

Historic Cross Trail

17th and 18th Century

Saint-Hubert Church

Aubel



Directory, translations and comments

THE AUBEL CEMETERY AND ITS 106 CROSSES

This document contains transcriptions of these crosses and their translations.

The cemetery adjoining the Church of Saint-Hubert in Aubel contains 106 crosses spanning the 17th and 18th centuries. Ninety percent are in Platdütsch (Low German), 10% in Old French, and only one is in Old German (**cross 102**).

The inscriptions reveal the linguistic history of the municipality of Aubel.

Aubel lies on a very fluctuating border that formed the boundary between the Limburgish and Rhine dialects (Platdütsch, or Ripuarian Franconian, the language spoken in the early Middle Ages, notably by Charlemagne in the 8th century).

Old French can also be found there. The oldest cross in French dates from 1666 (**cross 21**).

The oldest cross in the cemetery dates from 1611 (**cross 83**).

It is interesting to read the many different versions of the same terms: for example, Seel (soul), Huisvrouw (wife), or Ersaeme (honorable):

- SEEL – SIELE – SEELE – ZIELE – SIEL – SEILLE – SELL – SIEEL
- HUISVROUWE – HUYSVROUWE – HAUSFRAW – HUISFRAW – HUISVRUW – HUISVROU – HUYSFRAUWE – HUSFRAW – PEUSFROUWE – HUYSURE
- EERSAEMEN – ERSAMEN – EERSAME – EHRSAEMEN – EHRSAME – ERSAME – EHRSAMER

On the Curiosities side

The cross of a murdered person is found : **cross 10** indicates that Philippe Delhougne "was murdered on St. Hubert's Day in 1683."

Another cross (**cross 79**) mentions a Mr. Mertens, "miserably drowned in the marl pit of Saint-Jean-Sart on July 11, 1701."

There is also a cross that shows all the members of a family of six died within a few days (**cross 76**).

The word "Aubel" appears on five crosses (2, 3, 19, 20, 89) and "Neer-Aubel" on two crosses (15, 59).

Types of Crosses

The cemetery contained wooden or iron crosses. These were those of the less fortunate. Only the stone crosses, those of the wealthy, have survived to this day.

YOUR TURN !

Some inscriptions remain to be deciphered. If your detective skills—worthy of Hercule Poirot—allow you to decipher what we haven't been able to, please contact us at : archives@aubel.be, attention to Paul Gerardy.

Tip for reading inscriptions:

Many inscriptions are easier to read after lightly wiping them with a slightly damp, flat sponge.



Example : the **cross 63**

before sponge



after sponge



Do not hesitate to do it yourself during your visit !

THE PATH THAT RUNS ALONG THE CHURCH

Walk along this paved path and let the stories carved in stone on crosses 1 through 24 tell their tales.

Meaning of the IHS Monogram

The IHS monogram is frequently found at the top of crosses. It is an abbreviation of the name Jesus in Greek (IHΣΟΥΣ, pronounced Yay-SOOS).

It represents the first three letters (Iota, Eta, Sigma) of "Jesus" in Greek capitals. Often interpreted in Latin as Iesus Hominum Salvator ("**Jesus, Savior of Mankind**"), this symbol is also the emblem of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Cross 1



I H S
ICI REPOSE FEU M^R ULRIC...
MAYEUR DE NOORECK DEPUTE
DU TIER ORDRE DE L'ETAT DU PAYS
DE DALHEM AUTRICHIEN 80 RC
DECEDE LE 8 AOUT 1764
ET MAD^{LE} CATHARINE KEVERS SA
COMPAGNE DECEDEE LE 3 JUILLET
1778
R I P

Here rests the late Mr Ulric, mayor of Nooreck, deputy of the third order of the state of the land of Austrian Dalhem, 80 RC, died on 8 august 1764, and Mrs Catharine Kevers, his companion, died on 3 july 1778

80 RC : RC = Rogans Christum or Recitans Christum — an abbreviated Latin phrase meaning "praying to Christ" or "committing oneself to Christ"

80 RC = aged 80, (deceased) while praying to Christ

The Estates of the Dalhem Region and the Third Estate

The deceased is described as a "deputy of the Third Estate of the State." This refers to the political organization of the Ancien Régime: the provincial Estates were composed of three orders representing the different strata of society :

- first Estate: the Clergy,
- second Estate: the Nobility,
- third Estate: the representatives of the towns and communities (burghers, local notables).

Throughout the 18th century, the representatives of the Estates used their charters to refuse to pay taxes and to defend their privileges. The deceased was therefore part of the local representative assembly that defended the interests of the communities against Austrian power.

Cross 2



ICY REPOSENT HONORABLE ANTOINE
LION ARPENTEUR FORETIER D'AUBEL
ET MARIE DELIEGE CONJOINTS MORTS
ELLE LE 14 MARS LUI LE 17 MAY 1742

Here rest the honorable Antoine Lion, surveyor and forester of Aubel, and Marie Deliege, spouses, she died on 14 march, he on 17 may 1742. R.I.P.

Antoine Lion was most likely appointed by the **Barons of Loë—lords of Aubel** after 1668. Like all the lordships of the Austrian Netherlands,

that of the Barons of Loë in Aubel was abolished by the French Revolution after 1795, when the region was annexed to France and incorporated into the Ourthe department.

The Herve region and the Duchy of Limburg contained numerous manorial forests in the 17th century, including:

- The Val-Dieu Forest,
- The Hombourg Woods,
- The Plombières Forests.

The forest surveyor played a considerable economic and legal role there—timber rights were a major source of manorial revenue.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, the forest surveyor was a royal or manorial officer responsible for two combined missions:

1. Surveying

- Measuring and delimiting forest lands,
- Creating maps and plans of the forests,
- Establishing boundary markers between forest properties,
- Calculating the areas of timber harvests.

2. Forest Monitoring

- Controlling timber harvesting,
- Ensuring respect for manorial rights to the forest,
- Prosecuting forestry offenses—poaching, illegal logging, unauthorized grazing,
- Collecting taxes and royalties on timber.

Cross 3



ICY
REPOSSE EN
DIEU HON^{BLE}
THOMAS WILLEM
EN SON VIVANT
MARCHAND D'AUBEL
TREPASSE LE 3
JANVIER 1726
R C I P

Here rests in God the honorable Thomas Willem, in his lifetime merchant of Aubel, passed away on 3 January 1726. R.C.I.P.

HON^{BLE} = honourable

The usual abbreviation is RIP (“Requiescat In Pace” = “May he/she rest in peace”). RC may be an abbreviation of **RequiesCat**.

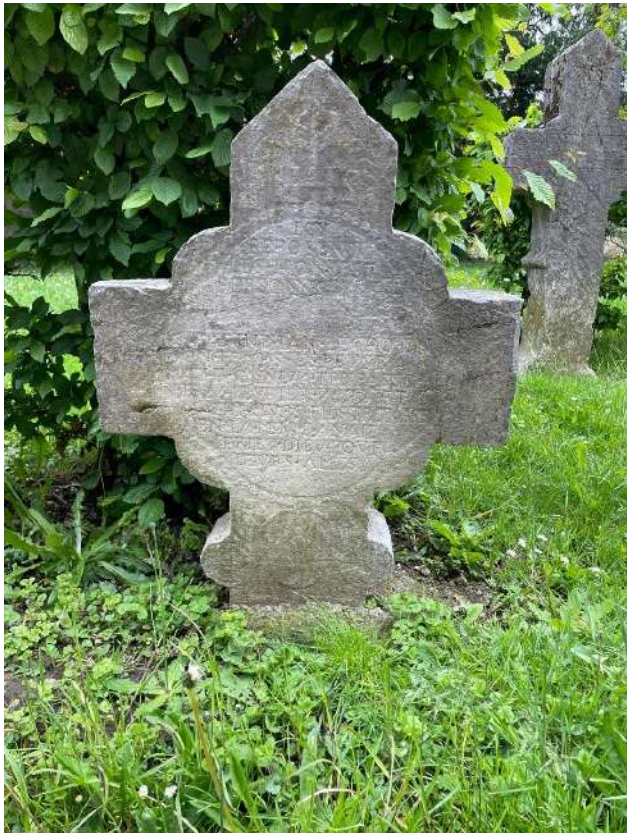
Cross 4



HYER REUST
DEN LICHAM VAN NELLISHOLL
VAN CORGHOM IS IN DEN HEER
ENTSCHLAEFFEN DEN 23 MERTZ 1641

Here rests the body of Nellis Holl of Corghom, who fell asleep in the Lord on 23 march 1641.

Cross 5



ICY
REPOSENT
LES HONNEST
PERSONNES
CATARINE IAN LECRO EN
EN SON TEMPS ESPEUSE A
MATHI CAINEUI TRESPASSEE
LE 27 FEVRIER 1622 ET
MATHI..URS FILS TREPASSE
EN LA MEME ANAIE
PRIEZ DIEU POUR
LEURS AMES

Here rest the honorable persons Catharine Jan Lecron, in her time wife of Mathi Caineui, died on 27 february 1622, and Mathi...urs, her son, died the same year. Pray God for their souls.

ESPEUSE is an old form of the word "wife," in medieval and Middle French (13th–16th centuries).

ANAIE is a french word meaning year.

Cross 6



ICY REPOSE
LE CORPS
HONNESTE ... VERTEUSE
PETRONE NICOLAI
DEFOS... ELLE A
RENDU SON AME A DIEU
LE ... (JAN)VIER 1733

Here rests the body of the honest and virtuous Petrone... Nicolai, Defos..., she gave her soul to God in january 1733.

Cross 7



I H S
ICY REPOSE
HONET
... HOMME MARTIN EN...
FRANS LAMBERTS DECEDE
LE 22 MAI 1701
PRIE DIEU POUR SON AME

Here rests the honest ... man Martin en... Frans Lamberts, died on 22 may 1701. Pray God for his soul.

Cross 8



7^{BRE} = septembre
ESPEUSE = spouse

Cross 9



We imagine the first name was François. Spelling mistakes were not uncommon.

9^{BRE} = November. This reminds us that the early Roman Republican calendar had 10 months. The winter months were not counted because there was no agricultural work or military campaigns.

- September (the 7th month)
- October (the 8th month)
- November (the 9th month)
- December (the 10th month)

Cross 10



ICY
REPOSE
HONNESTE FEMME
LISABETH EN SON
VIVANT ESPEUSE A
COLLA JEAN COLLOR
TRESPASSEE LE 26 7^{BRE}
1687(?) REQUIESCANT
IN PACE AMEN

Here rests the honest woman
Lisabeth, in her lifetime wife of Colla
Jean Collor, died on 26 september
1687. Requiescant in Pace. Amen.

ICY
REPOSENT
LES HONNESTES
PERSONNES MARIE
RUTER JADIS ESPEUSE
A FRANÇOS GERON
TRESPASSEE LE 11^{em} 9^{BRE}
1682 ET SA FILLE
CATHARINNE PRIEZ
DIEU POUR
LEURS AMES

Here rest the honorable persons
Marie Ruter, formerly wife of François
Geron, died on 11 november 1682,
and her daughter Catharine. Pray God
for their souls.

JEUNE HOMME : jong man = single

O VIAT = O VIATOR = ô you the passerby

MEV°DEY = MEURDEY = walloon word for murdered

St. Hubert's Day is November 3rd, traditionally a hunting day. His death may have been due to a hunting accident.

Cross 11



HIER LIGT
BEGRABEN ELISA
BET DIE DOCHTER
VAN IAN NICOLAY OP
DEN PLATTEN DREIS
STR AN DEN 4 IULIUS 1677
GODT TROST DIE SEEL
MEMENTO MORI
Here lies buried Elisabet, the daughter of Jan Nicolay, at Den Platten Dreis, died on 4 july 1677. May God console her soul. Remember that you will die.

STR = starf = died

Thomas, Elisabeth's brother, died in 1694 (**Cross 71**). Their father, Ian Nicolay, had already died in 1694. His cross is not in the cemetery..

Cross 12



HIER
LIGHT
BEGRAVEN
BEATRIX DIE
DOCHTER VAN FRANS
HELEANS OP DIE CRUYT'S
STRAET STARF DEN 28
MART ANNO 1671 BIDT
GODT VOOR DIE
SIELE AMEN
Here lies buried Beatrix, the daughter of Frans Heleans, of Cruyt street, died on 28 march 1671. Pray God for her soul. Amen.

Cross 13



HIER IST BEGRAEVEN HET
LICHAM VAN IACOP ERNST
JONCKMAN STARF DEN 26
7BRIS 1733 R I P
Here is buried the body of Jacop Ernst, young man. He died on 27 september 1733.

JONCKMAN : jong man = single

Cross 14



ANNO
1643 DEN 3 OCTOBRIS IST IN
DEN HERRE ENTLAPEN ANTON
IUS ERNTS AN DEN SCHEVER
BIDT GODT VOR SEINE ENDE
MARIA BEGRERS SEINER
HUISVROUWE SEELE

In the year 1643, on 3 october,
Antonius Ernts of Den Schever fell
asleep in the Lord. Pray God for his
end and for the soul of Maria Begrers,
his wife.

Cross 15



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN HET
LICHAM VAN JENNEKEN
HUPPEN NYSSSEN DOCHTER
VAN NEERAUBEL STARF DEN
9 9^{BER} 1670 BIDT GODT VOOR
DIE ZIELE

Here lies buried the body of
Jenneken Huppen, daughter of
Nyssen, from Neer-Aubel, died on 9
november 1670. Pray God for her
soul.

Cross 16 front



ICI REPOSE HONNESTE CAT
HARINE EN SON VIVANT ESPE
USE A POLLIS DE VIGNE TRE
PASSEE LE 4 D'AVRIL 1670
PRIEZ DIEU POUR SON AME

Here rests the honest Catharine, in
her lifetime wife of Pollis de Vigne,
died on 4 april 1670. Pray God for
her soul.

ESPEUSE = spouse

Cross 16 back



ICY REPOSENT LES HONNESTES
PERSONNES NICOLAS WARIMONT
DECEDEE LE 17 MARS 1700

PRIEZ DIEU POUR LEURS AMES

Here rest the honorable persons
Nicolas Warimont, died on 17 march
1700. Pray God for their souls.

Thirty years separate the carving of the two sides. The names are different, but one can assume they belong to the same family.

The verb is plural, but there is only one noun. The uncarved space was probably reserved for the husband's name, perhaps Pollis de Vigne..

Cross 17 front



ANNO
1667 DEN 2^D
NOVEMBRIS IS
IN GODT ENSLAEPEN
ANNA BORN HUIS
VROUWE VAN CORNELLIS
QUOITBACH B^{YT} GODT
VOOR DIE SIELE

In the year 1667, on 2 november,
Anna Born, wife of Cornelis
Quoitbach, fell asleep in God. Pray
God for her soul.

Cross 17 back



DEN
1 MERT
AO 1703
IST CORNELIS QUODTBAC(H)
ENDE SIENE HUYSVROUW(E)
MARIA LE IEUN DEN 2
MERT AO 1708 GESTORVEN
RIP

On 1 march 1703 died Cornelis
Quodtbach, and his wife Maria Le
Jeun on 2 march 1708.

This cross tells us that Cornelis Quoidtbach lost his first wife in 1667. He then took Maria Le leun as his second wife. The fortunate Cornelis thus rests with both his wives !

The Second Marriage

It was not uncommon in the Dalhem region and the Herve area during the 17th and 18th centuries—but it was a codified and deliberate practice, not a trivial one.

Why two separate sides for the two wives?

1. Legal and Inheritance Logic

In the 17th century, the two marriages were separate contracts with distinct inheritance implications:

Side A Man + 1st Wife First marriage contract

Side B Man + 2nd Wife Second marriage contract

Bringing both wives together on the same side would have created legal ambiguity regarding the inheritance rights of the children from each marriage.

2. Religious Logic

The Catholic Church fully recognized remarriage after widowhood—it was morally neutral and socially common because:

- Female mortality during childbirth was very high
- Life expectancy was short

Cross 18



HIER
REUST HEST
LICHAM VAN
DEN EERSAEMEN
JONEN JONAS IS
VERSHEIDEN VAN DESE
WERELT DESEN 14
JULHE 1730

Here rests the body of the honorable young man Jonas, who departed from this world on 14 july 1730.

Cross 19



ICY REPOSE HONNORABLE
STAIVEN RICK PRRIC...
TEMB CH VIN D'AUBEL...
FIPRIUT...ESCHEVIN...DE GORHEZ
TREPASSE LE 14 D'AOUST DE L'AN
1666 PRIEZ DIEU POUR SON AME

Here rests the honorable Estienne Rick, first alderman of Aubel, formerly first alderman of Gorhez, died on 14 august 1666. Pray God for his soul.

STAIVEN = Steven

PRRIC = *PREMIER* = first

TEMB = *MEMBRE* = member

FIPRIUT = fut premier = was the first

The engraved symbol at the bottom depicts a floral wreath with three stylized flowers, often associated with symbols of nobility, honor, or remembrance.

Symbol Analysis:

- The wreath: It often evokes royalty, nobility, or high status,
- The flowers (three flowers on the wreath, including a central one higher up): They can symbolize purity, life, or remembrance. In a funerary context, flowers are classic symbols of remembrance and hope,
- Simple style, engraved in stone: Typical of ancient funerary markers, where a wreath with flowers could indicate an honorable, noble, or pious person.

Cross 20



DIT CRYUS
HEEFT GESTELT
IOANNES SCHOONBROOT IN DIE
DORP STRAET BORGEMEESTER TOT
AVBEL TOT GEDAGTENISSE VAN
ANNA NICOLAU SINE GEWESENE HYUS
VROVWE DIE STARF DEN 14 FEB 1729
DEN 7 OCBRIS IS TOT MAUESTRE
OHT GESTORVEN DEN ERSAEMEN IAN SCHO
NBRODT

This cross was erected by Joannes Schoonbrood, of the Village street, mayor of Aubel, in memory of Anna Nicolau, his late wife, who died on 14 february 1729. On 7 october died in Maastricht the honorable Jan Schoonbrodt.

MAUESTREOHT = MAESTRICHT = MAASTRICHT

8 months between the two deaths

- Anna died on February 14, 1722
- Jan died on October 7, 1722, only 8 months after his wife — perhaps of grief or the same illness

Cross 21



ICY REPOSE HONNESTE
WAVRNONS EN SON VIVANT
ESPEUSE A NELIS IAN HEROVEN
TREPASEE LE 5 MAY 1666
PRIEZ DIEU POUR SON AME

Here rests the honest Waurmons, in her lifetime wife of Nelis Jan Herooven, died on 5 may 1666. Pray God for her soul.

Cross 22



HIER RUST HET LICHAEM
VAN BARBARA WEDUWE VAN
WILEN CORNELIS NOLL
IS DEN HEERE ONTSLAP
PEN DEN 4 JANUARY 1633
GODT BEGENADE
DIE SIEL

Here rests the body of Barbara, widow of the late Cornelis Noll, who fell asleep in the Lord on 4 january 1633. May God have mercy on her soul.

Cross 23



MERT IS
IN DE HER
ENSLAPPEN
TRINEKE DI HAVSFRAW
VA RENGEN DONRAED

...march, fell asleep in the Lord
Trineke, wife of Rengen Donraed.

TRINEKE is the abbreviation of Catharina

Cross 24



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN CATELI(N?)
DIE HUISFRAW VAN IAN GUBBE..
OP COSENBERG DIE GESTORVEN
IS DEN 3 DACH MAY 1638 BID
GODT VOOR
DIE SEEL

Here lies buried Catelin, wife of Jan
Gubbe., at Cosenberg, died on 3
may 1638. Pray God for her soul.

3 DACH MAY = 3rd day of May

Cross 25



HIER IS BEGRAVEN DEN ERSAMEN
LAMBERT NICOLAI VUT DIE
VRIER GESTORVEN DEN 27 NOVEMBER
1722 EN SINE HUISVRUW ANNA
STAMMEN GESTORVEN DEN 4 MARTU
1730 R I P

Here is buried the honorable
Lambert Nicolai, of Die Vrier, died on
27 november 1722, and his wife
Anna Stammen, died on 4 march
1730. R.I.P.

Cross 26 front



HEER RUST DEN EERSAMEN IOHAN-
KES WILHELMUS ERNST IONCKMAN IS
OUPERLEDEN DEN 28 MEY IN HET IAER ONS
HEERE 1773 AEUDT WESENDE 67 IAER ENDE
GEBURTIG VAN WAEWILDER R I P

Here rests the honorable Johannes
Wilhelmus Ernst, young man, died on
28 may in the year of Our Lord 1773,
aged 67 years, and native of
Waelwilder. R.I.P.

WAEWILLER : today Wahlwiller close to Gulpen.

AEUDT = old

Cross 26 back



NOMEN DOMINI BENEDICTUM SIT
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Cross 27



AO 1731
DEN 2 9BRIS
....BEGRAVEN
.... DEN
BRODERS....
.....

*(if you can identify the missing letters, let
us know archives@aubel.be)*

Cross 28



HIEER LIGDT BEGRAVEN IAN COVE
AEN DEN SCHEVREIN BRODER VAN
DEN ROSEN GRANS VAN ONSE
LIEVE VROUW IS GESTROVEN
DEN 6 7BER 1679 BIEDT
GODT VOER SINE
SIEL

Here lies buried Jan Coveaen,
alderman, brother of the
confraternity of the Rosary of Our
Lady, died on 6 september 1679. Pray
God for his soul.

The Confraternity of the Rosary of the Virgin Mary

Founded in the 15th century, the confraternity was officially established by the Dominican Jakob Sprenger in Cologne in 1475 and quickly spread throughout Catholic Europe. It was set up in Aubel in 1634.

It was a pious association of lay people attached to a parish or convent, whose members pledged to:

- regularly recite the Rosary (Rozenkrans),
- participate in Marian processions,
- attend confraternity Masses,
- pray for deceased members—which explains the mention on Jan Cove's tombstone,
- support one another in times of illness or death.

The connection to Jan Cove's tombstone (1679)

The mention of his membership in the confraternity on his tombstone is not insignificant—it was a mark of social prestige and public piety. This also meant that his fellow members of the brotherhood were obligated to pray for his soul, a point explicitly stated in the inscription "Biedt Godt voer sine siel".

It was, in a way, a spiritual assurance after death.

Cross 29



HIER LIGT
BEGRAVEN
DEN EERSAEMEN LAMBERT
COLYNS WT POERRECK
STAERF DEN 20 9^{BR} 1662
MET SYN HVISVROV AGNES
... STARF DEN 31
JAN 1706
REQUIESCAT IN PACE

Here lies buried the honorable
Lambert Colyns, from Poerreck, died
on 20 november 1662, with his wife
Agnes..., died on 31 january 1706.
May he rest in peace.

WT = out/from

Cross 30



HIER LICHT
BEGRAVEN
PETRONNEL
SPEECH WEDEUVEE VAN DIRICH
SPETEIN DECHER STARFF
DEN 31 IULI 1711 BIDT VOOR
DE SEILLE
TOE BEHOORT AEN IAN
RELLISSES

Here lies buried Petronnel Speech, widow of Dirich Spetein, deacon, died on 31 july 1711. Pray for her soul. Belongs to Jan Rellisses.

DECHER → DIAKEN = a deacon is a man, who may be married or single, ordained for life for a ministry close to the people. They generally retain their civilian jobs and are involved in charitable works, providing support (weddings, baptisms) and preaching the Word.

TOE BEHOORT AEN IAN RELLISSES = belongs to Jan Rellisses. This indicates that the burial plot or the Cross itself belongs to Jan Rellisses —likely an heir or family member claiming ownership of the burial site. A valuable record of local burial law in the 18th century.

Cross 31



Text illegible

Only the year is visible: 1647

(if you can identify the missing letters, let us know archives@aubel.be)

Cross 32



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN DEN EE..
IAN SCHOONBRODT OBYT DEN
18 IVLI 1780
RIP

Here lies buried the honorable Jan Schoonbrodt, died on 18 july 1780. R.I.P.

DEN EE... = DEN EE[RSAMEN] = the honourable

OBYT = *obiit* (latin) = died. It gave the word obituary in english.

Cross 33



The text is on the other side.

Cross 33 back

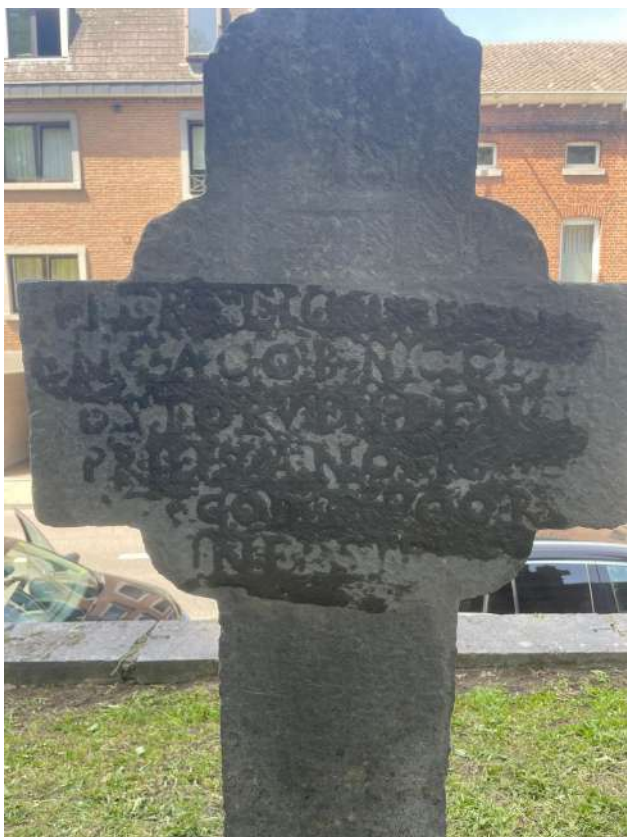


ANNO 1673 DEN
16 IVNY IS IN XPO ONTSLAEPEN
IENNE DIE HVYSVROVWE
GEWEST IS VAN CLAES
QVOETBACH GODT BEGNAEDE
DIE SIELE

In the year 1673, on 16 june, fell asleep in Christ lenne, who was the wife of Claes Quoetbach. May God have mercy on her soul.

XPO is an abbreviation of Christo (Christ). It comes from the Greek letters XP (Chi-Rho). This is commonly found on Christian tombstones.

Cross 34



HIER LIGT BEGRA
VEN JACOB NICOLAY
IS GESTORVEN DEN 18
APRILIS ANO 1666
GOD TROOST
DIE SIEL

Here lies buried Jacob Nicolay, died on 18 april 1666. May God console his soul.

Cross 35



ANNO 1661

DEN 2 MERT IST IN GODT
ENTSLAPEN IOANNES DER
SOHN VAN KERST NIJDER S
TPAET SALIGER GOT
TROST DIE SIEL

In the year 1661, on 2 march, fell asleep in God Joannes, son of Kerst Nijder, of Stpaet, blessed. May God console his soul.

Cross 36



ALHEIR LIGT BEGRAVEN DEN EERSAME
MEMALITOINIUS PHILPPUS VINCENT
IUS DEMOLLIN IN DEN HEERE OVERLEDEN
DEN 26 APRIL IN HET JAER ONS HEERE 1785
EN DE SINE HUISVROUWE DE EERSAEME
MARIA SOPHIA GOOR IN DEN HEERE
OVERL DEN 12 IUNI IN HET JAER
ONS HEERE 1772
VAN DONRAET R Q I P

Here lies buried the honorable Maximilianus Philippus Vincentius Demollin, died in the Lord on 26 april in the year of Our Lord 1785, and his wife the honorable Maria Sophia Goor, died in the Lord on 12 june in the year of Our Lord 1772, of Donraet. R.Q.I.P.

R Q I P = Requiescat Quietè In Pace. "May he rest peacefully in peace."

Donraet : This is Donsart, the name of a place next to Aubel.

Having three **Latin given names** in the 18th century in the Dalhem region was a sign of a wealthy family, devout Catholics, and loyal to the House of Habsburg. The vast majority of peasants and artisans of the time had only one given name.

Vincentius Demollin appears as a **prosperous notable** from the Austrian Dalhem region, probably from a family enriched by a mill (de Mollin), and cultured enough to have given names Latinized on the tombstone.

Cross 37



HIER
LIGT BEG
RAVEN MAGDA
LENA ERNST DIE
GEWESEN HUISFRA
UWE VAN STEVE M
ELSEN STARF DEN
.. IUNI 1674
GODT TROOST
DIE SEEL
AMEN

Here lies buried Magdalena Ernst, who was the wife of Steve Melsen, died in june 1674. May God console her soul. Amen.

Cross 38



HIER
RVST HET
LICHAM VAN D^E
EERSAME CHRISTINA
GIEDRICH(?) WESENDE HUYS
VROUW VAN DEN FIR
IAEMEN THEODORUS
MINDE(?) GRVYS
STARF DEN 2^{DEN}
MAY 1707
R C I P

Here rests the body of the honorable Christina Giedrich(?), wife of the honorable Theodorus Minde(?) Gruys, died on 2 may 1707..

Cross 39



A^{NO} 1651
Z1 IVNY IS LENNERT
STEIN IN GOD ENSL
SEIN HVYSFRAVWE
EN BLOMEN GODT TRVEST
DIE SEEL AMEN

In the year 1651, on 21 june, Lennert Stein fell asleep in God. His wife and children — may God console their souls. Amen.

ENSL = ENTSLAPEN = went to sleep (died)

BLOMEN = flowers. This poetic term referred to young children who died in infancy, a very common metaphor in epitaphs from this region and period.

TRVEST is simply the 17th-century spelling of TROOST : to console

The stone thus covers Lennert Stein, his wife, and their young children —an **entire family** united under the same cross.

Cross 40



The cross is illegible. Only the year 1689 is recognizable.

(if you can identify the missing letters, let us know archives@aubel.be)

Cross 41



A0 1630 DEN
21 IANUARI IST CATE
RIN HVSFRAW VAN
PIBERT CLEVSEN
IN GODT ENTSCHLAP
EN BIDT GODT VOOR
DIE SEEL

In the year 1630, on 21 january,
Caterin, wife of Pibert Clevsen, fell
asleep in God. Pray God for her soul.

PIBERT is a first name derived from **PHILIBERT** — very common in this
German dialect region in the 17th century.

Cross 42



HIER
LIGHT BEG
RAVEN ANTH
ONIS SCHOEN-BR
OODT VAN DE LANG HR
STRAET STARF DEN
31^{ON} AUGUSTX 1676
BIDT GODT VO
OR SYNE ZI
ELE AMEN

Here lies buried Anthonis
Schoenbroodt, of the long street,
died on 31 august 1676. Pray God for
his soul. Amen.

Lang hr Straet = Langstraat. Nowadays it is called « rue de Gorhez » in
Aubel.

Cross 43



HIER RUST
MARIEKEN
DE DOCHTER VAN STAS
STASSEN STARF DEN 7IAN
1700
VAN DER ZIELE GODT
GENADIGT ZY

Here rests Marieken, the daughter of
Stas Stassen, died on 7 january 1700.
May God have mercy on her soul.

Cross 44



HIER RUST GUERT
NYSSSEN IN DIE AUWERMOR DIE
GESTORVEN IS DEN 1 7^{BER} 1632

Here rests Guert Nyssen, at the Auwermoer, died on 1 September 1632.

AUWERMOR : it is a place also spelled Aowermoor (the old marsh). The current name is Oudemoeder (old mother). This is a phonetic adaptation from Platdütsch to Dutch.

Cross 45



(HI)ER LIGHT BEGRAVEN
(EER)SAMEN IACOB ERNST
IH DE WIETTEL GESTOR
VEN DEN 10 9^{BRIS} ANNO
1667 BIDT GODT VOOR
SYN SIEL AMEN

Here lies buried the honorable Jacob Ernst, at Die Wiettel, died on 10 november 1667. Pray God for his soul. Amen.

Cross 46



HIER LIGT DEN EHRSAMEN
LEONARDUS KEVER HY STAERFS
DEN 14 DECEMBRIS ANNO 1728
GODS TROELS DIE SEEL

Here lies the honorable Leonardus Kever, died on 14 december 1728. May God console his soul.

Cross 47



AO 1660 DEN 23
IANUARY STARF SOPH
IA HUSFRAW GEWESEN
VAN ANDREAS
SAWEN S G T
D S

In the year 1660, on 23 january, died Sofia, who was the wife of Andreas Sawen. May God console her soul.

S[YT] G[ODT] T[ROOST] D[IE] S[EEL]

Cross 48



AO 1649 DEN
22 FRY IS IN GOTT
ENTSCHLAFEN
ANTHONIVS NELISSEN
GOTT TROEST DIE
SELL AMEN

In the year 1649, on 22 february, fell asleep in God Antonius Nelissen. May God console his soul. Amen.

It is worth noting that this tomb is in remarkable condition after 377 years. It is made of Belgian bluestone. This is the most prestigious stone.

- Quarried primarily in Soignies and the Namur region,
- Very hard, excellent weather resistance,
- Characteristic blue-gray color,
- The most expensive — reserved for wealthy families,
- Relative price: 3 to 5 times a craftsman's monthly salary.

Cross 49



HIER IS
BEGRABEN
DIE EHRSAMEN IEHENNA
ERNST GEWESENE
HAVSFRAW VAN CLAES
GAVDERS ENDE IST
GESTORBEN DEN 2
IOBRIS AO
1657
BITT GOTT
VOR DIE
SEEL AMEN

Here is buried the honorable Jehenna Ernst, who was the wife of Claes Gauders, died on 2 october 1657. Pray God for her soul. Amen.

IEHENNA is a feminine dialectal form of **JOHANNES** — a female given name perfectly attested in the 17th century in the region.

Cross 50



ANNO 1667
DEN 30 OCTO
BRIS IS IN GODT
ENTSLAPEN THYS
THYSSEN VVYT D^{IE}
AVVERMOER GODT
TROST DIE SIELE

In the year 1667, on 30 october, fell asleep in God Thys Thyssen, from Die Auwermoer. May God console his soul.

Auwermoer is a place name also spelled Aowermoor (the old marsh). The current name is Oudemoeder (old mother). This is a phonetic adaptation from Platdütsch (or Ripuarian/Moselle Franconian) to Dutch.

Cross 51



ANNO 1642
.....
.....ENTSCHL
APEN CATRINA DE
HVISFRAW VAN STE
H IN DE HOGSTRAE
SAEGER GODT
TRO(OST) DE
SEEL

In the year 1642, ..., fell asleep Catrina, wife of Ste(phan) H..., of the High street, sawyer. May God console her soul.

(if you can identify the missing letters, let us know archives@aubel.be)

Cross 52



HIER
LIGHT BE
GRAVEN AN
DREAS SCHOEN
BROODT STARF DEN
20^{EN} 7BRIS 1676
BIDT GODT VOOR
ZYNE ZIELE
AMEN

Here lies buried Andreas Schoenbroodt, died on 20 september 1676. Pray God for his soul. Amen.

Cross 53



HIER LIGT
BEGRAVEN
PETRONILLAE FR
ANCIS DRIES DOCHTER OP
DEN BORN HUYSVROVW
VAN WYNENIANS LAM
ERSCHOT SOON DE WELCKEN D
EN HEERE VERSTOR
VEN IS DEN
S MARTY A
NNO 1631
BID GO
DT VOOR
DE SELL

Here lies buried Petronilla, daughter of Francis Dries, from Den Born, wife of Wynenians Lamerschot son, who died before the Lord on 5 march 1631. Pray God for her soul.

LAMERSCHOT — *Lammerschot*, place near St Jean Sart, a small village next to Aubel.

Cross 54



HIER LIGGEN
BEGRAVEN DIE EERSAME MARIE
VILVEURDER WED^{DE} IAN COLLAU
STARF DEN 10 7BER 1739
ENDE DEN EERS^{AN} IONGHMAN
PAULUS COLLAU STARF DEN
4 MEERT 1746
R I P

Here lie buried the honorable Marie Vilveurder, widow of Jan Collau, died on 10 september 1739, and the honorable young man Paulus Collau, died on 4 march 1746.

Cross 55



ANNO 1667 DEN 16 OC
TOBRIS IS IN GODT ENTS
LAPEN LEONARDT ARNOLDT
(HEL)LESTORP GODT TROST
DIE SIEEL

In the year 1667, on 16 october, fell asleep in God Leonardt Arnoldt Hellestorp. May God console his soul.

The missing letters could be HEL to make HELLESTORP (also spelled Hellestrop). A place name right next to the village of Aubel. Leonardt Arnoldt would then have come from this place name.

Cross 56



HIER
LIGT BEGR
AVEN HET LICH
AEM VAN HVPPEN
BALTVS DIE GEST
ORVEN IS DEN 23
MEERTZ 1671 BIDT
GODT VOOR SIN
ZIELE

Here lies buried the body of Huppen Baltus, died on 23 march 1671. Pray God for his soul.

In the Aubel and Herve region during the 17th century, it was common for nicknames or diminutives to appear on tombstones instead of the given name. Given name : Hubert. Dialectal form: Hubben / Huppen

Cross 57



Only the year is readable : 1644

*(if you can identify the missing letters, let us know
archives@aubel.be)*

Cross 58



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN DEN
EERSAEMEN GERARD ERVENS
IS GESTORVEN DEN 18
10BRIS ANNO 1679
GODT TROOST SYNE SEELE
AMEN

Here lies buried the honorable Gerard Ervens, died on 18 october 1679. May God console his soul. Amen.

Cross 59



HIER LIEDT BEGRAVEN MARIA
DIE WEDUVWE VAN PAVSCHEN
NELLISSEN(?) VAN NEERAVBEL DIE
WELCHE GESTORVEN IS DEN
22 MAY ANNO 1685 GODT
TROST DIE ZIELE

Here lies buried Maria, the widow of Pauschen Nellissen(?), from Neer-Aubel, who died on 22 may 1685. May God console her soul.

PAUSCHEN = Pascal

Cross 60



Cross with no inscription on the front.

The inscription is on the back.

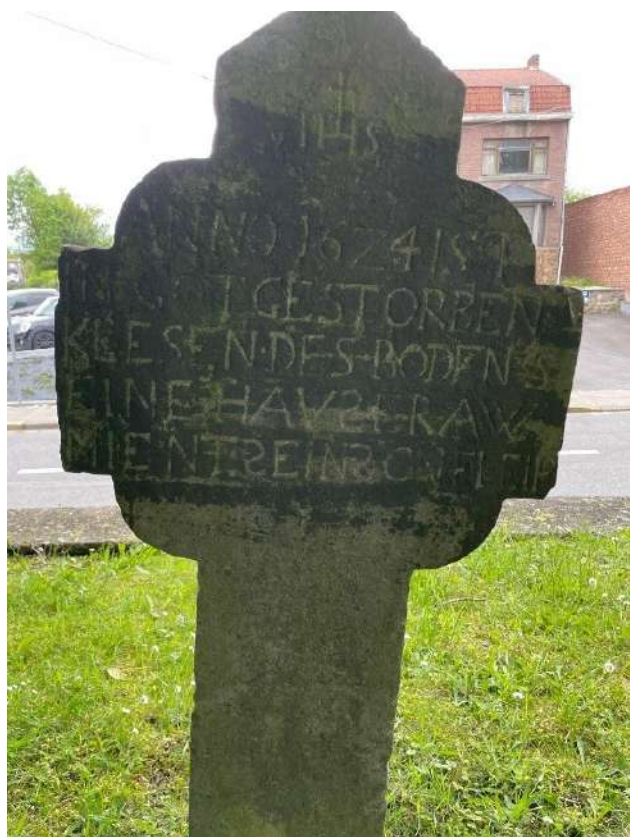
Cross 60 back



HIER LIEGT BEGRAVEN DEN
EHRSAMEN TW^VMAEM WILLEMS
STARF DEN 20 7BRIS 1730

Here lies buried the honorable Twvmaem Willems, died on 20 September 1730.

Cross 61



ANNO 1624 IST
IN GOT GESTORBEN
KLESEN DES RODEN'S
EINE HAVSFRAW
MIENT SEIN SON FLEIP

In the year 1624, died in God the wife of Klesen des Roden, and his son Fleip.

KLESEN : Platdütsch/Ripuarian form of Klaus or Nicolaus — very common in the Aubel region and the Duchy of Limburg in the 17th century.

MIENT : mit / mitsamt = together with

FLEIP : Platdütsch dialectal form of Philipp — the initial Ph was pronounced Fl in some Ripuarian dialects of the region.

A particularly moving inscription

1624 — in the midst of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) which ravaged the region — a mother and her son died together, probably victims of the epidemics that accompanied the armies marching through the Spanish Netherlands.

Cross 62



DIT CRVYS
HEF GESTELT
DIE EERSAEME MARIA MADALENA
SERVAES IN GIDACHTENISSE VAN DIE
MELE VAN HAEREN MAN VAN
GEVRDEN STARF DEN 2 APRIL
1747 ENDE 31 IS GESTORVEN DEN

This cross was erected by the honorable Maria Madalena Servaesin in memory of the soul of her husband Van Geurden who died on April 2, 1747 and she died on the 31st.

MELE = local Platdütsch form of "SEELE" where the initial S becomes M in some very local Ripuarian dialects of the Aubel – Hombourg area.

The last sentence has an unusual structure; perhaps the name of the month is missing, especially since April 31st does not exist.

Cross 63



HIER IST BEGRABEN DIE ERSAME
BEATRIX KNUBBENS GEWESENE
HAVSFRAVE UON DEN PROCUREV
R ENST WELCHE IST GESTORBEN
DEN 3 MARTI 1744 EN DEN
ERSAMEN LEONARDVS ERNST IST
GESTORVEN DEN 28 XBRIS 1753

Here is buried the honorable Beatrix Knubbens, who was the wife of procurator Ernst, died on 3 march 1744, and the honorable Leonardus Ernst died on 28 december 1753.

Cross 64



HIER RUST
HET LICHAEM
VAN WYLLEM
ERNST IUNO VAN
DONRADT STERFF DEN
14 7BRIS 1676 GODT
TROOST DIE SEEL
ENDE SY HAER GEN
AED ICH

Here rests the body of Willem Ernst, young man of Donradt, died on 14 september 1676. May God console his soul and grant him grace.

IVNO = abbreviation of IVNIOR (Junior) = the young / the son
ENDE = and
SY = may he be
HAER = her
GENAEDICH = merciful

Cross 65



HIER
RUST HET
LICAEM VAN
PAESCHEN ERNST
DEN SOHN VAN WYLEN
WYLLEM ERNST OP
DEN KEERENBERCH
ENDE IS GESTORVEN
DEN 20 FEBR 1674
GODT BEGENAEDE
DE SEEL

Here rests the body of Paeschen Ernst, son of the late Willem Ernst, at Den Keerenberch, died on 20 february 1674. May God have mercy on his soul.

Cross 66



ANO 1636 DEN

.....

*(if you can identify the missing letters, let us know
archives@aubel.be)*

Cross 67



HIER RUST HET LICHAEM
VAN WEERARDT ERN
ST DEN SOHN VAN WYLEN
WILLEN ERNST VAN DON
RADT STEERFF DEN 8 7BRIS
1676 GODT TROOST DIE SEEL

Here rests the body of Weerardt Ernst, son of the late Willem Ernst, of Donradt, died on 8 september 1676. May God console his soul.

The Ernst family of Donradt lost three members in a few months in 1676:

- **Paeschen Ernst** † February 20, 1674 — son of Willem (**Cross 65**),
- **Weerardt Ernst** † September 8, 1676 — son of Willem.
- **Willem Ernst** † September 14, 1676 — the father himself, 6 days after Weerardt ! (**Cross 64**),

Cross 68



HIER IS BEGRAVEN DEN EERSAMEN
IAN ELSEN DEN WELKE IS GESTORVEN
DEN 17 NOVEMBER 1716
BIDT GODT DEN HEER VOOR ZINE ZIELE

Here is buried the honorable Jan Elsen, who died on 17 november 1716. Pray God the Lord for his soul.

Cross 69



HIER IS BEGRAVEN DEN EERS^E
IOANNES MEULENDER
STARF DEN 9 IULY 1759
GODT TROST DIE SEEL AMEN

Here is buried the honorable
Joannes Meulender, died on 9 july
1759. May God console his soul.
Amen.

Cross 70



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN DEN
LICHAM...
...
...
MARIA ...
... 1628 ...

*(if you can identify the missing
letters, let us know
archives@aubel.be)*

Cross 71



HIER RUST HET LICHAEM VAN
DEN EERSN IONCKMAN THO
MAS DEN SOON WILEN IAN
NICOLAY OP DEN PLATTEN
DRIECH STAERF DEN 12 MA(RT)
1694 BIDT GODT VOOR DE ZIELE

Here rests the body of the honorable
young man Thomas, son of the late
Jan Nicolay, at Den Platten Driech,
died on 12 march 1694. Pray God for
his soul.

EERSN : contracted abbreviation of EERSAMEN = honorable

IONCKMAN : young bachelor

WILEN : deceased — indicates that Father Jan Nicolay was already dead when the stone was erected.

OP DEN PLATTEN DRIECH : a place name between Aubel and La Clouse.

Thomas's sister, Elisabet, is buried at **Cross 11**. She died in 1677.

Cross 72



OICK = ook = also

Cross 73



Cross 74



Cross 75



HIER
LIGT BEGRA
VEN IAN QVO
ITBACH DEN YONQEN
IS GESTORVEN DEN 8
7BRIS 1676 ENDE RUST
OICK ALHIER SINE
HVYSVROVW CATH
ARINA NOLS GODT
TROEST DIE
ZIELEN

Here lies buried Jan Quoitbach the young, died on 8 september 1676, and also rests here his wife Catharina Nols. May God console their souls.

HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN
IACOB DEN SOON VAN LAMN
NICOLAI
DEN 13 IVLI 1637 BIDT
GODT VOOR DIE SEEL

Here lies buried Jacob, son of Lambert Nicolai, ..., died on 13 july 1637. Pray God for his soul.

HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN DIE EERSA
MEN MARIA HARBOUEVSE OVERLEDEN
DEN 21 IAN 1725

Here lies buried the honorable Maria Harboueuse, died on 21 january 1725.

HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN DEN EERSAMEN
LENDERT ERNST VAN HELLESTREP
GEWESEN EHEMAN VAN MARIA ARNOLT
STARF DEN 2 MART^U 1740
R I P

Here lies buried the honorable Lendert Ernst, of Hellestrep, who was the husband of Maria Arnolt, died on 2 march 1740. R I P

Cross 76



HIER
LEIGEN BEGRAVEN CLAES
MOMMERS STARF DEN 17
ENDE MARIA HANOT GEWES
ENE STARF DEN 17
ENDE HEVNE VIER KINDEREN
STERVEN IN OCTOBERIS 1730

Here lie buried Claes Mommers,
died on the 17th, and Maria Hanot,
his wife, died on the 17th, and their
four children, died in october 1730.

What is surprising is that the parents **died on the same day**—October 17, 1730. The four children died in the same month—without a specific date of the 17th for them, suggesting they died on different days around October 17—typical of an epidemic that gradually decimates a family.

Historical context—October 1730

In 1730, the Herve region was affected by recurring epidemics of:

- typhus—transmitted by lice, common in large families,
- dysentery—contaminated water, very deadly for children,
- autumn fevers—particularly deadly in October.

The simultaneous death of the parents and four children in a single month strongly points to an epidemic of typhus or dysentery that struck the Mommers-Hanot family with absolute brutality.

Cross 77



HEER RUST DEN EHERSAMEN IOHANNES
HAGELSTEIN IST OVERLEDEN INT IAER
ONS HEREN DEN 25 MERZ 1773
SINS ALTERDOM 67 IARE ENDE GEBURTIG VAN
SEPENKE ENDE SINE HUISFROU MARIA
CATRINA COL STAB DEN
GODT TROST
DE ARME SELEN
R I P

Here rests the honorable Johannes
Hagelstein, died in the year of Our Lord
on 25 march 1773, aged 67 years, native
of Sepenke, and his wife Maria Catrina
Col, died on... May God console the poor
souls.

SEPENKE : probably "Sippenaeken" in Holland at the border.

The date of the wife's death is not stated. She was still alive when the stone was carved.

Cross 78



HIER LIGT BEGRA
FRANS Kaelin SYNEN LEVEN
LAETOHEPEN VAN GORCHEM
ENDE GESVOREN PROCUREUR DEN
BANCK VAN AUBEL STARFF
DEN 31 MEY 1642 BIDT GOD
VOOR DE ZIELE

Here lies buried Frans Kaelin, in his lifetime collector of Hepen from Gorchem, and sworn procurator of the bench of Aubel, died on 31 may 1642. Pray God for his soul.

SYNEN LEVEN : when he was alive

LAETOHEPEN = LAET OP HEPEN

LAET = collector of dues from a manorial estate, the one who collects the rights and rents owed to the lord by the tenants.

HEPEN = place name. Most probably Epen nowadays.

Frans Kaelin collected the dues from the Hepen estate in Gorchem. Gorchem could be a place name or a family name.

GESVOREN PROSECUTOR : sworn prosecutor

BANCK = ban (district). Territory on which “banalités” (taxes) are paid to the local lord.

Cross 79



HIER IS
BEGRAEVEN
MERTEN MERTENS IONCKMAN
SOENE VAN PETER MERTENS
VAN DONREADT MISERABEL
VERSMORT S IANSTRADE IN
DEN MERGELK VYLE DEN
4^{DEN} IVLY 1701 GODT
TROOST DE ZIELE

Here is buried Merten Mertens, young man, son of Peter Mertens, of Donreadt, miserably drowned in the marl pit of Saint-Jean-Sart on 4 july 1701. May God console his soul.

IONCKMAN : young man = single

MISERABEL VERSMORT : "Miserably drowned" — a dramatic and rare inscription on a tombstone. VERSMORT is the Low German form of "verdrongen/erstickt" = drowned/suffocated.

MERGELK VYLE : "mergelkuil" = marl pit

- Marl was extracted extensively in the region during the 17th and 18th centuries,
- These extraction pits were deep and dangerous,
- Filled with water, they were a deadly trap for the unwary,
- The Aubel and Herve region had dozens of them.

DONREADT : This most likely refers to Donsart, a place name just outside Aubel.

Cross 80



Unreadable text

The central round

Cross 81



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN
MYNDT BLOEMEN DIE HUIS
VROUWE VAN IAN MALTA
STARFF DEN 12 MART 1633
GODT TROST
DIE SIELE

Here lies buried Myndt Bloemen, wife of Jan Malta, died on 12 march 1633. May God console her soul.

Cross 82



INRI A°
1618
DEN 13
FEBRUARY IS
IN XPO ON TSLAEPEN
AH MERTE NS VANVELDE
GOD BEGNAEDE
DIE SIEL

INRI In the year 1618, on 13 february, fell asleep in Christ A.H. Mertens Vanvelde. May God have mercy on his soul.

INRI = *Jesus Nazarenius Rex Iudaeorum* = "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"

AO = year

XPO is an abbreviation of Christo (Christ). From the Greek letters XP (Chi-Rho). This is commonly found on Christian tombstones.

Cross 83



Horizontal : HULRICH GOE STARF

Vertical : DEN 25 FEBERIU 1611

Hulrich Goe died on 25 February 1611

GOE = Goé : an old family of Saint Jean Sart, most probably coming from Goé.

Cross 84



Cross 86



Cross 88



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN LAMBERTUS
DEN SOON VAN LAMBERT MOOLU^s
DEN WELCKEN ONNOESELICK
EN JONGEL IS TER DOOT
STARFF DEN 21
OCTOBRIS 1666 GODT SY SYNDER
ZIEEN GNADIGT AMEN

Here lies buried Lambertus, the son of Lambert Moolus, who died innocently and young, died on 21 october 1666. May God be merciful to his soul. Amen.

ONNOESELICK : innocent

JONGEL : archaic form of jonge/jongeling = young/juvenile — confirms that it refers to a child or very young boy.

Historical Context — 1666

In 1666, Louis XIV was waging war against the Calvinist Dutch, primarily around the siege of Maastricht (where d'Artagnan died). These wars ravaged the Pays d'Outre-Meuse region, bringing destruction, requisitions, abuses, and epidemics. This context could explain the young man's death.

Cross 89



HIER LIGT
BEGRAVEN ENNIS NICOLAY D(E)
HVYSVROUW VAN GILLES ROY(E)
SCHOIT IS DER BANCK AVBEL
IS GESTORVEN DEN 16 IVNY
1641 BIDT GODT
VOOR SIELE

Here lies buried Ennis Nicolay, wife of Gilles Royeschoit, of the bench of Aubel, died on 16 june 1641. Pray God for her soul.

ENNIS : feminine given name, probably Agnes contracted → Agnis → Ennis

IS DER BANCK AUBEL : from the Aubel ban (district). The ban designates the territory on which banalités (taxes) are paid to the local lord.

Gilles Royeschoit was therefore an officer of the Aubel bench, just like Frans Kaelin, "PROCUREUR DEN BANCK VAN AUBEL," who died a year later in 1642 (Cross C 16).

Cross 90



HIER RUST
HET LICHAEM VAN
MERTENS MEVLLENAER
STARF DEN 18 OCTOBER
1642 GODT BEGENADE
DIE SEEL

Here rests the body of Mertens,
miller, died on 18 October 1642.
May God have mercy on his soul.

Cross 91



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN IAN DEN
SON VAN IAN FLORENCE OP DEN
LANGSTRAT STARFF DEN 13 APRILIS
1638 GODT TROIST DIE SIELE

Here lies buried Jan, son of Jan
Florence, of the Long Street, died on
13 april 1638. May God console his
soul.

Langstraat is called today « rue de Gorhez ».

Detail of the coat of arms at the bottom of the cross :



The letters I F most likely refer to Ian Florence.

This is the brewers' "talking coat of arms":

- a large sack of malt or barley
- two rakes used to spread the malt during germination

Cross 92



HIER RUST
S^y IAN SCHOONBROODT IN SYN
LEVEN SCHEPEN EN BORGMR VAN
AUBEL OVERLEDEN DEN 29 XBER 1780
EN SYNE HUYSURE MARIA MERCKEL
BACH OVERLEDEN DEN 15 JUNY 1769
Dats Y Door Lyden Christ Allet Y Trusten In
Vree Amen

Here rests the late Jan
Schoonbroodt, in his lifetime
alderman and mayor of Aubel, died
on 29 december 1780, and his wife
Maria Merckelbach, died on 15 june
1769. It is through the suffering of
Christ that all rest in peace. Amen.

T = Sieur
SCHEPEN = judge

BORGMR = borgemester = mayor

XBER = December

HUYSURE = wife (huysure of the mayor meant that she was the mistress of the house, the co-manager of the family estate and his wife of legal rank.)

Cross 93



HIER IS BEU
STENDE HET LICHAEM VAN DE EERSAEME
MARIA KEVERS IS QESTORVEN
DEN ... AUGUSTUS
1712 DE HUISVROUWE QEWE
ST VAN MATHY SALMANRE
WELKENS LIE AEM IS REUSTE
NDE OP DEN
KERCKAU
F TOT
EEPEN

Here rests the body of the honorable
Maria Kevers, died on ... august
1712, who was the wife of Mathy
Salmanre, whose body rests in the
cemetery of the church of Eepen.

The "huis" of "huisvrouw" is illegible, but it is a very plausible hypothesis.

QEWEST = geweest = been

The last part should read: ENS LIE AEM IS REUSTENDE OP DEN
KERCKAUF TOT EEPEN

"ENS" ? en zijn = and his

"LIE AEM" ? lichaem = body

"IS REUSTENDE" ? is rustende = resting

EEPEN = Epen in Holland, 12 km from Aubel.

Historical context

In 1712, the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-1714) was in full swing, just before the Treaty of Utrecht (1713). The region was experiencing troop movements and political instability. This may explain why Maria Kevers could not be buried with her husband.

Cross 94



J M J
HIER LIGGEN BEGRAEVEN MARIA EN
PETRONILLA NYSSSEN GESUSTERS VAN
DEN SCHEVER PETRONILLA STARF
DEN 7 FEBRY EN MARIA STARF
DEN 20 MEERTZ 1756 RIP

Here lie buried Maria and Petronilla
Nyssen, sisters, from Den Schever,
Petronilla died on 7 february and
Maria died on 20 march 1756. R.I.P.

J M J = Jesus Marie Joseph

This abbreviation was extremely common in the 17th and 18th centuries on tombstones, notarial acts, contracts, and letters in the Catholic regions of the Netherlands, present-day Belgium, and northern France, notably:

- in Limburg,

- in the Principality of Liège,
- in Flanders.

It was placed at the beginning of the inscription as a prayer of intercession for the soul of the deceased, entrusted to the protection of the Holy Family.

Cross 95



1777 9 IANUARI IS BEGRAVEN GER
ARD COUDERS EN SYNE HUIS
VROU ANNA MARIA ERNST
1782 2 8BRIS HAERE SUSTER
IOANNA ERNST

Le 9 janvier 1777 furent enterrés Gerard Couders et son épouse Anna Maria Ernst. Le 2 octobre 1782 sa sœur Ioanna Ernst

Cross 96



HEIR RUST
HET LICHAEM VAN WILLEM
GROLLET

Here rests the body of Willem Grollet

EN SYNE
HUYSVROUWE IOANN GURDEN
STARF DEN 18 IANWARY
1701 B G VOOR DE ZIELEN

and his wife Joann Gurden who died on 18 January 1701. Pray God for their souls.

There is an unengraved space between the two names. This can be explained by the fact that the headstone was often commissioned before all the information was known (particularly the date of death) — the space allowed for later additions. In this specific case, it can be assumed that the wife died before the husband. Willen Grollet's body was then likely buried elsewhere.

B G = Bidt Godt = pray God

Cross 97



HIER LEIGT BEGRAVEN DE
EHRSAME AGNES HERBERGHS
PEUSFROUWE VAN GILLES KNOPS
STAERF DEN 26 IUNY 1753

Here lies buried the honorable
Agnes Herberghs, wife of Gilles
Knops, died on 26 june 1753.

PEUSFROUWE is an archaic form of **HUISVROUWE** (spouse).

On 18th-century Flemish tombstones, the letter H was often omitted or replaced by a P in some dialects.

Cross 98



HIER SULLEN BEGRAEVEN
DEN DE ERFGENAEMEN VAN
LENDERT GOEDER
HIER LIGT BEGRAEVENDEN EER
SAEMEN LENDERT GOEDER STARF
DEN 7 OCBRIS 1760 G T D S

Here will be buried the heirs of
Lendert Goeder. Here lies buried the
honorable Lendert Goeder, died on 7
october 1760. May God console his
soul.

G T D S = Gebed Tot De Zielen =
Prayer for the souls

Cross 99



HIER LIGT BEGRAVEN DE ERSAME
IONGE DOCHTER IUDIH IAMINET DIE
STARF DEN 15 FEBRUARY ANNO 1715

Here lies buried the honorable
young girl Judith Jaminet, died on 15
february 1715.

Cross 100



Totally unreadable

Cross 101



ANNO
1669 DEN 20
APRILIS IS GES
STORVEN IN DEN
HEERE IAN BURGERS
TE VELDE ENDE MARIA
FLORENS SYNE HUIS
VROUWE IN HET
YAERE 1660 DEN 21
MARTY DEREN
SEEL EN WILLE
GODT GENADICH
WESEN

In the year 1669, on 20 april, died in the Lord Jan Burgers, at Velde, and Maria Florens, his wife, in the year 1660, on 21 march. May God be merciful to their souls.

Cross 102



ANO 1650 DEN
9 NOVEMBER IS IN GOTT
DEN HERREN ENTSCHLAFFEN
ANDREIS DAELL BITT
GODT VOR DIE SELL AMEN

In the year 1650, on 9 november, fell asleep in God the Lord Andreis Daell. Pray God for his soul. Amen.

Unlike the other tombs, this one is not in Platdütsch but in Old German.

Cross 103



ANNO 1663
DEN 4 IANURY IST IN GOT
DEN HEEREN ENTSLAEPEN
DER EHRSAMER UND FROENER
LAMBERTVS NICOLAY BITT
GOTT VOR DIE SEEL AMEN
ENDE EERST
DEN SOON
VAN LABLR
NICOLAI
STARF DEN
30 MAY
1686
MEMENTO MORI

In the year 1663, on 4 january, fell asleep in God the Lord the honorable and pious Lambertus Nicolay. Pray God for his soul. Amen. And also the son of Lambert Nicolai, died on 30 may 1686. Remember that you will die.

FROENER = archaic form of "fromm" = pious / devout

LABLR could be an abbreviation of Lambert

Cross 104



HIER LIGHT BEGR
MAROYE DE HUYSFRAWE
VAN LENNERT DIEPAER MITTE
MET DEN KINDEREN GES
TORVEN DEN 4 FEBRVAR
1677 GODT BENADIGT
DIESE SEELEN

Here lies buried Maroye, wife of Lennert Diepaer, together with her children, died on 4 february 1677. May God have mercy on these souls.

A particularly moving inscription

This is one of the most poignantly human inscriptions—a mother and her children who died together in the dead of winter in 1677, in a region then ravaged by the wars, epidemics, and famines of the late 17th century.

This is the third inscription documenting a collective family death:

- **Klesen des Roden** — wife and son †1624 (**Cross 61**),
- **Claes Mommers** — father, mother, and four children †October 1730 (**Cross 49**),
- **Maroye Diepaer** — mother and children †February 4, 1677.

Three families wiped out, three simple yet devastating stones.

Cross 105



EERS. = eersaeme = honourable
WED. = weduwe = widow

L•M•I• = Locus Memoriae Immortalis = Place of Immortal Remembrance

A concise Latin phrase designating the tomb as a sacred place of eternal remembrance, very common on 17th-century Catholic funerary crosses in the Spanish and Austrian Netherlands.

EERSNT is written with two E's. It can be assumed that this is a typographical error; such errors were not uncommon.

Cross 106



ANNO 1645
DEN 6 AUGUSTIS
STARF DER EHR SAMER
MICHEL PELSER SCHE
PEN DER BANCKMOSEN
R NDL HOMBORGH GODT
TROST DE SEEL
AMEN

In the year 1645, on 6 august, died the honorable Michiel Pelser, alderman of the bench of Montzen, Hombourg of the Netherlands. May God console his soul. Amen.

SCHEPEN DER BANCK = alderman of the bench. alderman of the ban. The ban designates the territory on which banalités (taxes) are paid to the local lord.

Specific functions of an alderman in the 17th century:

Judicial

- Judge civil disputes between inhabitants
- Pronounce sentences for local offenses
- Validate contracts and wills
- Register property deeds

Administrative

- Collect manorial taxes
- Manage communal property
- Supervise weights and measures
- Maintain local public order

NDL HOMBORGH → NIEDERLANDISCH HOMBURG = Homburg in the Netherlands. At that time, the Netherlands was under Spanish rule during the reign of Philip IV of Spain of the Spanish Habsburg dynasty.