

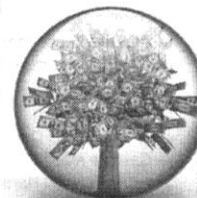
Fakes, Frauds and Forgeries

The 3Fs of Genealogy
Mahina Oshio - Seattle Public Library

Why?

"Today, genealogy ranks second only to porn as the most searched topic online. According to a January 2012 report by market research firm Global Industry Analysts, an estimated 84 million people around the world spend anywhere from \$1,000 to \$18,000 a year in search of their ancestors. Visitors to online genealogy sites are mostly white women, 55 and older, who browse the internet from home—or, says [Ancestry.com PR Director Sean] Pate, "your Aunt Betsy, who's got a real rabid appetite for digging into family roots." It's a demographic projected to grow 36 percent by 2020, three times as fast as any other group."

-Bloomberg Businessweek



Protect Yourself



- » Common Hoaxes
- » Known culprits
- » Original Sources

Hereditary Societies

- 17th Century (2)
- 1637 Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts
- 1643 Ancient Hermetic and Chirovino Order of Alston
- 1687 Century (13)
- 1756 Saint Andrew's Society of the State of New York
- 1770 Saint George's Society of New York
- 1771 Society of the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Philadelphia
- 1783 Society of the Cincinnati
- 18th Century (56)
- 1805 New England Society in the City of New York
- 1866 Hibernian Society of New York
- 1889 Scottish-Irish Society of the United States of America
- 1890 Colonial Daughters of America
- 1890 National Society Daughters of the American Revolution
- 1897 General Society of Mayflower Descendants
- 20th Century (136)
- 1903 Daughters of Hawaii
- 1906 National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims
- 1950 Descendants of the Whigmore Sons & Daughters of the Kings of Britain
- 1967 Double Kindred of America
- 1974 Descendants of Whaling Masters
- 1981 Les Pobladores 200
- 21st Century (27)
- 2001 Order of Descendants of Pirates and Privateers
- 2003 Hereditary Order of the Families of Presidents and First Ladies of America
- 2005 Registry of Famous and Infamous Traditions in American Families
- 2009 Hereditary Society Daughters of Founding Fathers of America 1806-1896
- 2010 National Society of Saints and Sinners
- 2012 Order of the Founders of North America 1492-1692



<http://www.hereditary.us/chrono.htm>

Known Culprits Hall of Shame

- 80 Charles Henry Browning (1841-1923)
- 80 Charles Arthur Hoppin (1866-)
- 80 Horatio Gates Somerby (1805-1872)
- 80 Harriet (Bainbridge) De Salis (1829-1908)
- 80 Frederick Adams Virkus (1879-1955)
- 80 Brian Leese (1931-1989)
- 80 Orra Eugene Monnette (1873-1936)
- 80 John S. Wurts (1876-1958)
- 80 Gustave Anjou (1863-1942)
- 80 Louis Raphael Nardini, Jr



Browning & Hoppin

Hall of Shame

- Charles Henry Browning.**
- 80 Welsh tract of Pennsylvania; the early settlers, published by William J. Campbell, 1912, Philadelphia.
- Charles Arthur Hoppin, born 1866 - died ?**
- 80 The Scovilles of Wessex, 1194 to 1660, published 1915, Springfield, MA
 - 80 The Bliss family in America ; including the compilations of Judge Oliver Bliss Morris of Springfield, Massachusetts, Sylvester Bliss, esq. of Boston, Massachusetts, and John Homer Bliss of Norwich and Plainfield, Connecticut----- a complete history of the family from its beginnings in the approximate year of 1180, as originally researched by Charles Arthur Hoppin, author of "The Bliss book," 1913, (herein corrected), and containing histories and genealogies of all of the various branches bearing the surname as far as they can be ascertained, published Michigan 1881

Somerby & Monnette

Hall of Shame

- Horatio Gates Somerby, 1805-1872
- 80 The English ancestry of Reverend John Cotton of Boston
 - 80 Pedigree of Lawrence : compiled from Heralds' visitations, inquisitions post mortem, deeds, charters, wills, parish registers, and other original manuscripts
 - 80 Pedigree of Waldron : compiled from chancery records in the Tower of London, and from the parish register of Alcester, in Warwickshire
 - 80 A record of the Blakes of Somersetshire especially in the line of William Blake, of Dorchester, Mass., the emigrant to New England : with one branch of his descendants
- Harriet (Bainbridge) De Salis (1829-1908)
- 80 The Whitney family of Connecticut, and its affiliations; being an attempt to trace the descendants, as well in the female as the male lines, of Henry Whitney, from 1649 to 1878; to which is prefixed some account of the Whitneys of England, (New York : Priv. Print. [Bradford Press] 1878), 3 volumes

Virkus & Leese

Hall of Shame

- Frederick Adams Virkus (1879-1955)
- 80 The abridged compendium of American genealogy : first families of America : a genealogical encyclopedia of the United States, published in Chicago by A. N. Marquis (v. 1), F. A. Virkus (v. 2-3), the Virkus Company (v. 4), and by the Institute of American Genealogy (v. 5-7), 1925-1942.
- Brian Leese (1931-1989) alias Baron de Breffny,
- 80 Doesn't appear to have published under his own name. But has an entire article devoted to his fraudulent activities
 - 80 A Twentieth-Century Genealogical Charlatan - The Activities of Brian Lessee, soi-disant "Baron de Breffny", Neil D. Thompson, PhD, C.G., FASG, Genealogical Journal, Special Issue, Genealogical Deception: Volume 19, numbers 1 & 2, pp. 77-80, 1991.

De Salis & Wurts Hall of Shame

Orra Eugene Monnette (1873-1936)

- 80 California chronology : a period of three hundred and fifty years, 1510-1860
- 80 First settlers of ye plantations of Piscataway and Woodbridge, Olde East New Jersey, 1664-1714 : a period of fifty years
- 80 Monnet family genealogy immigrants Isaac (1) and Pierre (1) Monnet
- 80 The Orra Eugene Monnette genealogy catalogue, Genealogy Division, Los Angeles City Public Library
- 80 [Slagle family data]
- 80 Spirit of patriotism as evidenced by the revolutionary and ancestral records of the Society, Sons of the Revolution, in the state of California


John S. Wurts (1876-1958)

- 80 Magna charta, Philadelphia, Pa., Brookfield Pub. Co., (1942)

Gustave Anjou
Grand master of fakes and fraud

- 80 Convicted forger (insurance fraud and forgery in Sweden)
- 80 Lived in US under an assumed name (wife's maiden name)
- 80 Fees starting at \$9,000 (in 1910 dollars!) Later lowered to \$200
- 80 Lied about his place of birth, his degrees, his citizenship
- 80 Lived 1863-1942

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gustav_Anjou



The New York Times.

MAJOR LIBRARY SALES

GUSTAVE ANJOU, TEL. CONFESSIONIST, DIES.

HEAVENLY BELIEVES HE WOULD LIVE LONGER THAN HIS WIFE.

OPEN TO BARRISTERS AFTER WILSON'S DEATH.

WIFE'S FAMILY TRIES TO KEEP HER FROM AT LAST KILLING PAIR.

WIFE'S FAMILY TRIES TO KEEP HER FROM AT LAST KILLING PAIR.

Anjou's Personal Hall of Shame

The BACKUS Family 929 273 8128a
The BAZON Family PHL #90803 item 7
BEAL Family PHL #90803 item 9
The BELL Family PHL #90803 item 4
BLACKALL Family MICHIGAN 929 273 8128 no 25
History of the BISHOP Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The BRAMAN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
BROOKMAN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The BUCKNER Family 929 273 8128 no 25
DALMEIDA Family 929 273 8128 no 25
History of the GARRAN Family of Scotland, England and the United States Part 1, Scotland and the United States 929 273 8128 no 25
GARRILL Family PHL #90803 item 11
LARGIER Family 929 273 8128 no 25
CARLISLE Family PHL #90803 item 22
The CHALFANT Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The CHILDS Family PHL #90803 item 8
The CHILD Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The CHURCH Family from 1207 PHL #388396
CHURCH, the English Ancestry of Richard Church of Hartford PHL #90803 item 8
The CLINE Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The COLEMAN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
COOK Family PHL #90803 item 8
History of the COPLEY Family of England with Ancestry of Thomas Copley Boston, Yorkshire Northampton, MA 929 273 8128 no 25
History of the COPLEY Family of England with Ancestry of Thomas Copley, Sharnbrook, Yorkshire Northampton, MA Revised Edition 929 273 8128 no 25
CORLEY Family 929 273 8128 no 25
CORLEY Family PHL #683193 item 12

CRANFORD Family 929 273 8128 no 25
DUNNINGHAM Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The DANIEL Family 929 273 8128 no 25
De RONCE Family 929 273 8128 no 25
DEWORMAN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
DICKINSON Family PHL #90803 item 4
The DORMAN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
DUFFY Family 929 273 8128 no 25
DU PONT Family PHL #90804 item 1
DUNGAN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
ERICSON Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The FISHER Family PHL #90803 item 11
FLANCORN Family 929 273 8128 no 25
Early History of the FREEMAN Family of Surrey, England, and New Jersey, Michigan, North Carolina, and California in the United States PHL #90803 item 8
GALLAGHER Family PHL #90803 item 9
The HOLLOWAY HOLLOWAY Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The HULBERT Family, 1376-1886, with the Ancestry of Walter HULBERT, Thomas HULBERT, William HULBERT, and their connections with early immigrants to the New World, Correspondence with Samuel BENNETT in James KILBURN to JOHN, MA, the WIFE, HULBERT, PATERSON, WANDY and Other Families, Henry Carlton HULBERT, Descendant of Thomas HALBERT of Salsbrook, CT and Westchester, 929 273 8128 no 25
The HULL History, Containing the Ancestry of Richard HULL of Dorchester, 1634-929 273 8128 no 25
HUNGERFORD Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The JOHNSON Family 929 273 8128 no 25
The JOHNSON Family 929 273 8128 no 25
JONES Genealogy, A Welsh Family 929 273 8128 no 25

And more Anjou

KENNETT Family 929 273 K383a
KLARB Claret Family 929 273 K488a
LEE Family 929 273 L141a, 84 The **LENNAN** Family (LEMAN, LANNAM, LENNARD) 929 273 L147a
LEWIS History Containing Also the History of Notable American Families. PHL #90806 Item 1
 The **LILLY** Family (LILLIE, LILL, LILL, and LILLY) A Complete History of the Lillies, Lill, Lill, and Lilly Families from Sweden to France to America. 1291, 1298, 929 273 L161a
MARR Family 929 273 M34a
 The **MARRS** Family 929 273 M35a
 The **MAVIGAN** History. PHL #90806 Item 4
MONTEWANTZ Family 929 273 M159a
MOORE Family 929 273 M751a
 The **MORSE** Family 929 273 M82a
ORD Family 929 273 O2a
ORSON Family 929 273 O4a
PANSON Family Records 929 273 P253a
 The **PULLMAN** Family 929 273 P987a
REDURN Family 929 273 R246a
 History of the **ROBINSON** Family 929 273 R1a, 24
ROBINSON Family 929 273 R1a, 24
ROBINSON Family: Containing the History of the Robinson Family from John Robinson of England in 1374, to Henry and Richard Robinson of Maryland in 1810, to John Robinson of Delaware in 1838, to John M. Robinson. 1874, 929 273 R1a, 24, 956 Rev. E2
ROSWELL Family 929 273 R1a, 24
ROSEN Family PHL #90806 Item 12
 The **ROSE** Family 929 273 R13a
RUNKRUNK Family 929 273 R874
RUSSEL Family 929 273 R911a

History of a German Family the **SCHNEIDER** Family of Friesland, 1492 A.D. etc. with the Ancestry of Various American Immigrants 929 273 S488a
SEAMAN Family 929 273 S488a
SHAPLEIGH Family 929 273 S164a
 The **SPRUELL** Family from 1283 A.D. with Ancestry of, e.g. Governor W. C. Spruell of Pennsylvania. Also the Affiliated Families: **CLARK**, with the Ancestry of Sen. W. C. Clark, **HOPE**, **PATTERSON**, **CHUTE**, **WHEAT**, etc. 929 273 S487a
STONE Family 929 273 S17a
SWIFT Family 929 273 S488a
THOMPSON Family 929 273 T371a
 The **TILLEY** Family 929 273 T488a
 The **TONE** Family 929 273 T812a
TORRES Family PHL #90806 Item 4
 The **TRAILL** Family (TRAYLOR) 929 273 T699a
TURNER Family PHL #124007
 The **WADSWORTH** Family 929 273 W138a
WALLEY and other Families 929 273 W1a, 999
WARD Family PHL #90804 Item 2
WATERBURY Family PHL #90804 Item 5
 The **WELLS** Family (WELLS, WELLEN, WELLS, 1096 A.D. etc. 1920) and **WILDEN** PHL #90822 Item 2
WELLES Family PHL #90804 Item 2
WHEELER Family PHL #90834 Item 6
 The **WHITMAN** Family 929 273 W1a, 24, 582
WIGGINS Family 929 273 W812a
WITHERSPOON Family 929 273 W1a, 24, 588
WOLFF Family 929 273 W1a, 24, 588
WOLLEY Family 929 273 W832a
WOLLEY History 929 273 W838a
 The **WORCESTER** Family 929 273 W1a, 24, 587
<http://www.worcester.org/who/whoswho.html>
<http://personal.junior.siu.edu/~jynson/Toad/Toad223.htm>

"Innocent" Fraud

- o Family Group Records Collection
 - o "Family Group Record Fraud", Elaine C. Nichols, Genealogical Journal, volume 19, 1 & 2
- o Ancestry's One World Tree
- o I just copied it from the XXX database/book - Its on the Internet/in print so it must be right

The Horn Papers

beware of Volume 3

- o Supposedly a collection of original records
 - o Period 1765-1795
 - o West Pennsylvania, southeast Ohio, west Maryland and north West Virginia collected by W.F. Horn of Topeka, KS
- o Published in several PA newspapers and eventually as a book.
- o Declared bogus by a committee of historians even before book was published.
- o Several types of falsified genealogical records



Mayflower Wannabes

- Over 30 known Mayflower "hoaxes" in print including
- o Fictional IGI baptismal entries
 - o Claimed Royal Ancestry
 - o Extra children
 - o Extra marriages



<http://www.mayflowerhistory.com/> (Caleb Johnson's website)
<http://faculty.ycp.edu/~tgibson/genealogy/MayflowerAncestryHoaxes.html>

Honorable Mention

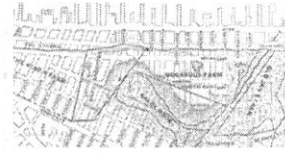
Sir Bernard Burkes, 1814-1892

Ulster King of Arms
Registrar of the Order of St. Patrick,
Keeper of the State Papers of Ireland
Governor, National Gallery of Ireland
Barrister-at-Law of the Middle Temple
Publisher of BURKE'S PEERAGE
Romantic



Estates!

Somewhere there is land with your name on it



Plan of the Bogardus Property superimposed over the streets of lower Manhattan (from Harper's New Monthly Magazine) A green triangle has been added to mark modern-day Duane Park.

- ↳ The Heirs of Anneke Jans **Bogardus** vs. Trinity Episcopal Church of New York City
- ↳ The **Humphrey Jennings** Estate
- ↳ The **Lawrence-Towneley** Estate
- ↳ The **Baker** Hoax
- ↳ The Francis **Drake** Estate

The Bogardus Trials

A man against the Government?

The facts -

- Anneke Jans Bogardus - early Dutch Colonist - owned 62 acres on Manhattan Island.
- 1671 - her heirs sold to Governor Lovelace. All heirs signed the deed except heirs of her son Cornelius Bogardus.
- Land presented by Lovelace to Trinity Episcopal Church

The lawsuits -

- 1749 & 1757 - a descendant took forcible possession of the property and when evicted Sued. He lost - twice!
- 1784 - one of his grandsons tried the same thing and lost.
- 1830 - John Bogardus sent a letter to all the descendants he could find asking them for money to help with a suit. They contributed for 14 years!.....they lost!



The Humphrey Jennings Estate

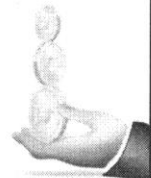
a tale of pure greed

The facts -

- William Jennings died June 1798 as an extremely wealthy bachelor.
- He left no will and no heirs of his body.
- By 1821 the estate had basically been settled. Everything went to Lord Coke.

The lawsuits/scams -

- Didn't really get rolling until 1847.
- Continued until 1934.
- Last time this one was tried 1947.



The Lawrence-Towneley Estate

A melodrama - in multiple acts

- 80 A touching story about John Lawrence and Mary Towneley
- 80 Eloped to America -Cruel parents - Religious persecution.
- 80 Repentant father - left ONLY daughter an immense fortune.
- 80 Heirs contacted in 1850s.
- 80 1888 - 38 years of "legal fees" later -Frank Alden Hill - exposed fraud- wrote book.
- 80 1900 - Lawrence descendants in Texas - New York lawyer - here we go again

THE ENGLISH ESTATE FICTION

WENTEN MONEY FOR LAND FOR THE LAWRENCE-TOWNELEY CLAIMANTS

From the L.A. Times, Jan. 6.—There has been not a little interest manifested in this vicinity in reports concerning the alleged Lawrence-Towneley estate in England, numerous families within a radius of 25 miles having been made aware of it, or having had it presented to them by interested parties or agents, that they were heirs to a share of the great estate. In consequence of the interest awakened, the local claimants engaged an attorney here to search the historical records at the State capital and elsewhere, and to compare them with statements in England. The attorney's report was to the effect that he had secured a communication from the American Consul in England, which set out briefly:

"There is no record in the State of Maryland belonging to the 'Lawrence-Towneley' or the 'Towneley' estate, or record elsewhere of any kind."

"There is no such estate in England as the 'Lawrence-Towneley' claimants set forth as their basis of claim."

"The 'Towneley' estate is a large landed property in the counties of Lancashire and York, which is now, as it has been for a very long time, in the possession of the Duke of Devonshire. It is not mentioned in the records, and is consequently not susceptible of being claimed by any party of the kind."

The New York Times

Published January 7, 1910.

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Variations on a Theme

The Baker Hoax

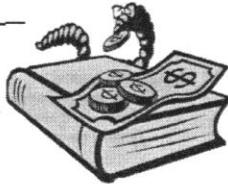
- o Descendants or Relatives of Jacob Baker of Philadelphia
- o Extremely Sophisticated Hoax
- o Went on for 30 years at least
- o Largest "heir hunt" in history
- o Only hoax where some participants actually stood trial - 1937!

The Sir Francis Drake Estate

- o Dozens of schemes since late 1600s
- o Focused on NY, NJ, PA
- o Still occurs as an internet "discovery"

Old Fashioned - Print Scams

- 80 Beatrice Bailey aka _____
- 80 Family News
- 80 Halberts of Bath Ohio
 - o Division of The Numa Corporation, Akron, Ohio
 - o Subject of dozens of successful lawsuits
 - o Put itself out of business around 2000



New Fangled — Internet Scams



- 80 Landed Gentry Heritage Researchers
- 80 We've got your Family (.com)
- 80 FamilyDiscovery.net

We've Got Your Family (.com)



- 80 The e-mail account is with a throw away like Hotmail or Yahoo.
 - o Genealogy Specials (genealogygiantsvol1@hotmail.com)
 - o Family History Information (gengood2000@yahoo.com)
- 80 They promise 5, 7 or 10 days free trial but ask you for a credit card or checking account number
- 80 The web site mentioned in the e-mail has no customer service mail link, and no toll-free telephone number.

Family Coat of Arms



- 80 There is no such thing as a family coat of arms!
- 80 The right to bear arms is granted to an individual
- 80 Sometimes granted with the right to pass those arms to his **oldest son**.
- 80 Scottish Clans have clan badges which all **registered** clan members may use.

<http://www.americanheraldry.org/pages/index.php?n=Registration.Domestic>

Contact Seattle Public Library Genealogy Librarians:
(206) 386-4636 - Ask for Genealogy
Ask A Librarian Email -
<http://www.spl.org/using-the-library/get-help/ask-a-librarian>

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Thank You!