

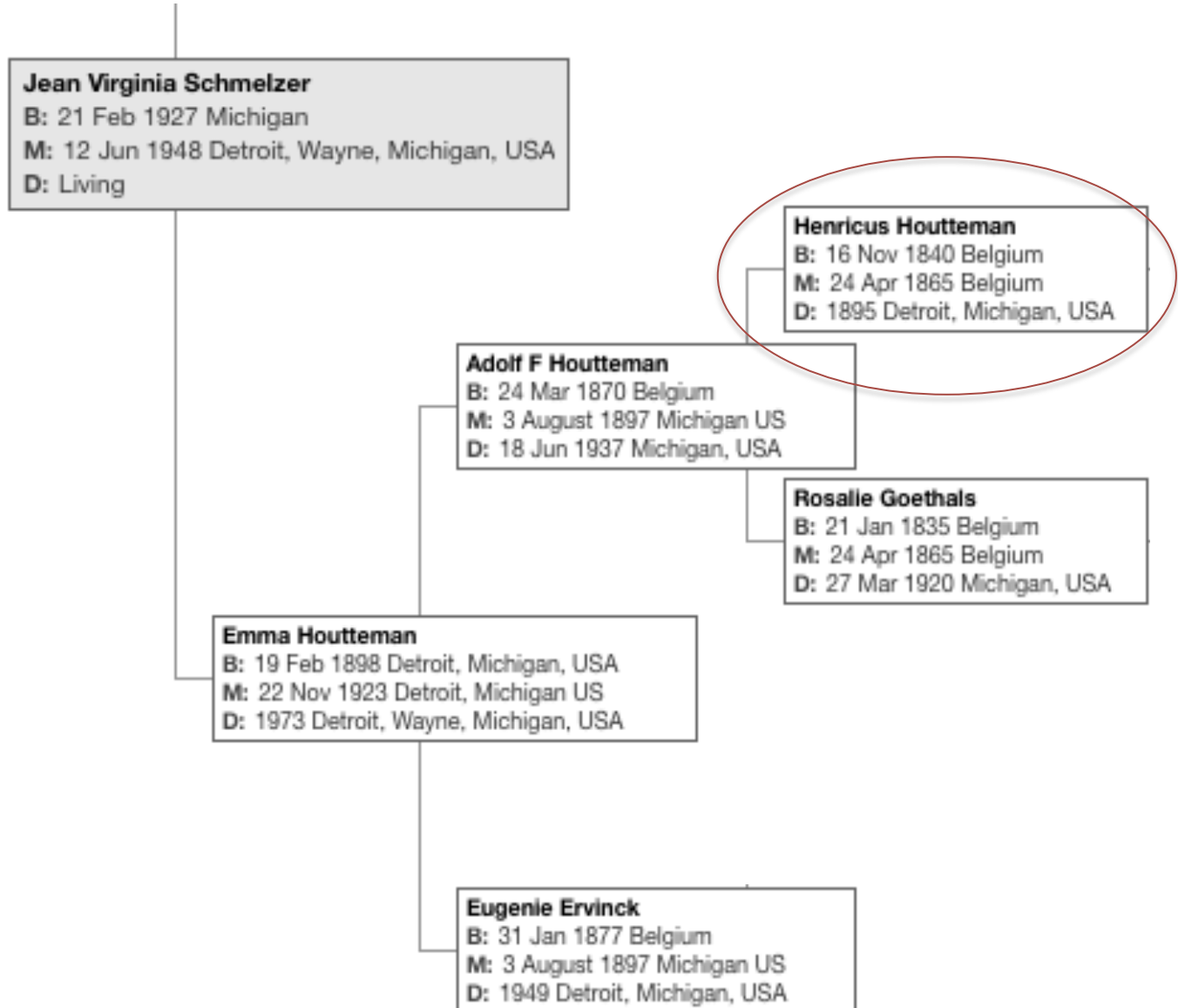
Another story from “Mum’s” Side of the Family:

Henry Houtteman – *Missing* Drowned in the Detroit River

Henricus Houtteman was Jean McCarty’s great grandfather on her mother’s side. He came to Detroit from Belgium in the late 1880s with his wife Rosalie and six children.

In November 1895, he went missing.

In May 1896, his body was found in the Detroit River.



FOUND IN THE RIVER.

BODY OF AN UNKNOWN MAN RECOVERED YESTERDAY.

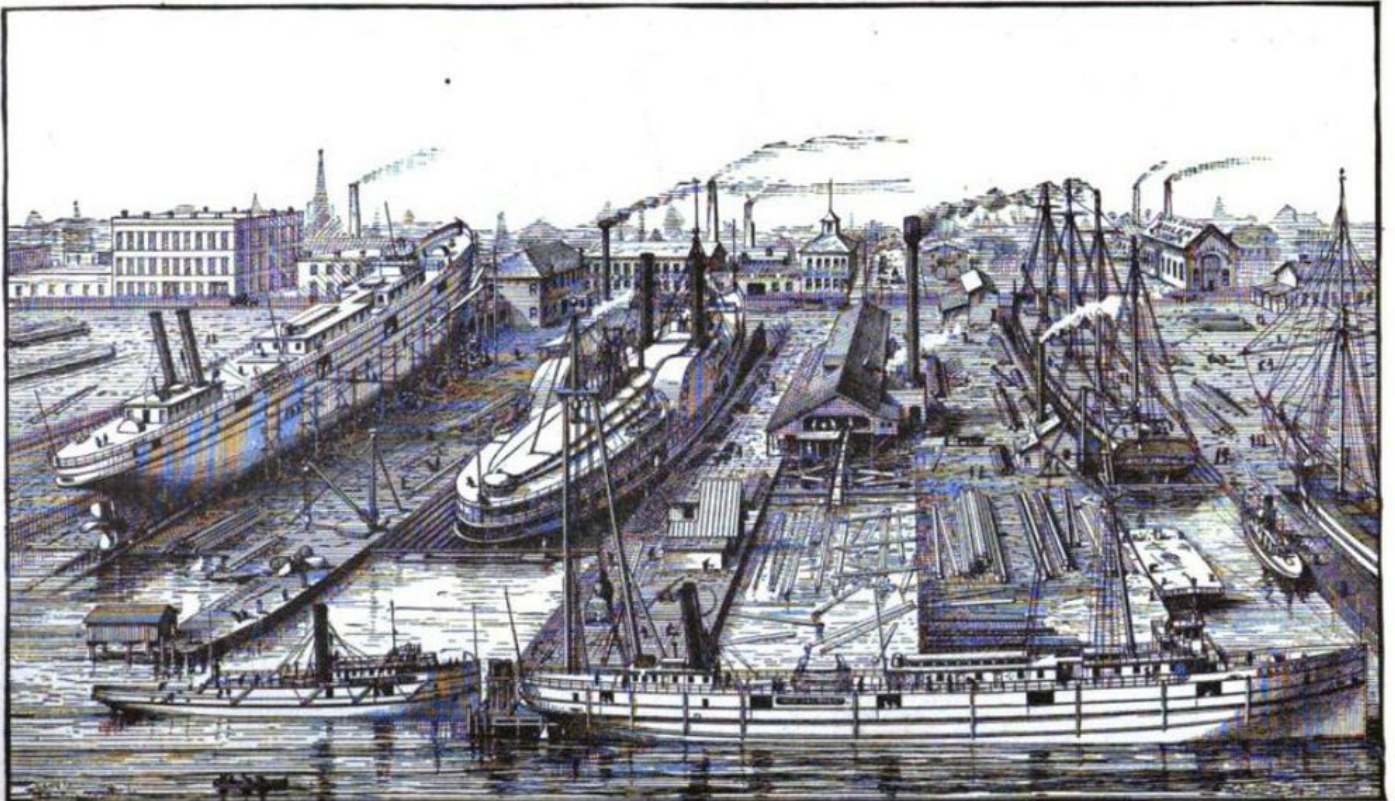
The body of an unknown man was found in the river a few minutes after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon and towed to the foot of Millie street. Coroner Beatcher was notified and sent the remains to DeSaffery's morgue, on River road. The dead man was about 50 years of age, and about 5 feet, 10 inches tall. He had on three shirts, his trousers were of a dark material, and striped, and he wore a dark blue overcoat. In the pockets of which was found a pair of child's shoes. On the sole of one of the shoes was a name which could not be deciphered. In the pockets of the dead man's clothes was found \$1.83 and some old papers. An inquest will be held.



From the Evening News May 25, 1896

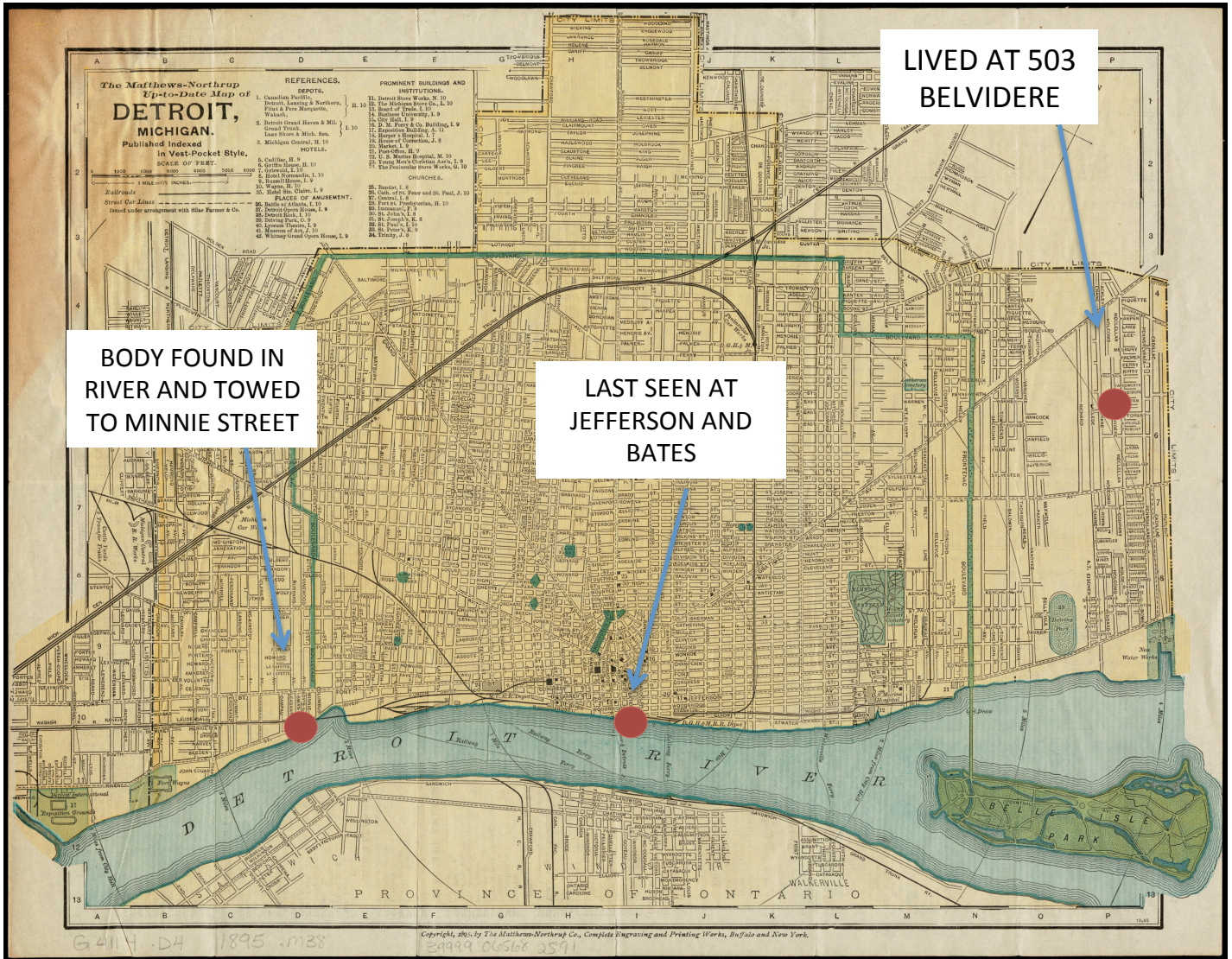
The body of an unknown man badly decomposed, was found floating in the river yesterday off the foot of Minnie Street, and removed to D. W. De Saffery & Co.'s undertaking establishment on the River Rd. The remains will be buried today, and an inquest will be held tomorrow.

The body was clothed in a dark blue overcoat, dark striped trousers and a white shirt with pleated bosom, under which were two other shirts, one of them blue calico and the other a cotton undershirt. The tie was black and the shoes gaiters. A pair of newly half-soled children's shoes with spring heels were found in the pocket's of the overcoat, and on the bottom of one of them, written in German script, was a name that appears to be "Kaufman". A bill and \$1.83 in change was also found on the person.



DRY DOCKS AND REPAIR YARD OF THE DETROIT DRY DOCK COMPANY, DETROIT, MICHIGAN.
Foot of Orleans Street

DETROIT 1895



BODY FOUND IN RIVER AND TOWED TO MINNIE STREET

LAST SEEN AT JEFFERSON AND BATES

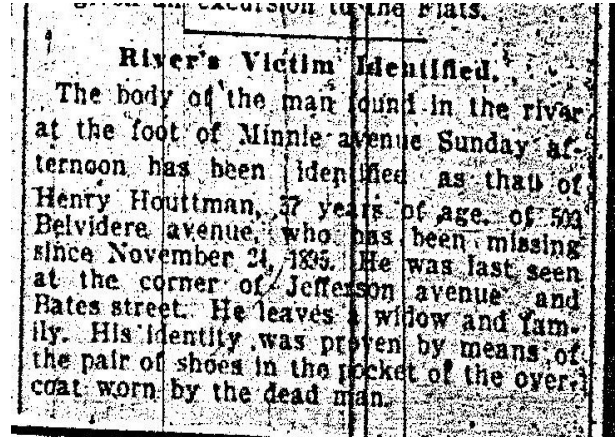
LIVED AT 503 BELVIDERE

The Detroit riverfront at this time was mostly industrial.

His body was identified a few days later.

From the Detroit News
May 26 1896

The body of the man found in the river at the foot of Minnie avenue Sunday afternoon has been identified as that of Henry Houtteman, 57 years of age, of 503 Belvidere avenue, who has been missing since November 24, 1895. He was last seen at the corner of Jefferson avenue and Bates Street. He leaves a widow and family. His identity was proven by means of the pair of shoes in the pocket of the overcoat worn by the dead man.



Who's little shoe was in Henry's pocket? His own children were grown. He had 5 little grandchildren who were all under the age of 5. Did it belong to Henry or Julius Van Copenolle? Or Henretta, Henry or Mary Houtteman?



Houtteman Rosa	Head	W F	Jan 1834	66	77	6	6	Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
Joseph	Son	W M	Apr 1865	35	S			Belgium	Belgium	Belgium
Octave	Son	W M	Aug 1874	26	S			Belgium	Belgium	Belgium

By the 1900 census, Rosalie was living with two of her adult sons, Octave and Julius.
The boys looked after mom, just like today.

**What do you think happened to Henry? Did he fall through the ice?
Was it foul play?**