

de Luze.

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Sophie Elizabeth de Luze

Wife of

Frederick William Simonds

of

Berkshire, England,

was born July 28th, 1824 and died January 1st, 1910.

I have been urged (greatly against my will) as the eldest of her surviving children - to write down anything that I can remember about her family - the de Luze - which is little indeed, as we all neglected to ask those who could have informed us, and most of the records - including the long family tree - are not in this country, so necessarily there must be long gaps - but - I will do my best.

E. H. S.



### The de Luze

were originally a French family, and won on the field of battle their title of Banneret and their right to the small de before their name.

"In the Middle Ages the rank of Banneret - or right to display a banner instead of a pennon - was given for distinguished prowess in battle.

"After a victory, or notable achievement, a banneret elect, carrying his pennon was, it is said, conducted between two knights of note, and presented to the King, or general - who cut off the point, or end of his pennon - thus making it square.

"He was then called a knight of the square flag - or Knight Banneret".



The de Luze home was in Chalais, in Saint Onge (which before the Revolution was a district in France situated south of Bordeaux) where, it is stated "They lived honourably" until the time of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, by Louis XIV, 1685, when, being Huguenots, they were forced to choose between their religion and all else they held dear.

Some of the family turned Roman Catholic, kept their property and remained in France, but our ancestor, The Banneret Jean Jacques de Luze and his brother Abram, were among those who held to their faith and became refugees.

Haag in his "La France Protestant", Vol. IV, page 227, says that Jacque de Luze was a French Huguenot, who took refuge in Holland, at the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and there learnt the art of "Painting on Stuff".

(He could not have remained long in Holland, for other papers show that he moved into Switzerland in 1688) and Haag adds that "He went to enrich Switzerland with this precious art." "His fabriques established themselves successively in France, Portugal and Germany".

"After the death of de Luze his son - who had inherited all his activity - placed himself at the head of the Manufactory du Bied - which was for long one of the most powerful industrial establishments on the continent."

"The great grandson of the refugee - also Jean Jacques de Luze - mismanaged the silk factory and it collapsed after about 100 years of success."

A quaint old painting of the de Luze house, with Monsieur et Madame de Luze and their little son in the foreground, on their way to



church - a footman walking behind carrying the prayerbooks - always hung in Grandfather's smoking room in New York, and went to his son - Francis Ogden de Luze - after his death.

Although there was this industry at Bied, de Luze history shows that the real home of the Banneret Jean Jacques de Luze and his descendants was in Neufchatel, where they seem to have become more or less prominent and to have been good and useful citizens.

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I have in my possession a copy of the Title of Nobility - given, it is stated, "of his own accord" by Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, Sovereign of Neufchatel & Valengin, etc., etc., etc., to the Knight & Councillor, Jean Jacques de Luze, son of the Master Burgher Jean Jacques de Luze - the title to descend to his children "born in lawful matrimony" in perpetuity. With this is given the following Coat of Arms, now used by the family, of which I give a copy in the original.

Un ecu ecartele au premiere et au quatrieme d'argent un vol d'aigle noir; au second et au troisieme d'azur un chevron d'or entre lequel une fleur de lis d'argent.

L'ecu timbre d'un casque noble ouvert grille d'argent a fond d'azur garni d'or, assorti de ses lambrequins d'argent et d'azur. Couronne d'une Couronne de Prince Souverain et en Cimier charge d'un Vol d'Aigle noir au milieu duquel une fleur de lis d'argent.

Pour support deux Leopards de Couleur Naturelle contournes.



"A. de Mandrot in his 'Armorial Historique de Neuchatel' gives the de Luze Arms somewhat differently from that now in use, but almost similar to the arms of the old and noble de Luzy family of France, showing probable connection."

The deed furthermore states, with much preamble, that "these letters patent and marks of honor are accorded to the Councillor and Banneret Jean Jacques de Luze, of good and ancient family, who has always shown marked zeal in Our Interest, and who at the time of the recent two years' famine in Neuchatel and Valengin, distinguished himself in the buying and distribution of grain, by his patriotism and disinterestedness, etc., etc.

"In faith and witness whereof We have signed these presents with Our Royal Hand and thereto deposed Our Great Seal.

"Given in Berlin, this seventh of November, in the Year of Grace one thousand seven hundred and seventy-two and of Our Reign the XXXIII."

Signed

"Frederic".

and lower down,

"Finkenstein, E. de Hertzberg."

The Great Seal of the King is appended to the original.

"Letters of Nobility

For the Councillor and Banneret

of the City of Neuchatel,

Jean Jacques de Luze."



The following are extracts from "The Bulletin de Societe de l'Histoire de Protestantisme Francaise."

Vol. III, page 624.

"A great number of French refugees have been enobled by the Prince of Neuchatel, les de Luze, les Pourtales", etc.

Vol. IV, page 155.

"The houses of de Luze et Pourtales, which have scattered good germs, good seeds, in a favorable soil" (speaking of Switzerland).

Vol. IV, page 156.

"Le Banneret de Luze a consacre tout son traitement a l'etablissement d'une route pres de la ville de Neufchatel", etc.

Vol. X, page 334.

In an account of four refugee families who had been of service to Neuchatel, the de Luze and the Pourtales were mentioned as two of them.

Vol. XI, page 482.

"Abram de Luze.

"Consecrated in 1716.

"Pastor in Neuchatel in 1746. Dean in 1749."

The de Luze counted among their friends the de Pourtales, the de Montmoulin, etc., etc., etc., and were connected with some of them.

A great granddaughter of the refugee was married (I cannot find the date) to Frederic de Montmoulin (Maire de Valengin).

With the de Pourtales they intermarried three times.

In 1695 Esther - daughter of Jean Jacques - was married to Jerome de Pourtales - also refugee.



In 1772 Rose Augustine - great granddaughter of the same - was married to Count Jacques Louis de Pourtales.

And lastly - on April 29th, 1925, Andree de Luze - daughter of Baron Henri de Luze of Limoges, France, was married to Count Max de Pourtales, of Paris.

(Henri de Luze is a grandson of Grandfather's brother, Baron Alfred de Luze of Bordeaux).

Jules Alexandre de Luze (brother of my great grandfather, Charles Henri de Luze) was a captain in Louis XVI Swiss Guard, and died with nearly 800 men, to save Marie Antoinette in the attack on the Tuileries by the mob, August 10th, 1792.

#### The Lion of Lucerne

a famous piece of sculpture by Thorwaldson - commemorating their heroism and devotion - is carved in a recess on the face of an upright vine-draped rock in a little park at Lucerne. A commemorative inscription with the names of the officers killed is cut out in the rock.

One of my earliest recollections is that of seeing my Grandfather L. P. de Luze, every 10th of August, standing and drinking a glass of wine, with great solemnity, to the memory of his uncle and the Swiss Guard, and this he continued to do until his death in 1877.

A tale that sticks in my memory is that the Empress Josephine, after leaving France and traveling through Switzerland, stayed at the house of my great Grandfather, Charles Henry de Luze, and when leaving, fastened a necklace round the neck of his little daughter - my grandfather's youngest and favorite sister, "Tante" Cecile de Luze, who was a child at that period.

(I do not know whether the necklace is in existence now or not).



Our Great Grandfather,

Charles Henry de Luze,

of Neuchatel, Canton of Neuchatel and of Echichons, near Lausanne, born June 9th, 1760, married in 1792 - Sophie Elizabeth von Bethman (afterwards Baroness von Mettingh).

They had several sons and daughters, Grandfather being the eldest.

Grandfather's brother, George Henri Alfred, Baron de Luze, was Consul to the King of Wurtemberg.

He made his home in France, the country of his ancestors, living in the Chateau de Riviere near Bordeaux.

The Chateau came to his son Charles, whose descendants still live there.

Uncle Alfred and my grandfather were devoted brothers and kept up the closest correspondence, writing to one another every two weeks as long as they both lived.

Several of his sons served in the Franco-Prussian War in 1870 and Francis gave his life to the cause of France.

In 1872, when I was a young girl, my brother - Louis de Luze - and I, stayed for some time in the Chateau de Riviere, with our great uncle Alfred - and then went down to the Medoc (a district in the department of Gironde, noted for its production of wines, and where the de Luze owned and still own vineyards). There we stayed with some of the family - at Chateau de Pavail - for a part of the vintage season, seeing the gathering of the grapes, the making of the wine, etc., etc., a most interesting experience.

Some of Uncle Alfred's younger sons, as well as his great grandsons, did good work in the Great War, gladly making any sacrifice - even to their lives - for the sake of their country.



I understand that since the war the family are giving up the title of Baron, as it came from Germany.

Louis Philippe de Luze,

my Grandfather, was born in Frankfort, his mother's home, September 14th, 1793, but grew up in Switzerland.

I find I have his commission appointing him "Sous Aide Major au Bataillon de la Chaux de Fonds" in the name of His most Serene Highness, Prince Alexandre of Prussia and Sovereign of Neuchatel - through his Council of State in his Principality of Neuchatel.

This bears the seal of "The Chancellerie" and is signed by I. Aug. de Montmoulin, Secretary of the Council of State, at the Chateau of Neuchatel, and dated January 10th, 1812.

This must have been for his compulsory military service when he was nineteen years of age.

Grandfather spent some time in England to learn the language and when there, met the Simonds family of that period.

He came to America about the year 1819.

On April 26th, 1821 he married Sarah - eldest daughter of Thomas Ludlow Ogden of New York, born June 8th, 1800.

They were married in New York by The Right Rev. John Henry Hobart, D. D.

The witnesses were:

H. C. de Rham  
(Consul of Switzerland)

Alphonse Du Pacquis  
of Neuchatel

Wm. B. Astor  
of New York.



They had seven children, our mother, Sophie Elizabeth, being the third.

Our grandparents lived at No. 6 Greenwich Street near the Battery. From there they moved to 54 Seventh Street, near Second Avenue (and here our parents were married, November 5th, 1846).

In 1863 our grandparents moved to 16 East 33rd Street, which was their home for the remainder of their lives.

In 1871 they celebrated their Golden Wedding. Mr. Wm. Astor - one of the witnesses at their wedding 50 years before - was present with his wife. I cannot quite remember about old Mr. de Rham, though I think he was there - and Mr. Arthur du Pacquis represented his family.

Grandfather was Consul of Switzerland in this city from 1837 to 1872, and President of the Swiss Benevolent Society from 1846 to 1850.

He was devoted to Switzerland, and always was glad to do anything in his power for his countrymen, by whom in return he was greatly respected and beloved.

He died August, 1877, while spending the summer with us in College Point, Long Island.

His eldest son -

Charles Henry de Luze -

(born March 26th, 1822)

married Laetitia Schuyler (a great granddaughter of General Schuyler of Revolutionary fame).



Louis Philippe de Luze

eldest son of Charles Henry, and Grandfather's only surviving de Luze grandson, lives in New Rochelle, West Chester County, New York, with his sister, Sarah F. de Luze, and is unmarried.

He is the Great-great-grandson of the Banneret Jean Jacques de Luze, Refugee.

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Ellen H. Simonds,

September, 1926.

P. S.

Some of the notes, dates, etc., which I have put in this foolish little family story, were collected a few years ago by my cousin Philip Schuyler de Luze

E. H. S.