

Major Genealogical  
Record Sources for

# Belgium

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The Genealogical Department of  
The Church of Jesus Christ  
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# Major Genealogical Record Sources for Belgium

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In identifying ancestors, genealogical researchers need the answers to four key questions regarding **record sources**:

1. What types of records exist that will aid in identifying ancestors?
2. What periods of time do the existing records **cover**?
3. What genealogical information appears in the existing records?
4. What is the availability of existing records for searching?

The chart and table that follow contain answers to the above questions for the major genealogical

record sources of Belgium. The major sources are listed, together with type of record, period covered, type of information given, and source availability.

Table A shows at a glance the record sources available for a research problem in a particular century.

Table B provides more detailed information about the major records available. For example, for a pedigree problem in the seventeenth century, Table A indicates the sources available for that period, and Table B provides more complete information.

# Historical Introduction

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The area represented now by Belgium and the Netherlands was one country under Burgundian-Austrian rule from 1384 to 1555. Then came 159 years of Spanish domination. Twenty years later the northern provinces, which had become Protestant, revolted and, in 1579, became the Republic of the Seven United Provinces.

The nine southern provinces and the area now known as the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg were then called the Spanish Low Countries, which also included the French province of Artois, placing the French cities of Arras, Lille, Cambrai, Avesnes, and Valenciennes under Spanish rule. Numerous Protestants throughout this area had to flee or renounce their religion. The "Council of Troubles" (*Conseil de Troubles*), from 1565 to 1589, left court records showing severe punishments or banishments of Protestants. These records now fill thirty rolls of 35 mm microfilm.

In 1714 control of the areas of present-day Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg passed from Spain to Austria. From 1795 until the fall of Napoleon in 1815, these provinces were subject to France. This introduced the French style of civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths, with indexes.

In 1815 the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was organized, and the nine southern provinces were reunited with the Netherlands. This, however, was not a durable union, and in 1831 the Kingdom of Belgium was founded under Leopold de Saxe-Cobourg. He ruled wisely and well, and made of the country the benevolent monarchy, which it remains today.

During the end of the last century, the law provided for all Belgian parish registers to be indexed. This is a great boon to genealogical research in Belgium. A difficulty, however, is encountered in records from 1795 to about 1805. Because of resentment for the French regime, many people had their children baptized in the church but not recorded civilly. Therefore, church records, especially baptisms, from 1795 to about 1805 should be consulted in conjunction with the civil registers (*etat civil* or *burgerlijke stand*).

As a result of foreign occupation, certain records of importance to genealogical research in Belgium may now be found in archives in Spain, Austria, the Netherlands, and France.

**TABLE A**

**MAJOR SOURCE AVAILABILITY BY CENTURY**

TYPE OF RECORD	CENTURY											
	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	
1. Military Conscription Records												
2. Population Registers												
3. Army Personnel Records												
4. Probate Records												
5. Civil Registration Records												
6. Indexes to Civil Registration												
7. Parish Registers												
8. Military Court Records												
9. Emigration Records												
10. Records of Protestants												
11. Early Census Records												
12. Ecclesiastical Records												
13. Status of Property Records												
14. Scholarship Records												
15. Notarial Records												
16. Lists of Students of the University of Louvain												
17. Genealogical Collections												
18. Records of "Hommes de Fiefs de Plumes"												
19. Alderman or Local Court Records												
20. Guild Records												
21. Burgess Records												
22. Feudal Tax Records												
23. Family Records												
24. Cartularies												

TABLE B

## MAJOR SOURCES CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
1. MILITARY CONSCRIPTION RECORDS	1796 to present	Names of 20-year-old males, listed by cantons and towns, with date and place of birth and names of parents	Belgian State and Municipal Archives Those for the province of Liege, 1830-1859, and for the city of Liege, 1815-1862, are on film (Gen. Dept.)
2. POPULATION REGISTERS (Registres de <i>Population</i> or <i>Burgerlijke Bevolking</i> )	1796 but more complete since 1847	Names, birth dates, and birthplaces of all family members; dates of death or of moving from town; previous and future places of residences; more information and, frequently, indexes after 1847	Municipal and state archives; state archives at Bruges has censuses of all of West Flanders beginning in 1815
3. ARMY PERSONNEL RECORDS	1795 to 1815	Names, birth dates, or ages; places of birth; names of parents.  Name of regiment needed before searches can be made.	Service Historique de l'Armee, Chateau de Vincennes, France
	1825 to abt. 1900	Names, birth dates, places of birth, names of parents (a good source to locate families)	Archives Royales de l'Armee Brussels; many records of officers and soldiers are indexed and on film (Gen. Dept.)
4. PROBATE RECORDS (Successions)	Abt. 1795 to abt. 1900	Names of deceased persons, and date and place of death; relationships, residences, and sometimes birth dates and birthplaces of heirs; places of residence of parties owing the estate or whom the estate owes	Belgian State Archives; some filmed by the Genealogical Department in the state archives at Antwerp
5. CIVIL REGISTRATION RECORDS ( <i>Etat Civil</i> or <i>Burgerlijke Stand</i> )	Abt. 1795 to present	Similar to parish registers (see no. 7) with additional data:  Birth records: ages of parents, sometimes information on child's marriage and death  Marriage records: birth dates or ages of bride and groom and places of birth, names of previous spouses and their dates and places of death, and dates and places of death of parents  <i>Death</i> records: date and place of birth, names of parents and spouse; date and place of death of deceased spouse	In state, city, and court archives  Being microfilmed by the Genealogical Department from the beginning to about 1870  Note: This is the single most important source from 1795 to the present time
6. INDEXES TO CIVIL REGISTRATION RECORDS	1792 to present	Names of persons born, married, or deceased; place and date of these events and registration numbers  These indexes are in alphabetical order by towns and frequently in single collections for entire judicial arrondissements (there are three or four judicial arrondissements [areas] in each Belgian province)	State and municipal archives; arrondissement collections are in state archives and sometimes in capital cities of arrondissements

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
7. PARISH REGISTERS	Abt. 1600 to present	<p>Catholic records are normally written in Latin; Protestant records, which are very rare, are written in Flemish or French</p> <p>Births: contain names of baby, father, and usually of the mother; date of christening; names and sometimes places of residence of godparents</p> <p>Marriages: give names of grooms and brides; sometimes names of parents, particularly fathers; date of marriage; sometimes places of origin and names of deceased spouses</p> <p>Burials: name of deceased, date of death and/or burial; sometimes names of parents or spouse; occasionally places of origin</p>	<p>Belgian State Archives; a few in municipal or local ecclesiastical archives; indexes are normally available: most on film (Gen. Dept.) from beginning to about 1795</p> <p>Donor copies of microfilms and reading machines are available in the Archives Generales du Royaume, Rue de Ruysbroeck 2-6, 1000-Brussels, Belgium</p>
8. MILITARY COURT RECORDS	1596 to 1724	Orphan and guardianship records, legitimations of children, and probate records	General Archives of the Kingdom at Brussels (see <i>Inventaire des Archives des Tribunaux Militaires</i> by L. Vao Meerbeeck, sections on jurisdiction gracieuse)
9. EMIGRATION RECORDS	1593 to 1898	Passports: names, birth dates or ages, birthplaces, destinations, occupations, some family relationships	Municipal Archives of Antwerp, Viershaar numbers 1790 to 1797
	1795 to 1815	Registers of passports issued during the French Occupation: data similar to above	Antwerp Municipal Archives, M.A. numbers 264/1 to 264/5
	1801 to 1857	Registers of passports seen by the mayor: data similar to above	Antwerp Municipal Archives, M.A. numbers 2644/1 to 2644/14
	1679 to 1811	Emigration of all European foreigners who sailed from Antwerp: data similar to above	Antwerp Municipal Archives Vierschaar numbers 1797, 1802, 1803 to 1811
	1801 to 1823	Hotel registers of people prior to boarding ships for America: names, ages or birth dates, places of birth, family relationships, and sometimes destinations	Antwerp Municipal Archives Vierschaar number 1812; M.A. numbers 1641/6, 2642/1 and 2, 2645/1 to 2645/8
	1858 to 1898	Continuation of hotel registers	Antwerp Municipal Archives, M.A. numbers 2669/1 to 2669/26
	1702 to 1835	Loose paspoorten van diverse Kerkamst (loose passports of various origins): data similar to above	Antwerp Municipal Archives, Viershaar numbers 179 to 180
	Early 19th C.	Paspoorten Politie 2-5 wijk (passports issued by the police of the 2nd to the 5th districts of Antwerp): data similar to above	Antwerp Municipal Archives, M.A. numbers 2643/6 to 2643/15

TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
9. EMIGRATION RECORDS (Cont.)	1863 to 1904	Emigranten en Bannelingen (Emigrants and banished <i>persons</i> ): data similar to above	Antwerp Municipal Archives, M.A. numbers 2638/1 to 2638/4, 4904(1 to 4904/2
	Abt. 1795 to abt. 1820	Records of passports issued: data similar to above	Belgian state and municipal archives
	1854 to 1855	Passenger lists of emigration through the port of <i>Antwerp to America</i> : surnames, given names, ages, birthplaces, and nationalities	State archives in Antwerp, Belgium; on microfilm (Gen. Dept.); in the General Archives at Brussels: Gen. Dept. film nos. 392,910; 392,911; 392,912
10. RECORDS OF PROTESTANTS	1645 to 1725	A few Protestant parish records have been preserved such as those of Eupen (1645-1706) and Dine (1649-1725), both in the province of Liege	On microfilm (Gen. Dept.). obtained from the Walloon Library at Leiden
	1565 to 1589	Raad van Beroerte (Council of <i>Troubles</i> or court records dealing with <i>early Protestants</i> , 1565 to 1589): names, places of origin, family relationships, sentences, sometimes banishments	General Archives of the Kingdom of Brussels; on microfilm (Gen. Dept.) nos. 720,653 to 720,666; 720,991 to 720,994; and 721,576 to 721,589
	16th C.	Information on <i>protestants</i> and " <i>New Catholics</i> " in Antwerp: names, dates, family relationships	Antwerp Municipal Archives: registers 314 and 316
	Abt. 1550 to 1795	<i>Notarial, Alderman, and Staten van Coed</i> Records: names, dates, family relationships	Belgian general, state and municipal archives; a considerable number are on film (Gen. Dept.)
11. EARLY CENSUS RECORDS	1693, 1709, and 1755	Nominative censuses of the <i>province of Brabant</i> : names of all family members, with maiden surnames of wives, sometimes ages; in some cases only name of husband and statement of ages of children	General Archives of the Kingdom, Brussels, Belgium
	1745, 1766, 1775, 1784, 1794, 1796, 1804, and 1812	<i>Nominative</i> censuses of the city of Namur: names of all family members, ages, birthplaces, occupations, whether or not citizens ( <i>bourgeois</i> )	State archives at Namm, Belgium (also available in some other Belgian cities)
12. ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS	1528 to 1795	Records of Confreries (Broederschappen): names of husbands, wives, and a child or two, amount of contributions made; sometimes parishes of origin	Belgian State Archives; some on microfilm (Gen. Dept.)
	18th C.	Capitations Paroissiales and Registres de <i>Population</i> : church censuses with names, ages, relationships of complete families, occupations of husbands; sometimes birthplaces and death dates	Same as above

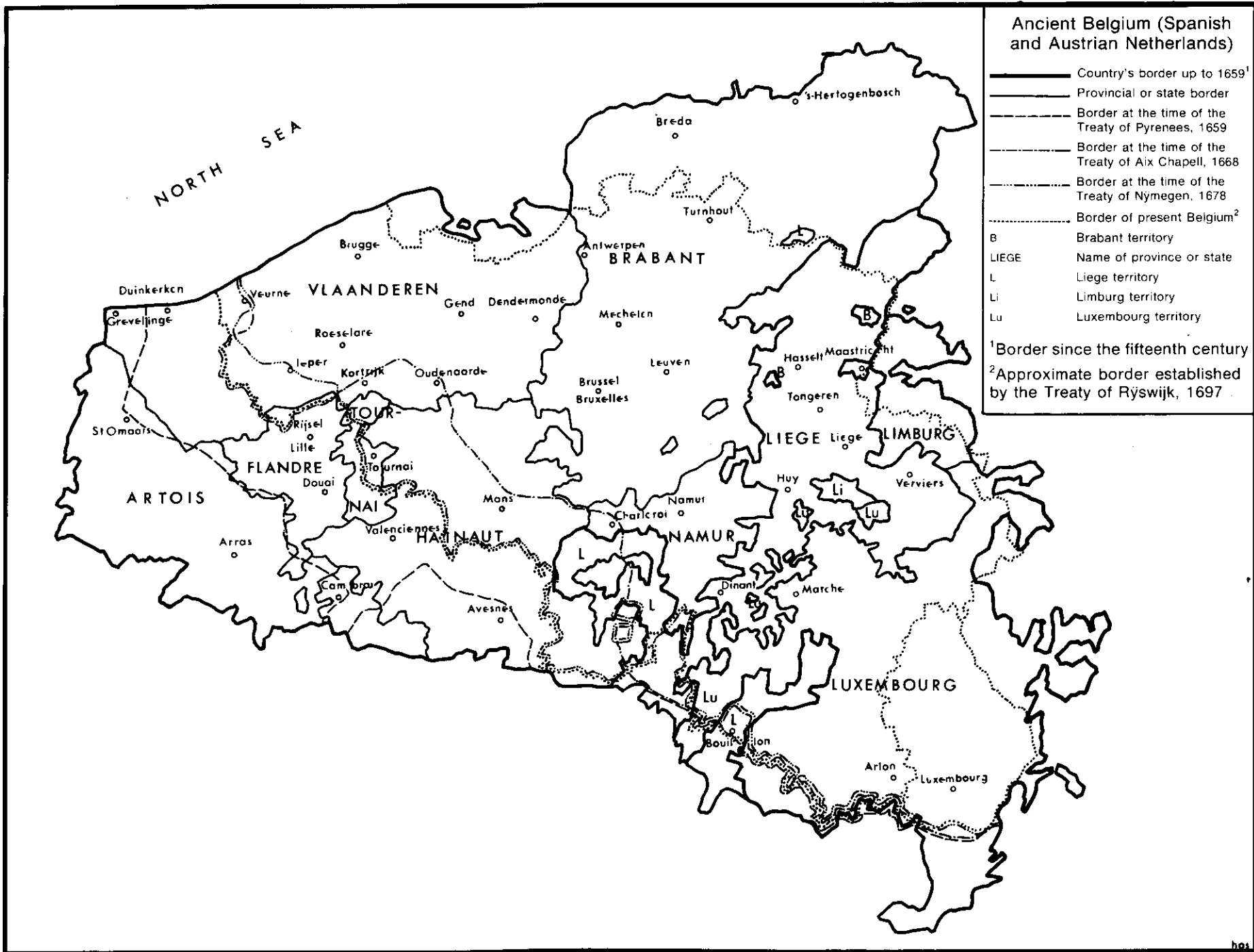
TYPE OF RECORD	PERIOD COVERED	TYPE OF INFORMATION GIVEN	AVAILABILITY
12. ECCLESIASTICAL RECORDS [Cont.]	1528 to 1795	Obituaries or obits (donations to <i>the</i> church before <i>death</i> for masses to be sung <i>following death</i> ): names of husbands and wives, sometimes other family members	Same as above
	16th to 18th C.	<i>Wills</i> , sales, and rentals <i>of</i> land: names, dates, family relationships, residences	Same as above
13. STATUS OF PROPERTY RECORDS ( <i>Staten van Coed</i> or <i>Etats de Biens</i> )	Early 16th C. 10 1795	Division of property at death: names of complete families, with relationships, some ages, and places of residence; many have alphabetical indexes (in East and West Flanders this record is next to parish registers in value for genealogical research before 1795)	Municipal and state archives; some published, others on film (Gen. Dept.)
14. SCHOLARSHIP RECORDS ( <i>Fonds des Bourses d'Etudes</i> )	Abt. 1500 to present	Pedigree and descent charts extending back four or more centuries, with names, dates, and sometimes places of birth, marriage, death, family relationships	There is an archive of these records in each of the nine Belgian provinces; for Brabant it is in the Ministry of Justice, rue des Quatre-Bras, Brussels
15. NOTARIAL RECORDS	15th C. to present	Partages (division <i>of</i> estates) and succession records: names, relationships, and sometimes places of residence of heirs	State and city archives; some on film (Gen. Dept.)
		Marriage contracts: names of brides and grooms, names of their fathers and sometimes of their mothers, places of residence and sometimes of origin, dates of contracts	Same as above  Frequently notaries left repertories in which they recorded each day the names of their clients and the types of documents; the Genealogical Department has filmed much of the Notarial General du Brabant (collection of notarial records of the province of Brabant); the <i>Intermediaire des Genealogistes</i> , no. 50, pp. 77-79, names the notaries whose repertories are found in this collection
		Testaments: names of testators and heirs; frequently limited to one "universal heir; therefore, not as good a source as partages or succession records	
		Transports or sales <i>of</i> property: names of buyers and sellers, their fathers, and frequently their wives; sometimes other family relationships; dates and places of residence	A further research aid is the card index to <i>the</i> names of parties in marriage contracts, wills, and <i>partages</i> (records of divisions of property among heirs) in this collection; it is found in the archives of the city of Brussels
16. LISTS OF STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUVAIN	1453 to 1797	Names of students and usually of their fathers, dates of enrollment. places of birth, indexes to names of students	Motricule de L'Universit� de Louvain. Vols. 2 to 10 at the Gen. Dept. and in some other libraries

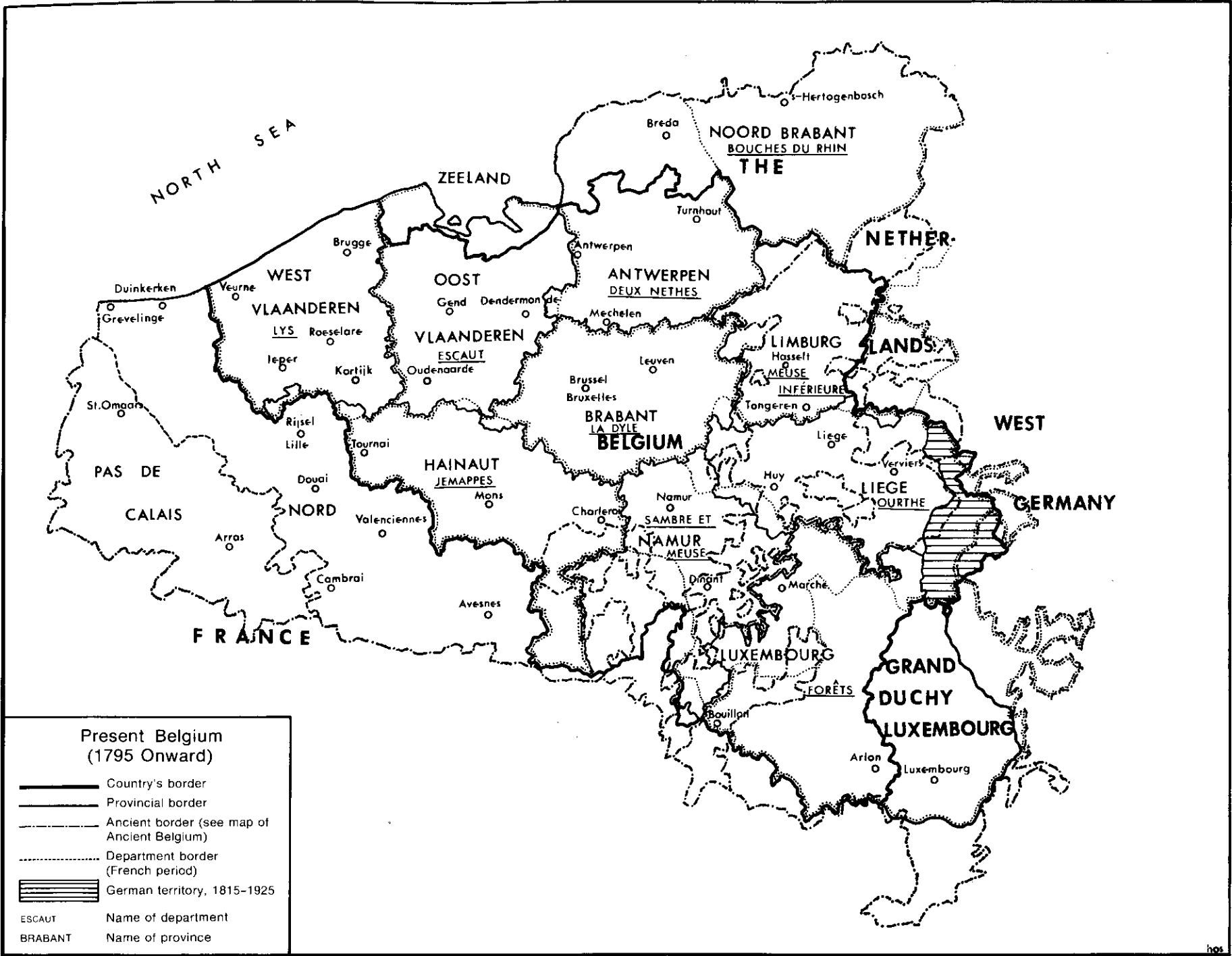


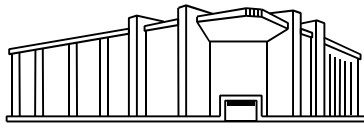
17. GENEALOGICAL COLLECTIONS	1353 to 1795	Goethals and Houwaert Collections: for contents see Lyna, Frederic. Catalogue des manuscrits de la Bibliotheque Royale de <i>Belgique</i> , volume 13; <i>Heraldique-Genealogique</i> (Brussels, 1948); and Henry Charles Van Parys Inventaire analytique du Fonds HOLLwaert-de-Grez {Brussels. 1971}	Royal Library (Bibliotheque Royale), 4 boulevard de l'Empereur, 1000-Brussels, Belgium
	Abt. 1550 to 1795	<i>Lefort</i> Collection: abstracts of marriage and baptism records, wills, property division among heirs, etc.; written in modern French	State archives at Liege, (8 rue Pouplin); on film (Gen. Dept.) and the Archives Generales du Royaume in Brussels
	1450 to 1930	Bisschop and <i>Donnel</i> Collections: data similar to above	State archives at Antwerp, Door Verstraetplaats 5, 2000-Antwerp, Belgium
	15th C. to 1795	Crayons geneologiques: descent charts and accompanying written material	State archives at Mons; on film (Gen. Dept.), nos. 617,044 and 617,045; inventory by A. Scufflaire in <i>Tablettes du Hainaut</i> , vols. 3 and 4
	1520 to 1743	<i>Genealogies bourgeoises</i> : genealogies of burghess families of Mons	State archives at Mons; film 281,546 (Gen. Dept.)
	14th C. to present	Pedigree charts of members of the Belgian genealogical organization named Service de Centralisation des Etudes Genealogiques et Demographiques de Belgique (S.C.G.D.)	On film (Gen. Dept.); lists of 21,000 surnames on these pedigree charts are published under the title of "Listes des patronymes des tableaux d'ascendances" in <i>L'Intermediaire des Genealogistes</i> (Gen. Dept.)
18. RECORDS OF "HOMMES DE FIEFS DE PLUMES" OF THE PROVINCE OF HAINAUT (similar to notaries)	1346 to 1795	<i>Avis de Pere et Mere</i> : names of children and parents with approximate birth dates	State archives at Mons, Belgium; on film (Gen. Dept.), see dictionary card file for Mons
	1346 to 1800	Marriage contracts: same as those of notaries	Same as above
	1316 to 1830	Portages: divisions of estates among heirs	Same as above
	1317 to 1831	Wills (testaments): name fewer heirs than portages	Same as above

19. ALDERMAN OR LOCAL COURT RECORDS {Grefte, Scabinaux or Schepen-banken)	1341 to 1795	Records like notarial records but made by echevins (local alderman)  Oeuvres de Loi, Realisations, or <i>Wettelijke</i> Passeringen: transports or reliefs (transfers of property), wills, portages, marriage contracts, permissions to marry, constitution of reules (annuities) and hypotheques (mortgages), donations of property from parents to children, emancipations of youths by their fathers, etc.	State and municipal archives; many on film (Gen. Dept.)  An excellent collection of realisations of three court chambers from 1362 to 1795, with indexes, is in the municipal archive at Louvain (Leuven), Belgium, pertaining to the city and surrounding area (see Joseph Cuvelier, <i>Iovenleire des Archives de 10 Ville de Louvain</i> , vol. 2, pp. 236-366J
	Abt. 1375 to 1795	Orphan records ( <i>tutelles</i> , mombournie, or weeskamer): names of deceased persons, sometimes of their parents, their heirs, and guardians of the latter; places of residence, approximate death dates of parents, and ages of children	Belgian state and municipal archives; some on film {Gen. Dept.)
20. GUILD RECORDS (Registres des corporations de metiers)	14th to 18th C.	Names of new guild members, occupations, sometimes their parishes of birth, often names of fathers and sometimes of wives and fathers-in-law	State and municipal archives; some on film (Gen. Dept.)
21. BURGESS RECORDS (Registres de reception o Jo bourgeoisie or Poorters-boecken)	1290, mostly since early 16th C., to 1795	Names of men and sometimes women, of their fathers and sometimes their mothers; birth-dates or ages at becoming burgesses; places of origin	State and municipal archives; some published with indexes; some on film (Gen. Dept.)
22. FEUDAL TAX RECORDS	1250 to 1795	<i>Cijnsboeken</i> : children assumed the payment of taxes, which their parents had paid, to nobles or clergy; deceased parents and their children are named with places of residence	These records for the province of Wass are kept in the archives at BevereD, Wass; those for the Dukedom of Brabant are in the Audit Office Section of the General Archives of the Kingdom in Brussels
		Cens and rentes: payments of taxes or annuities over long periods of time, often for generations	State archives in central and southern Belgium
	Abt. 1250 to 18th C.	<i>Hoofdcijnsboeken</i> : records of taxes paid to abbeys and monasteries by families who lived for generations under their protection	State archives in northern Belgium
	16th to 18th C.	<i>Wijckboeken</i> : District censuses for tax purposes	Same as above

23. FAMILY RECORDS (Fonds de famiJes)	13th to 20th C.	<p>Chassereaux de biens: listing of property and names of renters, frequently the same families for generations</p> <p>Copies of notarial and church records</p> <p>Tax records (see no. 22)</p> <p>Proofs of nobility and other genealogical collections</p>	<p>Belgian State Archives, frequently voluminous and dealing with numerous families</p> <p>See L'Intermediaire des Genealogistes, vol. 42, for an index to the large collection of "<i>fonds de familles</i>" in the state archives at Mons (for the province of Hainaut)</p>
24. CARTULARIES (Cortuloires)	10th to 18th C.	Names of buyers, sellers, and donors of property, often accompanied by their father's name and names of wives; sometimes names of children; dates, residences	Many in Belgian libraries and archives; several printed; some at the Gen. Dept. in book form or on microfilm







FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

# French

## INTRODUCTION

This guide is for researchers who do not speak French but must write to France, Belgium, Luxembourg, or Quebec to request genealogical records. It includes a list of sentences you would use in a letter about genealogical records and a French translation of these sentences.

## BEFORE YOU WRITE

Before you write a letter in French to obtain family history information, you should do these things:

□ **Determine exactly where your ancestor was born, married, or died.** Because most genealogical records were kept locally, you will need to know the specific town where your ancestor's records were kept. See the *Tracing Immigrant Origins Research Outline* (34111) from the Family History Library™ for help in finding hometowns.

□ **Determine if the Family History Library has records from the area where your relative lived.** The best sources of information in French-speaking areas are records of births, marriages, and deaths kept by civil registration offices (or parishes in Quebec). The library has microfilmed these records for many localities, but not all. Use the Family History Library Catalog™ to determine what records are available through the Family History Library and Family History Centers™. If records are available from the library or Family History Centers, it is usually faster and more productive to search these records first. The library's *France Research Outline*, *Canada Research Outline*, and *Quebec Research Outline* explain how to research records at the library or at Family History Centers. If the records you want are not available at these locations, you can use the research outlines to help you decide what records to search. Write to the Family History Library (35 North West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400) for the addresses of nearby Family History Centers.

□ **Determine where records from your ancestor's hometown are stored today.** Records for smaller localities may be kept with records of a nearby larger community. You can use a gazetteer to determine which community serves your ancestor's locality in France, Belgium, or Luxembourg. For help locating records, see the library's research outline for France. For help locating parish records in Quebec, see the library's research outlines for Canada and Quebec.

## RESEARCH BY MAIL

### What to Ask in Each Nation

Write *only* when you cannot find the information any other way. The following list shows the kind of information you may be able to obtain through correspondence from several kinds of organizations in French-speaking nations:

In **all French-speaking nations** you can write to—

- *Genealogical societies.*
  - Request that the letter be forwarded to a member interested in the same family, locality, or group of people.
  - Request a list of people who might consider making a short search of records in a nearby repository for pay.
- *Professional researchers.* Offer to pay a researcher for a search of records in a nearby repository.

In **France and Belgium** you can also write to—

- *Civil registration offices.* Request a birth, marriage, or death certificate to verify the place of origin of a direct ancestor.
- *Departmental or provincial archives.*
  - Ask where the records of a specific town are kept and what dates the records cover.
  - Ask when their archives are open to the public.

In **Luxembourg** you can write to—

- *Civil registration offices.* Request a certificate to verify the birth place of a direct ancestor born within the last hundred years. The Family History Library has filmed most earlier records from Luxembourg.

In **Quebec** you can write to—

- *Roman Catholic parishes.* Request transcripts of baptism, marriage, or burial records from 1877 to the present. The Family History Library has filmed most earlier Catholic records from Quebec.

### Addressing the Envelope

*Societies.* The book *Genealogical Research Directory: National and International* by Keith A. Johnson and Malcolm R. Sainty lists the addresses of most genealogical societies in French-speaking nations (Sydney: Johnson and Sainty, 1993; FHL book 929.1025 G286grd 1993).

Address the envelope to—

Monsieur le Président  
(Name of the society)

(Address)  
(Postal code) (Town)  
(NATION)

**Professional researchers.** Names and addresses of researchers for hire can be found in genealogical periodicals.

**Civil registration offices.** (France, Belgium, and Luxembourg only.) Address the envelope to—

Monsieur l'officier de l'état-civil  
Mairie de (Town)  
(Postal code) (Town)  
FRANCE, BELGIUM, or LUXEMBOURG

**Archives.** Find archive addresses with the help of the *France Research Outline*, the International Council on Archives' *International Directory of Archives* (Archivum Series, vol. 38 [Munich: Saur, 1992]; FHL book 020.5 Ar25 v. 38), or call the Family History Library at 801-240-3433.

Address the envelope to—

France: Monsieur le Directeur  
Archives départementales  
(Postal code) (Town)  
FRANCE

Belgium: Monsieur le Directeur  
Archives de la Province  
(Postal code) (Town)  
BELGIUM

**Catholic parishes.** (Quebec only.) Address the envelope to—

Monsieur le Curé  
(Town), Québec  
CANADA (Postal code)

## Postal Codes

When addressing your letter, you will need to write the postal (zip) code **before** the name of the town when writing to France, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Write the postal code **after** the word "Canada" when writing to Quebec. For help finding postal codes, use the postal gazetteer for the country, or call the Family History Library at 801-240-3433.

## How to Send Return Postage and Money

The first time you write someone in Europe or Quebec, send three international reply coupons (available at most large post offices) to pay for return postage.

When writing to a parish in Quebec, it is also a good idea to send a donation of \$10 as a courtesy. Do not send a personal check, which is difficult and expensive to exchange. Cash is most easily converted to foreign currency, but there are always risks in sending cash.

An easy and inexpensive way to send money to Europe or Quebec from the United States is to

telephone Ruesch International Financial Services at 800-424-2923. Ask for an international bank draft for the equivalent of \$10 (or another amount) in either Canadian dollars or Belgian, Luxembourg, Swiss, or French francs. There is a \$2 service charge. Have the check made payable to the organization you are contacting (the *Paroisse* [parish] in Quebec). Ruesch will give you a transaction number to write on your payment check. Send the payment to—

Ruesch International Financial Services  
International Division, 10th floor  
1350 Eye Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005

When they receive your payment, Ruesch will promptly send you a foreign currency draft (check) you can mail to Europe or Quebec.

Some researchers do not send money when writing to a civil registration office, archive, researcher, or genealogical society for the first time. These organizations may prefer to bill you for their services. Some may ask you to make the check payable to their account number. If you want, you may write an institution to determine their fees before making a request. However, this will significantly increase the time it takes to get information.

## Checklist for Mailing Your Letter

- Keep a photocopy of your letter.
- Enclose three international reply coupons.
- Convert funds to foreign currency.
- Mark "Air Mail" on envelopes addressed overseas.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

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It may take six months or longer for you to receive a reply to your request for information (airmail improves the response time). The results of writing to civil registration offices (or parishes in Quebec) can vary greatly. You may get more information than requested, or you may get no answer at all. Some will not answer until money is sent. Some may be unable to provide information.

Because some information is not easily obtained by writing directly to a registrar (or priest in Quebec), you may need to hire a local private researcher. We suggest that you inquire about a competent local researcher when you write.

When you receive a reply, send a note of thanks or acknowledgement. You may wish to do this in a follow-up letter requesting further information. Refer to your earlier letter and their return letter by date. If they have assigned you a reference number, include that number as well.

Use French-English dictionaries to help you understand the reply. Sometimes you can hire accredited genealogists to translate for you.

If you do not receive an answer, write again sending a copy of your first letter. Do not send more money unless you verify that your first letter did not arrive.

## HOW TO WRITE A LETTER IN FRENCH

Your letter should include the following:

- the date (at the top)
- the name and address of the addressee
- a greeting
- a short, specific, genealogical request
- a comment about return postage (and sometimes reimbursement)
- closing remarks
- your signature
- your return address (including your country)

Be brief and simple. Do not ask for more than one or two pieces of information in a single letter.

The following English-to-French translations will help you compose your letter. Read the sentences in English and choose those that best express what you want to say. Alternative phrases are shown in double brackets (« »). Be sure that your sentences are arranged logically. You may want to write your letter first in English using the following sentences, then replace the sentences with their French translations. However you

proceed, make sure you type or neatly print your letter and, when necessary, add any diacritical marks and special characters (such as à, â, ç, é, è, ê, ë, î, î, ô, ö, û, ù) with a pen.

**Gender.** Three of the words in the French translations need to match your gender. The words are intéressé(e), obligé(e), and reconnaissant(e). The feminine ending is listed in parentheses. If you are a man, use intéressé, obligé, and reconnaissant. If you are a woman, use intéressée, obligée, and reconnaissante.

**Do not use this guide as the letter itself!** That might insult the recipient and lessen the chance of a reply.

### Writing Dates

Write dates in the European style: day-month-year. Write the name of the month out and write the year in full. For example, write *10 décembre 1889*, not *12-10-89* or even *10-12-1889*.

January	- janvier	July	- juillet
February	- février	August	- août
March	- mars	September	- septembre
April	- avril	October	- octobre
May	- mai	November	- novembre
June	- juin	December	- décembre

### English

### French

#### Letter to a Genealogical Society

1. Dear President:	1. Monsieur le Président,
2. My ancestor ( <i>fill in ancestor's name</i> ) emigrated from your region. «in ( <i>fill in year</i> ).»	2. Mon ancêtre ( <i>fill in ancestor's name</i> ) a quitté votre région. «vers ( <i>fill in year</i> ).»
3. He «She» was from ( <i>fill in the town</i> ).	3. Il «Elle» venait de ( <i>fill in the town</i> ).
4. He was born «She was born» «about» ( <i>fill in date</i> ).	4. Il est né «Elle est née» «environ» ( <i>fill in date</i> ).
5. I have not been able to identify this place which appears to be in your area. Perhaps I do not have the correct spelling. Do you have any suggestions?	5. Il ne m'a pas été possible d'identifier ce lieu exact d'origine dans votre région. Peut-être que l'orthographe a été déformée. Auriez-vous quelque recommandation à ce sujet?
6. The spelling of the surname, ( <i>fill in surname</i> ), is not certain. What is the likely spelling in your area?	6. L'orthographe de ce patronyme, ( <i>fill in surname</i> ), n'est pas certaine. Pourriez-vous suggérer les orthographes possible pour votre région?
7. Could you tell me if the surname ( <i>fill in the surname</i> ) is common in your area? Is there a member of your group who is studying that surname or the families in ( <i>fill in the town</i> )? Would you kindly forward my letter to that person?	7. Pourriez-vous me dire si le nom de famille ( <i>fill in the surname</i> ) existe dans votre région? Y a-t-il un membre de votre groupe qui étudie ce nom ou les familles de ( <i>fill in the town</i> )? Voudriez-vous être assez aimable pour lui acheminer ma lettre?



8. Do you have a list of people who are willing to do research for a fee?	8. Avez-vous une liste de personnes qui se chargent de faire des recherches rémunérées?
9. Is there a periodical published by your association? Please tell me the conditions and benefits of subscription and how to run a genealogical query.	9. Est-ce que votre association publie une revue? Quelles sont les conditions et les avantages de souscription et comment pourrais-je insérer une question dans la revue?
10. Please find enclosed three international reply coupons for return postage.	10. Veuillez trouver ci-joint trois coupons réponse internationaux pour couvrir les frais postaux.
11. With my greatest thanks, please accept my sincere greetings.  (Your signature) (fill in your <b>name and address</b> )	11. Avec mes plus grands remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.  (Your signature) (fill in your <b>name and address</b> )

### Letter to a Professional Researcher

12. Dear Sir: «Madam:»	12. Monsieur, «Madame,»
13. I need the help of a genealogist for some research. I would be very grateful if you would send me your rate and conditions, including traveling expenses if necessary.	13. J'ai besoin de l'aide d'un généalogiste pour quelques recherches. Je vous serais très obligé(e) de bien vouloir m'envoyer votre tarif et conditions, y compris bien entendu, frais de déplacements éventuels.
14. Can I write to you in English?	14. Puis-je vous écrire en anglais?
15. Please find enclosed a family group sheet with all the information I have.	15. Veuillez trouver ci-joint une feuille de groupement de famille avec toutes les informations que je possède.
16. Would you be able to research the ancestors of the husband? «the wife?» «both spouses?»	16. Pensez-vous que vous pourriez rechercher les ancêtres de l'époux? «l'épouse ?» «des époux?»
17. I would like to find all the children of each family as well as the children's death dates when they died under the age of eight years.	17. Je désire avoir tous les enfants de chaque famille trouvée, ainsi que les décès des enfants morts en dessous de huit ans.
18. The marriages of the children interest me also.	18. Les mariages des enfants m'intéressent aussi.
19. I am not interested in the marriages of the children except for the direct line.	19. Les mariages des enfants ne m'intéressent pas excepté pour la lignée directe.
20. I do not need a complete transcription of each document but a short transcription of the genealogical information found in the documents and the source of information.	20. Je n'ai pas besoin de transcription complète des documents mais simplement une transcription des informations généalogiques trouvées dans chaque document avec la source d'information.
21. Please complete the family group sheets and do not worry about transcribing the documents.	21. Veuillez compléter des fiches familiales sans vous inquiéter de transcrire les documents.
22. If I use your services, it is my intention to pay you with a draft in converted currency. Please tell me the name to write on the draft.	22. Si je décide d'employer vos services, je compte vous payer par mandat international en monnaie de votre pays. Veuillez bien me dire le nom de la personne à qui le mandat doit être libellé !

23. Please find enclosed three international reply coupons for return postage.	23. Veuillez trouver ci-joint trois coupons réponse internationaux pour couvrir les frais postaux.
24. Awaiting your answer, Sir. «Madam.» Sincerely,  ( <i>Your signature</i> ) (fill in your <b>name and address</b> )	24. Dans l'attente de votre réponse, je vous prie de croire, Monsieur «Madame», à l'expression de mes sincères salutations.  ( <i>Your signature</i> ) (fill in your <b>name and address</b> )
<b>Letter to a Civil Registration Office</b>	
25. Dear Civil Registrar:	25. Monsieur l'officier de l'état-civil,
26. I would be very grateful if you would send me a complete copy of the «birth» «marriage» «death» certificate of ( <i>fill in relationship</i> ).  my father my mother my grandfather my grandmother my great-grandfather my great-grandmother my parents my grandparents my great-grandparents one of my male ancestors one of my female ancestors	26. Je vous serais très obligé(e) de bien vouloir m'envoyer, si possible, la copie intégrale de l'acte de «naissance» «mariage» «décès» de ( <i>fill in relationship</i> ).  mon père ma mère mon grand-père ma grand-mère mon arrière grand-père mon arrière grand-mère mes parents mes grands-parents mes arrière grand-parents d'un de mes ancêtres d'une de mes ancêtres
27. ( <i>Supply pertinent information</i> ) a. Given name and surname: b. Date of birth: c. Place of birth: d. Father's given name and surname: e. Mother's given name and maiden surname: f. Husband's given name and surname: g. Wife's given name and maiden surname: h. Date of marriage: i. Place of marriage: j. Date of death: k. Place of death:	27. ( <i>Supply pertinent information</i> ) a. Prénom et nom: b. Date de naissance: c. Lieu de naissance: d. Prénom et nom de son père: e. Prénom et nom de jeune fille de sa mère: f. Prénom et nom de son mari: g. Prénom et nom de jeune fille de sa femme: h. Date de mariage: i. Lieu de mariage: j. Date de décès: k. Lieu de décès:
28. Please find enclosed three international reply coupons for return postage.	28. Veuillez trouver ci-joint trois coupons réponse internationaux pour couvrir les frais postaux.
29. With my greatest thanks, please accept my sincere greetings.  ( <i>Your signature</i> ) (fill in your <b>name and address</b> )	29. Avec mes plus grands remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.  ( <i>Your signature</i> ) (fill in your <b>name and address</b> )
<b>Letter to a Departmental or Provincial Archive</b>	
30. Dear Director:	30. Monsieur le Directeur,

31. Do you have the civil and parish registers for the town of <i>(fill in town name)</i> ? For which years?	31. Possédez-vous les registres d'état-civil et paroissiaux de <i>(fill in town name)</i> ? Pour quelles années?
32. Are there other years available somewhere else?	32. Existe-t-il d'autres années consultables en mairie?
33. Please tell me the days and hours that you will be open during the month of <i>(fill in the month)</i> . (See page 3 for names of the months. Use <i>d'</i> in front of <i>avril, août, and octobre.</i> )	33. Voudriez-vous bien m'indiquer les heures et jours ouvrables pendant le mois de «d'» <i>(fill in the month)</i> . (Use <i>d'</i> in front of <i>avril, août, and octobre.</i> )
34. Could you send me the name and address of a person who could do research for me?	34. Pourriez-vous m'envoyer les nom et adresse d'une personne qui pourrait faire une recherche pour moi?
35. Could you send me the name and address of the genealogical association for your region?	35. Pourriez-vous m'envoyer les nom et adresse de l'Association généalogique de votre région?
36. Please find enclosed three international reply coupons for return postage.	36. Veuillez trouver ci-joint trois coupons réponse internationaux pour couvrir les frais postaux.
37. With my greatest thanks, please accept my sincere greetings.  <i>(Your signature)</i> <i>(fill in your name and address)</i>	37. Avec mes plus grands remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le directeur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.  <i>(Your signature)</i> <i>(fill in your name and address)</i>

### Letter to a Catholic Priest in Quebec

38. Dear Parish Priest:	38. Monsieur le Curé,
39. I am researching ancestors, and I would be very grateful for any information which you could find in your registers on my family.	39. Je suis en train d'effectuer des recherches sur mes ancêtres et je vous serais très obligé(e) pour toute information que vous pourriez trouver dans vos registres sur ma famille.
40. <i>(Supply pertinent information)</i> a. Given name and surname: b. Date of birth: c. Place of birth: d. Father's given name and surname: e. Mother's given name and maiden surname: f. Husband's given name and surname: g. Wife's given name and maiden surname: h. Date of marriage: i. Place of marriage: j. Date of death: k. Place of death:	40. <i>(Supply pertinent information)</i> a. Prénom et nom: b. Date de naissance: c. Lieu de naissance: d. Prénom et nom de son père: e. Prénom et nom de jeune fille de sa mère: f. Prénom et nom de son mari: g. Prénom et nom de jeune fille de sa femme: h. Date de mariage: i. Lieu de mariage: j. Date de décès: k. Lieu de décès:
41. Could you trace my ancestors back to the previous generation?	41. Pourriez-vous remonter mes ancêtres à la génération précédente?
42. I would like more information on the family of <i>(fill in the person's name)</i> . I would be very grateful if you could obtain the names and birth dates of his «her» brothers and sisters as well as the marriage of their parents.	42. Je voudrais davantage d'information sur la famille de <i>(fill in the person's name)</i> . Je vous serais très reconnaissant(e) si vous pouviez obtenir les noms et dates de naissance de ses frères et soeurs ainsi que le mariage des parents.

43. Please find enclosed \$10 (Canadian) for reply postage and donation to your parish. Let me know the balance owed you.	43. Veuillez trouver ci-joint 10 dollars (Canadien) pour les frais de réponse et une donation à votre paroisse. S'il vous plaît, veuillez bien me dire la balance qui vous est due.
44. With my greatest thanks, please accept my sincere greetings.  ( <i>Your signature</i> ) (fill in your <b>name</b> and <b>address</b> )	44. Avec mes plus grands remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, monsieur le curé, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.  ( <i>Your signature</i> ) (fill in your <b>name</b> and <b>address</b> )
<b>Follow-up</b> [Use these sentences in follow-up letters as needed.]	
45. Thank you for the information you sent on ( <i>fill in date</i> ).	45. Je vous remercie pour les informations que vous m'avez fait parvenir ( <i>fill in date</i> ).
46. I need further information about one of the individuals you mentioned in your letter: ( <i>fill in name</i> ).	46. J'ai besoin d'informations supplémentaires sur ( <i>fill in name</i> ) que vous mentionnez dans votre lettre.
47. I am very grateful for the information that you had the kindness to send me. I take the liberty to impose again on your kindness and ask you to please send me the complete copy of the «birth» «marriage» «death» certificate of ( <i>fill in name</i> ).	47. Je vous suis très reconnaissant(e) pour les informations que vous avez eu la gentillesse de m'envoyer. Je me permets d'abuser de nouveau de votre amabilité pour vous demander de bien vouloir m'envoyer la copie intégrale de l'acte de «naissance» «mariage» «décès» de ( <i>fill in name</i> ).
48. I requested a certificate from you on ( <i>fill in date</i> ). See the enclosed photocopy. Perhaps you did not receive the request. I am still interested in obtaining this certificate. Please inform me how much I should send you.	48. Je vous ai écrit le ( <i>fill in date</i> ) vous demandant de bien vouloir m'envoyer un acte d'État-civil. Veuillez trouver ci-joint la photocopie de ma lettre que vous semblez ne pas avoir reçue. Je suis toujours intéressé(e) à recevoir ce document. S'il vous plaît veuillez bien m'aviser de la somme à vous envoyer.
49. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I sent you on ( <i>fill in date</i> ). Please write and tell me if you can do this research.	49. Je vous joins une copie de la lettre que je vous avez envoyée le ( <i>fill in date</i> ). Je vous serais reconnaissant(e) si vous pouviez me contacter et me faire savoir si vous pouvez faire cette recherche.

See the next page for an example of a letter using the sentences in this guide.

## **EXAMPLE LETTER**

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**Date** 20 juillet 1994

**Addressee** Monsieur l'officier de l'état-civil  
Mairie de Nulle Part  
67999 Quelque Part  
FRANCE

**Greeting** Monsieur l'officier de l'état-civil,

**Genealogical Request** Je vous serais très obligée de bien vouloir m'envoyer la copie intégrale de l'acte de naissance de mon arrière grand-père.

Prénom et nom: Jacob BELLER  
Date de naissance: 19 novembre 1857  
Lieu de naissance: Nulle Part, Bas-Rhin, France  
Prénom et nom de jeune fille de sa femme: Anna ZIMMERMAN  
Date de mariage: 19 janvier 1882  
Lieu de mariage: Fairbury, Livingston, Illinois, USA

**Comment on Postage** Veuillez trouver ci-joint trois coupon-réponse internationaux pour couvrir les frais postaux.

**Closing** Avec mes plus grands remerciements, je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

**Signature**

**Return Address** Jane Doe  
674 "Q" Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103  
USA

## **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

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File: Language Helps.

34059

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## OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN BELGIUM

Hugh T. Law

Born in Utah. Resides in Salt Lake City, Utah. Research specialist, Genealogical Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. M.A., Brigham Young University. Author, genealogist.

In this paper we will discuss ten barriers or stages in 'Belgian genealogical research. They are discovering the birthplace of Belgian emigrants, reading the records, corresponding to Belgium, researching in civil registration and parish records, using printed and manuscript genealogies, using records earlier than parish registers, trying to learn the parentage of children born out of wedlock, using foreign military records, tracing Protestant ancestors, and tracing your ancestry back to Charlemagne.

Though Belgium as an independent country dates only back to 1830, the cities, towns, and some of the genealogical records go back to the Middle Ages. The types of records in the various provinces are numerous and we will only be able to refer to those most useful in genealogical research.

### DISCOVERING THE BIRTHPLACE OF BELGIAN EMIGRANTS

Often discovering the birthplace is the most difficult barrier to overcome in Belgian genealogical research. The first step is to consult family records and to contact other descendants of the emigrant ancestor to see what records they have. They may have the ancestor's discharge from army service, his passport or naturalization record, old letters from abroad, etc. If you find record of his birthplace from one of these sources, you don't need to follow the procedures below. If unsuccessful, your next step

is to seek your ancestor's birth record in Belgian records.

Frequently people emigrated from the same place in groups, so if you find the place of origin of one or more persons through American records, you can search the same record for birth or marriage records of others in the group. One Ohio woman copied all foreign-sounding names in her family records and the names of other people whose ancestors settled in the same town. She also recorded surnames from the cemetery and from church records. She sent them all to the Belgium Genealogical and Demographic Society (SCGD) in Brussels. The secretary of that group commented: "Quickly it was obvious that a big majority came from an area not farther than 10 to 15 kilometers from Virton, and this changed completely the size of our research problem, ten towns, instead of thousands."

It will help to bear in mind that many surnames common in the United States are Belgian. Among these Belgian names are Adam, Alary, Aubry, Bernard, Clement, Cotton, David, Decker, Denys, Henry, Hubert, Jacobs, George, Buman, Gilson, Guymon, Lambert, Laurent, Leonard, Lemmens, Lion, Long, Noel, Peters, Pirson, Robert, Secret, Simon, Stevens, and Thomas.

It is reported that 175,000 Belgians have immigrated to the United States since 1820 as well as many between 1625 and 1820. The 1880 census records show 5,267 persons of Belgian birth in Wisconsin, especially in Door, Brown, and Kewaunee Counties. An excellent book

dealing with these people is Francoise Lempereur's book entitled "Les Wallons d'Amerique du Nord."

There is no one way to find the birthplace of Belgian emigrants. The language of the immigrant, his name, and the given names he gave to his children can all help determine whether he came from Flemish or French-speaking Belgium.

Passenger lists of ships which left Antwerp for the U.S. in 1855 name approximately 1,760 Belgians with their town of birth and many thousands of Germans and others with their birthplaces. These records are microfilmed on films 392,910 to 392,912 at the Genealogical Society Library in Salt Lake City•

Another important record is a list of 159 emigrants who left Corry-le-Grand and surrounding towns in the Province of Brabant in about 1856. The list is microfilmed on roll 613,419. The town of birth and age of each person is given. Monsieur Hugh, an engineer and member of the SCGD found this record and the statement that it is "a list drawn up in execution of the letter of Monsieur the Governor on 29 March 1856 • • • relative to the movement of emigration toward the United States and including the immigration which took place beginning with 1 January 1854," The Members of the SCGD are looking in archive collections for other lists drawn up in accordance with the Governor's letter. Those found at this writing are listed in Appendix 1.

Often names of places of origin are misunderstood by persons who do not know French or Flemish. One family record stated that an ancestor came from Villa Sisawa or Villa Siswha. The place of origin was actually Viller-sur-Semois. Thus the traditional name of a place of origin, though not recorded correctly, may help locate an ancestor's birth record.

Clues as to the place of origin of an emigrant ancestor from Belgium can be compared with the names of towns in

Eugene de Seyn's two-volume "Dictionnaire Historique et Geographique des Communes Belges." Volume 1 begins with maps of each province, which show the locations of towns.

Passport records, hotel registers where emigrants stayed while awaiting their ships, and other similar records in the Municipal Archives of Antwerp may give the birthplace of an emigrant ancestor. These records, some of which begin in 1593, are excellent and complete, especially for the years from 1899 to 1912. For a listing of these records see the publication entitled Major Genealogical Record Sources for Belgium.

Some ten-year indexes by districts (arrondissements) of civil registration records after 1795 have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and provide an excellent way to find the birth or marriage record of an ancestor who was born or married after 1795. Those microfilmed by June 1980 are listed in Appendix 2. Others microfilmed later **will** be listed in the card catalog or eventually on microfiches. Look first under Belgium, then under the province, then under the headquarters of the arrondissement, for etat civil or burgerlijke-stand (civil registration). On the line just below you will see "tables decennales" or "tienjarige tafels" (ten-year indexes).

Eugene de Seyn's Dictionnaire Geographique has maps at the beginning of volume 1 that show the judicial arrondissements in different colors. The page following lxxvi in this volume names the provinces and their arrondissements in French and also in Flemish for cities in the northern provinces.

**If** an ancestor or his brother served in the Belgian army between 1830 and about 1870, you might find his record in indexed military records. The military record names date, and place of birth and parentage of those who served. These records are also important for showing where ancestral surnames were especially

COllllon. Belgian military records with indexes are named in Appendix 3.

Several books in the Royal Library (Bibliothèque Royale) in Brussels, Belgium may name your ancestor and tell in what town he was born. They are mainly the works of Antoine De Smet, and his Voyageurs Belges awe Estates Unis de XVIIe siecle a 1900 is especially helpful. Also worth consulting is Philip Dasney's book, Vingt Millions d'Immigrants: New York, 1880-1914.

A "Frenchman" set up a glass blowing factory at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in about 1800. The census of that year showed him to be over forty-five years of age. His name was J. B. Falloure, or La Fleur according to some accounts. In 1811, after marrying and having some children, he drowned in the Ohio River near Pittsburgh.

Glassmaking establishments were ~~functioning~~ along many rivers in France at that period of time, and the name La Fleur was very common there. After I had had some research done there, finding a Jean Baptiste La Fleur who was a glassmaker but who wasn't born at the proper period of time, I made a discovery in a genealogical publication. I found an article on the glassmaking Falleur family of Charleroi and Lodelinsart (Hainaut), Belgium. It was obvious that the origin of the name Falloure could be Falleur, and I soon found the baptism record of Jean Baptiste Falleur in 1748 in the microfilmed records of Lodelinsart. He made his will in favor of a sister and her husband on 14 October 1792 and sold land to a brother for 300 ~~fortis~~ as an older but still single man on 6 February 1794. It was customary for emigrants to make a will before venturing out on the seas to the New World. His signature was obtained in both the deed and the will, but ~~IX~~ signature of J. B. Falloure or Falleur could be found in the land records of Pittsburgh. However, the descendant for whom I was doing research sent me copies of orphan records from Pittsburgh which named the deceased J. B. Falleur and his children.

So we see that people can be called French and actually be from southern Belgium. Likewise it is possible for people to be called Dutch and be from the ~~Flemish-speaking~~ area of Belgium.

Both Villers-sur-Semois and Virton, previously mentioned as places of origins of emigrants to America, are in the province of Luxembourg. Times were very hard in this hilly area during the nineteenth century, resulting in much emigration.

Monsieur Jean Pierre Vasseur, general secretary of the Belgian Genealogical and Demographic SOCIety, tells of the society tracing a textile worker to the great textile manufacturing center of Ghent and a sailmaker to Antwerp as illustrations. This shows how occupations can be useful in tracing ancestors. A member of this society looked in a Belgian telephone book collection for the surname Van Heurck and found fifty entries, forty-nine in Antwerp, and it was there that record of the ancestor was found.

Some members of the above Society are making general indexes of the indexes to parish registers and have done this in half of the towns of southern Brabant. This project will be a very important aid in tracing families to Belgium and to finding them when they moved from one town to another.

It was a genealogical Publication which led to the solution of the Falleur problem. Printed works in the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City contain indexes naming half a million Belgians. By checking first the indexes and then the pages where persons are named, you can normally learn the birthplace of an ancestor or at least where he lived. Appendix 4 names the most important of these periodicals and books, which are not likely to name your emigrant ancestor, but are useful for locating surnames. These publications of course do ~~IX~~ treat all Belgian families, nor do they represent all of the provinces, but it is best to consult them at least for background data.



Let's consider what we have said about tracing ancestors to Belgium.

1. **If** you have a name of a town in Belgium which is believed to be the birthplace of your ancestors, examine the Belgian Gazetteer of Eugene de Seyn to see **if** you can identify this town. **If** so, you may skip the following procedures and seek your ancestor's birth or marriage record in this town.
2. **If** you don't have the name of a town, every bit of pertinent information on the ancestor should be obtained from family records of **all** descendants of the emigrant, including his name, approximate birth date and place, names of his parents or brothers and sisters, the year he came to the U.S., where he first settled, and names of others who settled there at the time he did. You should find the ancestor in one or more U.S. censuses and obtain his signature from deeds or his will. Sometimes wills of immigrants give places of origin. His death certificate and obituary should be obtained **if** possible. **If** he obtained land as a homestead grant from the U.S. government, his application for this should be obtained, as **it** will say when and where he **was** naturalized. A copy of his naturalization record should also be requested.
3. The group approach is the most important when the place of birth **abroad is now known**. **Censuses**, cemetery, church, and land records are all useful in finding the names of persons who settled in the same place at about the same time as the immigrant ancestor did.
4. Examine at the Genealogical Society Library or in a branch library the 1855 passenger list **if** your ancestor came in that year; **if** not, consult **it** anyway and copy entries of his surname with the place of birth given. Check also the list of immigrants

from Corroy-le-Grand, in the same way.

- 5• **If** you have access to the Genealogical Society Library in Salt Lake City, examine the books, the military indexes and records, and the pertinent ten-year indexes by districts mentioned above.
6. You may have enough data now to begin searches in microfilmed civil registration or parish records, or to employ a researcher in Belgium for this work. **If** not, send all data obtained from relatives or in research to a qualified genealogist or to a genealogical organization in Belgium. This will allow the analysis of your data from the point of view of the numerous types of Belgian information.

The Belgian Genealogical and Demographic Society (SCGD in French) is located at the House of Arts, 147, Chaussee de Haecht, 1030 Brussels. **If** your ancestor came from northern Belgium, the Flemish-speaking area, you would do well to contact Mr. E. A. Van Haverbeke at Nieuwpoortsesteenweg 20, 8400 Oostende, Belgium. He is the assistant editor of Vlasmse Stam, published by the Flemish Organization for Family Studies (Vlaamse Vereniging voor familiekunde). You may write to either organization in English.

Belgians often try to locate their relatives in the United States. With both nationalities in mind, Monsieur Vasseur closed a recent letter with the hope that a result of this lecture will be that each area in the United States where Belgians settled will be systematically covered by a local genealogical society searching cemetery **stones, church records, censuses**, newspapers, and that he could get a copy of the findings. Then for each corresponding area in Belgium, he will put one of their members interested in emigration in that area in charge of looking through the population register, and send the results back to the States.

These population registers, known in French as Registres de Population and in Flemish as Bevolking Registers, are like censuses except that they normally also show where people came from and where they went when they moved. Some have been lost or are only available for certain years, such as for 1794, 1816 and from 1845 to 1866. Many of those available have been microfilmed. If they cover the years from 1840 to 1860, they name some emigrants and their general destination. Population registers for the City of Antwerp are on microfilm from 1800 to 1880 with general indexes for fifteen year periods by districts. Population registers from the City of Liege have been microfilmed for the years 1802 to 1868.

#### CORRESPONDING TO BELGIUM

Though most parish registers and many other Belgium records have been microfilmed, to progress in your research you must at times write letters to Belgium to obtain copies or extracts of records or to employ researchers to consult records not on microfilm. Since most of the emigration from Belgium was of persons born after 1795, their birth records are to be sought mostly in civil registration records and in district indexes available on microfilm for five provinces at this time. You must still write for these records in the provinces of Hainaut, Limbourg, Luxembourg and Namur.

You may write to the Secretair communal of the town in question to request birth or marriage records of the emigrant and his family, but if much research is required in these records or in district indexes, a researcher should be employed. Send two international reply coupons, available at U.S. post offices, to town secretaries or to a potential researcher. They can exchange these for airmail postage to use in replying to you. In writing to town secretaries it is best to write in French or in Dutch as the case may be. The fee per entry is about \$3.00.

#### READING BELGIAN RECORDS

Another requirement for Belgian genealogical research is that you or the person you employ be able to read the records. Civil records, available since about 1795, are in French in the southern part of Belgium and in Flemish (Dutch) in the northern part. Thus Flemish is used in the records of East and West Flanders, Antwerp, Limburg, and in the northern half of Brabant. French is used in the rest of Belgium. The locations of these nine provinces can be seen on the map in Appendix 5. Each heavy dot represents a state archive. You will notice that the following provinces have two state archives: West Flanders, East (Oost) Flanders, Hainaut, Liege, and Luxembourg. The General Archives of the Kingdom are combined with the state archives of Brabant at Brussels (Bruxelles or Brussel)•

Parish records, fortunately usually accompanied by indexes in Belgium, are the records to use from about 1600, when they begin, until the beginning of civil records of births, marriages, and deaths in about 1795. Most of the Belgian parish registers are in French in the south.

The number of words in parish and civil records are very limited, so one can learn to read these records in French, Flemish, or Latin with little effort. However, handwriting styles in records before about 1720 will require experience and perhaps some training.

#### RESEARCHING IN CIVIL REGISTRATION AND PARISH RECORDS

Civil registration records contain much detail, and their indexes are a great help. You should take complete notes of the genealogical information, including names and ages of witnesses and places of residence and origin of each person named. Before seeking a baptism record of a person born before the beginning of civil registration records, locate his or her death record in the civil records.

The death record normally gives the age of the person at death, sometimes the names of parents, and another parish of birth.

In both civil and parish registers you should always attempt to find a marriage record of a couple and their death records before seeking their birth or baptism records. If you do this, you will normally know in about what year to seek the baptism record and in what parish. Civil marriage records usually give names of the parents of brides and grooms. Latin parish registers usually do not, but they often show where the two people are from by saying that they are of "this" parish or "ex" (from) another one, which is named. Sometimes the Latin names of parishes are difficult to understand. It may help to note the first letter and scan Eugene de Seyn's gazetteer for a name resembling the Latin one. If this fails there are other books which translate Latin place names that will help you understand the wording of some Latin documents and assist you in reading the handwriting (see Appendix 6).

The indexes to parish registers are in French or Flemish and the names in the records are in Latin. You will soon see that the name Joes and Jois is not Joseph but an abbreviation for Joannes (Latin for Jean or Jan). There may be some errors in the indexes but normally they correctly interpret abbreviations of Latin names. If you are submitting names to be put into the Genealogical Society's computer, copy them in Latin exactly as they are given in the records.

#### USING PRINTED AND MANUSCRIPT GENEALOGIES

Having used the civil registration and parish registers, you will now have quite a number of surnames on your Belgian pedigree. Before proceeding to earlier records you would do well to see what printed and manuscript genealogies are available to extend your lines further. The card catalog at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City may lead you to

family histories or genealogies of great interest to you, but more likely to books dealing with many families, such as the books listed in Appendix 4. The card catalog will also refer you to the Le Fort manuscript and ABRY collections for the Liege region and to the Bisschops and Donnet collections for the Antwerp area.

The next approach could well be to see what records Belgian libraries have which pertain to your pedigree. Two excellent printed books tell of the manuscript genealogical collections at the Royal Library of Belgium. Furthermore the two Belgian genealogical organizations previously mentioned have important genealogical libraries as does the Office Genealogique at Heraldique de Belgique and some university libraries, such as that of Liege. A letter with a small remittance to these libraries would suffice to let you know what data they possess on some of your pedigree lines and what the cost would be to obtain copies. As you progress further and new surnames appear on your pedigree, you would do well to repeat these steps.

With the many types of manuscript records in Belgium, research aids of various types can be very helpful. Some of these at the Genealogical Society of Utah are listed in Appendix 7.

#### USING RECORDS EARLIER THAN PARISH REGISTERS

There may be gaps of twenty or thirty years in a parish record, or the early records may have been lost. In such cases there are other useful records, often microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah. The best of these in most of Belgium are notarial records, containing marriage contracts, wills, partages (divisions of property among heirs), and inventories after death. Even sales of property (transports) and miscellaneous other records can help extend pedigrees, identify children in ancestral families, and contribute to family history, for often when people are

named they are further identified by the name of their father.

In the General Archives of the Kingdom in Brussels there is a huge collection of notarial records called the "Notariat du Brabant:" The Brussels City Archives has the Koller' index of 30,000 cards, consisting of references to the marriage contracts, wills and partages in the first thousand registers of this collection, all containing documents dated before 1789. The earlier notarial records of this collection have been microfilmed, as have those in several other state archives in Belgium.

Many court records are called mostly greffes scabinales, oeuvres de loi, realisations and tutelles, in French and schepenakten, "gerechterlijke akten, staten van goed, and wettelijke passeringen in Flemish. These court records contain many documents naming people with their family relationships. They deal with land and other property as do notarial records. In 1970 I visited Tournai, Belgium, where Jean-Michel Pardon, then general secretary of the SCGD, arranged for me to visit with the Chanoine (Canon) Jean Cassart. He received me cordially and showed me his pedigree, which he had traced back to the BOOs by using court records called realisations in the Archives of the City of Louvain. Dating from 1362 or 1367 to 1795, these records contain four excellent types of documents for genealogical research: constitutions of martages (ventes hypothecaires), property divisions among heirs (partages), deeds of sale (actes de vente), and emancipation records (actes d'emancipations). All of these records name the fathers of parties named and frequently give other pedigree data. They tie the names of persons to certain pieces of property and thus form a sure basis for pedigree connectiona •

In order to sell property belonging to his whole family, a father would emancipate his children (even very young ones). The emancipation records name the father, often the grandfather, and the

children, sometimes with their ages. Many sons who reached maturity were also emancipated, and a record was made of the emancipation before the court. It is easy to see how these three generations could be given in the records. Consider the following fictitious example: Henri Baerts, son of the deceased Jean, emancipated his children, Pierre, Claude, Cecile, Marie, Henri, et Jean.

Since marriage records in Belgian parish registers rarely mention the names of parents of brides and grooms, one has to be very careful to extend a pedigree correctly when using these records. Notarial and court records are excellent sources to us to confirm or disprove a pedigree established from parish records.

Brotherhood (confreries or Broederschappen) records contain names of children after they reach the age of about twelve and are confirmed. Sometimes their parents are named, with the maiden name of their mother. Their ages at entrance into the brotherhood are given and sometimes their birth or baptism dates. Some of them contain records of contributions by adult members and name some of their children. In addition these records sometimes say where people came from when they moved into the parish. Thus they are helpful for genealogical research when they are available before baptism records. Microfilmed baptism records of St. Truiden (St. Trond in French) begin in 1572, but the brotherhood records begin in 1458. Likewise ecclesiastical wills date there from 1265 to 1796 and debtors records from 1263 to 1600. These later records contain records of contributions to the parish and of money owed, naming contributors and persons owing or debtors. Quite often a child assumed the debt of a parent, thus allowing researchers to make pedigree connections.

Orphan and guardianship records, legitimations of children and probate records are available from 1596 to 1724 in military court records in the General Archives of the Kingdom of Brussels. The sections on juridiction gracieuse are

the ones containing the above-named records. If your ancestor was connected with the military during the Spanish and early Austrian period of Belgium, these records could be a good genealogical source for you. These types of records are useful wherever found. There are many early collections of orphan guardianship records, identified under the names of tutelles, msmbournie, or weeskamer. Same date as early as about 1375.

Early census records may very well provide good data on ancestral families when parish records are not preserved or are limited in their information. Nominative censuses of the province of Brabant name all family members, with maiden surnames of wives, and sometimes ages. In some cases they name only the husband or father and mention children only by ages. These nominative censuses for the years 1693, 1709, and 1755 are in the General Archives of the Kingdom in Brussels. There are also censuses of Brussels for 1496, 1738, 1767, and 1783 in the city archives there.

Likewise the City of Namur has nominative censuses of all family members, sometimes with ages, birthplaces, occupations and the persons named were citizens. These census records in the State Archives are therefore the years 1745, 1766, 1775, 1784, 1794, 1796, 1804, and 1812. Some other Belgian cities also have censuses for years prior to 1800.

The province of Liege has records known as capitations paroissiaux (church census) from 1600 to 1791. These have been microfilmed with indexes to parishes. Thus if a researcher knows the parish he wishes to consult, he may find data on its inhabitants quite rapidly.

The parish records of the City of Namur have been damaged by fire. Mme. Smolar, assistant archivist there in 1973, said that the registers of bourgeoisie (citizenship) are the best records to replace these parish records. They name people born in Namur, including girls, and also strangers who were accepted

there as citizens. Baptism records submitted to acquire the right of citizenship have been preserved. Notarial and court records, as usual, also help replace these lost records.

Sometimes these bourgeoisie records or Poortersboecken date as early as 1290, but mostly since the early 1500s to 1795. Ages of persons at the time they were accepted as citizens are often given rather than birth dates. Also these records often name places of origin of persons born elsewhere. They are found in state and municipal archives. Some are indexed, some published, and some microfilmed.

For data on some of the early Belgium genealogical records not treated here, see Major Genealogical Record Sources for Belgium.

#### LEARNING THE PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK

Often the name of the father of children born out of wedlock is not given in civil or parish registers. When this is the case in civil records, researchers can be prevented from learning about many of their ancestors. Though we don't microfilm police or public assistance records, you could contact a researcher in Belgium to examine them, for the father and brothers of the baby's mother may have beat up the baby's father, causing an incident which would be recorded in the police records. Likewise the court or welfare agency may have required the baby's father to contribute to the baby's support.

When a child born out of wedlock is encountered in parish registers, a record identifying the baby's father may perhaps be found in notarial or court records.

#### USING FOREIGN MILITARY RECORDS

After the fall of Napoleon in 1815, Belgium and the Netherlands became reunited as they were before 1579. They

were one country from 1815 to 1830, but there was friction between them because Belgium was Catholic and the Netherlands predominantly Protestant. Also, Dutch was the official language of the country, which was displeasing to people in the areas where French was spoken. In fact, there was considerable emigration from the south.

During this time (1815 to 1830) the same military records pertained to soldiers from Belgium and the Netherlands. Two microfilms of this collection are especially important to Belgium, Genealogical Society of Utah microfilms 159,473 and 159,474. They pertain to the mounted police corps of the provinces now in Belgium. The records give dates and places of birth and parentage of these men and are written mostly in French. Those of the Province of Liege (called Luik) are in Dutch. The men named were nearly all born in what is now Belgium. Other indexed military records for this period, pertaining to both Belgium and the Netherlands, are listed in Appendix 8.

These military records, written in Dutch, as well as other records in Dutch use Dutch names for many Belgian cities, even cities in the provinces where French is spoken. Eugene de Seyn's gazetteer tells us, for example, that Luik is Liege, Bergen is Mons, and Eigenbrakel is Braine-L'Alleud.

The area now comprising Belgium was under the rule of the Austrian Empire from 1715 to 1794. Military records of Austria therefore pertain partly to persons who lived in what is now Belgium. These records give much data on soldiers. In addition to what is given in Belgian military records of the 1800s, these Austrian Army records show which ones were recruited in Belgium. Items 2 and 7 in this film and in film 1,186,633 give the history of the regiments, in German. Parish registers and other records sometimes identify a man as belonging to a certain army unit. This is a great help in finding military records of such men and the resulting needed information

on them, such as their place and date of birth.

French military records give good information on Belgian soldiers during the time when Belgium was under French rule—from 1794 to 1815. If a civil Belgian record of birth, marriage, or death identifies a person as belonging to a certain regiment in the French army, you may write to the Archives de Guerre, Chateau de Vincennes, Vincennes, France, for data on the soldier or officer, being sure to name the soldier, the date of the record, and the name of the regiment.

Spanish occupation of Belgium and of the Netherlands having been so early, (about 1500 to 1715 for Belgium), it is not likely that Spanish military archives contain much data on common soldiers born in Belgium. However if a native of what is now Belgium was an officer in the Spanish Army, the military archives at Segovia, Spain, may contain important information on him.

#### TRACING PROTESTANT ANCESTORS

Some of the anigrants from Belgium in the early nineteenth century were Protestants. Part of them could have been recent converts to Protestantism, but there are indications that others came from families in which Protestantism had remained alive for centuries. The book by Rev. E. Trachsel cited in Appendix 9 states that when Joseph II's Toleration Edict was promulgated in 1781, four groups which had existed at Maria-Hoorebeke, Rongy-Tournai, Dour-Mons and Hodimont-Verviers became organized into churches. The book by J. Roland, cited in the same appendix consists of copies of Protestant church records of the 1700s of Tournai, Menin, Ypres, and Namur in Belgium, and of Armentieres in northern France.

Rev. Trachsel states that it is said that two-thirds of the population of the Flemish provinces became Protestants. E. M. Braekman, of whom (two of his excellent articles are listed in Appendix 9

states that some authorities claim that from 300,000 to 500,000 Belgians emigrated to Protestant countries in the 1500s and early 1600s.

Certainly not all were able or didn't choose to emigrate. Some chose instead to go into semi-hiding, posing as Catholics. Very likely the majority of those who stayed became Catholics, but it can be seen that Protestants' beliefs survived in some families. As a result some Protestants may have had children baptized occasionally in the Catholic Church so that they would appear as Catholics. However, **if** you are tracing an ancestral line and your ancestors are mentioned rarely in the Catholic records you will need to assume that they had Protestant leanings and **will** need to be traced primarily in court and notarial records, **if** they had sufficient property to be named in these records.

If these ancestors are named in abjuration records, (records where they denounce the "errors" of Calvin or Luther), you will know that they were Protestants. These abjuration records are found in Catholic parish records. Old Testament given names such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Samuel, Daniel, Elie, Judith, Ruth, and their Flemish equivalents, were given to babies of Protestant parents and very rarely **if** ever to Catholic babies.

The most distant ancestors on your lines may have emigrated to the Netherlands, Germany, England, or Scotland in their later lives, leaving married children in Belgium. In such cases you may, through notarial and court records, learn the names of the parents of the emigrants and continue extending their ancestry.

**If** you want to prove that your ancestors sought refuge in other countries, you may find their names in the Walloon Index in the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie at the Hague, which is on microfilm at the Genealogical Society of Utah. The early records of the Huguenot Society of London, as well as the sources cited in

Appendix 9, may also help you find this evidence.

Protestant refugees in many cases now have numerous living descendants in North America. These descendants can use these same Protestant records to trace their ancestry back to Belgium or Northern France. The Spanish territory of the time of "troubles" and religious wars included Valenciennes, Lille, and other cities in Northern France.

#### TRACING YOUR ANCESTRY BACK TO CHARLEMAGNE

Now as we came to the final barrier that we will discuss—that which appears to prevent us from tracing one or more Belgian lines back to Charlemagne. Quite a number of Belgian lines can be traced to him. Indeed most of the people living in Europe and North America probably descend from him on several lines. Pedigrees have been established, with some questionable connections, from him to Adam.

The late prominent Belgian genealogist Maurice Lang wrote that he was a descendant of Charlemagne through his lines from the Province of Brabant, and that with some effort he had also traced some of his lines from Malmédy in the Province of Liège back to this "Father of Europe." He published the results of this research in Folklore Stavelot-Malmédy Saint-Vith in 1967 (Tome 21). The title of his article is "Descendants Malmédiens de Charlemagne." A reprint of this article was also published in the same year.

Monsieur Lang mentioned as records that could take us back further than parish registers, the oeuvres de loi in court records, the records of feudal courts, and the collection of charters (chartiers) "which testify of the illustrious past of the seigneuries [manors], cities and abbeys." But he adds that genealogical data is only found on those who possessed property and those who were powerful.

Monsier Lang mentions that the Lauze-Neufforge families, gentlemen and masters of forges in the Stavelot area, were at the twentieth generation from Charlemagne. Five generations farther down, Marguerite de la Neufforge married in 1530 the forge master from Liege, Remacle de Noirfalize. "It is by their daughter, Anne de Noirfalize, who married Bartholaue Renard Potesta, that at the 27th generation begins the connection to the bourgeois class of Malmédy."

If we compute an average generation to last thirty years, a person born in Belgium in 1930 would have 2,048 potential European ancestors living in about 1600 and 8,292 living in about 1540. It would take a long time to trace all possible lines back to either date. Because of marriages between relatives, the actual number of ancestors would be reduced. Dead ends through ancestors born out of wedlock with the father or parents unknown would also decrease the number of known ancestors as well as cases where birthplaces and parentage of ancestors cannot be determined.

A couple coming from Belgium to the United States in about 1840 at the age of thirty would have about 256 potential ancestors living in 1600. A single person coming to the U.S. at about the same time would have about 128. However the lines that could be traced before 1600 could increase the number of identified European ancestors.

Suppose that 1,500 ancestors living in 1600 could be identified and 4,000 of those living in 1540. It is very possible that many people thus tracing their ancestry could trace some lines into the wealthier upper bourgeoisie, frau there to the lesser nobility, and in further generations to royal lines.

The possibilities of tracing lines to royalty are less for Americans whose ancestors emigrated from Belgium 140 years ago, but with 100 or 150 identified **European ancestors, one or more may** possible lead through the bourgeoisie eventually to royal ancestry.

Monsieur Lang's book shows that if you identify as an ancestral couple, Ramacle de Noirfalize, forge master at Liege in about 1530 and his wife Marguerite de la Neufforge, that in one grand effortless leap you can know your ancestry through this book back to Charlemagne and later from there to Adam. In like manner if your pedigree leads in part to the area around Malmédy or Stavelot, a look in this book may very possibly produce the same result for you, the opportunities increasing with each generation further that you trace this section of your pedigree.

Monsieur Lang wrote that his listing of the descendants on the branch he studied was not cauplete. Certainly in each Belgian province there lived in past centuries several "gateway ancestors" through whom many Belgians can trace their ancestry back to Charlemagne.

Appendix 10 lists a two-volume inventory of Belgian records by provinces and samples of early records at the Salt Lake Genealogical Society Library which may help you trace some of your lines possibly back to the 1400s or 1300s.

Appendix 11 names books on noble and patrician families which could help you determine which of your pedigree lines, if any, connect you to nobility.

If you have traced your ancestry to the landed gentry or upper bourgeoisie of Belgium or of another European country, you may wish to send a copy of your pedigree to a genealogist experienced with noble lines in Belgium or in the country where your Belgian pedigree leads. He may know of some of your lines being traced further, perhaps much further.

This conference is concerned with family history. By performing research in population registers, civil registration, parish registers, genealogical books and manuscripts, orphan, military, census, burgess, notarial and court records, and perhaps in Protestant, nobility, and royalty records, we can find considerable



biographical as well as genealogical data about our Belgian ancestors.

May I express my hope that this paper on overcoming barriers and on various stages

of Belgian genealogical research will be of some help to you, that your research will be successful, and that at each step you will derive great satisfaction and a pleasing awareness of your family history and heritage.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup>Jean Pierre Vasseur, letter of 8 April 1980.

<sup>2</sup>Francoise Lempereur, Les Wallons d'Amerique du Nord, Etude principalement consacré au Wallons établis au Wisconsin, (Gembloux, Belgium: Editions J. IJuculot, 1976), p. 9. See also Jean Nicolas Perlot, "Les Belges d'Amerique," Chercheur d'Or, (Gembloux, Belgium: J. IJuculot, 1974).

<sup>3</sup>Ibid. p. 12.

<sup>4</sup>Eugene de Seyn, Dictionnaire Historique et Geographique des Communes Belges, 3rd ed. (Turnhout: Etablissements Brepols S. A., 1963), There are much less expensive Belgian gazetteers available in Belgium now.

<sup>5</sup>The Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, series G. No.3, 1976. (Available under no. PRGS1312 at the Salt Lake City Distribution Center, 1999 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.)

<sup>6</sup>Bibliotheque Royale, 4 boulevard de l'Empeur, 1000, Brussels, Belgium.

<sup>7</sup>Jean Pierre Vasseur, letter of 8 Apr. 1980.

<sup>8</sup>See note 6.

<sup>9</sup>Musees Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Pare du Cinquantaire, 1040, Brussels, Belgium.

<sup>10</sup>Lucienne Van Meerbeeck, Inventaire des Archives des Tribunaux Militaires (Gembloux: Imprimerie J. IJuculot, 1939).

<sup>11</sup>Georges Hansotte, L'Emigration ouvriere dans la Province de Liege sous le regime du Royaume des Pays-Bas (Hasselt: Federatie der Geschied en Oudheidkundige Kringen, 1967).

<sup>12</sup>Folklore Stavelot-Malmedy Saint-Vith; Maurice Lang, "Descendants amlmedlens de Charlemagne" (Malmedy: Famille et Terroir, 1967).

<sup>13</sup>Maurice Lang, "Descendants malmédiens," p. 11.

<sup>14</sup>One of the persons well-informed on noble families of Belgium is Monsieur le Chavalier Xavier de Ghellinck Vaernewyck, director of Parchemin. See note 9 for the address of this publication.

## APPENDIX 1

### SOME BELGIAN EMIGRATION RECORDS

#### 1 • Province of Hainaut

Records of the judicial district of arrondissement Tournai preserved in the State Archives at Tournai. (Data contributed by Mr. Jean-Pierre Vasseur and sent to him by Mr. J. Nazet, Conservateur of the State Archives at Tournai):

<u>Names of Towns</u>	<u>Call Numbers of Collections</u>	<u>Names of Records</u>	<u>Years Covered</u>
Blaton	No. 402	Passports issued	1816-1836
Froidmont	Nos. 39-46	Changing of residence	1857-1900
Kain	No. 199	Passports issued	1815-1836
La Hamaide	No. 57	Persons residing out-of-town	1843-1936
Lessines	Nos. 1491-1494	Passports issued	1796-1888
	No. 1498	Persons living in foreign countries (including the USA and Canada)	1862-1890
Orroir	No. 167	Declarations about persons who had left the town	1895-1901
Pecq	No. 33	Passports issued	1799-1806
Pommeroeul	No. 2289	Passports issued	1807-1867
Ville-Pommeroeul	No. 743	Departures	1873-1920
	No. 1045-1046	Passports issued	1800-1812

2• Province of Luxembourg

Bleid		Passports issued	abt. 1800-1830 1835-1846
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Jamoigne		Passports issued	abt. 1800-1846
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3. Province of Liege

Goe <sup>•</sup>	(one portefeuille)	Passports issued	An Vi-1815
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La Reid	No. 184	Passports issued	1815
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Eynatten	(1 dossier)	Passports issued	1821-1868
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Fexe-le-haut-Clacher	Reg. 34-35	Registers of declarations of persons leaving or having left ( <u>sorties</u> )	1891-1926
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Jalhay	Reg. 64	Registre des sorties	1875-1901
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Stavelot	4 registers	<u>Sorties</u> (indexed)	1859-1900
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4. Province of Namur (State Archives in Namur)

	No. 343	Certificates and passports (1 register)	1775-1777
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	Nos. 344-346	Certificates and passports (3 registers)	1792-1794
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5. Province of Antwerp

Mention was made of the important passport and emigration records in the City Archives of Antwerp. While I was visiting the State Archives there, the archivist brought out a volume of passport stubs (souches de passeports), volume no. 102. Dated about 1825, this volume contains copies of 250 passports, giving names, birthplaces, age, place of residence, and destination. People named were going to France, Germany, England, etc. Many of them could have later emigrated to the U.S. or to Canada. It would be interesting to see what other such records are in the State Archives at Antwerp, especially for the period of time from 1840 to 1900, when the emigration to the New World was relatively heavy.

6. Province of West Flanders

Mr. A. Schouteet, archivist of the City Archives at Bruges (Brugge), told me that there are passport records for the nineteenth century in the reports of the police in the archives provinciales. The State Archivist said that there are some passport records in the papers that the town deposited in the State Archives.

In consulting inventories or documents of town collections you can look under E for anigres, and under population and police records for records of sorties and passport records.

7. Belgilllll in general, but especially the Province of Brabant

The following data canes from the Inventaire Sommaire des Archives de la Belgique en General et du Brabant en particulier sous le regime francais, 1794-1814, by Jules Frederic:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. Register 25 and 26<br>Register 125   | <u>Emigres</u> and absent persons<br>Repertoire of the above |
| Cartons 114-126, 136<br>137, 145-151, 179-181<br>480,503  | <u>Emigres</u> and absent persons                            |
| bundles ( <u>liasses</u> ) No. 562-564 Passports issued   |  |
| B. Administration d'Arrondissement du Brabant:  |  |
| Registers 57-61   | <u>Emigres</u>   |
| C. Administration Centrale du Department de la Dyle (French Department from 1795 to 1814 with Brussels as the capital): |  |
| Register 27<br>Registers 25, 26 and 217-225   | Passports<br><u>Emigres</u>                                  |

APPENDIX 2

MICROFILMED DISTRICT INDEXES TO BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

By June 1980 the following district arrondissement indexes to civil registration records were microfilmed: Those of the arrondissements of Antwerp and Turnhout in the Province of Antwerp; of the districts Brussels and Nijvel (Nivelles) in Brabant; of Liege, Huy, and Verviers in the Province of Liege; of Dendermonde in East Flanders (Oost Vlaanderen); and for the arrondissements of Brugge, Ieper, Kortrijk and Veurne in West Flanders. An index to the Staat van Goederen, Wezenboeken, and other records for the district of Tielst fran 1472 to 1796 is in microfilm I, UI, 147.

APPENDIX 3

MICROFILMED BELGIAN MILITARY RECORDS WITH INDEXES

1. The second, fifth, and eleventh Regiments de Ligne.

2. The sixth Regiment de Ligne has a short partial index.
3. The first and second regiments of chasseurs a cheval (calvary).
4. The first and third regiments of lanciers.
5. The Ecole (school) of Cavalerie.
6. The second and third companies of the third regiment of chasseurs a pied (infantry)•
7. The 13th to 21st Regiments of Reserve Artillerie.
8. The first, second, and third bataillons of Artillerie et siege.
9. The train d'Artillerie.
10. The Bataillon des partisiens.
11. The 21 reserve regiments de ligne.
12. The Ecole militaire.

## APPENDIX 4

## SELECTED GENEALOGICAL BOOKS WITH INDEXES

1. L'Intermediaire des Genealogistes, which deals with all of Belgium but somewhat more with the French-speaking area. The indexes with call numbers:

949.3	949.3	949.3
B2I	B2L Supp.	B2LP

Approximate number  
of persons named  
257,000

2. The Matricule de l'Universite de Louvain

Names of birthplaces of students since the late Middle Ages. See Vols. IX and X (1776-1797)•

949.3	3,200
J2s	

3. (Province of Brabant) Brabantica 949.33 16,000  
B2b

<u>Repertoire belge des noms de famille</u> , Tome 1, Arrondissement of Nivelles and French-speaking towns in the <u>arrondissements</u> of Louvain and Brussels, based on the 1947 census.		
	949.3 E4j	16,000
<u>Tablettes de Brabant</u>	949.33 D2t	10,640
4. <u>(Hainaut) Tablettts de Hainaut</u>	949.341 D2t	10,000
<u>Les Hommes de Fief sur plume</u> (years 1566-1794)	949.341 U24L	9,000
<u>Génealogies Enghiennoises</u>	949.341 D2g	4,000
5. (East and West Flanders)		
<u>Tablettes de Flandres</u>	949.31 D2t	15,000
<u>Repertorium van de Vlaams Gouwen en Gemeenten</u>		
	949.31 A36	8,000
<u>Flandria Nostra</u>	949.31 H2b	6,150
<u>Vlaams Kwartiers Tatenboek</u>	949.31 D2h 1969	3,650
<u>Familles de West Flandre</u>	949.311 D2f	2,700
6. (Liege)		
<u>Adresses de Liege et de la Province</u> (1900 telephone directory)		
	949.343 E4b	132,000

APPENDIX S  
BELGIAN PROVINCES



## APPENDIX 6

## AIDS TO READING LATIN PARISH REGISTERS

- Baxter, J. H. and Johnson, Charles. Medieval Latin Word-List. London: Oxford University Press, 1934 (Gen. Soc. call no. 942.A8bm).
- Chassant, L. A. Dictionnaire des abreviations Lathes et Francaises. Hildesheim and New York: Georg Olms Verlag, 1970 (Gen. Soc. call no. Ref. 403.44 F 887 ch.).
- Chevin (Abbe) • Dictionnaire Latin-Francais des noms propres de lieux ayant une certaine notariete principalement au point de vue ecclesiastique. Paris, 1897 (Gen. Soc. call no. Ref. 910.3, C428 d and microfilm no. 1,070,223).
- Lachat, P. "Lateinische Bezeichnungen in alten Kirchenbuchern." Burgdorf, Switz, 1957 (Print out fran "Schweizer Familienforscher," 1957).
- Niermeyer, J. F. Mediae Latinitatis Lexicon Minus. 11 vol. in 2. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1954-1964. (Gen. Soc. call no. Ref. 403.40, L 349, Nos. 1-11). Gives in French and in English the meanings of many medieval Latin words which differ from their meanings in classical Latin.
- Cud Schrift [Old Handwriting]. Antwerp, Belgium: Centrum voor Familiegesciedenis, Wolstraat 39, Antwerp, 1968 (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3 A8m):
- Pardon, Jean-Michel, and Pinchart, Henry de. Comment lire et interpreter les ecritures anciennes? Brussels, Belgium, 1969 (Gen. Dept. 652.1, P 214c and on microfilm 973,175, item 6. Available from SCGD Maison de Arts, 147 Chausse de Haecht, Schaerbeek, 1030 Brussels, Belgium. Contains copies of handwritten documents in Latin, French, and Dutch with printed versions.
- Weider, Wilhelm, Paul A. Grun, and Karl H. Lampe. Latein I Fur den Sippenforscher [Latin for genealogy]. An inexpensive church Latin dictionary of genealogical terms with meanings in German. Published in 1%5 by C. A. Starke-Verlag, Postfach 310, D-625 Limburg a.d. Lahn, West Germany.
- Latein 11, 1969 Contains four separate A-Z sections: occupations, place names, personal names, geographical names.

## APPENDIX 7

## RESEARCH AIDS

- Archives de l'Etat-Mons. Inventaire des Archives des Coors Feodales du Hainaut (Gen. Soc. call no. Q 949.312, ASc).



"Archives de la Noblesse," Archives des Etats de Hainaut. p. 16, (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.312, ASar).

Debrabandere, Dr. Frans. Studie van de Persoonsnamen in de Kasselris Kortrijk, 1350-1400 [Study of names of persons in the District of Courtraij. Handzame: Familia et Patria, 1970 (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.31, D4d), contains much genealogy.

Doehaerd, Renee, Etudes Anversoises, Documents sur le commerce internationale a Anvers (Ports, Routes, Trafics, 1488-1514. 3 vol. Names of foreigners present with their places of origin, certificates, and aldeillan records of Antwerp. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.321/A1, H3d).

Douxchamps-Lefevre, Cecil. Inventaire des Archives du Fonds de Corroy-le-Chaeu, pp. 63-184, Brussels, 1%2. Inventories of family archives and of other records. Also treats records of provinces of Belgium, Holland and northern France. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949,342, ASd).

Inventaire Sommalre des Archives de la Cour et du Conseil souverain de Hainaut. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949,312, AScc).

Leenaerts, Remy J. General Genealogical Heraldic Index of Southern Netherlands (Belgium) Handzame. 5 vol. (Belgium: Familia et Patrie, 1969-1979. Vol. 4 has an index to names of persons in the preceding four volumes. Vol. 5 continues the work of the first three, listing inventories and genealogies, with an index at the end. (Gen. Soc. call no 949.3, A3L.).

Lyna, Frederic. Catalogue des Manuscrits de la Bibliotheque Royale de Belgique. Vol. 12 Heraldry, vol. 13 Heraldry and Genealogy. Brussels: Maurice Lamertin, Libraire-Editeur. Lists hundreds of surnames with volume and page number where data is found on them in the collection. (Gen. Soc• call no. 949.3, ASbr, vols. 12 and 13).

#### APPENDIX 8

#### OTHER INDEXED MILITARY RECORDS PERTAINING TO BELGIUM

#### AND THE NETHERLANDS

Only records of 1815-1830 pertain to Belgium.

<u>Name of Regiment</u>	<u>Call number of Index</u>	<u>Years covered by Index</u>
3rd Regiment of Infantry	106,933	1813-1839
4th Regiment of Infantry	107,007	1821-1839

5th Regiment of Infantry	107,020	1814-1839
6th Regiment of Infantry	107,032	1814-1839
7th Regiment of Infantry	107,045	1814-1839
8th Regiment of Infantry	159,313	1829-1839
9th Regiment of Infantry	159,326	1829-1843
10th Regiment of Infantry	159,339	1829-1843
11th Regiment of Infantry	159,374	1814-1830
1st Division of Infantry	159,346	1829-1830
6th Division of Infantry	159,367	1814-1830
12th Division of Infantry	159,381	1814-1830
15th Division of Infantry	159,389	1814-1830
16th Division of Infantry	159,396	1814-1830
Reserve Bataillon, 1st & 2nd Infantry Division	159,404	1810
Reserve Bataillon, 3rd, 17th Infantry Division	159,405	1819
2nd Bataillon Infantry van linie	106,939	1814-1820
Bataillon Jagers no. 27	106,943	1814-1818

## APPENDIX 9

## RECORDS ON BELGIAN PROTESTANTS

Bax, W. Het Protestantisme en het bisdom Luik en voord te Maastricht. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1937-1941. Vol. 1: 1505-1557; vol. 2: 1557-16U. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.2, K2b and on microfilm 924,089). Protestantisme in the bishpropic of Liege and toward Maastricht, which includes St. Truiden and other towns in the PrOI Tince of Limburg.)

Braekman, E. M. "Problemes concernant l'emigration protestante belge aux XVIe et XVIIe siecles•" In Vereniging voor de Geschiedenis van het Belgische Protestantisme [Society for the history of Belgian Protestantism] Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, B2s, vol. rv-7).

Braekman, "Belgian origins of the First Reformed Church in New York." In Vereniging E. M. Bulletin V-7.

Bulletin de La Commission pour l'Histoire des Eglises Wallonnes. The Hague, 1885. Contains genealogies of protestant families. (Gen. Soc. call no. 940,B2c).

Council of Troubles

These records in early handwriting tell of banishments, executions, and imprisorments of Protestants and of those who fled leaving property. They are in microfilms 720,653 to 720,666; 720,992 to 720,994; and 721,576 to 721,589. (32 rolls) Before consulting these records one should consult the Walloon index of the Netherlands and Verheyden's book listed below.

COIIIllission de l'histoire des Eglises Wallonnes. Histoire des Eglises Wallonnes. 5 vol. 1891-1894. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff. Considerable genealogy and history on the Huguenots of France and the Walloons of Belgium and Northern France. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.2, K2h2).

Coussemaker, E. D. de. Troubles religieux de XVI siecle dans La Flandre Maritime, 1560-1570. Brugge, 1876. Four large volumes with an index to names of of persons and one to places. Names hundreds of inmigrants with their places of origin. To be microfilmed in the State Archives at Brugge (Bruges), Belgium.

Denis, Philippe. "Bibliography de l'histoire demographique des refugies Flamands et Wallons en Angleterre." In Vereniging voor de Geschiedenis van het Belgische Protestantisme. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, B2s, Bulletin VI-4).

Exposition de documents reLatifs a l'histoire du protestantisme en Belgique, organisee aux Archives de l'Etat a Tournai. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, K2a).

Laurent, E. "Contribution a l'etude de l'emigration Wallonne (principalement de Wasmes) aux 16e et 17e siecle." In Vereniging. Bulletin VII-5.

Moreau, Gerard Histoire du Protestantisme a Tournai jusqu'a La veille de la Revolution des Pays-Bas. Paris VI. 95 Boulevard Raspail: Societe d'Edition Les Belles Lettres, 1962. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949,341/ti, K2l m).

Neyhoffer, J. La Martyrologe protestant des Pays-Bas. Nessonvaux, 1907. Mentioned in a footnote on p. 356 of Vereniging, Bulletin IV-7. Probably at the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie at The Hague.

Roland, J. E Uses Wallonnes de la Barriere: Tournai, Armentieres, Menin Y res et Namur, Le Cateau, France, 189. Baptisms, marriages, burials, and abjurations of the 18th century. Seen in the Library of the Huguenot Society of London. Probably available in the Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie in the Hague and perhaps in the national libraries of France and Belgium.

Traschsel, E. Belgian Protestantism. Brussels: E. Traschel, 1944. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, K2t).

Vereniging voor de Geschiedenis van het Belgische Protestantism [Society for the history of the Protestant Church in Belgium. Some selected articles from this series are cited here.

Verheyden, A. L. E. Anabaptism in Flanders, 1530-1650: A century of struggle. Translated from Flemish. Scottdale: Herald Press, 1961. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.31, K2lv).

Verheyden, A. L. E. La Conseil des Troubles. (Cited by Gerard Moreau above).

Verviers. "Heresie calviniste; inquisition." Records of about 1560-1570 of Verviers; names many people and families. (Gen. Soc. microfilm 451,898).

Following the old Latin handwriting is a more modern translation in French. Indexed.

#### APPENDIX 10

An important inventory to Belgian records and sane on film at the Genealogical Society for the 1300s and 1400s.

The General Archives of the Kingdom of Belgium and the State Archives in the Provinces have published a two-volume work giving an overview of records and collections in State Archives. Volume 1 treats the Flemish provinces and is entitled Het Rik sarchief in de Provincien overzicht van de Fondsen en Verzamelingen 1. De Vlaamse Provincien Antwerp, Beveren-Waas, Brugge, Ghent, Hasselt, Kortrijk and Ronse.

Volume 2 is "Les Archives de l'Etat dans les Provincies, a ercu des Fonds et collection, II. Les rovinces a onnes on, Huy, Liege, Mons, Namur and Tournai.

The subarchive of St. Hubert is not treated, nor is the General Archives of the Kingdom in Brussels. Hopefully this archive will be treated in another volume of the series. (Gen. Soc. call no. Ref. 949.3, AS AF; ask attendants at the European reference counter for these books).

These inventories will tell you what collections are available which may allow you to extend sane pedigree lines back to the 1330s. Sane have been or will be microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, but not all of them. In these cases you may wish

to unite with relatives to sponsor research in certain records by a Belgian genealogist.

Following are some examples of Belgian genealogical records of the 1300s and 1400s filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and of additional inventories to these records:

<u>Aarselaar</u>	<u>Wettelij"ke Verkopengen</u> (1492-1793)	<b>Civil court cases,</b> sales of property
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These records can be supplemented by Schepenakten (court records) for the years 1558-1796.

<u>Andrimont</u>	Oeuvres et procédures (court records)	1444-1796
<u>Antwerp</u>	Vierschaar (court records)	1389-1795

Brabant, Province of. Inventory and index to towns, showing holdings in Alderman records (scabinale and Gerechterlijke akten), 1400-1800 in microfilms 776,467 and 776,468)•

Family Archives. Many of them turned over to State Archives contain genealogies, pedigrees, proofs, and patents of nobility, marriage contracts, wills, etc., and sometimes go as early as the 12th century. Inventories to many family records have been microfilmed for the Province of Liege. Several other State Archives have rich holdings in family records.

Galesloot, L. Inventaire des Archives de la Cour Feodale de Brabant (Gen. Soc. call no. Q 949.33, A 5g). This inventory lists many early records.

Ghent (District of). Court, orphan, land, inheritance records filmed 1339-1778. Index to these records: microfilm 1,134,046.

Haccourt (Liege) Oeuvres et plaids 1419-1444, 1487-1498, and to 1794.

Herve, Charneux and Thimiste. Oeuvres 1370-1796 (court records with records of property divisions, orphan cases, etc.)

Liege Orphan court records 1434-1435, 1502-1727. Under Administration civile: Testaments and convenances (marriage contracts) 1411-1685

Mons. Tresorie des chartes de comtes de Hainaut, recettes general de Hainaut, 1287-1435.

Cartulaire of Mons 1164-1751. (Gen. Soc. microfilms 622,197 to 622,199 and 637,763)

Crayons genealogiques [genealogical sketches; descent, or pedigree charts] (Gen. Soc. microfilms 617,044 and 617,045; Indexes to these records are in Les Tablettes du Hainaut, Vol. 3 and 4)

Avis des Pere et Meres	1346-1795
Paktages	1361-1830
Testaments	1317-1831

Nijvel (Nivelles) wills 1336-1611 and marriage contracts 1394-1606 recorded in court records (Schepenbank).

Namur Douxchamps-Lefevre. Cecile, Inventaire analytique des Enquetes Judiciaires du Conseil de Namur, 1488-1700. 4 vol. with indexes. Bruxelles: 78 Galerie Ravenstein, 1969. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.342,P2d). Cour des echevins Alderman records, wills, etc. 1398-1791

## APPENDIX 11

Books on the nobility, which may help you trace some of your ancestors to Charlemagne.

Anselme (le Pere). Genealogie et chronologie de la Maison Royale de France. Paris: Reprint by Editions du Palais Royal et by Johnson Reprint Corporation, New York and London. 9 vols. with 2 parts to the last volume. Index in vol. 8, 1726-1879. Completed by M. Potier de Courcy. One of the most accurate of French books on the Royalty and the Nobility. (In Royalty Section, Gen. Soc. and on microfilms 532,231 to 532,239)

Bormans, Stanislaus. Tables des manuscrits genealogiques de La Fort, conservés aux Archives de l'Etat à Liege. 3 vols. 1860. (Gen. Soc. microfilm 451,871).

Brandenburg, Erich. Die Nachkommen Karls des Grossen. 1 to 14 generations of his descendants with supplementary genealogical tables and notes showing the connection to the Lyher, Wernag, and Friedel lines. (Gen. Soc. German microfilm 587,602 3rd item on roll. Also Q 943, B 4sa, vol. 11).

Centraal Bureau voor Genealogie. Nederlands Patriciaat. The Hague, 1910-1977. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.2, 02n).

Chesnaye-Oesbois et Badier. Dictionnaire de la Noblesse. 19 vol. Paris: Schlesinger freres, 1863-1876. (Gen. Soc. microfilms 661,873 to 661,882; see card file or microfiches for detail under author's name.)

Chilbert, P. and Colin, E. L'Indicateur Genealogique, Heraldique et Biographique. Vol. 1-3 and 3 vol. of supplements. Brussels, 1912-1914. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3,B2i).

Dek, Dr. A. W. E. Genealogie van het Vorstehuis Nassau. Zaltbommel: Europese Bibliotheek, 1970. (Gen. Soc. call no. 929.2492, N187d).

D'Kane Steenhuyse, Ernest, Comte. Noblesse de Flandre du Xe au XVIIe Siecle d'apres des documents authentiques. 2 vols. with index. Brussels 1860-1862. (Gen. Soc. microfilm 1,116,141).

Fonds Bisschops, Inheritance records, pedigrees, and notes on many non-noble and noble families from the year 600 to 1925. (Gen. Soc. microfilms 620,742 to 620,762 of the Antwerp region, 21 rolls with data in alphabetical order; see card file or microfiches for names treated in each roll.)

Fonds Bisschops (smaller collection) Antwerp region patrician and noble families, 1390-1920 (Various notes in Gen. Soc. microfilm 620,760. Records in alphabetical order in microfilms 620,753 (A to Hove) and 620,754 (H-Wynands)).

Fonds Donnet. Similar data on families. 21 rolls of film in alphabetical order, 1370-1920 (See card file or microfiches for details).

Ghelinck Vaernewyck, Xavier de. Petit traite de 18 noblesse en Belgique. Bruxelles: Editions "Tradition et Vie," 1948. Contains an excellent bibliography of works on noble families). (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, D24g, vol. 2).

Goethals, M. Felix-Victor. Dictionnaire genealogique et heraldique des familles nobles du Royaume de Belgique ~~4 vols. Brussels, 1849-1852.~~ (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, D2g)

Indicateur nobiliaire de France, de Belgique, de Hollande, d'Allemagne, d'Italie, et d'Angleterre d'apres les collections manuscrites des bibliotheques publiques de Belgique. Brussels, 1869. (Gen. Soc. call no. Ref 929, Io2n, and on microfilm 599,811)•

Goethals, Indicateur nobiliaire de France, de Belgique, de Hollande, d'Allemagne, d'Espagne, d'Italie et d'Angleterre d'apres les collections manuscrites des bibliotheques publiques de Belgique. Paris: Ubrarie Bachelin-Deflorfenne, 1869. (Gen. Soc. call no. 940, D22g, 2 vols.) List as sources the Bibliotheque Royale, Section de manuscrits; the LeFort collection of Uege; the Bibliotheque heraldique aux Ministere des Affaires etrangeres in Brussels; and the manuscripts of Valkenisse at the City Ubrary of Antwerp.

Miroir des Notabilites Nobiliaires de Belgique, des Pays-Bas et du Nord de la France. 2 vols. Brussels 1857-1862. (Gen. Soc. call no. Q944, D22gf)

Koller, Fortune. Annuaire des familles patriciennes de Belgique. 6 vols. Brussels, 1940-1945. (Gen. Soc. lacks vol. I, Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, BSa).

Gens de chez nous dans les divers ordres de chevalerie sous l'Ancien Regime. Dijon, France: Imprimerie G. Lelotte, 1974. (Gen. Soc. call no. 940,D22ko).

Lefort collections of genealogies of noble families of Belgium. (Gen. Soc. microfilms 451,872 to 451,897).

Limbourg Stirim, Count Th. de Noblesse d'autre familles patriciens et considerables de la Ville d'Anvers et du Marquisat du St. Emire et autres avec manuscrits genealogiques. From the chateau de Huldenberg. Gen. Soc. microfilms 59867, parts 1 to 3; part 1 and 2, coats of arms; part 3, genealogical manuscripts).

Noriarty, George Andrews, comp. The Plantagenet ancestry (ancestry of Edward III and Queen Philippa). (Gen. Soc. microfilm 441,438).

M. D. \*\*\*\*S. D. H. \*\*. Nobiliaire des Pays Bas. 2 vols. plus 5 vols. of supplements. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3,D22d).

Nederland's Adelsboek. The Hague: W. P. Van Stockum & sons, 1826, 1904-1974. Dutch nobility and royalty. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.2, D22na).

Office Genealogique et Heraldique de Belgique. Le Parchemin. [Genealogical magazine dealing with noble and other Belgian families]. Musees Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Parc du Cinquantenaire, 1040 Brussels. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, B2P)•

- Office Genealogique et Heraldique de Belgique, Recueil de l'Office Genealogique ••• 12 vols., 1953-1964. Brussels: Editions "Traditions et Vie." (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3,02b).
- Rietstap, J. B. Heraldieke Bibliotheek. The Hague: H. L. Smits, 1872-1881. Includes Belgium. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.2,B2h. Some numbers missing at Gen. Soc.).
- Ryckman de Betz (Baron de) Armorial General de la Noblesse Belge•. Liege: H. Dessain, 1957. Beginning on page 769 is a general list of Belgian nobility. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3, 022r).
- Sirjean, Dr. Gaston. Enc clo die Genealo ue des Maisons Souveraines du Mandé. Vol. 1, pta. 1,2, Paris, 1959. (vols. 1-2 treat only French to a degree Belgian royalty). (Gen. Soc. call no. Staff 929.7 si76 e. In Royalty Project area).
- Stein d'Altenstein, le Baron Isidore de. Annuaire de la Noblesse de Belgique, 1847-1892. 50 vols. Vol. 25 has index to genealogical articles in the first 25 volumes; all volumes have a similar index at the end. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.3,022a).
- Vade-Mecum pratique et utile de connaissance historique et Indicateur nobiliaire et patrician des ces contres. Catalogue repertoire analytique, methodique, et raisonne de 555 manuscrits. Tournai, 1896-7. (Gen. Soc. microfilm 1,142, 145, item 1).
- Vegiano d'Hovel, M. de. Nobiliaire des Pays Bas et du Comte de Bourgogne. 1200-1858. 5 vols. and 2 additional vols. of indexes 1864. (Gen. Soc. microfilms 794,504 to 795,506. Indexes in 1,116,149 (A-H) and 1,116,150 (1-2)).
- Warlop, E. Oe Vlaamse Ada! voor 1300. [Flemish nobility before 1300]. 3 vols. Handzame Familia et Patria, 1968. Vol. 3, index to names of persons. (Gen. Soc. call no. 949.31 022 w).
- Verkooren, Alphonse. Inventaire des chartes et cartulaires des Ouches de Brabant et de Limbourg et des pays d'outre-Meuse. Medieval times. (Gen. Soc. can no. 949.3,A5vc).
- Winkhaus, Eberhard Alman zu Karl dem Grossen und Widukind in 765 Almenstammen. [Ancestors of Charlemagne and of Widukind on 765 ancestral lines]. Ennepetal-Altvoerde: Eberhard Winkhaus, 1950. (Gen. Soc. call no. 929.24 C3792).

## NOTE

There are a number of family histories of noble Belgian families in the Genealogical Society Library. To find them look under the name of the family in the card catalog and on the computer card catalog on microfiche.



## Remarks on Researching the Walloon Registers of Belgium

anon.

Hoping that all this can be of some help to the researchers in the Province of Liege, Belgium, the following are general remarks made after nine years of daily research in the vital records and parish registers.

### **The Vital Records:**

Until the end of the first World War (1918), the surname spelling was entirely PHONETIC. The same surname appears with different phonetic variants throughout the records of the same years, and sometimes even in the same act. (Ex. Bay & Bailly are pronounced exactly the same way and are, therefore, the same surname.)

As Belgium is a trilingual country (Flemish, French, German), the surname transfers from one linguistic region to another give various transliterations of the same surname. Some of them are quite surprising (ex. BrodeIjan becomes Broriane in French).

Before the French Revolution, the Principality of Liege was part of the many feudal states forming the so called "Holy Roman Empire." Much travel occurred between its citizens and the Eastern part of Germany, then called "Preusen," forming a much larger territory than to day's Prussia, and causing intermarriages. The German surnames from these marriages transliterated into French with sometimes surprising results.

The diacritics appear by the end of the sixteenth (XVI) century with " ´ ", which was used sporadically. The other accents and cedilla come much later, at the end of eighteenth (XVIII) & nineteenth (XIX) centuries.

In the seventeenth (XVII) and eighteenth (XVIII) centuries several letters gave the same sound and were interchangeable. For example: J/G, V/W, C/KIQu/Ck/Ch, & IJ. Therefore Jehote/Gehotte, Vallee/Wallee, and CorbeauIKorbeau/Korbay/Querbay {Walloon form} are the same surnames.

The vital records, starting anywhere between 1793 and 1800, show a tendency, which is more and more pronounced, to spell the surnames in modern French. For instance, all the prefixes transform from middle French to modern French: "de" becomes "du," and "de le" or "del" becomes "de la," (the feminine form). The "s" following a vowel, used to lengthen its sound, is replaced by "l" over the preceding vowel (Ex. Dechesne = Duchene, Jerosme= Jerome). Thus, there is a need to normalize the spelling of names and surnames, if the genealogical records are to make sense.

Take caution, however: before grouping the variant spellings under a normalized form, be certain that they **do** belong to the same family by making sure that the surname appears under the variant spellings. The most current spelling has been chosen to be used throughout the genealogical documents; it is usually the one which has been kept and is still used today.

### *Errors*

The vital records contain some errors in surnames, with the number decreasing as the records become more complete. Some errors have been officially corrected by notarized acts placed in the records at a later date, which I have recorded in the notes.

The Christian names can change from act to act. ["Joseph Lambert" can become simply "Lambert" on the next act and even "Jean Joseph Lambert" on another.] There seems to be a tendency to give more and more given names to a person as time goes by, whether he received them at birth or not.

### **Surname formation:**

The French surnames in Belgium are mostly formed from 1) trade names, 2) places of origin, 3) given names & 4) nicknames.

*Trade Name Surnames:* Boulanger (Baker), Brasseur (Brewer), Lecrenier Goiner), Baron, (nobility title), Chanoine (canon), etc.

*Places of Origin Surnames:* Delnaye (Lanaye), Dans (Ans), Deflandres (Flandres), Lallemand & Dellemagne (Allemagne), Dumoulin (from the mill), Duchateau (from the castle, usually a servant there), Dupont (from the bridge), Dubois (from the wood), Dessarts (from de "sarts" which is a sterile piece of land covered with brushwood), Doutrewe (from the other side of the water), etc. In this case, "de" does not mean nobility but is an indication of origin (Ex: de Froidmont= from the farm of Froidmont, D'Othee or D'Heur = from the city of Othee or Heur).

*Given Name Surnames:* Louis, Andre, Gilles, Baptiste, Arnold, etc.

*Nickname Surnames:* Leblond (the blond haired one), Grosjean (fat John), Grandjean (Tall John), Petitjean (little John), Beaujean (good-looking John), Bonhomme (good man), etc.

### **The Parish Registers of the Province of Liege:**

In the 1500...

- I. The script is gothic and often hard to decipher. There are very few capital letters used in the parish registers. Latin, of course, did not capitalize any word, and the parish priests carried that habit into the Walloon and French.
2. The parish priests, especially in the small villages where some of them appear to be only half-literate, (this often results in bizarre spellings or even illegible scribbles that no one can decipher) at first write everything in Walloon, the old French dialect of the province. It is easy to see that they are trying to find a way to spell the Walloon sounds they hear, because they never spell the surname exactly the same way twice. This lasted until the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Ex. Ie lega, Ie legat, Ie legaux and Ii marschal, Ie or Ii marichal, Ii mareschal, etc). Even the given names don't seem to have a proper spelling yet (Ex. katherine, caterine, catherine, caterinne, chaterine; andry, andri, andre; wathi, wathy; wathieu; mathi, mathy, matheiu; antoine, anthoine, anthon, anthoon, thonne, tonne; etc).
3. The letters which produce the same sound are used interchangeably: V&W; G&J; K, C, Ch, Ck and in Walloon A&O (Ex. Walle, valle; goiris, joiris; Kanne, Canne, Channe, Lambreck, Lambrech; lina, lino, etc). Only the "accent aigu" is used in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century, and even then rarely.

4. At first, 90% of the surnames were preceded by an article (usually indicating a trade) or a contracted article (indicating a place of origin). Ex. *Ie* or *li molnier*, *li marshal*, *li bolgi*, *li scrini*. Also *de molin*, *de jardin*, *del* or *delle prealle*, *de glons*, *de cheratte*, *del* or *delle cour*, etc.

### *Gallicisations*

Some parish priests chose to gallicize the Walloon surnames. This gives different phonetic spellings for the same surname. (Ex. The Walloon phonetic ending "ai" becomes "au" or "eau" in French.) We have, therefore, the spelling *Moray* and *Moreau*; *Laixhay* and *Laixheau*; *Rossay* and *Rosseau* or *Rousseau*; etc, for the same surname.

The final letter "a" in Walloon is pronounced almost like a broad "o," producing *Micha* and *Michau* or *Micho*, which are all interchangeable.

The following parish priest often returned to the original Walloon spelling, which further complicates research. *Moreau* is again *Moray*, etc.

### *Changes in Language*

Towards the end of the 17th century, we see gradually changing forms which follow the changes occurring in the language.

5. The prefix "*Ie*," its older form "*Ii*," and "*de*" or its elided form "*d'*" used at first, disappear little by little; also "*del*" and "*delle*," which are the old contracted French articles begin to disappear. (Ex. The surnames will change from *Le bouille* to *Bouille*; *De Frere* to *Frere*; *De Richelle* to *Richelle*; *del Prealle* to *Prealle*, etc.) In a few cases, the opposite occurs. (Ex. *Li scrini* which has become *Crenier* changes to *Lecrenier*; *Hareng* becomes *Dehareng*, etc.) In the simplified forms, the surnames will again change their spellings: *Colee*, *Collee*, *Colleie*, to give *Colleye* in the Vital records; *Keeux*, *Keyeux*; *Francote*, *Francotte*, *Franckotte*, etc. until they arrive at their final forms at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
6. Walloon changed to French because of the slow gallicisation of the entire population. (Ex. *Bounam*, *Bonhom*, *Bonhomme*; *Li marchau*, *Ii marschal*, *Li marichal*, *Le Marechal*, *Marechal*; *Li bolgi*, *Le boulanger*, *Boulangier*; *Linor*, *linar* or *Iynar*, *Leonard*.)

### *Errors*

- A. There are errors in surnames and Christian names in the parish registers. Most parish priests seem to have had an astonishing disregard for their parishioner's names. This shows in the very diversified and different spellings of the same surname. The women's surname, in particular, seem to have been considered irrelevant. Because of this, the woman's surnames can be different from act to act, one act giving her surname, the next her father's first name as her surname. (Ex. *Gertrude Defrere* on one act can be *Gertrude Louis* {probably the daughter of} on the next). Often, their surname is omitted altogether from the record. For example, the marriage certificate of a "*Jean son of Jean Dessart*" to a "*stranger woman of Liege*" [*Liege* being about 9 kms distant from the parish where the marriage occurs.]
- B. There seem also to be a tendency to add another given name to both the man and woman with each succeeding entry. "*Louis*" will become "*Jean Louis*" and "*Elisabeth*" will be "*Marie Elisabeth*."

It is therefore impossible to do a thorough search unless one searches and extracts all surnames for all parish registers of a town or village. Then it is possible to compare all entries under both the father & mother's names and thus avoid many errors. However, it is not wise to base your research solely on country parish registers.

When extracting and grouping the surnames, be aware of all aliases. They are often found in the scanty parish registers of the early days to distinguish between two people of the same name (Ex. Brunet dit Tasset, Monard dit Louis, Keeux dit Brut, etc.) "Jean Monard dit Louis" may also appear as either "Jean Louis" or "Jean Monard" in different entries.

The parish priests of Hermalle-sous-Argenteau, must hold the first prize for diversity of invention in spelling the same surname. It took some time, after extracting the parish registers, to recognize the relationship between various forms of the same surname.

1. Werihet = Werichau, Weichwy, Werichoux, and Werihes
2. Voyave = Voyaffe, Voyafe, Voiave, Voyarf, Voyavve, Voyaume, Woyave.
3. De Sarollai, De Saroleau, Desaroille, Desarolly, Sartroylee, Dezsaroille, Dezzaroly, Dezzaroyelle, Dezzaroyly, Dezzaroylee, etc.

## Other Resources Belgium

### Belgium Population Registers Microfilm Numbers

<http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=titlehitlist&columns=%2C0%2C0&keyword=Belgium+Population+Registers&prekeyword=Belgium+Population+Registers>

### Cyndi's List Belgium Links

<http://www.cyndislist.com/belgium.htm>

### Belgium's Rootsweb Site

<http://belgium.rootsweb.com/>

### An Outline of Belgian History on Geographia

<http://www.geographia.com/belgium/bxhis01.htm>

### FamilySearch Wiki

[https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main\\_Page](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page)