

served no purpose other than that of euphony. Incidentally it showed the Romanic origin of the name. The name Robert was common in France at and previous to this time. Saint Robert has long been one of the favorite saints of the Roman church in France. Robert the Strong was killed in battle in 861. If Robert de Dene was not a Norman his name certainly was of that character.

The French *le, la, l',* are the different forms of the article *the*, the first masculine, the second feminine, the last indeterminate on account of the elision of *e* or *a* when the following word commences with a vowel. The gender of the article agrees, not with the gender of the person in whose name it may appear, but with the gender of the substantive from which the name may be derived. All substantives in French are given gender.

Sir William of Dene is given as one who early bore the name. At the time of the conquest he is said to have been the owner of an estate, "Throwly," in Kent, the seat of an ancient Alien Priory, or missionary post. The title *Sir* is Romanic, coming into English through the French from the Latin word *senior*, older. The name William is also Romanic, being found in the Latin, French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese languages. It is also found in the German but still, doubtless, Romanic. The connective *of* would be but the French *de* translated.

The introduction of christianity among the Anglo-Saxons early in the seventh century brought with it the study of the Latin, this being the professional language of the clergy. The result was the transplanting into the Anglo-Saxon language of a number of Latin words, principally ecclesiastical, that were subsequently changed into native forms. *Decanus*, or *deni*, in use as an ecclesiastical word, would be very likely to appear in this vocabulary, and might have readily degenerated, orthographically, into the Anglo-Saxon form *dene*. In the case of William of Dene local surroundings could, within the time of a few earlier generations, have given him title, hereditary or otherwise, to a name at once both Latin and Anglo-Saxon.

Other persons who appear to have borne the name in England are: Ralph de la Dene, Sir John de Dene and Sir John de Dyne, or Deyene. The first names of these persons are evidently French, and of Romanic or Hebrew origin. Dyne, or Deyene, if not Old French does not bear similarity to any known Anglo-Saxon forms. Furthermore, *doyen*, in French, means dean, a superior or senior, while *doyenne* means deanship, or deanery. These circumstances would point with reasonable certainty to the Latin origin of this particular name.

It would be useless to attempt to trace the Dean family in England further back than the time of the Norman conquest for the reason that previous to this date, 1066, the custom of using surnames was unknown in the country. In fact the Normans themselves had only a short time previously begun the practice. Once introduced into England, how-