

Nouzonville through history

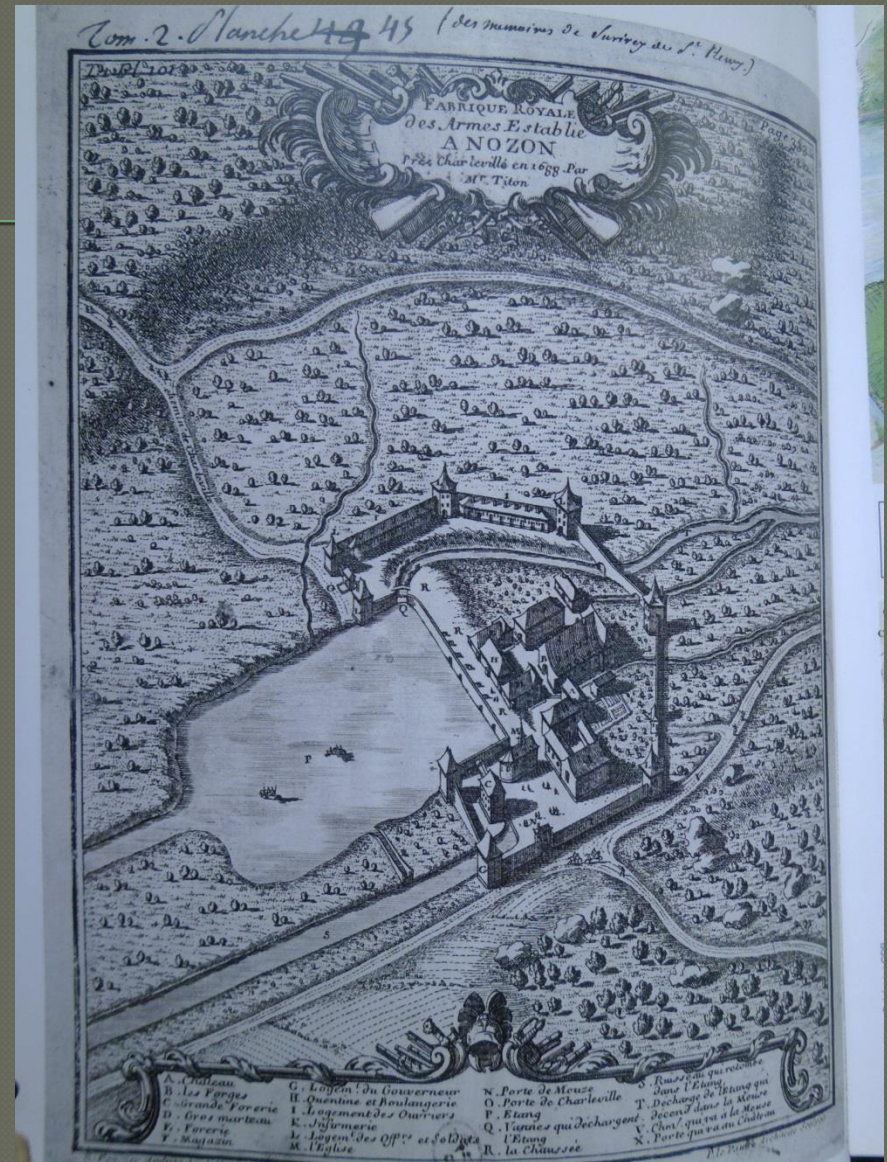


- In 1234: The name "**Nouzon**" appears for the first time in a text, so it is reasonable to think that the city was founded in the second half of the 12th century. Nouzon then owed its origin to the canons of the collegiate church or abbey of Braux.
- Around 1350: The village of Nouzon was erected as a civil community. But situated near the frontier, it then undergoes a period of calamities:
 - In 1369 Marguerite from Rethel, married Philip the Bold, The family of Philip the Bold was an ally of the English until 1435, which attracted to the country, on Nouzon, the **miseries of the Hundred Years' War**.
 - Nouzon was **burnt**, at least in part, and property lost all value.
- In 1506: Nouzon was depopulated by the **plague and the famine**.
- In 1521: It was **plundered** during the siege of Mézières by the imperial ones of Charles V.
- In 1537: Nouzon was **burnt**.
- In 1554: Hardly recovered, it was **sacked and burned**, as well as the villages downstream by the Spaniards of Philip II, who came from Namur, and a **flooding** of the Meuse completed the ruin.
- It rose again and was able to appear in 1575 at the assembly of Chateau Regnault.
- In 1573 Henri de Guise built a forge on the river Goutelle to first treat the iron ore of his land with the charcoal of his forests.



A Royal Weapon factory

- On the 10th of March, 1629, Marguerite sold to King Louis XIII her sovereign lands of Chateau-Regnault, including the old domains of the Braux chapter, conquests and usurpations, twenty-seven villages and villages, among others **Nouzon**.
- Nouzon became French, it was more tranquil after its meeting with France and grew little by little, the king having undertaken to respect the rights and customs of his new subjects.
- In 1659: the wars of Thirty years and the Fronde. The misfortunes of the end of the reign of Louis XIV., **Disastrous wars**, cold of 1709, **bad harvests** of 1709 and 1710, brought **famine and depopulation**.
- In 1688: Opening of an important annex of the manufacture of arms from Charleville to Nouzon



- In 1692 : a violent earthquake destroyed many houses .
- In 1709 : a bad winter destroyed the farming.
- In 1725 : floods destroyed the farming.
- In 1769: The inhabitants addressed a petition to the King to help them rebuild the church and the presbytery. The works were executed during the following years, and the new church, that of today, was blessed and completely completed in 1777.
- .
- In 1836: Disappearance of the manufacture of the weapons.



The church nowadays

The motto

It was towards the middle of the 19th century, when the railway and the steam engine appeared, that Nouzon became the black city, filled with waves of smoke, hence its nickname "Creusot Ardennais". Buildings and wagons are mainly produced over long days.

Hence the choice of his motto "**omnia e labore**" all through toil. An important working class came to discover unionism and socialism, thanks in particular to Jean-Baptiste Clément, a man dear to the inhabitants of Nouzonville who were the only ones to raise him a bust.



1881: shops and factories of Nouzonville:

- 7 innkeepers
- 1 wood seller
- 4 butchers
- 2 bakers
- 5 brewers
- 1 coffee maker
- 3 pork butchers
- 3 nailers
- 31 ironworking factories
- 1 jacks and anvils
factory
- 2 steel sellers
- 2 steel and copper
foundries
- 1 gaz for lights factory
- 2 showman sellers
- 1 wall paper seller
- 1 hardware store
- 2 wine seller
- 1 wirework factory
- 1 public works company
- 1 salesman

- June 10, 1893: Inauguration of the town hall, burned down in 1914, destroyed in 1940.



- In 1901: Nouzon had 7,795 inhabitants; It was the fourth town in the department, the first in the valley, in front of Revin and Givet.
- October 24, 1921: The post office had had enough. There was a constant confusion between Mouzon and Nouzon. Something had to be done, and the solution was radical: it was decided to change the name of Nouzon - arguing that Mouzon had an older and more important past. After many proposals, the name of Nouzonville was retained.
- This is how Nouzon becomes Nouzonville.

2 world wars :

WW1:

- August 1914, 25th there have been fights in Nouzonville during the whole day, Again, houses have been burnt , German soldiers emptied caves , killed inhabitants
- On the following day , the town hall is burnt. The town is invaded by German soldiers , and bombed. The town is now occupied by the ennemies.
- The young ones are taken away to work for the German army (ex: buiding a new bridge over the river Meuse)
- Feb 1918 :The German stole the cooper form the church bell
- Nov 16th 1918 : the French army enters Nouzonville after 52 month of occupation.

WW2:

- 1939 : Soldiers from the Indochine colonies come to fight in les Ardennes. Germans are surprise and think they are fighting against Chinese soldiers.
- May 1940 : the population of Nouzonville leave the town for different region away from the attacks.
- May 13th : the town hall is burnt with 80 other houses during the fights in Nouzonville.
- During the occupation , there have been actions of sabotage by the « resistance ».
- 3 and 4th sept 1944 : liberation of Nouzonville. The German soldiers did not surrender , there have been fights and killings. The arrival of American soldiers on Monday the 4th marked the end of the occupation : the town center got full of happy inhabitants in a few minutes,

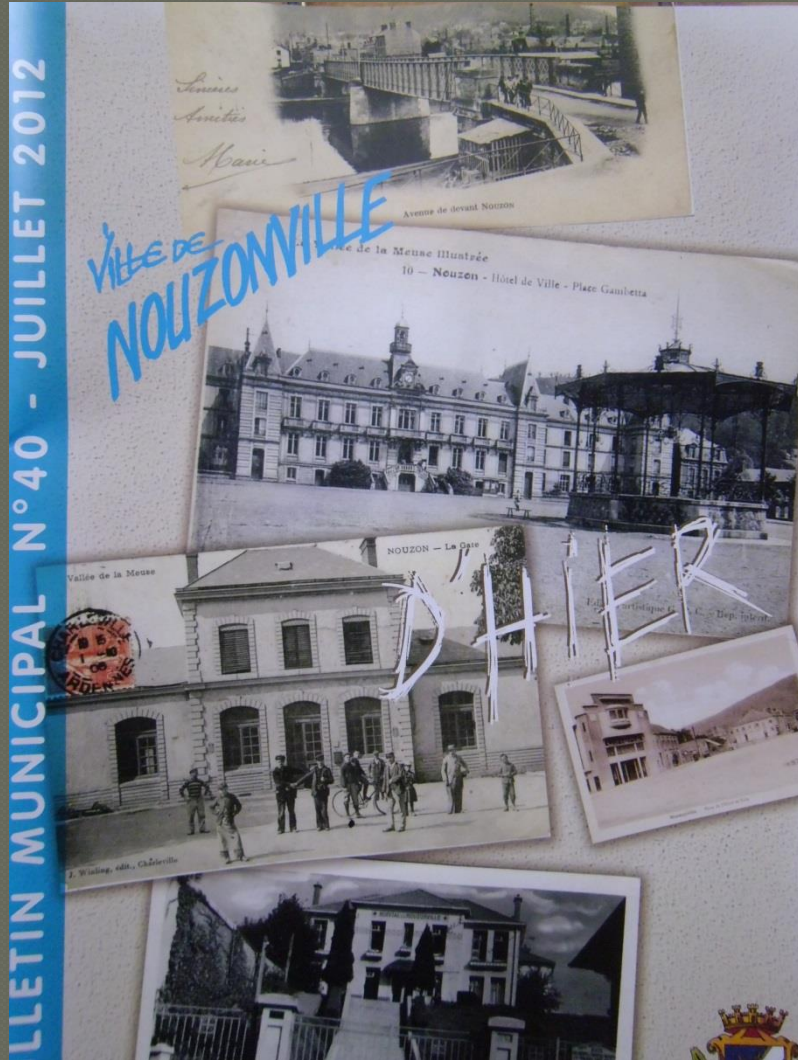


Second World War destructions



Nouzonville : yesterday to today

BULLETIN MUNICIPAL N°40 - JUILLET 2012

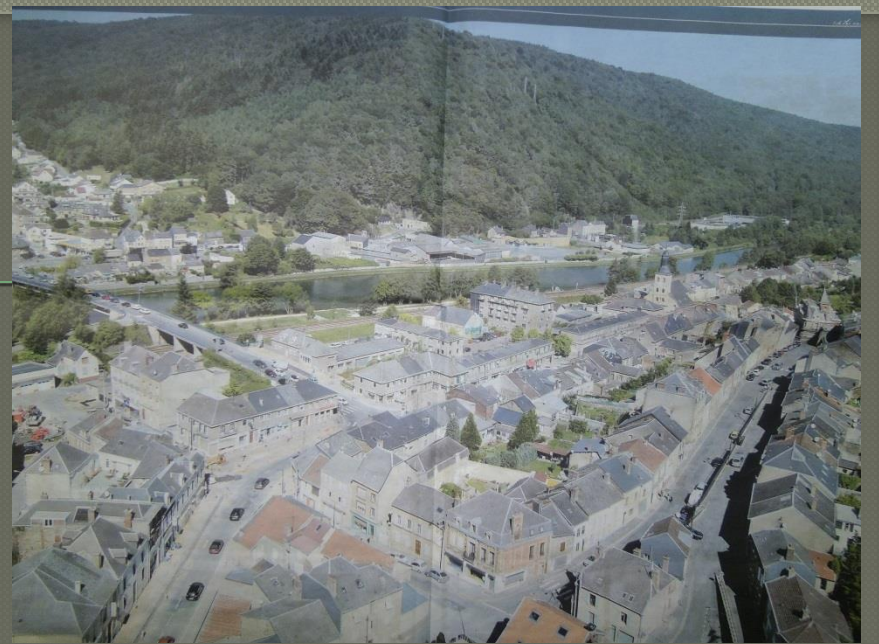
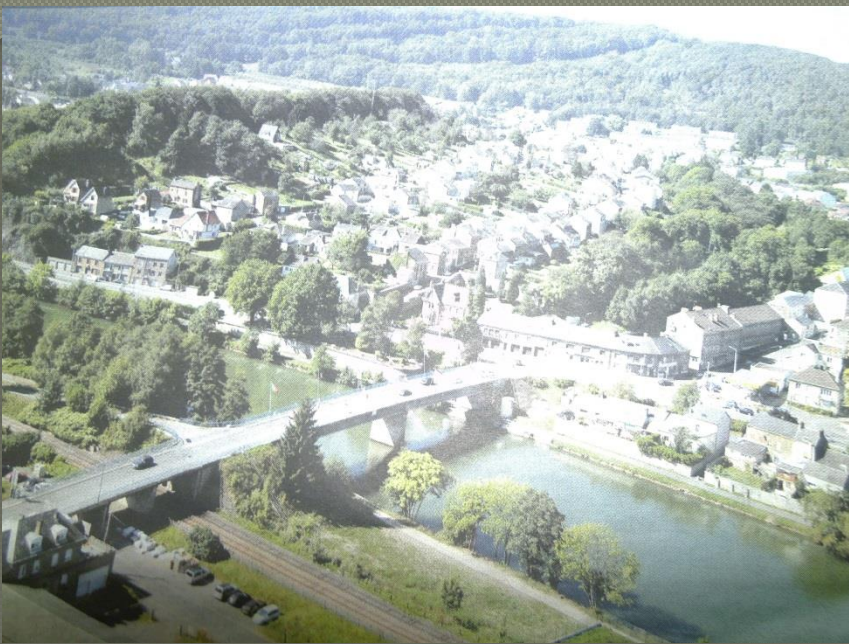


The hospital
Chanzy's street : commercial street)

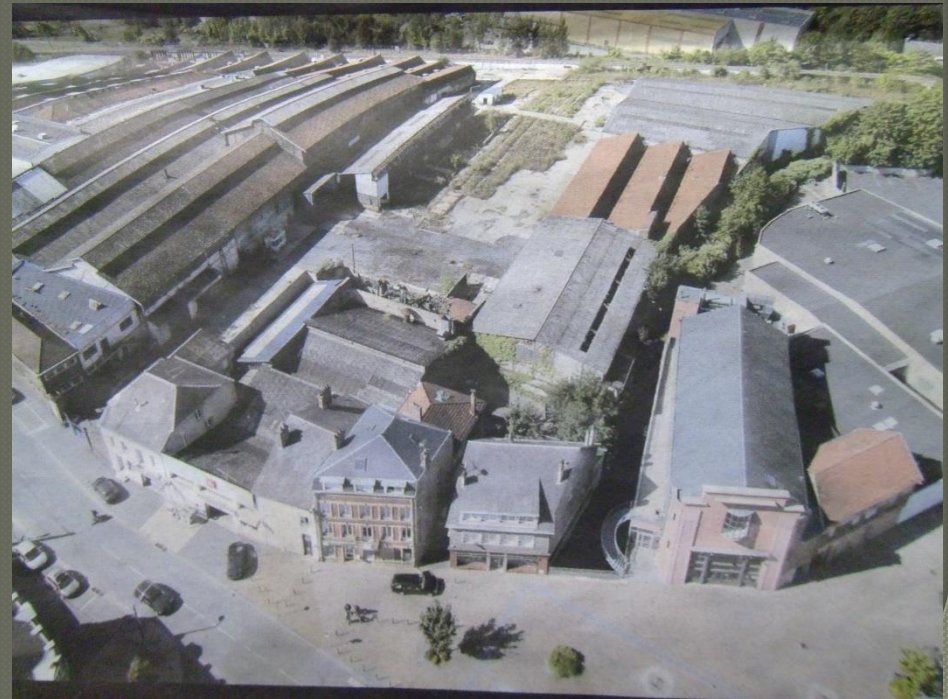


Population in 2009 : 6 323
2,833 home
57 associations
current mayor in 2017 : Florian Lecoultre
superficy : 1 092 ha





From one side of the river
From the other side of the river
The , now closed, factory called
Thomé-Génot , it is the symbol
of the fights of the workers in
Nouzonville.



Typical houses of the town and the swimming-pool:



IN 1468 , BLACK SMITHS FROM LIÈGE (BELGIUM) CAME AND SETTLED DOWN NEAR THE RIVER LA GOUTELLE.THEY BUILT AROUND 20 SMITHIES ALONG THE RIVER , USING THE STREAM OF THE RIVER. THEY TAUGHT THE LOCAL FISHERMEN HOW TO WORK THE IRON DURING 2 CENTURIES , THEY SLOWLY MOVED TOWARDS IRONWORKS.

DURING THE 18C , MOTS OF THEM WORK FOR THE WEAPON FACTORY.

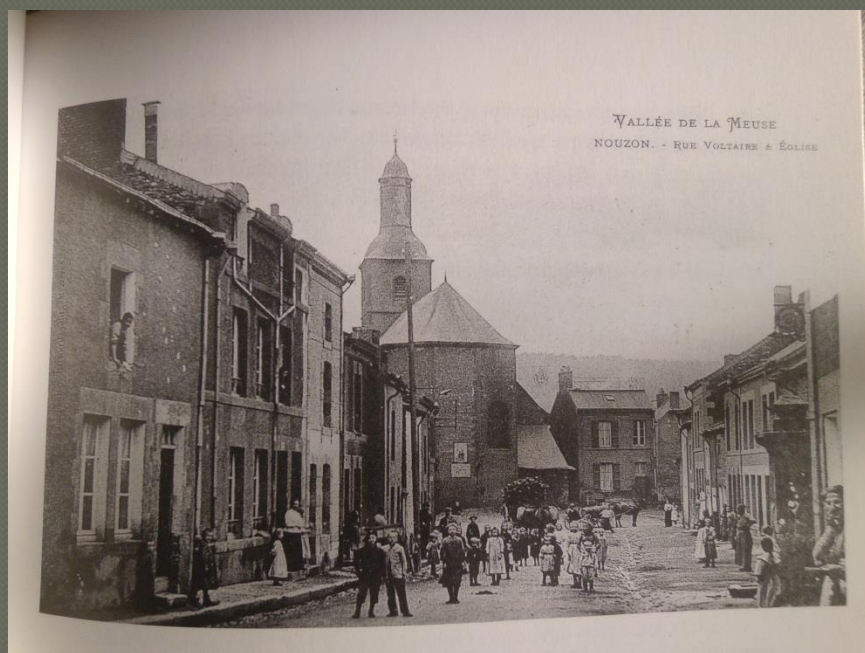
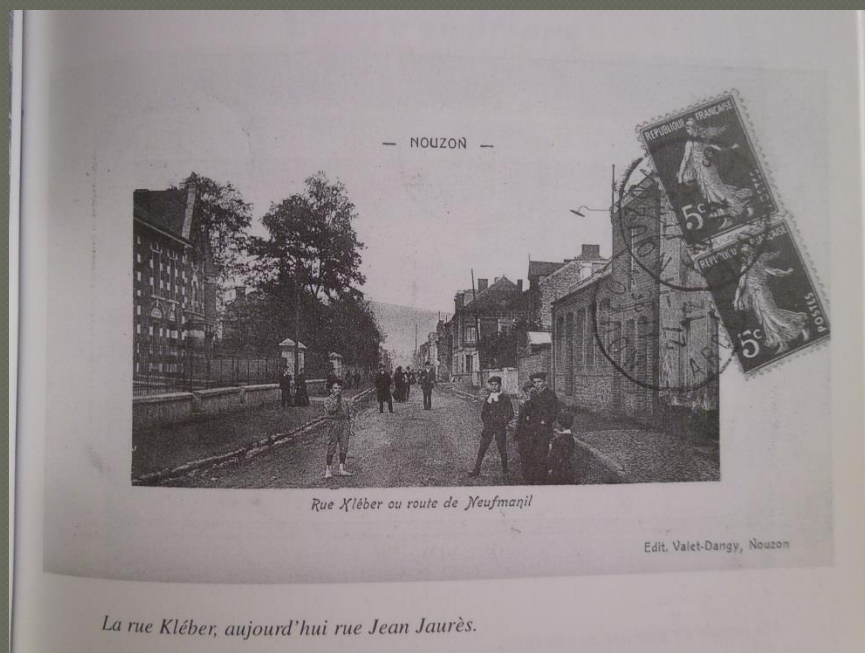
IN 1886 , AN OWNER OF A FACTORY BUILT A VERY LARGE HOUSE ITH A LARGE PARK IN FRONT OF IT AND A BEAUTIFUL ROSARY.

IN 1981, THE FACTORY NAMED « LA CACHETTE » HAS BEEN MOVED TO HAM-LES MOINES WITH ITS 100 WORKERS.

Our district : La Cachette



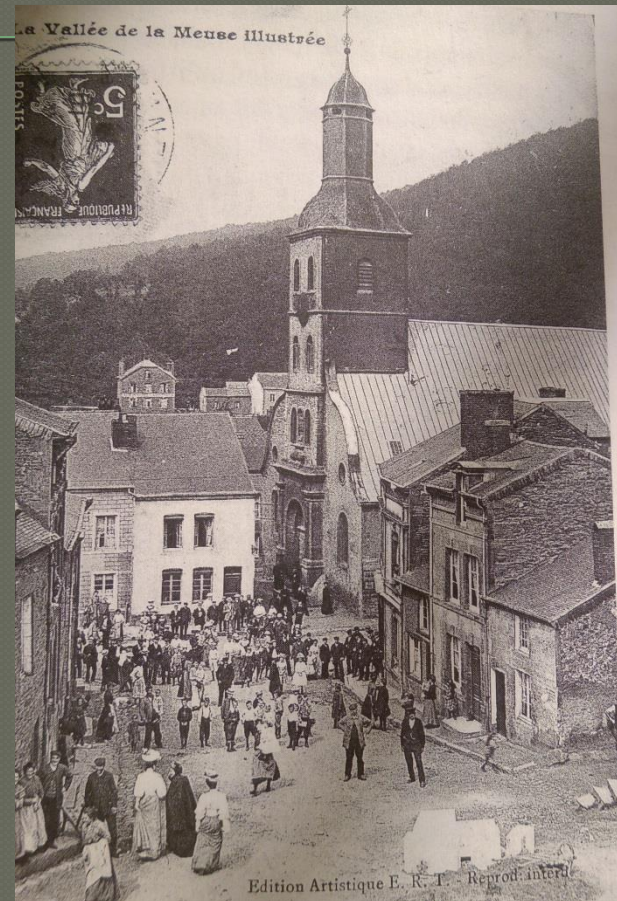
des grandes figures du socialisme français.



A FAMOUS VISITOR



Une grande dame d'Ardenne et un grand homme de France, Marguerite Fontaine et Charles de Gaulle à Nouzonville en 1951. (Photo : Jean Héraux.)



Beautiful Ardennes ladies

