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BIEBER/BEAVER (ETC) ORIGIN OF THE NAME..

By [Laurie Bieber](#) July 04, 1999 at 03:17:51

According to his book, History And Genealogy of the Bieber, Beaver, Biever and Beeber Family, 1939, Rev. I.M. Beaver, President of the Bieber Family Reunion Association, and Publisher (Reprints now by Higginson Books), states on page 9 of Chapter one the following:

NOTE: There MAY BE errors in spelling, as this was scanned into a file & not all letters scan well and no spell-checking has been done....

The LAST part of this I've listed from the PREFACE of the book, and may be of interest to many of the Bieber's that haven't seen it before... Enjoy ! Laurie Ann

Chapter 1, pg. 9...

THE ORIGINAL FAMILY NAME.

In La Grande Encyclopedia, Vols. 5 and 10, we learn that the original family name for Bieber (Beaver) was deBeauvoir. This was the original family of Huguenots in France. The little village of Beauvoir in France on the Yonne river Canton of Tucs, formed, formerly, a feudal estate, which gave its name to a family from Burgundy, known since the beginning of the 16th century, at which time it acquired, through marriage the feudal estate of Beauvoir. This' family had as head, at the end of the 14th century, William de Beauvoir, Lord of Auxerre of Chastellux, etc., father of Claude de Beauvoir, Vice Count of Avallon, Marshall of France, who played an important role during the troubles which distinguished the reign of Charles VI., who enthusiastically espoused the English cause during the first years of the reign of Charles VII. His eldest son was Jean de Beauvoir, Lord of Chastellux, Vicount of Avallon, father of Phillippe page at the court of

Charles VIII. This Phillippe left, among other children, Phillippe, second of that name, whose family became extinct in the third generation; Oliver, founder of the branch of the Lords of Colonges, extinct after having furnished some officers of merit, and Louis, founder of the branch of the Marquis of Chastellux, perpetuated to our day and made famous by brilliant military services. One of its representatives at the end of the 18th century was a friend of Washington.

Claude de Beauvoir, born about 1392 at Chastellux, died in 1453. Warrior in the service of Jean Sans Peur (John the Fearless), whose counselor and chamberlain he became. He became governor of Nivernais, the cities of Mantes, Neulan, Poissy and Pantoise Raised the siege of Bar-Sun-Aube (1414), surprised Paris and entered it (May 29, 1418). Marshall of France, then commander-in-chief of Normandy (Sept. 2, 1418), was defeated and taken prisoner at Louviers, but the king paid his ransom. Took possession of Cravant-sur-Yonne, which he gave to the chapter of Auxerre (1423), which gave him and the eldest of his descendants

the title "Premier Chanoine" (chief canon of the Church). La Grande Encyclopedia contains a number of Beauvoir Huguenot captains and diplomats who took an active part in the religious wars. The queen mother tried in vain to win Noble de Beauvoir over by offering him 50,000 gold pieces, knighthood and a company of armed men. He remained faithful to the Protestant cause. In 1572 he was present at the wedding of Henry of Navarre. By a miracle he escaped the Catholics; he reached Geneva, Switzerland, where he was received as a "bourgeois" on the 29th of September with many other refugees. In 1573 he crossed the frontier, and was almost massacred. This obliged him to return to Switzerland.

From the foregoing the reader will note that the family name of the Huguenot family in

France, from which our family is descended, is de Beauvoir.

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May 26, 1936, we received a letter from Miss Anna W. Beaver, of San Francisco, Calif., who then was in her 85th year, a daughter of the late George Washington Beaver, who was a grandson of Captain George Beaver, the Revolutionary War soldier, who married Catharine Kieffer.

Miss Beaver, who in her younger years traveled extensively throughout Europe, France and other countries, says: "I am pleased to know that you intend to include in your history of the Beaver family, the Huguenot ancestry of the Beaver family, for it certainly belongs there, as I told you more than a year ago when I subscribed for the book. The de Beauvoir family in France is the Bieber, Beaver family in Germany. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685, the Huguenots were obliged to leave the country and with other French Protestants the family went to Deux Ponts, Alsace, and there to take a German equivalent of their names. Alsace was then German; the change was easy and desirable. The original French family name was de Beauvoir. This was changed into Bieber, German, Beaver, English. Kieffer is the German equivalent for Tonnellier, which is the French name, or Cooper in English.

"The Huguenot refugees settled in different parts of Alsace and other parts of Germany, and later part of the Huguenots, going down the Rhine, went to England and part came to America. Those that came to America went to Rotterdam to take ship, that being then the principal port of departure for people from all parts of Europe who were going to America. Since my branch came to America, I have not been specially interested in the branch that went to England. Some of the family in England retained the name Beauvoir or Belvoir. Governor Beaver's niece visited Lady

Belvoir in either Ireland or England. I am a member of the Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania, and eligible along two lines for membership, Beauvoir, Beaver and Kieffer, Tonnellier. I trust your genealogy may be correct. It is indeed a difficult task to assemble the genealogy of a family, and at my age I would not care to undertake it.

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It is not the compiler's purpose to trace that branch of the family that went from France to England, except to say that according to some authorities they trace their descent from a DeBeauvois, who accompanied William the Conqueror into England in the year 1066 A. D. The family name is found on the ancient English and early American records in various forms of spelling, Beauvois, Beauvoir, Beavoir, Beevoir, Beevor, Beavor, Bevor, Bever, Bevers, Beauver. Beauvor, Bevrere, Beevers, Beever, Beavers, Beaver and others of which the last form, Beaver, is the most generally accepted in America today.

According to the Media Research Bureau of Washington, D. C., the first of the name in America was one Matthew Beaver, who came from the British Isles to America in 1638 and settled in Virginia. Unfortunately, however, no definite records have been found concerning his immediate family or descendants, if any. One Thomas Beaver made his home in Guilderland, N. Y., about the middle of the eighteenth century and is said to have left issue of at least one son, named Alexander, who was the father

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One Joseph Beaver or Beavers, who made his home in Warren Co., N. J., before 1768 and served as a colonel in the Revolutionary War, is said to have been of Scotch-Irish descent. He is said to have had fifteen children, but the names of only three are given: Joseph (died young), George and Elizabeth. George, son of the emigrant Joseph, is said to have had two wives, Christina and Sara, and to have been the father of Joseph, Ralph, Samuel Peter., Abbie, Mary, Martha, Sarah or Sara and Nancy, of whom the second son, Ralph, married Christianna Diets, by whom he was the father of Harmon, Joseph, Naomi, Elizabeth, Mary, Catherine and Mahala.

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We make the above statements to show that some of the Beavers in America came from England, but our branch came front Germany. It is not definitely known from which of the many illustrious lines of the family in Germany the first emigrants of the name Bieber or Beaver were descended, but it is generally

believed they are of common origin at a remote period in France.

In tracing our branch of the family in America we find the following spellings: Bieber, Beaver, Biever, Beeber, Beiber, Beaber, Beever and Bever.

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EXPLANATION of COAT of ARMS

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Arms----or., a fesse (the band across the center of the shield) as. between three lions rampant in chief gu. and a beaver passant in base ppr.

Crest----A green mound vert. thereon in front of three arrows, one upright one to the right and left diagonal, the points downward, the same beaver passant ppr.

Shield of gold divided in center by a band from right to left of blue; upper portion three lions rampant of red, below a beaver, reddish brown with red and black checkered tail, quiet or crouching.

Helmet----The winged helmet, the feather----wings plume on the helmet represent the German branch.

The three lions rampant represent the de Beauvoir family of Huguenots in France. The beaver in lower half of shield with checkered tail black and red, represents the Bieber family of Germany.

The following are the colors: Shield gold; band blue; lions red; beaver reddish brown with checkered tail red and black; mound green;

helmet silver; motto gold band black lettering

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Two hundred years ago our American foreparents together with their wives and children were sailing the high seas on their way from Germany to America.

In some cases the husband came first and the wife and family came later. In other cases the father and eldest son came first and in some instances the sons came first and the rest of the family later.

They left their homes in Alsace some from Hirschland and other parts of Germany. In the small sail boats in which they came, all were huddled together, numbering from one hundred to sometimes four hundred persons.

Their trials and experiences in many cases were sad and pathetic. Some were not able to stand the hardships and died on the way and were buried at sea.

Most of our ancestors arrived at the port of Philadelphia, Pa. Some were four months buffeting the high seas in their slow and tedious voyage. They first settled in Chester, Berks and Northampton counties, Penna. The reader will note that the original German spelling of the name was Bieber, those who moved into English communities changed the spelling to Beaver Biever, Beeber, etc., but all belong to the same family. From the original homesteads in Chester, Berks and Northampton counties Penna., the descendants of the pioneers have migrated to every State in the Union, some to Canada and the Hawaiian Islands. The Bieber- Beaver family has been prominent in America for more than ten generations. Many of its members have been specially gifted with brilliant intellects, which have been used to the finest and most distinctive advantage, not only to themselves, but to their fellow-workers and fellow-citizens as well.

We are the descendants and inheritors of the hardships of our pioneer ancestors and at the same time we have entered into the blessings bequeathed by them who cleared the forests, built their Log cabins, established their Christian homes, erected their log churches and under God has perpetuated the Christian Church, and today we are enjoying a most glorious heritage, for they have given to us the freest, finest, riches and most liberally governed country in the world. It is to these noble fathers and mothers that we dedicate this volume.

This volume is the outgrowth of an extensive research covering more than twenty years by the compiler, searching court house church and graveyard records, and hundreds of historical works. Few people realize the magnitude and the amount of work involved

in collecting such material, except those who have had the actual experience. It has necessitated the writing of more than seven thousand letters. One of the discouraging features one has to contend with is the failure of those who should be interested to answer letters seeking information. As a result this information has to be obtained from some other source, and this increases the possibility of errors. Some may be disappointed because their family record is not more complete, or because of errors in it. but in such cases they can only blame themselves for their failure to answer our letters of inquiry. On the other hand we want to thank the host of persons who have been interested and assisted the Compiler in gathering this material and preserving it in a lasting form for the present and future generations, before the destroying hand of time has rendered such a record impossible.

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In this connection I want to mention in particular our worthy Historian, James Keller Bieber, Lyon Station, Berks Co., Pa., who is 86 years young. He has greatly assisted me in searching court house, church, graveyard and other records. Others who have assisted are John G. Beaver, 1458 Highpoint street, Los Angeles, Calif.; Frederick P. Beaver, Dayton, Ohio; William S. Stull, Waynesboro, Pa.. David H. Zarger Chambersburg, Pa.; Mrs. Cora Beaver Home, Washington, D. C. It is also hoped that the many kind friends who have so actively assisted in furnishing family material may feel amply repaid through the possession of the completed volume. It is hoped that it may be actually worth the large expenditure of time,

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