



The Monnier family

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We know that Sophie Antoinette Monnier was the daughter of Fritz Monnier, described simply as ‘a merchant’ on her marriage certificate. She was born in 1864 in Switzerland, in the French-speaking historic university town of Neuchâtel. Details from her death certificate (1941) are given on page 2 below. The birth year 1864 is given in an article by Joris van Parys (see http://zachtlawijd.be/content_images/PDF_35/zl_01_00_52-70_Joris_van_Parys.pdf).

Like the name ‘Harper’, ‘Monnier’ was a not uncommon name in that area. I’ve had no success in tracing her family so far, but offer these two possibilities for her father Fritz:

One might be the second gentleman listed in the *Feuille d’Avis de Neuchâtel*, page 4, published on Saturday 16 October 1869, and available online at <http://doc.rero.ch/record/36559/files/1869-10-16.pdf>:

ETAT CIVIL DE NEUCHÂTEL.

PROMESSES DE MARIAGES.

Frédéric-Antoine Borel, veuf de Charlotte Lœw, de Neuchâtel, et Susanne Ammann, gouvernante; les deux dem. à Neuchâtel.

Fritz Monnier, veuf de Cécile-Henriette Christer, horloger, de Dombresson, et Elina Favre; les deux dom. à Neuchâtel.

Fritz’s first wife may have been misspelt. Another online source (https://www.myheritage.com/names/fritz_monnier) has his first wife’s surname as Christen, stating ‘Fritz married Cécile Henriette Monnier (born Christen [*sic*])’. However that second source has a wrong date of 1865 for the second marriage. It suggests a birthdate of 1834 for Fritz and adds that ‘Elina [Favre] was born on June 30 1839, in Saint-Martin, Ch-2055, Neuchâtel, Suisse’.

A second possibility might be the Fritz Monnier, also born in Dombresson, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, to Aimé Monnier and Henriette Maumary, on 23 November 1838. That Fritz married (i) Julie Adèle Cuche (1838-1868) and (ii) Rosalie Augsberger (1852-??). However there doesn’t seem to be any likely connection other than the name Fritz Monnier! A real spoiler is that the first marriage is dated as 20 May 1865, i.e. after Sophie Antoinette’s likely birth date. The second marriage was on 31 October 1874.

There’s better success with Sophie Antoinette’s death in 1941:

UK, Foreign and Overseas Registers of British Subjects

Informal Report of Death of a British Subject
American Foreign Service

Nice, France, June 19, 1941

Name in full: Mrs Sophie Antoinette Harper, nee Monnier

Age (as nearly as can be ascertained): 76

National status: British subject by marriage

Date of death: January 9th 1941

Place of death: Sunny Bank Hospital, Cannes (A.M.) France

Cause of death: Natural death

Disposition of the remains: Interred Cannes Cemetery, Cannes

Disposition of the effects: Trunks and various effects in custody of American Consulate in charge of British interests, Nice, also trunks in custody of Hotel du Louvre, Monte Carlo, under our seal. Cash handed this consulate, Jun, 23 [difficult to read – perhaps more likely to be 13], 1941.

Person or official responsible for custody of effects and accounting thereof:

Mr Horace Remillard

Accompanied by relatives or friends as follows:

Name and Address: Mme Macabeo, Palais de Provence, Cannes **Relationship:** Friend

Address of relatives (so far as known):

1. Mrs H [could be E or L? Most likely L for Lygia] Klasing-Harper [difficult to read; might be Kissing-Harper or Elsing-Harper??], Tjolom doe by Solo [Surakarta], Java, Dutch East Indies, Grand-daughter [i.e. Monnier Harper's daughter Lygia]
2. General Belzer [Luitenant-Generaal Maarten Belzer (1870-1948)*], 14 Hooge Weg, La Haye, Holland, Friend

Notification sent to: Mme Veuve Feguenne, Alexandria, by telegram on June 20, 1941
19 rue Glymanopoule

Death reported by: Colonel Carlton, Hon. Secretary, Sunny Bank Hospital, Cannes, A.M. (France)

* http://www.unithistories.com/officers/persons_dutch_army.html



LH pic: General Belzer