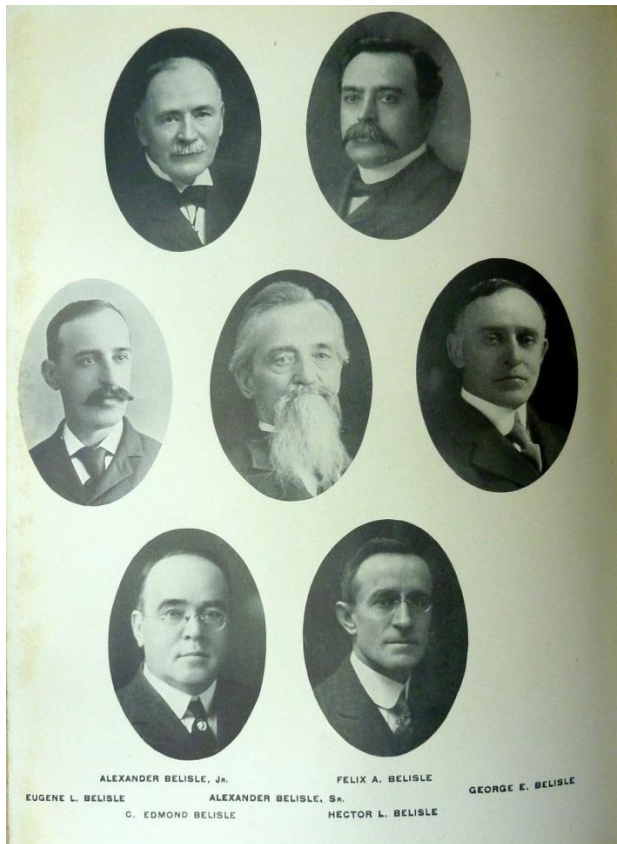


## Sons of Alexander Belisle, Sr. (1830-1903)

Alexander Belisle, Sr., born in 1830 in Quebec, immigrated to Worcester in 1848, and worked here as a shoemaker. In 1853 he married Marie Dorval (1832-1906), and they had nine surviving children, three daughters and six sons.

Alexander and each of the six sons had biographies published in Charles Nutt's *History of Worcester and its People*, and a page was dedicated to pictures of all seven, as is shown here.

Alexander, Jr., 1856-1923, worked on the French language newspaper *Le Travailleur* from about 1878 until its demise at the end of 1892, at which time he was its treasurer. He and his brother Eugene established *L'Opinion Publique* in January, 1893, as the successor to *Le Travailleur*. Edmond soon joined them and in time became manager of both the newspaper and the associated Belisle Printing Company. His untimely death at fifty in 1920 left a vacuum, since Eugene was the American consul in Limoges, France, and Alexander was primarily involved in the insurance business.



Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and its People*, vol. 3, opp. p.75

Alexander, Sr. is in the center, and the sons are pictured by age, from upper left to lower right.

Biographies from Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and its People*, are included below. Vol. 3, pp. 75-77.

**Alexander, Sr.**, 1830-1903, shoe maker

**Alexander, Jr.**, 1856-1923, co-founder of *L'Opinion Publique*, author of book on French-Canadians in the U.S., in the insurance business

**Felix A.**, 1857-1905, attorney in Worcester

**Eugene L.**, 1859-1932 business manager of the printing company, appointed American consul at Limoges, France, by Pres. Roosevelt, 1906

**George E.**, 1867-1938 attorney in Worcester

**C. Edmond**, 1869-1920 journalist, publisher and manager of *L'Opinion Publique*

**Hector L.**, 1874-1950 Superintendent of Schools, Fall River

Obituary notices below:

Alexander Belisle, Jr. *Evening Gazette*, Apr-10-1923

C. Edmond Belisle *Evening Post*, Feb-04-1920

**Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and its People*, v.3 pp.75-76**

**ALEXANDER BELISLE, SR.**, father of Alexander, Felix A., Eugene L., George E., Charles E. and Hector L. Belisle, all of whom became men of prominence in this city, was born at St. Damase, Canada, December 28, 1830, son of Antoine LeVasseur and Marguerite (Delage) Belisle. At the age of eighteen he emigrated alone to the states, and in the spring of 1848 found employment in the shoe factory of Captain Wood in West Millbury. He came to Worcester in the same year. Excepting for a few years he was afterward a resident of this city, where he followed his trade as shoemaker. On account of a long illness in the fifties he returned to Canada, where several of his children were born. He resided at Ste. Victoire and St. Marcel. He died in Worcester, March 14, 1903, aged seventy-two years.

He married in Millbury, July 10, 1853, Marie Dorval, who was born in St. Ours, Canada, in 1832, a daughter of Louis and Marie (Benoit) Dorval. Her parents came to Millbury in 1835. She died in Worcester, January 31, 1906, aged seventy-four years. Of their fifteen children, six died in infancy. Those who grew to maturity were: Josephine, who married Gaspard Dupuis, of Worcester; Elmire, died in 1897, married André G. Lajoie, a well known grocer of Worcester; Alexander, Jr. (see biography); Felix A. (see biography); Eugene L. (see biography); George E. (see biography); Charles Edmond (see biography); Hector L. (see biography); Anna, a music teacher, of Worcester.

**ALEXANDER BELISLE**, Author, publisher of the French daily newspaper, "L'Opinion Publique," was born at Ste. Victoire, Canada, September 4, 1856, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He attended the public schools in Worcester, but when ten years old, May 8, 1867, went to work at the trade of boot-making with his father in the factory of Stone, Walker & Brown, where the post office is now located. He followed shoemaking for nearly twelve years. In December, 1878, he entered the employ of the late Ferdinand Gagnon, then publisher of the French newspaper, "Le Travailleur," became its business manager and continued with it until he resigned in October, 1886. In the following spring he entered the office of John D. Washburn, Willis, Greene & Bates as insurance solicitor and has continued with that firm to the present time.

In partnership with his brothers, he founded the newspaper, "L'Opinion Publique," now a daily published in the French language in Worcester by the Belisle Printing & Publishing Company, of which he is president. He is author of "Histoire de la Presse Franco-Americaine et des Canadiens-Francais aux Etats-Unis." Mr. Belisle is vice-president of the Bay State Savings Bank and a director of the Home Co-operative

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Bank and the Equity Co-operative Bank of Worcester. In politics he is a Republican. He served in the Common Council of Worcester in 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1891. For many years he was a director of the Worcester Free Public Library, secretary of the board of directors two years and president in the year 1910. Mr. Belisle is a member of the Société St. Jean Baptiste, Cour Papineau, Conseil Gabriel Franchère, of the Economic Club, the Worcester Continentals, the Worcester Society of Antiquity, and life member of the Worcester County Mechanics Association. He is one of the advisory board of this history, and has assisted materially in compiling it. He is a communicant of Notre Dame Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Belisle married, in Worcester, December 25, 1877, Albini Boulay, who was born in La Providence, Canada, March 21, 1854, daughter of Narcisse and Hedwige (La-violette) Boulay. Her parents were married at Detroit, Michigan, but always lived in Canada. Her father was a native of St. Pie, Canada, and for more than forty years was a school teacher, well known throughout the Province of Quebec. He died February 24, 1898, at Actonvale, Canada. Her mother was born at St. Damase, Canada, August 20, 1825, and died December, 1899. Mr. and Mrs. Belisle have had eight children, of whom four survive: Narcisse Alexander, born October 14, 1878, married, in 1907, Anna Robert; Emilio Hector, born April 21, 1881, graduate of Holy Cross College, 1906, died March 30, 1909, through an accident, while preparing for the priesthood; Ferdinand Joseph, born August 21, 1883, graduate of Clark College, 1906; Eugene Siméon, born September 3, 1891, graduate of Clark College, 1912, and from the medical school at Montpellier, France, 1916, now a lieutenant, serving in General Pershing's army in France; during his studies at Montpellier he was sent to the hospital of Montpellier and Nimes, where he remained for nine months; he also was an interne at the Necker Hospital in Paris for eight months; from April to July, 1917, he was in the Alps, assisting in the suppression of an epidemic of typhoid fever.

Charles Nutt, cont., p. 76

**FELIX A. BELISLE**, Journalist and Lawyer, was born in St. Marcel, Richelieu, Province of Quebec, October 22, 1857, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. When a boy of five he came with the family to Worcester and received his education here in the public schools and in Foster's Business College. For a few years he worked at the trade of shoemaking with his father. Then he engaged in newspaper work on the "Patrie Nouvelle" of Cohoes, New York, coming later to "Le Travailleur," published in Worcester by the late Ferdinand Gagnon. In 1885 he decided to study law, and resigned his position to read law in Lowell. He afterward came back to Worcester and completed his law studies in the office of the late Henry L. Parker. In 1887 he was admitted to the bar and immediately began to practice, becoming eminently successful. There was need of capable French-speaking attorneys in the Worcester bar. In many sections of the county people from Canada, speaking no language but French, had become numerous and as they prospered and wished to purchase real estate their need of legal services grew constantly. But his very promising career was cut short by death, April 13, 1905. He was taken ill in the fall of 1904 after returning from a visit to the St. Louis Fair. He had the best of attention at St. Vincent's and was apparently recovering after undergoing two operations, when he died suddenly of heart failure. He was president of L'Alliance Francaise of Worcester, member of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, the Casino Club and of the Bar Association of Worcester County.

Mr. Belisle married Agnes C. Smith. They had no children.

**EUGENE L. BELISLE**, Journalist, American consul at Limoges, France, was born in St. Marcel, Canada, March 10, 1859, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He came to Worcester at the age of three years when his parents returned, December 31, 1862, and he was educated here in the public schools. Like his elder brothers, he learned the trade of shoemaker. In the early eighties, when roller skating became a very popular sport, he became widely known throughout New England as a polo player. In other sports he was prominent. He started in business on his own account as a grocer on Hanover street in this city, but disposed of his business at the time "L'Opinion Publique" was established to become part owner and business manager, a position which he filled with ability and success, contributing materially to build up the printing business as well as the newspaper. He was appointed consul at Limoges, France, by President Roosevelt in April, 1906, and has continued to fill that office to the present time. He had been previously active in the Republican organization and in public affairs for a number of years. He served the city in the Common Council in 1893, 1894 and 1895, and was afterward trustee of the City Hospital.

**GEORGE E. BELISLE**, Attorney at Law, was born in Worcester, July 7, 1867, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He attended the public schools, graduating from the Classical High School, and entered the College of the Holy Cross, from which he was graduated in the class of 1888 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. For seven years he was a clerk in the Worcester post office and afterward for ten years in the postal department at Washington, D. C. While in Washington he became a student in Georgetown University, from which he graduated with the degree of LL.B. He was admitted to the Worcester County Bar and succeeded soon afterward to the practice of his brother, Felix A. Belisle, who died in 1905. He has enjoyed a large and interesting practice, numbering among his clients many of the substantial French-speaking business men of the county. His office is at No. 340 Main street. While in Washington he was an active and prominent member of Carroll Institute and the Catholic Club. He is a member of Cour Papineau, Counsel Gabriel Franchere and Société St. Jean Baptiste, Economic Club and Worcester County Bar Association. In politics he is a Republican.

**Charles Nutt, cont. p.77**

**CHARLES EDMOND BELISLE**, Treasurer of the Belisle Printing Company and publisher of "L'Opinion Publique," was born in this city, March 27, 1869, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He received his education here in the public schools and at Foster's Business College, and then learned the printer's trade in the office of Charles R. Stobbs, in whose employ he remained for six years. At the age of twenty-one years he went to Boston, where he worked at his trade, and later to New York City. Since January, 1893, when he and his brothers established the French newspaper, "L'Opinion Publique," he has made his home in this city and continued active in the management of the newspaper and of the printing office. The place of business was at first in the Exchange building, No. 311 Main street, later at No. 112 Front street, and finally, since 1916, at the present location, No. 17 Federal street. He was formerly a member of the executive committee of the Republican Club of Massachusetts, and is now vice-president of that organization. He is a director of the Park Trust Company; member of the Société St. Jean Baptiste, Cour Notre Dame, F. C.; of Conseil Franchère; L'Union St. Jean Baptiste d'Amerique; the Worcester Automobile Club; the United Typothetae and Franklin clubs of America; Worcester Advertising Club. He is a communicant of Notre Dame Catholic Church.

Mr. Belisle married, in this city, September 1, 1911, Dora C. Verner, who was born in Worcester, July 3, 1879, daughter of Leandre and Lea (Couture) Verner. Her father was born in Chateaugay, Canada, in 1848; her mother in Levis, Canada, and died January 31, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Belisle have four children: Paul, born August 1, 1912; Jeanne, December 9, 1914; C. Edmond, Jr., November 3, 1915; Cecile, May 25, 1917. Their home is at No. 14 Tahant road.

**HECTOR L. BELISLE**, Teacher, now superintendent of schools in Fall River, was born in Worcester, October 8, 1874, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He attended the Worcester public schools and graduated from the Classical High School, an honor pupil, composing the music for the class song. In the same year he entered Harvard University, from which he was graduated *cum laude* in the class of 1900. He became a teacher of French and history in the Lawrence High School. In 1901 he was appointed principal of the John R. Rollins Grammar School, Lawrence. He is now superintendent of schools in Fall River, a city in which his knowledge of the French language and people has proved particularly useful. He is popular with all classes of people. The schools of that city have a high reputation.

Mr. Belisle married, June 20, 1905, Grace Mildred Potter, of Boston, then a teacher in the Dorchester High School, Boston. They have one son, George Edmond, born April 1, 1906.

# ALEX. BELISLE, HEAD L'OPINION PUBLIQUE, DIES

Prominent Resident, Long  
Associated With Busi-  
ness and Fraternal Life  
of Worcester

**WITH HIS BROTHER HE  
FOUNDED FRENCH PAPER**



**ALEXANDER BELISLE**

Alexander Belisle, one of the most prominent French-speaking citizens of Worcester, and president of L'Opinion Publique, Worcester's French newspaper, died at 1:45 o'clock this afternoon at his home, 16 Portland street. Mr. Belisle had been ill for six weeks past. Death was caused by cancer of the stomach. The funeral will be held Friday morning in Notre Dame church. Burial will be in Notre Dame cemetery.

## Alexander Belisle, Jr.

Evening Gazette, Apr-10-1923

Mr. Belisle was born Sept. 4, 1858, in Ste. Victorie, Canada, son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He attended the public schools of Worcester, leaving at the age of 16 to work in the boot factory of Stone, Walter & Brown, then located on the site of the present post office building. After 12 years he joined the staff of Le Travailleur, then published by Ferdinand Gagnon, becoming business manager of that paper. Upon his resignation from this newspaper he entered the insurance office of Washburn, Willis, Green & Bates, with which firm he was connected until his death. With his brother Eugene he founded L'Opinion Publique and has been its president for several years, although he had little active connection with it. The newspaper is now printed by the Belisle Printing & Publishing Co., of which Mr. Belisle was president.

He was vice president of the Bay State Savings bank, and a director of the Home Co-operative bank and the Equity Co-operative bank of this city. For a number of years, he was a director of the Free Public Library and was president of the directors in 1910.

A Republican in politics, he served in the Common Council from 1888 to 1892.

He was a member of Notre Dame church and of the Society St. Jean Baptiste, Court Papineau, Conseil Gabriel Franchere, the Economic Club, Worcester Continentals, Worcester Historical Society, and of the Worcester County Mechanics Association.

He married Miss Albina Boulay, Dec. 25, 1877 in Worcester. He leaves three sons, Narcisse, Ferdinand J., and Eugene S. Belisle; three brothers, Eugene L. Belisle, United States Consul at Limoges, France; George E. Belisle, lawyer, and Hector L. Belisle, superintendent of schools at Fall River; and a sister, Miss Anna M. Belisle.

Prominent French  
Speaking Citizen  
Taken by Death



CHARLES E. BELISLE

CHARLES E. BELISLE  
TAKEN BY DEATH

L'Opinion Publique's Editor  
Dies of Heart Disease

Charles Edmond Belisle, one of the most prominent French-speaking men of Worcester, and a well-known figure in the business life of the city, died in his home, 14 Tahanto Road, last night, from heart disease, aged 50 years.

He was the editor, treasurer and publisher of L'Opinion Publique, the

(Continued on Page Two)

Evening Post  
Feb-04-1920

CHARLES E. BELISLE  
TAKEN BY DEATH

Continued from Page 1

leading Franco-American paper of New England. Mr. Belisle was a member of the Park Trust Company's board of directors, Worcester Advertising Club, the United Typothetae and Franklin Clubs of America, the Worcester Automobile Club, St. Jean Baptiste Society, Court Notre Dame, Conseil Franchere, L'Union St. Jean Baptiste d'Amérique, Court L. J. Papineau and attended Notre Dame Church.

He belonged to one of the oldest and most prominent French-speaking families of the city. He was born in Worcester, March 27, 1869, the son of Alexander and Marie (Dorval) Belisle. He was educated in the city's public schools and at Foster's Business College.

He is survived by his wife, formerly Miss Dora C. Verner of Worcester, whom he married Sept. 1, 1911, and four children, Paul, Jeanne, Edmund and Cecile; four brothers, Alexander of Worcester, in the insurance business; Eugene, American consul in France; Hector, superintendent of the Fall River public schools, and George of Worcester, who is a lawyer; also a sister, Miss Anna Belisle of Worcester.

The funeral will be held Friday morning from Notre D... at 9.30 o'clock with a solemn requiem high mass.

End