

*Historical and Genealogical
Information
on our
Belgian Ancestors*

*by
Joseph J. Pierre
and
Mary A. Pierre*

*Second Edition
1976*

INTRODUCTION

My name is Scott Crevier (b.07-Nov-1962). As the title page shows, this book was written by Joseph J. Pierre and Mary A. Pierre. Mary is the daughter of Joseph and his wife Odile Le Grave. Odile is my first cousin twice removed. I have decided to convert this volume into electronic format so that all members of my family tree can benefit from the hard work and information gathered by Joseph and Mary Pierre in the 1970s.

On the evening of February 2, 1999, I located Joseph Pierre (now 87 years old) at his home in Allouez, Wisconsin. We spoke on the phone for a long while and had a great conversation. I asked Joseph about his daughter's involvement in writing this, since it appears to be written from only his perspective. He explained that he did indeed write most of the document, but that his daughter helped out to satisfy the requirements of a college project. Joseph gave me permission to create this electronic version and to share it on the internet, with the stipulation that the credits remain as originally written.

Following are the details of how I am related to Joseph J. Pierre:

My father is Stanley M. Crevier (b.29-Sep-1939). His mother is Emerence Le Grave (b.25-Jul-1918). Her father is Florien Le Grave (b.01-Mar-1880). His parents are Francois J. Le Grave (b.24-Jan-1846) and Harriette Meunier (b.1846). So, Francois and Harriette Le Grave are my 2nd Great Grandparents.

Joseph J. Pierre (b.17-Apr-1911) is married to Odile Le Grave (b.20-Sep-1912). Odile's father is Frank Le Grave (b.28-Oct-1884). Frank's parents are Francois J. Le Grave (b.24-Jan-1846) and Harriette Meunier (b.1846). So, Francois and Harriet Le Grave are the Grandparents of Odile Le Grave, Joseph's wife.

So, Joseph J. Pierre's father-in-law is my Great Grandfather's brother.

With few exceptions, I have converted this document word for word. I have corrected some simple misspellings, (i.e. wheekchair) and I have added a table of contents and an index, to assist the reader in finding specific pieces of information. In the text, you will see many references that you must put in perspective. For example, you will see references to people who are alive "today". You should take that to mean that they were alive around 1976, when this book was written. Also, in most cases, the author wrote ages and dollar amounts using English words rather than their numeric equivalents.

I spent many evenings during the months of January, February and March of 1999 transcribing this document by hand. It is certainly possible that I have made an occasional typing error. If you happen to notice any typos or any information that does not make sense, please let me know. I will make any necessary corrections and I will make updated versions of this book available.

You should also know that the original version of this book contained many photos. Though the Pierres were kind enough to share several photos with me, they were not able to locate the original copies of the photos from the book. So I am not able to include them here. I hope to some day locate a relative that has these photos so that I can borrow them.

If you would like to quote this book in your own genealogy research, please be sure not to confuse me with the author. Though you may wish to note where you got this electronic version from, I suggest you credit the book as follows:

Joseph J. Pierre and Mary A. Pierre, Historical and Genealogical Information On Our Belgian Ancestors, © 1976.

For as long as I am alive, I will be very happy to discuss this document or my genealogy data with any of my relatives. If you should happen to have any information, or if you are a distant (or not so distant) relative, please take a moment to say hello. I expect that my e-mail address below will be valid for many years to come. And I also invite you to visit my family history web site.

Enjoy.

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PREFACE

The purpose of this paper is to assemble available historical and genealogical information about our Belgian ancestors. My wife Odile, and I made a search of the court house records in Door and Brown counties, and of church records at St. Mary's in Namur, St. Hubert's at Rosiere, St. Martin's at Tonet, Holy Cross at Bay Settlement, and St. John's, the oldest parish in Green Bay. We were unable to locate some of the data because of inadequate records for the period prior to 1890.

The help provided by many of our relatives is greatly appreciated. I wish to thank them for sharing their recollections, old receipts, pictures and records. Special thanks are extended to Gabe Pierre, Jr. and to Josephine Wautlet for the early genealogy records that they provided on the Pierre and the Gerard ancestors, respectively, as a result of their visit to Belgium in September of 1974. Gabe visited the Commune at Noville-Sur-Mehaigne where with the help of our good friend Henri Jadin from Emines, he enlisted the aide of Mr. R. Grugenaire, the "Garde-Champetre", and Reverend R. Vanderbeck, the local priest. The commune provided him with the Pierre records dating back to 1797 and the priest later sent him the records back to 1734. Josephine and her husband, Ed Wautlet, stayed with Regime and Jean Pierre Gerard in Belgium, and they obtained the Gerard records from the Commune at Dassoulx dating back to 1792. We also want to thank Mary Pierre for her work in typing, layout, design, art work and assembly of the subject matter into "camera ready" form for printing.

The historical introduction proceeding the section specifically written about our ancestors is largely based on H.R. Holland's book, Wisconsin's Belgian Community, and on the other references listed at the end of the paper.

One will find titles of Great Great Grandparents, Great Grandparents, and Grandparents in the text. This terminology refers to the relationship of these ancestors to our children and to our nieces and nephews.

Joseph J. Pierre
September 1976

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

The earliest record of a Belgian coming to northeastern Wisconsin is that of Father Louis Hennepin who came as a missionary travelling with LaSalle's exploring expedition in 1678-1679.

Wisconsin became the thirtieth State in the Union with President Polk's signature on May 29, 1848. Lead mining in the southwestern counties was then the major source of livelihood in the state.

In the 1850s, Wisconsin maintained an "immigration official" in New York city. His job was established to recruit settlers and to help new arrivals to their destination. He advertised in the European press by sending them printed material such as pamphlets, posters and booklets which gave information about the opportunities available in Wisconsin. One poster read:

Come! In Wisconsin all men are free and equal before the law. Religion is free and equal between church and state. Opportunities are unlimited for those who want to work. Good land can be purchased from the generous American government for \$1.25 an acre. The soil is adapted to raising corn, wheat, rye, oats, barley and vegetables.

Cheap land and freedom drew the small land holders from Europe to the New World. The largest exodus of European emigrants to the United States occurred between the years 1853 and the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. The major ports of embarkation were Antwerp, Belgium; LaHavre, France; and Bremen or Hamburg, Germany. The price of a ticket from Antwerp to America was \$35 for each person above twelve years of age. Emigrants brought their own bedding and provisions to last for a minimum of six weeks. Many landed at the ports of New York and/or Quebec.

The first group of ten Belgian families, fifty people, who came to northeastern Wisconsin emigrated from the province of Brabant, Belgium. They left Antwerp for New York on a three-masted schooner, the *Quennebec*, on May 18, 1853, along with other emigrants from Holland. There were many storms and their voyage was a hard one. In one storm the main mast snapped off and was carried away, but the old ship continued onward for seven weeks, and arrived in New York on July 5. During the last week there was a shortage of food and drinking water.

The ten Belgian families did not have a specific destination in mind when they left home because the pamphlet they had read referred only to the cheap land and opportunities available in "America". On the ocean voyage they decided to accompany their new friends, the *Hollanders*, to their destination in Wisconsin. From New York they traveled on canal boats and lake steamers and eventually arrived in Milwaukee. The *Hollanders* were headed for a Dutch settlement near Sheboygan and the Belgians went with them. Here they found that they were unable to converse with the people and very little good

land remained unclaimed. They met a French-Canadian who told them that in Green Bay, nearly one-half of the population was French and that most of the land in the area had not been claimed. Shortly thereafter, they left for Green Bay and upon their arrival in late August they were pleased to find that they could communicate with many of the local people and that land was readily available.

The men left their families in Green Bay while they went south looking for land. They decided to settle along the Fox River near the present city of Kaukauna, and their claims were entered in the government land office in Menasha. Then they returned to Green Bay to get their families. Upon their arrival in Green Bay, they learned that a five-year-old son of one of the immigrants had died the day before and they prepared for his burial. At his funeral, the local priest was visited by his friend, Father Edward Daems, pastor of a frontier parish at Bay Settlement. Father Daems was a young, friendly, energetic and enthusiastic Belgian who spoke French and Belgian. The elated settlers flocked around him. He said that they should come to his parish, that he would help them find good land and that they could attend mass in their own language. This appealed to the wives as well as the men so they cancelled their prior land claims, and with the help of Father Daems, they staked out land claims about ten miles northeast of Bay Settlement (4 miles south of Dykesville) in the area now known as Green Bay township in northeastern Brown County. The Belgians called this area "Aux premier Belges". The first winter was mild and the hunting was excellent. Toward spring the friendly Indians taught them the practice of tapping maple trees to make maple sugar. Their letters to Belgium were filled with enthusiasm.

More Belgian emigrants left for northeastern Wisconsin in 1854 and 1855. Many had been encouraged and recruited by the Antwerp ship owners who glowingly recommended that area as one of the best localities suited for Belgian settlement. However, some of the 1854 group carried Cholera germs and that fall many of the cabins were filled with sick, and dying people. Because of the large parish and the absence of roads, the priest could attend only a few of the many burials, so most of the victims were attended by relatives and buried in the woods without the rites of the church. It was a sad time for the Belgian pioneers, but the news of this did not reach Belgium for some time. Meanwhile, many poor villagers and small landholders living and working on large estates in Belgium were trying to save enough money to emigrate. In Belgium, they worked for a few cents a day. For cutting, binding and hauling grain for the estates they received every twentieth shock, and for thrashing by hand with a flail they got every twentieth bushel.

In 1856, the year when the largest number emigrated, thousands of Belgians from the province of Brabant left for Wisconsin and most of them settled in the present counties of northeast Brown, Kewaunee and southern Door. It was a stormy spring. One vessel with its cargo of emigrants was wrecked at sea and everyone aboard perished. Dysentery broke out on the "David Otley" and sixty out of the two hundred on board died and were buried at sea. Another ship, the "Lacedemon" was soon crippled and had to return to port for repairs.

Ferdinand Delveaux and his son, Constant, were passengers on the Lacedemon. Constant, who died in 1923 at the age of 93, left a report of their trip. Information obtained from the Constant Delveaux report follows.

They left Antwerp on March 18, 1856 after a two day wait in port. (The Pierre ancestors left there on the "Julia Howard" in March of 1856). When about ten miles out, a savage storm broke most of the three masts on their ship and they had to return to port for repairs. The repairs took twenty-three days; then they started out again and had smooth sailing to the port of Quebec, Canada. There they transferred to a boat that took them to Toronto. At Toronto they boarded railroad cars which took them to Lake Michigan; then they sailed to Green Bay.

When the Delveaux family arrived in Green Bay there were only a few houses. A priest in Belgium had given them a letter for a lawyer named Houte who gave them a township plot on the northern fringe of the Belgian Settlement, and who told them to contact a Mr. Rickare (Rickard) for help in finding the location of their lands. Mr. Rickard lived near Red River. With his compass he led them through the deep woods to the present township of Brussels and found the corner of their land. Four Belgian families were in this group and they were the first settlers in the present township of Brussels. Thirty other families arrived to settle in the township later in 1856, followed by thirteen more in 1857, and three in 1858 including Alexander Meunier, Alexander and Francois Pierre and their mother.

Constant recalled that in 1867 the wife of a neighbor died and they carried her all the way to Bay Settlement to be buried in the cemetery. However, in 1866, Father Curt buried the first person from their area at Namur.

HOW BELGIANS OBTAINED THEIR LAND

Belgians who came in 1855 and 1856 often went to the land office and asked to be assigned land in the general area of the Belgian Settlement. After they paid a small preemption claim entry fee, the clerk assigned them forties of land. This unusual procedure was due to a great influx of immigrants who knew nothing about U.S. land surveys. New groups, guided by an earlier immigrant, would walk away sixty or more miles to Menasha to get descriptions of the lands allotted them by a land agent. They would then return to Bay Settlement and wait for land cruiser Rickard to locate their lands. Armed with a compass he would walk into the deep woods, through swamps and underbrush, with small groups of new arrivals and point out a tree that was the northwest corner of each new owner's land. Each settler would carry an ax, a gun, blankets and food. After locating a land owner's corner, they would mark it by chopping down trees at that point so that the property owner could find it again.

The first settlers did not always get the best land because the land surveyors had done a very poor job of describing the soil conditions. Many of the areas that were marked "swamp land" and avoided by the land agents were actually some of the best farmlands. For example, 120 acres of the Pierre home farm on the south side of the road was listed as swamp land.

In 1857 and later, immigrants often went to see their friends who had arrived earlier. Then they were able to select land and stay on it as squatters until they found it convenient to go to the land office and file their claims.

Preemption lands bought before the Homestead Law of 1862 were supposed to be sold by the government for \$1.25 per acre. However, the surveyors who had erroneously shown so much swamp land in the area also listed much of the remaining land as being of inferior quality. Because of these errors, most of the early Belgian settlers were only charged fifty or seventy-five cents an acre. After making their claim, they had only two years in which to pay for the land, then they received their government deeds. The men would walk to Menasha in groups to pay for their land and get their deeds. The largest group of thirty-two men, including Francois Pierre, Gabriel DeKeyser and Alexander Meunier (our ancestors) marched off to Menasha to get their deeds on May 2, 1859. The trip took close to a week, but most of the men enjoyed the companionship, the lunches and the beers along the way. At Green Bay, they crossed the Fox River on a ferry. The first bridge was built there, near the present Walnut Street bridge, in 1862.

Among the records in the office of Register of Deeds for Door County, the following early preemptions of land are of special interest.

DOOR COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS RECORDS

PRESENTLY UNION TOWNSHIP

SectionAcreage Name Date of Claim Date Paid

13 E½ NW¼ 80 Gabriel DeKeyser 7/20/1857 5/2/1859
(located 1 ¾ miles west of Brussels)

11 E½ SW¼ 160 Alex Evrard 7/14/1857 5/2/1859
(located 2 ¼ miles west of Brussels; he donated land for St. Mary's church built in 1860)

15 NE¼ NE¼ 40 Guilluam Delwiche 7/14/1857 5/2/1859
(located 3¼ miles west of Brussels; masses were held in his home before a church was built)

PRESENTLY BRUSSELS TOWNSHIP

7 E½ SW¼ 80 Francoise Pierre 11/8/1858 1/3/1860
(E¼ of SW¼ is where home farm buildings are located. 120 acres south of road was listed as swamp land)

28 NW¼ SW¼ 120 Francois Pierre 5/25/1857 5/2/1859
S½ SW¼ and

29 SE¼ SE¼ 40 Francois Pierre 5/25/1857 1/10/1870
(Both were located 1 mile east and 2 ¾ miles south of Brussels, or ½ mile east and 1 mile north of Rosiere)

21 NW¼ SW¼ 80 Alexaner Meunier 9/18/1858 5/2/1859
SW¼ SE¼
(located 1 mile east and 1½ mile south of Brussels)

31 S½ SE¼ 80 Chas. J. Thiboune 9/1/1863 5/25/1870
(located ½ mile west of Rosiere – the Le Grave home where Odile, sisters, and Dale Pierre were born)

PRESENTLY GARDNER TOWNSHIP

20 S ½ SW ¼ 80 Jean J. Robin 6/2/1857
(located 4 miles north of Brussels, east of Co. Trunk C and north of Town road. He donated land for St. John the Baptist church built in 1866)

PIONEER EXPERIENCE

Everything the pioneers had and their supplies were carried to their cabin on foot over rough trails through the woods. However, boats and canoes were also used to transport their goods to various places along the Bay Shore. Most of them cooked over an open fireplace. Their brush shelters made in the form of an inverted V were no protection against the fall rains. There were also many bear and wolves. Therefore, one of their first priorities was to build small log houses roofed with cedar bark (later shingles). The floor was bare or covered with split logs, the chairs were blocks of wood and the beds were made of balsam branches. When a whip-saw was available, logs were ripped into planks for a door. The hinges were made of leather strips or knots and crotches of tree limbs. Stones mortared with clay were used for the fireplace and chimney.

There was no market for logs so most of them were piled and burned. The wheat was sown by hand, and a harrow, made with wood pins sloping so they would slide over the tree roots and low stumps, was dragged across the plot, usually by women and children, until the seed was covered. There was no milk or butter and very little bread. Fish, roots, berries and wild game made up a large part of the diet. After a year they also had potatoes and vegetables from their gardens. During the first few years, many of the men worked in Green Bay, Milwaukee or Chicago and the women did most of the field work such as planting, harvesting and threshing the wheat by hand. There was a flour mill in Bay Settlement and another in Algoma, but there weren't any roads. Women would carry a bushel of wheat on their heads and walk to the mill. The bag holding the wheat was arranged to form a hood over the head with one end, and the other end was tied to the back by a rope crossing under the arms. This left the hands free.

Louis Coisman chiseled two mill stones for Cornelius Massart at Rosiere in 1857 and these were used by many in the neighborhood. One of these stones is now located behind the church in Rosiere.

In the fall of 1857, the country was in a bad recession and many of the pioneers could not find jobs. Pine logs were selling for \$1.50 per thousand board feet on the bay shore, but there were no oxen or horses to haul the logs to the shore. However, pine shingles were selling for \$1.50 per thousand in Green Bay. The Belgians saw this as an opportunity to earn money and the entire family worked at making shingles. Pine logs were cut into eighteen inch lengths and split into half-inch thick shingles with an instrument called a froe. A bundle contained two-hundred-fifty shingles. These were carried to the bay shore, loaded on a small boat and hauled to a schooner anchored in deeper water. In 1868, four million handmade shingles were shipped out of Brussels. By this time, most of the settlers had a cow or two which produced a limited amount of milk. In cases when they did not own male oxen, the cows were often used to haul shingles and work in the fields.

The early Belgians all wore handmade wooden shoes when they were at home. Many of the settlers made their own.

At first, the dead were buried on the land they lived on. However, Father Daems told them that the dead should be buried in consecrated ground. After this, for several years, the dead were carried twenty or thirty miles on a stretcher to Bay Settlement for burial.

BUSINESS VENTURES

The period from 1865 to 1875 was a boom period with high prices and many employment opportunities. Lumber became very valuable, and a number of sawmills and shingle mills were built in various locations such as Red River, Dyckesville, Little Sturgeon, and Williamsonville (now Tornado Park).

Freeman Gardner's many enterprises in Little Sturgeon became the largest business establishment in Door County during this period. He built a sawmill in the late 1850s. In the early 1860s he built the first gristmill in the county, and a rooming house where farmers could cook and rest while waiting for their grist. He built two large storage buildings: 1) to store farm merchandise which he traded to the pioneers in exchange for all kinds of farm produce, and 2) to store all kinds of products before they were loaded on his ships and hauled to Milwaukee or Chicago. By the winter of 1868, he had added a shingle and lathe mill and a shipyard. By this time, as many as a hundred ships' carpenters were employed making vessels in addition to another 150 men who helped them by cutting and hauling logs. Some men were also employed to make burnt lime. After the Chicago fire in 1871, he built two more modern lime kilns. Most of the burnt lime was shipped to Chicago. During the early 1870s Gardner employed as many as 400 men.

His many enterprises stimulated the building of roads through the woods. He helped build the first rough road along the bay shore between Sturgeon Bay and Bay Settlement so that he could move some of his goods by land.

In 1875, the boom following the Chicago fire collapsed, and Gardner sold part of his holdings. In 1877, the mills and blacksmith shop were destroyed by fire and the remaining buildings were sold to the Piper Ice Company. Shortly after 1898, the ice houses were torn down and a few buildings were moved to Sturgeon Bay. Thereafter, business activity in Little Sturgeon ceased.

Sturgeon Bay was organized into a town called Otumba in 1857. It was incorporated as a village in 1874 and as the city of Sturgeon Bay in 1883.

THE FIRE OF 1871

The big fire on October 8, 1871 covered the entire Belgian settlement east of the Bay shore. More than 200 persons were burned to death, and 5000 were made homeless. Simultaneously, a fire on the west side of the Bay, often called the Peshtigo fire, brought death to more than 700 people and left thousands homeless in that area.

Hardly any rain had fallen for six months and the swamps, streams and many wells had dried up. By the middle of September, several swamp and forest fires were already out of control. Roads underlain with logs, rail fences and log piles were burning at various locations. On October 8, the air was full of dense stifling smoke and the sky took on a strange fire-like hue. In the evening, after the wind had calmed, a strong gust of wind suddenly started blowing accompanied with a loud roaring sound, large columns of smoke and flames flying all over. It was difficult to breathe. Birds, wild animals and domestic animals were frantic. People were terrified with the awesome surroundings.

At the Chapel, near Champion, many people sought safety within the Chapel grounds. From here they saw their buildings engulfed in fire. Nearly all of the farm buildings in the area were destroyed. The fire stopped at the Chapel fence, and the people who had been praying there that day considered this to be a miracle. The five acre grounds with the convent, school and frame chapel remained as a sharp contrast to the ashes and destruction outside of the grounds. The only livestock saved in that neighborhood were those within the chapel grounds. The chapel well was very shallow but it did not go dry. Many of the deeper wells in that vicinity were dry.

In the township of Brussels, nearly every settler lost all or most of his possessions and nine families were burned to death. The two log school houses and one church were also burned.

At Williamsonville, presently called Tornado Park, (in 1926 Joseph Pierre, Harvey LeMense and five other school boys planted some of the pine trees growing on the site) located four miles northeast of Brussels, the sawmill, store, shingle mill, boarding house, barn, blacksmith shop and eight dwellings were all destroyed. Sixty persons were burned to death. Some were found in the middle of a three acre potato field, and others were suffocated after having crawled into a well. Many of these people were buried in a common grave in the Dyckesville cemetery.

At Red River, a town then adjoining the Bay Shore on and one fourth miles north of Dyckesville, the rushing tornado of fire made a detour around the village. Other isolated areas near the shore in northern Union and Gardner townships escaped destruction. But in many places, even the green standing timber was destroyed.

In the Rosiere parish, all but three houses were burned. However, late on the night of October 8 and October 9, scattered light showers finally came. On the night of October 9, a heavy rain extinguished the fire.

CHURCH HISTORY

In early October, 1858, the Holy Virgin appeared to Adele Brisse, a young lady of twenty-seven, in the settlement of Aux Premiers Belges. She was walking along an Indian trail with a sack of wheat on her head when she first saw a lady dressed in white standing between two trees. Adele was frightened and stood still. The vision slowly disappeared, leaving a small white cloud. On the following Sunday, when she passed there again on her way to mass at Bay Settlement, with her sister and a neighbor lady, the same lady in white was at the place where Adele had seen her before. Again, she was frightened, and said in a hushed voice, "Oh, that lady is there again." Her companions did not see anything. The vision disappeared like it had the first time. Adele went to confession and told the priest about her experiences. The priest told her not to be troubled, but to ask in God's name who it was, and what was desired of her. On their journey home, Adele again saw the beautiful lady clothed in a long white dress with a yellow sash around her waist. Her long golden hair fell loosely over her shoulders. This time, Adele was not as frightened as before. She knelt and asked, "Who are you and what do you desire of me?" Our Blessed Mother told her that she was the Queen of the Heavens, and that Adele should pray for the conversion of sinners, that she should devote her time to teaching the children and that she should plan to have a chapel built nearby. That fall, Adele's father, Lambert, built the first chapel, a log structure ten by twelve feet in size, near the site of the apparition. For seven years, Adele made her trips through the settlements, all the way to Sturgeon Bay, gathering the children together and instructing them for their First Holy Communion. In 1865, Father Crud advised her to start a community of Sisters and to build a home and school where the children could come for instruction. Other buildings followed through the years. Children from the settlements were boarded and educated for a nominal fee. (Mary LeRoy stayed there for three months receiving instructions from Sister Adele and others early in the 1880s. Mary (Darlene) Pierre attended high school there in 1955 and 1956.

Sister Adele's accomplishments, her inspiration to the pioneers, her contributions to their spiritual and moral welfare, and her unselfish devotion to the work she had been asked to do resulted in benefits to the Belgian communities beyond our comprehension.

She suffered many hardships and tribulations, and for a short period, she was even treated as an outcast of the Church by some of the clergy.

After the chapel was built, at the site near Champion, Assumption day on August fifteenth became a special day of worship there. Large crowds gathered each year for services and a procession. Many people have apparently been cured at the Chapel through the intercession of our Lady. A large number of crutches have been left there.

The Belgian pioneers of Door County belonged to the Holy Cross Parish at Bay Settlement. This church was located some twenty or more miles from their homes. Father Daems would walk out to see them, and he would say mass in the home of Quillaum Delwiche in the town of Union, at every opportunity. The Delwiche home served as the

place of worship for pioneers living in Union, Garnder, and Brussels townships until 1860. (They were not individual townships at that time). In 1860, a log church, St. Mary's of the Snow, was built a mile east of the Delwiche home and the community was called Delwiche. (Later it was named Union, then Fairland, and is now known as Namur). Three acres of land were donated by Alexander Evrard where the present church is still located. The log church was burned in the 1871 fire. A new frame church was built, but on December 12, 1890, it too was destroyed by fire. In 1891, the present brick church was built. The frame school and Sisters' house was built in 1894. Abbot Bernard Pennings was the pastor at St. Mary's from 1893 to 1898. While stationed at St. Mary's, he also served the mission churches at Brussels, Gardner, Little Sturgeon and Duval. He left Namur in 1898 to become one of the founders of St. Norbert College.

The first church at Rosiere, St. Hubert, was also built in 1860. It was located one half mile northeast of the present church. There was some disagreement as to where the new church should be located after the old one burned down in the big 1871 fire. It was decided to rebuild St. Hubert in the village of Rosier, and to put up a new brick church, St. Michael, in the village of Misiere. St. Hubert was taken down in 1932-33, and the present stone church was completed in 1933. The old brick church at Misiere is still there but it has not been in use for about five years.

In 1866, St. John the Baptist Church was built on acreage donated by Jean Joseph Robin in Section 20, Gardner township, four miles north of Brussels. Land consecrated for the cemetery was found to be shallow over limestone rock. A stone wall was built about six feet high around the cemetery and filled with soil for a burial site. This church, too, was destroyed by the fire of 1871.

There was a swamp north of St. John the Baptist and the road through it was often impassable in the spring or at times of heavy rainfall. After the fire, the people north of the swamp decided to build a new church, called St. Joseph, one mile north of St. John's. Jean Robin paid most of the cost of rebuilding St. John the Baptist on the old site. However, in 1894, it was again destroyed by fire, and the parishioners then transferred to St. Francis Xavier.

In those days, a priest would generally serve as the pastor for two or more churches.

The parish of St. Francis Xavier was organized in 1877, and a church was erected one mile north of Brussels. This was replaced by the present brick church which was built there in 1909.

KERMIS

The first Kermis in the new settlement was held at Rosiere in 1858 on the same Sunday that it was being celebrated in Rosiere, Belgium. It was organized by a committee to simulate the Kermis held in Belgium. After attending mass, the band played, the people

danced folk dances on the road, all kinds of refreshments were provided and everyone enjoyed the get-together for a day.

In the years that followed, Kermisses were held in each parish and the people celebrated the harvest for three days, dancing, visiting, partaking of much food and drink, and attending various activities such as foot races, feats of strength, climbing greased poles, catching greased pigs, and giving a blindfolded man a scythe with which he was supposed to decapitate a partially buried goose.

These Kermis activities have gradually declined over the past forty years. Today, they generally consist of a simple Sunday dinner, served with Belgian pie, to the relatives who are invited for the occasion, and a dance at the local dancehall.

REVEREND FATHER EDWARD DAEMS

Father Daems was born near Diest, Belgium on August 26, 1826. He came to America in September of 1851 and for a few months he served as an assistant-pastor at Little Chute. In May, 1852, he came to Bay Settlement and became the first resident clergyman for the Holy Cross Parish. In June, a new church was built replacing a small log church that had been used by visiting priests from Green Bay.

When the first group of Belgians arrived in Green Bay in 1853, Father Daems was responsible for getting them to settle in his parish. It is estimated that ten thousand Belgians settled in the forests east and northeast of Bay Settlement during the years 1853 to 1860. His parish was fifty miles long and ten miles wide and he traveled on foot, holding mass in log cabins when away from Bay Settlement, baptizing the children, marrying couples and burying the dead. He was pastor, friend and advisor. He was also familiar with medical remedies and acted as their only doctor. News from the old and new country, or happenings in the parish were usually obtained through him. He was cheerful, energetic, humorous and his narratives were entertaining. His visits were cherished by the pioneers.

Father Daems died of pneumonia at Bay Settlement on February 12, 1879, and his remains are buried in the Holy Cross cemetery.

JEAN JOSEPH PIERRE (1797-1858) AND MARIE FRANCOIS LA ROSE (1800-1879)

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Records at the population register for the commune of Noville-Sur-Mehaigne in the Province of Brabant revealed that Jean Joseph Pierre was born in Noville, Belgium on June 18, 1797. His parents Jean Charles Pierre and Marie Danniell, and his grandparents Jean Joel Pierre and Jeanne Barbier were also natives of Noville. Jean Charles Pierre was a constable, either an officer of high rank in the Belgian monarchy, or the governor of a castle to a great baron, throughout his adult life. Jean Joseph was a butcher by trade. In 1825, he married Marie Francois La Rose. Marie was born in St. Gerard, Belgium on December 6, 1800. Their children were:

Rosalie Joseph Pierre born in	St. Gerard	Jan 7, 1827
Alexander Joseph Pierre	Noville-S.M.	Apr. 19, 1833
Francois Joseph Pierre	Noville-S.M.	Oct. 29, 1836
Florine Joseph Pierre	Noville-S.M.	Jan. 29, 1845

Florine died on February 21, 1848.

Rosalie married Xavier Joseph Janquet in Noville-S.M. on June 28, 1854. Xavier Janquet was born in Grand-Rosiere-Hottomont on December 26, 1829. One daughter, Florence, was born in Noville-S.M. on March 31, 1855. They left Noville for Grand Rosiere on March 16, 1856.

Jean Joseph Pierre (at 58 years of age), his wife (55), and two sons, Alexander (23) and Francois (19) left for America on March 16, 1856. They left from the port at Antwerp on a sailing vessel called the "Julia Howard." There were one hundred thirty-two emigrants on board. The ship passenger list indicates that seven of the passengers were from Switzerland, and the other one hundred twenty-five were Belgian farmers and their families. One person died en route. They landed at New Orleans on May 27, 1856. Then the Pierres boarded a shallow bottom Mississippi steamboat and traveled north on the Mississippi River to Alton, Illinois, where they lived until 1858. Alton had been incorporated as a city in 1837 and it was a busy river port. It is believed that Francois and Alexander began to learn the English language while they lived at Alton. Jean Joseph Pierre worked in a brick yard in Alton, and he died of a stroke while employed there in the winter of 1857-58 at age 60. His two sons, Francois and Alexander, worked in Chicago that winter. It is reported that they walked to and from Chicago on Indian and buffalo trails near the Illinois River. Since the river was being used to transport furs, lumber, and farm products during this period, one would expect that they may have had an occasional boat ride but this was not reported. When they returned to Alton in the spring, they learned that their father had died and that he was buried in a corner of their yard near the garden. Their mother had been unable to let them know. They and their mother then left for the Belgian settlement in northeastern Wisconsin. Records in the

Register of Deeds office for Door County show that Francois Pierre had placed a claim on 160 acres of land one and one-half miles northeast of Rosiere on May 25, 1857. If these records are accurate they would indicate that the move had been planned for a long time, and that one of Francois' Belgian friends had place the claim for him. Again it is reported that the family walked to Brussels, Wisconsin, and that they arrived there in the summer of 1858. As they traveled north, they stopped a few times to work on farms in Illinois and southern Wisconsin. The sons made their mother a brush shelter to live in while they were employed. Marie Francois Pierre died in Brussels, Wisconsin. Records are not available for that period, but we believe that she was buried at Misiere. Gabe Pierre Jr. was told that she died in 1879 or 1880.

Alexander Pierre married Celestine Mignon in 1860 and established his own homestead on land earlier claimed from the government in Misiere. They were the parents of several children, but the only survivors were Joseph and John. The others died at a very young age. Celestine died at the age of forty-nine. Alexander then sold the Misiere homestead and bought land in Union township. He married Philipine Ducat Lampereur in 1889. She had been born in Thorambales-Belgiune, Belgium in 1832. Her first husband, J. Ducat, had been shot and killed in Green Bay when he was thirty-two years of age. At the time of her marriage to Alexander, she owned and operated a store and tavern (the present Belgian Inn) east of the Church in Namur. This was the first store and tavern in the township. After this marriage they sold the store and tavern, the forty next to it and other land in Union township, and moved to Green Bay where Alexander ran a butcher shop and bought cattle. A son, Joseph, worked in the butcher shop. The other son, John, moved to Appleton where he worked in a paper mill.

After Philipine died in 1903, Alexander and Joseph also moved to Appleton. There he lived with Joseph, Joseph's wife Josephine DeKeyser, and their family until he died at the age of seventy-nine. He is buried in St. Mary's cemetery at Appleton.

GABRIEL DEKEYSER (1810-1893) AND ROSALIE SPREUTELS (1804-1887)

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Gabriel DeKeyser was born at La Hulpe, Southeast of Brussels, Belgium, on March 13, 1810. His parents were Jean Baptiste DeKeyser born at La Hulpe in 1774 and Anne Marie Anaise born at Genval in 1781. Gabriel was a farmer and worked as a plasterer. His left ear was cut off during a sword duel while he fought in the army for Belgium independence. This war was won and Belgium became an independent nation in 1830. Gabriel married Rosalie Spreutels that year. Rosalie was born near Waterloo at Alland in June 1804. Her family lived within sight of the battlefield where Napoleon was defeated on June 18, 1815. During the battle, the family hid and lived in the forest. They returned to their home for supplies during the night, but the soldiers stole their cattle, their chickens and most of their vegetables. The family saw many dead soldiers, dead horses, abandoned cannons with broken wheels and other ravages of the war. More than 40,000 men were killed within an area of three square miles. The children born to Rosalie and Gabriel were all born in LaHulpe, Belgium. They were: Theresa, Walter, Joseph and Angelique.

Theresa married Gabriel Dricot and they raised their family of six children in Brussels, Belgium. Their children were Alex, Marie who married Oscar Charlier at LaHulpe, Ferdinand, Sendonia, Eugene and Aldegonde. A son of Eugene, Rene Dricot born in 1909, now lives at 9 Avenue des Vallons, 1410 Waterloo. A son of Ferdinand, Gabriel Dricot born in 1908, now lives at 4 Avenue de la Rochefoucauld, 25 Rue de Stulle, 1180 Brussels, Belgium.

Gabriel DeKeyser, at the age of 45, Rosalie 51, and three of their children, Walter 23, Joseph 17, and Angelique 15, left LaHulpe for America on April 27, 1855. They sailed from the port at Antwerp, Belgium to Quebec, Canada, on a ship called the Quennebec. From Quebec, they transferred to various canal and lake steamboats for their journey to Green Bay. Details of their experiences shortly after their arrival in Green Bay are not available. Angelique later stated that the family was very grateful for the help that Father Daems gave them. They settled in the present township of Union, one and three fourths miles west of Brussels. The claim on this eighty acres of land was recorded on July 20, 1857, and payment for the deed was made on May 2, 1859. It has remained in the DeKeyser family through four generations, and is presently owned by Gabe DeKeyser.

As was the case with all pioneers in the area, their land had to be cleared of trees before it could be planted to crops. Some of the logs were used for firewood; however, most of the trees from the clearings were burned. They used pine and cedar logs to build their log home and their log barn. (Two of the present barns on the farm still have log bases.) They made shingles from cedar logs, which were cut, carried, and split by hand with simple tools. The shingles were then tied into bundles by placing a cedar stick on the two flat sides and tying the outside ends tightly with leather strips. The bundles were carried

through the woods along Indian paths for four miles to the Green Bay shore where they were loaded on boats and sold. The entire family participated in this job, and it was a primary source of their income for several years.

Rosalie Spreutels DeKeyser died in Namur, Wisconsin, in 1887.

Gabriel DeKeyser returned to Brussels, Belgium, to visit his daughter, Theresa, and her family in 1888. He died in Namur, Wisconsin, on April 30, 1893, at the age of 83.

Both were buried in the old cemetery near St. Mary's church at Namur. The actual site of their graves was obliterated when the church grounds of the old cemetery were remodeled to facilitate its upkeep. The remaining gravestones (the wooden markers were badly deteriorated by this time) were placed in a group at one location in the former cemetery.

FRANCOIS PIERRE (1836-1914) AND ANGELIQUE DEKEYSER (1840-1916)

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Francois Pierre, his brother Alexander, and their mother arrived in the area now known as Brussels Township in the summer of 1858. The area was covered with a virgin forest of pine, cedar, hemlock, beech, maple, oak and other tree species. Very little sunshine filtered down through the heavy foliage. With an ax and a few simple tools they made a temporary shelter out of logs caulked with clay and covered with cedar bark. They prepared their meals over an open fire, and evergreen branches were brought into the shelter and arranged to serve as their beds.

The brothers proceeded to place their claim on a large acreage. The land was bought from the government, over a period of several years, at prices that varied from fifty cents to one dollar and a quarter per acre. Much of this land was later sold to immigrants who arrived in the years that followed. The date of the claim on a part of the home farm, which was purchased by Francois, is listed as November 8, 1858. This land, where the present farm buildings are located, was paid for on January 3, 1860, and it has remained in the family through four generations. Phil Pierre and his family now own and operate the farm.

During the winter months of 1858-59 one of the brothers went to Milwaukee where he found employment in a brick yard. He was paid fifty cents a day, out of which he had to pay for his room and board. At intervals, he would walk from Milwaukee to Brussels to see and help provide for his mother. The other brother stayed with their mother in Brussels and was occupied locally. The specific dates or intervals when each brother worked in Milwaukee are not known. Francois told his son, Gabe, that he once bought a pair of shoes while working at the brick yard and he carried them all the way home as he walked on Indian trails.

They continued to cut trees and clear land whenever they found time to do so. In the spring of 1859 the ground between the stumps was cultivated by hand with a grub hoe for their first limited planting of wheat, potatoes and a few vegetables. In the meantime, they had built a log house in a location near the site of the present farm house, and they had dug an open well for their water supply. One of the brothers continued to work in Milwaukee during the winter of 1859-1860.

In 1858, a township was organized for an area that now includes the townships of Brussels, Union and Gardner. The first election was held in April 1859 at the new store of Michael Smith in Sugar Creek (three and one-half miles north of Namur. The township was named Brussels. Francois Pierre was elected as town chairman in 1861. Two other men had each served for one year in 1859 and 1860. Francois did not care for public office and he avoided any further consideration of being nominated or elected.

Francois was a big, strong man. In his prime he weighed about 300 pounds and he was six feet four inches tall. There are many legends attesting to his strength. One of these refers to an incident when two of his husky full-grown sons were struggling with one end of a large log which they were attempting to load on a sled. He said, "What's the matter with you boys?" Whereupon he picked up the entire log, in the middle of its length, and loaded it alone. He was known to have stopped fights between supposedly tough characters by taking each combatant by the scruff of the neck and holding them apart, off the floor, at arms length. He spoke kindly, slowly, in a moderate tone, and in either Belgian, French or English. He learned to speak, read and write the English language after arriving in the States. A copy of a letter he wrote a year prior to his death is seen on the next page. He made many friends, and the Potawatomi Indians were among them.

In the summer of 1861 the settlers were informed that Fort Sumter had been fired upon, on April 12, and that the country was at war. This was the start of a four year Civil War that lasted until April 9, 1865. Due in part to lack of communications, the pioneers felt little concern and somewhat isolated from the war. The northern "Union" army was made up of volunteers. However, in 1863, a draft was started. A man who was drafted could serve or, if he had money, he could hire someone to go in his place. It is reported that Francois chose to spend some time in the woods with his friends, the Potawatomes, to avoid being drafted. This does not sound reasonable in lieu of the fact that he was postmaster and was married at the time of the alleged incident, but there may be some truth to the story. Many of the Belgians had left their homeland partly because of the repeated wars taking place there.

Francois Pierre married Angelique DeKeyser on October 4, 1861. She had arrived from Belgium in 1855 with her parents and two brothers when she was fifteen years old. Her parents had settled on eighty acres of land located a mile and three-fourths west of Brussels. She was a strong pioneer woman who was accustomed to tasks such as carrying a bundle of shingles from her home to the Bay Shore, or carrying a bushel of wheat on her head and back to Bay Settlement to have it ground into whole wheat flour.

Late in that same year of 1861, Francois and Angelique opened a tavern on their land, one half mile west of the present village of Brussels. Up to this time there had been no business activity in the area. Also, the post office which had been located at Sugar Creek, in Michael Smith's store for nearly three years, was transferred to the tavern, and Francois Pierre became the first postmaster. The area and the post office were given the name Brussels, Wisconsin. Francois retained the postmaster's job there for forty years.

The mail from Green Bay to Sturgeon Bay was delivered to the tavern twice each week via pony express. The rider would travel about thirty miles from Green Bay to Pierre's. Here he would rest overnight, eat and change horses, then ride to Sturgeon Bay and back to Pierre's. On the third day, he would ride back to Green Bay. The pioneers picked up their mail at the tavern. For many of them, this was a walk of three or more miles one way. Since they generally did not receive much mail anyway, the trips to the post office were usually infrequent.

Francois and Angelique continued to clear land. They grew more wheat and clover-timothy as a forage crop for livestock. Oxen were acquired and used to till the soil, skid logs, and pull the wagons or the sleds. In the late sixties, they bought their first kerosene lamps and lanterns. (The kerosene lamp came into use shortly after the discovery of petroleum in 1859.) The lamp was a great improvement over candles or the open fireplace.

The building of a rough road between Sturgeon Bay and Green Bay through Brussels, was started during this decade and it was completed as a stage route in 1870. Pierre's Tavern, located on the route which had formerly been an Indian path near their home, served as a kind of halfway house where stagecoach passengers and others could stop for food and refreshments. A barn was built so that the horses could be stabled and fed, and a few guest rooms were made available for overnight accommodations. During inclement weather several Indians would sometimes spend the night in the tavern. They would generally sleep on the floor. The log barn had shingles on the roof, and round blocks of cedar cut into eight inch lengths and laid upright side by side for a floor. The wooden blocks were held in place by packing clay around them. A section of the barn was reserved for the mail rider's horse, the stagecoach teams and other horses belonging to people who stopped there.

There were no doctors or dentists available to serve the early pioneers. The solution for a bad toothache was to have the tooth pulled. Francois Pierre was often asked to extract teeth for the neighbors and he would do so with a pliers and three other small dental tools. Gabe Pierre Jr. still owns one of the antique dental tools used by Francois. After Francois retired, his son Gabe Sr. used the same tools for similar dental work in the village of Brussels until the early 1900s.

The passenger pigeons were very abundant during this period. Large flocks would settle on the wheat stubble throughout the fall months. They were good to eat and they contributed to the pioneer fare.

On the second Sunday of October, in 1871, the big fire roared across the settlement. Francois Pierre was one of the few who was fortunate enough to save his family and his buildings. The majority of his farm neighbors and their families survived but most of them lost their buildings, feed, equipment and some livestock. My dad, Joe, remembered the fire. He and his oldest brothers were placed in an open field with a supply of water to douse the sparks and flames which came near them, while his parents and a few other adults constantly poured water on the buildings. Dad also remembered seeing the dead people from Williamsonville, black corpses loaded on wagons like cordwood, as they were being hauled on the stage route towards Dyckesville for burial in a common grave. The wagons had stopped overnight at the Pierre Tavern. Williamsonville's five year old shingle and sawmill, and the homes nearby, had been destroyed by the fire, and most of the employees had perished. The mill and the homes were located on the site of Tornado Park northeast of Brussels.

Freeman Gardner's extensive business enterprises near the Bay in Little Sturgeon survived the big fire. (See Introduction.) His mills and shops continued to service the pioneers until February 1, 1877, when fire broke out in the blacksmith shop and spread to the mills destroying them. Fire-fighting equipment was limited to pails of water filled at the nearest source and carried to the flaming buildings.

In or about 1880, the Pierre home that had survived the 1871 holocaust caught fire and burned to the ground. Jule Pierre told his daughter, Grace, that he and his Grandmother La Rose Pierre were alone in the house when the fire started. He remembered the occasion, but he was too young to remember much about it. (He was born in 1877). A large new wooden frame house was built across the road. About one-half of the second floor was used as a dance hall, and the balance was used for lodging rooms. Later the entire floor was converted to a total of ten bedrooms. The first floor consisted three bedrooms, a large kitchen, a sitting room, and a large dining room between the kitchen and the tavern with connecting doors between them. The tavern was a large room on the west end of the building with double doors to the outside. A small room on the south end of the tavern was the post office. There were three chimneys: one for a heater in the tavern, another for a heater in the sitting room, and a third for the large iron kitchen stove. The basement had stone walls and an earth floor. It was an ideal place to store beer, fruit, potatoes, carrots and cabbage. The cabbages were brought in with their roots intact and place upright side by side with their roots imbedded in sand. In this manner they were usable through most of the winter. Shelves in the basement were also a good place to store many Belgian pies and other pastries prepared for special occasions such as weddings and the Kermiss.

In 1881 George and Matthew Bottkol built a steam-powered flour mill one-half mile south of the present village of Brussels. In 1883, it was sold to the Pierre-Virlee Company, a partnership consisting of Francois and Alex Pierre, Antone Virlee and Joseph DeKeyser (Angelique Pierre's brother). The company added a sawmill, a new modern brick general store and a creamery. They built a boarding house where employees ate their meals and where some also took rooms. The creamery started as a butter-making plant where farmers delivered and sold their milk. Butter was packed into tubs weighing about sixty pounds and hauled to Green Bay. An ice house was built to store the ice used to cool the cream. The ice was cut with a large hand saw in a pond just west of the premises; then it was hauled inside on sleds and packed in sawdust (from the sawmill) where it was preserved throughout the summer.

In the fall of 1902, the Pierre-Virlee Company was sold to Antone, Alex and Justin Chaudoir Sr. In 1906 Denis Befay bought one share, one-third of the partnership for \$4,600; then about a year later he bought the other two shares. Denis died in 1912 and the company was sold to Joe, Eli and Justin Chaudoir Jr., and William Baudhuin, a brother-in-law of the Chaudoirs. The flour mill was destroyed by fire on December 14, 1916. It was rebuilt but soon converted into a grist mill to grind feed for farmers. In 1917, the creamery was sold to a group of farmers who converted it to a cheese factory. In 1920 Eli and his son, Francis, bought the store and the mills. In 1923, the mills were destroyed by

fire and they were not rebuilt. The general store remained in operation for many years. Mary Bournoville closed it several years after her husband, Francis Chaudoir died.

Francois and Angelique Pierre attended the World Exposition (World Fair) in Chicago in 1893. They traveled to Green Bay on a stagecoach which was a wagon with two seats, and to Chicago and back on a train.

Francois Pierre retired from the Postal Service in 1901. The post office was moved to a room in the back end of the Pierre-Virlee store at the "Mill." Frank Quartemont became postmaster for one year; then Moses Gilson followed him for a period of nine months. Thereafter, Jule Pierre was the postmaster for about forty-three years. In 1904 the post office was moved to the "five corners" (the center of the village where five roads meet).

The tavern at the farm was closed when Frank Pierre, a son, opened the Brussel House at the five corners in 1900.

The home farm was sold to Joseph Pierre, another son, in 1901.

Francois, Angelique and daughter Ellen lived at the farm in Brussels for a few years after it was sold, then they moved to Abrams for a brief period. They bought a house there which remained in their names until the 1920s. One of their daughters, Mary, her family, and her husband, Desire Baudhuin, lived in the house. The Baudhuins bought the house from the estate in the 1920s and they continued to live in it until they retired to Gary, Indiana, in or about 1940. In 1906 (approx.) Francois, Angelique and Ellen moved to Beaver where one of the sons, Henry, and his wife, and a daughter, Elizabeth and her husband Frank Swoboda, were engaged in a business partnership. They lived in back of the Pierre-Swoboda store with Elizabeth and her family.

On August 18, 1912, Francois and Angelique celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. (They had been married on October 4, 1861.) A son, Alphonse, had arranged for church services, a big dinner, other refreshments, and a family photo at Oconto. People from Brussels rode a steamboat, the Nettie Dennisen, from Chaudoir's dock to Oconto and back.

In March of 1914 Francois and Angelique went to visit their daughter Mary and family in Abrams. While there, Francois became ill. He died there June 14, 1914, and is buried in the present Namur cemetery.

After Francois died, Angelique decided to move to Oconto. She bought a house on Pecour Street next door to her son, Alphonse, and his family. Ellen and Elizabeth, with her two children, Blance and Joe Swoboda moved to Oconto with her in 1915. Elizabeth felt that she should be on hand to give her mother some assistance and companionship, and that her children should attend a Catholic school there. Frank Swoboda continued to work in Beaver and rode a train to Oconto to see his family on weekends. Gabe Pierre Jr. lived with them during the school year of 1915-16 while he went to Oconto High School. The following year, 1916-17, his senior year in school, he lived with Alphonse in Oconto.

On May 25, 1916, Angelique went shopping in Green Bay with Alphonse and his wife, Lucy. She became ill while they were shopping so they stopped to see a doctor; then they walked to DeLair's Restaurant for lunch. When she sat in the booth at the restaurant, she suddenly slumped over and died almost instantly. DeLair's was located at 208 North Washington Street where Penney's boys department is presently in business. Angelique is also buried at Namur.

Francois and Angelique were the parents of seven sons and six daughters. All of them were born at home with the help of kindly neighbors or relatives.

Gabe, the oldest, took a bookkeeping course at the business college in Green Bay in 1883. The college was located on Washington Street where Bertrand's Sport Shop is now located. From 1884 to 1898 he worked as a bookkeeper for the Pierre-Virlee Company. Then he built a machine shop in the village of Brussels and sold farm machinery there until his death. In 1906 and 1907 he built a brick store in the center of the village. Here he sold all kinds of general merchandise and groceries. He also built a cheese factory which was operated by his son, Wilfred, in the late 1920s and 1930s. The general store was operated by Gabe Jr. from 1922 to 1926; another son, Orbie, who was a trained mechanic, ran the machine shop for many years after Gabe Sr. died.

Gabe always used a cane to walk. As a boy of fourteen, he had been riding on the back runner of a big sleigh and he was thrown off when the sled hit an icy rut. The ball joint in his hip was dislocated, and since he did not receive medical attention, the hip did not heal properly.

Gabe married Anna Marshek on June 29, 1897, and she died one year later after the birth of a boy, Gabe Jr. In November of 1900 he married Majijoseph Le Mense and they were the parents of four children.

Gabe died on May 4, 1928 at the age of sixty-four.

Alphonse Pierre worked for the proprietor of a printing shop in Sturgeon Bay for a year and for the Pierre-Virlee Company for a couple of years; then, in 1886, at the age of twenty-two he went to Oconto and established a small feed store. In 1888, he went to Minneapolis where he studied to become a grain broker. While in Minneapolis he also worked as a reporter on The Minneapolis Express. In 1892, he married Lucy Brazeau.

Her dad was Samuel Brazeau. He was born in Montreal, Canada, in 1830; arrived in Two Rivers in 1848; went to Oconto in 1850 and established a lumber business; and in 1870 he formed a partnership with a brother, F.X. Brazeau, in a general merchandise store in Oconto.

In 1893, Alphonse began his feed and elevator operation in Oconto and his enterprise became the third largest industry in the city. The business on Millidge Avenue included a feed mill, a grain elevator, three huge grain warehouses, several salt sheds, and a large

office. The fifteen thousand bushel capacity grain elevator was brought from Green Bay by barge and floated into town on the Oconto River in 1903.

Alphonse held seats on the Milwaukee and Chicago Chambers of Commerce and he was on the Oconto County Board of Supervisors for twenty-eight consecutive years.

After World War I, Alphonse lost a large amount of money when he bought wheat on margin with the expectation that the price would go up. Many other grain brokers and businessmen throughout the country also lost heavily when the price of wheat took a severe drop.

Alphonse died in Oconto in 1925 at the age of sixty-one. His funeral at St. Peter's Church was attended by a huge crowd.

Frank Pierre married Pauline Gigot, January 4, 1897. He worked in his dad's tavern until 1900 when he built a brick tavern and dance hall, the "Brussel House" in the center of the village. He and his wife operated this tavern for a few years. They then sold it to Marcellan Bourneville and bought a similar establishment at Rose Lawn located about five miles north of Seymour. In a few years they sold that too, and bought a tavern on the northeastern edge of Green Bay, at the present junction of highway 57 and County Trunk N, across the road from a grist mill. After Frank left Green Bay, his wife, Pauline, continued to run this tavern until the 1940s when she died as the result of an accident.

The Brussel House was destroyed by fire in 1923. The fire was discovered as a small flame on the roof near the chimney. This happened on a Sunday morning when people were on their way home from Mass and a large crowd quickly gathered. Dozens of water buckets were obtained from Gabe Pierre Jr.'s store next door and a bucket brigade was setup to move water from Bouches' horse trough across the road to the flames but they were unable to stop the destruction.

Frank went to Calina, Colorado, and operated the Richmond gold mine jointly owned in a partnership with his brother, Alphonse. This venture was not a success. He then moved to Sacramento, California, where he lived until his death.

Elizabeth, the oldest daughter, taught school in a small one-room schoolhouse near Misiere from 1898 through 1900. On January 9, 1901, she married Frank Swoboda who was a cheesemaker at Kolberg from 1900 through 1901. He had learned cheese making at the University of Wisconsin. In 1902 they bought a general store in Abrams in partnership with Desire Baudhuin who was married to Mary Pierre, Elizabeth's sister. In 1903, they sold their half of the Abrams store to William Baudhuin, Desire Baudhuin's brother. Then they moved to Beaver and, in partnership with Henry Pierre, they bought a general store there and erected a farm machinery shop. Frank and Lizie ran the general store. Henry was responsible for the farm machine shop and he also bought and sold potatoes and grain. In 1916, Frank Swoboda sold out at Beaver to Henry Pierre. Then they moved back to Abrams where they bought a hardware store next door to their former general store. On July 4, 1923, most of the business places in Abrams were destroyed by

fire and the Swoboda hardware was one of the casualties. Thereafter, Frank operated a small tavern in Abrams until he died. Frank had a knack for getting along with people. He spoke seven languages. Although his ancestors were not Belgian, he spoke the language well. Frank and Elizabeth are buried in Casco, Wisconsin.

Mary Pierre and her husband, Desire Baudhuin, moved to Abrams, January 20, 1902. As mentioned above, they formed a partnership in a general store with Frank Swoboda, and a year later with William Baudhuin. William had a drinking problem and one day he sold his half of the store to a stranger without consulting his brother. Desire then sold his half of the store and he became postmaster at Abrams. He held this position until 1932 when the Democrats were elected. Desire then worked in the Abrams Bank until he retired. Occasionally, he also helped Frank Swoboda in the tavern. After retiring, he and Mary moved to Gary, Indiana, where their daughters were located. They are buried in the Calumet Park cemetery in Gary, Indiana.

Henry Pierre and Jule Pierre both attended Valparaiso College in Indiana where they took a bookkeeping course. After that they both worked in the Pierre-Virlee Company Store until 1902 or 1903. Henry and his wife, Octavia, then moved to Beaver where Henry formed a partnership with Frank Swoboda. In 1916, he bought the entire business and continued it until his death. Henry died of cancer in his early forties. Octavia served as postmistress in Beaver. She later moved to California and to Kansas City, Missouri, where she lived with her daughter, Eunice, until her death in 1973. Henry and Octavia are buried in the Allouez cemetery in Green Bay.

Jule Pierre became postmaster in Brussels in 1903 or 1904 and remained in that position 43 years. From 1904 to 1907 the post office was located on the south end of Gabe Pierre's machine shop, near the road. Jule and his wife, Mary Novak, whom he married on November 14, 1899, also lived in the front part of the shop for a few years. In 1907, the post office was moved to a room in the back end of Gabe Pierre's store where it remained for more than fifty years. In the meantime, Jule and his wife had built a brick home on the northeast edge of the village. Here they owned about eight acres of land where they kept a cow for their supply of milk, and they planted a cherry orchard which they maintained for about thirty years. After his retirement, Jule moved to Fond du Lac where he lived with a daughter, Grace, until his death on February 17, 1958, at the age of eighty-one. Jule and Mary are buried in the Brussels' cemetery.

Ellen Pierre, the youngest member of the family, lived with her parents until they died. After her mother died in 1916, she continued to live alone in the house on Pecour Street in Oconto for several years. During this time she acted like a lost person and became careless about the neatness and upkeep of herself and her home. Her brother, Alphonse, finally took her to a mental institution, the Winnebago State Hospital, and she remained there until her death at the age of ninety-one. People who knew her believe that she would have not been placed in an institution if medical technology and psychiatry had not been so primitive at the time when she went there. She is buried in the Namur cemetery.

Jean Pierre, a son, and Angelique, a daughter, both died from a scarlet fever epidemic in February of 1885. He was four years and eight months of age, and she was then years old. Both are buried in the Misiere cemetary. Two other daughters, Eliza, who was two years and three months of age, and Amanda, who was an infant, died in 1870. The courthouse records show that Eliza died of a fever.

MAXIMILLIEN LEROY (1797-1864) AND ALEXANDRINE GLIME (1803-1877)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

We are indebted to Henri Jadin, a farmer from Emnes Belgium, for the information that he provided on the LeRoy and Motte ancestors in Belgium. He has been a good friend for many years and we are very grateful for his help. We also appreciate all of the information that Josie Wautlet obtained from Regime Gerard in Belgium, the recollections and otherwise available material provided by Margaret LeRoy Monfils and her parents who shared old Belgian papers they had saved at the homestead in Brussels, Wisconsin, and the contributions from William Pierre, Lillian Neuville, Jean Conard, Aunt Desiree Wautier and Aunt Lizzie Mallien.

Maximillien LeRoy was born at Longchamps, in the Province of Namur, Belgium, on January 3, 1797. His father, Jacques LeRoy, was born at Longchamps in 1756 and he died there on March 27, 1804. Maximillien's mother, Marie Catherine Phillipaux was born at Tillier in 1758 and she died at Longchamps on August 6, 1826. Maximillien had a son, Gregory, and a daughter named Eugenie from his first marriage. In 1833 he married Alexandrine Glime at Emnes. She had been born there in 1803. Her father Guillaume Glime and her mother Marie Therese Defraux lived and died in Emnes.

Maximillien and Alexandrine were the parents of two sons and two daughters. The oldest son, Hubert, was born at Emnes on September 26, 1834. Nicolas was born at Warisoulx on April 1, 1837. The daughters were named Augustine and Desiree. Maximillien died on March 24, 1864, and Alexandrine died on September 23, 1877. They are buried in Warisoulx.

Old family papers indicate that the LeRoy family lived at Villers-lez-Heest. However, the Belgian records list Warisoulx as their official place of residence. The two towns are located within two or three miles of each other. Warisoulx served as the commune (town hall or municipality) for the villages of Villers-lez-Heest, Emnes and Warisoulx until they were separated into three communes in 1880. Therefore, even though the Belgian records list Warisoulx as their official place of residence, it is apparent that they lived at Villers-lez-Heest.

Hubert and Nicolas are the only members of this family who emigrated to the United States. Augustine married Paul Denis, and Desiree married Elaire Mobile. Both of these families lived at Emnes, Belgium. My grandfather, Nicolas, married Marie Jo Motte at Emnes (their lives and experiences are discussed in a separate section). Hubert married Therese Pirotte in Belgium but she died there at a young age and had no children. He left Warisoulx for the United States on May 25, 1871 and landed at New York. In November of 1872 he applied for citizenship in Green Bay where he lived and worked as a stone cutter. On May 7, 1878, he obtained eighty acres of wet timber land (the N¹/₂ of NW¹/₄, Section 19, in Brussels township) from "The Sturgeon Bay and Lake Michigan Ship

Canal and Harbor Company”, for a down payment of eighty dollars. This land was acquired as a homestead for Nicolas and his family who were to arrive in the summer of 1878. Hubert’s deed, recorded in the Door County register’s office, July 14, 1880, shows that he had paid a total of one hundred sixty-two dollars for the land before he received the deed. The actual land transfer from Hubert to Nicolas was started on the day that Hubert obtained his deed (July 14, 1880).

In 1882 Hubert married Maria J. Boden, the daughter of William Boden and Teresa Guillmanie. They lived at 901 Pine Street in Green Bay. There were no children from this marriage, but they raised a daughter of Maria’s from a previous marriage. She was Melonine. Melonine married Fred Zellner and Hubert lived with them after Maria died. Maria died at the age of sixty-eight on September 28, 1900. Hubert died on May 8, 1913 at the age of seventy-nine. He and his wife are buried in the Allouez Cemetary in Green Bay. The name LeRoy was spelled Leroy in Belgium. In the 1880 Door County census it was written phonetically, the way the name sounds in Walloon, as Lerway.

JEAN BAPTISTE EUGENE MOTTE (1815-1858) AND MARIE THERESE BILAUDE (1812-1853)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Jean Baptiste Eugene Motte was born at Noville-sur-Mehaigne in the province of Brabant, Belgium, on November 25, 1815. His parents were Henri Joseph Motte, born in 1793, and Marie Catherine Sarton. Jean Baptiste and his father were day laborers domiciled at Noville-sur-Mehaigne.

Jean Baptiste married Marie Therese Eugenie Bilaude in or about 1840. She was twenty-eight years old and he was twenty-five. They were the parents of four children whose names were Eugene, August, Marie Joseph and Louis. Marie Therese died on April 4, 1853, and Jean Baptiste subsequently married a lady who was mean to the children. Marie Joseph, a daughter, later told her family that her step-mother would often slap the children when they made simple requests such as asking for a piece of bread. Jean Baptiste died on February 22, 1858. He and his wife Marie died and are buried in Noville-sur-Mehaigne.

After their father died, the children went to live with their grandparents. However, in lieu of their very meager circumstances they all went to work as children and they had very little time to attend school. Marie Joseph was the only member of the family who later emigrated to the United States. Louis Motte lived at Emines, Belgium. It is reported that he was a farm laborer and that he had 3 children. August and Eugene became glass blowers or glass workers in Liege, Belgium.

NICOLAS JOSEPH LEROY (1837-1911) AND MARIE JOSEPH MOTTE (1847-1920)

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Nicolas LeRoy was born in Warisoulx, Belgium. He was drafted into the Belgian army on May 27, 1857 and served for a period variously reported as being three to twelve years. An old army book with his name and records for the years of 1857, 1858 and 1859 has been preserved. He had a good basic education and he worked as the orderly to the captain of his company for about four years immediately before he left the Service. Upon his release from the army, he was employed as a coal miner near Warisoulx in the Province of Namur. He worked sixty or more hours a week in deep, dirty and dangerous mines. The miners received very low wages and their safety was a constant worry for their families. Poisonous gases, lack of proper ventilation, cave ins, fires and explosions of gas and coal dust caused many deaths. Other dangers included falling rock and coal, accidents, and health deterioration due to a lack of sunshine and the inhalation of dust. Nicolas was involved in one mine explosion, and he was unconscious when rescuers brought him to the surface. However, he was fortunate to survive and recover without any lasting ill effects.

Marie Jo Motte was born in Noville-sur-Mehaigne in the Province of Brabant, Belgium on July 13, 1847. She became an orphan at the age of ten years and seven months when her father died. She and her brothers then went to live with her poor grandparents until they found employment. Marie Jo and her youngest brother, Louis, soon went to live and work on a wealthy Belgian estate. She was a maid or servant in the household, preparing meals, washing dishes, washing clothes by hand, ironing and doing various other chores. She scrubbed the floors on her knees, washed the shelves and cleaned the furniture. Her employers were very demanding. The ironing had to be neat and folded precisely as directed. When she completed her cleaning chores, the lady of the house would check her work by rubbing a white silk handkerchief in the corners. If the handkerchief became soiled, a reprimand would follow and the work had to be done over again. At meals the servants would eat after the landowners had been fed. Some of the special foods were often consumed before the servants received any. Marie Jo learned to keep a small amount of these foods back in the kitchen. For example, she told about leaving some rice pudding (pup au ri) in the lit of the kettle, sprinkling it with sugar and sharing it with her brother, Louis, before the dishes were washed.

Nicolas and Marie Jo were married at Emines on September 16, 1870. They went to live in Warisoulx on September 29, 1870. On April 11, 1878, they visited the Burgomaster (Mayor) of Warisoulx where they filled out the forms needed to change their place of residence from Warisoulx to the United States, then they left Warisoulx for Antwerp with their three oldest children on April 14. They departed from the port of Antwerp, called Anvers in French, on or about April 20. It is reported that they sailed on the White Starr or Red Star line and that they landed at Philadelphia. The LeRoy family was assigned one bed on the ship which the parents shared with their three children. They encountered

several storms with waves that rocked the ship and splashed some water on the deck. To stretch their food supply on the trip they made gravy from lard mixed with flour, and they used the gravy as a liberal spread on dry bread. They traveled on a train from Philadelphia to Green Bay and on a stagecoach from Green Bay to Brussels, Wisconsin. Here they settled on eighty acres of timber land located one mile west and one mile south of Brussels. Nicolas' brother, Hubert, had acquired the land on May 7, 1878. Nicolas has saved enough money to pay for their trip to Brussels, and to buy one cow, a stove, a team of oxen and various kitchen utensils, but he did not have enough money to buy land.

Even though their arrival in the area had been preceded by many Belgian neighbors who had settled there over the previous twenty years, they still had to endure the typical pioneer hardships and privations encountered while clearing the land, developing the homestead, and providing for a growing family. They were also limited by the meager facilities available during that period, and a continual lack of funds. Interest rates varied from seven to ten percent, therefore, they could not afford to borrow much money. Nicolas and Marie Jo began to earn a livelihood in the new country by making and selling cedar shingles. At times they had to walk through water above their knees in order to deliver their shingles to the road leading to the Bay shore. After the land was cleared of trees and developed, it became good crop land. Eventually, they were able to buy the eighty they had settled on. The first transfers of land from Hubert to Nicolas were made on July 14, 1880, and March 9, 1881. A warranty deed recorded in the Door County Register's office on May 13, 1893, shows that Hubert LeRoy and his wife completed the sale of the homestead forty, the south half of the eighty, to Nicolas LeRoy and his wife for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred and seventy dollars.

In the 1880s and for many years thereafter, Nicolas subscribed to a weekly French newspaper, from Quebec, called the "Journal Des Campagnes." He read its continued serial story aloud to his family each week, and Ernest LeRoy remembers that everyone had to be quiet while he was doing so. In 1886 the price of a twelve month subscription was one dollar. Nicolas often expressed the wish or desire to be back in Belgium, but he could not accumulate enough money to go back there to live. However, Marie Jo loved this country where her husband did not work in a dangerous mine (that was the primary incentive for her decision and agreement to leave Belgium), and there was more freedom and opportunity than in Belgium.

Nicolas and Marie Jo were the parents of two sons and seven daughters. In Belgium, Marie Jo was always happy when the baby was a girl, because then she would not have to worry about her working in the mines or serving in the army. The Belgian records indicate that the three oldest children named Marie Alexandrine, Louis Joseph and Lucy Marie were born in Warisoulx. The children were of the opinion that they had been born in a village near Warisoulx by the name of Villers-lez-Heest. The six youngest children were born at the homestead in Brussels, Wisconsin. Hubert, the oldest of the six born there, died of scarlet fever on February 15, 1885. (A neighbor, Francois Pierre, lost a girl and a boy from the same scarlet fever epidemic in February of 1885.) Josephine was injured at birth and was confined to a wheelchair until her death at the age of fifteen. The other six daughters all married hard working, religious farmers and lived in the area all of

their lives. Elizabeth's husband also worked as a rural mail carrier for about thirty-five years. Louis acquired the homestead in 1901.

The bond of maintenance recorded at the Door County Register's office on September 14, 1901, is of special interest. An abbreviated excerpt of the major items covered, shows that Louis LeRoy and Marcelline, his wife, gave Nicolas LeRoy and Marie Joseph, his wife, a mortgage of fifteen hundred dollars on the described homestead to secure the faithful performance of the bond. The conditions of the obligation stated that Louis and his wife shall on or before January 1 of each and every year during the life of Nicolas LeRoy pay and deliver to him the sum of fifty dollars in legal United States money, also three hundred pounds of good wheat flour, one hundred pounds of good fresh pork, and ten bushels of good eating potatoes (plus the same amounts to Marie Joseph LeRoy during her lifetime) and further to feed and care for one cow during such time as Marie Joseph may designate. Further that Nicolas and his wife shall have the full use of one dwelling room and one bedroom situated on the first story and on the west end of the brick dwelling house situated on the above described premises. In addition Louis and his wife shall pay each of his sisters (Mary, Lucy, Jennie, Lizzie, Desiree and Ida) a sum of one hundred dollars within one year after the deaths of both Nicolas and Marie Joseph. If said Louis LeRoy and his wife shall sell the land or any part thereof during the life of either Nicolas or his wife, they shall first pay seven hundred and fifty to Marie Joseph. Upon satisfactory performance of the above, this bond and mortgage will be fully satisfied.

In some respects, the above bond proved to be a formality that was largely ignored. Nicolas and Marie lived harmoniously with Louis and Marcelline and their family. They ate together and shared the house. However, Louis and Marcelline did pay his sisters the amount designated upon the death of his parents.

Nicolas LeRoy died on March 1, 1911, at the age of seventy-three years and eleven months. He was buried in the old Namur Catholic cemetery about seventy-five feet east of the front door of the present church. His grave was marked with a wooden cross which has since disappeared. Marie Jo LeRoy died on March 13, 1920, at the age of seventy-two. She is buried in the newer Namur cemetery with a gravestone inscribed with the name "Grandma LeRoy."

Ernest LeRoy, Louis' oldest son, and his family were the third generation to own and operate the farm. It is now farmed by the fourth generation, Ernest's daughter Margaret and her husband Clarence Monfils. (The present side door on their modern garage is a part of the double door which was installed in the front of Francois Pierre's tavern in 1880.)

Following is a summary of additional information found in old (1872 through 1905) family letters from the LeRoy homestead. The letters had been away from home for several months. Margaret LeRoy Monfils retrieved them and made them available for our use on July 22, 1976.

GREGOIRE LEROY and his wife Elsie lived at No. 226 a Grivegnée in Liege, Belgium. He worked at the Longdoz Station. Their children were Ernest (1866), Hubert (1868), and Charlotte (1869).

AUGUSTINE LEROY married Leopold (sometimes called Paul) Denis. They lived at Emine and Leopold worked at D'arguene until 1892. In 1892, they owned one cow, one heifer, four pigs, and thirty hens. They were the parents of Marie (1864), Matilde (1865), Eloise (1864) and Eugene (1876). Leopold died at Emine on April 28, 1893 at the age of 58 years. Augustine died in 1904.

DESIREE LEROY married Hilaire Mobile. They lived at Emine and Hilaire worked on a farm. Their children were Sophie (1868), Joseph (1870), Albert (1872), and Flore (1874). Hilaire died in 1906 and Desiree died in 1908.

MARY ALEXANDRINE LEROY (daughter of Nicolas and Mary Joseph) was born at Villers-lez-Heest on September 6, 1871 and baptized at St. Lambert in Emine on September 7. The church at Villers was not built until 1887. Mary attended school at Villers for two years before emigrating to the United States.

EUGENE MOTTE worked in a glass factory in Liege. He and his wife were the parents of five daughters and two sons. Arthur, the youngest, was born in 1888. Eugene died in 1903.

AUGUST MOTTE also worked in a glass factory in Liege. He was the father of four daughters and one son.

LOUIS MOTTE married Agnes Gilsoul from Dhuy in 1880. He worked at the Cordier farm near Emine all of his working years. (Mary Joseph also worked there until her marriage). The family bought a home in Villers-lez-Heest in 1886. Here they cultivated three hectares (7.4 acres) of land. They were the parents of Marie (1881), Camille (1886) and Elise (1888). Agnes died on May 22, 1898 at the age of thirty-seven.

JOSEPH PIERRE (1866-1921) AND MARY LEROY (1871-1941)

GRANDPARENTS

Joseph Pierre was born in Brussels, Wisconsin, on April 1, 1866. As a boy he attended a small one-room schoolhouse and completed the fourth grade. He helped clear land, chop wood, erect buildings, and plant and harvest the crops on the home farm. Oxen were used to cultivate the soil, but seeding and harvesting were done by hand. A cradle scythe was used to cut the grain; then it was tied into bundles by twisting a handful of straw around a small armful of the cut straw and grain. Threshing to separate the grain from the straw was done by hand with a flail. Then the chaff was removed by repeatedly dropping the product a distance of three to four feet, and the wind would blow the chaff away while the heavier wheat would fall straight down.

Joseph also helped provide fish and meat for home use. Herring, whitefish and perch were caught on the waters of Green Bay with a hook and line attached to a short homemade, cedar stick. And sturgeon weighing one hundred or more pounds were speared through holes in the ice. Deer were usually available. Joe told about an incident that happened when he was sixteen years old. His dad had mentioned that the family was running short of meat and asked if he would go out and try to get a deer. A few hours later his dad saw him and inquired, "Isn't it about time for you to go out for that deer?" Joe proudly told him that the deer was already skinned. Joe had walked quietly between two oxen to a waterhole one-fourth mile from his home. There he had shot a deer with his dad's muzzle loader. Then he had carried the animal home and dressed it.

In or about 1884, Joe started working as a teamster for the Pierre-Virlee Company. His first team was red and white oxen. A year later he was driving a team of horses. (All of his life he retained a special love for good horses.) He was made head teamster and placed in charge of six teams and their drivers. They hauled flour, butter, and other products to Green Bay and returned with supplies for the store and other pioneer needs. In winter they hauled to Oconto and Marinette across the ice on the Bay. Cracks in the ice were covered by laying down planks for the horses and the sleds to cross. If a horse or a team fell in the water on rare occasions, they were pulled out by other teams. As head teamster, Joe usually carried a large amount of money. For protection he was accompanied by his large bulldog, and he carried a six shot revolver. Fortunately, no attempts were ever made to rob him.

In 1893, Joe went to the World's Fair in Chicago with Jule Gerondale. (In 1920, Joe's eldest son, Arthur, married Jule's eldest daughter, Lena.) Here they saw Buffalo Bill Cody in a revolver shooting exhibition, and many other interesting acts and exhibits. Some of the acts he saw, such as people making somersaults in the air, were difficult to imagine when he later told us about them. Chicago was the farthest distance that Joe ever traveled from his home.

Mary LeRoy was born in Warisoulx, in the Province of Namur at 6 p.m. Sunday Sept. 6, 1871. The records there show her full name as Marie Alexandrine Leroy. She emigrated to Brussels, Wisconsin, with her parents in 1878. While on the ship crossing the ocean, she knit a pair of wool stockings. As a girl she lived on the farm with her parents one mile west and one mile south of Brussels. Most of her knowledge of arithmetic and the French language was obtained from her parents. She attended school at the Chapel in Robinsonville, now Champion, where she stayed for three months. Here she learned her catechism, in the French language, from Sister Adele and others. She was a devout Catholic throughout her life. As a young lady, Mary went to work as a cook at the boarding house of the Pierre-Virlee Company. With part of her wages, she bought the first horse for her parents in 1892. In 1895, her twelve year old sister, Jenney, came to live and work with her at the boarding house.

On April 22, 1896, Joe Pierre and Mary LeRoy were married at St. Mary's in Namur. Father Bernard Pennings was the priest who married them. (Abbot Pennings High School in De Pere was named in his honor.) Joe and Mary bought eighty acres of land adjoining the east border of the home farm in 1896, and became full-time farmers. In 1901, they sold this farm to Charley Bournoville and his wife Lucy, Mary's sister. Then they bought the home farm of 160 acres from Francois Pierre for \$6000, and they remained there for the rest of their lives.

Mary's sister, Jenney, continued to live with them until her marriage on January 10, 1905. In 1900, Jenney took a sewing course in Green Bay. At that time, another sister of Mary's, Desiree, came to live with them and she stayed and worked there until her marriage on Oct. 25, 1910. Both of the sisters were treated as members of the family. They did not receive wages, but up to the age of about fifteen they attended the local school and all of their needs were provided for. Their wedding expenses, including clothes, a reception, and meals for a large group of friends, were taken care of in the same way that Joe and Mary later provided for their own daughters.

In 1901, nearly one hundred acres of the home farm were in cropland. The balance was largely second-growth woodland and few acres of bluegrass pasture between tree stumps. The woodland served as a source of fuel for heating the home, and for cooking. Some lumber was also obtained from it for use on the farm. Crops grown were wheat, scotch, peas, oats, barley, and clover-timothy hay. The major cash crops were scotch peas and hay, both of which were cocked (assembled into a small stack that made a full load for a pitchfork) in the field, then loaded on wagons by hand with a pitchfork, and unloaded and stored in the barn. A steam-powered threshing machine was hired to stop at the farm in the Fall to thrash the peas and the grain in the barn.

One frame building on the farm, about the size of one and one-half car garage, was used as a brewery. It had a chimney to handle the smoke from a large round iron vat placed on a stone masonry base with a fire space underneath, and another long metal vat with a brick base and space for the fire below. In addition, there were two round wood vats measuring about eight feet in diameter and three feet in height. One of these was placed above the other so that it could drain into the bottom vat slowly. This is where Joe made

Belgian beer for family use. It took him a long fourteen hour day to make a batch of one hundred and twenty-eight gallons and to store it in sixteen gallon oak barrels in the cool cellar. He grew his own hops, on the garden fence, and his barley which he sprouted and dried several days prior to making the beer. He was very particular and everything had to be clean and sanitary. The beer was used as a beverage at some of the meals, as a refreshment instead of water for those working in the fields, and as a treat for many friends. After Joe's death in 1921, the brewery was never used again.

In or about 1919, the barn on the farm was expanded and modernized. The eight inch cedar block paving was removed, the horse stall planks were taken out, a new concrete floor was poured, and twenty-two stanchions plus two metal enclosed pens were installed. A wood stave silo with a concrete base was built. Then in 1923, water was brought into the barn and drinking cups were provided for the cows. At that time, this was a modern barn and a large herd of milking cows. All of the milking was done by hand and every member of the family helped with the chores.

Life on the farm has changed considerably since Joe, Mary and the family were farming. They did not have a telephone, radio, electricity, running water in the house, refrigeration, television, a furnace or a tractor. The men spent several months each winter at the task of cutting trees, hauling logs, sawing, chopping and stacking firewood for the following year's supply of fuel.

A typical winter evening would find Mary either at her spinning wheel making yarn out of wool from their own sheep, or knitting the yarn into stockings, mittens or sweaters. Joe would be relaxing on the couch after a long day of physical work. The children sat around the big wood-burning heater pursuing various hobbies. The family snacked on American beechnuts, a small triangle-shaped nut, which had been gathered from native trees in the Fall. This tree is now extinct. The nuts were easy to shell either by hand or with the use of a small piers. Apples that had been picked in their own orchard and stored in a cool cellar were also available. Every night in Lent, the entire family would kneel and pray the rosary together. One member of the family would lead and the others all answered out loud in French. On Sunday the family went to church as a group on a buggy or a sled. There were no snow plows to open the roads in the winter.

Five meals were served each day. An early breakfast generally included bread, butter, fried salt pork, cottage cheese or cassette, coffee, and jam or various preserves. The lunches in mid-morning and mid-afternoon were primarily bread and butter, "cassette", canned fruit, cold meat, cookies and coffee. Occasionally, bread covered with lard and white sugar was the fare for lunch. The dinner and the supper meals were alike. They included bread, butter or lard, fried pork, potatoes and gravy, a home grown green vegetable, dessert and coffee. Milk was pasteurized by boiling it on the stove, and some milk was used with the coffee, but never as a beverage by itself. In the summer months, beer was often served with the noon meal.

On Friday evening, the milk was processed through a hand-powered cream separator. Part of the skim milk was used to make a kind of rice pudding, called "pup au ri" in

Belgian, and this was the fare for that night's meal. The surplus turned into a jell-like pudding which the children enjoyed on a Saturday morning. The rest of the skim milk was used to make cottage cheese. Most of it was pressed, aged at room temperature for several days, and made into round balls called "cassette" for use as delicious spread on slices of bread. The cream was held for a few days, then it was converted to butter and buttermilk with a hand-operated revolving wooden churn.

Special house cleaning was usually done on Saturday. For example, the white oak kitchen floor, about thirteen by thirty feet in size, was scrubbed and mopped by the women on their knees that day. Monday was wash day. Some of the clothes were washed in a round wooden hand-powered washing machine. The task of pushing the upright handle of the machine back and forth was assigned to any family member available. In addition, some of the clothes were washed and rinsed in a round metal tub by rubbing them on a washboard by hand. Excess moisture was wrung from the clothes, then they were hung outside to dry. Ironing was done with irons heated on top of the wood-burning kitchen stove. Water used for the laundry and for bathing and washing was obtained from a pump in the kitchen connected to a rain water cistern in the cellar. However, water for cooking, washing dishes, and for use as fresh drinking water was pumped at the well across the road and carried to the house in pails.

One has to marvel at the work that Mary, her daughters, and other women of that generation accomplished. They were always busy and efficient making their own clothing from yard goods, spinning wool, knitting, crocheting, making blankets, pillow cases, and rugs; baking bread, Belgian pie and other pastries with flour from home-grown wheat ground at the local mills, and preserving vegetables, fruit and meat. Pork was preserved by either storing it in salt brine in thirty gallon earthenware containers, or by cutting it up, frying it, and storing it in its own fat in large jars. In addition to all of their housework, the women also helped with the daily milking chores; they fed and watered the chickens and collected the eggs, and they helped plant and harvest the garden, the potatoes, and the field crops.

Mary spoke the Walloon Belgian dialect and French. She understood the English language but did not speak it. Her children and grandchildren often spoke to her in English and she answered them in Belgian. She subscribed to a weekly French newspaper from Quebec which she read from cover to cover. Rather than waiting for it in the mail, she would often ask one of the children to pick it up at the post office on the night before it was due to arrive. Mary went to the general store for her groceries and other items once a week. She did her shopping without the use of a grocery list.

Joe spoke Belgian and English, and he understood French although he did not speak it. He always carried a small pad of paper and a pencil stub in his overalls' breast pocket which he used in calculating business deals. He was a strong, hard-working man who enjoyed physical fitness and competition in such work as chopping his half of a wood pile faster than another man. When he was in his early fifties, I remember seeing him place the tip of his fingers on the door sill between two rooms, lifting himself off the floor, and somersaulting his body through his arms and back into the upright position. Joe

weighed two hundred and ten pounds and he was five feet nine and one-half inches in height.

In 1917, the family bought their first car. It was a four door Dodge with a canvas top and side curtains with windows. The first car seen by the family, a Dort, had been driven past the home a year or two prior to 1917. It traveled slowly and stopped at many of the farms. Most of the family members ran out to see it when it stopped at the home farm. Joe never drove a car. The family car was driven by the oldest sons, Art and Bill, and by Lillian while the sons were serving in World War I. When Art returned from service in France, the train took him to Forestville. Lillian, Joe and Joe Jr. went to pick him up. Joe was anxious to see his oldest son and he encouraged his daughter, Lillian, to drive as fast as she could. Going down one hill on the gravel road, she attained a speed of fifty miles per hour for a short distance. That was a terrific speed. The car was usually driven at a speed of about twenty-five miles an hour, and one could hardly travel a distance of sixty miles without making a forced stop to patch an inner tube on a flat tire. During the winter, when the roads were covered with snow for about five months, the car was stored by lifting it up on blocks of wood with the tires off the ground, and the battery was taken out to protect it from freezing.

On June 20, 1921, Joe worked most of an especially hot day hand spraying an insecticide of arsenic on the potato crop. That night when he sat down for supper at nine o'clock, he suffered a stroke and was unconscious for several hours. One of the sons immediately went to get Father Van den Elsen who came quickly to administer the last Sacraments. Father Van also told the family to apply a cold compress on Joe's head. The local doctor arrived in about an hour but he did not do anything. Joe was up on the following day. However, he continued to suffer from a headache and it progressively became more severe. Two "supposed" medical specialists from Green Bay came to examine him in September, but they gave no recommendations or medication. He died on December 19, 1921, at Beaver, Wisconsin, where he had gone for medical treatment.

Up to the time of his stroke, Joe had never been to a doctor, or a dentist. He still had sound teeth, and some people attributed his good teeth partly to his habit of chewing home grown tobacco.

After Joe's death, Mary continued to live on the farm with her oldest son, Arthur, and his family. She died on October 10, 1941, from complications partly due to a hidden thyroid condition.

Joe and Mary are both buried in St. Mary's cemetery at Namur.

They were the parents of three sons and three daughters. Arthur, the oldest, was nearly twenty-five years old and married when his father died. He and his wife, Lena Gerondale, then operated the farm and they kindly helped raise Art's youngest brother and sister. They bought the home farm in the Fall of 1934. The daughters, Lillian, Evangeline and Blanche, married Cyril Neuville, Albert Conard and Alvin Fabry, respectively. They were honest, reliable, industrious and conservative farmers who lived in the Brussels

area. William earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin. He is married to Alice Oerkwitz and he is listed in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in the Midwest, and in American Men and Women of Science. Joseph earned his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois and he is married to Odile Le Grave. He is also listed in the tenth and twelfth editions of American Men and Women of Science and in Who's Who in the Midwest.

JEAN ALEXIS LEGRAVE (1816-1890) AND ANNE MARIE FOLIE (1821-1855)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Jean Alexis LeGrave was born in Ohain, in the Province of Brabant, on June 8, 1816. His father born in 1787, was Alexis Joseph LeGrave and his mother was Marie Francois Dery. Jean Alexis, who was a weaver in Ohain, emigrated from Belgium with his mother, two daughters, Odile and Theresa, and two sons, Jean Baptiste and Francois. They arrived in Green Bay early in July of 1856. His wife, Anne Marie, had died in Belgium. A seventeen year old son, Joseph, disappeared in Antwerp while they were making preparations to depart on the ship and they never saw or heard from him again. Jean Baptiste died of typhoid fever in his teenage years after the family settled in Wisconsin.

Jean Alexis claimed four forties of land from the government in northwestern Kewaunee county, one and one half miles west and one half mile south of Rosiere. A natural spring located one-half mile south of their homestead served as the source of their water supply for a number of years. Their pioneer experiences were similar to those encountered by others who arrived during this period.

A year or so after arriving in Rosiere, Alexis married Adelaide Beaufiou. They were the parents of three daughters named Frances, Louise and Mary. The oldest daughter, Frances, was born in 1859.

Old records show that Alexis sold the homestead forty acres to his son and his daughter-in-law, Francois and Harriette, for five hundred dollars on June 21, 1872. In 1878, they were given the deed for another forty. The balance of the homestead land was transferred to Francois after Alexis died. As of 1890, the taxes on the entire farm for a year amounted to nineteen dollars and thirteen cents. Interest rates on borrowed money varied between seven and ten percent during the years of 1880 through 1900.

A receipt shows that Alexis bought a "Pride of the West Thresher" in October of 1881 with a down payment of one cow worth twenty-five dollars. The early threshing machines had a cylinder that served to separate the grain from the straw. However, they were not equipped with a blower and sifters to separate the grain from the chaff, and that job still had to be done by hand. Furthermore, the grain bundles had to be cut as they were fed into the machine because the separator was too small to handle a full bundle.

It is reported that Alexis' father had served in the Honor Guard for Napoleon Bonaparte. Belgium was ruled by France during Napoleon's time.

There are no records to show when Alexis' mother died. It is reported that she is buried on the LeGrave homestead near the Chapel. Similarly, the records on Adelaide Beaufiou are apparently unavailable. Her last child was born in 1870. After her death, Alexis is reported to have married a Mrs. Wery who preceded him in death. Her son from a

previous marriage, Florian Wery, remained with the LeGrave family until he married. In 1883 Florian Wery became the first farmer on the land where Alvin and Blanche Fabry now live, and he borrowed four hundred dollars with a mortgage to Alexis LeGrave.

Alexis lived with his son, Francois and family, until he died on July 9, 1980 at the age of 74. He is buried at St. Hubert's in Rosiere. Alexis and his son, Francois, both signed their names as Legreve. However, their birth certificates in Belgium spell the name as Legraive and the spelling changed to LeGrave when the third generation began to attend schools where the English language was taught.

ALEXANDER MEUNIER (1810-1882) AND CATHERINE MARLIER (1814-1891)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Alexander and Catherine were farmers in the Province of Luxemburg, Belgium. In 1844 they emigrated to the United States and made their way to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, where Alexander worked as a farm hand for about fourteen years. In 1858, they moved to the township of Brussels and settled on eighty acres of timber land located one-half mile east and two and one-half miles north of Rosiere. Their land claim to the government was made on September 18, 1858, and they obtained their deed on May 2, 1859.

The Meunier's lost their home, barn, livestock, and other belongings in the fire of 1871. However, they erected new buildings and continued to farm throughout their lives.

Alexander died on April 26, 1882, at the age of seventy-two, and Catherine died on June 16, 1891, at the age of seventy-seven. They are buried in the Rosiere cemetery.

Alexander and Catherine were the parents of two sons and two daughters, namely, Harriette, Flora, Alex, and Frank. They were born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Alex and his brother, Frank, owned and operated the home farm for fifteen years after their Dad's death. In 1882 Alex was elected as Chairman of the Town of Brussels. In 1897, Frank sold his share of the homestead to Alex and bought another farm in the vicinity. Eleven years later he moved to the Township of Forestville where he bought and operated a one-hundred and twenty acre farm. Harriette married Francois LeGrave, a farmer near Rosiere, and Flora moved to Green Bay when she married John Francois.

FRANCOIS LEGRAVE (1846-1934) AND HARRIETTE MEUNIER (1846-1914)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Francois Joseph LeGrave was born at Ohain, Belgium on January 24, 1846. He arrived in the Rosiere area in 1856. Here he shared all of the varied experiences, work, and hardships encountered by his father as a pioneer land settler. His formal education was limited to the schooling he had obtained in Belgium. As a boy, he learned to play the brass horn, and in 1858, when he was twelve years old, he played with the local band for the first Kermis held in this country at Rosiere. The Rosiere brass band played for dances, weddings, and special occasions throughout the settlement for many, many years. A picture of the band in action was taken at the Fourth of July parade at (Ahnapee) Algoma in 1886. Francois is one of the band members in the photo. Francois also sang in the local church choir until he was quite old.



Francois LeGrave



Harriette Meunier

Harriette Meunier was born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. She attended school in Oshkosh and worked in a store there. When she was twelve years old, her parents moved to the Brussels area and settled on eighty acres located northeast of Rosiere in southern Door County.

In 1868, Francois and Harriette were married. After their marriage they lived on the original LeGrave homestead and in the years that followed, they bought it from his father, Alexis. As the family grew, additional land was bought to help three of the sons eventually become established on their own farms in the Rosiere vicinity.

Francois maintained a wide range of interests. He grafted his own fruit trees; he had a grape harbor and a colony of bees; he made wooden shoes; he enjoyed collecting, planting, and harvesting all kinds of new plant varieties. Francois read a weekly French newspaper, "Le Journal Des Campagnes," printed in Quebec. He often engaged in spirited discussions with friends and neighbors on such subjects as religion, politics, music, farming and hunting. At one time, the family kept a tame black bear.

Old receipts show that Francois made and sold three hundred and thirty-seven pairs of wooden shoes in the winter of 1889. He was paid a total of sixty-four dollars and thirty-eight cents. The most expensive men's shoes were sold for thirty-five cents a pair. On July 9, 1896, he bought a Champion grain binder. He had been using a reaper to harvest their grain from the early 1880s to 1896.

Francois and Harriette were the parents of five sons and five daughters. During an epidemic of dyptheria, three of their young daughters and a son died within a period of two weeks. They were buried near their home, and a small chapel was built there, in their memory. This small building which contained an altar, holy water, and other sacred articles was open to anyone as a quiet refuge for solemn prayers. It is still in existence.

On November 19, 1885, Francois and Harriette bought forty acres, in Door County, one half mile west of Rosiere, from Prosper Naze, for a price of seventeen hundred dollars. A good stone house on this land became the headquarters for the LeGrave clan and remained so even for a few years after the older children were married. Frank LeGrave, one of the sons who is now ninety-one years old, believes that they all moved there in 1891 when he was seven years old. He also states that as many as eighteen men, women, and children lived in that house at one time. On November 18, 1902, Francois bought another forty, from the heirs of Clement Thomas, for a price of fifteen hundred and eighty-five dollars and fifty cents. This forty was one half a mile north of the stone house. All of the land that Francois owned was operated as a unit in cooperation with his sons.

Alexis, the oldest son, operated a modern blacksmith shop near the headquarters. In 1897, Alexis bought a store near Dyckesville. During the winter months, he worked in a lumber camp in upper Michigan, while his wife Amanda managed the store. In 1898, he moved to Faithorn, Michigan, where he bought land and operated a farm until his death.

In 1907, Francois and Harriette retired from active farming. Three of the sons and their families bought the land he had owned to operate farms on their own. Florian improved and expanded the old family log house, and moved back to the original LeGrave homestead. Alex built a home on the land they bought and moved there. Frank became the owner of the stone house, the blacksmith shop, the barns and two forties. Odile had married Charles Naze and lived on a farm east of Rosiere. Josephine was married to Doctor John Murphy. He had been a school teacher in Kewaunee County before he became a doctor and practiced out of the village of Brussels.

As an old man, Francois often sat on a wooden rocker in front of a big wood burning kitchen stove. Here he added logs to the fire as needed, and he smoked home grown tobacco in a small black pipe. To light his pipe, he kept a supply of pine slivers nearby and he would put one of these into a draft opening in front of the stove to get a flame. He had a full gray beard throughout the winter months.

Harriette and Francois lived with their son, Frank, and his family until their deaths. Harriette died on July 17, 1914. Old church records at St. Mary's and at St. Hubert's list her name as Henriette. However, her son Frank says that everyone called her Harriette. According to the New Webster Encyclopedia Dictionary, Harriette is a variation of Henriette. Francois died on December 5, 1934. Both of them are buried in St. Hubert's cemetery at Rosiere.

ALEXANDER REINCE (1820-1900) AND EUPHRASIA FLAVIEN (1821-1889)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Alexander Reince was born at Thorembai in the Province of Brabant, Belgium in 1820. His parents were Jean Pierre Reince and Catherine Quinton, and his two sisters were Augustine and Marie Therese. Alexander married Euphrasia Flavien in 1851, and in the Spring of 1856 they and their oldest child emigrated to Wisconsin. They were the only members of the immediate families who came to America. They bought eighty acres of government land on the west edge of the present village of Rosiere north of the road. Here they erected buildings and shared in the experiences previously listed for pioneers of this period. Their children were Jerome Reince, who was born in Torembai, Belgium, and Mary, Peter, Clarice, Louise, and Emerence, who were born in Rosiere, Wisconsin.

Alexander was over forty years old during the Civil War period. However, it is reported that he had his index finger cut off to evade the 1863 draft. He did this by placing his finger through a knot hole of a board and he instructed his wife to chop it off with an ax.

When he was an old man, Alexander had asthma. He would send his granddaughter, Lucy, to the Rubens Tavern to buy a bottle of brandy for fifty cents. This was supposed to be his medicine, and Lucy said that her trips to the tavern were quite frequent.

Alexander and Euphrasia retired in the late 1800s and the homestead was sold to their youngest son, Peter Reince. They continued to live with Peter and his family until their deaths. Euphrasia died on April 10, 1889, at the age of sixty-eight, and Alexander died at the age of eighty on April 8, 1900. They are buried in the Catholic cemetery at Rosiere.

One of Alexander's daughters, Louise, married Jule Defnet. One of their daughters, Emily, is the mother of Mrs. Bill Cullins and Mrs. Jack Naar.

Josie and Ed Wautlet met a granddaughter of Augustine Reince (Alexander's sister) when they visited in Thorembai, Belgium, in 1974. Augustine had married Desire Gerard. Their daughter, Clemense, married Xavier Bidoul and the Bidoul daughter, Germaine married Rene Severin. Germaine Severin, then a seventy-eight year old widow, wept when she met them and said that they had waited one hundred years for their return. She showed them a letter the family had received from Peter Reince in 1908. In that letter, Peter said that he planned on returning to Belgium for a visit in two years. However, Peter died in 1910 and the families lost contact with their relatives in America. The granddaughter's present address is: Veeve Germain Severin Bidoul, Reux du Mont, Thorembai les Begunies, Belgium (Brabant) 5921.

MODEST GERARD (1839-1908) AND LEONIE GUILLETTE (1839-1925)

GREAT GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Records from the population register at Daussoulx, Belgium, show that Modest Gerard was born at Forville on April 21, 1839. His parents were Desire Gerard born at Daussoulx October 3, 1814, and Marie Therese Paye born at Forville August 20, 1820. His grandparents from Daussoulx were Marin Gerard, a carpenter, who died at fifty seven years of age on March 29, 1849, and Catherine Alexis who died at seventy-two years of age on April 5, 1866.

Leonie Guillette was born at Daussoulx in the Province of Namur, Belgium, on March 25, 1839. She had one brother, Victor Guillette, who was born at Daussoulx on January 20, 1838, and who left for America on March 14, 1882. Her parents were Hubert Guillette, a carpenter, born at Hingeon November 1, 1792, and Jean Barbe Allard born at Daussoulx, June 25, 1794. Both of them died at Daussoulx in 1869. Her mother died on May 25 and her father on November 27. Her grandparents were Jean Hubert Guillette and Marie Catherine Auyot from Hingeon.

Leonie and Modest were married at Daussoulx on February 13, 1861, and they emigrated to Wisconsin in the spring of 1872. Three of their children, namely Alice, Octavia and Emerence, were born in Daussoulx, Belgium, and the other three, Odile, Adeline, and Clarissa, were born in Duvall, Wisconsin.

The family settled on land located one-half mile east and one mile north of the present village of Duvall, in northern Kewaunee County. They bought the forty acre homestead from Schofield, Smith and Leathum for a sum of one hundred fifty dollars. Modest farmed there until his death on February 15, 1908. After Modest died, the farm was sold to a daughter, Clarissa and her husband, Joe Balza, and Leonie continued to live with them until her death at the age of eighty-six in 1925. They are buried in the Catholic cemetery at Duvall, one mile northwest of their homestead.

PETER REINCE (1863-1910) AND EMERENCE GERARD (1867-1910)

GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Peter was born on the homestead farm in Rosiere on April 8, 1863. Emerence was born at Dausoulx, Belgium, on January 12, 1867. She arrived at Duvall, Wisconsin with her parents and two sisters when she was five years old. They both lived on their parents' pioneer farms until their marriage in 1887. Then they bought the Reince homestead at Rosiere and ran what was considered to be a progressive farm for that generation. The purchase agreement to buy the farm provided that Peter would take care of his parents for the rest of their lives, and that he would pay each of his three sisters the sum of one hundred dollars.

Peter and Emerence were the parents of two children who were born on the farm at Rosiere. They were Lucy Reince, born on January 28, 1888, and Fabian Reince, born on August 30, 1890.

Peter obtained his education in Casco; he wrote in English and he read an English newspaper; he served as church treasurer for about fifteen years; he owned a thrashing machine in the 1880s and thrashed grain for his neighbors; and he had many friends who respected him and often came to him for advice. In 1904 he built a new frame barn, and in 1908 he had a large brick house built by Eugene DeNamur who was a contractor and brick layer. The house has a stone shaped like a head on the front with the initials P.R. and the date 1908 on it. Both of these buildings are still modern-looking and utilized by the present owners.

Emerence died of pneumonia on March 15, 1895, at the age of twenty-eight and is buried at the Rosiere cemetery. On June 9, 1896, Peter married Emerence's sister, Odile Gerard. The children born to them were: Fred, Modest, Clara and Lena.

Peter died of cancer on December 22, 1910, at the age of forty-seven, and he is buried in the St. Hubert cemetery at Rosiere.

Two of his daughters, Lucy and Lena, married farmers and lived on their farms until they retired.

The oldest son, Fabian, attended high school in Algoma and business college in Green Bay. Then he served as a bookkeeper for the Pierre-Virlee Company for one year. After his marriage, he operated the Pierre store in Brussels for three years, and the Rubens Dance Hall and tavern in Rosiere for two years. He became cashier of the Maplewood Bank when it opened on October 20, 1916, and served there until the bank failed in 1932. When the bank closed, Fabian worked for a land bank loan agency in Green Bay. His first wife died in 1941, and a few years later he married again. He and his second wife are presently retired in Schofield, Wisconsin. Fred took an accounting course at the Green

Bay Business College. He worked as a bookkeeper for implement companies in Rio Creek and Forestville. At the age of nineteen, he organized and directed a band in Forestville in which he played the trumpet and violin. After his marriage, he moved to Green Bay and worked briefly for the Green Bay Motor Company and the Fox River Ford Garage.

He then worked as parts man in the Van Drisse Garage for thirty-three years, followed by eleven years of semi-retirement sales work for the Humphrey Chevrolet Company. Modest worked as revenue agent for the State of Wisconsin. He also built and operated a farm implement company in Maplewood, Wisconsin, where he lived and reared his family. Clara and her husband owned and operated a store and tavern in Rosiere until they retired a few years ago.

After Peter died, Odile married Joe Lardinois and they continued to operate the Reince farm until the children were grown. They were the parents of one son, Francis Lardinois, who was born in 1920. Odile died on July 2, 1953, at the age of seventy-seven. Joe Lardinois died on January 17, 1958, at the age of sixty-nine. He and Odile are buried in the Rosiere cemetery.

FRANK LEGRAVE (1884-) AND LUCY REINCE (1888-1974)

GRANDPARENTS

Frank LeGrave was born on the original LeGrave homestead on October 28, 1884. When he was seven years of age, he and his family moved from the log cabin to the stone house, one half mile west of Rosiere. From here he attended a small one room school near Misiere where he learned to speak, read, and write the English language, and acquired some basic arithmetic. Most of the teachers during that period had less than the equivalent of an eighth grade education. At the age of thirteen, Frank spent a winter at Dyckesville helping his oldest brother's wife with the store while Alexis worked in a lumber camp. He drove to Green Bay once a week, with a horse and sled or a wagon when the roads were open, for a supply of groceries. He also attended a small school located two and one half miles southwest of Dyckesville on a part time basis. The school building is still standing, but it is dilapidated and has not been used for many years. In the spring of 1898, Frank returned to the farm at Rosiere and remained there until he retired.

Frank has been an avid hunter and fisherman throughout his lifetime. While on the farm, he and his brothers spent many enjoyable winter days hunting either mink along the streams or the fox in the surrounding countryside with their hounds. They sold the furs in Algoma or Green Bay, and in later years they received a bounty from the township treasurer for each fox killed. Frank also kept a succession of beagle hounds for rabbit hunting until shortly after he retired. Until 1930, the main species of fish caught were perch and herring on the Bay and northern pike or pickerel in the local rivers. The herring bluefins were caught through the Green Bay ice in the wintertime. Frank and his relatives or children would drive to the Bay with horses and a sled loaded with a canvas covered shanty. The shanty contained a small wood burning stove; it did not have a floor, but it was cozy to fish in when placed on the ice. Blankets covered the horses while they were tied to the sled to nibble on hay. The pike were caught in the spring and summer. Perch were generally caught during the summer months, fishing from a boat or a dock. In 1929, Frank made a trailer on which to haul his boat to the Bay and he continued to use it for fifteen years. However, the perch population gradually declined, and even though Frank still fishes for perch each year, very few have been caught during the past fifteen years. Smelt replaced herring in the 1930s. Frank uses a dip net to catch smelt and suckers while they run upstream to spawn in the spring. In the 1970s, he started fishing for trout and salmon from the docks on Lake Michigan. At age ninety-one, he still continues to fish at every opportunity.

Frank learned to play the trumpet as a teenager, and played that instrument with the Rosiere Brass Band from about 1901 to 1907. They played for dances in Door and Kewaunee Counties, and occasionally beyond Green Bay. They traveled with horses hitched to a sled or wagon.

One day while hauling grain in or about 1920, Frank suddenly felt as if a foreign object had landed in one of his eyes. Thereafter, for a period of twenty years, he suffered a great deal of pain at intermittent intervals, due to eye ulcers and granulation of the eyelids. He visited a number of doctors and eye specialists in Green Bay, and one specialist in Milwaukee. The medication and hot water eye baths they gave him did not cure his condition. Finally, Frank asked his Green Bay specialist if he was going to let him become blind. The doctor said that the last resort was to burn the granulation with Blue Vitriol, sulfate of copper, but he did not recommend it because it was too painful. Frank insisted on the treatment and this cured him. However, he continued to have relapses from various dusts on the farm. The specialist charged three dollars for a treatment. Later, his local doctor gave him the same treatment whenever it was needed at a charge of fifty cents a visit.

On March 4, 1907, Frank's parents sold him the headquarters forty with the stone house, and another forty located one half mile north of it. He was a single man at the time. Available records for the headquarters-forty indicate that the land was claimed from the government by Charles Thiboune on Sept. 1, 1863. In 1877, it was sold to Prosper Naze and his wife, Ferdinande, who built a stone house at the southeast corner. The house was used as a store for several years before it and the land were sold to Dr. Joseph A. LaFortune and his wife, Mary. In 1885, Prosper foreclosed on the contract executed by the LaFortunes, and sold the same to Francois LeGrave on Nov. 19, 1885.

Frank's purchase agreement with his parents stated that he would pay them one hundred and fifty dollars on or before January 1, each year during their natural lives, with the first payment to be made by Jan. 1, 1908. He also agreed to pay each of his sisters, namely, Odile Naze and Josephine Murphey, two hundred and thirty-three dollars and fifty cents on or before Jan. 1, 1911, with no interest. His parents and his Aunt Mary continued to live with him until their deaths. The taxes on Frank's land and his personal property amounted to thirty-seven dollars and fourteen cents when he first paid them on January 21, 1908.

Lucy Reince as born on January 28, 1888, on the Reince homestead at the west edge of the village of Rosiere. When she was seven years old, her mother died of pneumonia. On June 9, 1896, her father married his deceased wife's sister. Lucy attended the Misiere school and was an excellent student. She completed the seventh grade and would have enjoyed further schooling, but her parents decided that she was needed for work on the farm. Lucy was kind, diplomatic, brilliant, energetic, and she worked and played with enthusiam. Some things would cause her to worry, but she generally enjoyed life.

On November 4, 1909, Frank and Lucy were married at St. Hubert's. They had been neighbors living on farms that were less than a half mile apart. During the first years of their marriage, they decided that they would try to save one hundred dollars a year. However, there were industrious and conservative, and they were soon able to save more than they had initially expected. They bought four shares of the Maplewood bank which was operated by Lucy's brother, Fabian. In 1932, the bank was suddenly declared

bankrupt, and as part owners, they lost their original four thousand dollar investment plus an additional four thousand to cover some of the bank debts.

In addition to her regular household work, Lucy sewed most of her dresses and aprons and her daughters' clothes. She knitted and crocheted during winter evenings. She helped with the outside work such as milking by hand and doing the barn chores every morning and evening, gardening, shocking grain, and hauling grain or hay into the barn.

Many relatives and friends regularly stopped at the LeGrave home, especially on Sundays when there was time to visit. The guests were seldom allowed to leave before having been served a good home cooked meal or a lunch and coffee and dessert. Lucy hovered by the stove and the table, waiting on everyone and encouraging them to eat before she took time to sit down and eat.

Frank and Lucy continued to farm until 1943. However, the dust on the farm occasionally re-aggravated Frank's eyes. Therefore, when a neighbor, Harry Wendricks, offered twelve thousand dollars for the farm, they sold it and moved to the village of Brussels. There they bought a frame home with two acres of land for four thousand dollars. Frank continued to work at the shipyard, the cherry packing plant and at the local pea vinery. He also helped a son-in-law build a home and grist mill in Rosiere, then he worked at the mill full time for a period of nine years. He finally retired in 1956 when he was seventy-two years old. At some encouragement from his daughters, he then reluctantly applied for Social Security. At first he did not want to apply for it as he felt that Social Security was too much like some kind of poor relief. When he learned that everyone else participated, he felt better about applying. His eyes did not bother him after he left the farm, except for a period when he worked at the shipyard and the iron dust apparently affected him.

Lucy and Frank were the parents of four daughters, namely, Emerence, Odile, Josie and Grace.

They were all born at the stone house on the farm. Doctor John Murphy, a brother-in-law, was the doctor in attendance. The girls all walked to the Rosiere grade school one mile south and one half mile east of their home. After passing their county eighth grade exams, they entered Brussels High School. Emerence and Odile rode to high school with a neighbor in a horse drawn buggy in spring and fall, and a cutter in winter. The horse was stabled in the barn where Frank now lives. In 1926, and thereafter, the girls generally rode in a car driven by a neighbor. When the roads were blocked with snow, they would stay a few days in Brussels with their cousins, the Murphys. One winter, Odile boarded for a month at Grandma LeMense's near the school. After high school, they all entered the Door Kewaunee Normal School and boarded at the school dormitory. Then they taught school at various grade schools within four miles from home. When Odile started teaching at Duval in the fall of 1929, her salary was sixty-five dollars a month for nine months. This was gradually increased to ninety-five dollars in her third year. Her salary was given to her parents for room, board, clothing and other expenses, plus the use of a model-T Ford to drive to school. Thirty dollars a month were saved at the bank in her

name. She lost about one third of these savings when the Sturgeon Bay bank closed in 1933.

Emerence married Anton Jenquin who had been a teacher and a radio operator on a ship prior to their marriage. After their marriage, he worked for Montgomery Ward in Green Bay for a few years, then he established a Case Equipment sales and service shop in Seymour, which he operated until his retirement.

Odile and Joseph Pierre were married in a double wedding ceremony at St. Hubert's, with Emerence and Anton. Joe worked for the Soil Conservation Service in various capacities for thirty-one and one half years. He retired from his final assignment as Regional Cornbelt Agronomist on January 1, 1967.

Josie and her husband, Ed Wautlet, operated a dairy farm near Brussels until they retired in 1975 and moved to Algoma.

Grace married Harvey LeMense, a graduate of Stevens Point College, who taught school a few years before he built a new home in 1953 and a feed sales and grinding mill in 1947 at Rosiere. After opening the mill for twenty-three years, Harvey now sells real estate and rents the mill to another operator.

On July 30, 1974, Lucy suffered a stroke and was taken to the Sturgeon Bay Hospital where she died a few hours later without regaining consciousness. She is buried in the St. Francis Xavier cemetery in Brussels. Her daughters and their husbands had visited with her during the week prior to her death.

After Lucy died, Frank decided to remain in their residence at Brussels. He prepares his own meals, washes his clothes, maintains a garden, mows his lawn and keeps his house clean. He still drives to church and to the local grocery store and is active physically and mentally. However, at ninety-one years of age, he is partially deaf. His daughters, especially Grace who lives closer to Brussels than the others, helps him prepare various foods and special meals. The LeMenses help with special cleaning, and they stop by often to visit and check on his needs.

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