

LETTER TO THE EDITOR REGARDING
~~'ORIGINS OF MATHIAS AND NICHOLAS SENSION DETERMINED.'~~
'HOW GENEALOGY MYTHS ARE PERPETUATED'

Dear Mr. Hoff,

In 2013, your Register published an article by Jerome Santken alleging a Dutch origin for the St. John family of Colonial America. On March 3, 2020, Libby Copeland published a book titled, *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are*. In this book, Copeland details, for her readers, that Rosario Castronovo aka Jerome Lafayette Narramore was one such person to discover his identity through DNA testing.

I have known about Rosario's St. John-NPE since I met him in about 2011 but to retain my own reputation and integrity, I did not violate his right to privacy. Since he has gone public, I have no reason to remain silent and withhold these facts from my followers. I recently found he made a post on Genealogy-dot-com in 2007 that he knew then he did not match St. Johns. So, in 2013, it begs the question, why did he publish an article using his DNA when he knew the whole time, he did not match one of the 30 or so other St. Johns that did match one another! Or in the spirit of integrity at least let the readers know he did not match any other St. John outside his immediate family?

In this article, he relied on his position as the Administrator of the St. John DNA project to manipulate believability when he presented his DNA analysis results as evidence in support of the Dutch origin claim he was making. He then supplied genealogical family data for a Dutch family and portrayed it as the St. John family without providing a single genealogical record for a connection.

As you know, he also provided an alias by using Jerome Santken instead of Rosario Castronovo. I know you know this because he forwarded me an email you wrote to him where you addressed him as Rosario. Again, presenting manipulative information to incite believability from the reader.

Rosario made a wonderful discovery when he identified Christopher as the father of Mathias. Connecting him to his siblings was another wonderful discovery. He deserved to be published but the article should have kept the focus to the immediate family and the discoveries. His Dutch claims are genealogically unsubstantiated and even more so now that his 'Dutch' DNA is Narramore, not St. John.

I have broken the true St. John family history details into manageable biographies. This collection not only identifies the origin of the St. John family but why they came to America from Highlight Abbey.

<https://www.stjohngenealogy.com/browsemedia.php?mediatypeID=bio>

For more evidence regarding the DNA misconceptions your article perpetuates:

<https://www.stjohngenealogy.com/browsemedia.php?mediatypeID=npe>

At the very least you owe your readers the truth about these questionable integrity issues surrounding your publication's Dutch origin myth. The St. John family - descendants of Knights Hospitallers of Highlight Abbey - look forward to your impending recant, clarification, or a factual origin publication.

Suzanne St. John

cc: St. John Family Website & groups