

Plancenoi

1300 meters east of the Brussels-road, almost level with the farm of Rossomme was the village of Plancenoi. Plancenoi is mentioned for the first time in 1227 as "Plancenetum." The name is probably derived from the word "plancon" which means young tree. ¹ Ferraris and Siborne call the village Planchenoit, while Craan gives Planchenois. ²

The village, which had in 1815 about 500 inhabitants (³), was in the low ground of the Lasne stream. ⁴ Basically, the village consisted of two parts: the first in the low ground of the Lasne-stream and against its northern slopes. The axe of the houses here was a street which ran from east to west. The second part was halfway the opposite slope, along a similar street. Here most of the buildings were huts which were covered with straw.

The first street ran up to the house of Decoster. It was along this road, that Plancenoi stretched out for about 500 meters to the west. On this road stood in 1815 the Chapelle des Vaches. ⁵

The other, more southern, road ran up to Maison du Roi, on the Brussels road. This road was in 1815 here and there a hollow one and carried the name of "rue Haute" or "rue la Haut", contrary to the street in the lower part, called the "rue Basse" or "rue de la Basse Haie". ⁶

A stream rises in the very centre of the village and which joins the Lasne in the extreme south-east corner of Plancenoi. In the middle of the northern group of houses was, halfway the slope, the church. Around this 13th century building was a churchyard which was itself surrounded by a low wall. ⁷ After 1815, the church has been demolished but rebuilt in 1857 according to a design of the architect Coulon. ⁸ The new church was built a bit more west compared to the former one. ⁹ In 1815, the churchyard was on a slight slope, nowadays it is flat. ¹⁰

On the right side of the facade of the church a tablet can be found with the text:

"Dans ce village de Plancenoi s'est illustrée le 18 Juin 1815 la Jeune Garde de l'empereur Napoleon commandée par le général comte Duhesme, qui y fut mortellement blessé." This tablet has been erected in 1965 by the Société Belge d'Etudes Napoleoniennes. ¹¹

To the left of the same facade one can read another text to the memory of lieutenant Louis of the 3rd regiment tirailleurs of the Imperial Guards, stating:

"Au lieutenant M.Louis 3e tirailleurs de la garde né à Jodoigne le 3.4.1787 tombé à Plancenoi le 18.6.1815 Fond.Napoléon A.F.E.W." ¹²

Another tablet reads: "En ces lieux le 18 Juin 1815, les 1^e et 2 compagnies du régiment d'artillerie à pied du colonel Caron ont appuyé de leurs feux efficaces le 6^e corps d'armée Français." In the church itself there is a tablet to the memory of Jacques Tattet. It reads:

"A la mémoire de Jaques Claudes André Tattet. Lieutenant d'artillerie de la vieille garde, membre de la Légion d'honneur, tué au début de la bataille du 18 Juin 1815 à l'age de 22 ans." ¹³

750 meters east of Maison du Roi and 200 meters south of the road between Maison du Roi - Plancenoi were a farm and a few houses. Some call it Anogrune, while others assign this name to the east part of Plancenoi.

Near the church there is the farm of Cuvelier [¹⁴] of which the house dates from 1734. ¹⁵ The rectory (200 meter south of the church) dates from 1789. ¹⁶

On the extreme northern side of the village, at the crossroads of the roads leading to La Belle Alliance and to the Bois de Paris, the Prussian monument can be found. Standing on an

eminence [¹⁷], it was raised on 18th of June 1818 and consists of a large stone pedestal, on which a gothic iron pinnacle is crowned by the Prussian cross. It reads:
“Die Gefallenen Helden ehrt dankbar König und Vaterland. Sie ruhn in Frieden. Belle Alliance den 18. Juni 1815.” In 1832 it was damaged by French troops on their way to Antwerp and after that it has been restored and surrounded by a fence. ¹⁸

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1. Aerts, W. Waterloo, opérations etc. p.241-242

Logie, J. L'évitable défaite p.166-167

Aerts also mentions the possibility that it comes from Planty de Chênes, as the area was rich in oaks.

2. According to Tarliers and Wauters one can also find Plancenais, Plancenoy and Plasnoy.
Cf. Tarliers, J. and G. Wauters. La Belgique ancienne et moderne. Brussel. 1863

3. Cf. Aerts. He cites from the Belgian almanac of 1815. In: Waterloo, opérations etc. p.242

4. From the position of Wellington's army one could only see the spire of its church.

⁵ The inscription on the chapel is hardly readable but may bear the signs "MDX"

6. Logie, J. L'évitable défaite p.166-167

7. Cf. Carte de cabinet des Pays-Bas Autrichiens

Aerts, W. – Waterloo, opérations etc. p.242

Fierens-Gevaert, H. - "Waterloo légendaire." In: Revue de Paris. 15th september 1900, p.402-448

According to Siborne, the churchyard was surrounded by trees. Cf. Siborne, W. History of the war etc. – map and model. The model also gives an idea of the general proportions of the building.

Van Neck, L. Waterloo illustré p.132

Waterloo 1815, l'Europe face à Napoleon p.110

8. Logie, J. – Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.167

The church, devoted to Sainte Cathérine, was built in bricks, but Tarliers / Wauters believe the facade was built of stones of the old church.

For old photographs of the building, cf.

Navez, L. – Le champ de bataille etc. p.156

Aerts, W. – Waterloo, opérations etc. p.242

Catalogue of the Musée du Caillou p.19

9. Craan, W.B.- Plan du champ de bataille de Waterloo dit de la Belle Alliance etc. Bruxelles, Harvaert en Pauwels, 1816

Logie, J. - Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.167

10. Logie, J. - Waterloo, l'évitable défaite p.167

Navez, L. - La campagne de 1815. Vol.II p.32

Album entitled "Views of the field of battle of Waterloo and the route of the advance of the Prussian army from Wavre to the field of the battle sketched on the spot", by Ch. Lyall, 1890

In: Waterloo 1815, l'Europe face à Napoleon p.111
Waterloo, 1815 p.111

11. Speeckaert, G.P. - Les 135 vestiges et monuments etc. p.28

12. The name of Louis is missing in the lists of Martinien.

¹³ Cf. Adkin, M. - The Waterloo companion p.129

14. Cf. Aerts, W. - Waterloo, opérations de l'armée prussienne etc. p.260
Charras mentions the farm of Previnauvre at the extreme north-east side of the village. Cf.
Charras. La campagne de 1815 plan nr.4

15. Aerts says it was 1731. In: Waterloo, opérations etc. p.242

16. Tarliers, J. en G.Wauters. La Belgique ancienne et moderne.Brussel.1859

¹⁷ Van Neck, L.van - Waterloo illustré p.167-168.

Navez, L. - Le champ de bataille et le pays de Waterloo etc. p.190
Collection de 12 vues de Waterloo nr.10

¹⁸ It has also been restored in 1944 and 1965.