

These females taking the wealth of the family into other houses, was a cause of the diminished fortunes of the French or elder branch of the family. Further, the grandfather of the Duke of Sully, John of Bethune, 4th of the name, Baron of Rosny, is said to have squandered every thing that it was in his power to alienate, and in consequence his children, although noble and rich, yet possessed not the princely wealth that had distinguished the family before his day; he was sometimes called John "LACK LAND." His son Francis of Bethune, Baron of Rosny, inherited from his mother Anne de Melun, of Rosny, and married Charlotte Dauvet, daughter of the Baron du Pin, "Counsellor of the King." She became the mother of seven children. The eldest son, Louis of Bethune, was Baron of Rosny; the second was Maximilian, who became Duke of Sully, Peer and Marechal of France; Sovereign Prince of Henrichemont and of Boisbelle and sixteen other titles, which all descended to his posterity.

We will relate an instance of the high alliances of the family:

Jaqueline of Luxembourg was sister to Thibaut, Lord of Fiennes; they were descended from Matilda Bethune, who, about the year 1250 married the Count of Flandres. Matilda was the daughter and heiress of Robert 6th of Bethune.

Jaqueline of Luxembourg must have been a singularly fascinating person; she was first married to John, son of Charles 6th of France, after his death she married, in 1430, the great Duke of Bedford; after his death she married Richard, Lord Woodville, by her last marriage she became the mother of the beautiful Elizabeth Woodville, who when a widow won the affections of Edward 4th of England, and as Queen of England became mother to a long line of English Kings and Queens. See History of England.

In speaking of the early history of the family I must not omit the part they played at the time of the Crusades. 1194 Robert 3d of Bethune went with Robert Count of Flanders to the Holy Land. So also did Adam of Bethune, the son of Robert 3d, he was with the Count of Flanders at the taking of Jerusalem, and after Godefroy of Bouillon was made King. When Godefroy was distributing lands and territories among the most worthy of the Christian nobles that were with him, he bestowed the Barony of Bessan on Adam of Bethune. His descendants held it for centuries. A brother of Robert 6th, named Conon of Bethune,

... children died young, a mistake of du Chesne
J. L. Weifs