Enquirer Traces His Family Tree Back 500 Years and Finds

Ollie North's Amazing Roots

By STEVE PLAMANN and NOEL BOTHAM

Superpatriot Oliver North's roots stretch back nearly 500 years to a band of English farmers and landowners who became certain they were plagued by a jinx that killed their children.

An in-depth ENQUIRER search into Ollie's roots traced the North family to before Columbus discovered America in 1492, when they tried to scratch out a living on the countryside near York in northern England.

But Ollie's male ancestors soon gained fortunes the old-did. fashioned way - they married into them.

Thanks to wives with vast land holdings, the Norths became an important family in 16th-century England.

Spanning the centuries, Ollie's family tree includes a number of intriguing fig. ures. Here are capsule histories of their remarkable lives:

JOHN NORTH (Late 1400s)

woman who was in line to in- He was the first North to herit a large tract of land have a university education. from her father. Unfortu- John had two sons - both of nately, John died before his whom he named John. The father-in-law did, and he two Johns -- "the elder" and

of his wife's fortune. The couple's son John, however,

JOHN NORTH (1492-mid-1500s)

When he was 28, John's widowed mother gave him total control over the land she'd just inherited from her father. Overnight he became a major landowner, with a large enough fortune to hire a host of servants and peasants to work for him.

John and his wife had several children, the oldest of A farmer, John married a whom was also named John. never enjoyed the benefits "the younger" - grew up to

> be influential justices of the peace.



STRONG-WILLED Ollie North comes from a long line of fascinating individuals.

JOHN THE ELDER (?-1618)

He was considered lucky when he married one of the most beautiful women in the county, but he and his wife Mary soon became the earliest recorded victims of what Ollie's ancestors came to fear as the North jinx.

Not a single one of their children survived the couple.

While it was common for young children to die in the 1600s, in the years that followed, the Norths were especially hard-hit by such tragedies.

What's more, of John the Younger's seven grandchildren, three died in infancy.

WILLIAM NORTH (?-1712)

A grandson of John the Younger, William became a iudge.

He liked to sentence local drunks to be locked to posts in public — and encouraged citizens to pelt them with refuse.

He and his wife Elizabeth were again victimized by the North jinx — two of their three children died when just a few years old.

BENJAMIN NORTH (1695-1768)

William's surviving son Benjamin was the second heartbroken woman," said North to marry wealth — his



GAMBLER J.T. became rich by importing bird droppings.

wife Mary was an heiress of a Yorkshire millionaire. Her fortune strengthened power of the North family but Mary North's tragic story is remembered to this day:

MARY NORTH (1700-1783)

Mary was yet another victim of the North jinx - six of her seven children died before age 10.

"The loss of her six 'little angels' caused Mary deep unhappiness and she died a

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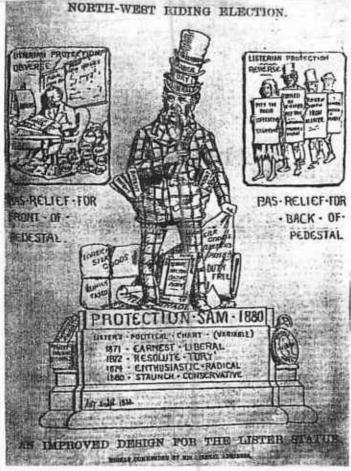
Great-Grandfather Made His Mark With Conservative Political Cartoons



HAUNTED: Mary North lost six of her seven children in Fenay Hall, and is said to haunt the mansion. "She died a heartbroken woman," says genealogist Rushworth.

Ancestors Believed a Cruel Jinx

Was Killing Their Children



STINGING political cartoons (above) made conser tive Arthur North's name known throughout England. Arthur is pictured below.

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Philip Rushworth, the expert genealogist who traced Ollie's roots for The EN-QUIRER.

"Since her death, subse quent generations believed her ghost haunted her home, Fenay Hall, endlessly walk-ing the corridors in search of

her vanished children. "Mary's daughter-in-law Sarah North, was terrified of being anywhere in the house alone, even in daylight. And a history book about the area bought the house at the grandson was an outspoken beginning of the 19th cencomplained the of frightening woman haunted the building.

two schoolteachers to sleep over one night — and they left the next morning shaking with fright. Locals believe Mary North's ghost can still be seen today in Fenay

Tragically, Sarah North was also a victim of the North jinx — four of her five children died in infancy.

ARTHUR NORTH

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unlike his famous greatwho grandson Ollie, conservative "The couple persuaded sage through his stinging cartoons.

In newspapers and Conservative Party pamphlets, Arthur mocked the liberals mercilessly, much to the de-light of his devoted readers.

He also designed stage sets, and Arthur used his theater connections to promote an unknown girl singer he spotted in a local produc-

tion. Mary North's great-great-duced the song "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay."

Sudden tragedy by She went on to great fame

n end to Arthur's career. In 899 he was leaving a bank then the door swung back, it him in the head and nocked him down.

A devastating brain hemrrhage resulted hur was an invalid for the ast 20 years of his life.

COL. J.T. NORTH (1842 - 1896)

Arthur's cousin had a biarre brainstorm while travling in Peru that made him ne of England's wealthiest nen.

J.T. noticed vast amounts f bird droppings in South merica. He knew that farmrs back home in England vould pay a pretty penny for he stuff as fertilizer. So he vent into the bird dropping mport business, and earned fortune.

Like Ollie, J.T. proudly ore his military title — alhough there's no evidence hat the colorful businessnan ever served in the rmed forces.

"The Colonel" hrewd gambler. One newspaper estimated he nore than \$110,000 at the rack in his lifetime.

J.T. also took a stab at running for Parliament in 1895. Outspoken and at times oarse. he sometimes peeches.

J.T. kept two burly prizeighters near him during his ampaign, just in case troule broke out. He lost the lection.

OLIVER NORTH (1886-1967)

Ollie North's grandfather poor, hardworking oor-to-door yarn salesman hen he decided to leave Enland and seek his fortune in

He landed in Philadelphia - and in 1914 beame the third North to sarry into wealth.

With the financial help of is bride Mabel's parents, he tarted his own textile fac-941 he bought a small wool- "North was often forced to tion he bravely defended.



TRACING Ollie North's family tree is Enquirer reporter Noel Botham (left) and genealogist Philip Rushworth.

Gambling Distant Cousin Made Millions -- Off Bird Droppings

OLIVER CLAY NORTH (1915-1984)

Aside from Ollie, through all the generations of the North family, his dad is the only other bona fide war hero.

Born in Philadelphia, Oliver Clay was stationed in the U.S. as a supply officer dur-ing most of World War 2.

But in 1944, as Hitler made his last desperate attempt to beat back invading Allied forces, Oliver Clay was shipped off to Europe, where he supervised the movement of supplies while under heavy enemy fire.

In a citation praising his ory in Philadelphia, and in heroism, the Army declared,

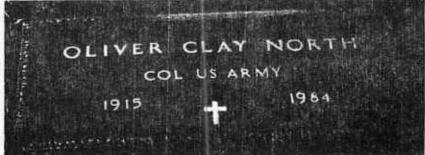
ended audiences with his combing plant in Philmont, travel into areas made hazardous by enemy mortars and snipers, but his determination to see that supplies were delivered on time and in sufficient quantities was his only consideration.

North was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star for heroism — the very same awards his son would one day win in Vietnam.

Returning to the U.S., Oliver Clay took over the textile firm owned by his father. The rise of synthetic fabrics forced him out of business in the late 1950s and he became a teacher.

Working hard to support his family, little did Ollie's his namesake know would one day play a unique role in the history of the na-





HEROIC DAD Oliver Clay North, left, who died in 1984, won the Silver Star and Bronze Star during World War 2, the same medals his son would win in Vietnam.