

Name: **Auguste NAMUR**

Sex: M

AKA: Pierre Auguste NAMUR

Birth Date: 23 Aug 1837 **Place:** Luxembourg [Ville de], Luxembourg ¹

Chr. Date: **Place:**

Death Date: 26 Jun 1918 **Place:** College Point, NY

Burial Date: **Place:**

Cause of Death:

Events

Birth: Registration, 23 Aug 1837, Luxembourg [Ville de], Luxembourg.¹ Among the witnesses was Antoine Namur, teacher at the Lycée de l'Athénée, which he later attended.

Education: about 1851 in Luxembourg [Ville de], Luxembourg.² Attended and graduated from the Lycée Athénée de Luxembourg in Luxembourg (city) [then located in the buildings of the present Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg] where he became a friend of Michel-Nicolas Muller (Director in 1821-1866 - see next event).

Education: in 1855 in Luxembourg [Ville de], Luxembourg.³ He took his final examination "with distinction" and graduated from the Lycée de l'Athénée [Athenaeum High School], receiving a prize as "1er Access." at graduation.

Education: in 1859 in Paris, France.⁴ Graduated as an Engineer (Diplôme d'Ingénieur from the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures, Paris, one of the "grandes écoles" (top universities) of France. Among his fellow graduates were two other notable Luxembourggeois: Tony Dutreux, later an industrialist and politician; and Hubert Muller.

J.-C. Trutt writes: "I have even found in the Luxembourg National Library a rather amusing trace of Auguste Namur (a name that those who love chocolate know well [Trutt here links Namur to the Luxembourg candy shops Confiserie Namur, founded by one Nicolas Namur in 1863]): "a congratulatory acrostic read during the celebratory meal of an honorable family" (an acrostic is, as all know, a poem in which the first letters of each verse can be read vertically, in this case reading "Auguste Namur Engineer." The poem is signed [Michel-Nicolas] Muller, Director of the Athénée. What a happy occasion when a high school principal would write a poem in honor of one of his students who returned crowned with laurels from abroad!" In Trutt's original:

"J'ai même trouvé à la BNL une trace plutôt amusante d'Auguste Namur (encore un nom que ceux qui aiment le chocolat connaissent bien) : « un acrostiche congratulatoire prononcé au milieu d'un festival repas au sein d'une honorable famille » (un acrostiche est comme chacun sait un poème dont les premières lettres des vers sont à lire dans le sens vertical : ici : Auguste Namur Ingénieur). Le poème est signé Muller, Directeur de l'Athénée. Heureux temps où un Directeur de Lycée troussait un poème en l'honneur d'un de ses élèves qui revenait couronné de lauriers d'un pays étranger !"

He worked as an Engineer in 1864 in Burbach, Saarland.¹ At the Burbach plant of the Société Anonyme des Mines du Luxembourg et des Forges de Sarrebruck [Luxemburger Bergwerks- und Saarbrücker Eisenhütten-Aktiengesellschaft].

Military: 1871, Nancy, Lorraine.⁵ Family tradition says that Auguste Namur was sentenced to ten years hard labor by the French. The Germans got him papers and he escaped to America in 1873. This story is attested in a letter of Joseph Faulke, Chief of Police, City of Luxembourg, Marie Faulke's youngest brother, dated 1 Jul 1939, in which he reminisces "Je pense en ce moment à l'année 1871-1872. A.N. condamné à dix années de travaux forcés. Notre pauvre père par l'intermédiaire des allemands qui occupaient Nancy a obtenu pour A.N. un sauf-conduit avec lequel il a pu gagner l'Amérique et Marie le suivait. Temps passés!"

He immigrated in 1873 to New York City, NY.⁶ Per 1900 Census. No indication in Passenger Lists (In 1876 per 1910 Census).

He lived in 1878 in Hoboken, NJ.¹ In a note to his university in France he indicated that he was a civil engineer, living at 92 Washington Street, Hoboken.

He lived in May 1879 in New York City, NY.⁷ "Namur, August, architect, h 133 W. 56th."

Events: Auguste NAMUR

He appeared on the census on 9 Jun 1880 in New York City, NY.⁸ August [note spelling] Namur: white, male, age 43, architect, born Belgium, parents both born Belgium. Living at 328 East Thirteenth Street.

He worked as an Architect in 1881 in New York City, NY.¹ In a note to his university in France he indicated that he was an architect at 52 Wall Street, New York.

He worked as a Designer from 1884 to 1885 in New York City, NY.⁹ Patents for Hot Air Register Fronts, invented by Auguste Namur and assigned to the Tuttle & Bailey Manufacturing Company: #s 15,343 (26 Aug 1884), 16,057, 16,058, and 16,059 (all 21 Apr, 1885). He may be the A. Namur associated as a witness to a patent of Julian Ellinger for a Unit-Frame for Concrete Construction, #890034, filed 4. Mar 1907.

News Article: 4 Jun 1886, New York City, NY.¹⁰ In June 1886, Namur accompanied a delegation of French railway engineers who had come to New York to study the city's elevated railways. They rode special trains to view the operation of the whole elevated system, and also visited Albany via the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad. Namur was clearly well known to Col. Hain, the Manhattan Elevated Railway's colorful Manager, and to colleagues from the Elevated and from the West Shore Railroad. The French complained that Americans "will sacrifice everything to the practical. We won't. We are artistic. you know," they said. Their position was illustrated by "the fact that you allow those hideous telegraph poles to rear their heads in your streets. If you must have them, why not make them ornamental and pretty? You take them straight from the forest, peel off the bark, and stick them up. Ah mon Dieu!"

He lived in 1887 in New York City, NY.¹ In a note to his university in France he indicated that he lived at 35 Broadway, New York City.

He worked as a Design of House in 1888 in New York City, NY. In 1888 a building (store and loft) in "neo-Grec" style was built to his design at 77 White Street, aka 3 Cortland Alley, in what is now called the Tribeca East Historic District. [permission to modify this building in 2005: see http://www.nyc.gov/html/lpc/downloads/pdf/calendar/06_07_05.pdf]

He was employed in 1890 in New York City, NY.¹¹ Architect, 35 B'way, h. 262 W. 129th Street. Note name is spelled "NAMNR"

He was employed in 1897 in New York City, NY.¹² Cited as an architect reference for Hedden Builders, 143 Liberty Street, New York, in an advertisement.

News Article: 31 Aug 1899, New York City, NY.¹³ Broadway, northwest corner of Seventy-sixth Street, [alteration] to a five-story and basement brick and stone flat; Benjamin F. Romaine and others, owners; A. Namur of 35 Broadway, architect; cost \$2,500.

He appeared on the census on 5 Jun 1900 in New York City, NY.⁶ Living at 262 W. 129th St. b. Apr 1837, married 35 years, immigrated 1873, 27 years in US. architect. Naturalization "Pa" [indexed as August M] Maria Keenan, a servant from Ireland in household.

News Article: 3 Mar 1905, New York City, NY.¹⁴ 4th Av and 19th St, s e corner, [alteration] to a twelve-story brick building; Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of 1 Madison Av, owner; A Namur of 1 Madison Av, architect; cost \$7,000.

News Article: 15 Jun 1906, New York City, NY.¹⁵ 49th St, 147-151 West, and 50th St, 148-152 West, for a four-story brick garage. 62.6x200.10; Rossiter Realty Company of 7 East 42nd St, owner; A. Namur, architect; cost \$80,000.

He was employed in Oct 1909 in New York City, NY.¹⁶ He served as a consultant to the City of New York, examining the walls of the Mayflower Avenue School. Fee \$50.00.

He appeared on the census on 10 Apr 1910 in New York City, NY.¹⁷ Age 70. Living at 262 129th Street. [Indexed as Namum, Augusta] married 35 years. Belgian, parents born Belgium. Immigrated 1876 (note 1900 Census says 1873). Naturalized (No record found). Architect.

Events: Auguste NAMUR

He traveled on 19 Jun 1911 in Europe.¹⁸ Mr. and Mrs. A. Namur were arriving passengers at Plymouth, England, on the *Kaiser Wilhelm II* of the Norddeutscher-Lloyd Line. They were shown as of American nationality.

He was employed from 1915 to 1916 in New York City, NY.¹⁹ Listed in Polk's [Trows] Directory of New York City [1915 and 1916] as Namur, Aug., Archt, h 262 West 129th St. NYC. He does not appear in the 1917 edition.

Financial: 31 Mar 1915, New York City, NY.²⁰ 129TH ST, s.s. 80 ft e of 8th Av, 19.6x80; Marie and Auguste Namur to Isak Salinger, 2,152 7th Av, all liens, March 27; attorney Benno Lewinson, 119 Nassau St.....\$1,250.

He died on 26 Jun 1918 in College Point, NY.²¹

His funeral was held on 29 Jun 1918 in College Point, NY.²² [Long Island] Namur, August - College Point, June 26. Funeral today 1 P.M.

Father: Michel NAMUR (Abt 1804-)
Mother: Anne Françoise MAEHER (Abt 1809-)
Spouse: *Marie FAULKE (1 May 1846 - 1933)²³
Marr. Date: Abt 1865 **Place:** Europe⁶

Source Citations

1. (Trutt, Jean-Claude, Personal Communication. E-mail of 25 Jan 2011), 25 Jan 2011.
2. Jean-Claude Trutt, *Les Luxembourgeois et l'Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures de Paris (de 1830 à la période d'après-guerre): Une histoire d'ingénieurs* (<http://centrale-histoire.centraliens.net/divpdf/centraliens-luxembourgeois.pdf> : accessed 20 Jan 2011), Les Luxembourgeois et l'Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures.
3. Maurer, Gilbert, secrétaire des Anciens, Anciens de l'Athénée, "Personal Communication," 2 Feb 2011.
4. Jean-Claude Trutt, *Les Luxembourgeois et l'Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures de Paris (de 1830 à la période d'après-guerre): Une histoire d'ingénieurs* (<http://centrale-histoire.centraliens.net/divpdf/centraliens-luxembourgeois.pdf> : accessed 20 Jan 2011), Les Luxembourgeois et l'Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures. Muller, Michel-Nicolas, "Acrostiche congratatoire prononcé au milieu d'un festival repas au sein d'une honorable famille" (Luxembourg: Pierre Bruck, [s.d.], one page. Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg, Fonds ancien Luxembourgeois, Cote: LA20116. [Bibnet.lu]).
5. Faulke, Joseph, *Letter of Joseph Faulke to Rosalie Faulke Cran, 1 July, 1939*
6. 1900 U.S. Census, Roll T623 1119, Page 5B, Enumeration District 866.
7. *Trow's New York Directory for the Year ending May 1, 1879* (New York, The Trow City Directory Company, 11 University Place. Vol. LXXXII), p 1068.
8. 1880 U.S. Census, Roll T9_884, Family History Film 1254884, Page 345.3000, Enumeration District 360, Image 0407.
9. Google Patent Search (<http://www.google.com/patents>).
10. *New York Times*, 4 Jun 1886.
11. Ancestry.com. *New York City Directory, 1890* [database on-line] (Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 1999.)
12. *The Architectural League of New York, Illustrated Catalogue of the Twelfth Annual Exhibition, MDCCCXCVII* (Galleries of the American Fine Arts Society, 215 West Fifty-Seventh Street, February Twentieth to March Thirteenth. Copyright 1897 by Geo. Keister, Secretary of the Architectural League of New York.), p. 243.
13. *New York Times*, The Building Department, 31 Aug 1899; (ProQuest Historical Newspapers version), p. 10.
14. *New York Times*, The Building Department, 3 Mar 1905; (ProQuest Historical Newspapers version), p. 14.
15. *New York Times*, The Building Department, 15 Jun 1906; (ProQuest Historical Newspapers version), p. 14.
16. *New York City, Office of the Comptroller, Annual Report* 1910, p. 334.
17. 1910 U.S. Census, Roll T624_1022, Page 5B, Enumeration District 545, Image 454.
18. *UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960* (Ancestry.com. UK Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878-1960 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Source Citations

Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008.

Original data: Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successors: Inwards Passenger Lists. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA). Series BT26, 1,472 pieces.), Class: BT26; Piece: 499; Item: 46.

19. *R.L. Polk & Co.'s 1915 Trow General Directory of New York City* (R.L. Polk & Co., New York, March 1915. [Ancestry.com]), p. 1336 [and 1916 edition, p. 1231].

20. *New York Times*, Real Estate Transfers, 31 Mar 1915; (ProQuest Historical Newspapers version), p. 17.

21. *germangenealogygroup.com. New York City Death Index* [database on-line] (Compiled by the Genealogy Federation of Long Island from records of the New York City Municipal Archives. [www.germangenealogygroup.com/NYCDEATH.stm]), 26 Jun 1918, Queens, Cert. # 2963.

22. *New York Times*, 29 Jun 1918.

23. *Luxembourg [Ville de] Birth Certificate* (Attestation, not a complete copy, after 1900. In collection of Charles Wm. Berberich.)