

# Robert of Le Locle, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Concerning your questions, I will respond to them in inverse order.

5. The pasteur Pierre Robert, after having been deacon of Erguel with residence in Saint-Imier, is said to have left the country in 1685, without my knowing either where or why.
4. I am not a specialist in heraldry (arms)--but you know that the choice of arms was very free in Switzerland. And the Robert Family, with its numerous branches, wore several different arms.
3. First of all, I hasten to state that the Robert family is not of Huguenot origin (Huguenot equals French Protestant)--This is true even if pastor Robert was a pastor in South Carolina of a community composed mostly of Huguénots. This family comes from the ancient principality of Neuchâtel, from the region called the Nuchâtel Mountains--and that since the 15th century. It is at that epoch that one finds, in the legal documents, the most ancient mention of the names of non noble families. The Robert family had its source or root in what is today the town of Le Locle--one of its branches is known for the "Dynasty" of painters which it produced.

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The common ancestor of most of the Roberts of Le Locle is Humbert, child of Jehan Robert, died before 1506, names as peasant or countryman of Locle, "cloz" (I'm not sure what that word means, it's not in my dictionary either; it seems similar to cloisters) da la Giette (cf book of reason...de PA Borel, 1978). Among his grandchildren and great grandchildren a certain number established themselves around the end of the 16th century on the Mountains of the Parish of Saint-Imier, Daniel, child of William Robert, was received as Parishener of Sain-Imier, on June 14, 1616.

There were certain precise categories or classes among the population of Erguël. Only the communionist (There is no noun for this word, but the verb of it means to receive the sacrament or to be entitled to or to administer communion) or the bourgeoisie enjoyed all of the civil and ecclesiastical rights and scholastic rights, but not political rights. Those who received communion were the descendants of the founders of the village (or of those who had bought the right to be) the parishioners were the inhabitants who came from elsewhere and who were accepted for residence.

William  
father of  
Daniel  
Robert

2. In the present state of my research I cannot precisely state the relation of this William (there are several William Robert of the time), his son Daniel, who lived on The Mountain Du Droit of Sonvilier, died between

Daniel  
father of  
Pierre

December 19, 1634 and May 2, 1636. At that date, his sons-in-law owed a debt for 430 crowns (money) to 5 livres piece) on their brother-in-law Pierre, for their part of the inheritance (as noted by the notary Jacob Beynon). I hope to find several supplementary details on this Daniel who is also my ancestor! He left three children: (1) Pierre, who follows, (2) Marie, (Marriage agreement of January 5, 1623, same notary) Estevenin Belrichard, (~~1627~~) between 1627 and 1632 Adam Beguelin, (~~1642~~) after 1642 Jean Fete, the three were communicants of Courtelary; (3) Madeleine married David Calame, parishioner of Sain-Imier, (these are my ancestors).

Pierre  
father of  
Daniel

1. Pierre Robert, Parishioner of Saint-Imier, lived on the Mountain Du Droit of Sonvilier, died between 1671 and 1676. He married (marriage agreement of May 9, 1622, notary Adam Petremand) Judith, daughter of Abraham Sagne, parishioner of Saint-Imier, who brought as dowry 1600 crowns, a heifer and her trousseau. Their child:  
→ Daniel, who died between November 16, 1679 and May 11, 1698, lived always in the same place (not at Saint-Imier itself, but in the parish of Saint-Imier). Being married for around four years, he and his wife entered into a marriage agreement on April 1, 1651, before the same notary. His wife is Marie, daughter of Pierre Petremand, de Sonvilier, and had a dowry 900 crown, a heifer and her trousseau. They are the parents of pastor Pierre Robert who had the same first name as his two grandparents.

Daniel  
father of  
Rev. Pierre  
Robert

Having seen the richness of legal materials in the archives of the ancient Eveche a Porrentruy, I hope to be able several months from now to give you other details on shi family. If you want photocopies of the documents which I mentioned, demand them from Monsieur Froidevaux, to whom I will give the precise necessary numbers.

For my part I would be happy to be familiar with the American descendants of Pierre Robert, if there exists an accessible publication. I have knowledge of the genealogy of another family of our region established in South Carolina, that of the Bourquins--and it was very interesting for me to penetrate through them into another world.

Believe in my devoted sentiments.