

How Did Immigrants/Migrants Change Wisconsin? Background Information on Photographs

1. Immigrants named cities and towns after their homelands.

Luxemburg

Named by its **German settlers** for the province and city in Western Germany.

Brussels

"With its 400 kilometres of coasts bathed by Lake Michigan and Green Bay, the Door Peninsula is the first tourist destination of Wisconsin. More exactly, it is the half north of the Peninsula, still very woody, that attracts the townsman and woman. In the South, where agriculture got the upper hand, cars pass but do not stop. It is there, in the middle of the cornfields, that lives in the United States the most important communities of **Belgian origin**, scattered in a dozen villages in the suggestive names: Namur, Brussels, but also Dyckesville, recollection of an emigrant native from Antwerp, Belgium. In the middle of the XIX century, some thousand Belgians emigrated in the USA to avoid the misery that raged in campaigns, especially in Brabant and around Namur..."

Denmark

Settled in 1848 by immigrants from **Denmark** who named the capital of their new "kingdom" Copenhagen, and spoke of the leading family, Niels Hans Gotfredsen and his wife, as "the king and queen of Denmark"

2. Immigrants and migrants built homes using the traditional building methods from their homelands.

The **Oneida and Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican** built longhouses, following the traditional building methods from where they originated in the eastern United States.

German settlers built at least two different style of homes in Wisconsin, based on the styles followed in Germany. One was called the "half-timber," composed of timber and brick and a more traditional all-wooden home built from logs. The design of both homes was similar with a long front porch covered by a roof.

Polish settlers built homes from both pieces of log and cement, called the "stovewood" style. Stovewood construction is best characterized by logs cut into short uniform sections. Individual pieces were then stacked perpendicular to the length of the wall in a bed of lime mortar. With the rounded ends left exposed, the logs resembled well-organized piles of firewood. Occasionally these pieces were split lengthwise before being encased in mortar.

3. Immigrants brought religious traditions to Wisconsin and built churches or places of worship to follow their religious traditions.

German immigrants built a **Lutheran church** in Middleton in 1866. It still stands, but is no longer used.

Irish Catholic Church built in Milwaukee to serve Irish Catholic immigrants living on the south side of Milwaukee.

Hmong Christian Church was built in 2007 in Eau Claire with over 25 families, and now has almost 55 families and 225 members. The church said it is the second largest of only a handful of Hmong churches in the Chippewa Valley. The church has Sunday school services in English, with church sermons spoken in Hmong.

The new **Masjid Al-Noor mosque** in the city of Brookfield, Wisconsin opened its doors in January, 2015. The mosque has about 100 families. The Islamic Society of Milwaukee first began pursuing the idea of a mosque in Brookfield nearly 10 years ago. A congregation of 60 to 70 Muslims met for prayer services in Waukesha County beginning in 2000 in temporary locations. The Islamic Society of Milwaukee purchased the land that now houses Masjid-al-Noor in 2009 and 2010 and sought permission from Brookfield for the vision to become a reality.

4. Immigrants brought their cultural traditions and celebrations from their homelands to Wisconsin.

The Freistadt Alte Kameraden Band, a German band, performs during the Oktoberfest celebration at the Bavarian Inn in Glendale.

Female Hmong dancers dance in a Hmong New Year celebration.

Members of the Cashel Dennehy Irish Dance troupe came to College Park Elementary School in Greendale on St. Patrick's Day to perform their traditional steps.

5. Immigrants brought traditional foods from their homelands to Wisconsin.

Traditional Hmong eggrolls

Traditional German foods: bratwurst and sauerkraut

Traditional Irish foods: corned beef and cabbage

Traditional Mexican foods: enchiladas, rice, refried beans