

THE BESSONET FAMILY

This family is of Huguenot extraction and probably descended from Claude de Besonet, sieur de Gatuzières, Dauphiny, now the Department de la Lozere. At the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685, the family fled from France to England, supposed to consist of a father and three sons, Claude, Alexander and John. Claude Besonet, presumably the father, was naturalized in London in 1700.

The Claude Besonet branch settled in Ireland, where the family held a high social position in Waterford, and where Francis Besonet was minister of the French Church in Dublin, 1765.

Alexander Besonet went to Batavia, Java, where he died.

\* John<sup>I</sup> Besonet came to America, settled (first?) in Bensalem Township, and afterwards in Bristol, where he died in 1778. His name appears as one of the vestrymen in the earliest remaining records of St. James' Church.

In 1742 + 1749  
wills he called  
of Middletown  
Township.

\* He married Sarah Dye. *Prox? DEY?*

Their children were:

|                         |               |     |       |                       |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Elizabeth, <sup>I</sup> | born January  | 13, | 1721, | m. Nicholas Larzelere | 1741 N.J. Dic.      |
| Mary, <sup>I</sup>      | born December | 7,  | 1723, | m. Henry Mitchell,    | 1743 1st Presbyt.   |
| John, <sup>II</sup>     | born October  | 21, | 1725, | m.                    | (sic)               |
| Sarah, <sup>I</sup>     | born May      | 10, | 1728, | m. James Bodine,      | Sept. 1748 Pa. Dic. |

cont. Bible said "Died" and that her sister Margaret m'd a Mr. Bodine. Lack of day of m. on the m. Dic. suggests she may have died just before the m. date

James, I born October 21, 1730, died at sea, No heirs [Bible]  
 Catharine, born October 7, 1732, m. Richard Goheen 5 May 1755 Suedes Ch., Phila.  
 \* Charles, I born October 5, 1734, m. (sic)  
 Ann, born January 28, 1736, m. Thomas Butcher 16 June 1765 N.J. Lic  
 Margaret, born September 18, 1739, not mentioned in father's will. m. Lic  
 Martha, born January 25, 1742, m. Richard Johnson, 12 Oct, 1763  
 \* Daniel, I born February 25, 1743. m. Sarah Johnson, 31 May 1764  
 Capt. British Army, N.J. Loyalist Volunteers, died 1 Dec. 1783 at Halifax

Elizabeth married Nicholas Larzelere. 28 Mar. 1741 N.J. License, both "of Bucks Co."

Mary married Henry L. Mitchell at the First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, on October 10, 1743.

John married Mary Millington. [Bessonet Bible gives Pennington] (sic)  
 [sic: NY m, record: she m'd 1760 Charles B.]

Sarah married James Bodine, September, 1743. [no m. in Bessonet bible, just "died"]  
 She not in father's will

James died at sea, without heirs.

Catharine married Richard Goheen. Suedes Ch., Phila. 5 May 1755 [Pa. Arch]

\* Charles married Mary of innkeeper Simon Betz, 1760 m. Mary Millington N.Y. m records  
 (elsewhere: "Boucher" wrong) [T. Butcher of Hamilton Sj., N.J., in Bessonet Bible.]  
 Ann married Thomas Butcher. 19 June 1765 N.J. License

Margaret is supposed to have died without heirs, as she is not mentioned in her father's will. [m. Mr. Bodine of Bucks Co., in Bessonet Bible]

Martha married Richard Johnson [s/o Samuel] October 12, 1763.

\* Daniel I married Sarah I Johnson, d/o Samuel [his Darby, Chester County, Pa., 1772 will confirms] May 31, 1764.

*eight*  
 The children of Daniel<sup>I</sup> and Sarah  
 (Johnson) Bessonnet were:

|                          |                |      |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------|------|----------------------|
| James, <sup>II</sup>     | born May       | 14,  | 1765, d.y            |
| Margaret, <sup>II</sup>  | born August    | 1,   | 1766, d.y            |
| Samuel,                  | born October   | →26, | 1768, d.y.           |
| Sarah, <sup>II</sup>     | born November  | 4,   | 1769, m. Jos. Carson |
| Mary, <sup>II</sup>      | born July      | 15,  | 1771, m. Benj. Etter |
| Elizabeth, <sup>II</sup> | born April     | 6,   | 1773, d. 23 yrs      |
| Ann, <sup>II</sup> *     | born April     | 15,  | 1775, ←              |
| Daniel, <sup>II</sup>    | born July      | 8,   | 1779, ←              |
| James, <sup>II</sup>     | died October   | 25,  | 1766, d.y            |
| Margaret, <sup>II</sup>  | died November  | 7,   | 1769, d.y.           |
| Samuel,                  | died September | →4,  | 1769, d.y            |
| Mary, Etter,             | died Sept. 22  |      | 1790,                |
| Elizabeth, <sup>II</sup> | died March     | 7,   | 1796, d. 23 yrs      |
| Sarah, Carson,           | died July      | 9,   | 1811,                |
| * Ann, Cabean,           | died January   | 10,  | 1832, ←              |
| Daniel, <sup>II</sup>    | died December  |      | 1806 age 27          |

<sup>I</sup>  
 Mary Bessonnet married Benjamin Etter  
 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she died in  
 1796, aged 25 (therefore born in 1771)

<sup>II</sup>  
 Elizabeth also died in Halifax,  
 aged 22 (Apr. 1773 - Mar. 1796 = just under 23 yrs. of age)

<sup>I</sup>  
 These daughters are said to have  
 been very beautiful. They both died of con-  
 sumption and were buried in Halifax.

<sup>II</sup>  
 Sarah Bessonnet married Joseph Car-  
 son, near Philadelphia. She died in 1811

<sup>II</sup>  
 Daniel married  
 and died in Halifax at the age of 27, leaving  
 one son, John S. Bessonnet, of Halifax. *Letter*  
*from the latter to his Cabean relatives in Bristol, Pa.,*  
*preserved in the family*

For whom Elizabeth  
 (Betty) Bostwick  
 was named &  
 grandmother  
 Ann (B) Cabean