



Telling the story of the Belgian Settlement in Wisconsin and working to preserve unique elements of Belgian culture

www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org

June 2022

BHC Is Open

Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 10am-3pm and by appointment. Call 920-493-5969 for information.

2022 Events

4 JUN	Genealogy Presentation and Research Assistance 10:30am-3pm
26 JUN	Bread and Booyah
9 JUL	Kathleen Ernst Presentation "The Lacemaker's Secret" - 3:30pm
21 AUG	Kermis
8 OCT	Great Fire Remembrance
20 NOV	Helen Gillet Concert - 4pm

BREAD and BOOYAH

Sunday, June 26

A Bread and Booyah lunch will be served at the Belgian Heritage Center on Sunday, June 26 from 11:00 – 1:00 pm. Booyah, a hearty soup typically cooked in outdoor kettles, is a traditional dish and a mainstay at gatherings in the Belgian settlement area. The menu will include our famous booyah, bread, desserts, and a beverage for \$12 for adults, \$8 for children ages 4 to 12, and free for children 3 or under. Take-out booyah will be offered for \$10 per quart after 12:00 pm.

All proceeds from this event will help us in our mission to preserve and share the history and legacy of the immigrants of the Belgian settlement area. In keeping with this mission, we invite you to bring any historic photographs from the Belgian community to be scanned. We are particularly interested in photos of people engaged in work or leisure activities as well as places or buildings in the settlement area. With each photograph the owner should include as much identifying information as possible, including names of people, places and location, and the approximate year. These images will become part of the Belgian Heritage Center's collection and may be used for the center's displays as well as genealogical and historical research.

Come out to the BHC for a delicious traditional lunch made by our expert booyah chefs, see our displays, tour the campus, and watch the premier of the new Booyah Video!

Volunteer Docents Needed

Now that BHC is open for the season, we need volunteers to work as docents during our weekend hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 to 3:00. Training will be provided and you can learn the ropes by working with experienced volunteers. This is a great chance to meet people interested in history and Belgian culture. Best of all, you might just meet a new relative. If you are interested, please contact Rebecca Derenne at 920-389-1768 or rdhealth6@gmail.com.

Belgian Booyah Documentary Premiere



A very special bonus for attendees at this year's Booyah and Bread event will be the premiere showing of our new documentary film, the History of Belgian Booyah. The video will be shown continuously at the school house from 11 am to 1 pm and at the Belgian Heritage Center at 1 pm. A committee of the Belgian Heritage Center has been hard at work on this project for the past couple years. We engaged and have had the pleasure to work with the local film production experts at Door County Digital Production Services of Sister Bay on this project. You may recall having seen their production crew at work during last year's BHC Kermis.

Given the popularity and drawing power of Booyah in this area the committee thought it was high time that we document the history of this favorite ethnic food. Frankly, we were surprised that this story hadn't already been put on film. Of course, once we got into it, we found out why. Turns out there are multiple competing stories as to how Booyah came to be and no single authoritative source on the topic. In the course of producing the video we interviewed dozens of local and regional Booyah chefs, old timers, historians and food connoisseurs. Fortunately the story came together at the end after consulting a Wisconsin cultural food expert.

So if you like Booyah, don't miss our renowned offering at the Bread and Booyah event on June 26. And at this year's event you might even learn how your Belgian ancestors invented and perfected the delicacy we enjoy today. The BHC would like to thank the Raibrook Foundation for the financial assistance they provided to make this documentary possible.

Door County History Days

BHC is featured in the new Door County History Days from June 20-26. This event showcases the many organizations actively serving Door County's vibrant historical heritage and the meaningful impact these organizations have for residents, tourism, and the economy. Unique programs and events will be offered during the week and people are encouraged to support their local organizations by participating. For more information see the Heritage Alliance of Door County Facebook page (@heritageallianceofdoorcounty).

BHC on YouTube

Enjoy more virtual content! Every other Friday the BHC is airing a new video regarding Belgian heritage and history on the new BHC YouTube channel. There are already several offerings. To be notified of new posts and to help the channel grow, please 'Subscribe' and share this new resource with friends and family. Go to youtube.com/c/BelgianHeritageCenter.

BHC newsletter is sponsored in part by the Booyah Shed in Green Bay. For sponsorship opportunities, please email contact@belgianheritagecenter.org

THE BOOYAH SHED

1800 S Ashland, Green Bay

920-371-6249

Dine-in or Carry-Out

Homemade Booyah, Chili, Burgers, Brats, Pulled Pork, Chicken, Pork Tacos, Tots, Deep-Fried Cheese Curds, Desserts, Beer, Cocktails, and much more.

Featuring our Friday Fish Fry

Visit our Facebook page for Full Menu

Hours:

Monday 11-5

Tues, Weds, Thu 11-7

Friday 11-8

Saturday 11-7

Sunday CLOSED



Father's Day Photo Feature



In honor of Father's Day, BHC's website is featuring reader submitted stories honoring the men who built our Belgian communities, from the earliest days to more modern times. The following pages include a sampling of the stories submitted. To see all of the stories, visit BelgianHeritageCenter.org, click on the Featured tab, and scroll to Our Belgian Forefathers. This project compliments an earlier collection, Our Belgian Fore Mothers, which can also be found on our website. There is still time to add the stories of your foremothers and forefathers. Please email contact@belgianheritagecent.org if you are interested.

Harold Julien Vandertie

Harold Julien Vandertie was born the son of the late William and Mary (Jauquet) Vandertie on January 22, 1922 in Brussels Township, Wisconsin. On Oct. 14, 1942 he married the former LaVerne Wery at St. Francis Church in Duval, WI. Harold served in the U.S. Army from 1943-1945 during World War II in the European Theater.

Though he seldom talked about his service, he was incredibly proud of his time in the Army and kept many souvenirs from his time overseas. During his years in the military, he served as a Jeep driver for a General while in Europe. He was at D-Day +2 and seldom shared with his family the horrors he witnessed there and later coming into concentration camps after liberating Nazi-held European cities. Near the end of his tour, he spent time guarding some prominent Nazi leaders who were taken prisoner before they were delivered for the Nuremberg trials.

Upon his return to the states, Harold was employed at Fort Howard Paper Company for 35 years, as a forklift operator before retiring in 1984. Harold and his wife LaVerne were devout Catholics, regularly attending masses. They had one daughter, Diane, who was tragically killed in a car accident as a young woman. Even after facing this loss as well as the horrors he saw in the war, Harold maintained a snappy sense of humor and zest for life. He liked to play pranks, join in card games, and have a few drinks. He will always be

remembered for his kindness and quick smile. Though Harold and LaVerne lived most of their lives in Green Bay, they visited their family in the Brussels area very often for card games and Belgian heritage traditions. Sadly, Harold passed away on Sunday, March 5, 2000 at the age of 78 while living at their retirement home on a lake in Wausaukee, WI.



Harold (center, top) and one of the jeeps he drove during the European Theater in WWII

Forefathers profile & photos provided by Kristin Alberts, great-niece of Harold.

OUR BELGIAN FOREFATHERS



August Herlache

August Herlache was born August 23, 1875 in Gardner Township, Door County, Wisconsin to Jean Baptiste Herlache (1847-1908) and Adele Jenquinne (1846-1941). His father came to America from Belgium, and took up the occupation of farming, after clearing his land, and this work ethic was passed to his children, including August. He married Elizabeth (Elisa) DeBroux (1874-1951) on July 8, 1899 in Gardner. Together, they had five children: Jule, George, Lena, Grace, and John. The Herlache family were devoted to the Spiritualist faith. August passed away on August 18, 1960 at the age of 84 while staying with one of his children at the Alamo Club in Stiles, Oconto County, Wisconsin and is interred at Bayside Cemetery in Door County.

Forefathers profile shared by Kristin Alberts, great-great granddaughter of August Herlache.

From: *Holand, Hjalmar R., 1917. History of Door County Wisconsin. Chicago, Volume II, p. 241-2.*

August Herlache, who is engaged in general farming and dairying on section 20, Gardner township, was born August 23, 1875, in the township where he still resides, and is a representative of one of the old and worthy families that Belgium has furnished to Door county. His parents are John and Adele Herlache, both natives of Belgium.

The father came to the new world when a lad of nine years with his father, John Herlache, Sr., who became identified with farming interests of this county during pioneer times. At the time of the Civil War he put aside all business and personal considerations and joined the army, serving in defense of the Union. His family numbered five children: Tressie, who was the wife of Henry Neuville; Josephine, who became the wife of Eugene Dewarzegars and has passed away; John, Jr.; Rosa, who became the wife of Nick Libert and is also deceased; and August, who completes the family.

August Herlache was educated in the common schools and started out to provide for his own support when twenty-three years of age. He purchased forty acres of land for which he paid eight hundred dollars, and this he cleared alone, working diligently and persistently, and eventually he sold that property for three thousand dollars. He then purchased another forty acre tract and from time to time has extended the boundaries of his farm until it now comprises one hundred and sixty acres. This has all been cleared by Mr. Herlache, who in all of his business affairs has had the able assistance and encouragement of his wife. He is now successfully engaged in general farming and dairying and moreover he is a stockholder, a director and one of the line men of the Gardner and Sturgeon Bay Telephone Company.

His children are: Jule, who was born June 2, 1900; George, April 16, 1902; Lena, August 19, 1906; Grace, March 1, 1910; and John, October 22, 1912. The religious faith of the family is that of the Spiritualist church, while the political belief of Mr. Herlache is that of the Republican party. He does not seek nor desire office, however, but concentrates his efforts and attention upon his business affairs, and in addition to his other interests he is a stockholder of the Equity Elevator Company. His plans are well defined and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.



OUR BELGIAN FOREFATHERS



Gregoire Joseph Dupont



Gregoire Joseph Dupont was born 15 December 1842 in Pietrebais, Brabant Walloon, Belgium to Charles Joseph Dupont and Melanie Josephse Rubens, the second of seven children. At a young age of 12 his father passed away. His mother remarried and immigrated the entire family aboard the Lochinvar, departing from Antwerp and landing in New York in 1855. The family would settle on a farm in the Robinsonville/Champion area in the Town of Green Bay, Brown County. Almost immediately, Gregoire would leave his new home to find work and help support the family. The 1860 census would find him back on the farm and on 30 July 1862, Gregoire married Julie Henrion in Bay Settlement and the couple would be blessed with a family of nine children, five girls and four boys. Just before the birth of their second child, however, Gregoire would be drafted to serve in the Civil War.

The 1870 Census would find Gregoire and Julie raising their family in the Town of Bellevue where Gregoire would learn the sawmill business as a shingle mill laborer. By the 1875 Census, Gregoire had acquired a homestead back in the Robinsonville/Champion area where he took up farming. Ever the entrepreneur, Gregoire would also run a general store, sawmill, threshing machines/crews, feed mill, cheese factory and even serve as a professional photographer. His most important contributions, however, were as a public servant. On the local level, as a respected member of the community was elected as Town Chairman in the Town of Green Bay for over 28 years, in addition to stints as Town Clerk, Justice of the Peace and Mount May School Clerk. As the town chairman, Gregoire would also serve as a Brown County Supervisor. Over the course of his service, he would be appointed to serve on most of the committees for the County (e.g. Finance, Accounts, Printing, Workhouse, Equalization, Roads & Bridges, Building). He served as a delegate to the Wisconsin State Republican Convention several times and in 1887-1888 served as a member of the Wisconsin State Assembly.

Gregoire lost his wife, Julie, in 1906 and he went on to live another 11 years in Champion. He himself became ill and passed on 1 July, 1917 at the age of 74 and his life was celebrated at the Robinsonville Presbyterian Church with one of the largest funerals held at that church. Veterans of the Civil War served as his pall bearers. Gregoire was survived by his nine children, Frank of Champion, Joseph and Charles of Green Bay, John, Champion, Emily (Mrs. Zeno Paque), Green Bay, Eliza (Mrs. Horace Petiniot), Champion, Adele (Mrs. Joseph Servais), Julia (Mrs. Joseph Haulotte), and Marie (Mrs. Ben Haulotte, all of Michigan). In addition, Gregoire would leave a legacy of 35 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The Belgian community had lost one of its most dedicated public servants and a true founding father for the Belgian immigrants.

Submitted by Donna Bultman. Picture from *The Second Battle, A Story of our Belgian Ancestors in the American Civil War 1861-1865* by John Henry Mertens, 1986 (picture credited to Wilbert E. Dupont). Information Sources: PenBelGen Family Tree, gw.geneanet.org, compiled by Ron Flemal: 1986 US and State of Wisconsin Census; Ancestry.com; Green Bay Press Gazette, several issues, late 1800's; Robinsonville Presbyterian Church obituary.

BHC Golden Heart Award - *Barb (Englebert) Chisholm*



The Belgian Heritage Center (BHC) formally nominated Barb (Englebert) Chisholm for the 2022 Golden Heart Volunteer Award in the Karl May Lifetime of Service category. Barb and others nominated for this award were named as winners! Barb (Englebert) Chisholm is a fifth generation Belgian, and she is immensely proud of it. Her great, great grandfather and great, great grandmother came over from Belgium in 1856.

Barb has been an active board member and executive committee board member since 2010. She has worked on several committees, including the one that worked to set up the first set of exhibits. Barb is also the contact person for Private and Group Tours. She has been a Step-On tour guide for bus tours around the historical district and she acts as a docent onsite during regular open hours in the season.



Her greatest joy is sharing with the public about all of the joys and sorrows of our ancestors, whether it is the tragedy of the Great Fire of 1871, or the happiness associated with the kermis. "I looked for stories of the people from their living relatives. History and genealogy are much more than dates and names. These were living people and if we can get stories to attach to faces, they become alive, people with hopes and dreams. I really get into telling everyone about our Belgian heritage."

Barb feels her most significant service is providing her presentation of the Great Fire of 1871 through the eyes of her Great grandmother. Many people in this area and guests to the Center have no idea about this event. 'It is important for everyone to know, especially the children, how ancestors survived and triumphed over this disaster. It is important to know that this single event changed the way they earned a living and how it changed the architecture of the buildings in this area. Try to instill in people to get their family history in writing or recording it before the people that can help you are all gone. '

Barb is passionate about her family, religion, and heritage. She belongs to the hospital auxiliary and was an ambassador before Covid derailed this activity. She is also a Eucharistic minister for St. Joseph Catholic Church. Most recently she has volunteered at the Door County Candle Company to help in producing the candles sold to benefit Ukraine.

Barb's enthusiastic presentations and outreach bring life to the local history in Southern Door County and beyond, and the BHC is grateful for her ongoing support and leadership.

As the BHC is volunteer driven, we all thank United Way of Door County for continuing this wonderful event in honor of Barb Englebert Chisholm and all other volunteers that so enrich our community.

Golden Heart Award - Ron Delwiche

BHC congratulates Ron Delwiche on receiving a Karl May Lifetime of Service Award. Ron was nominated by the Brussels Lions Club for his service to that organization. Ron made huge contributions to BHC through various projects including tuck-pointing and replacing bricks in the church building, kitchen improvements and maintaining the adjacent cemetery, not to mention serving as a frequent volunteer at BHC events. Ron's contributions to BHC were featured in our April 2019 newsletter.



Belgian Days!

The Brussels Lions Club will host the 61st annual Belgian Days on July 8-10. Belgian Days is the only fundraiser for the Brussels Lions Club and has become the biggest community gathering event for Southern Door County. The weekend celebrates Belgian traditions, food, games, and heritage. Belgian Food is the biggest attraction: Belgian Pies, Waffles, Trippe, Booyah, and Jutt are served throughout the weekend. There is also a Cooyah Tournament – a Belgian card game. Other attractions include a parade, live music, baseball tournament, cornhole/beanbag tournament, Run/Walk and inflatables for the children. Details can be found at the Belgian Days Lions Club Festival Facebook page.

Proceeds are used to support local, state, national, and international Lions activities and causes but largely to support the greater Brussels community. Every year the Brussels Lions Club provides emergency relief for individuals and families during a time of need, sponsors development opportunities for Southern Door County's Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops, provides medical equipment free of charge to individuals in need, maintains the town's only public park and playground, runs various kids activities throughout the year (summer softball, Halloween activities, etc.), funds school extra-curricular programs, provides over \$6,000 annually in scholarships to local students seeking continuing



Photo courtesy of the Brussels Lions Club

education, stocks the local food pantry, conducts diabetes awareness campaigns in the community, participates in vision screenings at every school in Door County for elementary aged students, and reviews requests for monetary support and emergency requests for money submitted from the community on a monthly basis. This year, on top of the normal operating causes and funds, the Brussels Lions Club will be putting in over \$40,000 of new park equipment in Brussels.

This event is put on by the 3rd largest Belgian-American community, by proportion of the residents, in the United States. Many of the local community members making the food and serving at the bar are descendants of the original families who settled in the United States from Belgium. Don't miss this wonderful celebration of Belgian heritage!



Photo courtesy of the Brussels Lions Club

61st ANNUAL BELGIAN DAYS
 A LIONS CHARITIES FUNDRAISER **2022**
 SPONSORED BY THE BRUSSELS LIONS CLUB
 AT THE **BRUSSELS TOWN PARK**
July 8-10, 2022
 \$2 ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS SAT & SUN

FRIDAY, JULY 8

- 6:00 pm Gates open, **FREE ADMISSION ALL NIGHT**
- 6:00 pm Food and Beverage stands open
- 6:30 pm Live music by **BOOGIE & THE YO-YO'Z** until 10:00 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 9

- 7:00 am Gates open
- 8:00-10:30 am Homemade fresh Belgian Waffles
- 8:00 am Brussels-Union EMRs Belgian Days Run-Walk; Youth, 2 & 4 mile routes (brusselsunionemrs.com or call Jody 920-493-4064)
- 8:00 am Brussels Big Dogs Baseball Tournament
- 10:00 am Food stands open featuring: Belgian trippe, booyah, potato jutt, hamburgers and Belgian pies
- 12:00 pm Cornhole/Beanbag Tournament (questions: call Mike 920-536-0556)
- 12:00 pm Kids Inflatables
- 12:00 pm Cooyah Tournament (questions: call Ron 920-825-7686)
- 1:00 pm Music by **TEXAS '55** until 4:00 pm
- 7:00 pm Music by **SPICE** until 11:00 pm
- 8:15 pm Kids Movie (weather permitting)

SUNDAY, JULY 10

- 7:00 am Gates open
- 8:00 am Brussels Big Dogs Baseball Tournament
- 10:00 am Food stands open featuring: Belgian trippe, booyah, potato jutt, hamburgers and Belgian pies
- 10:30 am Parade (questions: call Jim 920-825-1213)
- 11:30 am Music by **MODERN DAY DRIFTERS** until 4:30 pm
- 12:00 pm Kids Inflatables
- 4:30 pm Raffle ticket drawing - need not be present to win

NO PETS ALLOWED | NO CARRY INS ALLOWED



Belgian Heritage Center
PO Box 173
Brussels, WI 54204

BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER DONATION/PLEDGE FORM

I/We are pleased to support your efforts with a gift of: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Street: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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- Paid in Full
- Annually: \$ _____/year, for _____ years, beginning _____/_____/20_____

Checks may be made payable to the Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations can be made at www.belgianheritagecenter.org (major credit cards accepted).

- Please check if you **DO NOT** wish to be recognized in publications under the names provided above.

Signature _____ **Date** _____