

**THE SANXAY FAMILY, AND  
DESCENDANTS OF REV. JACQUES  
SANXAY, HUGUENOT REFUGEE  
TO ENGLAND IN SIXTEEN  
HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649697922

The Sanxay family, and descendants of Rev. Jacques Sanxay, Huguenot refugee to England in sixteen hundred and eighty-five by Theodore F. Sanxay

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**THEODORE F. SANXAY**

**THE SANXAY FAMILY, AND  
DESCENDANTS OF REV. JACQUES  
SANXAY, HUGUENOT REFUGEE  
TO ENGLAND IN SIXTEEN  
HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE**





## P R E F A C E



It is with some reluctance that I present this genealogy of the Sanxay family at this time, because I believe that, with no very great delay, much additional data might be supplied, and its details could thus be made more complete. I feel, however, it is due to those who have so kindly aided me in making its preparation thus far possible, that it should not for the above reason be longer withheld. Moreover, it is believed that it is not often that genealogical compilations, covering a period of nearly four hundred years, are presented, in which the data will be found to be more complete.

The dates, as given, are well authenticated. In a few instances, they are conclusions from evidence not altogether in accord, but, in those instances, the differences are slight, and of no great consequence. In other cases,

## P R E F A C E

---

in which, from conflicts in the evidence, the doubts arising are serious, or the differences are considerable, the dates are left blank.

I present, of course, the full genealogical chain. But it has also been my good fortune, to collect many interesting facts about the people who made it up, and, to a considerable extent, I can see them in their lives and environments, and I feel almost as if I had known them. What has been gathered would make a considerable volume. It is not now my purpose, however, to present a full history, but simply to accompany the genealogy with a statement of such facts and circumstances as may be necessary to give some proper view of the family, during the period covered, and, as far as may be, of its origin.

The name Sanxay is very ancient. It has been perpetuated as the name of a town in the old Province of Poitou, France. It is said, that this town must have existed as early as A. D. 300, and possibly earlier. As France is now constituted, Sanxay is in the Department of Vienne, Arrondissement of Poitiers, and Canton of Lusignan. It was an old Roman place, a fact revealed in the year 1882 by Père Camille de La Croix, who uncovered there some of the finest Gallo-Roman ruins that have been discovered in modern times. These include a Theatre-Circus, a Temple, a Balnéaire d'eau de rivière, Thermes, and Hostelrics. The dimensions of these struc-

## P R E F A C E

---

tures indicate that the assemblages there were of large aggregations of people. The city is supposed to have been destroyed by fire in the first half of the fifth century, the coins and medals found in the ruins being those from the time of the Emperor Tiberius to that date. The temple is said to have been erected to Apollo, who corresponded to the Gaulish Hesus or Esus. The literature of the Archæological and Antiquarian Societies of Europe contains many references to these ruins, and fine illustrations have been made of them by Monsieur Jules Robuchon of Poitiers, and published under the approval of the *Société des antiquaires de L'Ouest*. The earliest illustrations of these ruins I have seen are those published in *L'Illustration*, the well-known pictorial of Paris, issue of 28 October, 1882. Mr. Robuchon has also published a very beautiful and copious work in twelve volumes, entitled "*Paysages et Monuments du Poitou*," and three *livraisons* in Volume II. are devoted to Sanxay. An account of the coins taken out of the ruins may be found in the *Revue Numismatique 3<sup>e</sup> Ser. Tom. II., p. 459*. The old Château de Marconnay is situated near Sanxay.

The name Sanxay, in its evolution, from as far back as the tenth century, has gone through various changes, having, among other forms, been Sanciaco, Sensiaco, Sancai, Sancayo, Xancaye, Xancayie, Sanchay, Sancay, Sancaye, Sancay, Xansay, Sanxais, Sanxai, Sansay, until it finally became Sanxay, which has been its fixed form

## P R E F A C E

for over one hundred and fifty years. In its Latinized form, it has been Sencacus (A. D. 936), Sanciaum, Sancayum, Sancium, Sansaium, etc. (*Records, Abbey St. Maixent, Poitou, and Dom Fontineau Collection, etc.*) The name, as applied to a person, may also be found as of a very early date. For example, there was, in 1240, a Guillelmus de Sanceio, and, in 1243, a Johannes de Sanciaio, as appears from the papers of Alphonse, Comte de Poitiers.

As to the origin of Sanxay as a family name, William Arthur, in his "*Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names*," says it was taken from the town of Sanxay, in Poitou, France. It is quite possible that this view may be correct, but I am confident it rests on nothing more substantial than speculation or conjecture. There is nothing in the nature of authentic proof. How the name originated, how the town acquired it, or how it came to the family, are facts buried too deep in the dim vista of the past to render it likely that they will ever be known. If the name Sanxay be French in its origin, and if it be true, as Camden says, that surnames began to be taken in France about the year A. D. 1000, the town could hardly have taken its name from the family, for it was the name of the town centuries before that time. It was probably from some such hypothesis and inference, that Arthur drew his conclusion that the reverse was true, and that the family must have taken its name



## P R E F A C E

---

from the town. But who knows that Saunxay may not be simply a Gallic or French form of a Roman name? What, if the name had also been in use otherwise than as the name of a town? And who knows? What if the family be Roman, or otherwise than French, in its origin? And it is well known that among the Romans the *cognomen*, or surname, was in use even before the beginning of the Christian era. To enter thus upon the field of speculation, is to enter upon one that is practically without limit, and one that can bring no satisfactory results.

There have existed in France from very early times several families, whose names were spelled in such way as to indicate that they might be phases or forms of the same name as Saunxay. Some of these families have been of high distinction, but whether any one or more of them may, or may not, have had an origin in common with the Saunxay family, as now known, I have not been able to determine. Surnames, long after they came into use, were rarely spelled in a fixed way. The same person, in writing his name, would spell it in different ways at different times, using any combination of letters that phonetically would produce the sound. It is interesting to note that, even in Spain, a certain phase of the name has been found, as will appear from the following. In the Guildhall Library, at London, is a photo-lithographic copy of an edition printed in Paris in 1493, of a Latin translation by Alexander de Cisco, 29 April, 1493, of a

## P R E F A C E

letter written by Christopher Columbus to Raphael *Sanxis*, Treasurer of Aragon, giving an account of his discoveries. From this it appears that he first sighted the shores of the New World on Friday, 12 October, 1492, at two o'clock in the morning.

But authentic records enable us to identify the Sanxay family, as it is now known, as early as the first half of the sixteenth century. At this date, we find it in the old Province of Saintonge, France, with the fact, perhaps, somewhat indicated, that at some time prior thereto (just when is not known) the Sanxays had habitated in Poitou, from which province the emigration to Saintonge was probably made. Here in Saintonge, and at the City of Saintes, its ancient capital, it seems that the Sanxays were then well established, and were prominently and prosperously engaged in the honorable pursuits of business and professional life, and active in the affairs of that ancient city.

Saintes is situated on the Charente River, about twenty-eight miles southeast from Rochefort. A pictorial representation of it, as it appeared in 1560, about the time of Pierre Sanxay, may be found in Vol. 12 at page 135 of the *Bulletins of the Société de l'histoire du protestantisme française*. It was an old Roman city, and the advent of the Romans there was marked by the building of a bridge over the Charente River, at one end of which was erected a triumphal arch in honor of Ger-

## P R E F A C E

---

manicus, the Roman general. The arch still stands, having been taken down, however, and reërected as before, stone by stone, in another place. An amphitheatre was also built, the ruins of which to a considerable extent are still preserved. Among the more modern monuments at Saintes is a statute in honor of Bernard Palissy, one of the most notable characters in its history. The Roman name for Saintes, or Xaintes, as it was formerly written, was Mediolanum. As France is now constituted, Saintes is in the Department of Charente-Inférieure, Arrondissement of Saintes, and Canton of Saintes.

Such is the city in which we find Pierre Sanxay, a man distinguished and honored, and Pastor of its Reformed Church. To him, more than to any other man, seems to belong the distinction of being the father of the Sanxay family.

Among other Sauxays, contemporaneous with him, and prominent in their way, was one who was in some way connected with the La Mothe-Fouqué family, which became so prominently identified with the Protestant cause in France. He also resided in Saintonge, but I do not know just where. I refer to Guillaume Sanxay, sieur de Vimont. He was cousin paternal to Marguerite de La Mothe-Fouqué, comtesse de Sanzay (not Sanxay), daughter of René de La Mothe, sieur de Saint-Seurin. An act of 11 January, 1551, establishes, that, during the pendency of some legal proceedings between him and his