



www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

March 2024

BHC 2024 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

- 21 APR**
- Booyah & Bread at 11:00am**
- 24 MAY**
- BHC weekend visitor hours start 10am-3:00pm Friday-Sunday**
- 8 JUN**
- Wisconsin Historical Society Meetings on benefits of Namur Historic District at 10am**
- 30 JUN**
- Belgian Waffle Breakfast at 9:00am**
- 13 JUL**
- Belgian Days Bus Tours and Booth**
- 18 AUG**
- BHC Kermis**
- 5 OCT**
- Great Fire Remembrance at BHC**
- 9 OCT**
- Great Fire Remembrance at National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion**
- 29 NOV**
- Thanksgiving Sale/Mosaic Workshop**



BREAD & BOOYAH Sunday, April 21

Join us for our first event of 2024! A Bread & Booyah lunch will be served on Sunday, April 21 from 11:00 to 1:00. We will welcome everyone back to BHC for the start of a new season with our famous booyah, bread and homemade desserts. Price is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children 4-12. Booyah to go will be available only after 12:00 noon as quantities last. Price is \$10 per quart.

Volunteers Needed

BHC is looking for volunteers to greet visitors during our weekend hours and for private tours and presentations. Greeters welcome visitors and assist BHC's docents and tour guides. No experience or familiarity with Belgian history is needed. Orientation training will be held on May 18 at 10:00 at BHC. BHC also continues to welcome volunteers in many other areas, both hands-on and remote, including docents, food prep, clean-up, painting, yard work, document translation, research, video editing and administrative assistance. Please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org or call Julie at 920-619-6363 if you are interested.

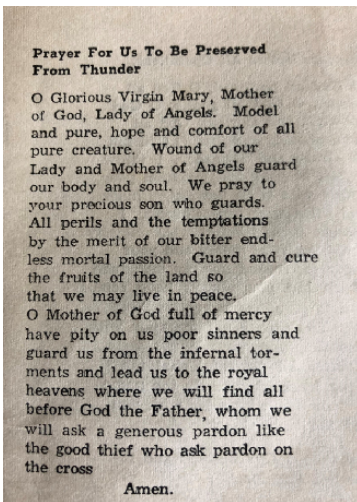
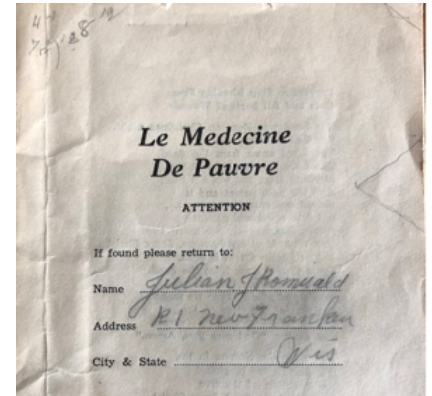


Submit to Our 2024 Photo Contest

BHC is holding a quarterly contest to encourage people to share stories of their Belgian ancestors with photos, letters, postcards, and other historical documents. Show us a photograph, letter, postcard, or unique item--along with whatever details you can share--that helps tell the story of your Belgian ancestor. Be creative (include special things like recipes, funeral cards, news clippings, historical research, oral histories). Try to keep content from 1950 or earlier. Even if you don't have a complete story or genealogy, share whatever you have and we can help fill in the rest. Please direct questions or submissions to contact@belgianheritagecenter.org or by mail to BHC, PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204.

Quarterly Topics: 1) Traditions 2) Characters 3) Homesteads 4) Historical Accounts / Open Entries. Here's a sample entry.

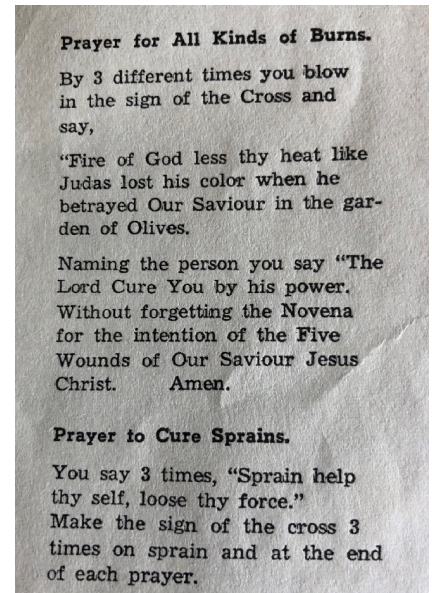
Prayer – the Medicine of the Poor: Early settlers didn't have access to doctors or medicines like we do today so they relied on prayer when they were sick, injured or scared. Julian Romuald, Sr. used his prayer book, *Le Medecine De Pauvre*, to administer prayers to family and neighbors in the Champion area. The book was originally published in Belgium and brought by the family when they immigrated in 1856. Julian would have said the prayers in Walloon. These sample pages show prayers and procedures from the book, translated to English by Julian's grandsons for a school project around 1950.



More "Medical" Traditions

If you would like to learn more about home remedies used in the Belgian Settlements, check out these videos at BHC's YouTube page. Subscribe to receive notice of all new videos as they are posted.

- Homemade Cold Remedy – Margaret Rueckl
- "Coor-ant" Home Remedy – Rose Mae Vandertie/Betty Bultman
- Gustie's Miracle Salve – Theresa Alexander



This colorized photo of School Road in Brussels circa 1910 was posted on the Forgotten Wisconsin Facebook page by Gary Guth and shared with BHC by Laurie Buske.



Help Create and Share Community Display Boards

Last year, BHC created 3' x 4' portable display boards with historic photos of memorable places in several Belgian communities. They were a big hit! We now have boards like this one for Brussels, Champion, Misiere, Namur, Red River-Dyckesville and Rosiere. But we don't have enough photos yet for other communities like Lincoln, Thiry Daems, Tonet or Walhain. Can you help us? Our goal is to include a mix of scenes such as main streets, churches, stores, taverns, schools, businesses, etc. prior to 1930.

BHC's boards are available for display in community locations such as churches, schools, town/city halls, Kermisses, etc. If your organization would like to display some or all of BHC's community boards at a meeting or event, please let us know and we will make them available.

Please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org or call 920-825-7319 if you have photos to share or if you would like to feature our display boards.



1st column: Brussels High School, Brussel House, street scene near 5 Corners circa 1910. 2nd: St. Francis Xavier Church 1909, street scene from Stage Road circa 1910. 3rd: Gabe Pierre store, Pierre-Virlee blacksmith shop, Brussels Grade School.

2023 Financial Supporters

BHC gratefully acknowledges our 2023 financial and in-kind donors. We could not accomplish our mission to celebrate our heritage without their support. Funds are used to preserve and improve our historic campus and to expand our online presence through the BHC website, Facebook and YouTube. Thank you all!

Diamond \$10,000 and up

Anonymous

In Memory of Nicholas & Maree Josef LeRoy, Luis & Marcella LeRoy, Ernest & Alice LeRoy, Margaret LeRoy & Clarence Monfils - Mary Jo Adams

Platinum \$5,000-\$9,999

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The Maihaugen Foundation

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Jerome & Sandy Orsted
Peninsula Belgian American Club
Southern Door Business Association

Jerry Willems
WPS Foundation
Mary & Cap Wulf
In Memory of Harry J and Anne K Coisman – Janice Brady

Silver \$250-\$999

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Sam Alexander
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In Memory of Florence DeDecker
Florence DeDecker family & friends
Kay DeDecker
Sue Havel
Tim & Sue Moore
Jeannette Neuville
Sue Robertson
Gary & Lori VandenHouten

In Memory of Harold and Robert Baudhuin – Sandra Augustine
In Memory of Adam & Mary Dier, Alex & Julia Dier – James & Ann Dier

In Memory of Emma Mallien Rankin Hayot
Mark & Gina Felhofer
Emma Hayot family & friends
Sue Maclean
Jerold & Cynthia Bechard
Starrbros, Inc.
John & Bonnie Kissel
Nancy Lake

In Memory of Andrew Engebose
Susan Havel
Marie Engebose

In Memory of Vincent & Angela (Pierre) Gilson from their children Pierre, Mike, Yvonne and Susan Gilson

Bronze up to \$249

Gary & Karen Alexander
Arletta & Gerald Bertrand
Fr. Anthony Birdsall
Joseph & Carole Boulanger
Karen Camilli
Kelly & Jo Chaudoir
Ted & Dee Chaudoir
Della & Gerald Clabots

Bill & Lisa Colombo
Dale & Patricia Columb
Community First Credit Union
Joel Daoust, Portside Builders
Julie & Richard Davis
Nellie DeBaker
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Theresa & Maynard DeGuelle

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Barb Feeney
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Illinois Tool Works
D'Ann & Peter Jackson
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Mary Ann & Jim Jeanquart
Anne Keller
Joe & Dalene Kitslaar
Tom & Darlene Kolp
Anne Lampert
Barbara Barbiaux Lucak

Carol Lund
Barbara & Larry Mallien
Becky Marks
Keith & Ruth Massart
Dick & Annette Mathy
Audrey McGarvie
Jeff & Mary Ann Miller
Mike & Kathy Monette
Logan Moore
Tim & Sue Moore
Janice Nelson
Jerry & Diana Ogren
Joe Pagel
Sue Paider
Linda Pankratz
Wayne Peters
Tara Pierre, Edward Jones
Linda Pirlot
Mark & Pat Radtke
Rod & Verona Robillard

Sue & Denis Rolain
Jeff & Wendy Rowsam
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Pat Vandervest
Myron & Carol VandeVen
Cathy Vuksanovic
Mark & Mary Wagner
John & Shelly Willems
Ann Williamsen
Bill Zwicky

In Memory of Ed Clabots – Donna & Steve Bultman

In Memory of Patricia (LeCloux) Englebert

Rose LeCloux

Jill & Mark Siegworth

Dan LeCloux

In Memory of Shirley Fontaine

Mary LeBrun

Shirley Fontaine Family

In Memory of George Evenson

Theresa Alexander

Joe & Mei Mei Alexander

Barb & Mike Chisholm

Ann & Mark Jinkins

Jerome & Sandy Orsted

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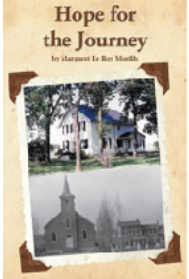
Please visit the Belgian Heritage Center Facebook page for a complete list of Event, Bucket Raffle and Hunter's Raffle supporters. Thank you to everyone who supported our mission in 2023!

BHC For Your Tax and Estate Planning

BHC has donation options for your estate planning through our general and endowment funds. This is a great way to help BHC continue its mission for generations to come. Contributions to BHC as 501(c)(3) organization can also be part of your tax planning using mandatory 401k/IRA distributions, annuity payments, beneficiary designations and donations of appreciated stock. For more information about these options, please contact Sandy Orsted at 920-493-2850 or Bill Chaudoir at 920-559-3113.

New Book from BHC: Hope for the Journey by Margaret LeRoy Monfils

The Belgian Heritage Center is proud to offer the second edition of *Hope for the Journey* by Margaret LeRoy Monfils. First written by Margaret for her family, it has been updated by her daughter, Mary Jo Adams. The story spans the immigration of Nicholas and Maree Josef (Motte) LeRoy in 1878 through four generations of the same family, on the same homestead for almost 145 years. The names and places may be specific to Margaret's family, but the experiences in their daily lives were similar to those of many families in the Belgian communities of Brown, Door and Kewaunee counties. The continuity of family and community ties described in Margaret's book shows us why our Belgian heritage remains strong to this day.



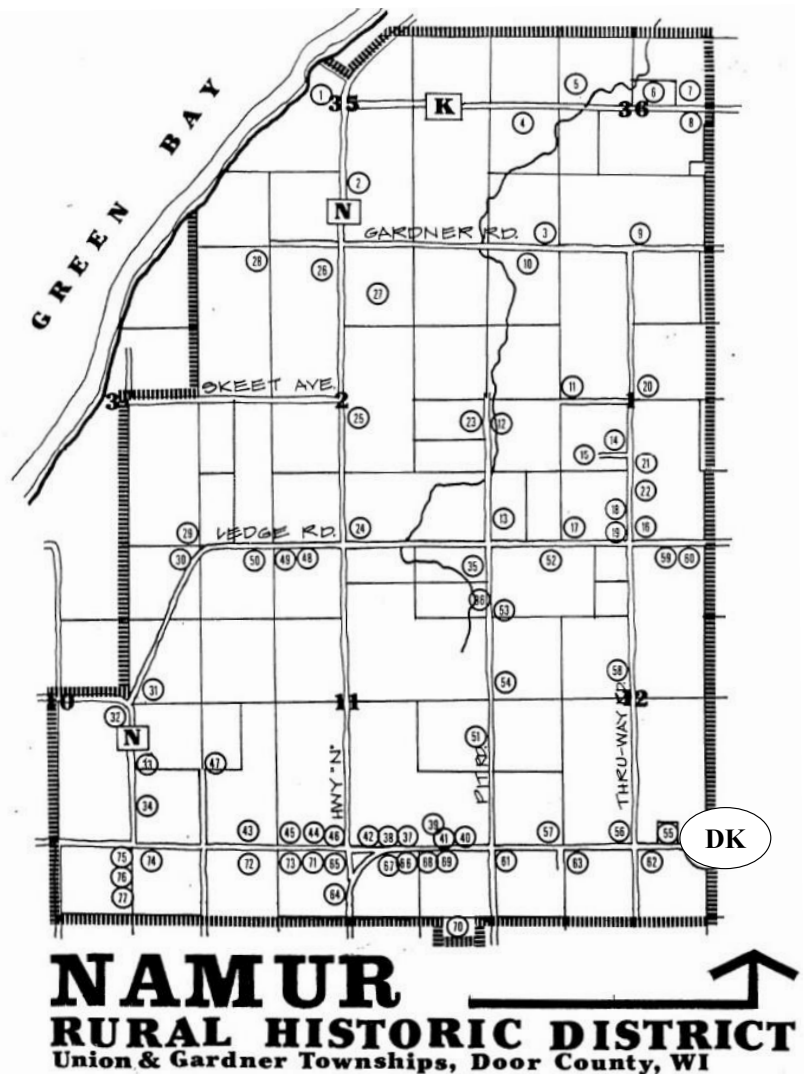
The Belgian Heritage Center is honored to have been gifted the rights to publish this wonderful family history. We sincerely thank Mary Jo Adams, Jim Monfils and Lon Monfils for this wonderful donation in support of our mission to preserve and share our Belgian heritage. The book is available exclusively through BHC and all proceeds benefit the Belgian Heritage Center. You can purchase a copy for \$12 at BHC or email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org.



Wisconsin Historical Society Meeting of Namur Historic District Property Owners - June 8

BHC will host the Wisconsin Historical Society for a local briefing about the tax credits and other assistance available to property owners in the Namur Historic District. The WHS government coordinator will also be on hand to meet with local officials about their support services. This is a great chance for anyone with property in or near the historic district to learn about the opportunities associated with this designation.

The Namur Historic District includes property in Union and Gardner townships. Property owners within the Historic District will be informed of the meeting directly by WHS. The public is welcome to attend as the topic may be of interest to those considering owning property in this area or others interested in creating a historic district in another community. The meeting will begin at 10:00 and WHS representatives will be available until 12:30 for questions and discussion.



Please Help Us Manage Newsletter Cost

We Need Your Help. For 2024, it costs BHC \$10 to print & mail you 5 newsletters. We're happy to do that. We just want to ensure you're receiving our news in the most effective and cost-efficient way. Please complete and return this mailer, email us, call us, or send a note on Facebook and let us know, by April 15, what you prefer:

- +_____ I enjoy receiving the printed newsletter. Please keep me on the list.
- +_____ I love your newsletter so much, I'd like to make a donation of \$_____ to offset the cost.
- +_____ I'd be happy receiving the virtual newsletter instead of a printed one (enter email address _____).
- +_____ I prefer to read the newsletter on Facebook or BelgianHeritageCenter.org.
- +_____ I will donate an item to the 2024 Kermis or Hunter's Raffle, or volunteer at BHC, to keep the printed newsletter coming.

IF WE DON'T HEAR FROM YOU, YOU MAY NO LONGER BE MAILED NEWSLETTERS

Note: If you have made a financial contribution, donated raffle prizes, or volunteered last year, you will remain on our physical mailing list unless you indicate otherwise. Respond via:

Mail: BHC, PO Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204
Email: contact@belgianheritagecenter.org
Phone: 920-825-7319
Facebook: Belgian Heritage Center

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Please make checks payable to: Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations may be made at www.belgianheritagecenter.org (Paypal and major credit cards accepted).

Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, owner of the Belgian Heritage Center, is a 501(c)3 organization



Belgian Heritage Center
PO Box 173
Brussels, WI 54204

Mike Fischer found this photo in an antique store in Milwaukee. He donated it to BHC after finding that the names on the back were from the Brussels area. The photo is of Grades 3 & 4. Names as they are written on the back of the photo:

Back: Wallace Marin, Melvin Gerondale, Carol Carpiaux, Miss Mildred Meikle, Wallace Gerondale, Esther Lardnoix, Margaret Jadin, Margaret Pierre

Middle: Lanny Servais, Norman Zlachac, Harold Wautier, Wallace Mathey, Irene Mathey, Roy Gerondale, Eddie [unclear], Harold [unclear], [unclear]

Front: Hugo Klessig, Erbie Zephirin, Lucille Guelette, Leonard Parince, Grace Lemense, Arnold DeWitt, Mary Jane Mathey, Raymond Bourneville, Helen Carpiaux, Vincent Eu...[incomplete name]

Thank you, Mike!

