

The farm of Chantelet.

Though the name of "cense or ferme du Chantelet" is also used on older maps (¹), the authentic name is "ferme du Chanteleu" which can be found on modern maps.

The name is derived from the imperative of the word "*chanter*" and the vocative of "*loup*", from where the meaning "Chante loup", which indicates a place of savagery.

The first time the farm is mentioned is in 1312. In that year it covered an important area of 57 hectares of fields, meadows, woods and water, of which half was owned by the duke of Brabant. The domain was successively owned by the family of Chanteleu, then Gérard de Malines, and then through inheritance to the noble family of Van Hinckaert (1380), who sold it to the Van Witthems, seigneurs of Beersel, Braine l'Alleud and Plancenoit (1516).

The property was sold in 1616 to a family named Goubault, who constructed a chapel near the farm in 1661. The complex was owned in the 18th century by the barons of Pallant and through inheritance by Wal Marbourg, then Wal d'Anthine, who sold it in 1867 to Van Hams, industrials at Braine l'Alleud. In 1930 the domain was purchased by the family Solvay, the current owner (1984).²

Around the central courtyard several buildings can be found which are post 1815. Other parts, however, are very old. The chapel was built in baroque-style and is devoted to the Immaculate Conception.

In the chapel an 18th century altar and a statue of the Holy Virgin can be found. During the 19th century it fell into a dilapidated state due to the storage of agricultural equipment and by the fact that it was serving as a quarters for seasonal workers. In 1937, however, the chapel was restored. On the 6th of June 1987 a tablet was placed on one of its walls by the *Association pour la conservation des monuments Napoleoniens* to commemorate the presence of marshal Ney there on the night of the 17th of June, stating: "Ferme du Chantelet. Le maréchal Ney, duc d'Elchingen, prince de la Moskowa, logea dans cette ferme du 17 au 18 Juin 1815."³

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1. Carte de Cabinet des Pays Bas Autrichiens
Carte Capitaine
Craan, W.B. Plan du champ de bataille de Waterloo
Charras. Histoire de la campagne de 1815

² Logie, J. Waterloo l'évitable défaite p.89

3. Speeckaert, G. Les 135 vestiges etc. p.43