

N.E. WISCONSIN BELGIAN CHAPELS

The wayside votive chapels of Northeast Wisconsin are a religious tradition brought from the old world. In the 1850s, Belgian immigrants began settling in northeast Brown, northwest Kewaunee, and southern Door counties, bringing their cherished culture and customs. Mostly devout Roman Catholics, they made their homes in a wilderness where crude roads and few churches made it difficult to assemble and practice their faith. To compensate, some settlers continued the Belgian tradition of building a family chapel, often to give thanks for prayers answered or to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary or a special saint.

At first glance, these sacred places could be mistaken for a simple garden shed or privy, were it not for the small cross usually placed above the door or on the roof. While the chapels in Belgium were often built of stone or brick masonry, the majority of northeast Wisconsin chapels are of wood construction, using material more readily available to the settlers.

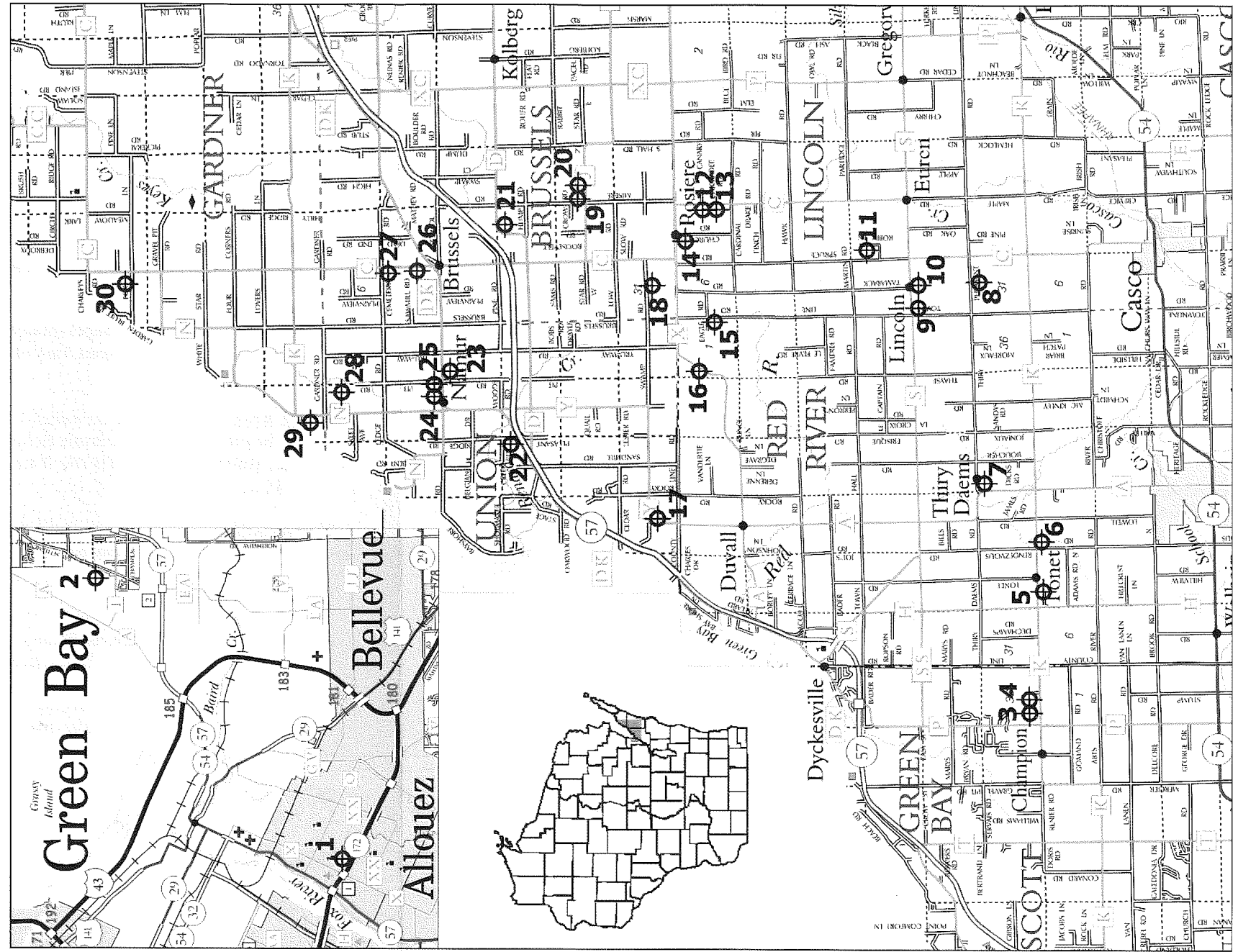
Each chapel has a small altar on the wall opposite the door, which is lovingly decorated with flowers, candles, religious pictures, and statues. Sometimes, personal items are hung on the walls, including photographs and marriage and baptismal certificates. A chapel dedicated to a saint may have the name of the saint on a small sign above the door. By tradition, wayside chapels were open to any worshippers at any time, and were somewhat removed from the farm itself for privacy and quiet. These chapels were, and still are, houses of worship, and should be treated with reverence and respect by the visitor.

Some of the chapels are on or near their original location, several have been moved, and some have been lost. This flyer represents an effort to map the remaining chapels, some old and some of more recent origin. More history on the existing, relocated, and razed chapels will be compiled in a separate booklet.

Each description lists in italics the name of the family that built the chapel, plus any subsequent owners.

After each description, the following symbols indicate any limitations for access to the chapel and property:

- (OP) = Open to the public. Note that some chapels may be inaccessible and closed in winter.
- (LP) = Limited public access. The visitor should obtain permission from the owner to enter and, if necessary, have the door unlocked.
- (PR) = Private. No access is allowed onto the owner's property.



BROWN COUNTY

- 1 **Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel** (*Derenne*)
Heritage Hill State Park, Allouez.
(OP, with admission charge)
- 2 **Saint Anthony Chapel** (*LeMieux/LaPlant*)
on UW-Green Bay Campus (at tower on Bay
Settlement Road, descend the hill and walk
right of the Arboretum Trail 1/4 mile). (OP)
- 3 **Our Lady of Good Help Chapel** (*Brice,
Lambert/Adele*), 4047 Chapel Drive in
Robinsonville (CTH K east of Champion).
(OP)
- 4 **Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel** (*Tombal*),
on the grounds of Our Lady of Good Help
Chapel, 4047 Chapel Drive (CTH K east of
Champion), Robinsonville. (LP)

KEWAUNEE COUNTY

- 5 **Blessed Virgin Mary World War I
Soldier's Memorial Chapel** (*Vandevelde*)
St. Martin's Catholic Cemetery, E699 CTH
K at Tonet Road, Tonet. (OP)
- 6 **Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel**
(*Bertrand/Delveaux*), E929 CTH K at
Rondevaux Road, east of Tonet. (OP)
- 7 **Saint Odile Chapel** (*St. Odile's Catholic
Cemetery*), across from E1354 Thirty-
Daems Road, Thirty-Daems. (OP)
- 8 **Walloon Shrine of Saint Hubert and All
Saints Chapel** (*Bellin*), E2661 Pheasant
Road between CTH C and Town Line
Road, north of Casco. (LP)
- 9 **Our Lady of the Afflicted Chapel**
(*Cochart*), Saint Peter's Catholic Church
yard, E2591 CTH S, Lincoln. (OP)

KEWAUNEE COUNTY (cont'd)

- 10 **Saint Anthony of Padua Chapel**
(*Looze/Kinnard*), E2709 CTH S at
Tamarack Road, Lincoln. (OP)
- 11 **Holy Family Chapel** (*Opicka*), N8598
Spruce Road, northeast of Lincoln. (PR)
- 12 **Saint Hubert Chapel** (*Massart*), E9553
CTH C, southeast of Rosiere (chapel in
home). (PR)
- 13 **Saint Donat Chapel** (*Massart/DeVillers*),
E9553 CTH C, southeast of Rosiere,
(under repair). (LP)
- 14 **St. Peregrine Chapel** (*Bouchonville*),
St. Hubert's Cemetery, E9553 CTH C,
Rosiere. (OP)
- 15 **Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel** (*LeGrave*),
N9487 Red River / Town Line Road at
Eagle Road, southwest of Rosiere. (OP)
- 16 **St. Francis of Assisi Chapel** (*Wendricks/
Lautenbach*), E2131 CTH X, southwest of
Rosiere (by appointment). (LP)

DOOR COUNTY

- 17 **Saint Hubert Chapel** (*Guillette*), Saint
Francis de Paul Catholic Cemetery, 200
CTH Y, north of Duval. (LP)
- 18 **Our Mother of Perpetual Help Chapel**
(*Baudhuin/Jadin*), 9861 Swamp Road west
of CTH C, northwest of Rosiere. (OP)
- 19 **Saint Michael the Archangel Grotto**
(*Englebert*), Saint Michael's Catholic
Cemetery, 562 Misere Road north of CTH
J, Misere. (OP)

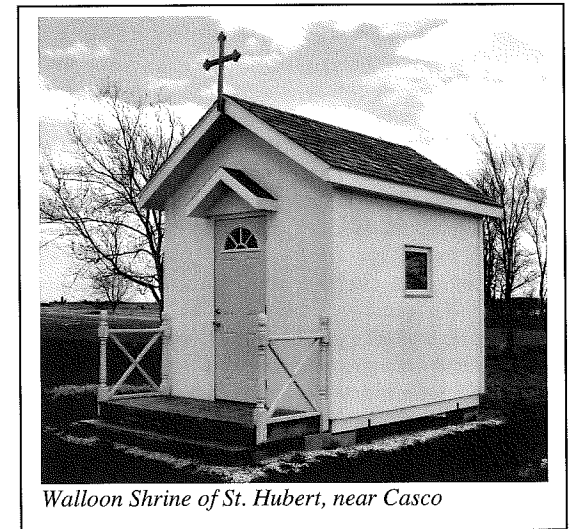
DOOR COUNTY (cont'd)

- 20 **Saint Ghislain Chapel** (*Flemal*), Saint
Michael's Catholic Cemetery, 562 Misere
Road north of CTH J, Misere. (OP)
- 21 **Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel**
(*LaCrosse*), 9415 CTH D west of Misere
Road, north of Misere (addition to garage,
enter through garage). (OP)
- 22 **Our Lady of the Snows Chapel**
(*Englebert*), 1003 Pleasant Ridge Road at
Creek Road, southwest of Namur (under
construction). (LP)
- 23 **Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel** (*Baudhuin*)
CTH DK near 1298 Pit Road, East of
Namur. (OP)
- 24 **St. Roch Chapel** (*Jadin/Gerondale*),
on the grounds of the Peninsula Belgian
American Club, 1257 CTH DK, Namur.
(OP)
- 25 **Norbertine Chapel** (*Peninsula Belgian-
American Club*), in the clubhouse of the
Peninsula Belgian American Club, 1257
CTH DK, Namur. (LP)
- 26 **Little Chapel of the Sacred Heart**
(*Englebert*), 1453 CTH C, Brussels. (OP)
- 27 **St. Francis and St. Mary Grotto**
9716 CTH C, St. Francis Catholic
Cemetery, north of Brussels. (OP)
- 28 **"Two Hearts" Chapel** (*Moore*), Pit Road
northeast of Namur. (PR)
- 29 **Chapel of the Holy Family** (*Pierre*)
1853 CTH N south of CTH K (not visible
from road, use driveway). (OP)
- 30 **Saint Odile Chapel** (*Destree*), 9780 Fox
Lane, Town of Gardner. (OP)

BELGIAN ROADSIDE CHAPELS

in

**Brown, Door,
and Kewaunee Counties**



Walloon Shrine of St. Hubert, near Casco

**Produced by the
Peninsula Belgian American Club
of Namur, Wisconsin
and
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- **Brown County Historical Society**
- **Door County Historical Society**
- **Kewaunee County Historical Society**
- **Namur Belgian Heritage Foundation**