



ANDENNE

Heritage and history



■ The farm of “Dhuy” (Bonneville)

This pretty farm numbers among the oldest buildings in the village. It was initially dependent on the Abbey of Cornelimunster and then became the property of the Counts of Namur, from the branch of the lords of Dhuy and Flostoy. This remarkable quadrilateral group of brick and limestone buildings from the 16th and 18th centuries around a paved courtyard. A superb stone, dating from 1587, can be seen above the door of the main building. It bears the coat of arms of the families of Namur and Rowier. Between the entry porch and the end of the main building, visitors should not fail to admire a delightful chained door set within a basket-handle arch dating from 1622, which protects a “bartizan” on a quarter-round corbel.

■ The Samson fortress (Thon-Samson)

The fortified site of the Samson would seem to have given its name to the village. Only ruins can still be seen today. This defensive site, ideally situated on a promontory overlooking the Gramptinne road, was

occupied by the Romans in particular; Julius Caesar apparently established an entrenched camp there. Excavations also revealed the existence of graves, coins together with objects dating from the occupation of the site by the Franks and the Merovingians. Samson fortress was divided into three surrounding walls: a rocky ground, a bailey and outbuildings as well as the castellan's dwelling and its keep, standing beyond the drawbridge. The inhabitants of the village were exempt from taxes in exchange for a spell of guard of the fortress. The latter was besieged in vain by the Normans in the 9th century. The last siege of the castle took place in the 16th century, during the time of Don John of Austria. The castle was finally demolished on the order of King Charles II of Spain in 1690.

Other free brochures on the history and heritage, museums and discoveries, and nature walks are available at the Tourism Office of the Town of Andenne.

■ A découvrir également sur notre commune...

A Coutisse: la ferme et le château des Arches Royales, la ferme dite « La Croix », la ferme de Leumont, la ferme de Lavau.

A Seilles: la ferme d'Atrive et la ferme de Nivoie.

A Bonneville: la ferme de la Commanderie, la ferme de Crèvecoeur, la cense de Jandren et la ferme de Sterpisse.

A Sclayn: le château de Chérumont.

A Namèche: les quatre fermes de Namèche et le château « Jaune ».

A Landenne: la ferme de la Velaine, la ferme de Mostombe, la grande ferme de Petit-Warêt, la ferme du Chant d'Oiseaux et le château Collignon.

A Vezin: le château de Melroy, la ferme de Montigni, la ferme de Sclermont et le moulin de Brichebo.

A Andenne: la ferme d'Au Clair Chêne, la ferme de Sur Bruyère, le château Rieudotte, le moulin de Kevret et le moulin de Treton.

A Maizeret: le château du Moislil et la ferme de Romedenne.

A Thon: le château-ferme, le château des Forges...

Many farms, castles and mills are present on our territory. This evidence of the different periods will delight architecture or history lovers ...

■ The farm of “Houssoy” and its imposing “Square Tower” (Vezin)

Former centre of a landed domain resold in the 16th century by Jean de Houssoy to the Salmier family, the farm has been worked since 1929 by the d'Ans family. Located on the left of the main building, the

tower dominates the landscape. This keep, a powerful square mass fortified with walls over a metre thick, is built out of ferruginous sandstone ashlar, a material found locally. In the past, this four-storey tower was surmounted by a slate roof. It has several small square windows confined by hewn stones and entry is through a semi-circular door. The square tower together with the farm and its fortifications were used as a means of protection, in the Middle Ages, for the inhabitants of Houssoy.



■ The castle of Bonneville (Bonneville)

This L-shaped set of buildings, with a park in front of it, stands opposite the church. Built at several times, using limestone ashlar from different periods, the building forms a square flanked by three square

towers, one of which dates back to 1538. The beautiful façade in the traditional Mosan style invites us to discover a subtle combination of red bricks and horizontal limestone string courses. The construction of the main wing (to the north, towards the church) was undertaken at the beginning of the 17th century by Jacques Zuallart, Lord of Sclayn



and Bonneville. In 1690, his son Tilman Zuallart, completely ruined by the continuation of the construction of the castle, was obliged to transfer its ownership to his main creditor the Knight Jean-Hubert de Tignee. Since then, Bonneville castle has been passed down by inheritance for ten generations as far as his direct descendant and current owner, the Knight Baudouin de Theux. An 18th-century garden, inspired by the French classical style has remained almost unchanged since it was created. It stretches over approximately three and a half acres, to the north and the west of the building.

■ The farm of “Grosse” (Coutisse)

The ancestors of Philippe de Grosse (former mayor of Andenne) received the farm referred to as the “Ferme de Grosse” as a fief from the Chapter of Andenne. The first Ferme de

Grosse was apparently built in the time of Saint Begga. In 1678, the farm was burnt down and destroyed during the war between France, allied to Spain, and Holland. At that time and until 1975, the farm used to belong to the Limet family, of whom Joseph Limet (1868-1954), Mayor of Coutisse, was one of the last persons to farm the property. During the First World War, a few wretches, after having stuck bills “Butter at two francs or we set the farm on fire!”, set fire to the farm, taking advantage of the fact that the farm workers had been requisitioned by the German troops. It was rebuilt, bigger: the outer walls became inner walls and the yard was enlarged. The Grosse estate was also worked for stone and grey and white clay. Today, well restored and well kept, it is a fine example of a square farm.



■ The farm of “Vaudaigle” (Andenne)

Visitors will see a U-shaped set of buildings grouping limestone structures from the 17th and 18th centuries, which used to be surrounded by a moat. A four-storey circular tower, with openings that were previously used to observe the surrounding area. All the major battles of history left great scars and many after-effects in our countryside. The farm of La Vaudaigle was not spared.



■ The castle of Seilles (Seilles)

The origin of the castle goes back perhaps to the 11th century and, at any rate, before 1340. It is composed of a long limestone main building from the 16th and 19th centuries, flanked by two circular towers. A square farm has been built onto it, on the northern side. The building stands in a park surrounded by a high wall where entry is through a neogothic brick portal.



■ The farm of “Libois” (Landenne)

This set of fine stone buildings, enhanced by two turrets and mainly dating from the 16th and 17th centuries, was the centre of the estate of a Lord of Namur as far back as the 14th century. The farm originally stood next to a castle. The latter, however, was demolished in 1946 since it had been uninhabited for several years. Only a section of stone wall remains to the left of the farm at the foot of the pond.

