



Corriveau is an ancient French name from the province of Champagne. It is thought to be derived from a pre-Latin word "caravu," which meant "rocky place." The Romans invaded Champagne in the 1st century B.C. The name Corriveau is believed to have originated in this area. In the 5th century Champagne was overrun by the Franks. This east/central province on the west bank of the River Meuse

does not have a well documented history. The ancient rulers were the Counts of Champagne. In the 10th century the Castle of Aumale was built by Gueringfroi the first Lord of Aumale who became the Count of Champagne. Eudes, Count of Champagne attended the Duke of Normandy at Hastings. The family name Corriveau was found in Champagne.

Changes of spelling have occurred in most surnames. Usually a person spoke his version of his name, phonetically, to a scribe, a priest, or a recorder. This depended on accent, and local accents frequently changed the spelling of a name. Prefixes or suffixes varied. Some variables were adopted by different branches of the family name. Hence, we have variations in your name, Corriveau some of which are Corriveau, Corrivault, Corrivaux, Corroy, Corroyer, Corrier, Corriez, Corrège, Courrèges, Corrigier, Corrèges, Correnson, Corret, Corrette, Corette, Corroret but all are included in the basic origin of the surname.

The region of Champagne included Aube, La Marne, Haute Marne, the Ardennes, and the Yonne. It was given in the 10th century to the House of Vernandois. The Vernandois was re-united with the French Crown in 1191 by Philippe Auguste. In the 11th century Eudes de Blois, possessed the Blésois, a region of La Beauce. His possessions were divided in the 12th century but the Duchy remained strong and powerful. The Counts of Champagne became the Kings of Navarre.

The family name Corriveau was found in Champagne, where early members of the lineage settled. Gilles Corroret was from a family of haberdashers (boutique owners) and became a tour guide, leading foreigners around Paris during the sixteenth century. Notable amongst the family during this period was Thomas-Olivier Corret, who was a Jesuit in 1703 and was employed as a preacher. A Corrette was a composer in Rouen and in 1726 became an organist at Ste-Marie-Madeleine then the following year was the organist for the great priest of France. He published many pieces for the viola or flute, and the violin, masses and motets, and methods for flute and viola, harpsichord, voice, and violin. Ferdinand Corrèges was a sketcher and engraver in 1844. He studied tombstones from the Basque area and drew many works which related to his native land. Among these are "The Basque house" and "The Basque tomb." Louis-Marie-Rodolphe-Achille Correnson was a general in Algeria in 1858 and remained there until 1865. In 1869 he became captain and was an aide to general Dubost, then was general of division and commander of a division of the Parisian military. Marie Correnson was co-founder of the monasteries of the Assumption and founder of the Augustin order of monks of the Assumption.

France became aware of her European leadership in the early 16th century. Exploration of the New World became a challenge. The explorers led missionaries to North American settlements along the eastern seaboard including New France, New England, New Holland, and New Spain. Jacques Cartier made the first of three voyages to New France in 1534.

The Jesuits and Champlain came in 1608. His plans for developing Quebec fell far short of the objectives of the Company of New France. After

many voyages to encourage migration, in 1617 Champlain brought the first true migrant, Louis Hebert.

In 1643, 109 years after the first landings by Cartier, there were only about 300 people in Quebec. Migration was slow. Early marriage was desperately encouraged amongst the immigrants. The fur trade attracted migrants, both noble and commoner. 15,000 explorers left Montreal in the late 17th and 18th centuries. By 1675, there were 7000 French in Quebec. By the same year the Acadian presence in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island had reached 500. In 1755, 10,000 French Acadians refused to take an oath of allegiance to England and were deported to Louisiana. The French founded Lower Canada, thus becoming one of the two great founding nations of Canada.

Amongst the settlers in North America with this distinguished name Corriveau were 200 individuals who arrived from France onto Canadian shores between 1600 and 1900. Among these was Marguerite Corriveau, who was married in Quebec in 1650; Etienne Corriveau, who was married in 1669 in Sainte-Famille; Jacques Corriveau, who married François Gabory at St. Michel on Oct 19, 1693; and Pierre Corriveau, who married Anne Gaboury in Saint-Michel on Feb. 6, 1702. Marie-Josephte Corriveau (1733-1763), born in Saint-Vallier, became a popular figure in Quebec folklore, after she was sentenced to "hang in chains" by a British military court for murdering her second husband. Joseph Corriveau, was on record in America in 1763 as a British Deportee.

The greatest influx of immigrants to the United States occurred between the 1840s and the 1920s. Between these years, around 37 million immigrants arrived in the United States. Many of these later settlers followed opportunities westward.

Bearers of the Corriveau family name who have achieved prominence in recent times include: Léopold Corriveau (b. 1926), Canadian electrician and politician from Quebec, member of the Canadian House of Commons; Yvon Rene Corriveau (b.1967), Canadian, professional (NHL) ice hockey player; Katia Corriveau (b.1979), Quebec model; Jacques Corriveau, Quebec businessperson, owner of Pluri Design Canada Inc; François Corriveau (b. 1969), Canadian politician, member of the Quebec National Assembly; as well as André Corriveau, an administrator and general director of the Caisse Populaire Riviera (1974-), who lives in Tracy, Quebec.

The coat of arms found for a bearer of the Corriveau surname did not include a motto. Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and many families have chosen not to display a motto.

