

**A HISTORY OF THE BETHUNE
FAMILY. TOGETHER WITH A
SKETCH OF THE FANEUIL FAMILY,
WITH WHOM THE BETHUNES HAVE
BECOME CONNECTED IN AMERICA**

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A history of the Bethune family. Together with a sketch of the Faneuil family, with whom the Bethunes have become connected in America by Mrs. John A. Weisse

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MRS. JOHN A. WEISSE

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A HISTORY
OF THE
BETHUNE FAMILY.

*Translated from the French of André du Chêne, with Additions
from Family Records and other available sources.*

TOGETHER WITH A SKETCH OF THE

FANEUIL FAMILY,

WITH WHOM THE BETHUNES HAVE BECOME CONNECTED
IN AMERICA.

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HISTORY OF THE BETHUNE FAMILY.

THE family name of BETHUNE is taken from the city of that name in the ancient Province of Picardie, France. It was called by the Romans "Betania in Gaul." It was the chief city of a barony belonging to a family descended from the Counts of Artois. Since the eleventh century they have been known in history as the Bethunes of Picardie; prior to that date family names were unknown.

In the year 1011, Robert, first of his name, Baron of Bethune and Lord of Richebourg, was chosen "*Defender or Protector of the Church.*" This was deemed a very great honor, only conferred on powerful princes; for it involved the duty of defending and protecting the church property and the interests of the church generally.

THE ADVOCATE D'ARRAS, as it is written in the old French histories, enjoyed the high honor of having the banner of the church borne before him in all warlike expeditions. Hence Robert 1st of Bethune is called "*Faisseus*" to indicate that he enjoyed this distinction, and the band or *fasse* in the shield of the Bethune arms was to commemorate the conferring of this honor on him and his posterity.

In return for the services the Barons of Bethune rendered the church, the church has preserved, in its archives, a minute and reliable history of the family; so that we have before us an uninterrupted genealogy from father to son from 1011 to the present day, together with all the

births, deaths, and marriages, and an account of everything worthy of note connected with their history. A very large volume is the result of all this accumulation of incidents during eight centuries. The difficulty is to select the interesting items and pass by that which is less noteworthy.

The most remarkable feature of their history is the number of churches they have built; the institutions for learning they have founded, supported, and patronized; the public charities they have started and kept alive by their bounty; and the costly bridges, buildings, and the like they have given to the public. I have not space to give even a list of them. The beautiful Church of Notre Dame, in Paris, built by Godefroy¹ of Bethune, in the beginning of the twelfth century, is a fine specimen of munificence.

The earliest traditions speak of the family, both men and women, as devoted to learning, and that even in the darkest of the dark ages.

¹Some writers call him Maurice of Bethune. But as the statue of Godefroy of Bethune was standing near the westerly entrance of the Hotel de Ville, Paris, and the Parisians stated that he was the donor of the Church of Notre Dame, I incline to think it was Godefroy. The statue I saw in 1848 had a small round hat and chain armor.—*J. L. Weiss.*

BAUDOIN OF BETHUNE AND RICHARD
CŒUR DE LEON.

In the beginning of the twelfth century, when Philip Augustus of France and Richard of England went to the Holy Land, they were accompanied by Baudouin of Bethune, son of Robert 5th of Bethune. During the sojourn in the East, Baudouin appears to have attached himself particularly to King Richard, and they started on the return in company, and were taken prisoners together in Germany. Together they endured the detention, and together they escaped to England; on their arrival, or shortly after, Baudouin was married to an English lady, the Countess of Aumale, in Normandie, and of Holderness, in the Province of York, England. She was daughter of the Count of Aumale, who was son of William the Conqueror's half-sister, who had married a Count of Aumale; this would make her cousin to King Richard. She had first married William Mandeville, Count of Essex. He died, leaving her without children.

The French historian writes: "Their marriage was contracted by command of Richard, King of England, *who loved Baudouin of Bethune*, and had his arms emblazoned by the author of the catalogue of the arms of the Kings, Dukes, Marquises, and Counts of England." (See du Chesne's history, p. 152.)

The above events are related by Richard Camden, the English historian, and by Robert, Abbot du Mont, in his "Chronicles."

The name of BAUDOIN OF BETHUNE, COUNT OF AUMALE,

is found in many state papers in the reign of Richard and of his brother John. From his marriage there were two children, a son, who died young, and a daughter married to William Marechal, Count of Pembroke, in England; no issue.

Another and less agreeable story is told of a lady of Bethune, young and beautiful, who was accused of witchcraft, because she produced some important papers that had been entrusted to her keeping, after they had been forcibly taken from her and destroyed. *Probably she, seeing their importance, had made duplicates of them*, but that was past belief, and the King of France burned her for a witch. Her relatives were so incensed that they applied to Edward of England for assistance. The young and chivalric monarch sent an English army to aid the Flemings in avenging her wrongs, and a war between France and England of several years' duration was the consequence. *This account is from Andrew's "History of England."*

A very important fact in the history of the Bethunes is that twice the whole fortune of the family has rested with an heiress, there being no son to succeed his father, and the possession going to a nephew of the last possessor. The effect has been that all but the small part of the possessions entailed on the male heir went with the heiress to another family, into which she married. This occurred first in 1248, when Robert 7th of Bethune died, and his eldest daughter, Matilda, married the Count of Flanders; and again in 1405, when by the death of Robert Bethune, Viscount of Meaux and Lord of Vendenil, there were left two daughters, Jeanne and Jacqueline, the titles and a part of the estate went to the brother of Robert, namely, John of Bethune. But a great amount of property and many large estates passed with the two heiresses. The eldest, Jeanne, or Jeannette, married first Robert of Bar, Count of Marle, and after his death she married John of Luxembourg, Count of Lincy and of Guise, a very high connection.

Jaqueline of Bethune, the younger of these heiresses, married Raoul d'Ailly, Lord Varennes, who was son of Baudouin d'Ailly, Lord Pinqueny, Chamberlain to King Charles VI. She was married 1413.

These females' taking the wealth of the family into other houses was a cause of the diminished fortunes of the French or elder branch of the family. Further, the grandfather of the Duke of Sully, John of Bethune, fourth of the name, Baron of Rosny, is said to have squandered everything that it was in his power to alienate, and in consequence his children, although noble and rich, yet possessed not the princely wealth that had distinguished the family before his day; he was sometimes called John "LACK LAND." His son Francis of Bethune, Baron of Rosny, inherited from his mother, Anne de Melun of Rosny, and married Charlotte Dauvet, daughter of the Baron du Pin, "Counsellor of the King." She became the mother of seven children. The eldest son, Louis of Bethune, was Baron of Rosny; the second was Maximilian, who became Duke of Sully, Peer and Marechal of France, Sovereign Prince of Henriche-mont and of Boisbelle, and sixteen other titles, which all descended to his posterity.

We will relate an instance of the high alliances of the family:

Jaqueline of Luxembourg was sister to Thibaut, Lord of Fieennes; they were descended from Matilda Bethune, who, about the year 1250, married the Count of Flanders. Matilda was the daughter and heiress of Robert 6th of Bethune.

Jaqueline of Luxembourg must have been a singularly fascinating person. She was first married to John, son of Charles VI. of France; after his death she married, in 1430, the great Duke of Bedford; after his death she married Richard, Lord Woodville. By her last marriage she became

the mother of the beautiful Elizabeth Woodville, who when a widow won the affections of Edward IV. and became Queen of England. See "History of England."

In speaking of the early history of the family I must not omit the part they played at the time of the Crusades. In 1194 Robert 3d of Bethune went with Robert, Count of Flanders, to the Holy Land. So also did Adam of Bethune, the son of Robert 3d; he was with the Count of Flanders at the taking of Jerusalem, and after Godefroy of Bouillon was made King. When Godefroy was distributing lands and territories among the most worthy of the Christian nobles that were with him, he bestowed the Barony of Bessan on Adam of Bethune. His descendants held it for centuries. A brother of Robert 6th, named Conon of Bethune, was Lord of Adrianople, in Greece; some writers call him King of Adrianople. His son, Conon, is mentioned in Andrew's history as Regent of the Empire in Constantinople, as follows:

Page 260. "Yoland (widow of the Constantinopolitan Emperor Peter) dying, Conon of Bethune takes the Regency and settles a dangerous dispute between the Nobility and Clergy of the Imperial city." This event occurred about the year 1218.

GENEALOGICAL CHART OF THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE BETHUNE FAMILY FROM 1011 TO 1448.

Number of the Generations.	Year.
1st. ROBERT the first, Lord of Bethune and of Richebourg, who received the appointment of "ADVOCÉ D'ARRAS," or <i>Protector and Defender of the Church of Arras</i> , left two sons: the eldest succeeded him; the younger founded the family of the Lords of Carency.	1011 to 1036