

Surnames may be divided into several classes; one of the largest being those derived from the father's Christian, baptismal, or given name, and sometimes even from the mother's; as in early Dutch records are found such names as Dame Belen's son, Dame Rose's son, Dame Lieven's son (Ver — i. e., Vrouwe — Belenszoon, Ver Rosenzoon, Ver Lievenzoon). Belen and Lieve. are both apparently baptismal names now obsolete. The one is probably Belle, for Arabella; the other, Darling, or an abbreviation of Leopoldina.

They were formed from the father's name, by prefixing Ap, or Ab, in Wales; Mac, and O', in Ireland; Mac, in Scotland; and Fitz, in England; and by adding "son" to the termination in England and Scotland, and "zoon" in Holland, where also the surname was sometimes formed, as in England, by simply adopting as such the genitive case of the father's name; as, Willem, Willems; William, Williams for William's.

The genitive of John, when used as a surname, is generally written Johnes or Jones; and this probably accounts for the change of name of a hero of the Revolution, — John Paul, son of John Paul, who entered the American navy as John Paul Jones; i. e., John Paul, John's or son of John.

The prefix Fitz was introduced into England by the Normans. A striking instance of the mutability of surnames at that period is given in "Stothard's Monumental Effigies."

William de Norwich lived about the time of the Conquest, and possessed the manor of Thorpe. His son, Roger, was succeeded by his son Robert Fitz Roger, whose son was styled Hugh de Messingham. His son was called John Fitz Robert, in allusion to his grandfather. His son, who lived in the reign of Henry III. (1216-72), was named Robert Fitz John de Thorpe; and in his son and heir, Edmund de Thorpe, the surname became fixed.

In Holland, about the middle of the fourteenth century, it appears to have been customary to add two and more "sons" to