



CHATEAU DE ST JEAN D'ANGLE

THE MOST  
DISTINGUISHED  
SURNAME  
BEAUCHAMP

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SURNAME HISTORY

Origins	3
Ancient History	3
Spelling Variations	3
Early History	3
Early Notables	4
The Great Migration	4
Current Notables	5

## SURNAME SYMBOLISM

Introduction	8
Motto	9
Shield	9
Crest	11

## FURTHER READINGS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appendix - Notable List	12
Appendix - Settler List	13
Bibliography	14



## ORIGINS

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The name Beauchamp is derived from the Old French words "beau," which means "beautiful," and "champs," which means "countryside" or "field." As such, it is classed as a topographical surname, that is, one taken from physical features or landmarks near where the family lived.

## ANCIENT HISTORY

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The Gaulish province of Poitou is believed to be the origin of the French surname Beauchamp. The Romans occupied northern Europe about 50 B.C. The region was conquered by the Visigoths in the 5th century. The Franks overran the area in 507 and it was included in the duchy of Aquitaine in the 8th century. In the 8th century Charlemagne gave the kingdom of Aquitaine to his son Louis le Pieux. From 848 to 855 it was ruled by Charles le Chauve. Charles l'enfant was ruler from 855 to 867. It was elevated to a Duchy. It returned to the house of Aquitaine in the 10th century and was established under the house of Poitou at its capital in Poitiers. Its first Bishop was of St. Hilaire which became one of the religious places of Gaule. The family name Beauchamp was first found in Poitou, where the family has held a family seat since ancient times.

## SPELLING VARIATIONS

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Most surnames have experienced slight spelling changes. A son may not choose to spell his name the same way that his father did. Many were errors, many deliberate. Usually a person gave his version, phonetically, to a scribe, a priest, or a recorder. Prefixes or suffixes varied. They were optional as they passed through the centuries, or were adopted by different branches to signify either a political or religious adherence. Hence, we have variations in your name, Beauchamp some of which are Beauchamp, Beaucham, Beauchamps, Beauchanp, Beauchan, Beauchant, Beauchans, Beauchemp, Beauchem, Beauchemps, Beauchent, Beauchen, Beauchens, Beaucamp, Beaucamps, Bochamp, Bocham, Bochamps, Bochemp, Bauchamp, Baucham, Bauchamps, Bauchanp and Bauchant, many of which are still used today.

## EARLY HISTORY

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10th century Poitou was the core of the Duchy of Aquitaine. Eleanor, daughter of William X of Aquitaine, married King Henry II of England thereby carrying with her all the considerable French estates of Poitou, and the whole of Aquitaine and many to the south. This act, perfidious in the mind of the French King, would set the stage for the conflict between England and France for the next three or four centuries. Poitou returned to English domination until the treaty of Brittany in 1360, when it was returned to France by Du Gueschin in 1372. Charles VII of France made Poitiers one of the official court residences on his tour through his domain. He founded a government and a university in the city in 1432.

The family name Beauchamp was found in Poitou, where this ancient family held a family seat with lands, estates and manors. Throughout the centuries the family were well established in the region of Poitou where they prospered, expanded and grew in size. The family, as a noble family of France, confirmed with letters patent and heraldic cap, contributed largely to the political as well as the cultural scene of the regions in which they settled. In return for their contributions many of them received grants of lands and titles. In the 1700's Joseph Beauchamp, Judge and Legislator was an active member of his community and was considered as a man of dutiful purpose. He was elected deputy by his region at the council of "Cinq-Cents." Through the years the branches of the family became more prominent and achieved acclaim through their valuable and constant contributions to the community in which they lived. Charles Grégoire Beauchamps was granted the title of Marquis in recognition of his dedication and faithful service and was promoted to the rank of Colonel for his action on the battlefield. Another noble member of this ancient family was Henri-Charles de Beauchamps, Lord of Charbonnières. Widely respected by his peers, he was elected deputy of the nobility at the Estates General for the Senechalsy of Saint-Jean-d'Angely on March 21, 1789.

## EARLY NOTABLES

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Notable amongst the family at this time was Henri-Charles de Beauchamps, Lord of Charbonnières and a Deputy.

## THE GREAT MIGRATION

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During the early 16th century in France there was an expanding awareness of European leadership. The New World exploration became a challenge. Following the explorers along the eastern seaboard of North America, settlements included, from north to south, New France emerged, followed by 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 general, the plans for developing Quebec fell far short of the objectives of the Company of New France. Champlain made over twenty voyages to France in order to encourage immigration to New France. The first true migrant, Louis Hebert, a Parisian apothecary, and his family, arrived in 1617.

### 17TH CENTURY SETTLERS

- Richard Beauchamp, who landed in Massachusetts in 1641
- Edward Beauchamp, a Huguenot and Freeman, who settled in Salem, Massachusetts in 1643
- Robert Beauchamp, who arrived in Ipswich, Mass in 1648
- Jacques Beauchamp, who landed in Montreal in 1659
- Marie Dardenne Beauchamp, who arrived in Montreal in 1659

### 18TH CENTURY SETTLERS

- Mr. De Beauchamp, who arrived in Louisiana in 1719
- Jean Beauchamp, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1719
- Jacques Beauchamp, son of Pierre and Anne Bazinet, who married Anne Maguet in 1726 in Rivière-des-Prairies
- Michel Beauchamp, son of Pierre and Angélique Leclerc, who married Elisabeth Séguin-Ladroute in 1727 in Saint-François
- John Mich Beauchamp, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1732

### 19TH CENTURY SETTLERS

- John Beauchamp arrived in Holdfast Bay aboard the ship "John Renwick" in 1837
- John Beauchamp, who arrived in Newfoundland in 1846
- L. Beauchamp, who settled in San Francisco in 1850
- G. Beauchamp, who came to San Francisco in 1850
- George Beauchamp arrived in Adelaide aboard the ship "Boyne" in 1850

## CURRENT NOTABLES

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Those arriving in later years, as well as subsequent generations of the earlier immigrants, followed opportunities westward, in homesteading, industry and mining. A flood of fortune-seekers journeyed to California upon the discovery of gold; more than 80,000 arrived in 1849 alone, nearly tripling the territory's population.

- Clem Beauchamp (1898-1992) American actor
- George D Beauchamp (1899-1941) American inventor of musical instruments, co-founder of both National Stringed Instrument Corporation and Rickenbacker
- Al Beauchamp (b.1944) American football player
- Jim Beauchamp (b.1939) American (Major League) baseball player
- Sir Brograve Campbell Beauchamp (1897-1976) British and National Liberal and Conservative Party politician
- Sir Joseph Beecham (1848-1916) 1st Baronet Beecham, of Ewanville, Huyston, co. Lancaster, English lawyer, mayor of St. Helens, Lancashire
- Sir Thomas Beecham (1879-1961) 2nd Baronet Beecham, English, Symphony Conductor, who founded the London Philharmonic Orchestra
- Sir Adrian Welles Beecham (1904-1982) 3rd Baronet
- Sir John Stratford Roland Beecham (b.1940) 4th Baronet
- Thomas Beecham (1820-1907) British chemist

The Ancient Arms of



Beauchamp

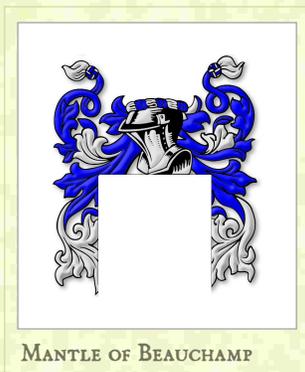
# SYMBOLISM

## INTRODUCTION

Heraldry emerged in France in the mid-12th century, beginning with the knights and nobility choosing coats of arms for themselves. It was not much later that the other social classes such as the bourgeois, and even peasants were assuming arms. By the 16th century, the French Kings had begun attempts to register and regulate coats of arms under their authority. Following the French Revolution, in 1790, nobility, orders of knighthood and heraldry were abolished in France. The display of coats of arms was banned, until Napoleon re-established heraldry and titles in 1814. Today, there is no French Heraldic authority granting or registering arms: anyone is free to assume arms. In France, a coat of arms is considered property of the family in the same way as the family name, and enjoys the same legal protection.



An Achievement of Arms such as the Beauchamp arms depicted on the left typically consists of these parts: the Escrolls, displaying the family motto and name, the family crest (if any) seen above the helmet, the actual Coat of arms (also known as 'arms,' or 'the shield'), the Helmet depicted below the crest, the Torse on top of the helmet, and the Mantle draped from the helmet. Each of these elements will be described below. Supporters were a later addition to the Achievement; they are somewhat rare, and are usually personal to the grantee.



MANTLE OF BEAUCHAMP

The mantle was spread over and draped from the helmet and served as a protection, 'to repel the extremities of wet, cold, and heat, and to preserve the armour from rust.' The numerous cuts and slits suggest that it had been torn and hacked on the field of battle. The style or design of the mantling is up to the individual heraldic artist, and it is usually depicted in the main color and metal from the shield. The helmet (or Helm) varied in shape in different ages and countries, often depicting rank. The Esquire's Helm, as depicted here, is generally shown silver, with a closed visor and facing to the dexter (its right). On top of the helmet is a Torse or wreath which was formed by two pieces of silk twisted together. Its purpose was to hold the crest and mantle on the Helm.

## MOTTO

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The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

The coat of arms displayed here for the surname Beauchamp did not include a motto.

## SHIELD

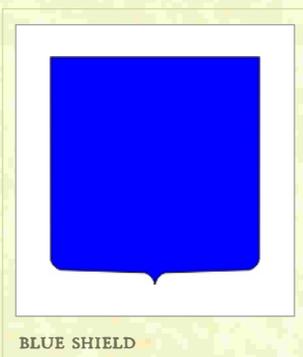
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Shields (or Escutcheons) at first were painted simply with one or more bands of color or 'ordinaries'. Later, the ordinaries were used in conjunction with other figures or symbols. The Coat of Arms for the surname Beauchamp can be described as follows:



## BEAUCHAMP ARMS

A blue shield with a silver eagle displayed.



## BLUE SHIELD

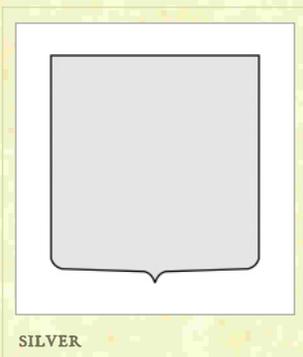
Azure (derived from the French word for "blue") represents the color of an eastern sky on a clear day. It also corresponds to the metal tin. The word, "azure" was introduced from the east during the Crusades. It signifies piety and sincerity, and is equated with autumn. In engravings it is represented by horizontal lines.

Symbolic Virtues: Blue denotes calmness and power of reflection. It infers nobility of the soul and signifies Loyalty, Justice and Courage. The color has also long been associated with purity and love, since the times when brides wore blue ribbons to the chapel.

Precious Stone: Turquoise

Planet: Jupiter

Obligations: Help for the servant



## SILVER

Argent (from the French for silver), or silver is one of the two metals used in heraldry. It is usually represented on a shield by the colors gray or white. This metal represents nobility, peace and serenity. It is associated with the qualities of purity and chastity, because the metal withstands the test of fire.



EAGLE DISPLAYED

## EAGLE DISPLAYED

The eagle displayed is a term that refers to this bird in a spread out position: wings, legs and tail extended, and the head or heads turned to the side. The wing tips may be either up or down. The eagle was a symbol born by men of action, occupied with high and weighty affairs. It was given to those of lofty spirit, ingenuity, speed in comprehension, and discrimination in matters of ambiguity. The wings signify protection, and the gripping talons symbolize ruin to evildoers. The eagle is held to represent a noble nature from its strength and aristocratic appearance, as well as its association with the ancient kings of Persia, Babylon and the Roman legions, having been the official ensign of those empires. Since then, other empires and nations have also adopted the eagle as their symbol, such as the German third Reich and the empire conquered by Napoleon. The eagle is also associated with the sun. As a Christian symbol, the eagle represents salvation, redemption and resurrection. The eagle has been represented over the centuries in a variety of different ways: wing tips pointed up or down, wings closed or rising or the eagle displayed from above with one or two heads. Parts of the eagle such as the head, wings, legs or talons, are also often symbols in heraldry.

## THE CREST

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The Crest was worn on top of the helmet, and was usually made of wood, metal, or boiled leather. It provided the double advantage of easy identification and the addition of height to the wearer. If a family had no crest, and many chose not to, plumes (feathers) were often displayed instead.

# CONCLUSION

## APPENDIX - NOTABLE LIST

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- Clem Beauchamp (1898-1992) American actor
- George D Beauchamp (1899-1941) American inventor of musical instruments, co-founder of both National Stringed Instrument Corporation and Rickenbacker
- Al Beauchamp (b.1944) American football player
- Jim Beauchamp (b.1939) American (Major League) baseball player
- Sir Brograve Campbell Beauchamp (1897-1976) British and National Liberal and Conservative Party politician
- Sir Joseph Beecham (1848-1916) 1st Baronet Beecham, of Ewanville, Huyston, co. Lancaster, English lawyer, mayor of St. Helens, Lancashire
- Sir Thomas Beecham (1879-1961) 2nd Baronet Beecham, English, Symphony Conductor, who founded the London Philharmonic Orchestra
- Sir Adrian Welles Beecham (1904-1982) 3rd Baronet
- Sir John Stratford Roland Beecham (b.1940) 4th Baronet
- Thomas Beecham (1820-1907) British chemist
- Jeremy Beecham (b.1944) British Labour politician
- Sinclair Beecham MBE, British entrepreneur
- Betty Humby Beecham (d.1958) British pianist and wife of the conductor Thomas Beecham
- Emily Beecham (b.1984) English actress

## APPENDIX - SETTLER LIST

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### 17TH CENTURY SETTLERS

- Richard Beauchamp, who landed in Massachusetts in 1641
- Edward Beauchamp, a Huguenot and Freeman, who settled in Salem, Massachusetts in 1643
- Robert Beauchamp, who arrived in Ipswich, Mass in 1648
- Jacques Beauchamp, who landed in Montreal in 1659
- Marie Dardenne Beauchamp, who arrived in Montreal in 1659
- Edmund Beauchamp, who arrived in Maryland in 1665
- Edward Beauchamp, who landed in Maryland in 1665
- John Beauchamp, who arrived in Virginia in 1668
- Abel Beauchamp, who landed in Virginia in 1678

### 18TH CENTURY SETTLERS

- Mr. De Beauchamp, who arrived in Louisiana in 1719
- Jean Beauchamp, who arrived in Pennsylvania in 1719
- Jacques Beauchamp, son of Pierre and Anne Bazinet, who married Anne Maguet in 1726 in Rivière-des-Prairies
- Michel Beauchamp, son of Pierre and Angélique Leclerc, who married Elisabeth Séguin-Ladroute in 1727 in Saint-François
- John Mich Beauchamp, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1732
- Joseph Beauchamp, son of Jean and Jeanne Muloin, who married Louise Martel in 1735 in Verchères
- William Beauchamp, who landed in Pennsylvania in 1741
- William Beauchamp, who settled in Philadelphia in 1796

### 19TH CENTURY SETTLERS

- John Beauchamp arrived in Holdfast Bay aboard the ship "John Renwick" in 1837
- John Beauchamp, who arrived in Newfoundland in 1846
- L. Beauchamp, who settled in San Francisco in 1850
- G. Beauchamp, who came to San Francisco in 1850
- George Beauchamp arrived in Adelaide aboard the ship "Boyne" in 1850
- Frederick Beauchamp, aged 32, arrived in South Australia in 1857 aboard the ship "Tantivy"

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Here is a listing of some of the sources consulted when researching French surnames. The resources below directly or indirectly influenced the authors of our surname histories. We have most of these titles in our library, others we have borrowed or had access to. Source materials have been chosen for their reliability and authenticity. Our research into surnames is ongoing, and we are continually adding to our source library. For each surname history, we seek and refer to sources specific to the surname; these are generally not included in the list below.

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