

# SERVAIS Emile

(1847 - 1928) <sup>1</sup>

Luxembourg-city

## Biography

Marie Joseph Emile SERVAIS belonged to the Mersch branch of the Luxembourg SERVAIS families. <sup>2</sup> His father Emmanuel SERVAIS was President of the Government from 1867 to 1874 and subsequently mayor of the city of Luxembourg from 1875 to 1890.

Emile SERVAIS' biography is well documented, primarily as a politician, <sup>3</sup> but also as manager of the Weilerbacher-Hütte. <sup>4</sup>

Emile SERVAIS was born in 1847 in Luxembourg-city (373 rue de l'Eau).

He graduated from the Athénée in 1863, at the age of 16 and qualified as *ingénieur civil des Mines et des Arts et Manufactures*. He worked in various companies in Germany before he took over, in 1873, the management of the Colmar Berg foundry which the Servais family had acquired in 1862. The foundry was closed in 1877 and Emile moved to the Hollerich foundry, also owned by the Servais family.

In 1878 Emile SERVAIS became Director of the Weilerbacher-Hütte owned by members of the Servais family.

He was a member of the Luxembourg Parliament from 1893 to 1897 and councillor of Luxembourg-city from 1894-1900.

In 1923 he stepped down as manager of the Weilerbacher-Hütte and appointed his youngest son Moritz as his successor.

Emile SERVAIS died in 1928 at the age of 81.

His creative work as inventor falls into 2 time periods:

1873-1878 (Colmar Berg and in Hollerich)

1878 - 1902 (Weilerbach)

Emile SERVAIS' first patent application was filed on 1 June 1876 under the Patent Law of 1817. His co-inventor was Mathias FELTGEN.

The invention was entitled

*Emploi de la vapeur d'eau à l'épuration des fontes et notamment des fontes phosphoreuses (emploi de la vapeur d'eau à l'épuration des fontes servant à la fabrication de l'acier)*

Both inventors filed a second patent application on 22 November 1877 under the title of:

*Procédé consistant dans l'emploi combiné de la vapeur d'eau, des produits de la distillation de la houille ou des résidus de pétrole et du carbone en poudre à l'épuration des fontes et à la fabrication du fer et de l'acier*

The two applications, however, were rejected by the Luxembourg authorities for lack of novelty. <sup>5</sup>

The corresponding two French patents were granted; the German patent corresponding to the 1877 invention was also granted, after examination.

The inventions which SERVAIS made in Weilerbach are listed below under reference numbers 3 to 21.

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<sup>1</sup> [FamilySearch database](#) (G36G-FXL)

<sup>2</sup> Jules Mersch, *Les familles Servais*, [Biographie nationale, Fascicule 20 \(1972\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> Jules Mersch, *Les familles Servais*, [Biographie nationale, Fascicule 20 \(1972\)](#), *Emile Servais* ([page 592](#))

<sup>4</sup> Hiltrud Holzberger, *Heimatkalender Landeskreis Bëtburg-Prüm, 2004*, pages 138-150

<sup>5</sup> The file history reveals that SERVAIS met with the ferocious opposition of his Luxembourg competitors (*Usines d'Esch & de Dommeldange, Usines de Steinfort, Hauts-Fourneaux de Rodange, Hauts-Fourneaux luxembourgeois, Hauts-Fourneaux à Rumelange*). They managed to stop the applications from proceeding to grant through the *Chambre de commerce*. (ANLux file H-0900), see [www.weiland.lu](http://www.weiland.lu)