

THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF
THE DISTINGUISHED
SURNAME
OZANNE

Noble surnames, such as Ozanne, evoke images of the ancient homeland of the French people. The original bearer of the name Ozanne, which is a local surname, once lived, held land, or was born in the beautiful Guyenne region of France. In France, hereditary surnames were adopted according to fairly general rules and during the late Middle Ages, names that were derived from localities became increasingly widespread. Local names originally denoted the proprietorship of the village or estate. The Ozanne family originally lived in the village of Loison. Guyenne was an ancient province of France which was a part of Aquitaine until the 12th century. In the beginning of recorded history the region was conquered by the Romans in the 1st century B.C. It is believed that the family name Ozanne originated in this area. In 418 the Visigoths invaded the region but with the victory of Clovis over Alaric II in 507, it was reunited to the Kingdom and was governed by Caribert from 628 to 632.

Pepin le Bref settled his authority in 768 and in the 8th century Charlemagne made a Kingdom within Aquitaine for his son Louis le Pieux who passed it on to Pepin I and the latter governed it from 838 to 848. Charles le Chauve ruled it from 848 to 855 and from 855 to 867 Charles l'enfant succeeded. In 867 Louis II le Begue ruled and in 879 Louis III passed it on to his brother Carloman. Elevated to a Duchy it reverted in the 10th century to the house of Poitiers. Aquitaine was under the hands of England through the marriage of Eleanor of Aquitaine with Henri II Plantagenet in 1154. The family name Ozanne was found in Guyenne where they held a family seat in the seigneurie of Caumont.

Antoine Nompar de Caumont, Duke of Lauzun, 1632-1723, who was a Lord at the Court of Louis XIV, was under house arrest for 10 years at Pignerol. During the French Revolution the Duke of Lauzun was Constable General and Marshal of France and acted as an agent between Duke de Biron and the Duke of Orléans and Mirabeau.

Gilles Lauzon, born in 1631, son of Pierre and Anne (née Boivin), travelled from Normandy (French: Normandie) to Canada in The Great Recruitment of 1653. After arriving in Quebec he married Marie Archambault, daughter of Jacques and Françoise (née Toureau), in Montreal on 27th November 1656. They remained there together until Gilles passed away on 21st September 1687. (Olivier)

Throughout the course of history most surnames have undergone change for many reasons. A son may not even choose to spell his name the same way that his father did. Many are simple spelling changes by a person who gave his version,

phonetically, to a scribe, a priest, or a recorder. Many names held prefixes or suffixes which almost became optional as they passed through the centuries, or were adopted by different branches to signify either a political or religious adherence. Hence, we have many variations in this name, Ozanne some of which are Lauzon, Lauzun, Lauzanne, L'Auzon, L'Auzon, Lauson, Lauzin and De Lauzunbut all are included in the basic origin of the surname.

Guyenne was designated as a French possession of the King of England under the treaty of Paris in 1259. Included in the treaty were the regions of Limousin, Perigord, Quercy, Agenois, part of Saintonge and Gascogne. It was recaptured by France in 1453 during the battle of Castillon. At that time Charles VII was reorganizing his Kingdom. He purged many of the nobles and reduced many of the armed troops. Charles VII managed to defeat the revolt of La Praguerie, a rebellion against many of the reforms. The leaders were Jean II, Duke of Alencon, Louis de Bourbon and the Dauphin who was the future Louis XI. With the help of distinguished warriors such as Jean Dunois, Count of Longueville, Jean Bureau, Charles VII continued his reconquest of France.

In 1453, he also recovered Guyenne and at the same time conquered Normandy, Castillon and Bordeaux. This left only Calais under English rule. In 1469 Guyenne was given in anapanage by Louis XI to his brother Charles and reverted to the Crown. It united with Gascogne, Saintonge, Limousin and Bearn a large government whose capital was at Bordeaux.

The family name Ozanne was found in Guyenne where this distinguished family held manors and lands. Originally from Loison, this French name has been spelt many ways. By the 15th century they had acquired estates in Poitou and in Normandy. They acquired estates in Berry, and moved north to Brittany. This branch also moved to Auvergne and to the region of the Franche-Comté, and Normandy where they held lands.

Notable amongst the name was Duke of Lauzun, Marshall of France; Jean de Lauzon or de Lauson (1583-1666), French Governor of New France from 1651 to 1657, his family become the biggest landowner in the colony, their properties included the Island of Montreal and Île d'Orléans; and Gilles Lauzon (Lauson) (1631-1687), a French coppersmith.

In the early 16th century French culture and society became the model for all Europe. In an expanding awareness of leadership, New World exploration became a challenge to all European countries. Along the eastern seaboard of North America

there were from north to south, New France, New England, New Holland, and New Spain. Jacques Cartier made the first of three voyages to New France in 1534. The Jesuits, Champlain in 1608, and the Church missionaries, followed. In 1615, Champlain brought the Recollects (Reformed Franciscans) to Quebec for religious reinforcement. However, plans for developing Quebec fell far short of the objectives of the Company of New France, a company which would later be taken over by the Habitants' Company.

Champlain made over twenty voyages to France in order to encourage immigration to New France. But the King, fearful of depopulating France was reluctant to encourage his subjects to migrate. In 1617, Champlain brought back the first true migrant, Louis Hebert, a Parisian apothecary, and his family. In 1643, 109 years after the first landings by Cartier, there were only about 300 people in Quebec, in 1663 there were only 500. But at this time, France finally gave land incentives for 2,000 migrants during the next decade. Early marriage was encouraged in New France, and youths of 18 took fourteen year old girls for their wives, a population proliferation practice which continued into more modern history. The fur trade was developed and attracted migrants, both noble and commoner from France. 15,000 explorers left Montreal in the late 17th and 18th centuries, commemorating their presence by leaving French place names scattered across the continent.

The search for the North west passage continued. Migration from France to New France or Quebec as it was now more popularly called, continued from France until it fell in 1759. By 1675, there were 7000 French in Quebec. By the same year the Acadian presence in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had reached 500. In the treaty of Utrecht, the Acadians were ceded by France to Britain in 1713. In 1755, 10,000 French Acadians refused to take an oath of allegiance to England and were deported. They found refuge in Louisiana. In 1793, the remaining French in these provinces came under British rule. Meanwhile, in Quebec, the French race flourished, founding in Lower Canada, one of the two great solitudes which became Canada.

Amongst the settlers in North America with this distinguished name Ozanne were Louis Ozanne, aged 20, who landed in Louisiana in 1719; and Lydia Ozanne, aged 26, a farm servant, who arrived in South Australia in 1854 aboard the ship "Emigrant".

The settlement of the west began when the wagon trains headed across the Allegheny, creating the Ohio settlements. Later, the wagons pushed further west,

before the railroads opened up a flood of western migration in the late 19th century.

Among those of the distinguished family name Ozanne, who were prominent in social, cultural, religious and political affairs in France and New France include Michel Lauzon, Canadian business magnate, Montréal; Hélène Lauzon, Canadian Lawyer, Montréal; Yves Lauzon, Canadian Lawyer; Jean-Baptiste Lauzon (b.1858), Canadian politician in Manitoba; Dominique Lauzon (b. 1951), Canadian poet and essayist in Montreal; and Jean-Claude Lauzon (1953-1997), Canadian writer and director in Quebec.

During the course of our research we also determined the most ancient Coat of Arms recorded against this family name Ozanne.

The Coat of Arms for the family name Ozanne was:

Blue shield with three silver snakes each formed into a circle, each holding their tails in their mouths.