Royal du 26 Septembre 1832, accordé au militaire de la Légion de 1850,  
J'andenbergh Jean-Baptiste, du régiment des  
carabiniers l'autorisation de se rendre en Amérique  
sous la condition que son départ aura lieu dans  
les trois mois à dater de la présente décision*

*Bruxelles le 4 Juillet 1857.*

*par ordre:*

*Lieut-Colonel Directeur Général des Forces*

The Minister of War of Belgium gave Jean-Baptiste Vanden Bergh, Rifle Regiment, permission to go to America.

4 July 1857.

\* \* \* \* \*

(5) Sidonia (b. 25 May 1871 d. 10 May 1841) married Peter Clabots.

Anton (b. 5 Apr 1838 d. 14 Jun 1905), who served in the Civil War, married Joanna Huizenveld (b. 12 Sep 1852 d. 27 Apr 1915), daughter of Henry Huizenveld and Wilhelmina Benkhueyen, and had these children:

- (1) Mary (b. 22 Feb 1873).
- (2) Charles (b. 1876 d. Dec 1952).
- (3) Philip (b. May 1878 d. Apr 1923).
- (4) Matthias (b. May 1889 d. Oct 1964).
- (5) Louis (b. 1892).
- (6) Henry (b. Aug 1894).

William (b. Aug 1842) remained single.

Maria (b. 1845).

Another Maria Vanden Bergh (b. 1829) and her daughter, Virginia (b. 1835) came over aboard the Graham Polly, which arrived in the U.S. on 6 Sep 1856. These two were members of the Van Ermens group of passengers.

In the 1870 census, there is listed a Philip Vanden Berg (b. 1810) and his wife, Mary (b. 1812).

Mary Vanden Berg (b. 1880) married Thomas De Coster.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN BOGART, VANDEN BOOMEN, VANDEN BORNE FAMILIES.

### VANDEN BOGART

The original spelling of this name was VANDEN BOGAERT.

There was a Vanden Bogart family from Belgium living in the Duck Creek area prior to 1857. Peter Vanden Bogart (born 1824) and his wife, Maria (b. 1822), had two daughters: Joanna (b. 1849) and Celestine (b. 1857).

### VANDEN BOOMEN

Most of these families were Hollanders, but a few came from Flanders. Peter John Vanden Boomen filed an Intent To Be Naturalized form on 21 Sep 1855. Matthias Vanden Boomen (b. 2 Jun 1837 d. 21 Sep 1909) and his wife, Mary (b. 14 Sep 1861 died 6 Mar 1897), also had a family here.

William Vanden Boomen was exempt from Civil War service because he was not yet a citizen.

### VANDEN BORNE

Philip Vanden Borne (Vanden Borren) (b. 1 Feb 1812 died 5 Aug 1903) and his wife, Elizabeth De Keyser (b. 23 Jan 1813 d. 14 Sep 1886), both from Loonbeek, were in their forties when they came to America in 1857. They settled in the Town of Humboldt, probably close to one of their married daughters. The record on this family is confusing because there were no males in the family and several of the girls were called Mary in the old European Catholic tradition. The girls were:

Catherine (b. 2 Dec 1842 d. 11 Feb 1915) married Louis Detrie (b. 13 Sep 1840 d. 20 Jul 1876) and had five children: Albert, Lizzie, Angeline, Philomena and John.

Angelina (b. 19 May 1844 d. 29 Oct 1917) married Jean Baptiste Vander Kelen (b. 18 Sep 1835 d. 12 Jan 1913) and had fourteen children, seven were still living in 1900.

Joanna (b. 8 May 1846 d. 21 Sep 1908) married Peter Schumacher (b. Jan 1838) and had eighteen children, eleven were living in 1900.

Maria Theresa (b. 3 Jun 1849 d. 1929) married John Francis Vander Wegen (b. 13 Jan 1847 d. 9 Sep 1918) and had nine children, two were living in 1900.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN BORNE, VANDEN BRANDEN, VANDEN BUSCH FAMILIES.

The Holy Martyrs of Gorcum records show a Mary Vanden Borne married to a Nickolas Hendricks (John Baptiste Hendricks lived near the Vanden Borne farm) and a Mary Vanden borne married to a Frank De Baert(?), both during the 1865-1875 time period.

Bruce K. Paulson, Suring, Wisconsin, has further information on the Vanden Borne family.

### VANDEN BRANDEN

Joseph Vanden Branden (b. Dec 1855) and his wife, Mary (b. Jun 1849), emigrated in 1870. Some of their children were:

Frank (b. Jul 1876) married Anna Secor (b. 1872) and had a son, Walter (b. 1908).

Joseph (b. Mar 1880) and his wife, Martha (b. 1884), had these children: Marie (b. 1904) and Edward (b. 1907).

Jules (b. 1882) and his wife, Adelia (b. 1882), had these children: Louise (b. 1895); Christian (b. 1897); Alfred (b. 1899); Nestor (b. 1901); Ethyl (b. 1905); Agnes (b. 1907); Richard (b. 1909).

Clementia (b. Oct 1883).

Clara (b. Jun 1884).

Julie (b. Apr 1888).

August (b. Aug 1889).

Mary Vanden Branden (b. 1845) emigrated in 1881 and had two children: Henry (b. Jan 1883) and Tilly (b. Feb 1885).

August Vanden Branden (b. Nov 1853) and his wife, Johanna Mar Dreel (b. Sep 1861), emigrated in 1888. Their children were: Adolph (b. Nov 1891); Joseph (b. Feb 1894); Matilda (b. 9 Apr 1895 d. 1985) married Louis Albers; Sylvia (b. Nov 1897); and, Henry (b. Dec 1898).

### VANDEN BUSCH

This name is always spelled VANDEN BOSCH in Flanders.

Francis Vanden Bosch (b. 1783) came to America in November 1855 from St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, along with his daughter, Joanna, and her husband, John Baptiste Daniels. His daughter, Theresa, married William Horckmans. His son, Peter (b. 1831),

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN BUSCH FAMILY.

also came with his wife, Theresa (b. 1830), and a daughter, Virginia (b. 1853). The 1880 census shows this family living on twenty acres of land in east Green Bay, with four more children: Mary (b. 1858); Frank (b. Dec 1861) married Louise Coppens (b. May 1868) and had these children - William, Theresa, Felix, Henry, Louis, Anna, Adeline and Fred; Joseph (b. 1863); and, Rosa (b. 1869). (It is interesting that Peter Vanden Bosch had come to America on an exploratory trip in 1853 on the Quinnebaug.)

Two more of Frank's sons emigrated in 1865. Frank (b. Nov 1841 d. 1922) married Theresa Wageneer (b. 1848 d. 1886) and had these children:

Rosa (b. 1867 d. 1941) married Mike De Grave.

Henry (b. 17 Jan 1869 d. 24 Oct 1947) married Maggie (Joanna) Detrie (b. 9 Feb 1872 d. 18 Dec 1951) and had eleven children:

- (1) Albert (b. 16 Apr 1896 d. 7 Feb 1927) married Nellie Lathour.
- (2) William (b. 2 Nov 1897) married Lily Tielens, daughter of John and Hortense Tielens and had these children: Clifton, John, William, Mercedes and Cleo.
- (3) John (b. 6 May 1899) married Caroline Van Goethem (b. 7 Dec 1900 d. 20 May 1941).
- (4) Martin (b. 11 Mar 1901 d. 12 Sep 1968) married Anna Clabots.
- (5) Mamie (b. 12 Oct 1903) married Tony Umentum (b. 17 Mar 1900 d. 7 Jul 1988).
- (6) Mabel (b. 7 Jun 1905) married Clarence Daffke.
- (7) Arthur (b. 20 Jul 1907 d. 9 May 1974) married Alvina Skaleski.
- (8) Clarence (b. 3 Aug 1909 d. 2 Feb 1984) married Josephine Wessley.
- (9) Anna (b. 24 Mar 1912) married Peter Martin.
- (10) Margaret (b. 28 Jan 1916) married (1) Steve Skaleski and (2) Frank Krines.
- (11) Bertha (b. 1 Jul 1918) married Harry Jauquet.

Henry (b. Jan 1844), the other son of Frank's, was married twice - his second wife was Catherine Dorr (b. May 1865) and they had these children: August (b. Oct 1874); Charles (b. Sep 1876); Edward (b. Jul 1880); Bernard (b. 1893); Andrew (b. Mar 1897); Sophia (b. May 1898); Joseph (b. Sep 1899); Harry (b. 1904); and, Ethel (b. 1906).

Louis Vanden Busch (b. Apr 1839 d. 1902) with his wife, Anna Maria Broyleus (b. Sep 1839 d. 1924), emigrated in 1868 and bought a farm in the Town of Humboldt. Their six children were:

Philip (b. Oct 1865) married Minnie Leebman (b. Jul 1866); their first child was Theobold.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN BUSCH, VANDEN ELLE FAMILIES.

Tracy (b. 1867).

Julia Maria (b. 1869) married Chris Dimmer and had three sons: Frank, Edward and Ted.

Henry (b. 1872) married Philipine Van Ermel (b. May 1870) and had four sons: Fred (b. Jan 1900) married Anne Rentmeester; James; Joseph; and Harry.

Jacob (b. 1874 d. 1952) married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1876 died 1953).

Frank (b. 4 Aug 1879 d. 23 Nov 1944) married Theresa Detrie (b. 2 Jun 1882 d. 15 May 1963) and had nine children: Katherine, Theodore, Leonard, Lorenz, Elmore, Norbert, Alvin, Regina and Vernon.

Peter Vanden Busch (b. Mar 1836 d. 28 Nov 1919), son of Peter and Theresa Vanden Busch, emigrated in 1866 and married Fannie Coppersmith (b. 18 Mar 1854 d. 1 Jul 1922), daughter of Desiré Copesmet and Josephine Femal, in 1872. Some of their children were: Anton (b. 17 Jan 1886 d. 2 Jul 1956) married Elizabeth Maimon (b. 9 Mar 1889 d. 8 Sep 1931); Louis (b. Oct 1883); Tony (b. Jan 1888); and, Laura (b. May 1890). Peter and Fannie settled in the Duck Creek area and had seven children by 1900.

The 1880 census lists a Talet Vanden Busch (b. 1845) and his wife, Barbara (b. 1849), living in the Town of Humboldt. Their children, all born in Wisconsin, were: Rosa (b. 1868); Josephine (b. 1870); Agathe (b. 1872); Polina (b. 1875); and, Sophia (b. 1878).

Alphonse Vanden Busch (b. Jul 1870) emigrated in 1891 and lived in the Town of De Pere. His wife, Lena (b. Jan 1870), and he were married in 1898 and their first child was Johanna (b. Aug 1899).

Most of the Vanden Busch history was provided by Edmund Vanden Busch.

#### VANDEN ELLE

Gregory Vanden Elle (b. Mar 1840) and his wife, Adele (b. Dec 1844), were married in 1865 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1872, where they lived in the City of Green Bay. His eldest son (b. Jan 1870) was a cooper who lived next door with his wife, Minnie (b. Aug 1868), in 1900. Some of the other children of Gregory and Adele were: Josephine (b. May 1879); Hilda (b. Aug 1881); George (b. Oct 1882); and, Lizzie (b. Feb 1886).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN HOCK, VANDEN HOUTEN, VAN DEN LANGEN BERG, VANDEN PLAS FAMILIES.

### VANDEN HOCK

The original spelling of this Flemish name is VANDEN HOECK.

Anton Vanden Hock (b. Feb 1840) emigrated to the U.S. in 1855. In 1900, he was a widower living in the City of Green Bay with two of his eight children: Matilda (b. Dec 1882) and Odelia (b. Jun 1885).

### VANDEN HOUTEN

Records on the early Vanden Houtens in Brown County are scarce, but apparently a family emigrated in the 1850s. There was a Michael Vanden Houten and his wife, Anna Grovelot; their daughter, Isabelle, married John Wauters, son of Louis Wauters and Anna Speets, on 26 Nov 1889. Barbara Vanden Houten (b. 1835) married Philippe Adriaens. Tracy Vander Houten (b. 1845 d. 1929) married Jean Baptiste Clabots.

William Vanden Houten and his wife, Petronella Vander Veekan, came to Kewaunee by boat in 1855 with their six children: Frank; Elizabeth; John Baptiste; Johanna; Theresa; Jennie (b. 1852) married Philip Bruffaerts. In May 1864, the 24-year-old John Baptiste married Victoria Jacque and they had eight children: Josephine; Joseph; Eli; Eugene; Frank; Louis; George; and, Benjamin.

### VANDEN LANGENBERG

This family came from Holland and many of its members have married Flemish spouses. Agatha Vanden Langenberg of Green Bay has written a book which contains detailed information on her Hollander ancestors, many of whom had family names similar to the Flemish, e.g., Vanden Berg, Maas, Kuipers, Vanden Broek, etc.

### VANDEN PLAS

Other spellings of this Flemish name are: VANDE PLAS, VANDER PLAS, and VANDEN PLAAS. They are listed according to date of emigration in this family sketch.

Henri Vanden Plas (b. 4 Sep 1831 d. 7 Apr 1890) was born at St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, the son of John Baptiste Vanden Plas and Marianna Clabots. He sailed to America on the

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN PLAS FAMILIES.

Catherine Augusta, landing on 29 Jul 1854, and settled on a farm in the Town of Humboldt. He returned to Belgium, but came back to America later.

When Marianna Clabots died, Jean Baptiste Vanden Plas took Joanna Vanden Bosch as his second wife. They had at least three children - Anna Maria (b. Apr 1836), Fred (or Felix) (b. 1843) and William (b. 1844) before Jean Baptiste died in 1844. Joanna later married Jean Baptiste Daniels and came to America with him in 1855.

William (b. 19 Nov 1844 d. 1916) came over with the Daniels family, also from St. Joris-Weert, on the Lochinvar, which landed at New York in November 1855. He lived with the Daniels family until his marriage. His wife, Lena (b. Aug 1855 d. 1934), and he were married in 1873 and had six surviving children listed in the 1900 census: William (b. Jul 1875); Joseph (b. 1876); Celia (b. 1876); Edward (b. Jun 1878 d. Aug 1837); Theresa (b. Feb 1885); Joseph (b. Nov 1887); and, Jake (b. May 1890).

In 1856, Felix Vanden Plas, another son of John Baptiste and Johanna Vanden Bosch, came to the U.S. Felix (b. May 1843) married Barbara Donks (b. Apr 1847 d. 5 May 1909) from Overijse, Brabant Province, in 1868. Their four children were: Rosaline (b. 1864); Josephine (b. Mar 1870) married a Clabots; Sophie married Louis De Muyser; Anna Catherine married Henry Goens.

On 8 Jul 1871, Henry Vanden Plas (b. 25 Mar 1835 d. 21 Aug 1905) of St. Joris-Weert, emigrated to the U.S. with his wife, Isabelle De Muylder (b. 18 Aug 1832), and their children. In 1900, there were four children listed in the census:

Jean-Alphonse (b. 1865 d. 1914) married Louise Van Pee Detrie; some of their children were: Joseph (b. 1896); Edward (b. 1900); and, Frank (b. 1902).

Andrew (b. Aug 1868) married Pauline De Greef (b. 1870); some of their children were: Mary (b. 1894) and Ben (b. 1897).

Desire.

Joseph (b. 1876 d. 14 Jan 1949) married Philipina Roskom (b. 1898 d. 1975). They lived in the Duck Creek area.

In 1883, a son of Jean Baptiste and Maria Anna Clabots moved from St. Joris-Weert to the Town of Humboldt. Joseph Jacob Vanden Plas (b. 22 Jun 1848 d. 26 Feb 1906) and his wife, Paulina Vreugde (b. 22 Aug 1847 d. 2 May 1913) were married in 1872 and had eight of their children surviving in 1900. Their children were: Rosalia (b. 31 Aug 1873); Paul (b. 13 Jan 1876 d. 1945) married Amelia \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1879 d. 1940) and had these children - William married Laverne Rentmeester and Henry married Angeline

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDEN PLAS, VANDER AA, VANDER EYCKEN, VANDER GEETEN, VANDER HEYDEN FAMILIES.

Vander Kelen: Justin (b. 15 Mar 1878); Sophie (b. 16 Apr 1880 d. 8 Jul 1940) married Peter A. Rentmeester; Francis Cornelius (b. 26 Jan 1882 d. 1964); Joseph (b. Oct 1885 d. 1957); Hortense (b. Feb 1888); Philip (b. Jun 1890).

In 1887, Victor Vanden Plas (b. Apr 1869) arrived in Green Bay to work on the railroad. The next year, his father, John Baptiste (b. 1838) and his brother, Louis (b. Jun 1882), arrived. His wife, Rosa (b. Apr 1861), also emigrated in 1887 and had these children listed in the 1900 census - Victor (b. Mar 1888); Mary (b. Jul 1889); Elizabeth (b. Dec 1893); John (b. Sep 1895); and, Theresa (b. Dec 1897).

In April 1892, Martin Vanden Plas (b. 1827) arrived with his wife, Elizabeth Vonckx (b. 1834), from Blanden, Brabant Province. Two of their sons were with them: William (b. 29 Nov 1858) and Jean Baptiste (b. 14 Sep 1863).

#### VANDER AA

Louis Vander Aa (b. 1870) came to Wisconsin in March 1891.

#### VANDER EYCKEN

Anton Vander Eycken (b. 1815 at Blanden) and his wife, Maria Elizabeth Wouters (b. 30 Sep 1816 at Oud-Heverlee), came to America in 1865 with one daughter, Joanna Maria (b. 28 Feb 1858 at Blanden).

#### VANDER GEETEN

Adolph Vander Geeten (b. Mar 1848) and his wife, Rosa (b. Jan 1854), came to America in December 1888 with their daughter, Adolphine (b. May 1887). In 1892, his brother, Peter (b. Dec 1842), followed with his wife, Flora (b. May 1846), and these children: Joseph (b. Aug 1869); Arthur (b. Dec 1879); George (b. Dec 1882); Theodore (b. May 1885); Josephine (b. Mar 1887).

#### VANDER HEYDEN

This name is spelled VANDERHEIJDEN in Flanders. In America, it is also spelled VANDERHEIDEN.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER HEYDEN, VANDER KELEN FAMILIES.

The ship, Gaston, arrived in New York from Antwerp on 2 May 1855, with the John Vander Heijden family from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, aboard. John (b. 7 Apr 1819), his wife, Elizabeth Quatresols (b. 21 May 1819), Elizabeth's mother, Suzanna Van Hoof (b. 1800), and five children were in the group. They settled on a farm in the Town of Scott; these are their children: Twins-Lisette(b. 25 Dec 1842); and Colette (b. 25 Dec 1842) married (1) Anton Jansen from Bruges in 1866, and (2) Philip Rodaer; Rosalia (b. 12 Sep 1844); Frank (b. 2 Jan 1847) married Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Aug 1859) and had these children - Frank, Harry, Ethel, Mary, Oscar and Augustus; Melanie (b. 14 Oct 1853); Henrietta (b. 1862); Eliza (b. 1867); and, Odela (b. 1869).

The Joseph Vander Heyden family arrived about the same time and had a farm in the Town of Humboldt. Joseph (b. 1825) and his wife, Catherine Frits (b. 1834) had these children: Henry (b. Jun 1858) married Philipine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. May 1859) and had these children - Catherine (b. Jan 1883), Joseph (b. Feb 1884), Mary (b. Aug 1885), Anton (b. Dec 1886), John (b. Mar 1888), Pauline (b. Jan 1890), Elizabeth (b. Mar 1891), Barbara (b. May 1893), Thomas (b. Sep 1894), William (b. Apr 1899); Tracy (b. 1860) married Frank Duchateau; Mary (b. 1861); Anna (b. 1863); Philomene (b. 1865); Peter (b. 1867); Frank (b. 1869); Henry (b. 1871); Louis (b. 1873); and, Polina (b. 1877).

John Frans Vanderheyden (b. 1 Jan 1883 at Oud-Heverlee) and his wife, Maria Crabbe (b. 18 Jun 1884), arrived in America on 26 Dec 1907.

A Vanderheiden family lived in Wrightstown. In 1910, it was composed of the widow, Mary (b. 1857); Frank (b. 1885); Henry (b. 1890) who married Margaret Milton and had these children - Clayton, Henry, Eileen and Mildred; Gertrude (b. 1893); John (b. 1896); and, Catherine married Frank Van Lanen.

### VANDER KELEN

Two Vander Kelen (Vander Keelen) half-brothers emigrated from Huldenberg, Brabant Province, to Wisconsin, landing at New York in August 1857. John "Frank" Vander Kelen (b. 7 Aug 1823 d. 17 Jul 1909) was the son of Henry Vander Kelen (b. 1803 d. 1889) and Maria Catherine De Baeker; John Baptiste Vander Kelen (b. 18 Sep 1835 d. 12 Jan 1913) was the son of Henry and his wife, Anna Catherine Vanden Plas. They settled on land in the southwest corner of the Town of Humboldt.

Frank Vander Kelen married Lucy Detrie (b. 13 Sep 1840 d. 23 Apr 1896) - see Funeral-Mass Card on next page. They had

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER KELEN FAMILY.

fourteen children, seven were still living in 1900:

Harriet (b. 29 Apr 1861 d. 24 Oct 1928) married John Baptiste Nockerts (b. 15 Apr 1855 d. 8 Jul 1936). See Nockerts family sketch.

Maria Louisa (b. 1863) married Theodore Watermolen (b. 1857).

Alphonse (b. 1865 d. 1944) married Julia Kaye (b. Apr 1868 d. 1943) and had these children: Albert, Alvina, Alvin, Alfred, Harry and Edwin.

Theodore (b. 1867 d. 1937) married Margaret Verheiden (b. 1868 d. 1930). Their children were: Frank (b. 1894); Bernard (b. 1896); Amanda (b. 1898); Alma (b. 1899); twins-Mabel and Marion (b. 1901); Alice (b. 1904); and, Beulah (b. 1907).

Mary (b. Oct 1870 d. 24 Nov 1934) married John Baptiste Watermolen (b. 27 Sep 1863 d. 14 Nov 1920).

Frank (b. 1871).

Virginia (b. 4 Dec 1872) married Louis Lacourt.

Mary Elizabeth (b. 7 Feb 1876 d. 14 Aug 1909) married Frank Verheiden (b. 1 Sep 1864 d. 20 Mar 1928) and had these children: Lucy, Mary and William.

John Baptiste Vander Kelen married Angeline Vanden Borne (b. 19 May 1844 d. 29 Oct 1917) in 1864. In 1900, seven of their fourteen children were still living:

Elizabeth (b. 1864 d. 1943) married Desiré Rentmeester (b. 1859 d. 1929).

Philip (b. 28 Jun 1866 d. 26 Jun 1897) married Julia Elzen.

Mary (b. 1868 died young).

Peter (b. 3 Dec 1869) married Anna Rahn (b. Mar 1870) and had these children:

- (1) Henry (b. 8 Dec 1893) married Katie Vohen (b. 17 Nov 1898).
- (2) Lilian (b. 31 Mar 1895 d. 20 Feb 1981) married James De Grave (b. 10 Mar 1892).
- (3) Norbert (b. 11 Jul 1904) married Mabel Nelson.
- (4) Ellen (died at age 3).

Theresa (Tracy) (b. 23 Mar 1873 d. 9 Oct 1910) married Charles



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER KELEN, VANDER LINDEN FAMILIES.

Gauthier (b. 27 Mar 1864 d. 15 Oct 1942) and had four daughters: Mildred, Mabel, Corinna and Lillian.

Albert (b. 3 Apr 1875 d. 17 Mar 1951) married Mary De Grave (b. 18 Mar 1875 d. 28 Jan 1949) and had these children:

- (1) Bernard married Lilian Clabots (b. 1902 d. 1985) and had three daughters: Janet married a Davidson; Agnes married a Duquaine; and Lucille married a Brunner.
- (2) Irene married Bill Nighorn.
- (3) Florence married Peter Fonferek.
- (4) Corrina married Stanley Gorelanczek.

Louis (b. 28 Apr 1878 d. 5 Jan 1860) married Pauline De Grave (b. 1886 d. 1949), daughter of Ferdinand De Grave, and had these children:

- (1) Edward (b. 1905) married Anna Smits.
- (2) Emma (b. 1907 d. 1977) married William Smits (b. 1899 d. 1987).
- (3) Clarence (Kelly) (b. 16 Mar 1910) married Marilyn Possely.
- (4) Alma married Hubert Van Boxel.
- (5) Gordon married Doris Process.

Julia (b. 1879) died from eating artificial cherries off the Christmas tree, as a small child.

Angelina (b. 7 May 1880 d. 12 Jan 1890). Died of influenza.

John (b. Dec 1882 d. 1946) married Mamie Lathour (b. 13 Apr 1888 d. 28 May 1978) and had these children: Joe, Wally, Angeline, Bill, Margaret, Elmer, Sylvester, Marie and Donnie.

Anna Theresa (b. 12 Aug 1886 d. 21 Feb 1961) married Andrew W. Rentmeester (b. 11 Jul 1883 d. 16 Apr 1969). See the Rentmeester family sketch.

We thank Donald A. Vander Kelen and Beatrice Rentmeester Weidner for their help with the Vander Kelen history.

#### VANDER LINDEN

John Vander Linden (b. 1824) and his wife, Kate (b. 1823), brought their family from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, to America around 1855 and settled in the Town of Rockland. Their children were:

John (b. 1848) married Elizabeth Tielens.

Catherine (b. 1853) married Henry Vanniewenhoven.

Frank (b. 1857).

Philip (b. 1861).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER LINDEN FAMILY.

Mary (b. 1863).

Rosa (b. 1866).

Paulina (b. 1867 d. 1952) married Constant Bolssens.

Lizzie (b. 1868).

Philip Vander Linden (b. 2 Dec 1852 at St. Joris-Weert) came to America in 1865. They were married in 1879 and lived in the Town of Suamico. Their children were: John (b. Jun 1879); Peter (b. Oct 1882); Mary (b. Dec 1885); Frank (b. Feb 1888); Joseph (b. May 1890).

Philip's parents and two brothers came from St. Joris-Weert to the Duck Creek area in the Spring of 1871. Peter Vander Linden (b. 12 Aug 1809 d. 1876) and Elizabeth Augustyns (b. 25 Jul 1815) were accompanied by four children:

Peter (b. 17 Jan 1846 d. 11 Sep 1908) married Tracy M. Meulemans (b. 23 Jan 1853 d. 21 Feb 1931); their daughter, Matilda (b. Feb 1881 d. 31 Oct 1949) married John Roskom.

Joanna Catherine (b. 22 Jan 1848).

John (Frank) (b. 20 Oct 1856) and his wife, Virginia (b. Mar 1859), had these children: Mary, Pauline, Arthur, Jill, John, Fred, Florence and Ida.

Alphonse (b. 20 Feb 1860) and his wife, Tracy (b. 1860), had these children: Rosa (b. 1892); Leona (b. 1894); Felix (b. 1899); and, Philip (b. 1902).

Philip Vander Linden (b. Oct 1826 d. 10 Aug 1900) was the son of Peter and Isabella Vander Linden of St. Joris-Weert. His second wife was Elizabeth Dobbeleer (b. 2 Aug 1838 d. 22 Jun 1905); they left St. Joris-Weert and arrived at New York on board the Pieter De Connick on 1 Aug 1883. Their children were:

Philomene (b. 13 Jun 1862 d. 1882) was a child of the first marriage.

Josephine (b. 15 Nov 1871 d. 1 Aug 1856) (See Mass Card on the next page) married William Vanden Heuvel. He had three children from his first marriage. These are their fifteen children:

- (1) Sister Olga (b. 8 Mar 1893 d. 1970).
- (2) Hattie (b. 22 Feb 1894) married Joseph Eisenreich.
- (3) Sister Harriet (b. 21 Jun 1895 d. 29 Dec 1979).
- (4) Henry (b. 10 Mar 1897) married Alvina Hackl.
- (5) Frank (b. 24 Aug 1898) married Myra Kuehne.
- (6) Theodore (b. 29 Apr 1900) married Hattie Sinclair.
- (7) Rose (b. 21 Mar 1902 d. 3 Jun 1971) married Joseph Bougie.
- (8) Lucy (b. 23 Oct 1904 d. 13 May 1980) married Ray Melchert.
- (9) Bernard (b. 21 Mar 1910 d. 29 Aug 1981) married Lillian Dreesow.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER LINDEN, VANDER MEULEN, VANDER MISSEN FAMILIES.

- (10) Alex (b. 24 Nov 1906) married Mae Coffey.
- (11) Loretta (b. 22 Apr 1908) married Ray Gevers.
- (12) Willard (b. 8 Mar 1910) married Ann Hermes.
- (13) Norbert (b. 21 Jun 1911) married Mary Hermes..
- (14) Joseph (b. Jan 1913) married Margaret Wagner.
- (15) Marion (b. 13 Feb 1915 d. 19 Jun 1969) married John Bougie.

Josephine took John Vanden Heuvel as her second husband.

Desiré (Henry) (b. 24 Jun 1876 d. 2 Dec

1947) married Jeanne Sterckse (b. 12 Feb

1888 in Brussels d. 5 Feb 1955) and had these children:

- (1) Alma (b. 22 Dec 1906) married William Kurowski.
- (2) Margurite (b. 17 Mar 1909) married Henry Francois.
- (3) Josephine (b. 10 May 1911) married Chris Smith.
- (4) Wilbert J. (b. 23 Aug 1913) married Leola Daniels.

Jerry Vander Linden (b. 12 Feb 1884) and his wife, Maria Louisa Van Weddingen (b. 23 Dec 1888), both from St. Joris-Weert, came to Green Bay in 1908.

Jan Strei provided information on the Vander Linden/Dobbeleer descendants.

### VANDER MEULEN

Joseph Vander Meulen (b. 1826) and his wife, Charlotte (b. 1831) emigrated in 1855. They had ten children, including Joseph (b. Apr 1861) who married Hortense (b. May 1872) and had these children - Elena (b. Jul 1894), Laura (b. Nov 1895) and Julien (b. Feb 1897); and, Victor (b. 1875) who had a Green Bay saloon with his wife, Lizzie (b. 1875).

### VANDER MISSEN

John Joseph Vander Missen (b. 3 Nov 1845 d. 24 Jul 1921) married Catherine De Grave (b. 15 Jul 1851 d. 30 Aug 1913).



In Loving Memory Of  
**Mrs. Josephine Vanden Heuvel**  
Born November 5, 1871  
Died August 1, 1956

Prayer

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER MUSS, VANDER PERREN FAMILIES.

### VANDER MUSS

The original spelling of this Flemish name was probably VANDER MOST.

The Vander Muss family emigrated in 1856. Joseph Vander Muss (b. Mar 1847), who served in the Civil War, lived in the Town of Glenmore with his wife, Naomi (b. Sep 1857). Their children were: Joanna (b. 1873); Joseph (b. 1874); Mary (b. 1876) married Joseph Perrigue; Antoine (b. 1879); Hubert (b. 1886); and, Josephine (b. 1887).

Eugene Vander Muss (b. Jul 1851 d. 1 May 1908) lived in the City of Green Bay. His wife had died before 1900 - their children were: John (b. Feb 1875); James (b. Jun 1878); Eugene (b. Jun 1882); Laura (b. Mar 1884); Maggie (b. Dec 1888); Sarah (b. Apr 1890); Annie (b. Aug 1892); Lily (b. Aug 1894); and, Gracie (b. 1896).

### VANDER PERREN

Jacob Vander Perren (b. 22 Jan 1838 d. 20 Jul 1918) and his bride, Isabella (Barbara) Vannieuwenhoven (b. 1 Feb 1844 d. 24 Jul 1926), emigrated from St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, in April 1867. They settled on forty acres of land in the Duck Creek area; in 1900, thirteen of their fourteen children were living. Some of their children were:

Joseph (b. 1868 d. 1941) married Catherine Sinclair (b. Jul 1873 d. 24 Mar 1949) and had twelve children. Some of the children were:

- (1) Joseph Jr. (b. 23 Oct 1896 d. 11 Dec 1923).
- (2) Catherine (b. Apr 1898 d. 1980) married Van Hunter.
- (3) Henry (b. Jan 1900).
- (4) Vincent (b. 1907).
- (5) Rose (b. 1908).
- (6) Clement (b. Mar 1910).

Alphonse (b. Aug 1870 d. 11 Sep 1957) married Elizabeth Vanden Bergh (b. 1869 d. 1943) and had these children:

- (1) Lucy (b. 1879 d. 1928) married Willard Hussin.
- (2) William (b. Apr 1896 d. Oct 1974).
- (3) Elsie (b. 6 Mar 1902 d. 17 Jun 1985) married Felix Verstoppen (b. 21 Jun 1886 d. 11 Jan 1988).
- (4) Andrew (b. 1904).

Lizzie (b. 1871) married John Kersten and lived in Lakeside, California.

William (b. Jul 1872 d. 1952) married Jennie Crevecouer (b.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER PERREN, VANDER VELDE, VANDER VEREN FAMILIES.

Mar 1875 d. Jan 1942) and had these children:

- (1) Clarence (b. 1898) married Lilian Engels.
- (2) Laura (b. 9 Feb 1900 d. 25 Jun 1988) married Alex Naud.
- (3) Gilbert (b. 1902).
- (4) Chester (b. 1904).
- (5) Gladys (b. 1908).
- (6) Ramanis (b. Feb 1909).

Colette Rose was a twin (b. 17 Sep 1873 d. 1961) remained single.

Constance (Estella) was a twin (b. 17 Sep 1873 d. 26 May 1927) married Andrew Van Erem.

Desireé (b. 18 Feb 1877) was single and went to Washington.

Lucy (b. Mar 1878) married James McLeod.

Peter (b. Aug 1879) went to Oregon.

Tracy (b. Jan 1883) married a Carmichael and lived in Cleveland.

Philip (b. 2 Feb 1884).

Philipina (b. Aug 1887) married Henry Wilson.

Jenny married David Davis and lived in California.

Jacob's older brother, Joseph (b. Apr 1835), brought his wife, Catherine (b. Oct 1836), and family to America in 1880 and settled on a farm in the Town of Suamico. The couple were married in 1860 and had ten children; five were living in 1900. One son, Henry (b. Feb 1879), and his wife, Mary (b. Feb 1879), took over the family homestead; two of their children were Henry (b. May 1897) and Laura (b. Feb 1900).

## VANDER VELDE

Emil Vander Velde (b. 1874) and his wife, Lizzie (b. 1880), and their son, Elmer, appear on the 1910 census as Flemish.

## VANDER VEREN

The original spelling of this Flemish name is VANDER VERREN.

Joseph Vander Verren (b. 7 Apr 1835 d. 7 Dec 1917) and his wife, Catherine Van Meerbeek (b. 21 Nov 1835 d. 11 Jan 1904), brought their family from Antwerp to America in 1882 and settled in Big Suamico. Some of their children were:

Victor (b. 12 Jan 1862) and his wife, Maria Duchateau (b. May

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER VERREN, VANDER VEST, VANDER WEGEN FAMILIES.

1868), and had these children: Anna (b. Aug 1890); Elizabeth (b. June 1892); Flora (b. Oct 1894) married James Kocha; Mabel (born Nov 1897); and, Ervin (b. 1907).

Emily (b. 1868) married Michael Kaiser, son of Paul Kaiser and Angeline Wallenfang (b. 16 Oct 1898 d. 1 Mar 1979), and had these children: Henry (b. 16 Oct 1898) married Alice Peters (b. 1904 d. 4 Jan 1969); Rose married a Pagel; and, Grace married John Bruynincks.

Henry (b. 4 Jun 1870) married Mary Nelson (b. 1878). Their children were: Fred (b. 11 May 1897 d. 31 Jan 1978) married Elizabeth Poels; and, Clarence (b. 12 Mar 1900 d. 14 Jun 1988) married Bessie Callewaerts.

Philip (b. 1872 d. 1951) and his wife, Mary (b. 1882), had a daughter, Ruth (b. 1905).

### VANDER VEST

In Flanders, this name is spelled VANDER VOORST.

The Vander Vest family came to Green Bay Township in 1855. Antoine (b. 1801) and his wife, Marie (b. 1805), had four children in 1860. In 1900, son, Desire (b. Mar 1845), and his wife, Mary (b. Nov 1851), were living on their farm. Some of their children were: Benjamin (b. Dec 1870) and his wife, Leone (b. 1872), had a daughter who married a Robson; Clara (b. Aug 1881); Joseph (b. Jun 1883); Josie (b. Dec 1885); Jules (b. Aug 1900; and, George (b. May 1897).

### VANDER WEGEN

This name is spelled VANDERWEGEN in Flanders.

Thomas Vanderwegen (b. 10 Apr 1810 d. 26 Jul 1888) and his wife, Maria Theresa Vandezande (b. 15 Apr 1813 d. 5 Dec 1890), brought their family from Bierbeek to America in July 1856 and bought land in the southeast corner of the Old Town of Preble. Their children were:

Philipine (b. 6 Jul 1837) married Frank Stein.

Colette (b. 8 Mar 1839 d. 26 May 1927) married Louis Van Erem and lived in the Duck Creek area.

Dorothe (b. 1843 died young).

Francis (b. 13 Jan 1847 d. 9 Sep 1918) married Theresa Vanden Borne (b. Jun 1849 d. 1929). They had nine children: Thomas (b. 1870); Philip (b. 24 May 1872); Peter (b. 18 Sep 1874 d. Nov 1947) married Anna Maria De Greef (b. 28 Dec 1873 d. Jun 1954) and lived in Gillett; Johnie (b. Mar 1877 d. 20 Nov 1877);

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER WEGEN FAMILY.

Angeline (b. 15 Sep 1878 d. Nov 1888); Caroline (b. 1879 d. Nov 1888); Elizabeth (b. 1880 d. Nov 1888); Colette (b. 27 Nov 1882) married Joseph De Prey and had three children; Elizabeth (b. circa 1889).

Pauline (b. 1850 d. 1936) married Frederick Meyers, lived in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Their children were: Anna, William, Fred Jr., Martha, Frances and Ida.

Virginia (b. 1852 d. 1947) married Edward Engels, as his second wife.

William (b. 2 Nov 1853 d. 31 Dec 1896) married (1) Maria Theresa Pleasters (b. 12 Aug 1860 d. 5 May 1879) and (2) Caroline Meulemans (b. 25 Nov 1860 d. Nov 1942), daughter of Francis Meulemans and Catherine Van Neck, and had ten children:

- (1) Catherine Mary (b. 21 Apr 1884 d. 11 Feb 1970) married William Hendricks and had six children.
- (2) Frank (b. 19 Apr 1885 d. 8 Jul 1973) married Mathilda Bruffaerts and had five children.
- (3) Thomas (b. 15 May 1886 d. 9 Jul 1886).
- (4) Virginia (b. 28 Feb 1889 d. 25 May 1968) married Desiré Schroeders and had three children, then married her second husband, Victor Nutols, and had three more children.
- (5) Louis John (b. 28 Feb 1890 d. 7 May 1945) married Gertrude Gudenkauf and had three children.
- (6) Nettie Marie (b. 5 Apr 1891 d. 4 Feb 1896).
- (7) Twin, John Baptist (b. 9 Dec 1892 d. 29 Nov 1971).
- (8) Twin, William (b. 9 Dec 1892 d. 23 Sep 1893).
- (9) Marie Antonette (b. 30 May 1895 d. 27 Feb 1879) married (1) Henry Laes and had six children, then married her second husband, Jules Bosschaerts.
- (10) Maria Theresa (b. 14 Apr 1897 d. 6 Nov 1897).

Peter (b. Mar 1858) married Theresa Brienen (b. Apr 1860) in 1880 and had these children:

- (1) Nettie (b. 16 Jun 1881 d. 7 Sep 1964) married Adolph Deneys.
- (2) Henry (b. Jan 1883 d. 1909).
- (3) Frank (b. 22 Feb 1885 d. 16 Sep 1942) married Muriel Aucutt.
- (4) Nellie (b. 11 Dec 1886 d. 1 Oct 1965) married (1) George Jorgenson, (2) Adolph Springer.
- (5) Annie (b. 24 Nov 1888 d. Jun 1941) married Bert Bidwell.
- (6) Thomas (b. 21 Jul 1890 d. 3 Feb 1944) married Florence Sheldon.
- (7) Theresa (b. 9 Sep 1892 d. Oct 1981) married Chester Johnson.
- (8) William (b. 30 Jan 1894 d. 5 Mar 1938) married Martha Zugenbein.
- (9) Edward (b. 13 Mar 1897 d. Jul 1934).
- (10) August (b. 18 Feb 1899 d. 21 Oct 1952) married Catherine Schneidel.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER WEGEN, VANDER ZANDEN FAMILIES.

- (11) Ida (b. 19 Mar 1901 d. 22 Dec 1976) married James Devine.  
(12) Clarence (b. 20 Mar 1904) married Doris Matz.

Two cousins of the elder Thomas Vanderwegen also came to Wisconsin: Theresa Vanderwegen (b. 1814) married Andreas Donks and Wilhelmina (b. 1819) came to America as Mrs. William Pleasters. Petronella Vanderwegen came to the U.S. in 1860 as Mrs. William Vanden Houten. In 1889, Theresa Vanderwegen (b. Feb 1896 d. 1939) came to America from Blanden and married Felix Vervaeren.

We thank Florence Laes Burrows and Helen Vanderwegen Klubertanz of Green Bay, Bruce K. Paulson of Suring, and Phyllis Vander Wegen of Altoona, Wisconsin for their contributions to this family history.

### VANDER ZANDEN

The original spelling of this Flemish name is VANDEZANDE.

John Vandezande (b. Mar 1804) and his wife, Joanna Maria Vander Heyden (b. 28 Apr 1815 d. 10 Oct 1871), brought their family from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, to America on board the ship, Gaston, which left Antwerp on 2 May 1855. This family settled in the Town of Scott and included these children: Maria (b. 14 Nov 1843); Pauline (b. 16 Dec 1844); John (b. 5 Nov 1846) married Betsy Coopmans (b. 1853); Louise (b. 14 Jul 1848); Maria Theresa (b. 10 Jul 1851) and, Betsy (b. 11 Aug 1854).

Also on the 1855 voyage of the Gaston was John Francois Vandezande (b. 6 Aug 1832 at Oud-Heverlee), the son of Peter Vandezande and Maria Derwae. Frank (John Francis) married (1) Mary Fontaine (b. Dec 1840) and (2) Maria E. Van Ness (b. 24 Sep 1848 d. 10 Oct 1873) and lived in the Town of Humboldt. Frank died in Union Army uniform on 25 Dec 1862. His daughter (by Mary Fontaine), Maria (b. 1860), married Jacob Busch, son of H.J. Busch (see page 50) in 1879; their children were Robert, Walter and Winfred.

André Alphonse Vande Zande, brother of John Francois, was born at Oud-Heverlee on 10 Sep 1845 and departed from Antwerp for America on 12 Apr 1871. He was married in 1884; his wife, Theresa (b. Jul 1859), bore him these children: Mary (b. Sep 1886); Antonette (b. Oct 1889); Rosalie (b. Feb 1892); Lena (b. Dec 1896); and, Felix (b. Mar 1899).

Philipina Vandezande (b. 15 Mar 1856 at Oud-Heverlee) married Jules Malliet; they came to America in 1881.

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDER ZANDEN, VAN DEUREN FAMILIES.

John H. Vander Zande (b. Oct 1861) came to Illinois in 1884. His wife, Veronica (b. Sep 1862), had these children: Matilda (b. Aug 1887); Eugene (b. May 1891); Arthur (b. Mar 1893); Alvin (b. Jul 1896); Lily (b. Jul 1897); and, Ruth (b. Jul 1899). The family moved to Wisconsin in 1896.

Peter Vandezande (b. 7 Oct 1877) married Catherine De Coster (b. 27 Jan 1878 at Halle) and emigrated from Oud-Heverlee around 1900.

Several years later, Julius Vandezande (b. 12 Sep 1881) and his wife, Maria Theresa Schroeders (b. 10 Nov 1881), left their home in St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, and came to America with their four children.

In 1905, Herman Vandezande (b. 1882) and his wife, Elizabeth (b. 1882), emigrated to Green Bay.

Robert J. Busch and Lucille Engels Busch helped with this family history.

### VAN DEUREN

Two Van Deuren brothers brought their families from Overijse, Province of Brabant, to the U.S. in August 1857.

Henry (b. 1820) and his wife, Anna (b. 1830), settled in the First Ward of Green Bay where Henry was employed as a laborer. Their children were: John Baptiste (b. 1855); Mary (b. 1858 d. 1930) married John De Witt; and, Theophile (b. 1866).

Guillaume (William) Van Deuren (b. Dec 1822) was married (1) to Anna Maria Vanden Avond (b. 1825 d. Jul 1867) of Huldenberg, Brabant Province. William was a tailor in partnership with H.J. Busch and later with Henry Watermolen. The children of William and Anna Maria were:

Elizabeth (b. Feb 1848) married Joseph Pierre Heyrman.

Peter J. (b. Apr 1850) married Adeline Motto (b. May 1854) in 1875. Their children were: William (b. Jun 1876); Caroline (b. Jul 1878); Emma (b. Aug 1880); Mary (b. Sep 1882); Lizzie (b. Nov 1884); Mark (b. Mar 1887); Lenora (b. May 1889); and, Freddie (b. Mar 1894).

Henry (b. 1852) married, as his second wife, Hattie (b. May 1868). His seven children include: Carl (b. May 1881); Nellie (b. Jun 1886); Hubert (b. Nov 1887); John (b. Jul 1895); Elmer (b. Dec 1898); Clarence (b. 1900); Agnes (b. 1902); Cecelia (b. 1905); and, Henry Jr. (b. 1907).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN DEUREN, VANDE SANDE, VANDE VEREN, VANDE WALLE FAMILIES.

John (b. Apr 1857) and his wife, Rosa (b. Nov 1859), had these children: Frank (b. Jun 1883); and, William (b. Mar 1885).

Gustus (b. 1862).

Andrew (b. 1864) and his wife, Stella (b. 1874), had these children: Alphonse (b. 1897); Isabelle (b. 1903); Elizabeth (b. 1906); and, Jacob (b. 1908).

Henry made a trip back to the old country a few years after his arrival and had difficulty in returning in August 1861.

William's wife, Anna, died 4 July 1867. On 18 Aug 1868, William married his second wife, Coletta De Graff, daughter of Anton De Graff and Anna De Reuver, who had come to the U.S. in 1852 from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province. Coletta was the widow of Bernard Van Gemert. William and Coletta had two children who died in infancy.

### VANDE SANDE

John H. Vande Sande (b. Dec 1861) and Charles Vande Sande (b. Feb 1863) were brothers from Kessenich, Belgium, who emigrated to the Flemish colony in Minnesota in 1882. Charles moved on to Green Bay, Wisconsin, where he started a terrazo and tile business. He married Isabella Watley (b. Apr 1866), daughter of Joseph and Catherine Watley; the family had come to America in 1856. There were two sons: Walter and Harold.

### VANDE VEREN

Joseph Vandeveren (b. 7 Apr 1835 d. 7 Dec 1919) married Catherine Van Marbeck (b. 22 Feb 1835 d. 12 Jan 1904). Henry Vandeveren (b. 1870 d. 1958) married Mary Nelson (b. 1878 d. 1947).

### VANDE WALLE

Two Vande Walle brothers and a sister emigrated to America in 1881 from Arseele, Belgium. The eldest, Leonard (b. Jul 1847), and his wife, Honorina Van Tieghen (b. Jul 1870), were married shortly after she emigrated in 1892. Their children were: John (a twin) (b. Dec 1894); Charles (a twin) (b. Dec 1894) married Gertrude Lasee and had these children: Jerome, Joseph, Melvin, Irene and Bernardine; Emma (b. Aug 1896); Emil (b. May 1898);

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANDE WALLE, VAN DREEL, VAN DUYSE FAMILIES.

Henry (b. Dec 1899); Louise (b. Feb 1903); Rose (b. Feb 1905); Alice (b. Sep 1907); Marie (b. Jun 1910); and, Florence (b. Nov 1912).

Leonard's sister, Rosina (b. 1853) married Constant De Jonghe.

Leonard's brother, Paul Vande Walle (b. Apr 1854), married Wilhelmina Weyers (b. Sep 1861) in 1884 and had eleven children:

Albert (b. Feb 1885) married Emma Graf.

Frank (b. Jun 1886) died young.

Mary (b. Aug 1887) married Ray Vande Castle.

Anna (b. Feb 1889) never married.

Rene (b. Jan 1891) never married.

Ordeal (b. Jan 1893) never married.

Celine (b. Nov 1894 died young).

Leo (b. May 1896) married Ann Hermes.

Louis (b. 7 Feb 1898 d. 6 Aug 1987) married Emily Kellnhauser. Their children were: Carl, Kenneth, Lorraine, Dorothy, Mary Jane and Marjorie.

Urban (b. Nov 1899) married Margaret Rice.

Sylvester (b. Nov 1902) married Etta Daanen.

### VAN DREEL

Some of the records spell this name Van Dril. The family emigrated from Flanders in 1876. Two of the sons are listed here:

Jules (b. 1873) married Emily Detrie (b. 1875). Their first two children were: Vida (b. 1899) and Ione (b. 1905).

Felix (b. Aug 1874) settled in Green Bay. His wife, Laura (b. Dec 1876) and he had a son, Earl (b. Mar 1900).

### VAN DUYSE

Some of the records spell this name Van Dice. Peter Van Duyse (b. Jan 1874) came to America in 1891, settling on a farm in the Town of Rockland. His wife, Mary (b. Apr 1870), and he, had these children listed in the census: Tracy (b. Aug 1898); Francis (b. Apr 1899); Barbara (b. 1904); and, Agathe (b. 1906).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN DUYSE, VAN DYCKE, VAN EFFEN,  
VAN EREM FAMILIES.

Frank Van Duyse (b. 1876) and his wife, Josephine (born 1880) had these children: Margaret (b. 1903); Edward (b. 1905); Lucy (b. 1907); and, Norbert (b. 1908).

### VAN DYCKE

Louis C. Van Dyke (b. 12 Apr 1829 d. 9 Jan 1881) was born in Antwerp, Belgium, The son of Constantine Van Dycke and a beautiful Flemish girl, Coletta Blankeman (called the Rose of Antwerp). He emigrated to America in 1855 and, in 1857, married Octavia Cesar (b. 14 Aug 1840 near Leuven). They had a general store in the village named Dyckesville. In his honor and later moved to Green Bay. Their children were: Emma (b. 1860) married H.M. Beck; Emil (b. 1864) ran Van Dycke brewery and married Katherine Basche - they had four boys and one girl; Julius (b. 14 Aug 1868) had a drug store and ran a brewery - his wife, Josephine (b. 1871), and he had a son, Alden (b. 1903); Constant (b. Apr 1875); Alice (b. 1876); and, Louis (b. Feb 1878). The St. Louis Catholic Church at Bay Settlement is named for Louis Van Dycke.

### VAN EFFEN

The Van Effen family emigrated to Wisconsin in the early 1900s.

Maximilien Van Effen (b. 29 Aug 1880 d. 17 Jan 1923) (see Mass Card) was married to Maria Verstappen.

### VAN EREM

This Flemish name is also spelled VAN HERUM, VAN NERUM and VAN ERUM).

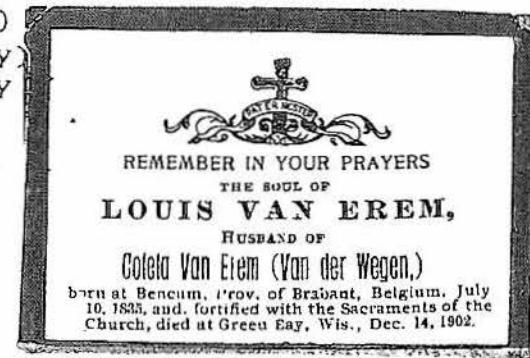
Henry Van Erem (b. 1805) and his wife, Josephine (b. 1809), brought their family from St. Joris-Weert, Province of Brabant, to America in September 1856. Henry, who was a carpenter, bought acreage from Peter Faenger next to the Finger Road School. Their children were:

William (b. 1834) married Hannah \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1840) and had a son, William (b. 1855).



THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN EREM FAMILY.

- Louis (b. 10 Jul 1835 d. 14 Dec 1902) (see Mass Card) married Coletta (Mary) Vander Wegen (b. 8 Mar 1839 d. 26 May 1927). Their nine children were:
- (1) Henry (b. 1860).
  - (2) Jean Baptiste (b. 7 Jan 1862) married Harriet \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Jul 1865) and had these children: Nettie (b. Mar 1887); Louis (b. Apr 1890); Frank (b. Jun 1895); and Pauline (b. Nov 1897).
  - (3) Andrew (see next paragraph).
  - (4) Tonette (b. 1866) married Joseph De Greef.
  - (5) Constant (b. 1869) married Eliza Tilkens on 19 Oct 1889.
  - (6) William (b. 4 Jul 1871 d. 1940) married Angeline De Kelver (b. 9 Apr 1876 d. 25 Feb 1912) and had a daughter, Agnes (b. Aug 1899 d. 1935).
  - (7) Theresa (the first) (b. 16 May 1881 d. 24 Apr 1889).
  - (8) Theresa (the second) (b. Nov 1890 d. 1958) married Philip Haezart.
  - (9) Natalia (b. 1892) married Edward Lawler and lived in the Duck Creek area.



Andrew Van Erem (b. 17 Nov 1863 d. 10 Aug 1942), the third son of Louis (above), married Constance (Estella) Vander Perren (b. 17 Sep 1873 d. 22 Dec 1953), the daughter of Jacob Vander Perren and Isabella Vannieuwenhoven. They lived in the Duck Creek area and had these children:

- Harry (b. 11 Mar 1894 died young).
- Raymond died young.
- Alphonse (b. 5 Dec 1896 d. 19 May 1982) married Minnie Rupp.
- Isabel (b. 15 Apr 1904 d. 26 Jun 1965) married Henry Eagleson.
- Elizabeth (b. 29 Sep 1905) married Floyd Tonnon (b. 15 Mar 1905 d. 12 Oct 1965).
- Jacob (b. 12 Jun 1908 d. 24 Oct 1981) married Hazel Bernetzke.
- Lucille (a twin) (b. 20 Aug 1911) married Glen Shumaker.
- Austin (a twin) (b. 20 Aug 1911) married Margaret Hussin (born 1913).
- Louis (b. 9 Oct 1912) married Helen Malloy (b. 10 Jun 1910).
- Rosella (b. 30 Nov 1916) married Milton Sorenson (b. 23 Dec 1913 d. 24 Apr 1982).

We thank Mrs. Milton (Rosella) Sorenson and Mrs. Austin (Margaret) Van Erem for information on the Andrew Van Erem family.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN ERMEN FAMILY.

VAN ERMEN

The Van Ermens (Van Herman) family came from St. Joris-Weert, Province of Brabant. Anna Catherine Van Ermens (b. 1820 d. 1896), with her husband, William Coppens, and a group of relatives came from Antwerp to the U.S. on board the CATHERINE AUGUSTA, arriving in New York on 29 Jul 1854. On 3 Nov 1854, Anna Catherine Van Erem (nee Coppens) bought three hundred and fifteen acres in the middle of Humboldt at seventy-five cents per acre; this is where the Coppens, Van Ermens and other families settled.

Jean Baptiste Van Ermens (b. 1798) and his wife, Anna Schroeders (b. 1799), brought their family to America on the GRAHAM POLLY, landing at New York on 6 Sep 1856. Neither Jean Baptiste or Anna are listed in the 1860 census. Their children were:

Philippina (b. 1834).

Philippe (b. 1835). He may have married Maria Vanden Bergh (b. 1829), who came over on the same crossing.

Louis (b. 1837) married Joanna Peters (b. 1838 d. 1876). Their seven children were:

- (1) Frank (b. 1864) and his brother were both married to the same woman - at different times. No children.
- (2) William (b. May 1866) married Theodora Hoffmans (b. Jun 1870) and had these children: Louis (b. Apr 1894); Mary A. (b. Jan 1897).
- (3) Theresa (b. 28 Feb 1863 d. 11 May 1942) married Adrianus Hoffman (b. 4 Jun 1863 d. 29 Aug 1942) and had these children: Antoinette (b. 28 Jan 1893 d. 27 Aug 1918) married Harry Robinson; Louis (b. 31 Dec 1894 d. 4 Aug 1877); Anna Marie (b. 16 Mar 1899 d. 12 Mar 1978) married Anthony Wells; Elizabeth (b. 28 Sep 1908) married Walter Remick.
- (4) Philipina (b. 1870) married Henry Vanden Bush and had these children: Fred, James, Joseph and Henry.
- (5) Felix (the first) (b. 5 Apr 1871).
- (6) Felix (the second) (b. 1874).
- (7) Mary (b. 1875).

Anna Maria (b. 1840).

William (b. May 1844) married Joanna Adriaens (b. 1850 at Overijse, Brabant Province), who emigrated in 1861. Their children were: Auralina married Louis Collart; Theresa (b. Jan 1877); Philip (b. Dec 1878); Nettie (b. Sep 1883); and, George (b. Jun 1890).

In 1866, another Van Ermen family came to Wisconsin. It included Jean Francois (b. 1828) and his wife and his son, Ernest (b. 1861), and his brother, Louis (b. Mar 1840). Ernest

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN ERMEN, VAN ESS FAMILIES.

and his wife, Margaret (b. 1864), and these children: Ernest (b. 1890); Joseph (b. 1893); Hazel (b. 1896); Maria (b. 1901); and, Katherine (b. 1904).

We thank Elizabeth Hoffman Remick for her help with this family history.

VAN ESS

This Flemish name is spelled VAN(N) ES(CH) in Flanders; Es means Ash tree.

Charles Vannes (Van Ess) (b. 1801) and his wife, Maria Van Thielt (b. 1800), brought their family from Valbeek, Brabant Province to America on the Gaston in 1855. They settled in the Town of Humboldt as did the Van Ess families that came later. The children of Charles and Maria Van Ess are:

Peter (b. 5 Jun 1837 d. 8 Feb 1917) married Philomene Vincent (b. 24 Dec 1836 d. 23 Jul. 1911), daughter of a neighbor, in 1856. They had ten children, some of whom are listed here:

- (1) Mary (b. Nov 1859).
- (2) Frank (b. Aug 1862) married Louise Yonkel (b. May 1866).
- (3) Fred (b. Mar 1864) d. 1952) married Minnie Horckman (b. Sep 1869 d. 1962) and had these children: Theresa (b. Mr 1889) married Frank Gillis; Lizzie (b. Dec 1890); Edward (b. Oct 1892 d. 1965); Odele (b. Nov 1894); Annie (b. Oct 1898); Minnie (b. 1902); Henry (b. 1904); and, William (b. 1908).
- (4) Peter (b. 29 May 1866).
- (5) Virginia (b. Jun 1872).
- (6) Joseph (b. Apr 1876) married Mayme Vandenboom and had these children: Donald, George, Dewey, Lawrence, Elmer, Marilyn married a Coppens, and Caroline married a Rothe.
- (7) Annie (b. Apr 1877).
- (8) John (b. Dec 1880).

Ferdinand (b. 1846) married Francois Fontaine (b. Feb 1850) of O.L. Vr. Tielt in 1869; by 1900, they had thirteen children. Some of the children were: Josephine (b. Apr 1870); Frank (b. 1872); Flora (b. 1873) married Fred Barthway; John (b. Apr 1877); Joseph (b. Feb 1879 d. 1952); Anton (b. Apr 1881); Sophia (b. May 1883); Minnie (b. Nov 1885) married Carl Christenson; Angeline (b. Mar 1888); Charles (b. Dec 1889); Alla L. (b. Sep 1891 d. 1985); Albert (b. Mar 1894); and, Mamie married Frank Cummings.

John Baptiste Vannes (b. Jun 1831) emigrated in 1855,

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN ESS, VAN EX FAMILIES.

as did his wife, Philomene Desbecks (b. Aug 1837). Their children were: Jules (b. 1857); Victor (b. 1860); Emilia (b. 1866); John Baptist (b. Feb 1869); Silas (b. Apr 1871); and, Joseph (b. 1873).

In the 1900 census, there are three Van Ess families living in the Town of Green Bay:

(1) Joseph Van Ess (b. Oct 1865) and his wife, Mary (b. Oct 1869) were married in 1889 and had these children: Gregoire (b. Oct 1891); Louis (b. Nov 1893); Julia (b. Sep 1894); Ernest (b. Jan 1898); and, Alice (b. May 1899).

(2) Ernest Vannes (b. Jun 1853) was brought to America in 1865. His wife, Virginia (b. Sep 1850), came to America in 1853. Their children were: Aurelia (b. May 1877); Willie (b. Dec 1880); Anna (b. Jan 1884); Henry (b. May 1885); Adele (b. Oct 1888); and, Justin (b. Sep 1889).

(3) Desiré Van Ness (b. Jan 1835) emigrated in 1870; his wife died soon thereafter. His son, Joseph (b. Jan 1847), and wife Mary (b. Feb 1866), had these children: Louis (b. Apr 1887); Laurie (b. Jun 1890); Desire (b. Apr 1893); Jules (b. Apr 1895); and, Rosa (b. Feb 1900).

Josephine Van Ess (b. Apr 1829 d. Dec 1900) married Hubert Nioule in Belgium; they emigrated in 1858 and lived in the Duck Creek area. Her brother, Joseph Van Ess (b. Apr 1830 d. 17 Feb 1904) lived with them.

William Van Ess and his wife, Catherina Vandezande, emigrated from Oud-Heverlee, Province of Brabant, to the U.S. in 1907, but returned to Belgium in 1914.

## VAN EX

The original spelling of this name was VANNECK or VONCKX.

Leander Van Ex (Vanix) (b. 1820 d. 22 Jan 1903) and his wife, Florence Coppersmith (b. 1820 d. 1895), brought his sister, Barbara (b. 1822 d. 1891), and their three children to America with them on board the ship, Francis Cutting; a voyage lasting from 15 May to 9 June 1856. The family settled in the Duck Creek area where they had a grocery store. Their children were: Clementine (b. 1848); Rosalie (b. 1851 d. 1835); Julia (b. 1845 d. 1869); Natalia (b. 28 Jun 1856 d. 1928) married Henry Prince; Margaret (b. 1859).

When Anna Voncks died in Oud-Heverlee in 1866, her husband, William Basteyns, brought their family to Duck Creek.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN EX, VAN EYCK FAMILIES.

Joseph Van Ex (b. 1835) came to America in 1870.

In 1900, there was an Anton Van Ex running a saloon in the Town of Scott. He was born in Wisconsin in Feb 1867; his wife, Minnie (b. Nov 1880), and their daughters, Laura (b. Mar 1898) and Esther (b. Apr 1899), are listed in th 1900 census.

Peter Vannix (b. 1860) was a harness-maker in the City of De Pere in 1900. He emigrated in 1885. His wife, Mary (b. Dec 1869), emigrated in 1882. Their children were: Cecilia (b. Jan 1889); Henry (b. Apr 1891); and, Angeline (b. Sep 1899).

### VAN EYCK

The first Van Eycks to emigrate appear to be Barbara Van Eyck (b. 1823) and Joanna Van Eyck (b. 1832), who arrived in New York aboard the J.H. Elliott on 31 Jul 1856. Joanna later married Francis Verdoode who came over on the same crossing.

Anton Van Eyck and his wife, Clara Verbiest, came to the U.S. with their son, Jan, from Huldenberg, Brabant Province, to the Town of Bellevue in 1861. Jan (b. Mar 1836) married Anna Maria Smits (b. Apr 1849) of St. Agathe Rode, Brabant Province, in 1869. Their children were:

Wilhelmina (b. 2 Jan 1877 d. 22 Mar 1907) married Peter Minton (see Mass Card).

Paulina (b. Oct 1878) married Henry De Starka.

Frank (b. Aug 1881).

Philip (b. Apr 1883).

Louis (b. May 1890).

Alphonse (b. Aug 1894).



born at Bellevue, Wis., January 2, 1877, and  
after timely receiving the last Sacraments  
died at St. Vincent's Hospital, Green Bay,  
Wis., March 22, 1907.

I felt sick and there was none that could  
help me. Job, vii, 2.

Frank Van Eyck (b. May 1835) and his wife, Joanna M. (b. Feb 1840), both emigrated in 1863 and settled in the Town of Bellevue. Some of their twelve children were: Caroline (b. 1866 d. 1948) married Henry Lathour; John (b. Feb 1867) and his wife, Dora (b. Feb 1870) had at least two children - Martin and Francis; Henry (b. 1868); Rosalie (b. 1869); Lambert (b. 1870); Anton (b. Sep 1872) married Angelina Van Ven Rooy; Angelica (b. Jun 1874); Peter (b. Aug 1875); Adolph (b. Jun 1878); Mary (b. 1879); Theodore (b. Jun 1881) married Emma \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1888); and, Cornelius (b. Apr 1883).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN FRACHEN, VAN GESAL, VAN GHEEM,  
VAN HACKE, VAN HECK FAMILIES.

### VAN FRACHEN

Henry Van Frachen (b. 1852) emigrated in 1882. His wife, Mary (b. 1856), came to Wisconsin in 1859. Their children include: Lillian (b. 1890); William (b. 1893); and Joseph (b. 1884).

### VAN GESAL

Theophile Van Gesal (b. 1866) came to Wisconsin in August 1890.

### VAN GHEEM

Sylvester Van Gheem (b. 8 Jun 1825 at Kieldrecht, Belgium) and his second wife, Virginia Lokermans (b. 20 Nov 1833 at Verrebroek), came to America with their family in 1883 and settled in De Pere. Their children were:

Louis (b. 12 Jul 1864 at Kallo) married Louise Mermuys (b. 14 Jul 1874) and had nine children: Virginia (b. 1893); Cecilia (b. 1894); Edmund (b. 1896); Henry (b. 1897); Frank (b. 1900); Elizabeth (b. 1902); Sylvester (b. 1908); Rosella (b. 1910); and, Norbert (b. 1914).

Seraphinus (b. 30 Aug 1866 at Kallo) married Mary Vander Kamp Bilding (b. 1873) and had one child, Raymond (b. 1910).

Theophile (b. 4 Feb 1871 at Kallo) married Gertrude Roffers (b. 16 Apr 1879) and had nine children: Henrietta (b. 1903); Frances (b. 1904); Sister Celene (Virginia) (b. 1907); Clare (b. 1908); Raphael (b. 1911); Leo (b. 1912); Ethel (b. 1914); Adolph (b. 1916); and Clara (b. 1918).

Edmund (b. 26 Feb 1876 at Kallo) married Honorina Apers (b. 10 Aug 1876) in Belgium and had two girls: Marie (b. 1902) and Elsie (b. 1904).

We thank Dorothy Van Gheem Hoffman of Menasha, Wisconsin for providing this family history.

### VAN HACKE

Charles Van Hacke married Barbara Onglscat. Their first son, Leonard, was born in 1853.

### VAN HECK

Joseph (b. 1835) and Cornelius (b. 1838) Van Heck worked in a Duck Creek sawmill in 1870.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN HAEMEL, VAN HOOF FAMILIES.

VAN HAEMEL

Adolph Van Haemel (b. Oct 1840) came to the U.S. in 1855 and settled in the Town of Green Bay. He married his wife, Louisa (b. Sep 1848), in 1868, and had four children: Louis (born Jun 1869); Eugene (b. Jun 1872); Jules (b. 1878); Victoria (b. Jul 1874) married Joseph Gauthier (b. May 1867).

VAN HOOF

Suzanna Van Hof (b. 1800) lost her husband, Joannes Quatresols in 1840 and emigrated in 1854 with her daughter, Elizabeth Quatresols, wife of John Vander Heyden of Oud-Heverlee.

Maria Van Hof (b. 1814) married Jean Baptiste Rodaer in Oud-Heverlee; they came to America in September 1856.

Ferdinand and Julius Van Hoof were living in the Town of Preble in the 1870s. Their son, John (b. 14 Apr 1877) was born there.

Francois Van Hoof (b. 29 May 1855 at Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province) and his wife, Anna Maria Van Vlasselaer (b. 29 Mar 1858) left Oud-Heverlee on 8 Jul 1881 with their two children, Pauline (b. 19 May 1878) and Jan Frans (b. 9 Mar 1880).

Francois Van Hoof (b. Apr 1842 d. 1923) was married (1) to Elizabeth Nioul (b. 1864 d. circa 1890); they lived in Antwerp and had three children:

Albert (b. Jun 1884).

Mary (b. 15 Sep 1888) married John Rentmeester (b. 1888).

Sophie (b. 15 Oct 1891) married John Walters.

Francois (Frank) married, as his second wife, Emilia Schroeders (b. Feb 1866 d. 6 Aug 1953); they emigrated in early 1893. Their children were:

John (b. 2 Apr 1893 in New York d. 1974) married Catherine Updembelder.

Josephine (b. May 1894) married James Petticrew.

William (b. May 1895 d. 21 Jan 1958) married Alvira Roskam (b. 22 Jun 1904 d. 13 Jun 1982), daughter of Desiré Roskam and Angelina Adriaens.

Lucy (b. Jun 1898) married Bruce Whiteside.

Anna (b. Mar 1900 died young).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN HOOF, VAN HORTROY, VAN HOSMAL,  
VAN HUNTER, VAN KAUWENBERG FAMILIES.

Henry (b. 25 Jan 1903 d. 27 Dec 1927) married Frances Wallenfang.

Francis Van Hoof must have had a wife before Elizabeth Nioul because he had a son, Alphonse (b. Jan 1868), who emigrated with him in 1893. Alphonse and his wife, Philipina (b. Jun 1863), and their children listed in the 1900 census are: Step-son, Edward (b. Sep 1888); Frank (b. Jan 1896); and, Josephine (b. Nov 1898).

William Van Hoof (b. 1889) emigrated in 1905; his wife, Leontine was born in 1888. Their first son was named Norris.

We thank Frances Wallenfang Van Hoof for her help with the Van Hoof history.

#### VAN HORTROY

Hubert Vanhortroy (b. 1865) came to Wisconsin in June 1882.

#### VAN HOSMAL

Eugene Van Hosmal was in the Union Army and died in the Civil War.

#### VAN HUNTER

There was a Van Hunter family living in Duck Creek. Catherine Sinclair Vanderperren (b. 20 Apr 1898 d. 30 Dec 1980) married a Van Hunter.

#### VAN KAUWENBERG

The Van Kauwenbergs came to Wisconsin in 1886. Frederick Van Kauwenberg and his wife, Maria Deprey, brought four children:

Rosalia married a Baumier.

Peter (b. 1875) and his wife, Nettie (b. 1876), had these children: Peter (b. 1899); Lizzie (b. 1900); John (b. 1902); Ethel (b. 1905); Fred (b. 1908); Dorothy (b. 1909); and Howard (b. 1910).

Ursula.

Joseph (b. 1883 d. 2 Jan 1967) married Margaret De Witt (b. 1886); their first two children were: Fred (b. 1908) and Johanna (b. 1909).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN KOOG, VAN LANDEN, VANLANDGHEM,  
VAN LANEN, VAN LANGENDONCK FAMILIES.

### VAN KOOG

John Van Koog (b. 1812) and his wife, Mary (b. 1813), brought one child when they emigrated in 1855 and settled in the Duck Creek area. Their children were: Tilly Theresa (b. 1854); Jerard (b. 1857); and, Herman (b. 1859).

### VAN LANDEN

John Van Landen (b. Apr 1868) was brought to this country as a child in 1870. His wife, Adele (b. Oct 1871), bore him a son, Edward (b. Jan 1892).

### VANLANDGHEM

Louis (Peter) Vanlandghem (b. 1867) emigrated in 1899. He and his wife, Hattie (b. 1881), had these children: Fred (b. 1908) and Lontina (b. 1910).

### VAN LANEN

Most of the Van Lanens (Van Laanen) were Hollanders, but some were Flemish, probably cousins, who were among the early Flemish to arrive in the Green Bay area. For instance, Peter Van Laanen (b. 1817 in Belgium) came to Green Bay in October 1849.

The Hollander and Flemish Van Lanens settled in the Town of Scott, near Bay Settlement, and later more moved to the Town of Preble. Hugh Van Lanen, son of Jean Van laanen and Josephine Lienne, married Henrietta De Leers on 4 March 1895.

Albert Van Lanen (b. 1863) and his wife, Hattie (b. 1865), were a Flemish couple who migrated from Holland in 1882. Their children were: Anna (b. 1889); William (b. 9 Jul 1892 died 25 May 1977) married (1) Alvina Detrie (b. 1896 d. 16 Jul 1935), and (2) Nellie Buerschinger Georgia (b. 9 Feb 1894 d. 3 Sep 1980); Mary (b. 1894); Bertha (b. 1896); Minnie (b. 1898); Albert (b. 1899) married Lucy Wallenfang; Hattie (b. 1903); Nellie (b. 1905); Charles (b. 1907) married Mabel Borne; and, Elizabeth (b. 1909).

### VAN LANGENDONCK

John Van Langendonk (b. Sep 1852) and his wife, Elizabeth

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN LANGENDONCK, VAN LOO, VAN LORINO,  
VAN MEERBEEK FAMILIES.

(b. Nov 1853) were married in 1878 and emigrated in 1887. They settled in the Town of Howard. Their children were: Josephine (b. Oct 1879); Stephanie (b. Feb 1882); Emil (b. Jun 1885); William (b. Jul 1887); Matilda (b. Jan 1889) married Octavius Wery (b. 1880); Henry (b. Sep 1891); Frank (b. Jul 1893); and, Joseph (b. Aug 1895).

### VAN LOO

John Baptiste Van Loo (b. 1815) and his wife, Catherine (b. 1882), brought their family to the U.S. in the mid-1850s. In 1870, they were living in the City of Green Bay with their children: Joseph (b. 1857); and Nettie (b. 1861). In 1880, the children had left and the older couple were living near Catherine's relatives in the Town of Howard.

Jacob Van Loo (b. 1826 in Belgium) and his wife, Joannah (b. 1826 in Holland), settled in the Town of Holland before 1858. Their children were: August (b. 1858); Joseph (b. 1860); Anton (b. 1862); Francis (b. 1864); and, Jonas (b. 1866).

### VAN LORINO

Joseph Van Lorino (b. 1825) and his wife, Mary (b. 1828), brought their family to America during the Civil War period and bought an eighty-acre farm in the Town of Bellevue. Their children were: Mary (b. 1856); Nettie (b. 1859); John Baptist (b. 1862); Louisa (b. 1867); and, Anna (b. 1869).

### VAN MEERBEEK

The first Van Meerbeeks to emigrate were children of John Van Meerbeek and Petronella Schroeders. Four arrived in 1881: Henry (b. 1854) married Josephine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1852); Francis (b. 15 Sep 1861 d. 27 Apr 1896) came to the U.S. in August 1887 and married Elizabeth Van Arck; Catherine married Peter Callewaerts - the records also show a Catherine married to Joseph Vande Verre; Amelia (b. 1 Feb 1862 d. 24 Nov 1945) married Fred Van Pee (Van Pay).

Victor Van Meerbeek (b. Jan 1867) and his brother, Felix (b. Dec 1866), both came from Belgium to the Town of Howard in April 1889. In 1893, Henry married Josephine \_\_\_\_\_ (b. Jul 1854) who had just arrived in the U.S. accompanied by August Van Meerbeek (b. Apr 1882) and his mother, Leona (b. 1858). August Van Meerbeek married Sophie Kropp (b. Mar 1884), daughter of Henry Kropp and

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN MEERBEEK, VAN MEIGHEM, VAN MELDERT, VAN MORMAN, VAN MUGAN, VAN MULDEN, VANNIEUWENHOVEN FAMILIES.

Emelia Schroeders.

Mary Van Meerbeek (b. Dec 1878) married Victor Mommaerts.

VAN MEIGHEM

Edward Van Meighem (b. 1861) came to Marinette County in April 1887.

VAN MELDERT

A Van Meldert came to Wisconsin in 1920 from Brabant.

VAN MORMAN

Joseph Van Morman (b. 1818) and his wife brought three children to America in the 1850s; they settled in De Pere. In 1870, there were six children, the first three born in Belgium were: Camillia (b. 1849); Eugene (b. 1851); and, Ernest (b. 1854). We do not have a first name for Joseph Van Morman's wife, she was born about 1820.

VAN MUGAN

Charles Van Mugan (b. 1865) came to Wisconsin in 1892.

VAN MULDEN

Guillaume Van Mulden married Joanna Goosens and served in the Union Army. Their children were: Henry (b. 1857); and, Joseph (b. 1859).

VANNIEUWENHOVEN

John Baptiste Vannieuwenhoven (b. 1818) and his wife, Victoria Vanden Busch (b. 1824), left St. Joris-Weert, Brabant Province, and sailed to America on the ship, Catherina Augusta, arriving in New York on 29 Jul 1854. The family settled on a farm in the Town of Humboldt. Three of their four children were: Louis (b. 1853) married Theodora De Noyen on 7 May 1875; Elizabeth married James Vande Veere; Alphonse (b. Sep 1865) married Mary Louise Gegere (b. Apr 1876).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VANNIEUWENHOVEN FAMILY.

Some of John Baptiste's relatives also emigrated at about the same time. Barbara Vannieuwenhoven (b. 21 Feb 1844 d. 24 Jul 1926) came to America with her husband, Jacob Vander Perren. Maria Theresa married Peter Doms and they sailed to America on the Gaston, landing in July 1855. Maria Philipina (b. Jul 1825) came to America with her husband, Frank Nutals.

John Vannieuwenhoven (b. Jun 1847) married Catherina Vander Linden (b. May 1845) in 1869 and they departed for America in 1881. Their children were:

Frank (b. 16 Oct 1867 d. 4 Oct 1962) married Elizabeth Roskom (b. 16 Jan 1880 d. 17 Nov 1968) and had these children: Nettie (b. 24 Feb 1899 d. 12 Oct 1982) married Frank Wesoloski; John (b. 26 Feb 1900 d. 1977) married Evelyn Williquette; William; Mary; Edward; Joseph; and Tilly.

Frederick (b. Mar 1876).

William (b. Apr 1877) married Louisa Swaerts (b. 1890) and had a son, Henry (b. 1909).

Estella (b. Oct 1882) married William Rupp.

Elizabeth (b. Nov 1887).

Rosa (b. Jan 1889 d. 1 Jun 1979) married Paul Wygralak.

Felix Vannieuwenhoven (b. Aug 1862) married Antonette Morrens (b. Oct 1861). They left for America the same year that they were married, 1885. Their children listed in the 1900 census were: Sophie (b. Nov 1886); Mary (b. Mar 1889); Louis (b. Feb 1891); Charles (b. Apr 1893).

Theresa Vannieuwenhoven, the widow of John Delvoye, left St. Joris-Weert for America with her two children on 23 Jan 1888.

Emile Vannieuwenhoven (b. 1 Aug 1878 at St. Joris-Weert) and his wife, Anna Catherine Vreugde (b. 12 Nov 1884), left St. Joris-Weert for America on 13 Feb 1901. Emil's second wife, Anastasia (b. 1885), emigrated in 1906; their children were: Frank (b. 1907); Joseph (b. 1909); Wilmer, Herman and Adeline. Frank and Joseph went back to Belgium in 1922 with \$33,000.00 that the family had earned to retire there. The money was lost in the post-WWI exchange-rate drop.

Frank Vannieuwenhoven (b. 1869) and his wife, Celia (b. 1870), also emigrated in 1901. Their children were: Fred (b. 1892 d. 7 May 1978) married Rose Heyet; Stella; Rosa; Victor; Lucy; and Antonia.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN PAY FAMILY.

VAN PAY

The Flemish spelling of this name is VAN PEE.

The first member of this family to arrive in Wisconsin, was Petrus Van Pee (b. 1831), who came on board the Pyramid with his wife, Jannette (b. 1839), and landed at New York on 25 Jul 1856. They settled at Red River and had a daughter, Harriet (b. 1861).

Ferdinand Van Pee married Frances Fontaine. Two of their daughters were: Sara (b. 14 Feb 1869) and Josephine (b. 1870).

Fred Van Pee (b. 8 Aug 1862 d. 16 Nov 1935) came to America in 1882 and married Emelia Van Meerbeek (b. 1 Feb 1863 d. 24 Nov 1945). They lived in the Town of Preble and had these children:

Julia (Jennie) (b. 1 Jun 1886 d. 24 Aug 1980) married John Adriaens (b. 5 Mar 1890 d. 12 Jun 1953).

Henry (Shorty) (b. 30 Dec 1888 d. 27 Jan 1954) married Verna Warpinski (b. 24 Oct 1893 d. 15 Oct 1985). Their children were: Joseph, Walter, Marie, Edwin and Elmer.

Constant (b. 16 Jan 1891 d. 15 Jun 1978) married Josephine Vanden Heuvel (b. 6 Sep 1894 d. 15 Nov 1974).

Victor (b. 5 Oct 1893 d. 21 May 1962) married Mary Vander Steen (b. 4 Jan 1899 d. 25 Nov 1968).

Mary (b. 30 Jan 1896 d. 2 Jun 1972) married Desiré Verstoppen (b. 19 Nov 1893 d. 10 Feb 1969).

Willie (b. 1897 d. 1904).

Matilda (b. 7 Nov 1900) married Frank Francois (b. 16 Oct 1899 d. 31 Dec 1968).

Irene (b. 1904 d. 19 Jul 1924).

Evelyn (b. 22 Sep 1907) married Harry Schaut (b. 28 Feb 1907).

William Van Pay (b. Nov 1847) and his wife, Mary (b. May 1849), came to the Town of Bellevue from Belgium in 1886. In the 1910 census some members of this family said that they were a Flemish family from Germany. Their children were:

Henry (b. Oct 1878) and his wife, Jennie (b. 1877), had these children: Marie (b. 1904); Walter (b. 1906); Elmer (b. 1908).

Louis (b. Dec 1881) and his wife, Clemence (b. 1881), had a daughter, Lorraine (b. Apr 1909).

Charles (b. Sep 1886).

Michael (b. Jun 1891 d. 1941) married Christina De Greef (b. 1890 d. 1968).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN PAY, VAN REMORTEL, VAN ROY FAMILIES.

Louisa (b. Apr 1891).

John (b. Oct 1894 d. 1941) married Pauline \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1893 died 1963).

The information on the Van Pay history was provided by Mrs. Gordon (Joyce) Weyenberg, daughter of Desiré Verstoppen and Mary Van Pee.

### VAN REMORTEL

The Flemish spelling of this name is VAN REMORTEL.

Peter Van Remortel (b. Dec 1844) and his wife, Mary (b. May 1850), were married in Belgium in 1875 and brought their family to America in 1894. They had a farm in De Pere Township. Their first two sons led the way to the U.S. in 1891. The children in the family were:

Joseph (b. Mar 1875) married Mary Van Dyke (b. 1879) - their children were: Irene (b. 1903); Joanna (b. 1904); Lena (b. 1905); Leo (b. 1906); Celia (b. 1908); Joseph (b. 1909); Genevieve (b. 18 Feb 1915 d. 3 Jul 1988) married Frank Matzke; George; and Aloysius.

Fred (b. Feb 1876).

Charley (b. Dec 1879) and his wife Rosa (b. 1882) had these children: Peter (b. 1904); Myrtle (b. 1905); Frances (b. 1907); and Sylvester (b. 1909).

Sarah (b. Apr 1882).

Honorine (b. Mar 1885).

August (b. Jul 1887).

Philomene (b. Jun 1892).

### VAN ROY

This family history is incomplete because we couldn't separate the Hollanders from the Flemish. The name was also spelled VAN VEN ROOY(E). There were Flemish families in the Town of Preble and in the Town of Howard.

John Van Roy and his wife, Mary Tilly (b. 26 Sep 1813 d. 25 Dec 1898) are buried in the Duck Creek cemetery.

One Flemish family that came from Holland is that of

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN ROY, VAN SAVELBERGH, VAN SCOLIN,  
VANSECAULENDT, VAN SEVERN, VAN SUEEM FAMILIES.

Martin Van Roy (b. 19 May 1862 d. 4 Apr 1952) and his wife, Elizabeth (b. 7 Jun 1862 d. 22 May 1943) had these children: Peter (b. 15 Mar 1887 d. 25 Dec 1952) married Clara Ullmer and had these children - Howard, Richard, Karl, Sister M. Renata O.S.F.; Edward b. 1889; Elvie (b. 1891); Alfred (born 1894); Harry (b. 1896); Alice (b. 1899) became Sister Seraphia, O.S.F.; Walter (b. 1901); Mabel (b. 1903); and, Valeria (b. 1907).

#### VAN SAVELBERGH

Franciscus Van Savelbergh (b. 1865) came to Wisconsin in October 1891.

#### VAN SCOLIN

Charles Van Scolin (b. Jun 1863 in Belgium) came to Wisconsin in 1885, where he worked in construction as a mason in the City of Green Bay. He married his wife, Angeline (b. Aug 1870), in 1888. In 1900, these children are listed in the census: Zella (b. 1889) and Emily (b. May 1899).

#### VANSECAULENDT

Charles Vansecaulendt (b. 1863) came to Wisconsin in 1887.

#### VAN SEVERN

Peter Van Severn (b. Jun 1856 at Damme, Belgium) came to America around 1880 with his mother, Joanna Timmermans Mermuys. He married Romanie Haesebroek (b. 6 Feb 1864 at Feistaauzee, Belgium) and had four children: Harry (b. 3 Apr 1884); Louis (b. 26 Jun 1886); Jennie (b. 16 Jun 1889); and, Peter (b. 2 Apr 1891).

#### VAN SUEEM

This name may have been VAN SOEN originally.

Louis Van Sueem (b. Jul 1854) moved to the U.S. in 1883 and purchased a farm in the Town of Rockland. In 1892, he married Louise Masinings (b. 1874 in Belgium) who also came to the U.S. in 1883. Their children listed in the 1900 census were: Virginia

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN SUEEM, VAN VLASSELAER, VAN WEDDINGEN FAMILIES.

b. Feb 1893); Cecilia (b. Aug 1894); Edmond (b. Jul 1896); Harry (b. Sep 1897); and, Francis (b. Mar 1900). Louisa's mother, Johanna Masinings (b. Feb 1831), lived with them and was herself the mother of thirteen children.

### VAN VLASSELAER

Joanna Catherine Van Vlasselaer (b. 1815 at Oud-Heverlee) was the second wife of Jean Francois Rentmeesters. She died in the Fall of 1891 of "old age."

Her sister, Elizabeth A. (b. 26 Apr 1816 at Oud-Heverlee), was married (1) to John Francis Derwae and emigrated with him in 1855. She married (2) Joseph Rondou. Elizabeth died 31 Jan 1888.

Francis Van Vlasselaer (b. 15 Feb 1844 at Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province) and his wife, Anna Maria Van Hoof (b. 2 Aug 1847 at Oud-Heverlee), departed from Antwerp on 5 Nov 1868 and lived on a farm in the Town of Preble after their arrival in the U.S. Their son, Victor, lived on the farm with them.

Jean Philippe Van Vlasselaer (b. 12 May 1850 at Oud-Heverlee) was the son of Denis Van Vlasselaer and Ann De Lang. He left Antwerp on 10 Apr 1872. He returned to Belgium during the 1881-1884 time period.

Another Jean Philippe Van Vlasselaer, the son of Jean Baptiste Van Vlasselaer and Elizabeth Vander Veken (b. 16 Apr 1853 at Oud-Heverlee) came to America with his sister, Anna Maria, and her husband, Francois Van Hoof, leaving Belgium on 8 Jul 1881.

In 1883, Angeline Van Vlasselaer (b. 29 Apr 1816 at Oud-Heverlee) came to America to be with her daughter, Anna Elizabeth Derwae.

### VAN WEDDINGEN

Emil Van Weddingen (b. 28 Dec 1884 at St. Joris-Weert) arrived in the U.S. on 11 Feb 1907. He married Julia Nockerts (b. 4 Aug 1893).

Maria Van Weddingen came to the U.S. in 1908 as the wife of Philip Vander Linden.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VAN WEYENBERGH, VARNERIS, VELTIS,  
VERBOOMEN; VERBORT FAMILIES.

### VAN WEYENBERGH

John Van Weyenberg (b. 1865) came to Wisconsin in October 1887.

### VAN VARNERIS

Antoine Varneris (b. May 1845) was brought to the Town of Scott in 1855. His wife, Ferdinante (b. Mar 1856 in Wisconsin), and he were married in 1875. Their children were: Charles (b. Jan 1881); Mary (b. Jan 1883); Louise (b. May 1886); Matilda (b. Mar 1889); and, George (b. Mar 1892).

### VELTIS

John Veltis (b. Dec 1829) came from Belgium in 1856. His wife, Mary (b. Jun 1842), emigrated in 1857. They lived in the City of De Pere with their five children. Their son, Albert (b. Jul 1861), and his wife, Catherine (b. May 1865), had these children: Mary (b. Jun 1886) married Ernest Neumann; Louisa (b. Jul 1888); Frank (b. Apr 1892); Eleanor (b. 1904); and, Philip (b. 1908).

### VERBOOMEN

Peter Verboomen (b. 30 Sep 1799 d. 30 Apr 1883) of Blanden in Brabant Province, married Anna Maria Meulemans (b. 12 Sep 1805 d. 21 Jul 1884) of nearby Bierbeek. They were married in 1829 and came to America in 1856, settling in Wrightstown near her relatives. Their children were: Francis (b. 15 Feb 1834) had a saloon in old Fort Howard; Anton (b. 17 Mr 1838) married Melanie Vander Eycken; Michael (b. 18 Oct 1840) married Maria Anna Meulemans; Rosalie (b. 29 May 1849) married Louis Meulemans; and, their first-born, Barbara (b. 6 Oct 1831 at Blanden), married William Meulemans.

Anton Verboomen (b. Dec 1848) and his wife, Melanie (b. 1848), came to the U.S. in 1865. He lived on a farm in Wrightstown Township. His children were: Elizabeth (b. Mar 1873); George (b. Nov 1875); Andrew (b. May 1880); Frank (b. Nov 1883); Rosa (b. Apr 1887); and, John (b. Nov 1889).

### VERBORT

Peter Verbort (b. 1818) and his wife, Anna (b. 1830),

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERBORT, VERCAUTEREN, VERDOOD FAMILIES.

lived on a farm in the Town of Humboldt in 1880. Whether he was related to the Hollander priest, Father Verboort, who led a colony to Oregon a few years later, is not known. The Verbort children listed in 1880 were: Joanna (b. 1853); Tracy (b. 1858); and, Louisa (b. 1866).

### VERCAUTEREN

Joseph Vercauteren (b. 1843) and his wife, Frances (b. 1846), brought their family to America in 1878. In 1900, John Vercauteren (b. Jun 1873) lived on a farm in Ashwaubenon with his wife, Nellie (b. Sep 1876), and these children: Josephine (b. Mar 1898); Joanna (b. Dec 1899); Edward (b. 1902); Leo (b. 1904); Alice (b. 1906); and, Margaret (b. 1908).

Emil Vercauteren (b. Sep 1875) lived in the Town of Lawrence with his wife, Gertrude (b. Oct 1877). In 1900, Emil worked in a papermill.

August Vercauteren (b. 1877 d. 1959) was married to Minnie Verhaagh of the Town of Preble. They had a farm in Ashwau-benon.

### VERDOOD

Pronounced Verdoot in Flemish and sometimes spelled that way.

Henry Verdoood (b. 1805) came from Oudergem and married Rosina Thielmans (b. 1805) from Wezembeek. Both of these places are on the outskirts of Brussels. The Verdooods sailed for America with their six children on the Graham Polly, landing at New York on 6 Sep 1856. The family bought a farm in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

Francis (b. May 1830 d. 11 Feb 1904) married Joanna Van Eyck (b. Sep 1831). Some of their children were:

- (1) Henry (b. 1858) married Lydia Thompson (b. 1868) and had these children: Eddie (b. 1892); Mary (b. 1893); Henry Jr. (b. 1896); Lizzie (b. 1902); and, Agnes (b. 1908).
- (2) Elizabeth (b. 1860).
- (3) Cornelius (b. 1862).
- (4) Melanie (b. 1864).
- (5) Charles (b. 1866) and his wife, Rosa (b. 1886), had a son, Floyd (b. 1904).
- (6) Korentine (b. 1868).
- (7) Mary (b. 1872).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERDOOD, VEREYTH, VERGANSEN, VERHAGEN FAMILIES.

(8) Andrew (b. 1878) and his wife, Matilda (b. 1881) had these children: Verna (b. 1905) and Elmer (b. 1910).

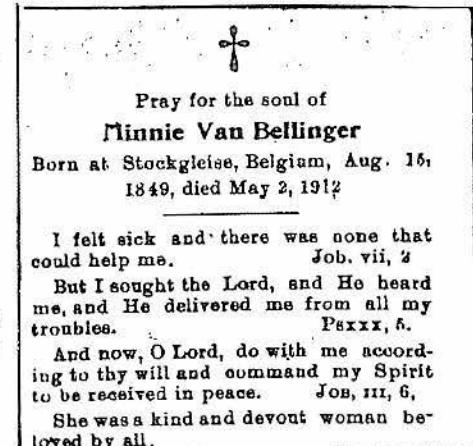
Theresa (b. 1835).

Philip (b. Jun 1845) married Antonia Mary Wauters (b. Feb 1851). In 1900, eight of their fourteen children were living. Some of their children were: Willie (b. Mar 1880); Fannie (b. Feb 1885); Lucy (b. Jun 1888); and, Annie (b. Aug 1892).

Elizabeth (b. 15 Apr 1847 d. 15 Apr 1920) married Peter Vervoren in 1867; they lived in the Town of Howard where thirteen of their fifteen children were living in 1900.

Melanie (Minnie-b. 16 Aug 1849 d. 2 May 1912) (see Mass Card) married Alphonse Van Bellinger and had twenty-one children. (See Van Bellinger family sketch.)

Rosalia (b. Nov 1853 d. Jun 1921) married Peter Joseph Watermolen (b. 1 Dec 1848 d. 27 Nov 1836) of Huldenberg, Brabant Province. In 1900, twelve of their fifteen children were still living. (See Watermolen family sketch.)



### VEREYTH

Peter Vereyth (b. Apr 1866) came to America in 1891. He settled in Wrightstown Township with his wife, Ann (b. Feb 1872), who emigrated in 1883. They were married in 1893. Their children listed in the 1900 census were: John (b. Feb 1889); Mary (b. Jul 1895); Clara (b. Sep 1896); Margaret (b. Mar 1898); and, Emil (b. Feb 1900).

### VERGANSEN

Peter Vergansen (b. 1872) emigrated in 1906 with his wife, Mary (b. 1885), and a son, Joseph (b. 1904).

### VERHAGEN

John Verhagen (Verrighen) (b. 1817) and his wife, Juliana (b. 1814), came to America with at least four children in 1855 and settled on a farm in the Town of Humboldt. Their children were:

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERHAGEN, VERHEYDEN FAMILIES.

John Baptiste (b. Jun 1940) married Ursula Bins (b. May 1843). In 1900, seven of their eleven children were living. Some of these children were: Margarita (b. 4 Nov 1869); Joseph (b. 4 Jun 1871); Lizzie (b. Jul 1878); John (b. Jul 1884); and, Lena (b. Jul 1887).

John (b. 1845 d. 18 Apr 1889) married Desiderata Theis (b. Jan 1856 d. May 1903) and had eleven children. Some of their children were: Xavier (b. 1875) and his wife, Flora (b. 1877), had these children - Arthur (b. 1875), Elizabeth (b. 1900), Elmer (b. 1905) and Mary (b. 1907); Desiré (b. Jun 1880); John Baptiste (b. Sep 1883); Joseph (b. Oct 1885); Octave (b. Apr 1888); Mary (b. Sep 1891); and, Ely (b. Apr 1897).

Augustine (b. 1846).

Mary J. (b. 1851).

Louis J. (b. 1853).

Peter Verhagen (b. 27 Dec 1879 d. 8 Jul 1946) married Josephine S. Brunette (b. 25 Jul 1893 at Duck Creek) on 30 Jun 1913. Peter's sister, Odeal Verhagen (b. 1883 d. May 1943) married Peter B. Lefever (b. 8 Jun 1884 d. 9 Oct 1963), son of William La Fever and Virginia Guns. After both Peter and Odeal died, Josephine Brunette Verhagen, Peter's widow, married Peter B. Lefever, Odeal's widower, on 22 Jan 1952.

We thank Josephine Brunette Verhagen Lafever and Betty Rioux Jerry for some of the above information.

## VERHEYDEN

This Flemish name is also spelled VERHEIDEN.

Jack Verheyden (b. 1809 d. 6 May 1965) and his wife, Josephine Koekelberg (b. 1816), brought their family from Cumplich, Brabant Province, to America in 1855, except for the oldest son, John Baptiste, who entered the port of New York in July 1856. This family settled, originally, in the Town of Bellevue. We found records of seven children.

Joseph Peter (b. 1833) married Catherine Dunks (b. 1834) in America. Their children were:

- (1) Philomene (b. 1858).
- (2) Andrew (b. 1860) had these children: Elizabeth (b. 1891); Barbara (b. 1894); Thomas (b. 1895); and William (b. 1899).
- (3) Theresa (b. 1862).
- (4) Mary (b. 1863) married Desiré Duquaine.
- (5) Anna (b. 1864).
- (6) August (b. Apr 1890).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERHEYDEN, VERHULST FAMILY.

Joseph (b. 1842) served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Amelia (b. 1845 d. 11 Jul 1868) married Eugene Renier.

Alex (b. 1849).

Desire (b. 1850).

Theresá (b. Dec 1851) married Fancis Duchateau.

Another Joseph Verheyden family emigrated in 1855; the family had a saloon in Green Bay in 1870. Joseph Verheyden was born in 1823. His wife, Josephine (b. 1817), and he had these children: Alexander (b. 1849); George (b. 1851) married Mary De Myes (b. 1848) and had these children - Emily (b. 1883) and Margaret (b. 1887); and, Mary (b. 1853).

A Matthias Verheyden family lived in Humboldt in 1870. He may have been a son of Jack Verheyden. He was born in 1841 and his wife, Celia, was born in 1845. Their children were: Frank (b. 1867) and Mary (b. 1868).

In 1886, Henry Verheyden (b. Jun 1843) and his wife, Mary J. (b. May 1953), emigrated and settled in the Town of Suamico. They had a son, Leopold (b. Jun 1876).

## VERHULST

John Baptiste Verhulst (b. 24 Jan 1821 d. 29 Aug 1901) and his wife, Mria Catherine Vander Heyden (b. 14 Feb 1820 d. 1 Nov 1913), left their home in Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, in 1854, and spent sixty-two days on a sailing-ship before landing in New York. Their children were:

Barbara (b. 1844) married Jacob Wauters (b. 16 Jun 1835).

John Baptiste (b. 1853).

Frank (b. 27 Nov 1855).

Elizabeth (b. 22 Jul 1858) married Ferdinand Quatsoe (b. 1847).

Mary Victoria (b. Apr 1860 d. 13 Dec 1933) married Charles Engels (b. 11 Mar 1842 d. 28 Oct 1912) from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province.

Another Verhulst family emigrated from Dendervelde, East Flanders, in 1870 and settled in the Town of Scott. The 1870 census lists Jacob Verhulst (b. 1808); Leon (b. 1853); Cesar (b. 1855); and, Charles (b. 1861 d. 1952) married Josephine Evrard (b. 13 Jun 1863 d. 11 Nov 1949) and had these children - Mathilda (b. 13 Jun 1881 d. 1972) married William Dessain, and, Madeline

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERHULST, VERMIER, VERSCHOOTE,  
VERSTOPPEN FAMILIES.

(b. 23 Nov 1883 d. 1961) married Mose Wery.

John Baptiste Verhulst, son of Judocus Verhulst and Barbara Bertels, married Catherine Meulemans, daughter of Anton Meulemans and Elenor Daniels on 10 May 1886 at Duck Creek.

Bernard Verhulst (b. Oct 1863) came to America in 1882 and lived in the City of De Pere.

### VERMIER

The original spelling of this Flemish name is VERMEIRE.

Eli Vermier (b. May 1847) was brought to America in 1857. In 1877, he married Julia Daische (b. Jan 1857) and had these children: Emile (b. Apr 1878); Elvina (b. Jan 1879); and, Emma (b. Apr 1882).

### VERSCHOOTE

Bernard Verschoote (b. 1848) came to Wisconsin in 1888. He lived in Marinette County with his wife, Louisa (b. 1859), and his children, Nicolas (b. 1889) and Clara (b. 1899).

### VERSTOPPEN

In Flanders, this name is spelled VERSTAPPEN.

Two Verstoppen brothers came from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, to the U.S. and settled just north of Duck Creek in the Town of Suamico.

John Francis Verstoppen (b. 2 Sep 1846) married Louisa Volkaert (b. Dec 1838). They left Oud-Heverlee in 1876, after he had tried living in South Africa for two years. Their children were: Theresa (b. 1864); Jacob (b. 1868); Lizzie (b. 1870); Charles (b. 1872); Desiré (b. 1875); Rosalie (b. 1878) married David Wouters; Peter (b. Jan 1880); Susanna (b. 16 May 1882); Mary Paulina(Clara) (b. 7 Jul 1884); and, Laura (b. Jul 1885) married George Steeno.

John Baptiste Verstoppen (b. 7 Dec 1855 d. 1929) married Philomena (Lucy) Janssens (b. 4 Nov 1857 d. 29 Mar 1942) in 1882, and departed from Antwerp on 25 Apr 1883. Their children were:

Frank (b. 1881 d. 1953) married Anna Pansch (b. 1896 d. 1973).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERSTOPPEN, VERVAEREN FAMILIES.

William - died as a baby.

Jennie (b. Oct 1884 d. 24 Jan 1940) married William Kaiser (b. 17 Jul 1874 d. 25 Dec 1966).

Susan (b. 13 Sep 1886 d. 1969) married Albert Giese (b. 22 Jul 1881 d. 8 Sep 1965).

Frank (b. 5 Sep 1888 d. 30 Mar 1953) married Anna Pansch (b. 18 Aug 1895 d. 7 Oct 1973).

Rosie (b. Mar 1890 d. 1903).

Barbara (b. 9 May 1892 d. 27 Aug 1970) married Otto Doering (b. 18 Apr 1889 d. 10 Dec 1973).

Desiré (b. 19 Nov 1893 d. 10 Feb 1969) married Mary Van Pee (b. 30 Jan 1896 d. 2 Jun 1972).

Felix (b. 21 Jun 1896 d. 11 Jan 1988) married Elsie Vander Perren (b. 6 Mar 1902 d. 17 Jun 1985).

Philip (b. Jun 1898 d. 17 Jan 1969) married Alvina Sullivan.

Laura (b. 9 Mar 1900 d. 13 Aug 1979) married Edward T. White (b. 9 Jul 1901 d. 25 Jul 1985).

Nettie (b. 2 Jul 1902) married Frank Vandenplas (b. 18 Apr 1901).

We thank Mrs. Gordon (Joyce) Weyenberg, daughter of Desire and Mary Verstoppen for this information.

### VERVAEREN

In America, this Flemish name is sometimes spelled VERVOR-EN or VERVOOREN.

Peter Vervooren (b. Jun 1830 d. 15 Jan 1902) left his home-town of Blanden, Brabant Province, in 1855 to seek his fortune in America. In 1867, he married Elizabeth Verdoood (b. Apr 1846 d. 1920) at the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Catholic Church in Preble. The family resided in the Town of Howard. Their children were:

Elizabeth (b. 1869 died young).

Henry (b. 1870) and his wife, Odile, had these children: Gladys married a Rolley; Laura married a Mc Monagle; and, Ernest.

Joanna (b. 1874).

Frank (b. Jan 1875 d. 30 Oct 1942) married Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1883 d. 1916).

John (b. Apr 1876).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VERVAEREN FAMILY.

Lucy (b. 1878) married Alphonse Duchateau.

Mary (b. 28 Feb 1879 d. 16 Aug 1954) married Joseph Louis (b. 5 Jun 1873 d. 8 Oct 1947).

Rosalina (b. 14 Feb 1882) married Mack Shaver.

Mary Elizabeth (b. 14 Sep 1883 d. 1916) married Guy Alexander.

Felix (b. 4 Apr 1885 d. 7 Feb 1960) married Elizabeth Parizak (b. 1880 d. 5 Sep 1963).

Joseph (b. 28 Aug 1886).

Edward (Alfred) (b. 10 May 1889 d. 1943) married Susie Basteyns (b. 1874 d. 2 Nov 1951).

Clara (b. May 1894 d. 3 Dec 1972) married Walter Hussin (b. 1894 d. 17 Jun 1960).

Two of Peter Vervooren's brothers came to America in 1883. There are only a few references to one of them, Edward Vervooren. The other brother, Felix Vervaejen (b. 18 Oct 1848 d. 6 Jul 1934) married Theresa Vander Wegen (b. 27 Feb 1862 d. 27 Jan 1939), who emigrated in 1889 from Haasrode, Brabant Province, to work in Rondou's grocery store. Their families had known each other in Belgium. They were married that same year (1889) and bought ten acres in the Duck Creek area where they raised seven children:

August (b. 3 May 1890 d. 15 Nov 1979) married Maria Tilque (b. 31 Oct 1898 d. 21 Nov 1984) and had two children: a son, Ralph, and a daughter, Lucille, who died in childhood.

Sylvanus (b. 15 Jul 1891) died as an infant.

Elizabeth (b. 30 Sep 1893 d. 17 Dec 1951) married Herman Devroy (b. 1884 d. 1 Jul 1963) and had these children: Elsie, Florence and Alfred.

Antoinette (b. 27 Nov 1895 d. 30 Aug 1927) married Henry Devroy and had these children: Leona, Grace, Cecilia, Hester, Mildred, Isabelle, Yvonne and Robert.

Mary (b. 25 Apr 1901 d. 9 Mar 1964) married Hiram Hussin (b. 1899 d. 28 Mar 1983) and had these children: Ione, Marcella, Rosemary and Sally.

Joseph (b. Aug 1898 d. 8 May 1937) married Freda Hussin (b. 1902 d. 1975) and had these children: Dorothy, Gerald "Red", May and Irene.

Regina (b. 8 Nov 1903) married Louis Lemere and had five children: Leo, Norman, Bernice (Sister Regina), Louis III and Catherine.

Our thanks to Regina Vervaeren Lemere, Lorraine Mommaerts Massey and Colonel Norman Le Mere (U.S. Army) for the information on the Vervaeren family.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN, THE VERVERST, VIANE, VINCENT FAMILIES.

VERVERST

Edward Ververst (b. 1864) came to Wisconsin in April 1881.

VIANE

Victor Viane of Little Chute came from Flanders.

VINCENT

John Baptiste Vincent (b. 1804) and his wife, Mary Koops(?) (b. Nov 1810), brought their family of five children from O.L.Vr. Tielt, Brabant Province, to America in 1855. The family settled originally in the Town of Humboldt. Four of their children were:

Philomene (b. 24 Dec 1836 d. 23 Jul 1911) married Peter Van Ess and had thirteen children.

Francis (b. Mar 1840) married Philomene Crabbe (b. Jul 1848) who emigrated to the U.S. in 1854. They were married in 1869 and had nine children listed in the 1900 census. Eight of their children were: Mary (b. 1869); John (b. Dec 1870) and his wife, Mary (b. 1884), had these children - Frances, Agnes and Violet; Josephine (b. 1873); Annie (b. 1878 d. 1950) married Frank Van Den Avond; Lizzie (b. Dec 1879); Lena (b. Dec 1885) married Louis Morrow (b. 1873); Louise (b. Jan 1891); and, Aggie (b. Jun 1894).

Constant (b. Oct 1852) was a bachelor and a cabinet-maker.

Mary (b. 1854) married August Dart.

There were two other John Baptiste Vincents who came to the U.S. in the mid-1850s and settled in the Town of Scott.

Baptiste Vincent (b. Mar 1846) came to America in 1855. His wife, Adele (b. Apr 1852), emigrated in 1853. Two of their daughters were: Adeline (b. May 1871) and Alice (b. Mar 1876). One of their sons went to Louisiana; his son, Addison, was born there in Jan 1896.

Baptiste Vincent (b. May 1852) was brought to the U.S. in 1856. His wife was also Adele (b. Feb 1853 in Wisconsin). They were married in 1877. Some of their children were: Hortense (b. Aug 1882); Martin (b. Jun 1884); Delphine (b. Apr 1887); Louis (b. Nov 1888); Elsie (b. Apr 1893 d. 1935) married Alphonse De Leers; Mary (b. Sep 1895); Edmond (b. Jan 1897); Arthur (b. 19 Jan 1899) married Anne Ferrier.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE VINCENT, VOET, VONCKX, WAERZEGGERS,  
WAGENEER FAMILIES.

Alphonse Vincent (b. Jul 1843) and his wife, Ferdinande (b. Mar 1842), were married in 1861 and came to America in 1870. They settled in the Town of Preble. Some of their children were: David (b. Jun 1879); Tillie (b. Sep 1881); Alice (b. Dec 1884); and, Anna (b. Feb 1887).

#### VOET

Emile Voet (b. 1864) came to Wisconsin in March 1891.

#### VONCKX

Elizabeth Vonckx married Martin Vanden Plas and came to America with him in 1882 from Blanden, Province of Brabant.

Alphonse Vonckx (b. 26 Nov 1862 in St. Joris-Weert) came to the U.S. in 1882 and roamed through the west before settling in Green Bay where he married Theresa Roskom (b. 1869). Their daughter, Anna (b. 1890), married a Holz.

Frank Vonckx (b. 21 Mar 1871 in St. Joris-Weert) emigrated in July 1892 and married Mary Callewaerts (b. 17 Apr 1877). Their children were: Emil (b. Dec 1898); Joseph (b. 1905); and, George (b. 1908).

Joseph Vonckx (b. 1872) and his wife, Mary (b. 1876), had these children: Florence (b. 1894); Arthur (b. 1896); and, Josephine (b. 1909).

Joseph Vonckx (b. 29 Oct 1881 at St. Joris-Weert) came to the U.S. in September 1906.

#### WAERZEGGERS

This name is also spelled WAARZEGGERS.

The Waerzeggers emigrated to Wisconsin in May 1887, led by Louis Waerzeggers (b. 1840). His son, Benedict (b. 1868 d. 2 May 1940), married Isabell De Witt (b. 1877). Their children were: Louis (b. 1896); John (b. 1898); Mary (b. 1901); Dorothy (b. 1906); and, Rose (b. 1907).

#### WAGENEER

Cornelius Wageneer (b. 1810) and his wife, Mary Wauters

## THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WAGENEER, WALLEN, WALLENFANG FAMILIES.

(b. 18 Sep 1813), departed St. Joris-Weert for America in 1855 and settled in the Town of Humboldt. They had two daughters listed in the 1860 census: Mary (b. 3 Feb 1845) married Anton De Greef; and, Theresa (b. 20 Dec 1847 d. 1886) married Frank Vanden Busch.

There was also an Isabella Wageneer married to Henry Vanden Plas.

### WALLEN

Jacob Wallen (b. 1864) emigrated in 1889; and his wife, Nellie (b. 1874), had these children: George (b. 1894); Louise (b. 1899); and, Adolph (b. 1904).

### WALLENFANG

The Wallenfang family is included because the first Wallenfang married a Flemish woman and most of the children chose Flemish partners.

Edward Wallenfang (b. 1824 in Germany) married Paulina Adams of Huldenberg in 1855 at Green Bay. Their children were:

Angeline married Paul Kaiser.

Frank (b. 22 Aug 1857 d. 5 May 1943) married Magdalena Wouters (b. 23 Jan 1863 d. 24 Nov 1954), and had these children:

- (1) Frank (b. 1884) married Velda \_\_\_\_\_.
- (2) Susan (b. 29 Jul 1885 d. 26 May 1957) married Paul Tilly (b. 21 Dec 1874 d. 19 Aug 1964).
- (3) William (b. 30 Sep 1894 d. 22 Feb 1985) married Grace Bins (b. 20 Aug 1896 d. 10 Sep 1975).
- (4) Lucy (b. 16 Oct 1903 d. 23 Oct 1946) married Albert Van Lanen (b. 1899).
- (5) Margaret (b. 4 Jan 1906) married Aloysius L. Reinhard (b. 29 Jul 1895 d. 1 Dec 1985) and had four children.

Susan (b. 10 Oct 1860 d. 21 Oct 1941) married Francis Cumps (b. 5 Mar 1860 d. 30 Aug 1941).

Mary married Jake Basten.

John (b. 15 Oct 1867 d. 15 Sep 1936) married (1) Hulda Norton and had two children: Mabel (b. 18 Jan 1892 d. 10 Jul 1943) married Archie Hussin; and, Rosalyn. John married (2) Clara Kimp (b. 1 Sep 1870 d. 21 Apr 1951) and had nine more children:

- (1) Adam (b. 20 Sep 1898 d. 11 Apr 1975) married Emma Bolssens (b. 19 Mar 1902).
- (2) Myrtle (b. 19 Jul 1900) married Anton Uphill.
- (3) Clara (b. 19 Feb 1903 d. 16 Mar 1982) married (1) Francis

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WALLENFANG, WALTERS, WAMBERG, WATERMOLEN FAMILIES.

- Dionne Jr. (b. 1904 d. 30 Apr 1939), then married (2) Jules Counard (b. 1903 d. 4 Mar 1978).
- (4) Rose (b. 5 Aug 1904 d. 4 Nov 1982) married (1) Edward Tilly, and (2) Willard Hussin (b. 21 Apr 1897).
- (5) Frances (b. 12 Feb 1906) married Henry Van Hoof (b. 15 Jan 1903 d. 27 Dec 1977).
- (6) Anne (b. 28 May 1907) married (1) William Roskam, and (2) Joseph Pamperin.
- (7) Raymond (b. 30 Sep 1912) married Martha Bittner (b. 2 Oct 1903).
- (8) Viola (b. 20 Feb 1912 d. Apr 1924).

This family history was written by Rosella Leitermann Sconcert.

### WALTERS

The Walters family emigrated in 1857. Josephine Walters (b. 1855) married Joseph Rutten (b. 1851 in Holland).

Joseph A. Walter (b. 24 Dec ? d. 3 Mar 1943), son of Ambrose Walter (b. 16 Dec 1842 d. 21 Feb 1926) and Mary Weich Walter (b. 16 Oct 1849 d. 5 May 1922), married Mabel A. Brunette (b. 24 Feb 1890) on 6 May 1914. Mabel's parents were Mose Brunette (b. 17 Nov 1857 d. 6 Aug 1944) and Jane Fredenburg (b. 10 Apr 1861 d. 19 Dec 1927). Joseph and Mabel had these children: Russell (b. 21 May 1917 d. 5 Mar 1955); Ray (b. 12 Mar 1915); Sister Marjorita (b. 14 Feb 1919 d. 16 Sep 1979; and, Marge (b. 14 Dec 1926) married (1) a Conway, and (2) a Fermanich.

Our thanks to Madeline Brunette Williquette Prestine and Evelyn Salscheider Massonet for these clues to the Walters history.

### WAMBERG

Theresa Wamberg (b. 1856) came to America in 1861. In 1900, she was a widow in Marinette County with two children: Elizabeth (b. 1892); and, George (b. 1893).

### WATERMOLEN

Christopher Watermolen and his wife, Mary De Muylder, who were born in the late 1790s, came from Leuven, Belgium, to America in August 1857 with their three grown sons. The eldest

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WATERMOLEN FAMILY.

son already had a family, and his children listed their birthplace as Huldenberg, Province of Brabant. The parents died soon after coming to their new home in the Town of Bellevue - Christopher in 1858 and Mary in 1860. Their three sons and their families were:

CHRISTOFEL WATERMOLEN

Christofel (b. 18 Sep 1820 d. 6 May 1908), the eldest son, married Petronella Van Hoegaerde of Leuven and probably moved to Huldenberg where their children were born. After emigration, they settled on a farm in the Town of Bellevue. Their children were:

Peter Joseph (b. 1 Dec 1848 d. 27 Nov 1936) married Rosalia Verdoord (b. 27 Oct 1851 d. 11 Jun 1922) and had these children:

- (1) Minnie married Charles Vanden Berg.
- (2) Frank (b. 1878 d. 1900).
- (3) Theodore (b. 8 May 1880 d. 24 Jul 1967) married Lucy De Mulver (b. 6 Sep 1882 d. 1 Aug 1966), daughter of Joseph De Mulder and J. Clabots.
- (4) Peter (b. Mar 1882).
- (5) Mary (b. May 1884) married John Vincent.
- (6) Ferdinand (b. Mar 1886).
- (7) Albert (b. Jul 1888).
- (8) Virginia (b. Jun 1890).
- (9) Edward (b. Mar 1893).
- (10) Emily (b. Mar 1895).
- (11) (12) Twins-Hannah and Nettie (b. Oct 1895).

William (b. Dec 1850) married Julia Bolens (b. Dec 1854) who emigrated in 1863 and had these children:

- (1) Mary (b. 1875) married Frank Tuyls.
- (2) John (b. 1877) and his wife, Anna (b. 1883), had these children: Mabel (b. 1905); Norbert (b. 1907); and, Delores.
- (3) Theresa (b. 1878).
- (4) Louis (b. 1880) married Agnes Nooyen (b. 1885).
- (5) August (b. 1882) married Julia \_\_\_\_\_.
- (6) Lizzie (b. Feb 1884 d. 1983) married Tony Tilkens.
- (7) Louisa (b. Sep 1886).
- (8) Theodore (b. Jan 1887).
- (9) Alphonse (b. Mar 1889).
- (10) Albert (b. Jan 1891).
- (11) Maria (b. 1902) was adopted.

Henry (b. Sep 1852) and his wife, Tracy Nutals (b. Sep 1860) lived in the Town of Suamico and had these children:

- (1) Josephine (b. Mar 1883 d. 19 Nov 1902).
- (2) John (b. Jan 1885) married Flora Pannier (b. 1886); their children: Evelyn (b. 1908); Elmer (b. 1909); Jennie (b. Jun 1888); and, Louisa (b. Oct 1892).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WATERMOLEN FAMILY.

Mary (b. 25 Jun 1854 d. 23 Jul 1926) married William Rentmeester. Her birth certificate, which is a typical birth certificate from Belgium, is shown below; the translation is by Jules Rentmeesters, Mortsel, Belgium.

Geboorte Akte No. 30 - Birth Record No. 30

Waetermolen, Anna Marie

In the year 1854, the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, at 8 A.M.  
there appeared before us, Jan Baptiste Huybrecht, Alderman  
of the Civil Administration of the city of Huldenbergh, County  
of Louvain, Province of Brabant, Christofel Waetermolen,  
32 years old, profession laborer, born at Huldenbergh,  
living at Huldenbergh, who showed us a child of the  
female sex. He declared that the child was born last  
night at 12 O'clock of him and Petronella Van Hoegaerden,  
born and living at Huldenbergh, and that they gave her  
the first name of Anna Maria.

The preceding was done in the presence of Joannes  
Guillemus De Volder, 58 years old, profession barkeeper,  
living at Huldenbergh and Jan Baptiste Horckmans, 38 years  
old, profession horse-smith, living at Huldenbergh

Philip (b. 1857) married Maria Louisa Vander Kelen.

John Francis (b. Aug 1862) married Ella Wigman (b. Aug 1866)  
in 1893, and had a son, James J. (b. Feb 1894). John was a  
United States District Court Judge.

John Baptiste (b. 27 Sep 1863 d. 14 Nov 1920) married Anna  
Maria Vander Kelen (b. 9 Oct 1870 d. 24 Nov 1934) and had these  
children:

(1) Frank (b. 24 Feb 1891 d. 29 Dec 1958) married Cecilia  
Rodaer.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WATERMOLEN, WAUTERS FAMILIES.

- (2) Felix (b. 3 May 1892 d. 9 Feb 1955) married Barbara Verheyden.
- (3) Harriet (b. 1 Mar 1894 d. 11 Oct 1963) married John Katers.
- (4) Anna (b. 3 Aug 1896 d. 20 Nov 1965) married Fred Lamal.
- (5) Philip (b. 22 Oct 1897 d. 13 Oct 1960) married Emma De Grave.
- (6) Lucy (b. 14 Sep 1900 d. 18 Oct 1934) married William Boehm.
- (7) Anton (b. 11 Mar 1903 d. 18 Nov 1967).
- (8) Mamie (b. 1 Aug 1906) married Hubert Huemphner.

Isabella (b. 1868 d. circa 1900) married Louis Lindsley.



JOHN FRANCIS WATERMOLEN

John Francis (b. Sep 1824), the second son of Christofer and Mary Watermolen, married Barbara Stiller (b. Feb 1827) just before leaving Belgium. Their first son, Constant (b. Jul 1857), was born at sea, and was a bachelor. Their other children were: Peter (b. 1859 d. circa 1875); Petronella (b. 1860) married Martin Raymaker; Elizabeth F. (b. 1863); Rosa (b. 1865) married Alex Bruyere; Willie (b. Sep 1870) and his wife Annie, had a son, Raymond. John Francis was the Green Bay City Surveyor.

HENRY WATERMOLEN

Henry (b. 28 Oct 1836), the third son of Christofer and Mary Watermolen, married Elizabeth Tuyls (b. Jan 1840) in 1865. Henry had many occupations - Brown County Clerk of Circuit Court, Brown County Sheriff, saloon-keeper, merchandizer, etc. Their children were: Adolphus (b. 1870); Louisa (b. Apr 1974) remained single; Dora (b. Feb 1876) remained single; and, the oldest daughter, Isabella (b. 1868), remained single.

WAUTERS

Because Wauters (Wouters) is a common Flemish name, there are many recorded in Wisconsin census data. We found nine male heads of Wauters families who came to Wisconsin from Bierbeek, Mechlin and OUD-Heverlee, in the Province of Brabant. They are

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WAUTERS FAMILY

listed here in the order of their appearance on the Wisconsin scene. The first three to arrive were brothers, the sons of Jean Baptiste Wauters and Anna Maria Speets of Bierbeek.

Peter Wauters (b. 1818) and his wife, Anna Maria Coopmans, brought their young daughter, Mary Antonette (b. Feb 1851), with them when they came to America in 1855. Mary married Philip Verdoord and had fourteen children. A son, Jacobus (b. Feb 1855 d. 1926), was born at Mackinac, Michigan on the way to Wisconsin. Jacobus married Stephanie Duchateau (b. Feb 1855 d. 1946) and had these children:

- (1) Peter (b. 1878 d. 1937) married Tillie Collaer and had these children: Loretta, Mildred, Evelyn and Raphael.
- (2) Rose (b. 1879 d. 1985).
- (3) Elizabeth (b. 1882 d. 1967) married Louis Willems (b. 1875 d. 1913) and had these children: Margaret, Gladys married a DeCoster, Albert and Louis.
- (4) Jennie (b. 1886 d. 1978) married John Taylor and had these children: Irene and Harold.
- (5) Frank (b. 1889 d. 1950) married Hilda Runnoe and had these children: Leslie, Marion, Margaret, Dorothy and Geraldine.
- (6) Annie (b. 1890 d. 1961) married Peter Taylor; their children were: Hilda, Olive and Walter.
- (7) Paul (b. 1895 d. 1978) married Irene Clabots and had these children: June and William.

Angelina (b. 1859) married John H. Adolphs.

Peter (b. Feb 1861) married Joanna Basteyns (b. 1878) and had these children: George (b. 1893); Arthur (b. 1897); and, Ervin (b. 1902).

Theresa (b. 1862) married Peter D'OVROYE.

Mary (b. 1864) married John Coopmans.

John (b. 1867).

Philip (b. 1870).

John Wauters (b. Apr 1825) and his wife, Lucy (b. 1832), also came to the U.S. in 1855 and also settled in the Duck Creek area. Their children were:

Ferdinande (Josephine) (b. 1855) married Joseph Rutten and had nineteen children, including Mrs. George Meyer, Mrs. George Weber, Mrs. George Agamite, Mrs. Ida Eckhart, Peter, George, Alfred and William.

Angelina (b. 1857).

William (b. 1860) and his wife, Susie (b. 1863) had these children: Fred (b. 1890); Chester (b. 1893); and, William (b. 1900).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WAUTERS FAMILY.

Mary (b. 1862) married John Cleeremans.

John (b. 1864).

Theresa (b. 1866) married Peter Devroy (b. 1862) in Duck Creek. Their children were: Frank; Mary C.; Peter; August; Mary; Earl; Estelle; Florence; Joseph; and, Raymond.

Edward (b. 1868).

Charles (b. Apr 1872 d. 11 Feb 1957) and his wife, Esther (b. Oct 1872 d. 24 Jun 1917), had these children: Clem (b. 1910 d. 1972); Elmer (b. 9 Jan 1879 d. 13 Nov 1953) married Elsie Tilly.

Jake (b. Apr 1875). After the death of his first wife, Lucy, Jake married (2) Isabella Vanden Houten (b. Jan 1834) at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church in Nov 1889. Isabella had emigrated in 1862.

Jacob Wauters 9b. Jan 1834) and his first wife, Theresa Delville (b. 1833 d. circa 1868), came to America two years later, in 1857. Their children were:

Theresa (b. 1854).

Peter (b. 1860 d. 1906) married Seraphina (Josephine) Clabots (b. Apr 1863 d. 1935) and had three children: Clara (b. 1888 d. 27 Sep 1967); Lucy; and, John.

Angeline (b. 23 Jan 1863 d. 24 Nov 1954) married Francis Wallenfang (b. 1857 d. 5 May 1943).

Antonette (Natalie) (b. Apr 1865) married August Rodaer.

Lucy (b. 1867) married Henry Simeons.

After Theresa died, Jacob married (2) Barbara Verhulst (b. Nov 1844) and they had these children:

Frank (b. 1871).

Mary (b. 1873) married Louis Williquette.

John J. (b. Mar 1875) and his wife, Nettie (b. May 1876), had a son, Russell (b. May 1898).

Philomene (b. 1878).

Mary Elizabeth married Leonard Monette.

There was an Elizabeth Wouters (b. 1801) who lived in the Town of Humboldt; she was one of the early pioneers.

Theresa Wauters (b. 1829 d. 1912) came to America from Oud-Heverlee, Brabant, with her husband, Jean Baptiste Duchateau, in 1868.

Felix Wauters (b. 2 Aug 1848 d. 3 Jul 1907) and his

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WAUTERS FAMILY.

wife, Pauline Malliet (b. 11 Mar 1849 d. 30 Nov 1897), left their home in Oud-Heverlee, Brabant Province, in July 1883 for America. They settled in the City of Green Bay, where they had these children:

Maria (b. 14 Oct 1870 d. 4 May 1949) married Joseph Engels (b. 27 Jul 1862 d. 4 Apr 1944) and had these children:  
(1) Pauline (b. 4 May 1892 d. 5 Jul 1975).  
(2) Felix (b. 13 Oct 1893 d. 8 Aug 1980).  
(3) Catherine (b. 10 Oct 1895 d. 26 May 1980).

Justine (b. Jul 1872 d. 11 Sep 1937) married Joseph Lurquin (b. 1872 d. 21 Oct 1940) and had these children:  
(1) Elizabeth (b. 1896 d. 3 May 1986).  
(2) Felix (b. 7 Jun 1897).  
(3) Ceil (b. 27 Jun 1901).

David (b. 30 Oct 1876 d. 23 Mar 1963) married (1) Rosaline Verstoppen (b. 1879 d. 25 Jun 1912) and had these children:  
(1) Louise Mary (b. 26 Mar 1898 d. 2 May 1911).  
(2) William (b. 1901).  
(3) Pauline (b. 1903).

David married (2) Emily Williquette (b. 25 Oct 1889 d. 25 Nov 1976) and had these children:  
(4) Evelyn (b. 27 Sep 1914 d. 3 Jul 1987) married Andrew Turan.  
(5) Raymond (b. 6 Sep 1916).  
(6) Floyd (b. 27 Jan 1919 d. Sep 1971).

Annie (b. 17 Nov 1878 d. 18 Jan 1964) married Raymond Collaer (b. 1 Jan 1879 d. 18 Nov 1963) and had these children: Felix, Collette and Victoria.

Virginia (Jenny) (b. 12 Mar 1881 d. 30 Jan 1952) married Martin Ysebaert (b. 16 Feb 1882 d. 5 Apr 1960) and had these children: Gertrude (b. 1902) and Eva (b. 1904).

Lucy (b. Sep 1883 d. 10 Jul 1967) married Frank De Coster (b. 11 Dec 1875 d. 1927) and had these children: Gertrude, Genevieve and Madeline.

Antoinette (b. 28 Mar 1885 d. 14 Dec 1939) married Edmond Philip Mechane (b. 1887 d. 30 Dec 1933) and had a daughter, Carol (b. 19 Sep 1918).

Julius (b. Apr 1890 d. 21 Feb 1949).

Felix married (2) Isabel Vannieuwenhoven Bouchard (b. 1862 d. 31 Mar 1942) and had these children:

Angeline (b. 1 Mar 1906) married Ray Dionne.

Emil (b. 23 Jun 1907 d. 6 Jun 1982).

Frank Wauters (b. 1865) came to Wisconsin in January 1889.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WAUTERS, WERY FAMILIES.

John Baptiste Wauters (b. 6 Dec 1863 at Oud-Heverlee), son of Frank Wauters and Joanna Rentmeesters, visited the Flemish colony in Minnesota in 1889, before coming to the Duck Creek area.

Charles Wauters (b. Jul 1867) came to America in 1888 and worked for the railroad company. He was listed with his wife, Theresa (b. May 1877), and these three children in the 1900 census: Frank (b. Dec 1894); Flora (b. Feb 1897); and, Victor (b. Apr 1899).

Another Charles Wauters (b. Sep 1869) came to America with his new bride, Desere (b. Sep 1871). Their children were: Alfred (b. Jun 1893); Maurice (b. Aug 1897 d. 1952) married Josephine Revoir; Clementine (adopted from Ireland) (b. Sep 1898).

John Wauters (b. Dec 1838) and his wife, Rosalie (b. 1829), came to America in 1893 to be with their two children.

We thank Ray Wouters, Gladys De Coster and Rosella Sconcert for the information on the Wauters family history.

WERY

John Wery (b. 12 Jul 1868 d. 16 Nov 1931), the son of Henri Weri and Catherine Vanden Brock, came to America in October 1888. He married Mary Steeno (b. 12 Mar 1872 d. 22 Oct 1961) of the Town of Howard in 1890; she was the daughter of William Steeno and Mary Meulemans. Their children were:

Elizabeth (b. 3 Aug 1891 d. 7 May 1967) married Frank Ringer (b. 14 Mar 1889 d. 28 Jun 1947).

William (b. 4 Feb 1894 d. 10 Jan 1963) married Nettie Lemerond.

Charles (b. 30 Jun 1897 d. 10 Jun 1983) married (1) Ivy Fournier (b. 4 Oct 1903 d. 11 Feb 1957), and (2) Eva Tilly Reinhard (b. 13 May 1905 d. 4 Oct 1982).

Fred died at eight months of age.

Florence (b. 8 Feb 1904) married Donald Brown (b. 2 Sep 1904 d. 12 Apr 1972).

Ethyl (b. 21 Jul 1906) married Elmer Dickinson (b. 19 Nov 1900 d. 29 Oct 1968).

Verena (b. 23 Mar 1910) married Edward Nowicki (b. 6 Oct 1904 d. 13 Mar 1979).

We thank Florence Wery Brown for the above information.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WETTS, WEYTANS, WILKE, WILLARD,  
WILLEMS FAMILIES.

### WETTS

This Flemish name was probably spelled WEETS.

Charles Wetts (b. Dec 1865) came to Green Bay in April 1887 to work on the railroad. His wife, Mary (b. Aug 1876), bore their first child, John, in September 1899.

### WEYTANS

The Weytans emigrated in 1870. Philomena Weytans (b. 1845) was widowed soon after their arrival in America. One of her three children was Peter (b. 1866).

### WILKE

The original spelling of this Flemish name may have been WILCKENS.

Peter Wilke (b. 1831), his wife, Jennie (b. 1830), and their daughter, Sarah (b. 1853), came to America around 1854 and lived in the City of De Pere. In 1870, there were four more members of the family.

### WILLARD

The usual Flemish spelling of this name is WILLAERT.

One Willard family came to the Township of De Pere before 1855; in 1900, David Willard (b. 1855 at De Pere) was farming there with his wife, Josephine (b. Oct 1855). They had three children.

Henry Willart, son of Desiré Willart and Seraphina Deck, was born in Hooglede, Province of West Flanders on 18 Oct 1875. He came to America in 1891, and worked in flour mills and a bakery in Iowa and the Dakotas before settling in Green Bay in 1895. He married Irma Daems (b. 1876 at Langdorp, Brabant Province), whose father owned a bakery, and later started his own bakery business. The Willart children were: Seraphina (b. Aug 1897); Margaret (b. 1904); and, Dorothea (b. 1906).

### WILLEMS

Some of the Willems families now spell their name WILLIAMS.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WILLEMS FAMILY.

There are many different representatives of this family who came to America at different times. They came from various places in Brabant Province, including Bierbeek and Vaalbeck. They are arranged here chronologically.

JEAN GEORGE WILLEMS (b. 1816) came to the U.S. from Grez Doiceau in June 1855 on the Sea Lark with his wife and seven children, including Marie (b. 1839), Victoire, Henri, Catherina, Clement and Lucia.

JOSEPH WILLEMS (b. 1829) came over on the J.H. Elliott, landing on 31 Jul 1856. His family appears in the 1870 census for the Town of Preble: Joseph Williams, age 24; Rosalia, age 23; Theresa, age 3; and, Moses, age 1. Joseph served in the Seventeenth Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.

The 1870 census also shows a Williams family in the City of De Pere. DESIRÉ WILLIAMS (b. 1819), Julia (b. 1822), plus four children born in Wisconsin.

CORNELIUS WILLEMS took out his first citizenship papers in 1868.

ENGELBERTUS (ALBERT) WILLEMS (b. Aug 1840 d. 1915), son of John Baptiste Willems and Rosalie Vanden Borne, married Elizabeth Vanden Borne (b. 1837 d. 1921). Seven years after their marriage, they left Belgium, landing in New York in August 1871. They settled in Duck Creek; the children, except for Louis, later changed their name to Williams. Their children were:

William (b. 1864 d. 1921) was the father of William and Albert.

Mary (b. 1867 d. 19 Mar 1947) married Albert Brunette (b. 1866 d. 14 Dec 1915). Their children were:

- (1) Rose (b. 7 Jul 1891 d. 14 Nov 1967) married Bert Haley and had a daughter, Dixie, who married Louis Rank.
- (2) Arthur (b. 1 Jul 1893 d. 23 Jun 1940).
- (3) Leo (b. 29 Dec 1895 d. 7 Sep 1966) married Alma Marks and had these children: Fern married Carleton Schaaf; Raphael married (1) Georgia Renard and (2) Irene Berndt; Dale married Joan Allen; Bryle married Susan Vander Muss.
- (4) Louis (1 Nov 1897 d. 30 Jun 1933) married Angeline Borremans and had these children: Alphonse married Virginia Rothe; and, Leona married a Green.
- (5) Raymond (b. 6 Aug 1899 d. 6 Sep 1975) married Philomene Borremans and had a son, Raymond.

Bernard (b. 1873 d. 1937) married (1) Celestine Befar (b. 1877 d. 1906 and had one child, Mamie; then married (2) Margaret Wennesheimer (b. 1887 d. 1961).

Louis (b. 1875 d. 1913) married Elizabeth Wouters (b. 1882 d. 1967). Their children include: Margaret; Gladys married

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WILLEMS, WILLIQUETTE FAMILIES.

a De Coster; Albert; and, Louis.

Felix (b. 1878 d. 1931) married Florence Tonnon (b. 1880 d. Dec 1964), daughter of Peter and Veronica Tonnon. Their children were: Lilian (b. 1903); Anthony (b. 7 Jan 1905); Louis (b. 1907); twins=Lucille and Cecile (b. Aug 1909); Bernard; Lawrence; James; and, Loella.

Nettie married Jack Osterman and had two children: Lillian and Albert.

EMIL F. WILLIAMS (b. 4 Mar 1857 in Belgium), son of Frederick Williams and Anna Van Hoen, became a medical doctor and emigrated to Minnesota in 1881. Later, he moved to De Pere and then to Bay Settlement, until retirement. His wife was Anna Barhaeger.

LEANDER WILLIAMS (b. 1860) and his wife, Leona (b. May 1861), came to live in Green Bay in 1895. They had a son, John (b. Jun 1892).

There were many Williams girls who came to America as wives of emigrants. An example is: MARIA WILLIAMS (b. 2 Jul 1847 d. 7 Jan 1933), daughter of Lambertus Willems and Maria Elizabeth Meulemans, who came to America with her husband, John Joseph Baeb, of Bierbeek.

We thank Bernice Lannoye Williams for information on the Albert Williams family and Fern Brunette Schaaf for information on the Mary Williams Brunette family.

### WILLIQUETTE

Most of the Williquettes came from Wallonia; the family is included here because so many Williquettes married Flemish spouses. Five family groups settled in the Duck Creek area and several more chose Kewaunee County as their home.

PROSPER WILLIQUET (b. Jun 1829 d. 28 Jul 1900) married Philipine Crevecouer (b. Jan 1835 d. 7 May 1903) from Petit Rosière in 1853; they left Antwerp for America on 25 July 1855. Their children were:

Louis (b. 1854 at Namur d. 27 Mar 1938) was known as "Louie"; he married Maria J. Nioule (b. 1 Nov 1860 d. 28 Nov 1909) and had these children:

- (1) Lucy (b. 9 Mar 1884 d. Mar 1950) married George Charles.
- (2) Victoria (b. 20 Dec 1887 d. 16 Nov 1983) married Leonard Kimps, son of Joseph and Sylvia Cumps.
- (3) Peter (b. 1888) had a wife named Clara.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WILLEQUETTE FAMILY.

- (4) Sophie (b. 3 Feb 1890 d. Oct 1983) married Ira Clark (b. 1875 d. 19 Jan 1950).
- (5) Maria Adelaide (b. 14 Jan 1894 d. 12 Jan 1980) married Fred Primeau (b. 14 Nov 1894 d. 14 May 1963).
- (6) Clara (b. 1898) married Clyde Mc Allister.
- (7) Richard (b. Feb 1900 d. 1 Dec 1955) had a wife named Clara.

Edward (b. 1858) married Emma Burns and had a son, Prosper (b. 21 Dec 1887).

Maria Josephine (b. 1868) married Alphonse Poels (b. 1869 d. 7 Mar 1952).

Joseph (b. Jun 1870 d. 20 Sep 1944).

Maria Jane (b. Feb 1873 d. 1928).

William (b. Dec 1875).

David (b. Aug 1877 d. 17 Jan 1923) married Mary Alice Kimpf (b. Feb 1880 d. 12 Feb 1909) and had six children:

- (1) Stella (b. 1900) married Chester Mott.
- (2) Gilbert (b. 16 Dec 1901 d. 28 Apr 1984) married Rose Marie Callewaerts (b. 28 Feb 1902 d. 24 Jan 1988).
- (3) Philomene. (4) Hazel. (5) Louis. (6) Eugene.

Another Williquette family came to New York on the ship Lark, landing on 27 Mar 1856; the group was headed by Prosper's mother, MARIA WILLIQUETTE (b. 1807 d. 1895) and included her four other sons: JOSEPH; CHARLES; LOUIS; and, EUGENE.

JOSEPH (b. Jul 1831 d. 5 Oct 1910) married Maria Therese Crevecouer (b. Oct 1838 d. 1890) and had twelve children:

Adeline (b. 1857 d. 26 Feb 1882) married Alex Hussin (b. 1851) and had two children: Florence and Lucy. (see Hussin family).

Joseph Jr. (b. 1859 d. 12 Aug 1899) married Barbara Devroy (b. 1862), daughter of Johannes D'OVROYE and Joanna Van Ermens, and had these children:

- (1) Frank (b. 29 Mar 1886 d. 5 Mar 1962) married Clara Tilly (b. 22 Nov 1887 d. 13 Apr 1959), daughter of William Tilly and Flora April.
- (2) Rosa (b. 1887 d. 13 Jul 1943) married Felix Basteyns (b. 23 Oct 1881 d. 27 Dec 1962).
- (3) Emily (b. 25 Oct 1889 d. 25 Nov 1976) married David Wauters.
- (4) Ellen (died 12 Sep 1913).
- (5) Fred (b. 16 Feb 1894 died young).

Louis (b. 1 Dec 1861 d. 27 Jul 1917) married Mary Wauters (b. 1 Jan 1873 d. 27 Jul 1965) and had these children:

- (1) Walter (b. 1894 d. 18 Mar 1976) married Blanche \_\_\_\_\_ (b. 1894 d. 16 Aug 1970).

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WILLIQUETTE FAMILY.

- (2) Leslie (b. 15 Apr 1896) married Minnie Belschner (b. 26 Dec 1896).
- (3) Laura (b. 15 Nov 1897 d. 4 Jan 1963) married an O'Byrne.
- (4) Clara (b. 24 Apr 1900) married Jules Gaie.
- (5) Andrew (b. 8 Mar 1902) married Manduella Lemorande.
- (6) Lillian (b. 1904 d. 1906).
- (7) Grace (b. 18 Jan 1906) married Leo Haessley.
- (8) Wilbert (b. 31 Dec 1909).

Julius (b. 1865 d. 4 Oct 1886).

Mary (b. 28 Dec 1865 d. 19 Sep 1888) married Henry Belschner.  
Josephine (b. 1868 d. 1887).

Clara (b. 1870 d. 1890) married Henry Belschner.

David (b. 19 May 1871 d. 4 Jun 1948) was the second husband of Sophie Tonnon (b. 29 Aug 1884 d. 23 Apr 1971), daughter of Peter Tonnon and Veronica Hussin.

George (b. 9 Sep 1874 d. Nov 1935) was known as "G"; married Virginia Fonder (b. 3 Dec 1875 d. 23 Dec 1946), daughter of Augustus Fonder, and had these children:

- (1) Robert (b. 8 Jul 1898 d. 18 Apr 1955).
- (2) Clifford (b. 1900 d. 1907).
- (3) Jessie (b. 29 Nov 1902) married Lester Wood (b. 16 Sep 1894 d. 14 Nov 1978).
- (4) Isabelle married David Steeno.
- (5) Orville (b. 1907) died young.
- (6) Bernard (b. 15 Mar 1908 d. 15 Aug 1984).
- (7) Genevieve married a Tipler.
- (8) Raymond (b. 1914) died young.

Edward (b. 1877 d. 1 Jan 1955) married Angeline Carter (b. 1883 d. 1971).

Charles G. (b. 1880 d. 15 Aug 1956) married Mary Mommaerts (b. 1882 d. 5 Jun 1963).

Benjamin (b. 1890) was the son of JOSEPH SR. and Sophia Lemere, daughter of Louis Lemere and Louise Lamirande. JOSEPH SR's first wife, Maria Therese Crevecouer, had died previously.

CHARLES WILLIQUETTE (b. Apr 1835) was the third brother. He married Joanna Brunette (b. Nov 1845), daughter of Aiken Brunette and Polly Guardapee, and had these children:

- Louis (b. 1862 d. 18 Jul 1943) married Alicia Lefebvre (b. 19 Mar 1870 d. 6 Oct 1953), and had these children:
- (1) Myrtle (b. Jun 1886 d. 11 Oct 1939) married George Fournier (b. 1886 d. 1 Oct 1938).
  - (2) Elmer (b. 13 Jan 1892 d. 19 Sep 1948) married a Ringer.
  - (3) Harry (b. 23 Jan 1894) married Louella J. Fowler.
  - (4) Clarence (b. Jun 1896 d. 1972) remained a bachelor.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WILLIQUETTE FAMILY.

- (5) Earl (b. Oct 1898 d. 1958) married Rose Tilly.
- (6) Roland (b. 1900 d. 25 Jun 1958) had a wife named Margaret (b. 1903 d. 17 Mar 1974).
- (7) Lester (b. 13 Dec 1902 d. 13 Nov 1959) married Marie Hendricks (b. 3 Jan 1906).
- (8) Roy (b. 1905 d. 5 Feb 1940) remained a bachelor.
- (9) Lucille (b. 13 May 1907 d. 16 May 1970) married Lawrence Ullmer (b. 6 Dec 1900).
- (10) Francis (b. 1909 d. 1973) married Pearl Lawson.
- (11) Fred was a bachelor.

LOUIS WILLIQUETTE (b. 1841 d. 1867) served with the Company C, Second Wisconsin Cavalry in the Civil War. Louis drowned in the Duck Creek River and is buried in the old Duck Creek Memorial Cemetery. His name is spelled WILLIKETT on the cemetery records. Louis was the fourth of the brothers who accompanied their mother Maria Williquette over to America in 1856.

EUGENE WILLIQUETTE (b. 1844 d. 1927) was the youngest of the brothers. He married Eugenia Sinclair (b. 1845 d. 1924). Their children were:

Mary (b. 1865) married George Hussin (b. 18 May 1860 d. 4 Jun 1947) on 19 Jun 1883, as his first wife.

Margaret (b. 2 Aug 1867 d. 29 Apr 1907) married Frank Devilez.

Emil (b. 1874 d. 30 Jul 1933) was known as "Allie"; he married Pauline Lemerond (b. 2 Jun 1879 d. 18 Sep 1932), daughter of Joseph Lemerond and Ellen Londo (b. Antwerp, Belgium) and had these children:

- (1) Norene (b. 25 Jul 1895) married (1) William Tappa and (2) John Marci and (3) Edward Longaine.
- (2) Amanda (b. 1900) married Ervin Erickson.
- (3) Gordon (b. 8 Dec 1901 d. Nov 1952) was known as "Mannie"; he married Mary Vannieuwenhoven (b. 8 Sep 1902).
- (4) Mabel (b. 2 Jun 1904) married (1) Steve Brown and (2) Alvin Phillips.
- (5) Alvina (b. Jul 1907) married John Vannieuwenhoven.
- (6) Marvin was known as "Mush"; married Violet Terry.
- (7) Bernard was a bachelor.
- (8) Aloysius was a bachelor.
- (9) Marian (b. 1910).
- (10) Esther.

George (b. 9 Dec 1876 d. 17 Dec 1952) married Matilda Le Mere (b. 1878 d. 21 Dec 1941) and had these children:

- (1) Pearl (b. 27 Feb 1901 d. 26 Jan 1983) married Clarence Reinhard (b. 1899 d. 6 Jan 1961).
- (2) Ervin (b. 5 Feb 1905 d. 22 Feb 1960) married Irene Tease.
- (3) Frieda (b. 26 Nov 1908) married Roy Pagel.
- (4) Russell.
- (5) Roy.

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WILLIQUETTE, WITTOCK, WOLPER FAMILIES.

Annie married (1) William Louis and (2) John Vanden Avond.

Lucy (b. 1882 d. 1936).

Rose (b. 1885 d. 1922).

Other Williquettes, probably relatives of those mentioned above, came on board the J.H. Elliott, which landed in New York on 31 Jul 1956. Some of these were Charles Williquet (b. 1799) and his wife, Honoria Therese Haemendaels (b. 1798); Maria (b. 1829); Honore (b. 1834); Arsene (b. 1843); Julia (b. 1849); and Adele (b. 1853). Honore (Nora) married Peter Louis (b. 1830).

In 1870, Bernard Williquette (b. 1812) and Gustav (b. 1846) were living in the City of Green Bay.

Florent Williquette (b. 6 Sep 1837) and his wife, Leocadia (b. Oct 1839 d. 4 Sep 1913) came to America in 1869. Their children were:

Leon (b. May 1866).

Adeline (b. Jun 1873) married Peter Tilly (b. 17 Jan 1870 d. 1944) and had four children:

- (1) Flora (b. 6 May 1894 d. 24 May 1976) married Arthur Stordeur (b. 1892 d. 12 Oct 1967).
- (2) Alma (b. 23 Aug 1895 d. 22 Mar 1964) married (1) George Tonnon and (2) Lloyd Jessogne (b. 1906 d. 19 Sep 1968).
- (3) Rosa (b. Jun 1897 d. May 1958) married Earl Williquette.
- (4) Elsie (b. 27 May 1899 d. 25 Feb 1962) married Elmer Wauters (b. 9 Jan 1897 d. 13 Nov 1953).

We thank Mrs. Elmer (Ruby) Dunks, Mrs. Alvin (Mabel) Phillips, Mrs. Jessie Wood, Mrs. Ambrose (Frances Caspar) Williquette, Edna Williquette and Rosella Sconcert for all the information they have contributed for the Williquette family history.

## WITTOCK

Frank Wittock (b. Oct 1864) came to Marinette County in 1888. He and his wife, Theresa (b. Jan 1868), had these children: Susan (b. Nov 1890); Arthur (b. Feb 1892); Lawrence (b. Jan 1894); Felix (b. Oct 1895); Anna (b. Sep 1897); Andrew (b. Jul 1899); and, Edmond (b. 1904).

## WOLPER

John Wolper (b. 1834) and his wife, Theresa (b. 1835),

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE WOLPER, YACHT, YONKEL, YSEBAERT,  
ZUIDMULDER FAMILIES.

brought three children with them when they came to America in 1869. They had a farm in the Town of Preble. The children were: Peter (b. 1862); Mary (b. 1864); and, Philomena (b. 1869).

### YACHT

This Flemish name was sometimes spelled VAN YACHT. The family came to Green Bay in the 1850s; many Flemish newcomers would stay with them until they could get settled. In 1860, James Yacht, age 23; Deseree Yacht, age 18; and boarder, John Denis, age 41, are living in Fort Howard.

### YONKEL

John Baptiste Yonkel (b. 1821) and his wife, Rosie (b. Jan 1819 d. Jun 1906), came to America in the 1850s. Their two surviving children (out of eight) were Louis (b. May 1866) and Henry.

### YSEBAERT

August Ysebaert (b. Nov 1852 d. 16 Feb 1905) and his wife, Theresa Henevaast (b. Sep 1857), were married in 1881 and left for America that same year. They settled in Oconto first, where August worked at a sawmill. Moving to Green Bay, he worked at various trades before opening the Green Bay House in 1903. Their children were:

Martin (b. 16 Feb 1882) owned a saloon. He married Virginia Wauters, daughter of Felix Wauters and Pauline Malliett; they came from Belgium together in 1881.

Emil (b. 2 May 1884) owned Ysebaert's Saloon on Main Street in the City of Green Bay. He married Gertrude Larscheid.

Mary (b. Dec 1887) married Lawrence Carsenstein and had these children: Margaret and Emil.

Louisa (b. Jul 1890) married Henry Tolzman and had these children: Evelyn, Edith, Willian and Robert.

Ida (b. Feb 1894).

### ZUIDMULDER

This family stated that they were a Flemish family from

THE FLEMISH IN WISCONSIN: THE ZUIDMULDER FAMILY.

Holland.

Cornelius Zuidmulder (b. 1864) and his wife, Gertrude (b. 1869), had these children: Peter (b. 1892); Gertrude (b. 1898); Christine (b. 1899); and, Bessie (b. 1904).

\* \* \* \* \*

AN EXAMPLE OF A DOCUMENT USED IN OUR RESEARCH.

*Le Bourgmestre*

SIGNALLEMENT

*de la Commune de Berchem*

Agé de 31 ans.  
 Taille : un metre 64 cent.  
 Cheveux blonde  
 Sourcils blonde  
 Front ordinaire  
 Yeux gris.  
 Nez petit  
 Bouche et  
 Menton ronde  
 Visage petit  
 Barbe absent  
 Moustaches absente  
 Favoris manch  
 Teint rouxchotte  
 Signes particuliers : absent

ESTIME QUE LE PASSEPORT A L'EXTÉRIEUR DEMANDÉ

par *Henri Toes*

né à Berchem, demeurant en cette commune,  
 rue Hoofdstraat, section 19, n° 19, peut lui  
 être accordé pour Se rendre en  
Amerique.

Profession ouvrier agricole

*Berchem*, le 14 Septembre 1908.

Signature du porteur,

*Henri Toes*

Sur pour légalisation  
 de la signature de  
 Henri Toes apposée  
 est ma présence

*Le Bourgmestre*  
*Wilhemaaf*

LE BOURGMESTRE,

*Wilhemaaf*



## REFERENCE NOTES

The following notes are arranged by Chapter heading.

### INTRODUCTION

1. Eugene Laermans (b. 1864-1940) is a Flemish painter of contemporary scenes.
2. The authors made several voyages on military ships during the Second World War and the post-war period. There were dogs present in coops on the stern of the ship so it is reasonable to assume that man's best friend emigrated with him. However, some of these dogs must have ended up in the cook-pot during the frequent starvation periods aboard sailing-ships.
3. See Reuben G. Thwaites translation of Hennepin's New Discovery, 1903, reproduced in 1972 by the Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.
4. Perrot's Memoire, pp 111, 114, 228 and Jesuit Relations, Vol. 25, p 292.
5. Letter of Rev. Father Beschefer to M. Cabart de Villermont, Quebec, 19 Sep 1687.
6. See an article by Ted Cook in Belgian Laces, edited by Micheline Gaudette, Holyoke, Mass., Aug 1978. p 2.
7. See biography of John B. Heyrman in History Of Brown County, Wisconsin, Vol. 2, by Deborah Martin, 1913.
8. There are several histories available on the Flemish in Detroit. A very good one is Arthur Verthe's 150 Years Of Flemings In Detroit, Lannoo, Tielt, Belgium, 1983.
9. Charles De Smedt, "From Oppressed Flanders To The Most Beautiful Country In The World," Wisconsin Magazine Of History, Vol. 42, Summer 1949, pp 275-281.
10. From the Diamond Jubilee booklet of St. Paul Parish, Wrightstown, 1936, quotation by Rev. A.L. Buytaert.
11. In the 1910 census, people were asked to give their country of origin and their nationality; many said that they were Flemish from Holland.
12. For an excellent description of this Dutch migration, see Wooden Shoes West by Rev. Scott Vandehey, Times Litho Printer, Forest Grove, Oregon, 1979. Another account is The Land Of The Fox: Outagamie County by Edward G. Bubolz, Appleton, Wisconsin, 1949.
13. Anton Jarstad, "The Melting Pot In Northeastern Wisconsin," Wisconsin Magazine Of History, Vol. 26, Jun 1943, p 429.
14. Bella French in her 1876 History Of Brown County, Wisconsin has this account of the first German settlers. Deborah Martin, in History Of Brown County, says that Preble was settled in 1836 by Peter Faenger and other Germans, p 324. See also History Of New Franken at the Brown County Library.
15. Andrew W. Rentmeester "History Of Finger Road School" Incidents In The History Of Brown County, Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wis., 1948, p 88.
16. Based on Intent To Be Naturalized applications filed.

REFERENCE NOTES: INTRODUCTION continued.

17. These Intent To Be Naturalized forms apply only to Brown County and the originals are on file at the Area Research Center, Univ. of Wis/Green Bay. The authors have the list of Flemish immigrants used for the graph.
18. See International Migrations, Walter F. Wilcox, editor, New York, 1969, and Henry G. Bayer's The Belgians: First Settlers In New York And The Middle States, New York, 1925. Also, The Ethnic Almanac by Stephanie Bernardo, Doubleday, Garden City, N.Y., 1981.
19. 8<sup>th</sup> Census Of The United States, 1860, Mortality and Miscellaneous Statistics, page liii.
20. History Of The Catholic Church In Wisconsin by Rev. Leo Rummel, West De Pere, Wis., 1976, p 107. The Boston Globe quote is on page 108.
21. United States Census, 1870, Population, pp 337-340, U.S. Government Printing Office, Wash., D.C.
22. For a detailed study of Belgian-Dutch immigration to Minnesota, see Louis M. de Gruse "The Low Countries," They Chose Minnesota, June Holmquist, editor, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, Minn., 1981.
23. Vlamingen Te Moline, Center for Belgian Culture, Moline, Ill. The leader of the Moline community is Dr. Dolores Bul-tinck, Consul of Belgium.
24. The historian of the Indiana Belgians is Henry A. Verslype, who furnished us this information in a letter dated 8 Nov 1984.
25. DeVolksstem was published in Wisconsin from 1890 to 1919 and microfilms of the newspaper are available at the Brown County Library. The Gazette Van Moline was started in 1907 but is now discontinued. The Gazette Van Detroit was first published in 1913 and is still in operation.
26. Biographies of famous Flemings can be found in Belgians In America by Philemon D. Sabbe and Leon Buyse, Lannoo, Tielt, Belgium, 1960, available at the Belgian Press, 111243 Mack Ave., Detroit, Mich.

FLANDERS

1. The Belgians, First Settlers In New York And The Middle Atlantic States by Henry A. Bayer, Devron Adair Co., N.Y., 1925, p 45.
2. See Shepard B. Clough, History Of The Flemish Movement In Belgium, New York, 1930. Also, Leon Dominian's Frontiers Of Language And Nationality In Europe, New York, 1917.
3. A good background on the Dutch language is provided in Dutch, The Language Of 20,000,000 Dutch And Flemish People, published by the Flemish-Netherlands Foundation, Brussels, 1981.
5. Vandenbergh and d'Olmen wrote the trip off as a financial loss. See Belgium At The Heart Of Europe, by P. De Prins, Brussels, Belgium.
6. This period before 1794 is known in history as the Ancien Regime.

REFERENCE NOTES: FLANDERS continued.

7. Jules Rentmeesters, Rentmeesters, available at Fortstraat 9, 2510 Mortsel, Belgium.
8. Belgians In America, op.cit. pp 38-39.
9. The Fair Face Of Flanders, by Patricia Carson, E-Story-Scientia, Ghent, Belgium, 1978. p 204.
10. 150 Years Of Flemings In Detroit. op.cit.
11. George Pare, Catholic Church In Detroit, Detroit, Mich. pp 392-400.
12. The Walloon migration has been discussed by many authors, such as Xavier Martin in "The Belgians of Northeast Wisconsin," Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. XIII, Madison, Wis., 1895; Wisconsin's Belgian Community by H.R. Holand, and others. An excellent summary can be found in Mary Ann Defnet's "The Belgians," Farewell To The Homeland, Brown County, Wisconsin Historical Society, 1984. Joseph J. Pierre in his 1976 book Historical And Genealogical Information On Our Belgian Ancestors says that the European press and posters advertised, "Come! In Wisconsin all men are free and equal before the law. Religion is free and equal between church and state. Opportunities are unlimited for those who want to work. Good land can be purchased from the generous American government for \$1.25 an acre." It appears that the first Walloons to come to America had William Horkmans with them; he had arrived in America some years previously to work on the ill-fated Fox River-Wisconsin navigation system, after which, he had returned to Belgium.
13. John H. Mertens of Kewaunee, Wis., writes (26 Jan 1985) that he stayed with a Mertens family in Belgium in 1984. The family spoke only Walloon and considered themselves Walloons. In America, people who are half-Flemish and half-Walloon are called double-Belgians.
14. Holy Martyrs Of Gorcum: 100 Years, Green Bay, Wis., 1969, states that the Flemish were well-educated and had good penmanship and that the Walloons were poor and suffered many hardships.
15. Rentmeesters, op.cit. pp 3, 4.
16. For a fascinating discussion of Flemish names, see the articles by Rev. Karel Denys "What's Behind My Flemish Family Name" in Flemish American Heritage, published by the Genealogy Society of Flemish Americans, 18740 - 13 Mile Road, Roseville, Mich., 48066.
17. Walter F. Willcox, ed. International Migrations, New York, 1969, p 485. Also Shepard B. Clough, History Of The Flemish Movement In Belgium, New York, 1930.
18. Patricia Carson, The Fair Face Of Flanders, op. cit. p 201.
19. This information is contained in a letter from historian, Roger Paeps, St. Joris-Weert, Belgium, dated 13 Dec 1984.
20. The migration of these early Protestant families is well documented by - Antoine De Smet, Xavier Martin, Mary Ann Defnet and others because they were among the early Walloon families to come to Wisconsin in 1853. Apparently, these families, from St. Joris-Weert and Grez-Doiceau in Brabant,

REFERENCE NOTES: FLANDERS continued.

- were influenced by their pastor, Vleugels, who spoke both Flemish and Walloon. Other Walloon families had migrated earlier, however.
21. Andrew W. Rentmeester, Incidents In The History Of Brown County, op.cit. p 88. This desire of the Flemish to be land-owners, is reflected in an 1969 letter from Henri Bruffaerts of Huldenberg to his brother, Joannes "...you bought 16 bunders (20 acres) of land, forests and meadows for 3,440 francs (\$510.00). Well, I can say that we have to pay much more for renting it. All the land of your Lord Grizard is renting now for \$104.00 per acre. The land that I am renting all belongs to the Baroness of Neerijse now and people are angry and jealous because they tried to get that land...."
  22. Records of Flemish immigrants who served as Civil War soldiers show that they averaged 5'7" in height, had blue eyes and auburn hair.
  23. This information on Flemish village life was furnished by Jules Rentmeesters, Mortsel, Belgium, who is a genealogist-historian-author.
  24. The Flemings preferred wind instruments, while Walloons seemed to like violin music. A Fleming, Antoine Saxe, invented the saxophone in 1840; it is now a very popular band instrument.

FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN

1. E. Spelkins, Two Studies On Emigration Through Antwerp To The New World, Center for American Studies, Brussels, 1976, pp 63, 64.
2. The Rentmeester family, and possible some other Flemish families, lived in Germany for awhile, according to family tradition.
3. This law was widely ignored because the already bad ventilation in the steerage section would have become intolerable. See Maldwyn A. Jones, Destination America, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1876.
4. E. Spelkens, op.cit. pp 57-83.
5. Wooden Shoes West by Father Scott Vandehay, Times Litho Printer, Forest Grove, Oregon, 1979, is a delightful account of the Hollander migration to Wisconsin, followed by out-migration to Nebraska and Oregon.
6. Jules Rentmeesters says that this expression is used in Flanders but not in Holland and France. He delicately translates it as "He shoots with bacon."
7. Sister M. J. McDonald, History Of The Irish In Wisconsin In The 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Catholic University, Washington, D.C., 1954, has a good description of Wisconsin emigrant policy.
8. This Walloon migration is well documented. See Antoine De Smet, La Communauté Belge Du Nord-Est De Wisconsin: Ses Origines, Son Evolution Jusque Vers 1900. Royal Library, Brussels, 1954; Xavier Martin, op.cit.; Mary Ann Defnet, op.cit., etc.

REFERENCE NOTES: FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN continued.

9. Jules Rentmeesters sent us copies of Belgian government documents containing such warnings. For instance, a Government Emigration notice, dated 7 May 1856, telling the people to deal only with the Office for Emigration at Antwerp, not to make prepayments, to read Belgian Consul Poncelet's pessimistic report on Green Bay conditions in 1855, etc. A notice from Leuven Court of Justice, 6 Nov 1857, requests police officers to watch for agents of shipping companies who use fraudulent practices.
10. Available in the Royal Library, Brussels, No. 4907, 150 pages. Jules Rentmeesters provided us with a translation.
11. Antoine De Smet, op.cit.
12. Marcella Kuypers wrote the story of the De Both family many years ago.
13. This is based on letters from Jules Rentmeesters of Belgium who spent many years of research in genealogy.
14. Wisconsin had a Flemish-speaking agent at Quebec for 1852-1855. See The Irish In Wisconsin, op.cit.
15. H.R. Holland, Wisconsin's Belgian Community, p 6.
16. Belgians in America, op.cit. p 209.
17. Roger Paeps, in a letter from St. Joris-Weert, Belgium says that there are still people in his village who remember accompanying emigrants to the railroad station on their way to America.
18. Carl Witke, We Who Built America, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, 1964, has a history of the early immigrants and their troubles. In 1847, 17,000 Irish immigrants died on the journey to the U.S. Destination America op.cit., p 36. Also see p 33 of "The Atlantic Crossing" by Edward C. Guillet from World Migration In Modern Times, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1968.
19. The record time for a crossing is a little over four days. One of the authors was on the Queen Mary, chased by German submarines in 1943, on the way to England, when the trip took 4 and 1/2 days.
20. We Who Built America, op.cit., p 114.
21. Henry J. Lurquin, 100 Years In America, 1966. Mary Ann Defnet, author and publisher.
22. The states controlled ports of entry for emigrants until the Federal Government took over in 1892. See We Who Built America, op.cit., p 123. Also, Destination America pp 50-57, has a story on the New York Emigration Commission which was established in 1847 to care for and protect newcomers.
23. Why Wisconsin by F.F. Bowman, Democrat Printing Co., Madison, Wis., 1948.
24. The Green Bay Advocate was established by Charles and Albert Robinson in 1846 and reported on Green Bay happenings until 1906. See Jack Rudolph's 1976 Birthplace Of A Commonwealth; Deborah Martin's 1913 History Of Brown County; and, Bella French's 1876 American Sketch Book.

REFERENCE NOTES: FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN continued.

25. Wegwijzer En Raedgever Der Landverhuizers, op.cit., p 80.
26. In 100 Years In America, op.cit., Felix Lurquin said that the immigrant trains had the lowest priority on the tracks and were shunted aside to allow freight and other passenger trains to pass.
27. The Emigrants' Handbook And Guide To Wisconsin by Samuel Freeman, Sentinel and Gazette Power Press, Milwaukee, Wis., 1851. Some of the emigrants also studied the 1849 Emigrants Guide To The State Of Michigan by E.H. Thomson. Both of these documents were available in Belgium.
28. Wisconsin Travel Companion by Richard Olsenius and Judy A. Zerby, Bluestem Productions, Wayzata, Minn., 1983.
29. Green Bay Advocate, 12 June 1856.

LIFE IN THE NEW WORLD

1. Sources for life in Green Bay in the late 1850s are Jack Rudolph, Birthplace Of A Commonwealth; Bella French, American Sketchbook; and Deborah Martin, History Of Brown County; plus our Memories Of Old Duck Creek. Bella French has census figures: Green Bay=3051; Fort Howard=1239; De Pere=507.
2. See for instance, Hjalmar Rued Holand, Wisconsin's Belgian Community, Door County Historical Society, Sturgeon Bay, Wis., 1933; and, Constant Delvaux's Memoirs.
3. These were the prices quoted for July 1856 by the Green Bay Advocate.
4. The word, Kermis or Kermess, has various spellings; in Flanders it is Kermis, but in the Funk and Wagnalls Standard Dictionary, it is Kermess. The dictionary definitions are:
  - (1) In Flanders, a periodic outdoor festival with noisy merriment;
  - (2) An indoor or outdoor festival imitative of the Flemish;
  - (3) The celebration of a feast-day in Flanders.
5. The World Of The Black Bear by Joe Van Wormer, J.B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, 1966, has a description of the black bear, which were very numerous in the Green Bay area.
6. "Journal of a Missionary Among The Indians" by Reverend Anthony Gachet, Wisconsin Magazine Of History, Vol. 18, Dec. 1934, p 197.
7. In those days the product of French and Indian marriages were called French-Creoles. See Memories Of Old Duck Creek, p 2.
8. Dutch: The Language Of 20 Million Dutch And Flemish People, published by the Flemish-Netherlands foundation, Brussels, Belgium, 1981. It should be noted that the Dutch language didn't become standardized until the publication of a Dutch dictionary (Woordenboek Der Nederlandsche Tael) in 1864.
9. As reported by his grandson, Andrew W. Rentmeester, Incidents In The History Of Brown County, Wisconsin, 1948, p 88. In

REFERENCE NOTES: FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN continued.

- the Belgium Emigrant's Guide, land with oak trees was recommended for wheat growing.
10. See Vol. Z, p 44, Brown County Deeds And Mortgages.
  11. Incidents In The History Of Brown County, op.cit. According to the story, they packed up and went to Missouri.
  12. Alice Smith, The History Of Wisconsin, Vol 1, State Historical Society, Madison, Wis., 1973.
  13. This was the source of much amusement for Flemish-Americans. When Andrew W. Rentmeester drove past this section, he would delight in telling its interesting history. The fact that titles in this section couldn't be verified, made titles to surrounding areas questionable.
  14. For a description of this fascinating period of our history see the chapter on Problems With Land Titles in our Memories Of Old Duck Creek.
  15. The background information on the corrective survey can be found in the 1878 Historical Atlas Of Wisconsin by Snyder, Van Vechten and Co. on page 95. We thank Leslie Van Horn, Brown County Surveyor, for his advice in this research. There was an Act of Congress in 1805 that directed that land be subdivided into quarter-sections, but this was not always followed.
  16. Volume V, page 2, Brown County (Wis.) Deeds And Mortages.
  17. Norbert and Mary (Loy) Rentmeester live on the property originally purchased by his grand-father in 1856.
  18. See Rentmeesters, by Jules Rentmeesters, p 68.
  19. This story was told by Norbert Rentmeester, born in 1897.
  20. Dorothy Beno Lutomski and Mary Ann Lurquin Defnet, Reunion: A Beno-Champeau Genealogy, Green Bay, Wis., 1978, p 44.
  21. Jack Rudolph, Birthplace Of A Commonwealth, op.cit. pp 29-30.
  22. A description of this festival appears in our Memories Of Old Duck Creek.
  23. Reverend A.L. Buytaert in Diamond Jubilee booklet of St. Paul Parish, Wrightstown, Wis. 1936.
  24. Green Bay Advocate, Nov 3, 1857.
  25. This appears to be the most likely spot, based on information found in Jules Rentmeesters' book, op.cit.
  26. This plaque is described by Belgian Consul Poncelet in an 1855 report and by writers like Xavier Martin and Holand.
  27. Emigration-Avis signed by Governor Liedts of the Province of Brabant, Brussels, 7 May 1856, translated by Jules Rentmeesters.
  28. Letters Of Arnold Verstegen, edited by M.J. Vanden Elsen, in the Annals of St. Joseph, Little Chute, Wis.
  29. Incidents In The History Of Brown County, op.cit.
  30. Bella French, op.cit., pp 106, 158.
  31. This list was obtained from a variety of sources, including letters from John H. Mertens of Kewaunee, cemetery records, military records in the National Archives, Volunteer Enlistment records, the Green Bay Advocate, etc. John Mertens has done

REFERENCE NOTES: FROM FLANDERS TO WISCONSIN continued.

- a thorough study of Belgians serving in the Civil War.
32. One of these was Felix Servais of Sugar Bush, married to Julia Padore. He fled to Canada in October 1864 and encountered many difficulties. An account of the Belgian rebellion can be found in the Green Bay Historical Bulletin, Jan-Feb 1927, Vol. 3, No. 1, "Early Bridges and Ferries Across the Fox River" by A.C. Neville, pp 13-15.
33. Incidents In The History Of Brown County, op.cit. p 45.
34. Stephen Vincent Benet, John Brown's Body, Holt, Rinehart and Wilson, New York, 1980, p 50.
35. The story was told by Andrew W. Rentmeester, Christofel's grandson.
36. Hamlin Garland, A Son Of The Middle Border, Grosset and Dunlop, New York, 1914.
37. Eric E. Lampard, The Rise Of The Dairy Industry In Wisconsin.
38. There are many stories written about this historic event. An on-the-scene account is "The Great Fires In Wisconsin" by Frank Tilton, 1871, Green Bay Historical Bulletin, Vols. 1-9, 1925-1934.
39. The De Both Family by Marcella Kuypers, Area Research Center, University of Wisconsin/Green Bay, 1939.
40. This information came from Regina Vervaeren Le Mere, daughter of Theresa Vander Wegen Vervaeren.
41. Norbert Rentmeester was the student in question.
42. From his grandson, Anthony Williams.
43. Mary Ann Defnet, "The Belgians" in Farewell To The Homeland, Brown County Historical Society.
44. A good account of lumbering can be found in Why Wisconsin by Francis Bowman. Democrat Printing Co., Madison, Wis., 1948.
45. 1889 Brown County Directory, U.S. Central Publishing Co., Chicago, 1890.
46. A Look At The Nackers And Meulemans by Sister Mary Arnold, Area Research Center, Univ. of Wis./Green Bay, Wis., 1982, p 41.
47. "From Oppressed Flanders To The Most Beautiful Country In The World" Wisconsin Magazine Of History, Vol. 42, Summer 1949, pp 275-281.

THE RELIGION  
OF THE FLEMISH-AMERICANS

1. As stated by Cardinal Godfried Danniels in 150 Years Of Flemings In Detroit by Arthur Verthe, Brussels, Belgium, 1983, p 9.
2. "From Oppressed Flanders To The Most Beautiful Country In The World" Wisconsin Magazine Of History, Vol. 42, Summer 1949, pp 175-187.
3. A Look At The Nackers And Meulemans, op.cit. p 41.
4. Ibid.

REFERENCE NOTES: THE RELIGION OF THE FLEMISH-AMERICANS continued.

5. Our Memories Of Old Duck Creek. pp 189-199.
6. Incidents In The History Of Brown County, op.cit.
7. Brown County Deeds And Mortgages, Vol. Y.
8. Holy Martyrs Of Gorcum: 100 Years, Green Bay, Wis., 1969.
9. Antoine De Smet, op.cit.
10. Hjalmar Reed Holand, Wisconsin's Belgian Community, op.cit., and Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. XIII, p 384.
11. Biographical information from Sister Brideen Long, In Our Vineyard, Archives, Green Bay Diocese.

FLEMISH-AMERICAN COOKING

1. These recipes were gathered from Flemish cooks in the Brown County, Wisconsin area. They were then compared with recipes in Dutch And Belgian Recipes by Joanne Phillips Hansford, University of Wisconsin/Green Bay, 1984; Belgian Cook Book compiled by the Center For Belgian Culture of Western Illinois, Dr. Dolores Bultinck, 1978; and Enid Gordon and Midge Shirley, A Taste Of The Belgian Provinces, Brussels, Belgium, 1982. This last book states that the words - beer, malt - hops are of Flemish origin.
2. Comment by Jules Rentmeesters of Mortsel, Belgium - StinkKees means stinking cheese. Kees is typical Brabant and Antwerp Flemish and has the same pronunciation as "case" in English. In Belgium, its name has always been Brusselse Kees and not Limburg cheese. It is a very salty, semi-soft, greyish-white cheese, rather cheap and eaten on a very large scale by the working-class and peasants until World War II. The official Dutch spelling for Kees is Kaas.
3. Jules Rentmeesters reminds us that boullion is an extract chicken or meat and is a clear, thin soup. The Flemish-Americans have interpreted this French word in their own way.
4. Both Marie Coppens Crabb and Evelyn Poels gave us this recipe.
5. Recipe from Mary Loy Rentmeester.
6. Recipe from Anna Vander Kelen Rentmeester.
7. Recipe from Edna Rentmeester Delfosse.
8. Recipe from Anna Vander Kelen Rentmeester.
9. Recipe from Beatrice Rentmeester Weidner.
10. Recipe from Beatrice Rentmeester Weidner and Anna Vander Kelen Rentmeester.
11. Jules Rentmeesters says that, to his knowledge, dandelion wine is not made in Flanders.

SOME FLEMISH STORIES

1. August Maekelberghe, Flemish Folktales, Detroit Publications Consultants, Detroit, Michigan, 1977, pp 123-126.

REFERENCE NOTES: EARLY FLEMISH FAMILIES.

EARLY FLEMISH FAMILIES

1. For the villages of the Oud-Heverlee area (the old names are: OUD-HEVERLEE, VAALBEEK, ST. JORIS-WEERT, BLANDEN and HAASRODE) family researchers can obtain more information from:

CIRCLE FOR LOCAL HISTORY OF OUD-HEVERLEE

Mrs. Godelieve Mathijs

Waversebaan 60, Box 31

3030 Heverlee - Louvain, Belgium

or

Mr. Jules Rentmeesters

Fortstraat 9

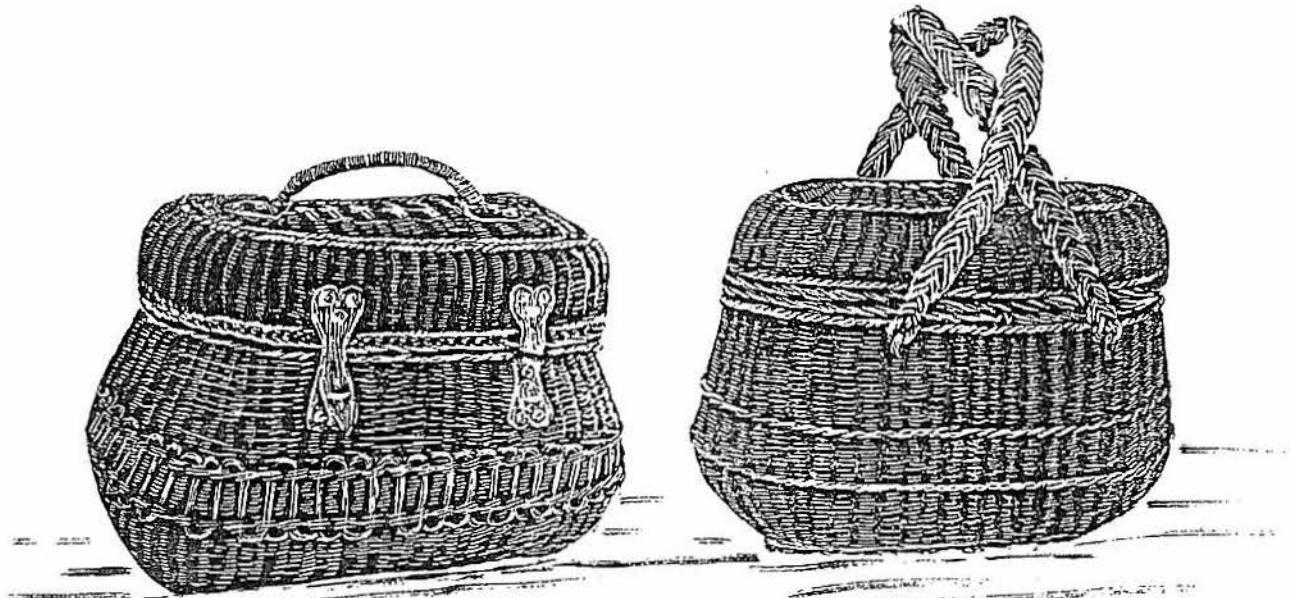
2510 Mortsel, Belgium

\* \* \* \* \*

TYPICAL FLEMISH BASKETS OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY

Below are shown two types of woven hand-baskets, very common in the Leuven area. They were used for many purposes, but principally to carry eggs, butter and other farm products to market and to carry store-boughten articles on the return trip.

The Flemish-American women would weave their own baskets, but soon found that Menominee women would do it for them very cheaply. The Indians used artistic designs with dyes obtained from tree sap; they also wove matts (called puck-a-way) to cover the cabin floor.



## INDEX

Abts, 33, 145.  
 Adams, 18, 53, 145.  
 Adriaens, 17, 95, 145.  
 Adriaenssen, 17, 145.  
 Agamaite, 147.  
 Allard, 147.  
 Allen, 124, 143, 147.  
     " , Albert, 124.  
     " , Charles, 124.  
     " , Elizabeth, 124.  
     " , Gertrude, 124, 148.  
 Allouez, Town of, 38.  
 Alsteens, 53, 149.  
 Ancien Regime, 14.  
 Anderegg, 149, A-2.  
 Antwerp, 1, 2, 16, 23, 31, 35.  
     101, 113.  
 Apparis, 149.  
 April, 149.  
     " , Frank, 35.  
 Arkens, 65, 150.  
     " , Henry, 56.  
 Arnold, Sister Mary, 261, 269.  
 Azores, 13.

Babcock, Stephen, 88, 92.  
 Baeb, 151.  
 Baekeland, Dr. Leo, 8.  
 Bake-oven, 60-61.  
 Balza, 100, 106, 152.  
 Basteyns, 18, 91, 152.  
 Bay Area Genealogy Society  
     (Green Bay), 7.  
 Bay Settlement, 4, 31, 48, 54,  
     69, 117.  
 Beer, 122.  
 Belgian Laces, 7.  
 Belgian Researchers, 7.  
 Bellevue, 21, 48.  
 Benet, Stephen Vincent, 88.  
 Benham, Sylvia Gilling, 217.  
 Bentz, 153.  
 Bequr, 153.  
 Beransen, 153.  
 Berendson, Catherine, 100.  
     " , Henry, 100.  
 Berger, 154.  
 Biemeret, 154.  
 Bierbeek, 26, 30.  
 Billian, 154.

Blomme, 154.  
 Boehm, Joyce, 217, 273.  
     " , Minnie Allen, 148.  
 Bogart, 155.  
 Bolina, 155.  
 Bolssens, 155.  
 Bombaers, 65, 156.  
 Boncher, 156.  
 Bonduel, Rev. Florimond J., 3,  
     16, 42, 48, 52, 53, 80, 82,  
     116, A-1.  
 Bongers, Rev. Matthew, A-3.  
 Booyah, 119, 122.  
 Borremans, 33, 100, 156.  
 Bosch, 13.  
 Bosschaerts, 157.  
 Bosse, 157.  
 Boyce, 158.  
 Boykins, 159.  
 Buchard (see Bosschaerts).  
 Brabant, iii, 6, 16, 19, 20, 23, 24.  
 Bredael, 53, 159.  
 Bries, 160.  
 Broens, Rev. A., 117.  
 Brown, Florence Wery, 385.  
 Bruegel, 13, 21.  
 Bruffaerts, 115, 160.  
 Bruyninckx, 35, 161.  
 Bruys, 161.  
 Buildings, 161.  
 Bultinck, Dr. Dolores, 7.  
 Buntin, Margaret, 275.  
 Burkel, 161.  
 Burnet, 162.  
 Burrows, Florence Laes, 160, 241.  
 Busch, H.J., 49-50.  
     " , Lucille Engels, 215, 247.  
     " , Robert J., 247.

Caesar, Julius, 11, 103.  
 Callewaerts, 3, 18, 24, 72, 104, 162.  
 Cappelle, 165.  
 Castle Garden, 39-43.  
 Catholic, 12, 16, 18, 22.  
 Cathersal, Carole, 285.  
 Cattersol, (see Quatresols).  
     " , Frank, 52.  
     " , Peter, 51.  
 Catthour, 165.  
 Cauterels, 166.

## INDEX

- Cauwenberg, 36, 166.  
 " , Catherine, 36.  
 " , Jean Baptiste, 48,  
 91.  
 Center For Belgian Culture, Mo-  
 line, Illinois, 7, 123.  
 Cermuller, Pierre, 82.  
 Champeau, Oliver, 63.  
 " , Sister Mary Rose, 63.  
 Chicago, (Illinois), 6, 43.  
 Cholera, 38, 76.  
 Christens, 100, 167.  
 " , Gustav, 100-101.  
 " , Rose, 34.  
 Civil War, 5, 42.  
 Clabots, 36, 56, 65, 91, 168.  
 " , Francis, 81.  
 " , John B. 81.  
 Cleeremans, 32, 36, 59, 65, 65,  
 70, 91, 106, 109, 169.  
 " , Alex, 96.  
 " , Henry, 59, 70, 91.  
 Collard, 100, 170.  
 " , Desiré, 82.  
 " , Virginia, 172.  
 Colle, 172.  
 Colluying, 172.  
 Cologne, 173.  
 Columbus, 13.  
 Conscience, Hendrik, 12.  
 Coopmans, 106, 173.  
 " , John J., 78.  
 " , Philip, 113.  
 " , William, 58.  
 Coppens, 18, 112, 174.  
 " , Jean J., 82.  
 " , Philip, 65.  
 " , Mrs. William, 56.  
 Coppersmith, 176.  
 " , Marshall, 86.  
 Corstens, 177.  
 Coulard, 177.  
 Crabb, 177.  
 " , Marie (Mrs. Sam), 112-114.  
 176.  
 Crabbe, Anna Catherine, 51.  
 Crombrugge, 177.  
 Cropp (Crabbe), 18, 177.  
 " , Mrs. Clarence, 278.  
 Cumps (see Kimps).  
 Dachelet, 179.  
 Daems, 18, 179.  
 " , Rev. Edward, 4, 6, 25, 48,  
 63, 69, 76, 117, 118, 119, 121,  
 A-1.  
 Damien De Veuster, Father, 16.  
 Daniels, 18, 180.  
 " , Frank, 82.  
 Dansey, 181.  
 Dantine, 181.  
 Dart, 181.  
 Dawe, 181.  
 Dealen, 181.  
 De Beck, Alfred, 82.  
 De Becker, 18, 91, 182.  
 De Boers, 56, 182.  
 De Bot, 182.  
 De Both, 30, 59, 65, 95, 183.  
 " , Antoine, 30, 98, 104.  
 " , Dianne Mommaerts, 151, 183,  
 265.  
 " , Joanna, 30.  
 De Brewer, 184.  
 Decker, 185.  
 De Cleene, 185.  
 " , John, 96.  
 " , Peter, 96.  
 De Clerk, 186.  
 De Cockx, 186.  
 De Coster, 33, 59, 112, 113, 186.  
 " , Gladys Willems, 187, 206,  
 385.  
 " , Jean Bte., 56.  
 De Cremer, 187.  
 " , Pierre, 82.  
 Deersman, 187.  
 Defnet, Mary Ann, 7, 105, 252.  
 De Grand, Pam, 293.  
 De Grave (De Greef), 104, 188.  
 " , Big Felix, 140.  
 " , Susanna, 78.  
 De Greef, Anton, 24, 48, 49, 51,  
 79, 188.  
 " , Frank, 98.  
 " , Joseph, 48, 74.  
 " , Peter, 48, 78.  
 De Groot, 18.  
 De Haan, Rev. William, A-3.  
 De Jonghe, 18, 191.  
 De Kelver, 191.  
 " , Guillaume, 82.

## INDEX

- De Keuster, 192.  
 " , Joseph, 82.  
 De Keyser, 33, 192.  
 " , Amelia, 194.  
 De Laet, 194.  
 Delaruelle, 194.  
 De Leers, 91, 144, 194.  
 " , Alphonse, 102.  
 " , George, 195.  
 " , Joseph, 91.  
 " , Mary Catherine, 91.  
 " , Vincent, 195.  
 " , Zita and Jake, 195.  
 Delfosse, Edna, 99, 290.  
 Deluster, 196.  
 Delvoye, 196.  
 Deman, 197.  
 De Main, Vicki, 322.  
 Deminnick, 197.  
 De Mulder, 197.  
 De Muyser, 197.  
 Deneys, 100, 101, 197.  
 Dennis, 18.  
 Denissen, Nickolas, 63.  
 De Noble, Casimir, 24.  
 De Nolven, 199.  
 Denruyter, 199.  
 Denys, Father Karel, 17.  
 De Pauw, Charles, 2.  
 " , Michael, 1.  
 " , University, 2.  
 " , George W., 1.  
 De Prince, 199.  
 Derbe, 199.  
 De Roost, 200.  
 Derricks, 200.  
 Derwae, 91, 200.  
 " , Elizabeth, 48.  
 " , John Fr., 47.  
 De Smedt, 201.  
 " , Charles, 3, 115.  
 De Smet, Father Pieter, 15, 96.  
 De Starka, 202.  
 Deterville, Peter, 24.  
 Detrie, 33, 202.  
 " , Catherine, 91, 92.  
 " , Jennie, 124.  
 " , Louis, 91, 92.  
 Detroit, 3, 17, 37, 110, 116.  
 De Verttie, 203.  
 Devilez, Joseph, 91.  
 De Volder, 203.  
 De Volksstem, 7, 104.  
 Devroy, 65, 91, 96, 204.  
 " , Diane, 206.  
 De Waels, 206.  
 De Wan, 206.  
 De Witt, 18, 138.  
 " , Dan, 187, 248.  
 " , John, 138.  
 " , Joseph, 138.  
 Dhooge, 207.  
 Dhyne, 82, 208.  
 Dick, 208.  
 Dictus, 208.  
 " , Henry, 208.  
 Dobereiner, Jean and Mark, 184, 224.  
 Dollar, 12.  
 D'Olmen, 13.  
 Doms, 208.  
 Donati's Comet, 77.  
 Doogan, 209.  
 Draye, 209.  
 " , Pierre, 82.  
 Droog, 209.  
 Duchateau, 91, 100, 102, 210.  
 " , Frank, 91, 210.  
 " , Lucy, 113.  
 " , Margaret Poels, 227.  
 " , William, 56.  
 Duck Creek, iii, 25, 53, 59, 69, 71,  
     72, 79, 86, 87, 91, 96, 98, 112,  
     117.  
 Dunks, 18, 212.  
 " , Joseph, 82.  
 " , Philomene, 119.  
 " , Ruby Williquette, 392.  
 Dyle River, 20, 21.  
  
 Eaton, 78, 114.  
 Ellis, A.G., 55.  
 Emigrant's Guide, 25, 26, 39, 40.  
     41, 62.  
 Engels, 213.  
 " , Edward, 72.  
 " , Peter, 79.  
 Everix, 215.  
 Evraets, 215.

## INDEX

Fabry, 215.  
 Fastnachts, i.  
 Fillmore, Millard, Pres., 58.  
 Finger (Faenger), Peter, 53,  
     59, 69, 70, 117.  
 Finger Road, 3, 48, 53, 117.  
 Finger Road School, 62, 103,  
     124.  
 Flamenco, 14.  
 Flanders, iii, 3, 8, 10-20,  
     28, 60.  
 Flanders (East), 7, 16.  
     " (West), 7, 16.  
 Flax, 13, 84, 85.  
 Flemings, 215.  
 Flemish American Heritage, i,  
     7.  
     " Art, 13, 19.  
     " Bastard, 2.  
     " Kitchen, 9.  
 Flying Fortress, 8.  
 Fontaine, 215.  
     " Frances, 119.  
 Franssens, 17, 216.  
 French, Bella, 85.  
 French-Creoles, 45, 53, 56,  
     70.  
  
 Gachet, Rev., 52.  
 Garland, Hamlin, 90, 95.  
Gaston (ship), 35.  
 Gaudette, Micheline, 7.  
 Gauthier, Charlie, 141.  
 Gazette Van Detroit, 7.  
     " Van Moline, 7.  
 Geermaert, Charles, 32.  
 Gems of Genealogy, 7.  
 Genealogy Society of Flemish-Americans, 7.  
 Gilbert, 216.  
 Gillings, 113, 114, 216.  
 Gillis, 53, 218.  
 Goffart, 33, 218.  
     " Ferdinand, 82.  
 Golden Spurs (battle), 11.  
 Gonthyn, Rev. Edmund, A-2.  
 Goosens, 82, 218.  
 Gossart, 219.  
 Gouden, 219.

Graham Polly (ship, 35.  
 Greatens, 18, 219.  
     " Norbert, 220.  
 Green Bay, 28-30, 45, 49.  
 Green Bay Advocate, 41, 46-50, 65,  
     72, 77, 95.  
 Green Bay Press Gazette, 103, 124.  
 Grossen, 220.  
     " Steven, 59.  
 Guilds, 12.  
 Guillaume, 220.  
 Guns (Goens), 221.  
  
 Haevers, 221.  
     " Ferdinand, 82.  
 Haezaerts, 100, 101, 222.  
 Hallaux, 143, 222.  
 Halley's Comet, 77.  
 Hansen, Patricia Huisman, 228.  
 Hansford, Joanne Phillips, 278.  
 Hauterbrook, 222.  
 Hendricks, 18, 53, 322.  
     " John, 98.  
 Hennepin, Father Louis, 1, 16.  
 Henrotin, Belgian Consul, 77.  
 Hermans, 18, 95, 223.  
 Heyrman, 2, 18, 28, 35, 71, 114,  
     223.  
     " Alphonse, 138.  
     " Barbara (De Both), 58, 98.  
     " John, 30, 39, 59, 79, 98,  
         104.  
     " Joseph, 74, 118.  
 Hinnendael, 225.  
 Holy Cross Church, 48, 118.  
 Hoffman, Dorothy Van Gheem, 258,  
     301, 356.  
 Holy Martyrs of Gorcum Church, 118,  
     119, 124, 139.  
 Hops, 32, 78, 122, 134.  
 Horchman (Hurkman), 17, 91, 95, 96,  
     229.  
     " Guillaume, 3, 4, 19, 25.  
     " Henri, 19.  
     " Martin, 82, 95.  
 Horkman, Fabien, 231.  
 Hoskins, 226.  
 Hoykens, 226.  
 Hubens, 226.  
     " John, 86.

## INDEX

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Huens, 227.<br/>         Huisman, 227.<br/>             ", Wayne, 228.<br/>         Huldenberg, 26, 28, 49, 72, 144.<br/>         Hulkman, 228.<br/>         Humboldt, 76, 115.<br/>         Hurkman, 229.<br/>         Hussin, 39, 231.<br/>             ", Joseph, 86.<br/>         Huybrechts, 234.</p> <p>Illinois, 6.<br/>         Indian Hole (saw-pit), 62.<br/>         Industrial Revolution, 19.<br/> <i>In Flanders Fields</i>, iii, 22.<br/>         Ingalls, Laura, 95.</p> <p>Jackman, 234.<br/>         Janee, 82, 235.<br/>         Jauquet, 106.<br/>             ", Emma Collard, 100.<br/>             ", Frank, 124.<br/>         Jedael, 235.<br/>             ", Josephine De Boers, 56.<br/>             ", Peter, 56.<br/>         Jefferson, Thomas, 55.<br/>         Jenkins, 235.<br/>         Jerry, Betty Rioux, 195, 370.<br/>         Joachimsthal, 11.<br/>         Joannes, iii, 18, 35, 65, 236.<br/>             ", Eugene, 74.<br/>             ", Mitchell, 82.<br/>             ", William, 82, 96.<br/>         Johnson, 237.<br/>         Jolley, 237.</p> <p>Kaster, Bishop Frederick, A-3.<br/>             ", Jake, 109.<br/>         Katers, 138, 237.<br/>         Kaye, 237.<br/>         Kaye, Anton, 82.<br/>         Kermis, iii, 21, 30, 38, 51,<br/>             59, 61, 69, 120, 124, 128.<br/>         Keshena, 51.<br/>         Kesler, Ann, 285.</p> | <p>Kiepes, Sebastien, 82.<br/>         Kimps, 89, 238.<br/>         Klimek, Mildred, 176.<br/>         Klubertanz, Helen, 160.<br/>         Knegtel, Rev. Theodore, A-3.<br/>         Knell, 240.<br/>         Kornowski, Robert, 234, 305.<br/>         Krausert, Catherine, 321.<br/>         Kropp (see Crabb), 240.<br/>         Kuypers, Marcella, 98, 184.</p> <p>Lace-making, 6.<br/>         Laes, 240.<br/>         La Fayette, 1.<br/>         Lafever, Josephine Brunette, 370.<br/>         La Haye, 102, 241.<br/>             ", Joseph, 86.<br/>         Laluzerne, 46.<br/>         La Mal, 241.<br/>             ", André, 82.<br/>             ", Clarence, 242.<br/>             ", Raymond, 242.<br/>         Lamar, George, 66.<br/>         Lambeau, 243.<br/>         Lambert, 83, 243.<br/>         Landverhuizers, 1, 26, 27.<br/>         Langelier, 243.<br/>         Lannoye, 243.<br/>         Lantz, Vada, 231.<br/>         Larsen, William, 104.<br/>         La Salle, 1.<br/>         Lathour, 100, 244.<br/>         Layman (Leeman), 53, 245.<br/>         Leebman, 246.<br/>         Le Febvre, 65, 83, 95, 246.<br/>             ", Charles, 91.<br/>             ", Edward, 83.<br/>             ", Leopold, 83.<br/>         Lefevere, Bishop Paul, 3, 41, 116.<br/>         Le Mere, Norman, 374.<br/>             ", Regina Vervaeren, 374.<br/>             ", Susan, 213.<br/>         Lenoye, 247.<br/>         Lentmans, 247.<br/>         Leopold I, 15.<br/>             ", II, 13.<br/>         Letellier, 247.<br/>         Leurquin, 247.<br/>         Libert, 248.</p> |
|--|--|

## INDEX

- Lindsley, 104, 107-8, 248.  
 " , Eleanor, 249.  
 " , Frank, 107.  
 " , John, 107.  
 Lion of Flanders, 14.  
 Little Chute, 4.  
 Long, Sister Brideen, A-1.  
 Louvain (Leuven), 11, 3, 20, 33,  
     49, 50, 88.  
     " , University of, ii, 116.  
 Loy, 65, 250.  
 " , Bill, 107.  
 " , Gertrude, 100, 124.  
 " , Jean Baptiste, 59.  
 " , Louis, 107.  
 Lucian, 251.  
 Lurquin, 100, 105, 114, 251.  
 " , Felix, 38, 91, 105.  
 " , Rosaline (Devroy), 38.  
  
 Maas, 252.  
 Maes, 18, 48, 100, 252.  
 " , Christoffel, 48.  
 Magellan, 14.  
 Mahechauffee, 253.  
 Malliet, 83, 253.  
 Maple Sugar, 70-71.  
 Marquette University, 116.  
 Martens, 253.  
 Martin, Xavier, 94, 119.  
 Marto, 72, 254.  
 " , Peter, 86.  
 Masschelein, 117, 255.  
 Masse, Belgian Consul, 86.  
 Massey, Lorraine, 374.  
 Massonet, Evelyn, 378.  
 Matheys, 37, 43, 48, 53, 62,  
     63, 112, 113, 114, 255.  
 " , André, 36, 59, 61, 66.  
 " , Eugene, 48, 100.  
 Mathijs, Godelieve, 143.  
 Mathu, 255.  
 Meert, 257.  
Memories Of Old Duck Creek, iii.  
 Menominee Indians, 3, 4, 52, 54,  
     71, 86, 91.  
 Mermuys, 257.  
 Mertens, 18, 258.  
 " , John Henry, 258.  
  
 Meulemans, 18, 71, 72, 79, 91,  
     100, 122, 259.  
 " Catherine, 95.  
 Meurens, Guillaume, 83.  
 Micheaux, 261.  
 Michiels, 261.  
 Millstone, 29.  
 Milwaukee, 28, 39, 41-45.  
 Mishawaka (Indiana), 6.  
 Moerckx, 262.  
 Moenssen, 263.  
 Moes, 263.  
 " , Henry, 86.  
 Moline (Illinois), 6.  
 Molitor, Jean 83.  
 Mommaerts, 18, 35, 264.  
 Motif, 100, 265.  
 Mullett, John, 55.  
 Mulligan, Joan, 296.  
  
 Nackers (see Nockerts).  
 " , Peter, 100.  
 Naze, Lorraine, 300.  
 Neerdaels, 266.  
 Neering, 266.  
 Nethen, 25.  
 Netols, 270.  
 " , Mae, 273.  
 Neville Public Museum, 50.  
 New Franken, 3, 75.  
 Nieuwland, Father Julius, 8.  
 Nioule, 266.  
 Nockerts (Nackers), 100, 104, 267.  
 " , Andreas, 74.  
 " , Dr. Kenneth, 268.  
 Nolvan, 269.  
 Norbertine Order, 12.  
 Notre Dame, 8.  
 Nowee, 269.  
 Nuthals, 18, 65, 83, 112, 113, 270.  
 " , Francis, 83, 89.  
 Nys, 18, 113, 273.  
  
 Orde, 274.  
 Ottenburg, 20, 30, 82, 83.  
 Oud-Heverlee, 26, 37, 48, 49,  
     58, 82, 83, 100, 118.

## INDEX

- Overijse, 25, 26, 82.  
 Oxen, 78-90.
- Paeps, 100, 274.  
 " , Roger, 143, 231, 274.  
 Palmer, Mabel, 113.  
 Pamperin, Arleen, 207.  
 Pansaerts, Carl, 255.  
 Panure, 274.  
 Patronyms, ii, 17, 138.  
 Paulson, Bruce K., 331.  
 Pauw, Michael, 1.  
 Pauwels, 18.  
 Peeters (Peters), 28, 92, 105,  
     106, 112.  
     " , Francois, 24, A-4.  
 Peigneier (Pannier), 83, 274.  
pensen, i, 128.  
 Pensier, 275.  
 Perrodin, Father, 77.  
 Peshtigo fire, 96-98.  
 Peters, 18, 108, 109, 112, 275.  
     " , Peter J., 83.  
 Petinoit, Francois, 25.  
 Petitjean, 277.  
     " , Francois, 24.  
 Peus, Louis, 83.  
 Phillips, 18, 104, 277.  
     " , Jean 59, 107.  
     " , Louisa De Greef, 124.  
     " , Mabel, 392.  
 Pierquet, 18, 100, 101, 278.  
     " , Bob, 62.  
     " , Clarence, 280.  
     " , Dolores, 280.  
     " , Jacob, 34.  
     " , Joseph I, 34, 103,  
         111.  
     " , Joseph II, 280.  
 Piron, 280.  
 Pittings, 280.  
 Piumbroek, 281.  
 Pleasters, 281.  
 Poels, 71, 282.  
     " , Evelyn, 101, 168, 198.  
     " , Felix, 86.  
     " , Frank, 91.  
 Poncelet, Belgian Consul, 76.  
 Pottawatomi Indians, 53, 54, 55,  
     62, 91.
- Powells, 18, 100, 283.  
 Powers, Joyce Huben, 227.  
 Preble, Town of, 76, 78.  
 Prestine, Madeline Brunette Willi-  
     quette, 378.  
 Puttemans, 283.  
 Puyleart, 283.
- Quatresols, 284.  
 Quatsoe, 35, 80, 284.  
     " , Celia, 35.  
     " , Donald, 285, 314.  
     " , Peter, 38, 80, 118.
- Raleigh (Rawley), 285.  
     " , Jean Bte. 83.  
 Raymaker, 286.  
 Recipes, 122-135.  
 Reis, Andreas, 57.  
 Reigneir, Peter, 24.  
 Remick, Eliabeth Hoffman, 353.  
 Renier (Reignier), 18, 83, 95, 104,  
     286.  
     " , Della, 278.  
     " , Pierre, 83.  
     " , Victoria Ronsmans, 298.  
 Rentier, 287.  
 Rentmaster, Gladys, 292.  
 Rentmeester, 18, 28, 37, 41, 43-  
     50, 53, 63, 70, 71, 73, 104,  
     110, 287.  
 Rentmeester, Andrew W., iii, ii, i,  
     21, 79, 84, 103, 107, 109,  
     136, 140.  
     " , Angeline, 103, 111.  
     " , Anna (Vander Kelen).  
     iii, i, 36, 68, 110.  
     " , August, 95.  
     " , Beatrice, 140.  
     " , Rev. Charles, 140, A 6.  
     A-6.  
     " , Corrine, 126.  
     " , Desireé, 111, 118.  
     " , Hubert, 62, 148.  
     " , Myrtle (Sister Andrea),  
         225.  
     " , Norbert, 57, 119, 138.  
     " , Raymond, 29, 61, 66.

## INDEX

- Rentmeester, Rita Marto, 29, 254.  
 " , William, 95, 98.
- Rentmeesters, Andrew, 66, 84, 124.  
 " , Jan Francis (Frank), 32, 34, 36, 44, 54, 57, 58, 59, 61, 66, 73, 76, 79, 91, 96, 100, 114.  
 " , Johanna Van Vlasselaer, 48, 100.  
 " , John Baptiste, 21, 66, 119.  
 " , Jules, 14, 59, 60, 101, 115, 123, 142, 143, 300.
- Rentmeister, Jean R., 293.
- Richard Morse (ship), 34, 35, 36, 37.
- Rioux, Louis, 101.  
 " , Lucas, 86.
- Ripp, Marion Rentmeester, 250, 292.
- Rodaer, 37, 43, 53, 91, 294.  
 " , Jean Baptiste Sr., 52, 54, 59.  
 " , Ronald, 295.
- Roels, 295.
- Roets, 295.  
 " , Margaret, 7, 296.
- Rollin, 296.
- Rondou, 91, 100, 101, 296.
- Ronkers (Runkers), 297.
- Ronsmans, 112, 297.  
 " , Louis, 83.
- Roskom, 72, 298.  
 " , Joan, 299.  
 " , Mrs. John, 79, 89.  
 " , Pauline Nys, 273.
- Rubens, 13, 21, 300.
- Rudolph, Jack, 64.
- Sayers, 300.
- Schaaf, Fern Brunette, 388.
- Schauer, 300.
- Schaussers, 300.
- Schelphaut, 301.
- Schmirler, Beverly DeWitt, 138.
- Schooner, 301.
- Schrievens, 301.
- Schroeders, 301.
- Schumacher, 302.  
 " , Peter, 126.
- Sconcertz, 303.  
 " , Rosella, 143, 293, 299, 304, 351, 378, 385, 392.
- Servaes, 30, 104, 304.
- Shoemaker, John, 140.
- Simoens (Simons), 18, 304.
- Sinclair (St. Clet), 72, 143, 305.  
 " , George, 96.
- Slaets, 306.
- Smeddinck, Father Bernard B., 117.
- Smeesters, 306.
- Smekens, 306.
- Smeets, 306.
- Smet (Smits), 18, 306.
- Smits, Rev. Martin, A-3.
- Smoutebollen, i.
- Sorenson, Rosella, 352.
- Spreutels, 307.
- Starkey, 307-8.
- St. John The Baptist Church, 48, 69, 117.
- St. John The Evangelist Church, 48, 116.
- St. Joris-Weert, 19, 26, 35, 46, 49, 112, 119, 121.
- St. Willebrords Church, 119.
- Steno, 18, 28, 30, 38, 308.  
 " , Guillaume, 71.  
 " , Lilian Swaerts, 309, 311.
- Steerage, 22-32.
- Steffens, Joseph, 83.
- Strak, 310.
- Strei, Jan Vander Linden, 196, 323, 341.
- Strubbe, Charles, 32.
- Sugar Bush, 69.
- Suydam, John V., 56.
- Swaerts, 310.
- Tahlier, 311.
- Tasquin, 311.
- Tease, 311.
- Teniers, 21.
- Theis (Thys), 312.

## INDEX

- Theunis, 72, 312.  
 Theys, John Baptiste, 100.  
 Thielens, William, 72.  
 Thomas, 18, 312.  
 Thys, G. 74.  
 Tielens, 33, 35, 72, 314.  
 Tilke, 315.  
 Tilkens, 100, 101, 316.  
     ", Tony, 124.  
 Tilly, 72, 317.  
     ", Frank, 113.  
     ", Lucy, 113.  
     ", William, 83.  
 Timmermans, 18, 317.  
 Tonnon, 318.  
 Tordeur, 319.  
 Tuyls, 319.  
     ", Jean Baptiste, 48.
- Umberham, June, 126.  
 Usselinx, William, 1.  
 Valenciennes, 17.  
 Van Aa, 320.  
 Van Arck, 91, 320.  
 Van Asmal, 321.  
 Van Bellinger, 321.  
     ", Alphonse,  
         68, 99.  
     ", Cornelius, 32.  
 Van Bever, 322.  
 Van Bogart, 323.  
 Van Boomen, 65.  
 Van Calster, 323.  
 Van Camp, 324.  
 Van Campenhout, 324.  
 Van Caster, 24, 324.  
     ", Joseph, 83, 324.  
 Vande Castle, 18, 98, 325.  
     ", John, 98.  
 Vande Cortael, 325.  
 Vandegam, 325.  
 Vanden Ack, 325.  
     ", Ferdinand, 83.  
     ", Prosper, 83.  
 Vanden Avond, 18, 72, 326.  
     ", Earl, 327.  
 Vandenberg, 12, 36, 95, 328.  
     ", Anton, 56, 83.  
 Vanden Berghe, 13.
- Vanden Bogart, 330.  
 Vanden Boomen, 330.  
 Vanden Borne, ii, i, 28, 76, 330.  
     ", Angeline, 36, 133,  
         135.  
     ", Catherine, 91.  
     ", Rev. Cornelius, A-4.  
     ", Philip, 76, 100.  
 Vanden Branden, 100, 331.  
 Vanden Broek, Father Theodore, 4,  
     23.  
 Vanden Busch, 18, 91, 331.  
     ", Edmund, 333.  
     ", Peter, 82.  
 Vanden Elle, 333.  
 Vanden Hock, 334.  
 Vanden Houten, 18, 59, 334.  
     ", John B., 82.  
     ", William, 59.  
 Vanden Langenberg, 334.  
     ", Agatha, 334.  
 Vanden Plas, 18, 334.  
     ", Leon, 107.  
 Vander Aa, 336.  
 Vander Eycken, 336.  
 Vander Geeten, 336.  
 Vander Heyden, 18, 48, 336.  
 Vander Houten, 53.  
 Vander Kelen, 28, 32, 30, 78, 134,  
     144, 337.  
     ", Donald A., 339.  
     ", John Baptiste, 83,  
         135, 144.  
     ", John Francis, 26, 91,  
         144.  
     ", Mary De Grave, 124.  
     ", Philip, 95.  
     ", Theresa, 141.  
 Vander Linden, 91, 113, 339.  
 Vander Meulen, 341.  
 Vander Missen, 341.  
 Vander Muss, 342.  
 Vander Perren, 342.  
 Vander Smissen, 35.  
 Vander Stoppen, 53.  
 Vander Velde, 343.  
 Vander Verren, 343.  
 Vander Vest, 344.  
 Vander Wegen, 48, 65, 99, 104, 344.  
     ", Maria, 48.  
     ", Theresa, 101.

## INDEX

- Vander Wegen, Thomas, 48.  
 Vander Zanden, 83, 112, 346.  
     ", Frank, 83.  
     ", John, 118.  
 Van Deuren, 18, 138, 347.  
 Vande Sande, 348.  
 Vande Verren, 348.  
 Vande Walle, 13, 18, 348.  
 Van Dreel, 349.  
 Van Duyse, 349.  
 Van Dycke, 13, 18, 119, 350.  
 Van Dyne, Joe, 96.  
     ", Daniel, 96.  
 Van Effen, 350.  
 Van Erem, 32, 65, 350.  
     ", Margaret Hussin,  
         234, 351.  
 Van Ermen, 36, 352.  
     ", Catherine, 56.  
     ", Louis, 81.  
 Van Ess, 112, 353.  
     ", Ferdinand, 119.  
     ", Harry, 61.  
 Van Ex, 354.  
 Van Eyck, 13, 53, 355.  
 Van Frachen, 356.  
 Van Gesal, 356.  
 Van Gheem, 356.  
 Van Grootel, A-2.  
 Van Hacke, 356.  
 Van Heck, 356.  
 Van Haemel, 357.  
 Van Hoof, 18, 357.  
     ", Elizabeth, 52.  
     ", Frances Wallen-  
         fang, 358.  
     ", John, 35.  
 Van Hootegem, Rev., A-2.  
 Van Hortroy, 358.  
 Van Hosmal, 358.  
 Van Hunter, 358.  
 Van Kauwenbergh, 358.  
 Van Koog, 359.  
 Van Landen, 359.  
 Van Lanen, 359.  
 Van Landghen, 359.  
 Van Langendonk, 359.  
 Van Lavier, 33.  
 Van Loo, 360.  
 Van Lorino, 360.  
 Van Meerbeek, 360.  
  
 Van Meigham, 361.  
 Van Meldert, 361.  
 Van Morman, 361.  
 Van Mugan, 361.  
 Van Mulden, 361.  
     ", Guillaume, 83.  
 Vannieuwenhoven, 361.  
 Van Pay (Van Pee), 53, 100, 104,  
     363.  
 Van Remortel, 364.  
 Van Roy, 364.  
 Van Savelbergh, 365.  
 Van Schlick, 12, 42.  
 Van Scolin, 365.  
 Vansecaulendt, 365.  
 Van Severn, 365.  
 Van Steenwyck, 24.  
 Van Straten, Mary De Both, 95, 98.  
 Van Sueem, 365.  
 Van Tongeren, 65.  
 Van Vlasselaer, 35, 47, 366.  
 Van Weddingen, 366.  
 Van Weyenbergh, 367.  
 Vernaris, 367.  
 Veltis, 367.  
 Verboomen, 18, 72, 367.  
 Verbort, 367.  
 Verboort, Rev. William, 95, A-2.  
 Vercauteren, 18, 368.  
 Verdood, 35, 368.  
     ", Henry, 59.  
     ", Minnie, 99.  
 Vergansen, 369.  
 Verhagen, 369.  
 Vereyth, 369.  
 Verheyden, 370.  
     ", Joseph, 38, 83.  
     ", Desireé, 66.  
 Verhulst, 371.  
     ", Jean Baptiste, 40.  
 Verloren Land, 56-57.  
 Vermier, 372.  
 Verschoote, 372.  
 Verstoppen, 100, 372.  
 Vervaeren, 100, 373.  
 Ververst, 375.  
 Viane, 375.  
 Vincent, 375.  
 Voet, 376.  
 Vonckx, 376.

## INDEX

- Waerzeggers, 376.  
Wageneer, 35, 376.  
    ", Cornelius, 35.  
Wallen, 377.  
Wallenfang, 377.  
Wallonia, 10, 16, 17, 19, 28.  
Walloons, ii, 4, 11, 15, 17,  
    19, 24-28, 43, 46, 47, 52,  
    76, 77, 84, 87, 137, 143.  
Walters, 378.  
Wamberg, 378.  
Washington, George, 2, 55.  
Waterloo, 14, 25.  
Watermolen, 6, 18, 72, 75,  
    104, 378.  
    ", Christofel, 75,  
    88.  
    ", Constant, 35.  
    ", Henry, 75, 91.  
    ", John B., 99, 109.  
    ", John F., 91, 102,  
    103.  
    ", Mary, 62.  
    ", Theresa, 99.  
Waumpum, 62.  
Wauters, 18, 65, 72, 78, 381.  
Weidner, Beatrice, 140, 269,  
    290, 327, 339.  
Wertens, Herman, 86.  
Wery, 385.  
    ", Desiré, 83.  
Wetts, 385.  
Weyenberg, Joyce Verstoppen,  
    364, 373.  
Weytans, 386.  
Wigman, John, 54, 98.  
Wilke, 384.
- William D. Smith (ship), 34.  
Willaert (Willard), 100, 386.  
Willems (Williams), 18, 83, 100,  
    104, 386.  
    ", Engelbertus, 20, 38, 104.  
    ", Joseph, 83.  
Williams, Albert, 19, 36, 104.  
    ", Anthony and Bernice  
        Lannoye, 38, 239, 244, 388.  
Williquette, 388.  
    ", Charles, 86, 91.  
    ", Edna, 317, 392.  
    ", Dr. Florence, 91.  
    ", Frances, 392.  
    ", Mae, 317.  
Winnebago Indians, 54.  
Wittock, 392.  
Wolf, Gordon, 184.  
Wolper, 392.  
Wood, Jessie, 392.  
Wooden Shoes, iii, 1, 22, 68, 138.  
Wouters, 13, 381.  
    ", Joseph, 107.  
    ", Ray, 385.  
Wright, Madeline Van Ark, 321.  
Wrightstown, 3, 52, 69, 71, 72,  
    79, 86, 116.
- Yacht, 393.  
Yonkel, 393.  
Ysebaert, 100, 393.
- Zuidmulder, 393.

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## APPENDIX A

### FLEMISH COMMUNITY CATHOLIC PRIESTS\*

The Flemish who settled in Wisconsin, as well as most Flemish, were devoted members of the Catholic religion. They made their homes close to the church and fortunately for them, the church authorities, both in Europe and in America, did their best to make Flemish or Dutch priests available. Following is a short biography of those priests who made significant contributions to the Flemish settlement:

REV. FLORIMOND JOSEPH BONDUEL was born on 18 Sep 1799 (some accounts say 1800) at Komen, a town in the Province of West Flanders. He entered the preparatory seminary at Roeselare and studied theology at Tournai, then decided to go to America and reached Cincinnati in 1833. In 1834, he became the first priest ordained in the Detroit diocese and was assigned to Mackinac Island where he was pastor for four years. In 1838, he was assigned to Green Bay and served in St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Green Bay, with the Menominee Indians, at Prairie du Chien, Mineral Point, Bay Settlement and finally back at St. John the Evangelist parish where he died on 13 Dec 1861.

REV. EDWARD DAEMS WAS BORN IN Schaffen, Belgium in 1826. After ordination in Holland, he was assigned to Bay Settlement in 1851, then assisted Father Vanden Broek at Little Chute and returned to Bay Settlement in 1835. After another assignment at Little Chute and a trip back to Europe, he was reassigned to

\*Much of this information came from Sister Brideon Long's book In Our Vineyard; Sister Brideon is the Archivist for the Green Bay Diocese.

Bay Settlement where he bought 103 acres on Limestone Ridge for the convent, established congregations at Bay Settlement, Marchand and Thiry-Daems and helped in starting parishes at New Franken, Humboldt, Rosiere, Preble, Dyckesville and Luxembourg. During the latter part of his life, he served as Vicar-General of the Green Bay Diocese and died 12 Feb 1879.

REV. WILLIAM W. VERBOORT was born in Holland on 23 Oct 1835, and, as a young boy, came with his father to the U.S. in 1848 from Holland. After his ordination by Bishop Henni in 1863, he spent most of his time with the Flemish and Dutch in Brown County. His first parish was St. Francis at De Pere, from 1864 to 1870; during this period he helped to organize St. Willebrords as pastor from March 1864 to October 1865 and aided Irish families in establishing St. Patricks in 1865. That same year, he and local parishioners started the Morrison church and in 1869, he organized the St. Mary's parish in De Pere. In 1875, he received permission to organize a colony of Dutch-speaking people in Oregon; he died there in July 1876.

REV. MARTIN THEODORE ANDEREGG was born in Louvain, Belgium on 19 Feb 1862 and came to America with his parents in 1873, settling in De Pere. He was ordained in the Green Bay Diocese on 24 Jun 1893. He became the first resident pastor at Saints Peter and Paul church in 1894 where he served the congregation for 49 years, seeing it expand from one hundred and fifty families to seven hundred families. He died on 22 July 1942.

REV. EDWARD FRANCIS VAN HOOTEGEM was born in East Flanders, Belgium on 3 Mar 1856. He studied in Holland and was ordained there on 2 Apr 1881, after which he was assigned to St. John the Baptist church in Duck Creek, where he died in 1906.

REV. ANTHONY VAN GROOTEL was born at Mierlo, North Brabant, Holland in 1825. He was ordained as a Capuchin Father in 1867 and came to the U.S. two years later where he became the

first resident pastor at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum church at Preble, Wisconsin. He also served at a mission church in Humboldt beginning in 1874. He became the third pastor at St. Mary's parish, De Pere, in 1876, and died there on 9 Jan 1882.

REV. EDMUND GONTHYN (GONTYN, GONTYN) was born in Belgium and, in 1871, was assigned to the parish at Rosiere in the Green Bay diocese. For the next several years he was the assistant at various parishes - Stengleville, Nichicot, Bay Settlement and Mackville. In 1875, he became pastor at Wisconsin Dells. The next year he was transferred to the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum parish where he died suddenly on 9 Mar 1879.

REV. FREDERICK KATZER (KASTER) was born 7 Feb 1844 and, as Vicar General of the Green Bay diocese, helped out in Preble during 1879. He went on to become bishop in Green Bay and archbishop in Milwaukee, dying on 20 Jul 1903.

REV. GREGORY JOSEPH PELLEGRIN was born in Nodebais, Brabant Province, Belgium, on 1 May 1846 and came with his parents to New Franken, Wisconsin. He was ordained in the Green Bay diocese in 1876 and served in various parishes in Green Bay, Hollandtown, Luxemburg and Eaton. He was the first Flemish priest to be assigned to Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1879) and went on to serve at Sugar Bush, Lincoln, Casco, Sturgeon Bay, Cooperstown, Francis Creek; he died at Manitowoc on 25 Jul 1908.

REV. MARTIN GYSBERT SMITS was born in Holland on 14 Sep 1833 and received his ordination there in 1857. He transferred to the Dyckesville parish in 1872 with mission churches in Door County. He served at various parishes, including Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (March 1880 to January 1882) and died at Wisconsin Dells on 27 Feb 1897.

REV. THEODORE JOSEPH KNEGTEL was born in Holland on 13 Aug 1845, ordained there in 1872 and left for America in 1882

where he was assigned to Holy Martyrs of Gorcum parish. He went to St. John's parish at Little Chute in January 1890 and died there on 15 Jan 1915.

REV. MATTHEW BONGERS was born in Arnhem, Holland in 1832, was ordained in 1861, and became a missionary to the U.S. in 1885, serving St. Patricks, St. Willebrords and Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1890). He died on 17 June 1902.

REV. WILLIAM H.H. DE HAAN was born in Amsterdam in 1858 and was ordained in the Green Bay diocese in 1893. He was pastor of parishes at Antigo, Aniwa, Morrison, Francis Creek, Wisconsin Dells, Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1901), Phlox, St. Joseph Orphanage, Humboldt and Bay Settlement. He died on 4 February 1932.

REV. JUSTIN H.J.M. VANDEN ELSEN was born in Geldrop, Holland in 1872 and ordained there in 1897. Joining the Green Bay diocese that same year, his first assignment was Hollandtown, then Kingston, then Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1902-1906). Later, he was an assistant at Oshkosh, Sturgeon Bay and New London. He died in Holland in 1932.

REV. FIDELIS VOLLEBREGT was born at Delft, Holland on 22 Apr 1857 and was ordained there in 1885. He served at Aniwa in 1895, at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum in 1896, at Waupaca in 1897, and was then transferred to Idaho. He died in Oregon in 1924.

REV. FRANCIS X. NISTLEROY was born in Holland on 17 May 1874 and was ordained in Belgium in 1899. In the U.S., he was first stationed in Idaho, then Humboldt, Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1907) and Hollandtown, where he died in a car accident in 1931.

REV. FRANCIS J. PEETERS was the pastor at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum from 1907 to 1916, when he was transferred to De Pere.

REV. CORNELIUS B. VANDEN BORNE was born at Tilburg, Holland on 11 Aug 1882. He was ordained there in 1907 and joined the Green Bay diocese in 1909, assigned first at Aniwa, then at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1916-1932), then at Kimberly from 1932 to 1955. He died in 1957.

REV. AUGUST BROEKMAN was born in De Pere in 1892 and ordained in the Green Bay diocese in 1919. He assisted at Little Chute, Kimberly, Sturgeon Bay and Manitowoc. He was the pastor at Birnamwood, Lebanon, Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (1932-1942) and Wrightstown. He died 29 Jan 1969.

REV. JOSEPH WILLIAM JANSEN was born in Holland, Wisconsin in 1892 and was ordained in the Green Bay diocese in 1930. He assisted at parishes in Laona and Little Chute, then was pastor in Aurora, Elcho, Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (August 1942 to September 1948) and at St. Boniface. He died in 1971.

REV. EDWARD J. LEMIEUX was born in Marinette, Wisconsin in 1890 and was ordained in the Green Bay diocese in 1920. He assisted at Kaukauna for five years, then supervised the Guardian Angels Boarding School from July 1925 to August 1948. Next, he was pastor at Holy Martyrs until August 1958 and died on 30 April 1961.

REV. ORVILLE H. JANSSEN was born at Appleton, Wisconsin on 7 Mar 1926 and was ordained in 1952. He founded the GREEN BAY REGISTER and assisted at Holy Martyrs parish until 1960. He was pastor of St. Bernard parish, Appleton in 1966.

REV. EARL J. SCHUH was born in Freedom, Wisconsin on 24 Apr 1917 and ordained at Green Bay on 29 May 1943. He was an assistant at the Green Bay Cathedral, Oconto Falls, Kimberly and Oshkosh. He served as pastor at Tigerton, Holy Martyrs of Gorcum (January 1960 to June 1968) and at Sts. Peter and Paul.

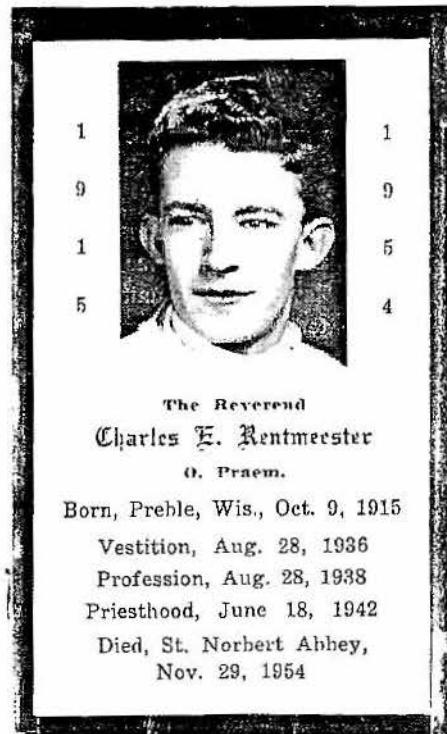
REV. WILLIAM K. RODGERS was born in Denmark, Wisconsin on 9 Aug 1918. He was ordained in the Green Bay diocese on 9 Sep 1943. His first assignments were as assistant pastor at Manitowoc, Allouez, Kaukauna, the Green Bay Cathedral and St. Patricks. He served as pastor at Sts. Mary and Hubert parish in Humboldt, Wask and Askeaton and was pastor at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum from June 1968 to March 1970, after which he went to Jericho and Sobieski.

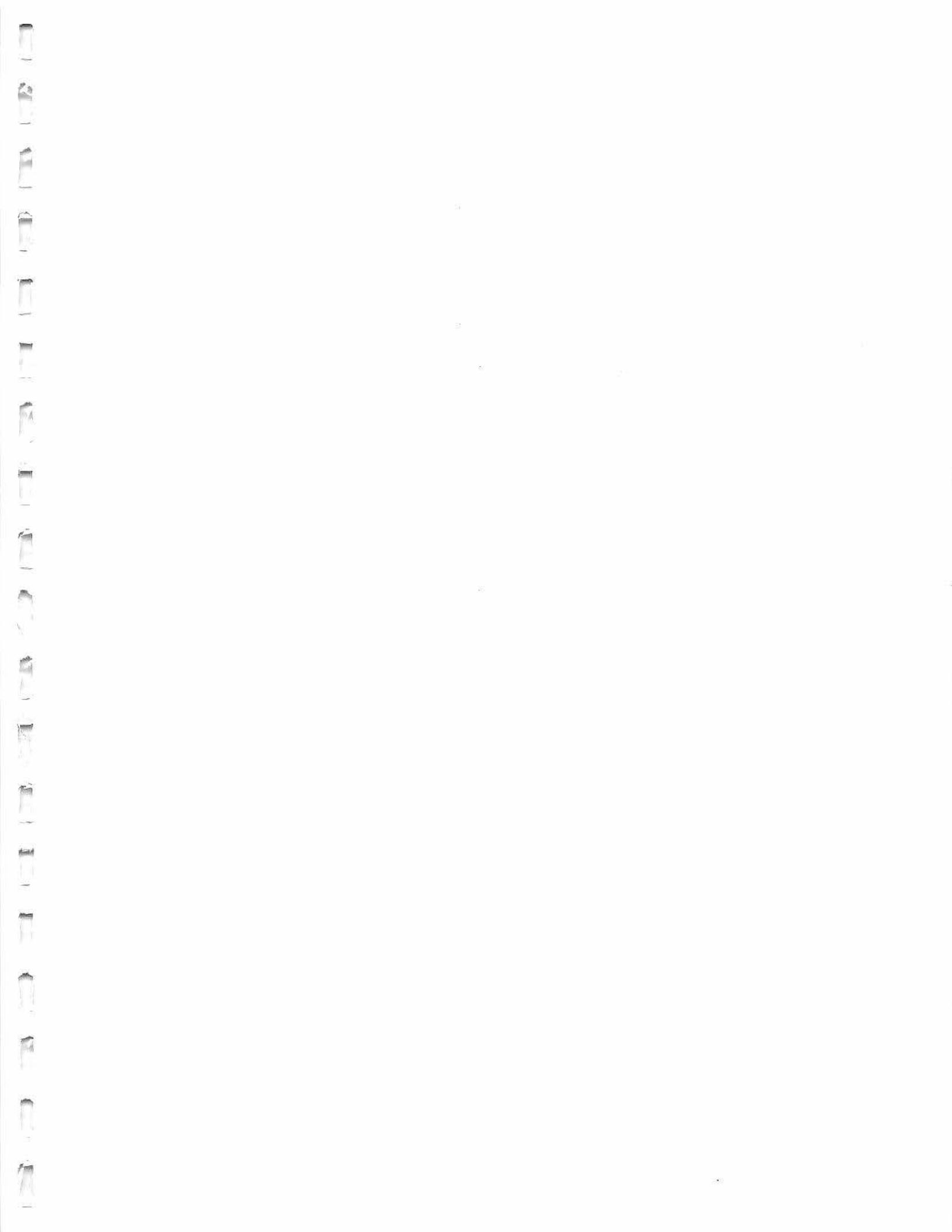
REV. ELROY E. REIMER was born in Manitowoc, Wisconsin on 8 Feb 1931 and was ordained on 1 Jun 1957. He was an assistant at Sts. Peter and Paul, at Antigo and at Appleton and was the pastor at Phlox and at Holy Martyrs of Gorcum from 1970 to 1984.

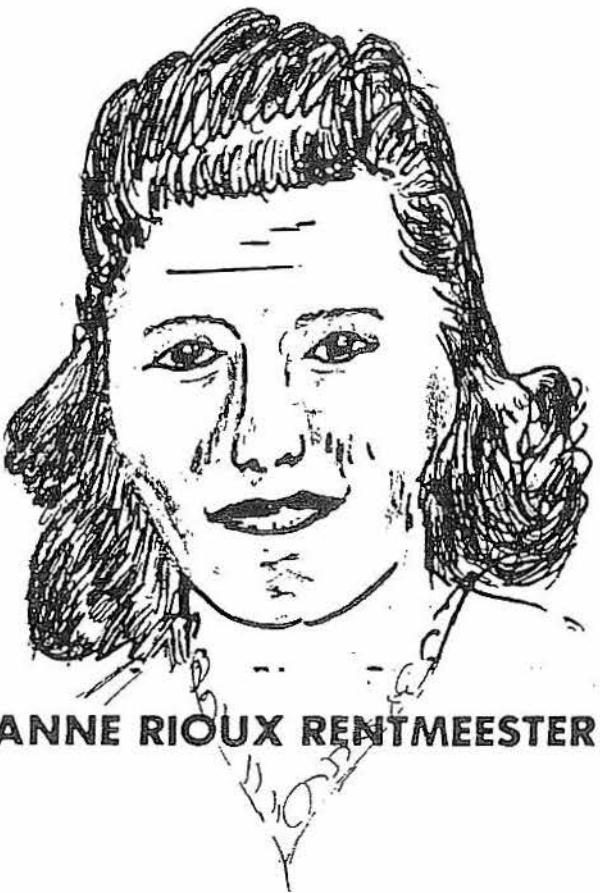
REV. ROBERT E. RHYNER was born in New London, Wisconsin on 29 Jul 1933 and was ordained in the Green Bay Diocese on 23 May 1959. After service as assistant pastor at Elcho, Green Bay, Appleton and Sturgeon Bay, he was the pastor at Phlox, Two Rivers and is currently at the Holy Martyrs of Gorcum parish.

REV. CHARLES E. RENTMEESTER  
(mass card shown at right) obtained his B.A. from St. Norbert's College and his M.A. from Marquette University. He was the Registrar of St. Norbert's College at De Pere, Wisconsin, when he died suddenly on 29 Nov. 1954. Previously, he had taught in high school and in college, while serving in parishes at Philadelphia, Oconto Falls, Rosiere, Peshtigo and Green Bay.

\* \* \* \* \*







**JEANNE RIOUX RENTMEESTER**

Like many other Wisconsin natives, Jeanne is a descendant of the Indians and French who were early settlers. On the Indian side, she traces her lineage to the Abnaki, Ottawa, Mascoutin and Menominee tribes. Her French ancestors belong to the Langlade, Grignon, Brunette, Roy, Rioux, Macabee, Champeau, and Caron families. Jeanne has studied art at the University of Dayton, the Dayton Art Institute and in Germany, then pursued political science at George Washington and Georgetown Universities.



**LESTER F RENTMEESTER**

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