



[www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://www.BelgianHeritageCenter.org)

[contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org)

920-825-7319

MAY 2025

## BHC 2025 Event Calendar - Save the Dates!

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 23<br>MAY    | BHC Opens on Weekends   |
| 31<br>MAY    | Author Lynda Drews at 10:00am                                     |
| 16<br>JUN    | Door County History Launch Event at BHC at 9am                    |
| 19<br>JUN    | History Days Presentation at BHC - Roadside Chapels at 1:00pm     |
| 29<br>JUN    | Waffle Breakfast at 9:00am  |
| 12<br>JUL    | Belgian Days Bus Tour at 8:30am                                   |
| 12<br>JUL    | Belgian Life on the Door Peninsula/Great Fire Talk at 10am        |
| 17<br>AUG    | Kermis  |
| 6<br>SEP     | Grandparents Day / Bookmobile at BHC                              |
| 4<br>OCT     | Great Fire Remembrance at BHC                                     |
| 8<br>OCT     | Great Fire Remembrance at National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion |
| TBD<br>OCT   | Hunters Raffle  |
| 21-22<br>NOV | Kewaunee Christkindlmarkt   |
| 28<br>NOV    | Thanksgiving Sale / Family Glass Workshop                         |
| TBD<br>DEC   | Christmas Spirits Adult Glass Workshop                            |

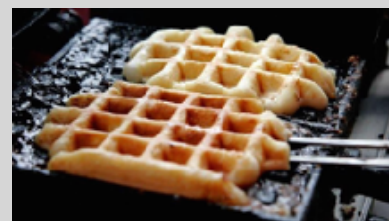
## BHC Opens for the 2025 Season

BHC will open for regular hours starting Friday, May 23. Hours are 10:00 until 3:00 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday through October 26. Tour guides will be on hand to walk you through our exhibits and historic buildings or you can explore on your own.

We are still looking for volunteers to help us welcome visitors and assist our tour guides. No experience is necessary. This is a great opportunity to learn about local history and engage with interesting people. Just a few hours a month helps us create a great visitor experience. Call Julie at 920-619-6363 if you are interested.

## Belgian Waffle Breakfast Sunday, June 29

BHC will host a Belgian Waffle Breakfast on Sunday, June 29 from 9:00 until noon. Breakfast includes waffles, tripe and a beverage. Proceeds help support the Belgian Heritage Center's mission to preserve and promote Belgian heritage. Price is \$12 for adults, \$7 for children 4-12, free for children 3 and under.

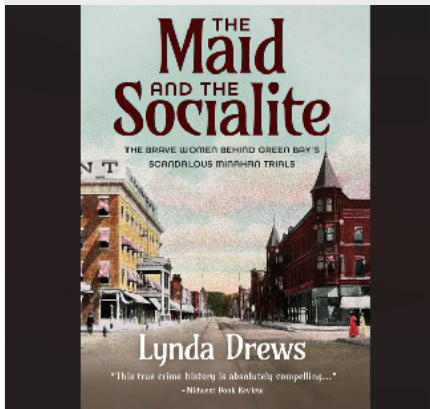


## BHC for Private Events

BHC is a great place to host meetings, reunions, weddings, celebration of life and other private events. For more information call Julie at 920-619-6363 or email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org).

*More events and speakers are being planned for 2025. Please watch our newsletters, Facebook and [BelgianHeritageCenter.org](http://BelgianHeritageCenter.org) for details.*

## Lynda Drews Presentation and Book Signing Saturday, May 31



BHC is pleased to host Lynda Drews, author of **The Maid and the Socialite - the Brave Women Behind Green Bay's Minahan Trials** on **Saturday, May 31 at 10:00**. This historical non-fiction book gives voice to the women who exposed their closet abuser, the city's famous surgeon. Lynda's speaking engagements are extremely popular.

She will be available after her talk for conversation and book signing. A \$5 per person donation to benefit BHC would be greatly appreciated.



## BHC Door County History Days Launch Event Monday, June 16

The Belgian Heritage Center will host the launch of Door County History Days on Monday, June 16 from 9:00 – 12. This year's theme is preservation. The event features displays prepared and manned by historical organizations throughout Door County. At 9:00, Destination Door County will present brief information and instruction on the new Heritage Trail Pass app that will inform users about museums and other history-related sites in Door County. Users will be able to win prizes based on participation in the program. There will also be short updates from a few organizations, including the BHC, about their own preservation efforts. This event is open to the public. Please join us as we showcase our campus, as well as learn about what other local organizations are doing to preserve Door County's unique history.

## Door County History Days Event – Preserving the Roadside Chapel Tradition Thursday, June 19

Barb (Englebert) Chisholm will present "Preserving the Roadside Chapel Tradition" at BHC on Thursday, June 19 at 1:00. As BHC's contribution to Door County History Days, we will share the history of the unique buildings in the Belgian settlements with special emphasis on roadside (votive) chapels. Barb will share the fascinating stories behind some of the chapels and how a Belgian tradition adapted by some of the early settlers is preserved to this day. Following the presentations, attendees may join a guided tour of BHC's campus, including our own roadside chapel, or explore on their own. BHC docents will be available at other nearby chapels for those who would like to see examples of these wonderful little chapels, both old and new.



## Sign Up Now for Belgian Days Bus Tours – Saturday, July 12

Join BHC's Historian, Barb (Englebert) Chisholm, for a one hour narrated bus tour in the Belgian settlements. See roadside chapels, traditional Belgian houses, summer kitchens, cemeteries and where the first Kermis was held. Hear stories about the lives and challenges faced by the early settlers. Tours are \$25 per person and leave from the Belgian Heritage Center at 8:30 on Saturday, July 12. Transportation will be via standard school bus.\*

To reserve your seat call Julie at 920-619-6363, email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) or stop in at BHC during our weekend hours. Payment by cash, check and credit card is accepted. The tour is offered in cooperation with the Brussels Lions Club as part of their annual Belgian Days celebration on July 12 and 13. Tour proceeds benefit the Brussels Lions Club and BHC.

**\*Please note: the school bus is not air conditioned and is accessible only by steps.**



# Belgian Days



## Belgian Days Presentations - Belgian Life / Great Fire – Saturday, July 12

Following the Belgian Days bus tour, BHC will feature two presentations starting at 10:00 on Saturday, July 12. Sandy Lampereur Orsted will present Belgian Life on the Door Peninsula, about the history and development of the Belgian Settlements. Captain David Siegel of the Green Bay Metro Fire Department will explain why the Great Fire was so deadly and how it compares to more recent fires. A video of Barb Englebert Chisholm's fire survivor re-enactment will follow David's presentation. After the video, David will lead a site visit to Tornado Park to show you why the Great Fire devastated what was once Williamsonville. These presentations are open to all (you do not need to take the tour to attend).

## BHC Sweeps Booyah Battle, Winning Both Judge's Choice and People's Choice Awards

The votes are in and BHC has officially proven that Belgians make the best booyah!

As part of Green Bay's "Touchdown Downtown" series celebrating the 2025 Draft, BHC competed against 12 other non-profit organizations teamed with local booyah chefs. A three-judge panel blind taste tested booyah samples for the Judge's Choice Award. Attendees voted for the Fan Favorite Award by casting ballots after sampling various recipes. When the votes were counted, **BHC was chosen the winner in both categories!** We are thrilled that our booyah came out on top, especially with so many great booyah makers competing.

Each award came with a \$500 cash prize. Proceeds from the event will be shared equally among the participating non-profits. Proceeds will be used to support BHC's mission.

BHC is grateful to Downtown Green Bay, Inc. for organizing the event and to all of the people who came out to support local charities.



*BHC volunteers with the awards for Judge's Choice and Fan Favorite*



*Crowd at the Booyah Battle in Downtown Green Bay during NFL Draft*

## Custom Belgium Tour October 2025 Available Now

Interested in visiting the home of your family's origin? Go Ahead tours created a custom tour based on the interest of Wisconsin Belgians running from October 11th - October 21st 2025.

Wander past medieval architecture, bustling squares, and charming cobblestone streets as you take in the picturesque charm of Bruges, Antwerp, Leuven, Namur and Brussels. Savor Belgium's world-renowned beer and chocolate as you explore the rich history and vibrant culture of these iconic cities. Delve into Bruges' fairy-tale ambiance, discover Antwerp's artistic heritage, stroll through Leuven's lively university town, admire Namur's scenic riverside, and uncover the historic treasures of Brussels, the heart of Europe.

For information, contact tour coordinator, Sue Donarski at 920-676-5429. Or enroll directly:

1. Online – make sure they enroll through our personalized site: <https://groups.goaheadtours.com/tours/sue-belgium>
2. Call the Go Ahead team at 800.438.7672 and provide them with your trip coordinator's name & email, Sue Donarski, [suedonarski@gmail.com](mailto:suedonarski@gmail.com).

## Share Your Family's Story

BHC has collected many wonderful family stories, photos and genealogies. In the process, we've learned some things that will help you research and share yours:

- Don't wait – the sooner you start, the more people you can tap for help and the fresher their memories will be.
- Use full names – labels like “Grandma” will mean little after a generation. Identify when and where photos were taken even if it seems obvious now.
- Use online resources –much of the work may already be done and available on free websites like FamilySearch.org. Photos, obituaries, land records and certificates of birth, marriage and death are often posted.
- Work together – other people may be working on the same family history and may have photos and information you are looking for. Ask your relatives or a BHC volunteer about work already started or completed.
- Share your work – pass your research on to relatives, post it online or send it to BHC for our archives. You can also work with BHC to put your story on the Featured Family page of BHC's website.

Stories shared with BHC by the end of 2025 earn a chance to win a prize for best historic image, best historic story, best new addition to BHC archive or Facebook Favorite. Not sure how to start? ***The articles that follow are a couple of examples***



**Constant Jean Baptiste Thiry**





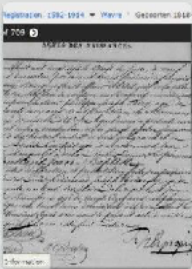
9 July 1827 – 4 June 1909 • KAL-MINW

[VIEW TREE](#) [VIEW RELATIONSHIP](#) [FOLLOW](#)




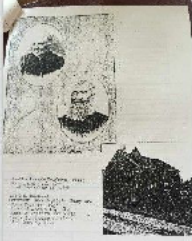
[About](#) [Details](#) [Sources \(12\)](#) [Collaborate \(0\)](#) [Memories \(14\)](#) [Time Line](#)

[ADD MEMORIES](#)

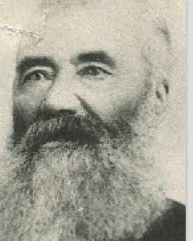
[FILTER](#)



| NAME             | DATE |
|------------------|------|
| John H. Constant |      |
| AMIE             |      |
| EDWIST           |      |
| CHARIT           |      |
| ALLAN            |      |
| UBALD            |      |



**Obit**  
Constant Jean Baptiste Thiry, Sr Birth: Jul. 9, 1827, Belgium Death: Jun. 4, 1909 Lincoln Kewaunee County Wisconsin, USA  
Constant Jean Baptiste Thiry was one of the first of the





## Francois & Angelique (DeKeyser) Pierre



*Taken at the World Exposition in Chicago in 1893. They traveled to Green Bay by stagecoach (a wagon with two seats) and to Chicago by train.*

of the tavern was the post office. The basement had stone walls and an earth floor, ideal for storing beer, fruit, potatoes, carrots and cabbage. Shelves in the basement stored many Belgian pies and pastries for special occasions such as weddings and the Kermis.

*Brewery building used from 1901 to 1920*



*Pierre Farm*

Francois & Angelique were born in Belgium and each came to the US with their families.

Francois Joseph Pierre was born October 29, 1836 in the commune of Noville-Sur-Mehaigne in the Province of Brabant to Jean Joseph Pierre and Marie Francois LaRose. Angelique (DeKeyser) Pierre born on April 25, 1840 La Hulpe, Brabant Province, to Gabriel and Rosalie (Spruetels) DeKeyser.

Francois and Angelique were married on October 1, 1861. Late in 1861, they opened a tavern one half mile west of the present village of Brussels, the first business activity in the area. The Sugar Creek post office was moved to the tavern. The area and the post office were named Brussels. Francois was the first postmaster and served for forty years.

The Pierre home burned in about 1880. A large new wooden frame house was built across the road. The second floor had a dance hall and lodging rooms. The first floor consisted of three bedrooms, a large kitchen, sitting room, and dining room. The tavern was a large room on the west end of the building with double doors to the outside. A small room on the south end



*Family Home and Tavern circa 1929*



*At Five Corners in 1918. Brussel House, left, was built by son, Frank, in 1900. Center is General store built by son, Gabe in 1906-1907. Right is a machine shop built by Gabe in 1900. The Brussel House burned in 1923. The general store is now the Pioneer Pantry.*

Pierre's Tavern served as a kind of halfway house where stagecoach passengers and others could stop for food and refreshments. A barn was built so that the horses could be stabled and fed, and a few guest rooms were made available for overnight accommodations. During inclement weather several Indians would sometimes spend the night in the tavern.

The land for the farm was bought from the government, over a period of several years, at prices that varied from fifty cents to one dollar and a quarter per acre. Much of this land was later sold to immigrants who arrived in the years that followed. The date of the claim is listed as November 8, 1858 and was paid for on January 3, 1860. It remained in the family through four generations.

On August 18, 1912, Francois and Angelique celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Son, Alphonse, arranged for church services, a big dinner, other refreshments, and a family photo in Oconto. People from Brussels rode a steamboat, the Nettie Dennisen, from Chaudoir's Dock to Oconto and back.

*Pictured: Back row: Sons Joseph, Gabe, Alphonse, Henry, Frank, Jule; Front row: Daughters Mary Baudhuin, Francois, Lizzie Swoboda, Angelique, and Elle.*

*Information and photos from Yvonne Stukenberg, Sue Havel and "Historical and Genealogical Information on our Belgian Ancestors" by Joseph J. Pierre published 1976. More information and photos of the Pierre family can be found on the Featured tab at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org).*





## Edmund & Eugenie (Tureur) Parins

Edmund was born in Meux, Belgium on January 4, 1868 and died August 2, 1926. Eugenie was born in Belgium on December 4, 1870 and died March 10, 1939. They were married in the US in 1891 and farmed and raised their family in the town of Union.



*From left: Jerry, Edmund, Louise (standing), Alex, Eugenie, Raymond (on lap), Oliver; 1907*



*Four Generations Back: Edmund and his father Celestine Front: Edmund's daughter Louise and grandson Lawrence Monfils, 1914*



*Back from left: Jerry, Edmund, Julia, Eugenie holding Walter, Louise, Oliver. Front: Raymond, Alex; circa 1916*



*Stanley & Julia (Parins) Kolokwski 1937, Raymond & Eunice (Derenne) Parins 1933, Alex and Malvina (Chaudoir) Parins 1923, Oliver and Rosa (Delfosse) Parins 1919, Jerry and Lucy (Lampereur) Parins 1919, Emil and Louise (Parins) Monfils 1916*



*From left: Julia, Raymond, Eugenie, Oliver, Edmund, Jerry, Alex, Louise; 1920's*

*Information and images provided by Marie Parins Vlies and Rod Monfils. More information and photos of the Parins family can be found on the Featured tab at [belgianheritagecenter.org](http://belgianheritagecenter.org).*





The Gosin family owned a cheese factory and store at Walhain in 1908. The building at the extreme right was a warehouse for the store. Most of the people have been identified. 1. Frank Tauschek; 2. "Chofel" Dalebroux; 3. Henry Legois; 4. Louis Friex; 5. Joe Spangler; 6. Jules Friex; 7. Fabian Gosin; 8. Unknown; 9. Louis Deterville; 10. George Friex; 11. Felix Bonjean; 12. Clem Friex; 13. Joseph Wery, cheesemaker; 14. Joseph Ravel; 15. Art Jandrain; 16. Frank Bredael; 17. Harvey Bredael; 18. Joe Moreau; 19. George Loritz; 20. Unknown.

*From: The History of Luxemburg Township and Village, 1855-1983 published by Luxemburg Diamond Jubilee and Historical Committee*

---

### Help Us Manage Newsletter Cost

If you would like to save the cost to BHC to print and mail your newsletter, we will send it to you via email or you can see the content on our Facebook page. If you are interested, please email [contact@belgianheritagecenter.org](mailto:contact@belgianheritagecenter.org) or contact us through Facebook. Donations to offset the cost of newsletter production and delivery (\$10 per year per person) are greatly appreciated.

---

### Belgian Heritage Center Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Belgian Heritage Center, P.O. Box 173, Brussels, WI 54204. Donations may be made at [www.belgianheritagecenter.org](http://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*

## ROGATION PROCESSION

Ascension Day was noted for the Rogation Procession, a tradition to bless the crops at spring planting. The procession started at church and went to the nearest roadside chapel. Prayers were said at the chapel before returning to the church. The order of the procession was:

1. Cross bearer in surplice and cassock
2. Girls in white dresses strewing flowers
3. Priest in robes carrying the Blessed Sacrament
4. Choir singing hymns and band playing religious music
5. Women followed by the men

