

Update 8 August 2011

## MASONS and CONTRACTORS

**Jean Nicolas Lanners** (1) was born 24 February 1800 in [Schlindermanderscheid](#) in Northern Luxembourg. He was the illegitimate child of Elisabeth Steichen, born in Schifflange, who was a servant in Schlindermanderscheid. He was apparently recognized by Gaspard Lanners at his marriage with Elisabeth on 4 February 1801, although the marriage record does not mention it. Jean Nicolas marries 11 January 1823 in Hoscheid Elisabeth Thillen and he is a mason. Later sources quote him as carpenter, mason or contractor. (Baumeister).

The Lanners-Steichen couple will have 13 children, among them 3 sons who will follow their father's traces:

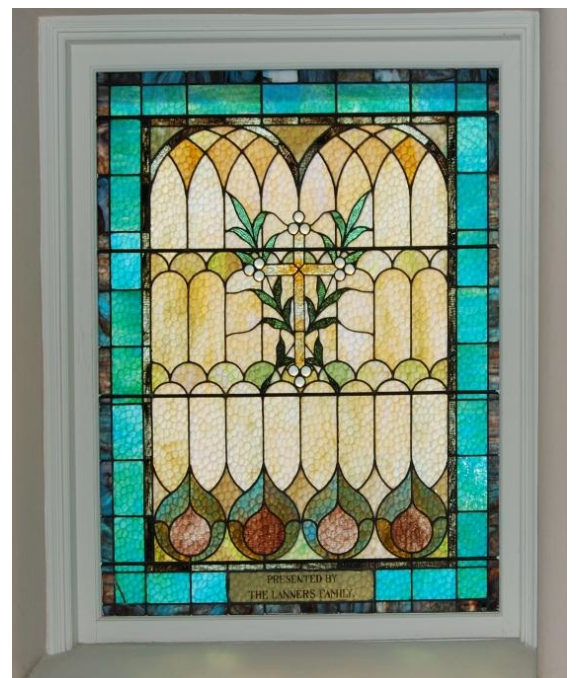
**1. Guillaume/William Lanners** (2) was born [11 December 1829 in Hoscheid](#). Up to 1855, he is mentioned in the Hoscheid censuses: mason, single; in 1858 he is no longer present. A William Lanners, "stone maker/mason", 40 years, shows up in the 1870 census at [Tyrone](#), Blair County in Pennsylvania and also in later censuses. The author's guess that this was the Luxembourg Guillaume was confirmed in June 2011 when his descendant [John Edward Keehner](#) from Youngstown, OH contacted the author after having spotted him on the [author's Geneanet site](#). Guillaume/William emigrated indeed in 1857 and settled in Tyrone, initially as mason, later as contractor. He founded the "Lanners Construction Company" specializing in building railroad bridges and coking coal furnaces for the regional coal industry.

William participated in the local public life and served as a city councilor. His merits have been recognized and perpetuated in the local Lanners Street: Google Maps: West Lanners Street, Tyrone, PA, United State



Photo Neil&Nancy Smith Tyrone Area Historical Society 16.7.2011

William supported actively the [construction of the catholic St. Matthew's church](#) 1891-1896 and the Lanners family also sponsored a church window. His involvement in the church construction is reported in the history of St. Matthews: *"The foundation was laid by William Lanners and Sons, local stone masons. Mr. Lanners, a parishioner, used a molding technique to create cement blocks which looked like rough stone. Many of the older homes in Tyrone have foundations laid by Mr. Lanners and his employees. Some of his work can be seen in the intricate **molded stonework on the church**"*



Photos: John E. Keehner  
10.6.2009

William married in 1864 Catherine Brickle (or Bickle) and the couple had 9 children of whom 3 were masons:

**William Lanners Jr.** (3) 1866-1942 took over the management of the family company. He did not marry, but was active in the local community life and chaired a beneficiary brotherhood in 1897.

**John Lanners** (3) 1869-1952 was an expert stone mason, but shied away from administrative duties and worked for the company in the profession he had learned and knew best. He is told to have been the finest poker player Tyrone ever produced.

**Theodore Lanners** (3) 1874-1899 was also a mason, but his responsibility encompassed finance. This duty would be fatal for him, as he was robbed and killed with a railway spike while bringing their pay to the workers.

William died in 1906 and his spouse in 1916 in Tyrone. This monument carries on their memory.



John Lanners 1869-1952 had a son from an extramarital relation with **Rose Zella Dixon** born in 1891 in Northwood outside Tyrone who was registered as **John Leroy Lennous (4)**, a derivation on Lanners, since his mother could not spell the name correctly and spelled it as it sounded to her. Although his father did never marry his mother, he cared for John L. and taught him the masonry skills. John was the craftsman responsible for the fountain and other stonework at Reservoir Park and for many of the stone walls along Washington Avenue in Tyrone(Obit). He was the great grandfather of John Keehner.



The Lannert house on Pennsylvania Avenue in Tyrone and the tombstone for John Lennous  
Photos: John Keehner 10.6.2009



The Lennous family in Tyrone, PA 1943 Facebook John Keehner 6.8.2011

**2. Antoine Lanners (2)** was born 27 April 1839 in Hoscheid. Civil records show him as mason or constructor. He marries in 1862 Catherine Schroeder from Heinerscheid where the couple will live. Their son **Jean Lanners (3)** born 12 November 1873 in Heinerscheid is again a mason and marries Catherine Meyers. Of their 7 children, son **Paul Lanners (4)** born 6 November 1909 operates a construction company in Heinerscheid.

In 1876 Antoine Lanners marries Madeleine Lentz and the couple will have 14 children, of whom 2 stay in the traditional family trade.

**Paul Lanners (3)** born 10 May 1878 in Munshausen will have a construction company. He marries in 1909 Anne Mayer and their son **Antoine Lanners (4)** born 27 December 1910 in Clervaux continues the business.

**Pierre Lanners (3)** born 8 December 1888 in Heinerscheid will be mason.

**3. Nicolas Lanners (2)** was born 12 August 1841 in Hoscheid. Mason again, he marries in 1865 Anne-Marguerite Thines. Two of their sons again will handle bricks and mortar:

**Jean Nicolas Lanners (3)** born 16 September 1866 in Hoscheid is "Baumeister", contractor. His son **Nicolas Lanners (4)** born 28 August 1908 in Hoscheid from a marriage with Marie Anne Sassel is known as mason.

**Jacques Lanners (3)** born 21 January 1872 in Hoscheid was also a mason by training, but worked for some time at the Arbed steel mills in Esch-sur-Alzette. Same for his son, **Michel Lanners (4)** born 16 August 1906 in Hoscheid. He came back in 1927 (together with his father?) to Hoscheid to work as mason.

Not less than **16 descendants** of Jean Nicolas Lanners have earned their life over **4 generations** in construction.