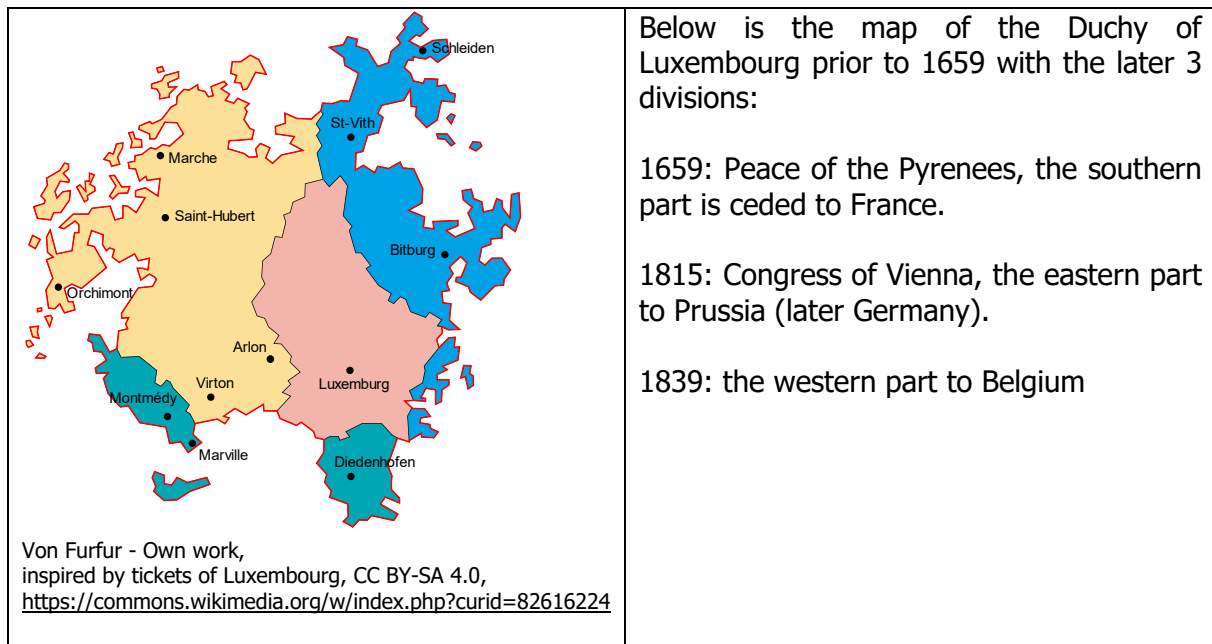


# The eventful life of the canton of Vianden

by Georges EICHER, [www.luxroots.com](http://www.luxroots.com), June 2020



After the annexation of our country by France in 1794, the former Duchy of Luxembourg formed part of the French Republic and later the French Empire as a *département* of the Forêts (Forests Department).

The Department of Forests was divided into 4 *arrondissements* (Luxembourg, Diekirch, Bitburg and Neufchâteau), 27 cantons and 383 communes. Learn more at wikipedia: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forêts\\_\(département\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forêts_(département))

One of these 27 cantons was Vianden with the following communes:

- On the eastern part, which was ceded up from 1815 by decision of the Congress of Vienna to Prussia (later Germany): the former municipalities of Geichlingen, Körperich, Kruchten, Nusbaum, Roth, and Wallendorf, (which today all belong to the municipality of Südeifel).
- In the West, the municipalities of that time: Consthum, Fouhren, Hosingen, Hoscheid, Landscheid, and Stolzembourg.

As already mentioned above, the municipalities of the eastern part were ceded to Prussia in 1815, including the village of Keppeshausen, which until then belonged to the municipality of Stolzembourg.

In 1823/24, large municipal mergers took place throughout the country, including in the canton of Vianden:

- The municipality of Landscheid is affiliated to the municipality of Hoscheid.
- The municipality of Brandenburg (canton of Diekirch) and the village of Tandel (from the municipality of Diekirch) change to the municipality of Fouhren.
- The village of Bastendorf from the municipality of Diekirch goes to the municipality of Bettendorf.

In the years 1826 to 1828 further changes come:

- 1826: The municipality of Pütscheid was created with the following villages: Landscheid, Gralingen, Nachtmanderscheid, Merscheid and Weiler (from the former municipality of Landscheid) as well as with the villages of the disbanded municipality of Stolzembourg (Stolzembourg, Pütscheid and Bivels).
- 1828: The municipality of Bastendorf (in the canton of Diekirch) was created with the villages of Bastendorf, Brandenburg, Landscheid and Tandel.

Following the royal decree of 12 October 1841, the canton of Vianden is abolished and the communes are divided between the cantons of Diekirch and Clervaux:

- the municipalities of Fohren, Hoscheid and Vianden to the canton of Diekirch and
- those of Consthum, Hosingen and Pütscheid to the canton of Clervaux.

After lengthy political discussions, the canton of Vianden is restored by law of 4 April 1851 with the municipalities of Vianden, Pütscheid (with Bivels, Gralingen, Merscheid, Nachtmanderscheid, Stolzembourg and Weiler) as well as Fohren (with Bettel, Longsdorf and Walsdorf).

With the merger of Fohren with Bastendorf (formerly Canton Diekirch) from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, the new municipality of Tandel (with the other villages of Bastendorf, Brandenburg, Landscheid and Tandel) can be expected to be part of the canton of Vianden.

The volunteers of the luxroots.com association have now entered the details of all the birth, marriage and death records 1798-1923 of this canton in their database: 16,125 births, 3,388 marriages and 11,108 death records.

Also, all baptism and marriage records of the church records are already recorded.

- the parish of Vianden with 3,243 baptisms 1679-1797 and 546 marriage 1691-1797
- the parish of Fohren with the villages of Bivels, Fohren, Bettel, Walsdorf, Longsdorf and Poscheid – 775 baptisms 1740-1797 and 177 marriages 1750-1797
- the parish of Stolzembourg with the villages of Stolzembourg, Pütscheid and Keppeshausen - 876 baptisms 1680-1797 and 108 marriages 1741-1797
- the parish of Brandenburg with the villages of Brandenburg, Hoscheid, Merscheid, Landscheid, Weiler, Schlindermanderscheid, Gralingen, Nachtmanderscheid, as well as parts of the Schlinder - 2,119 baptisms 1675-1797 and 326 marriages 1675-1797
- the other villages belonging to the territory of the canton of Vianden today, such as Bastendorf, Tandel, Kippenhof and also parts of the Schlinder, were in the parish of Diekirch.

The family name VIANDEN is not found in the more than 2,2 million processed documents 1600-1923, but one can assume that the surname FEINEN with variants such as FEINNEN, FEYNEN, VEINEN is derived from the local name Vianden.

In our database there are other places of the canton as family names: BETTEL(133), BOETTEL(13), BÖTTEL, FUHREN(11), LONGSDORF(1), TANDEL with variants (208), BRANDENBURG with many variants (around 1,000), BASTENDORF also with many variants (around 700), WALSDORF with variants (around 400)

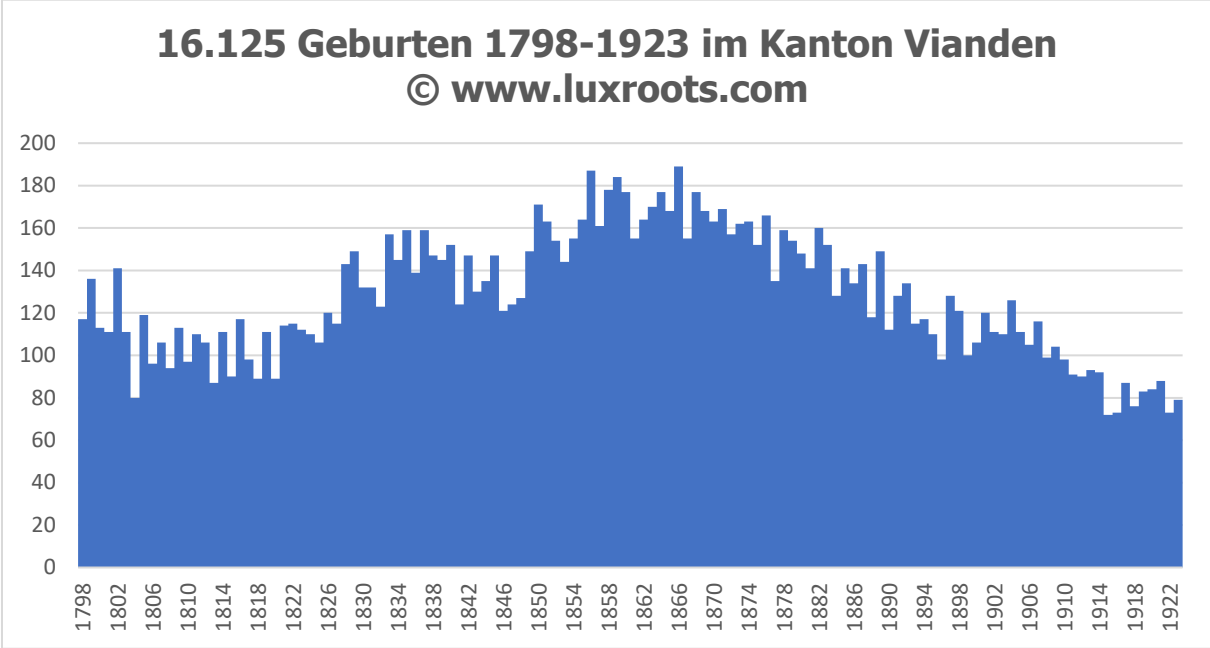
The family HELL, SALNER and TSCHALLENGER came from the Tyrol region in the 18th century and settled in Vianden.

A well-known person of the canton is certainly the 1912 born Vic ABENS, mayor of the city of Vianden 1946-1981, member of the parliament 1946-1981, member of the European Parliament 1979-1989.

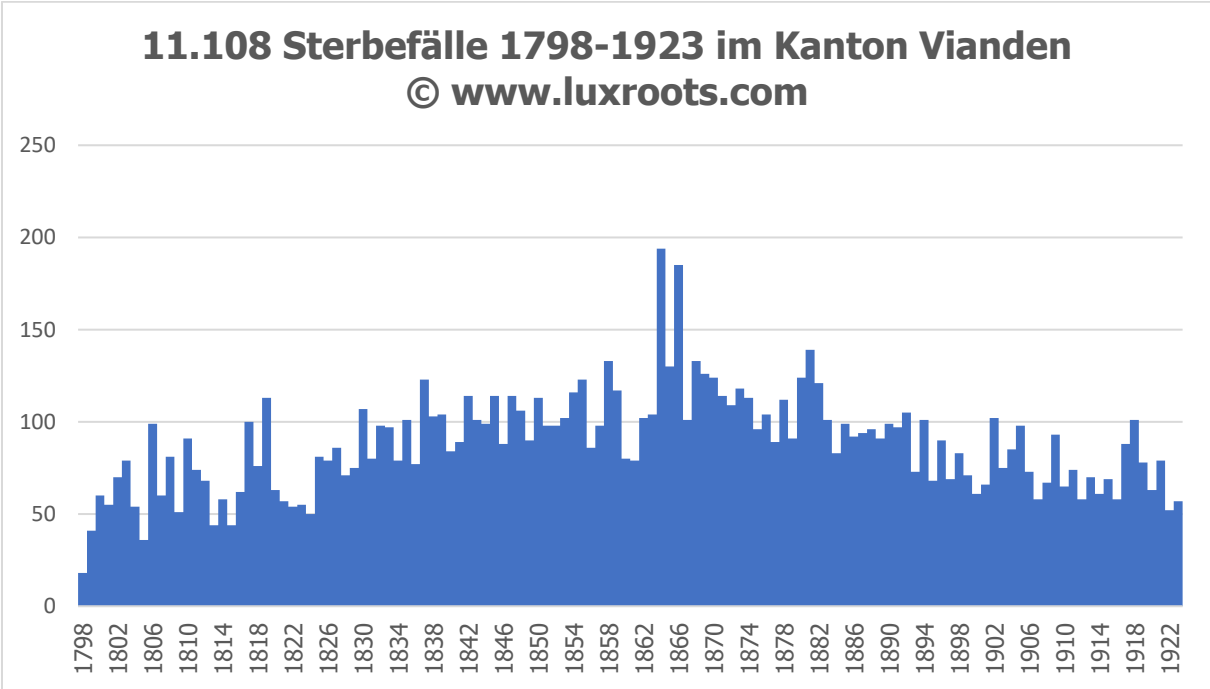
|   |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>ABENS VIKTOR</b><br>* 1912 VIANDEN<br>+ 1993 Liége |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |
| <b>ABENS JOHANN</b><br>* 1886 ROTH                    |  |   |  | <b>GREIN EUGENIE</b><br>* 1890 SCHLEIFMUEHLE |  |   |  |
| 4   |  | 5   |  | 6  |  | 7   |  |
| <b>ABENS NIKOLAUS</b><br>* 1857 NIEDERSGEGEN          |  | <b>HOFFMANN PHILIPPINE</b><br>* 1853 Metz |  | <b>GREIN JOHANN</b><br>* 1859<br>OBERSGEGEN  |  | <b>COLLING ELISABETHA</b><br>* 1861 VIANDEN     |  |
| <b>ABENS</b><br>John<br>* 1820<br>RALINGEN            | <b>HERSCHBACH</b><br>Gertrudis<br>* 1822<br>WEHR |   |  | <b>GREIN</b><br>Peter<br>* 1822<br>MINDEN    | <b>FOEHR</b><br>Catharina<br>* 1823<br>BERDORF | <b>COLLING</b><br>Johann<br>* 1824<br>GENTINGEN | <b>OLINGER</b><br>ANNA<br>MARIA<br>* 1824<br>VIANDEN |

The graphs and statistics below refer only to the villages and communes which belong to the present canton of Vianden, i.e. the municipalities: Pütscheid, Tandel and Vianden.

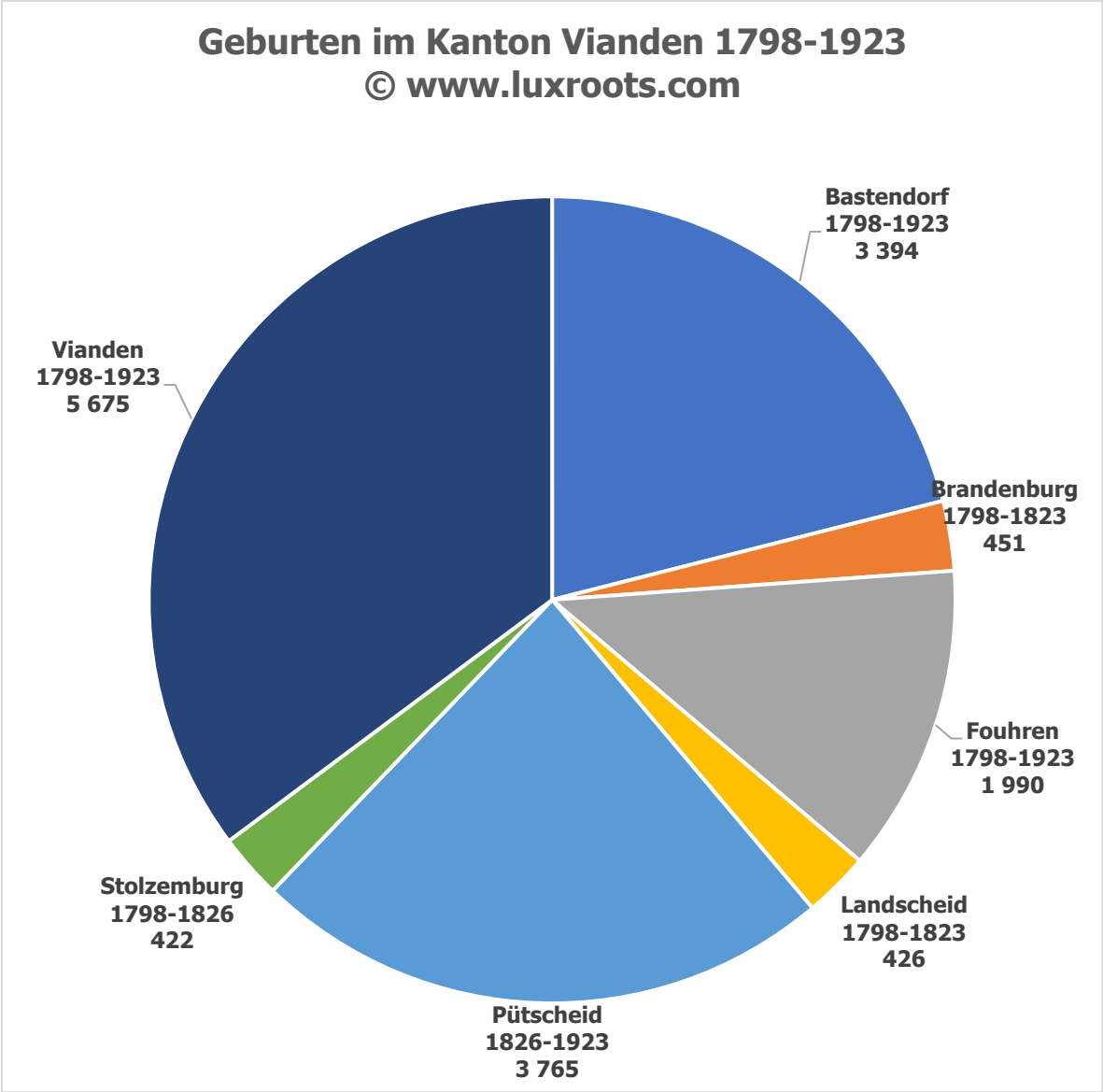
**Births 1798-1923**



**Death 1798-1923**



By municipality, knowing that different municipalities existed only briefly.



Sources:  
Au fil de l'histoire II (1971) - Albert CALMES  
wikipedia.org  
luxroots.com asbl from the information provided by the civil and church registers