CHAPTER I

THE ORIGINAL FAMILY NAME.

In La Grande Encyclopedia, Vols. 5 and 10, we learn that the original family name for Bieber (Beaver) was de Beauvoir. This was the original family of Huguenots in France.

The little village of Beauvoir in France on the Yonne river, Canton of Tucy, 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 Nocle 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.