

About the Orthography of Names

The consistent spelling of names is relatively recent, mostly a child of the 20th century. In earlier times, people often spelt especially names the way they heard them. You find many earlier records in which members of the Cellier family were referred to as *Célier* or even *Seillier*. You even find the name of the same person spelt in two or even three different ways within the very same document. People simply didn't care. Orthography was not important to them.

In this genealogy to avoid unnecessary confusion, I used mostly the modern spelling of names, thus, all family members except for the very first one are spelt Cellier consistently.

In the records found, *Jacques* is often spelt *Jaques*, and *Georges* is often written *George*. I did not adopt these variations in spelling except for the very early records, where a person's name has been found in one single document only, where I sometimes preserved the spelling of that record to show the evolution of spellings over time.

Thus, *Jehan* and *Jean* are not necessarily two different people, and neither are *Jeannon* and *Jeanne*. These are simply variations in spellings used during different centuries.

Finally, we find often cases, where French names were Germanized when members of the Cellier family moved to areas of Switzerland where Swiss-German is the dominant language. Thus *Henri Cellier* (in some records from La Neuveville spelt *Henry Cellier*) became *Heinrich Cellier* when he moved to Zofingen, and his father, *Georges François Cellier*, started to be referred to as *Georg Friedrich Cellier*, when he moved from La Ferrière to Olten.

Similarly, the names of spouses who grew up in Swiss-German speaking villages were converted to their French equivalents when they moved to La Neuveville or Nods. So is *Georg Christoph Wucherer* from Altdorf, Württemberg, Germany referred to as *Georges Christophe Woucherer* after he moved to Neuchâtel.