



# Luxembourg Heritage Society of Southern Minnesota



## \*NEWSLETTER\*

Volume 2 / Edition 1

Winter, 2008

## ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET !

Our first, full-membership meeting will take place on **January 19, 2008** at the "Vineyard Room" of the **Orchid Inn in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota!** (500 Burnside Street S.E., 507-794-3211)

**The plan** is to have a Social Hour from 6:00-7:00pm – including concertina music by LHS Treasurer, Gene Bertrand! It will be followed by a banquet of wonderful food from 7:00-8:00pm. A short business meeting, explaining the membership and organization's structure will follow for about 30 minutes.

The **highlight** of the evening will be a slide show and presentation by Luxembourg-native and LHS member, Olga Carlson from St. Peter. The evening should wrap-up around 9:30pm.

This will also be a great **chance to get to meet each other** and share some stories. Many of us are only connected by e-mail notices and putting a face with a name will be a real pleasure!

**The menu will be:** "Smothered Steak" (Salisbury Steak with mushrooms and gravy), cole slaw, mashed potatoes and gravy, glazed carrots, and a dessert of bread pudding with a hot, buttered rum sauce! Coffee and milk, too.

Since this meeting is a benefit of membership, but could also serve as a membership recruitment tool, the Board recently decided to allow up to **two non-members with each LHS member**. We have also priced this to cover our costs and not to profit from. We hope by keeping the cost as low as we can, that we can attract more people. The rate includes taxes and tips.

Please send **\$15 per person** to:

Luxembourg Heritage Society of Southern Minnesota  
c/o Judy Beech  
110 Burnside Street S.W.  
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085  
507-794-6961  
[judyb@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:judyb@sleepyeyetel.net)

To allow for a proper food count and seating capacity, please **send your money by January 15**. Make note of your name and address with the check and include the number of people attending with you. You won't want to miss this evening of meeting new people, learning and friendship!

# “Luxembourg Wine Tasting”

Led by the Luxembourg American Cultural Society (LACS) from Port Washington, WI, our Luxembourg Heritage Society (LHS) was asked to host a “Luxembourg Wine Tasting” event on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Orchid Inn in Sleepy Eye. Sadly, there were not enough people signed up so the event was canceled. However, I was intrigued by what the tasting would offer and so I chose to attend the same event at the elegant Legends Golf Club in Prior Lake (southwest Minneapolis area) on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> and it proved to be very worthwhile!

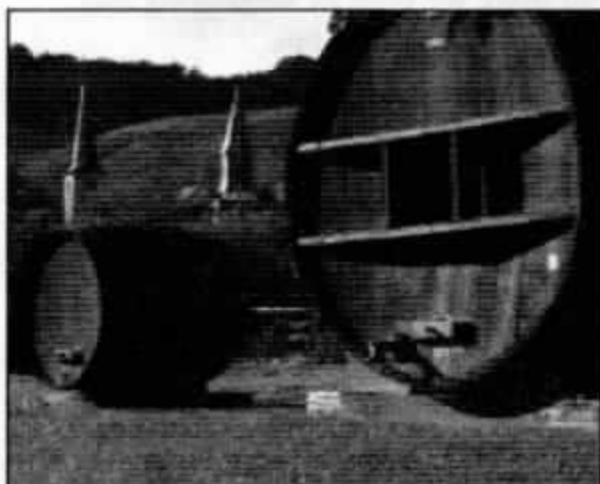
Our friend, Kevin Wester from LACS, met me there as he was helping to organize and set-up the event. He had posters from Luxembourg and materials from L.A.C.S. spread out for the attendees and he then asked if I could help serve the wine, which I agreed to do. This was my entrée into meeting Dan Garland, who is the owner of the famed wine merchant, “C.E. Madinger” from the St. Louis area. Dan is a gentle man who enjoyed sharing his knowledge of fine Luxembourg wines as he instructed two of us in the wines’ nuances and characteristics to share with the attendees. He also had the evening’s wines for sale, which I bought more of than I planned on (10 bottles.) The fact that LACS received a share of the profit was my rationalization to my wife! (See [www.madingerwines.com](http://www.madingerwines.com)).

Luxembourg is famous for their white, generally sweeter, wines from the Moselle River valley in the southeast part of the country. The Moselle is a larger-than-expected river that has carved a wide valley that generally has gentle slopes, although steep cliffs do appear at certain places. This is the most famous of Luxembourg’s wine production and has been going on since the Romans lived there.

Dan had six wines from Luxembourg which were the Rivaner, Riesling, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Auxerrois and Brut. He said the Rivaner is the most popularly drunk wine in Luxembourg and was among my favorite, although the Auxerrois (ox’-er-waah) was also very nice. The Brut was a sparkling wine that was a blend of several types and had a light red color with a complex, yet pleasing, taste.

Since the soil and, more importantly the climate, are not conducive for good red wine grapes in Luxembourg, he had four reds from France, which I served. They were very also quite nice, but a definite change from the cleaner and sweeter whites.

About 50 people showed up, nearly 35 of them from the “Thein” family from around the Twin City area, and they were treated to “heavy hors d’ oeuvres,” that included wonderful smoked salmon, fruit, cheeses, crackers, green beans in olive oil, artichoke hearts, olives and pimentos.



Wine drinking is big part of modern and traditional Luxembourg life and this was a nice chance to experience part of that culture. I made some new friends and shared some Luxie stories. Kevin hopes we can attempt this type of event in the future in southern Minnesota and I would encourage everyone to try and make it. He has discussed combining it with a traveling show on loan from Ellis Island about Luxembourg immigration.

\*We will definitely keep you posted as this develops!

Maybe we can emulate the Thein family and make it a mini-family reunion for some of us?! ... *Terry Sveine*

## "Luxembourgish" = The Language of Luxembourg

Did you know that the country of Luxembourg has its own language? This small nation speaks an ancient language called Luxembourgish or, in the native tongue, "Letzebuergesch."

Without going into too much history, the very name "Luxembourg" derives from the Latin, "Lucillinburhoc" meaning "little castle." Through time, the name has evolved into "Luxembourg," which, by the way, is the preferred French version of the name, although you'll still see the Germanic spelling without the "o" used on occasion. The language's name, therefore, follows after the country's name.

Being such a small country sandwiched between their traditionally dominant neighbors, the French and Germans, the modern Luxembourger is in the rare position to speak four languages fluently, having all been taught to them in school. They are: German, French, English and Luxembourgish.

In this author's experience, Luxembourgish sounds to the casual listener like German, both in the similarity of the words and the manner in which they are spoken. However, upon closer listening, you'll find that what you think is German, has few recognizable German words at all! It can be very confusing the first time it is heard.

Some will tell you that Luxembourgish is a simple mixture of the neighboring French and German languages, but historical linguists say that Luxembourgish has derived from Latin, Celtic and Franconian and started in the southeastern part of the country along the Moselle River.

Broadly speaking, in modern Luxembourg French is used in formal and legal settings, German is used in the newspapers and other communications, and the people speak Luxembourgish in their day-to-day dealings with each other. English is readily spoken, especially in business and travel settings. However, as you will see below, some Luxembourgish words are near-exact copies of other languages.

There are, of course, proper pronunciations for Luxembourgish that sometimes vary from one's expectations, but here are some simple Luxembourgish words with their English counterparts to get you started:

<u>English</u>	<u>Luxembourgish</u>
Hello	Allo!, Salut, Moein ("moy' en") - this has become very common
Good-bye	Awar, Au revoir, ("o vwah"), Aeddi ("eddy") - this is also very common
Beer	Beier
Wine	Wain
Thanks	Merci
Please	Gefalen
Meat / Beef	Fleesch / Rendfleesch
Vegetable	Gemeiss
Excuse me	Entschellegt mech
Eat	lessen
Left	Lenks
Right	Recht

(All words and meanings are taken from the "Lycee Michael Rodange, Dictionary: English-Luxembourgish," 1995.)

# MEMBERSHIP

Here we welcome the next batch of new members since the last Newsletter in October. We will continue to list new members in this section with the member's name and the names of their Luxembourg ancestors as they join. Please notify us if we have forgotten you!

## **New Members**

## **Ancestors' Names**

Marge (Lux) Weis

Lux

Dennis and Kathleen Lux

Lux

Marlene (Wallner) Schulke

Schmitz, Poncin, Arnoldi

Jerry and Shirleen Gulden

No known Luxies, but they like to support groups like ours!

Suzanne Bunkers

Many, she's written a book about one family.

John Bertrand

Bertrand

Diane Coffield

Bertrand

*\*Remember to send in your payment and feel free to ask others to join.*

*\*The fees are \$20 for a single per year, \$25 for a couple and \$50 for a business.*

*\*Applications can be gotten by sending to Terry Sveine for now, until we have a Post Office Box address.*

# TRIPS TO THE OLD COUNTRY

We are aware of two trips that might interest some of our members wishing to get to Luxembourg...

Member, **Ruth Lee Bertrand**, through her business, Ruth's German Haus in Red Wing, offers a trip to "Germany and the Benelux Countries" on March 29-April 10, 2008. Call her at 651-388-0516 for details and a brochure. The itinerary looks to be a nice overview of the whole area.

By the way, "Benelux" is short for - Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg!

Our friend who brings Luxembourgers to America, is hoping to do the same thing in reverse by hosting Americans who would go to Luxembourg. His program is not formalized yet and he has no brochures as of this writing, but **Rene Daubenfeld's** web-site will give you some ideas about a unique trip possibility. Look at [www.webplaza.pt.lu/haffren](http://www.webplaza.pt.lu/haffren) for details. You can also see pictures of his past visits to America. He is taking suggestions at the web-site.

## Web-sites for Luxies!

[www.deltgen.com](http://www.deltgen.com) – Rob Deltgen's massive genealogy site. Log-in and registration is needed by logging onto the site. The material in here is generally considered to be very accurate.

[www.luxembourg.co.uk](http://www.luxembourg.co.uk) – The English branch of the Luxembourg Tourism authority.

It seems to be different than the regular Lux. Tourism site.

[www.intech.mnsu.edu/bunkers/reflections\\_of\\_luxembourg\\_in\\_the\\_u\\_s.htm](http://www.intech.mnsu.edu/bunkers/reflections_of_luxembourg_in_the_u_s.htm) -

LHS member, Suzanne Bunkers' large bibliography and fine essay on Luxembourg

[www.station.lu](http://www.station.lu) *2000 network*

This is a site with news updates. You can sign-up for free weekly notices sent via e-mail.

## Luxembourg Facts and Trivia

\*The World War II fight, "The Battle of the Bulge," happened when Germany pushed west from her border into southeastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg creating a "bulge" on the map.

\*Luxembourg's official name is "The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg." A duchy ("dutch'-ee") is the name of a land ruled by a Duke or Duchess, just as a King rules a Kingdom.

\*Luxembourg claims to be 98 per cent Roman Catholic, making it far more Catholic than virtually anyplace on Earth. However, as in much of the world, the active practice of one's religion is not as strong as the official counting of that religion. None-the-less, it's still very Catholic!

## Luxembourg Novelties For Sale

Our talented Treasurer, Gene Bertrand from Sleepy Eye, has gotten hold of some interesting and useful items that he is offering for sale. They could be used as gifts or just for yourselves to have.

Luxembourg's patron saint is "Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted" and Gene has two models of this, one is 9" and the other 12". They are of high quality resin casting with very good painting and nice details.

The statues sell for \$64.95 for the bigger -plus \$12.50 for shipping and handling (S+H) and \$34.95 for the smaller - plus \$8.50 S+H.

He also has an interesting cookbook from the Rollingstone, MN Luxembourg Heritage Society and features over 260 pages in an easy-to-use spiral binding so it lays flat for easy use.

The cookbook sells for around \$13.00.

Contact Gene at 507-794-4077 on how to purchase these. He will also have them for sale at our Annual Meeting and Banquet.



The actual statues are similar to this, but in blue and white.

# Hammelsmarsch

On the Sunday nearest August 24, which is St. Bartholemy's Day, a festival is held which includes the unique "March of Sheep" or, the "Hammelsmarsch." The festival has been held since the Middle Ages and is called a "Kiermas" because this word is also the word for the Cathedral's consecration celebration which is also held at that time.

Troupes of musicians dressed in blue smocks to resemble 19<sup>th</sup> Century farmers, follow a shepherd and a flock of sheep that are adorned with ribbons and other decorations through the streets of Luxembourg City. They will play the traditional Hammelsmarsch song and are accompanied by many followers who often sing lyrics to the tune composed by the revered national poet, Michel Lentz. (Marie-Pierre Schambourg played several songs by Mr. Lentz when she gave her concert in Sleepy Eye last August.)

The Mayor will meet the group of people and sheep at the entrance to the fouer (fair) at the fairgrounds and accompany him through the grounds, taking time to meet and visit with the people. This ceremony ends with traditional food like Kiermasham (ham) and Kiermaskuch (cake) at restaurants in the fairgrounds.

The photo reproduced below is a gift from our Luxembourgger friend, Rene Daubenfeld, and shows a scene from around 100 years ago. (Note that the fest's name is spelled slightly differently.)



## Recommended Books

**"Luxembourgers in the New World, Vol. I and II"** by Nicholas Gonner in 1889.

Look for the reprinted and modern translated version by Jean Ensich, Jean-Claude Muller and Robert E. Owen from 1987. (The L.A.C.S. organization sells it from their web-site. See page 9.)

Gonner was a newspaper editor in Dubuque in the later 1800s and Volume I is a valuable collection of Luxembourg history, emigration, culture and a state-by-state assessment of Luxembourg settlement in America. Volume II is a list of known Luxembourgger immigrants and a reference to where their names came from. **This book is a must** for anyone looking to build their knowledge of Luxembourg and its influence in America!

# Pioneer Biography

"E.P. Bertrand -

Citizen of Home Township & Sleepy Eye in Brown County, MN"

*(This is an attempt to assess the life and achievements of E.P. Bertrand, my grandfather, who died in 1924 at the age of 86, seven years before my birth. He was 59 years of age when his youngest child, Catherine Mathilda Bertrand, my mother, was born in 1897. - Peggy A. Tauer)*

## **An Emigrant from Luxembourg**

An emigrant from Luxembourg was elected to the Minnesota State House of Representatives from Brown County, Minnesota, in 1877 and again in 1879. He was Edward Peter Bertrand, born Pierre Edward Bertrand on Oct. 13, 1838 in Oberanven, Luxembourg. His parents were Mathias and Maria (Fiedler) Bertrand. Edward Peter Bertrand was the first of his family to emigrate from Luxembourg, sailing at the age of 18 on the ship "Robert L. Lane." This vessel proceeded from Antwerp, Belgium, and arrived in New York harbor in April of 1856.

According to his biography in The Book of Minnesotans, Bertrand's first stop was at Chicago where he took various jobs, on a farm, in a brick yard, and as a blacksmith. The following year, his parents and siblings joined him in America and they all settled on a farm near New Prague, in Scott County, Minnesota.

He left his family to work for 18 months in St. Paul, at the Winslow House on 7 Corners. Then he went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was employed in hotels for the American Express Company, and doing cabin and kitchen work as a pastry man on steamboats on the Missouri, lower Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

Bertrand enlisted in the Union Army on April 22, 1861 in Company H, 2nd Regiment, Missouri Volunteers, led by Col. Heinrich Bornstein. After serving for three months, he was honorably discharged July 31, 1861. He came home at the request of his parents to work on the farm. He later taught school in Jackson County, Iowa in 1864 and drove an ice wagon in Dubuque, Iowa.

The Bertrand family sold their farm in Scott County in 1867 and moved to the Sioux Reservation in Brown County, Minnesota, where they farmed in concert. Edward Peter (E.P.) settled with his parents and siblings on a 160-acre farm approximately seven miles northeast of the small body of water known as Sleepy Eye Lake. His cousin, John H. Bertrand with his wife Margarethe Fiedler (niece of Maria), had also secured land nearby.

On May 19, 1874, Bertrand married Anna Kioes, daughter of Philipp and Elizabeth (Schmitz) Kioes at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in New Ulm. The ceremony was officiated by the Rev. Alexander Berghold, a missionary priest and first pastor of the church in New Ulm. The Kioes family had emigrated from Luxembourg in 1869, to New Ulm, Minnesota.

E.P. and Anna moved from their farm in Home Township to the village of Sleepy Eye in 1879. On Nov. 10, 1886, the Bertrands purchased 12.6 acres from Thomas Allison for \$800. Their new home was located on the site of the present hospital grounds. When the Sleepy Eye Municipal Hospital was built in 1941-42, the home was moved to a site just south of the hospital, where it was used to house student nurses. When the hospital board decided to sell the house with the stipulation it be moved,

the grand old structure was purchased by Eugene Bertrand in November 1993. In October 1994, it was moved to his farm three miles north of Sleepy Eye, where it is being restored.

After his terms in the state legislature, Bertrand was a partner in a general store with Andrew Rinke (Bertrand & Rinke) in Sleepy Eye from 1881-90 and owned a hardware and implement store (Bertrand & Lindemann) from 1899 to 1903. He organized the Farmers & Merchants State Bank in Sleepy Eye in 1904, serving as president and vice-president. Other positions he held were Brown County auditor from 1885-90 and judge of probate from 1893-94.

E.P.'s small law book, titled, "The American Lawyer, and Business-Man's Form-Book," is still preserved. Inside the front cover, in his handwriting, is the inscription: E.P. Bertrand, Home, Minnesota, 1870. This refers to his residence in Home Township at that time.

In the July 31, 1956 issue of the Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch, a letter from Sleepy Eye's postmaster, A.D. Bertrand, related a story told by L.G. Davis, who had been county attorney 50 years earlier. At that time, E.P. Bertrand was county auditor. The story is this: A farmer living close to Sleepy Eye appeared in district court and asked to have his farm set outside the Sleepy Eye school district. His argument was not taxes, but "When my boys go to town school they will fight with the town boys and I don't want that." After the matter came to court, some men were discussing the case. E.P. Bertrand, a large, portly man, and of few words, said, "Huh! That fellow has no boys and no prospects of ever having any."

E.P. Bertrand was elected president of the village council of Sleepy Eye Lake, as the town was known then, from 1900-02. The council president position was comparable to that of mayor, a position that was established with the adoption of a new charter for Sleepy Eye in 1903.

One of the pioneer members of St. Mary's Parish of Sleepy Eye, Bertrand was an active participant in the affairs of St. Mary's Catholic Church, serving on its board of trustees. He was a member of the building committee that was chosen in 1900 at a meeting of parishioners who proposed a resolution to build a new church. It was said that Bertrand had a fine voice and his singing in the church choir sometimes overpowered the other choir members' voices. An interesting tradition is that E.P.'s daughter Mathilda was a member of St. Mary's Church choir for 52 years. E.P.'s grandson, M.J. Bertrand and his great-grandson Dr. Thomas Larson, are also soloists in their church choirs.

### **Tragedy and Going On**

During the diphtheria epidemic in January 1882, E.P. and Anna Bertrand lost five of their children within a period of 13 days. There were also two who had died in infancy and one at the age of seven years. E.P. visited Europe in the summers of 1882 and 1897. Family lore indicates he took his wife to Europe after the loss of the five children to the dread disease, diphtheria.

Six more children were born and survived to adulthood and had families of their own. In the year 2002, there were seven living grandchildren of E.P. and Anna Bertrand, five in Minnesota, and one each in Missouri and Arizona.

E.P. and Anna returned once more to Luxembourg in 1910, accompanied by their daughter Frances. The Ellis Island web site shows them returning to the United States on the steamer, Lapland.

In Oberanven, Edward Peter Bertrand had attended the village school, and helped with work on the farm. Since he was the eldest child, he most likely learned responsibility at an early age. This background carried him on to his life in America. As it was with thousands of other immigrants, hard

work and a skillful adaptation to a new country resulted in an honorable life for E.P. and other members of the Bertrand family.  
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Sources of information:

Luxembourg Archives; Vol. I of The Book of Minnesotans, A Biographical Dictionary, pgs. 42 & 43, published in 1907 by Albert Nelson Marquis & Company of Chicago;

Nicolas Gonner's Luxembourgers in the New World, 1889, translated from the German edition by Gerald L. Liebenau and Jean-Claude Muller;

A Centennial History, St. Mary's Parish, Sleepy Eye, Minnesota;

E.P. Bertrand's obituary in the May 22, 1924 issue of the Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch;

The obituary of Anna Kioes Bertrand in the Feb. 5, 1931 Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch;

Other information was obtained from the City of Sleepy Eye archives.

By: Peggy A. Tauer / 643 1st Ave. N. / Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 / 507-794-7677



## National Affiliation

We are proud to claim our Society as being officially affiliated with the national group, the Luxembourg American Cultural Society from Port Washington, Wisconsin. They feature news on their web-site and a wonderful Newsletter. We encourage everyone to join them. You will not be let down! The dates for the national conference are August 8-10, 2008 and you can find more details at their web-site at [www.luxamculturalsocietyu.org](http://www.luxamculturalsocietyu.org) or by writing to:

L.A.C.S. / P.O. Box 614 / Port Washington, WI 53074 -or call- 262-355-5758.



**Luxembourg Heritage Society**

c/o Terry Sveine  
904 North Minnesota  
New Ulm, MN 56073

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**The 2007-08 Luxembourg Heritage Society of Southern Minnesota BOARD:**

Terry Sveine - President	Judy Beech - Vice-President
Gene Bertrand - Treasurer	Carol Bruggeman - Secretary
Gail Christensen - Board Member	Ron Schmitz - Board Member
Peggy Tauer - Board Member	

**Membership Events**

\*January 19 - Annual Meeting and Banquet

**LHS Board Meetings**

\*January 31  
\*February 28  
\*March 27