

Errors in "Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr.," by Joseph Adger Stewart, 1925

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<https://hollingsworthregister.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/hr-002-1-2-1965-jul1.pdf>. All 112 issues of "The Hollingsworth Register" can be accessed at: <https://hollingsworthregister.com/>. *John Sharp*

"But, before we close this section of our series, let us set forth some very much needed corrections to what are felt to be "gross errors" of some decades duration. We beg the pardon of those who would like to claim a descent or relationship to the so-called "great" families of Europe and England. But a clearcut report of facts is always the better way to begin any search into the cloudy past."

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"Another error, or series of errors, was committed in the book "Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr.," by Joseph Adger Stewart (1925 – J. P. Morton & Co., Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.) Let us briefly correct them. We hope not to make more errors in the process!"

"Firstly, Mr. Stewart opens his narration on an un-numbered page, with the words "The Hollingsworths have held their own all along the ages..." There follows a long paragraph full of errors. Then on page 1 and 2 the actual genealogical facts about Valentine begin. There are not so many errors here, except the misinterpretation of the "Old Style" dates used in Quaker records. But the fact that must be brought out here, is that, the first two pages of text, and then pages 1 & 2, seem not to be the writing of Mr. Stewart! At least, they are in no way original to his 1925 book, and they do not appear in the 1884 pamphlet upon which nearly all of the rest of the book is based. Those four pages were printed, almost word for word, in "Colonial Families of the U.S.A., " Volume 7, edited by MacKenzie, and copyrighted 1920 – five years before Stewart's book! The glaring mistake is realized when one reads the words on page 1 "He (Valentine) was the son of Henry Hollingsworth of Belliniskcrannell, Parish of Legoe, ..." The correct spelling is, of course, "Segoe," not "Legoe." This SAME TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR is in the MacKenzie Volume 7, pp. 291-300. (This vol. was edited by Nelson Osgood Rhoades, successor to MacKenzie, who died before its production.) The apparent writer of the article was Joseph Edwin Hollingsworth, 328 North MacNeill St., Memphis, Tennessee, for his name is given as the article begins."

"Other errors follow and precede this minor one. Mention is made of "Hollingsworth Hall," in Mottram. This is incorrect. The name of the Hall, now in ruins since 1944, was "HOLLINGWORTH HALL." The letter "s" never was used by the old family who once lived in it. Mention is made of a roll for Mottram Parish, c1580, wherein "Robert Hollingsworth" and "John Hollingsworth" are mentioned. (The MacKenzie work used the spelling "Hollinsworth.") The editor has not seen the original rolls, but "History of East Cheshire," 1886, by J. P. Earwaker (2 vols) makes quotations to the effect that their name was "HOLLINGWORTH". See also pp. 47, 48 of April's Register, for the predominant spelling used by Cheshire families. Mr. Earwaker tells us of two pedigreed families, and the Harleian Mss. prove him correct. Both spelt their surname "Hollingworth," originally "de Hollynworthe." He also, however, makes mention of "yeoman" families nearer Manchester, of the name. These bore no official arms and had no pedigree registered. The American clans may have sprung from one of these."

... (continued on page 87)

"A final error perpetuated in the Stewart and MacKenzie works is as follows: "The late owner (of the hall), Captain Robert Hollingsworth, the last representative of the English branch of the family, died in 1865." Mr. J. P. Earwaker, in his very authoritative work above cited, clarifies this error. He shows us that "Hollingworth Hall" was sold by the Hollingworth family to another owner. From this owner (not the Hollingworths), the place was purchased, early in the 19th Century, by a person named "Captain de Hollyngeworthe," who claimed to be a blood descendant of the original family. His name doesn't appear upon the pedigrees! (Note the curious "ancient" spelling of his name!) Of even more surprising note, is the fact that this Captain de Hollyngeworthe planned to do some rather extensive and expensive architectural work on the Hall, which he apparently never had enough sterling to accomplish. But he did publish a painting of his hall in a book called "Twycross East Cheshire Mansions," which depicted the structure as he would have like it to appear, not as it was. You can imagine your editor's chagrin, when reading this news, after having believed so implicitly in what was in the Stewart book! So, beware! If you catch your editor in a mistake, call his attention to it, but document your correction."