



BELGIAN HERITAGE CENTER

Photo History Contest

December 2024

The Case Tractor Incident

FOURTH QUARTER WINNER



Hubert & Lema (Chaudoir) Lampereur

During World War II, there were waiting lists to buy tractors because production capacity in the US prioritized the war effort. Hubert Lampereur of Namur finally made it to the top of the list and his new Case tractor arrived at Orbie Pierre's dealership. Before Hubert picked it up, a man tried to bribe Orbie to get the tractor instead. Orbie refused and warned Hubert to watch out for him. Soon after, Hubert noticed sand around the cap of the oil filler and discovered sand was dumped into the engine. Later, Hubert was watching a car parked on the road when a gun was fired at him. Fortunately, the shot missed and that was the last of the trouble. The Case tractor is still on the family farm today.

Submitted by
Chris Lampereur

Renier Family

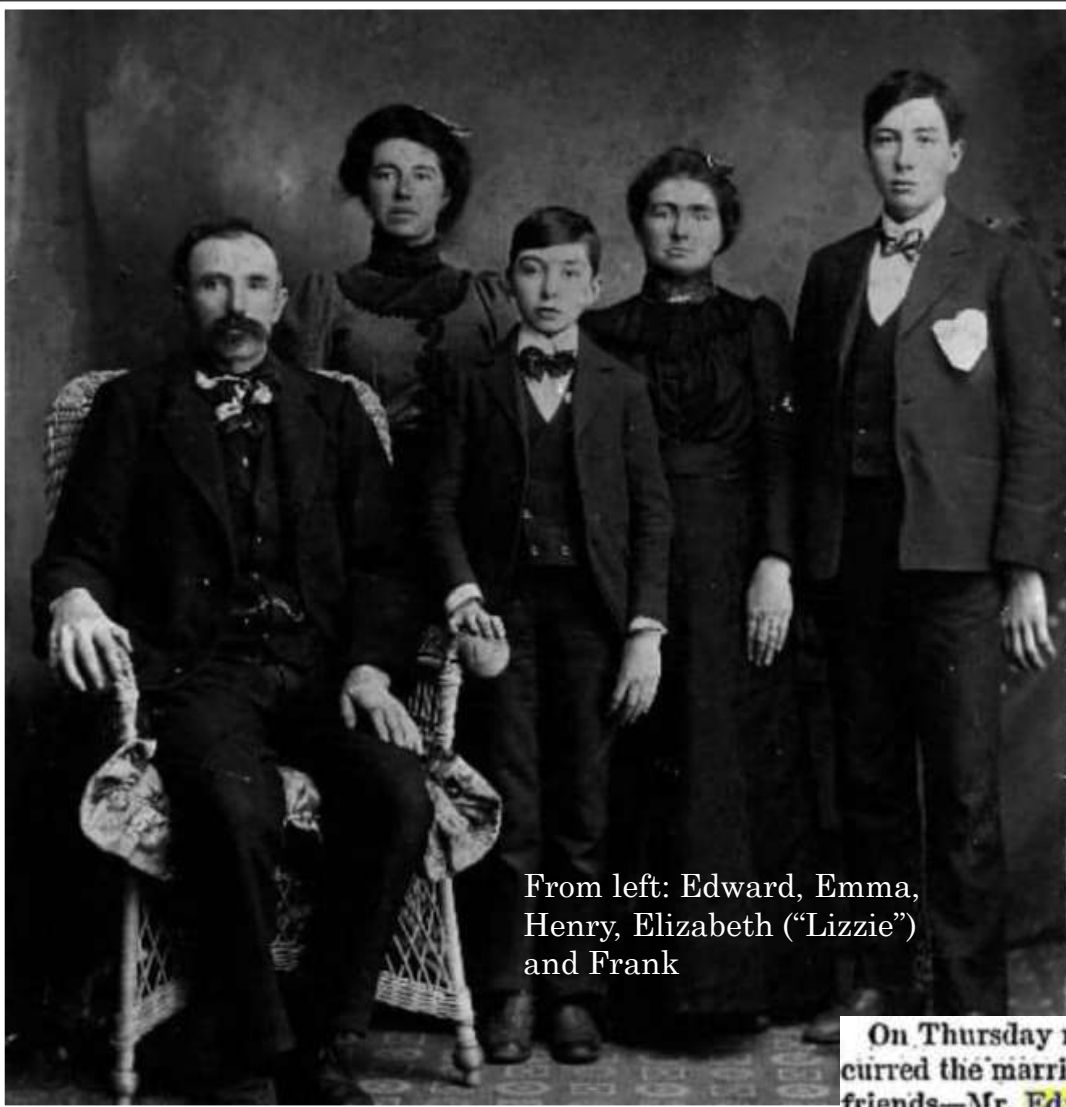
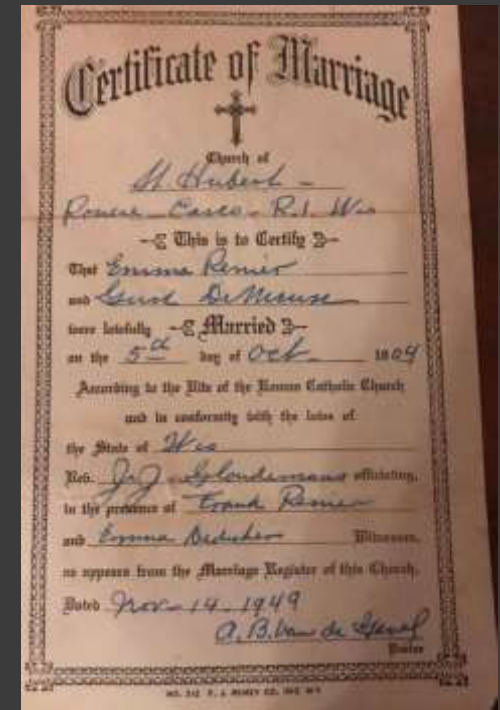
Alfred Edouard “Edward” Renier was born 3 September 1848 in the village of Ottignies in the Brabant Walloon Province of Belgium, the son of Barthelemy Renier (1809-) and Marie Elizabeth Leblicque (1812-1896). Edward immigrated to the US in 1856 with his parents and seven siblings, arriving in New York on 29 September. The family settled in the Town of Brussels at what was then the settlement frontier in Wisconsin, where they engaged in farming.

On 21 October 1880 Edward married local girl Elizabeth Francois (1866-1936) at the nearby church, St. Michaels, in Misiere. Edward and Elizabeth raised three children who survived to adulthood: Emma (1881-1959), Frank (1886-1966) and Henry (1889-1950). Edward died on 13 December 1911 at the age of 63. Cause of death was tuberculosis – St. Hubert Interment Book.

From left: Edward, Emma, Henry, Elizabeth (“Lizzie”) and Frank

Submitted by:
Kelly Thornton

On Thursday morning at ten o'clock occurred the marriage of two of our esteemed friends—Mr. Edward Renier and Miss Lizzie Francois, daughter of Mr. Adrean Francois, our popular postmaster. The impressive ceremony was rendered by our pastor, Rev. Father Leccia, at St. Michael's church, and was witnessed by a large number of relatives and intimate friends. After the usual ceremonies an elegant repast was served up, after which the parties betook themselves to singing and dancing. This was kept up until half-past eleven. Victor Mignon furnished the music. We all unite in wishing the young couple all the joy and happiness this world affords. JOE.



Wisconsin Belgian-American Club Annual Picnic July 1925



In 1921, 15 ladies in Green Bay started the Belgian-American Club at the home of Mrs. Julia Parmentier. She became its first president. The only requirement of membership was that they had to have a Belgian bloodline. They accepted members with either Walloon or Flemish ancestry. It was mainly a social club. In 1930 the group was called the Wisconsin American-Belgian club and had an auxiliary called the Queen Elizabeth club. By 1935 the club membership grew to 150 members. In January 1935 the club changed its name to the Queen Elizabeth Belgian-American club because a men's group called the Wisconsin Belgian club disbanded and joined the Queen Elizabeth club. As a social group they had regular meetings, picnics, Christmas parties for children, and sent food baskets to the sick. They took part in local civic activities including having an exhibit at the museum. During World War II they honored the local soldiers serving in the war and donated to the Red Cross. They also sent clothing for the Belgian relief fund, which included clothing sewed by members.

Submitted by Peninsula Belgian American Club



Jennie (Derenne) Baudhuin, Union Worker

Jennie was one of the many women farmers who also had outside, full time jobs. This was especially common during World War II. Jenny worked such jobs in the 1940's and 50's, including the shoe factory in Sturgeon Bay where she held a union job with benefits.

Submitted by Kristin Alberts

Boot and Shoe Workers' Union
 Affiliated with the
 American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations
 246 SUMMER ST. BOSTON 10, MASS.

Jennie Baudhuin

REGISTER NO. *548891*

LOCAL *77v*

DATE ISSUED **DEC 20 1957**

SCALE OF BENEFITS

Sec. 68. Members in continuous good standing at time of death for

2 Years — \$150.00
 3 Years — \$300.00
 5 Years but not 10 years — \$400.00
 10 Years or more — \$500.00

Those fifty to sixty years of age when initiated or reinstated entitled to half benefits. Those sixty years of age or over at time of initiation or reinstatement entitled to quarter benefits.

Members obtaining withdrawal cards waive benefit rights while withdrawn, and break continuous good standing record. Do not request withdrawal unless leaving the trade for an indefinite period.

Dues begin
January

January			April
May	June	July	August
September	October	November	December

KEEP WITHIN TWO MONTH LIMIT



Women on Horses

The women in this photo are unidentified, but this type of picture is rare.

Submitted by Roseann Dax



Santa Claus at Joe Rouer's

Submitted by Jody Kassner



Belgian Days Float

Cletus Bellin played music and sang in Walloon through the streets of Brussels.

Submitted by Kristin Alberts

LARGEST
CIRCULATION
IN COUNTY

DOOR COUNTY DEMOCRAT

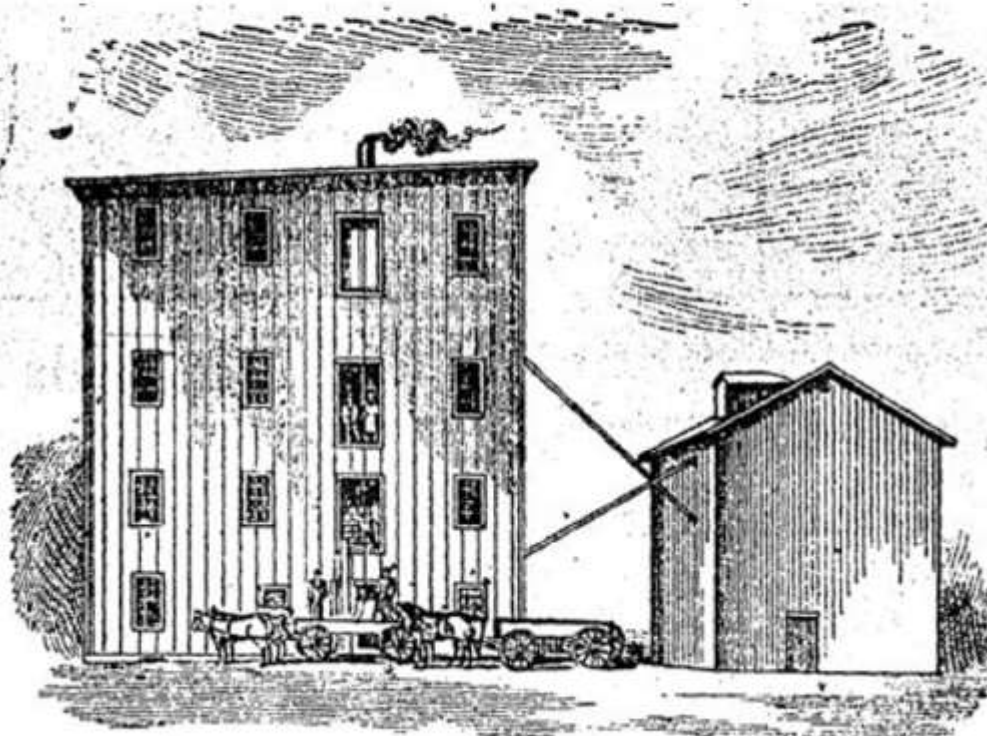
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HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
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VOL. 25.

STURGEON BAY, WIS., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1916.

NO. 1



The Chaudoir Company's Elevator at Brussels, Destroyed by Fire.

Fire at Five Corners

From the Door County Newspaper Archives

THE BRUSSELS FIRE

One of the most disastrous fires to happen in the county in years occurred about midnight last Thursday near the Five Corners, Brussels, when the large four-story flour and feed mill of the Chaudoir company, together with the two-story saw mill and elevator, was burned to the ground.

Louis Vangindertalen, who lives about a mile away from the elevator, was the first to discover the fire at about 11 o'clock at night and hurried to the "Corners" and summoned people to the mill. When they arrived the machinery in the second story had already fallen thru the floor.

At one time it was thought that all the buildings in the vicinity were doomed but the wind shifted to the southeast.

The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is said it started in the second story. The building is a total loss to the owners, only about \$5,500 insurance being carried.

About 300 barrels of flour, 1,000 bushels of wheat, 125 barrels of salt, 20 tons of coal, and about 200 bags of grain belonging to farmers, together with a new wagon and bob sleigh, were also burned. There were also many tons of bran and middlings in the building.

The Chaudoir company is composed of Justin, Joseph, Eli and Anton Chaudoir, Louis Gerondale and Wm. Baudhein. The property destroyed for many years belonged to the Pierre-Virlee company. Farmers from all over the Belgian settlement brought their grain to this mill and it did a thriving business.

Insurance carried was about enough to pay for the grain that was in the building. The loss is conservatively estimated at \$25,000. It is not known whether or not the company will rebuild.