

**“The almighty dollar will buy you, you bet/ A superior class of coronet’: Biographical
Sketches of N.J.’s Gilded Age ‘Dollar Princesses’”**

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Season one of the acclaimed historical drama Downton Abbey was set in 1912, but a key element of the show’s storyline, known to all dedicated viewers, occurred years earlier, off screen, when a wealthy, young American heiress named Cora Levinson of Cincinnati married the British Robert Crawley, Viscount Downton, the future Earl of Grantham. As part of their marriage contract, Cora’s fortune would be tied to the Grantham family’s failing estate to prevent it from going bankrupt. In return, Cora would eventually earn the title of Countess of Grantham. While Downton Abbey’s Granthams are fictional, the idea of wealthy American heiresses marrying impoverished European noblemen is not. There were by some counts close to 500 of these marriages in the decades between the end of the Civil War and WWI, and several of the brides had ties to NJ. Who were these women? Can we know what motivated them? Did they find happiness? And how did their “loves lives” impact social norms, transatlantic relations, and the U.S. economy?

Season one of the acclaimed historical drama *Downton Abbey* was set in 1912, but a key element of the show’s storyline, known to all dedicated viewers, occurred years earlier, off screen, when a wealthy, young American heiress named Cora Levinson of Cincinnati married the British Robert Crawley, Viscount Downton, the future Earl of Grantham. As part of their marriage contract, Cora’s fortune would be tied to the Grantham family’s failing estate to prevent it from going bankrupt. In return, Cora would eventually earn the title of Countess of Grantham. While Downton Abbey’s Granthams are fictional, the idea of wealthy American heiresses marrying

impoverished European noblemen is not.¹ There were by some counts close to 500 of these marriages in the decades between the end of the Civil War and WWI.² So pervasive was the practice that a publication called *The Titled American* even sprang up, listing “inspirational” American women who successfully married into the nobility, as well as the names of eligible titled bachelors. The press covered these affairs in great detail. The media, the American public, and even American politicians eventually soured on these marriages for a variety of reasons, especially the movement of U.S. dollars overseas.³ While some of these so-called “dollar princesses” are more well-known than others, the scant literature, popular media references, and largely fan-based websites available generally make the most perfunctory of references to or exclude New Jersey’s Countess Gianotti (nee Constance Kinney of Kinnelon in Morris County), Duchess of Manchester (nee Consuelo Yznaga of Orange in Essex County), Princess Camporeale (nee Florence Binney of Burlington in Burlington County), Honorable Mrs. Cecil T. Baring (nee Maude Lorillard of Rancocas in Burlington County), Lady Grey-Egerton (nee May Campbell Cuyler of Morristown in Morris County), Lady Roberts (nee Elizabeth Marie LaRoche of Harrington Park in Bergen County), Princess Auersperg (nee Florence Hazard of Shrewsbury in Monmouth County), Lady

¹ Note that there is technically a difference between “royalty” and “nobility.” Royalty generally refers to those related by blood to the current monarch, nobility generally refers to other title holders (duke, earl, etc; see additional information later in this text) and ranks right below royalty. These terms were often used interchangeably in the American newspapers of the day when discussing the marriage of American women to individuals who possessed European titles.

² Numbers vary, but most accounts agree the number is in the hundreds. A 29 October 1899 article in the *Sunday Call*, a San Francisco newspaper, notes, “Increasing frequency of marriages between American women and European noblemen has made our American noblewomen no longer numbered by the dozens but by the hundreds.” A 14 August 1909 Grand Forks, North Dakota *Evening Times* article reads, “It is estimated that 356 women of the United States have married into the nobility of Europe.” Eric Homberger, Emeritus Professor of American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, cites in a 2013 recounting 454 marriages: 136 to earls or counts, 42 to princes, 17 to dukes, 19 to viscounts, 33 to marquises, 46 to baronets or knights, and 64 baronesses. *Titled Americans: The Real Heiresses’ Guide to Marrying an Aristocrat* (New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2013 reprint), Introduction. Marian Fowler uses this same number, 454, in *In a Gilded Cage: American Heiresses Who Married British Aristocrats* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1993), xiii, xviii, xxi.

³ Marian Fowler, *In a Gilded Cage: American Heiresses Who Married British Aristocrats* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1993), 162, 226, 293.

Monson (nee Romaine Stone of Morristown in Morris County), and Princess Miguel of Braganza (nee Anita Stewart, born in Elberon in Monmouth County), and others.⁴ Who were these women? Can we know what motivated them? Did they find happiness? And how did their “loves lives” impact social norms, transatlantic relations, and the U.S. economy?⁵

The period between the American Civil War and start of WWI saw rapid and monumental changes in the American economy as industrialization boomed. These changes came with a tremendous creation of wealth. By one account, America had a handful of millionaires in 1861. By 1900, there were some 4,000.⁶ But families of this so-called “new money,” for all their wealth and conspicuous consumption, were not always accepted into high society, especially at first.⁷ New-money families in American found they could gain “respectability” and prestige by marrying into the noble (but increasingly cash poor) families of the Old World. Over the years, this has been somewhat crassly called trading “cash for class” or “dollars for distinction.” Why were these blue bloods cash strapped? The nobility in Europe had long depended on tenant farmers to work their lavish estates and fund their lives of leisure. As England industrialized and faced cheap imports of agricultural goods and livestock, it underwent an agricultural depression which made their lifestyle increasingly difficult to maintain. American heiresses offered one possible solution.⁸

⁴ This article will not include every woman from N.J. who married European nobility due to a paucity of primary source material. Those interested in others not referenced here might start by referring to *Titled Americans*.

⁵ There are both earlier and later examples of Americans marrying European nobility (later examples famously include Grace Kelly or Wallace Simpson), but the scope of this article is limited to the Gilded Age phenomenon. Although this article stretches what some would call the traditional definition of the “Gilded Age” a bit to include the nineteen teens, also known as the “Progressive Era,” there was nothing particularly “progressive” about most of these marriage arrangements.

⁶ Fowler, 138.

⁷ Elizabeth Eliot, *Heiresses and Coronets: The Story of Lovely Ladies and Noble Men* (New York: McDowell and Obolensky, 1959), 54; Gail MacColl and Carol McD. Wallace, *To Marry and English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery* (New York: Workman Publishing, 1989), 74; Fowler, 17.

⁸ Eliot, 30; Fowler, xxi; Julie Ferry, *The Transatlantic Marriage Bureau: Husband Hunting in the Gilded Age: How American Heiresses Conquered the Aristocracy* (London: Aurum Press, 2017), 198.

Novelists of the period, like M.E.W. Sherwood, Frances Hodgson Burnett, and Edith Wharton, immortalized the dollar princesses in their fictional books, *A Transplanted Rose*, *The Shuttle* and *The Buccaneers*, respectively. *The Buccaneers* was also later a BBC miniseries, and a scene from that miniseries helps explain the American/royal marriage dynamic a bit.⁹ The conversation occurs between Miss Testavalley, an English governess employed by a “new money” American family, and Mrs. Closson, the mother of an American girl about to marry an English noble.

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|-------------------|--|
| Mrs. Closson: | My husband, Mr. Closson, cannot accustom himself to the fact that Richard has no means of earning an income to support his wife with. |
| Miss Testavalley: | In England, Mrs. Closson, a gentleman does not earn money. |
| Mrs. Closson: | I think you're going to have to expand on that a little, Miss Testavalley. |
| Miss Testavalley: | Lord Richard comes from one of the foremost families in England. He offers both his title, and, of course, an entrée into the highest echelons of English society. ¹⁰ |

While the stereotype of the title-hungry American and the grasping European noble persisted in the Gilded Age and was perpetuated by later authors like Elizabeth Eliot in her 1959 book *Heiresses and Coronets: The Story of Lovely Ladies and Noble Men*, later assessments such as that by author Maureen Montgomery would surely point out that this is an oversimplification. As Montgomery writes in *Gilded Prostitution: Status, Money, and Transatlantic Marriages, 1870-1914*, one cannot make sweeping generalizations about the dynamics of these marriages. For

⁹ M.E.W. Sherwood, *A Transplanted Rose* (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1882); Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Shuttle* (New York: Grosset and Dunlop, 1906); Adeline Tintner, “Consuelo Vanderbilt and ‘The Buccaneers’,” *Edith Wharton Review* 10, No. 2 (Fall 1993): 15-19; Edith Wharton and Marion Mainwaring, *The Buccaneers* (New York: Penguin Books, 1993). *The Buccaneers* was unfinished at the time of Wharton’s death in 1937. It was published in its incomplete form in 1938, and finished by Marion Mainwaring in 1993. For additional discussion of these marriages in literature, see Maureen Montgomery’s *Gilded Prostitution: Status, Money, and Transatlantic Marriages, 1870-1914* (London: Routledge, 1989), 54-65, 169.

¹⁰ *The Buccaneers*. “Invasion.” Episode 1. Directed by Philip Saville. Written by Maggie Wadey and Edith Wharton. BBC, 1995. See also MacColl and McD. Wallace, 94, 104-106; and “Why English Noblemen Seek American Heiresses: Chauncey M. Depew’s Views of the Subject,” available in the reprint of *Titled Americans*, 253-258.

example, take the trope about European aristocrats refusing to work. Montgomery notes that “the social recognition of businessmen by high society in conjunction with the increase in the number of industrialists and commercial men”¹¹ meant that working for a living was increasingly socially acceptable even in Europe in the Gilded Age. Even Montgomery admits, though, that “these marriages may well have been regarded as a short cut to wealth, a less painful form of adaptation to the new social arrangements, and certainly less drastic than selling land or going into business,” at least for some. And so these seemingly mutually beneficial American-European marriages became all the rage at the turn of the 20th century.¹² A cottage industry of sorts even emerged to help facilitate matchmaking. The aforementioned publication called *The Titled American*, for example, listed the successfully married ladies, as well as the names of eligible titled bachelors in a section titled ‘A carefully compiled List of Peers Who Are Supposed to be eager to lay their coronets, and incidentally their hearts, at the feet of the all-conquering American Girl.’ It was a resource much like Washington’s social register, *The Green Book*, or even contemporary online resources like *Match.com* or *Tinder*.

Amongst European nobility, British aristocrats seem to have been most highly prized by Americans. Then, amongst those aristocrats, there was another hierarchy. English titles are generally divided into five kinds: duke, marquis, earl, viscount, and baron.¹³ Each titled carried a certain amount of cachet, and would have been sought after accordingly: the higher the rank, the more desirable.¹⁴ The competitive nature of the international marriage market is exemplified in an article that discusses how one of the New Jersey women turned princess, Anita Stewart (profiled

¹¹ Montgomery, 74.

¹² Eliot, 13, 31, 35-37; Montgomery, 84.

¹³ Montgomery, 161; “Ranks and Privileges of the Peerage,” *Debretts* online <https://www.debretts.com/expertise/essential-guide-to-the-peerage/ranks-and-privileges-of-the-peerage/>.

¹⁴ Fowler, xiv.

in greater detail later in this article), “won,” if you will, when Gladys Vanderbilt, a mere countess, was required to curtsy to her. Titled, “Gladys Vanderbilt, Countess, Must Bow Low before Anita Stewart, Princess Whom She Regarded as Social Inferior,” the article reads in part:

Gladys Vanderbilt- Countess Szecheyni- must bow till she sweeps the palace floor with her jeweled headdress when she encounters Anita Stewart, Princess of Braganza. This is the peculiar situation in which two American girls, former members of the same social set in New York, find themselves, and this is the peculiar and trying ordeal which the daughter of the house of Vanderbilt must undergo to the exaltation of another woman whom she used to consider her social inferior. The two women are expected to meet shortly in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, and when they meet the rank of the Stewart heiress will be so immeasurably superior to that of the Vanderbilt heiress that the latter will be put in a position little short of humiliating.¹⁵

The article continues:

The etiquette of the court will not permit the Vanderbilt countess to be seated in the presence of the Stewart princess unless the latter gives permission, and she must not speak until spoken to. Braganza will demand for his bride all the deference due her position, and her disposition, it is said, is similar. The meeting between the two women, therefore, promises to be interesting.¹⁶

Of course, British or not, marrying a prince and becoming a princess was often prioritized—perhaps by some women, and certainly by the news media. Though the British Princes (Albert Edward, Arthur, Alfred, and Leopold) were taken, it seems at least 20 American women had found others by 1899. An October 1899 article in a San Francisco newspaper featured an expose on “Twenty American Girls Who Have by Marriage Become Princesses and Therefore Ought To-Be Happy.” Sadly, many of these American/royal marriages were not in fact very happy. The couples often did not know each other very well. The European in-laws (and European women of marrying age, and European society generally, and the European press) were often (though obviously not

¹⁵ “Gladys Vanderbilt, Countess Must bow low before Anita Stewart, Princess whom she regarded as social inferior,” *Bisbee Daily Review* (Bisbee, Arizona), 24 November 1909.

¹⁶ “Gladys Vanderbilt, Countess Must Bow Low Before Anita Stewart, Princess Whom She Regarded as Social Inferior,” *Bisbee Daily Review* (Bisbee, Arizona), 24 November 1909.

always) resentful.¹⁷ There were cultural differences, many related to gender roles and spending, that often proved insurmountable. These women, who had grown up in the lap of luxury, often moved to freezing old castles without modern conveniences like indoor plumbing.¹⁸ A 1907 Washington D.C. newspaper article titled “Yankee Princesses” noted that, “There are no less than twenty-one American women now enjoying, more or less, the title of princess. Some of them have given up trying to enjoy the prince...”¹⁹

In acquiring prestige by title, the so-called “dollar princesses” are estimated to have contributed massively to Europe’s economy. The money left the U.S. and went abroad via dowries, inheritances, and allowances. Estimates from the period, as oft-reported in the popular press of the time, vary greatly but agree that the number reached into the hundreds of millions.²⁰ A 1907 article warned, “Enormous Flood of American Gold Goes with Title Hunters; Total is Said to Reach \$900,000,000.”²¹ A 1909 article posited that just 22 of the over 300 Americans to marry European nobility at that point “have carried to the other side in their own right over \$204,000,000.”²² American journalist and historian Gustavus Myers (1872–1942) put the figure at \$200 million in 1911.²³ A 1916 article discusses how “America’s ‘dollar princesses’ who took their dollar dowries to England when they married English noblemen, and American wives of Englishmen who are not nobles, are about to begin contributing approximately \$1,000,000,000 to Johnny Bull to help defray the expenses of war” because “the chancellor of the exchequer has given the power to

¹⁷ Montgomery, 106-107, 160.

¹⁸ Fowler, xv, 8, 138, 293, 303-305; MacColl and McD. Wallace, 183-196; Daisy Goodwin, “Dollar Princesses: The American heiresses who inspired 'Downton Abbey',” *Newsweek* 161 (11 January 2013).

¹⁹ “Yankee Princesses,” *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 8 January 1907; Ferry, 270.

²⁰ MacColl and McD. Wallace, 167.

²¹ Numbers presented throughout this piece, large as they are, are not adjusted for inflation. “Enormous Flood of American Gold Goes with Title Hunters: Total is Said to Reach \$900,000,000,” *Superior Times* (Superior, Wisconsin), 23 November 1907.

²² “An American Line of Princesses,” *Evening Times* (Grand Forks, North Dakota) 14 August 1909.

²³ Montgomery, 165.

collect \$1.7 on every \$5 of all incomes over \$100,000 a year as a special war tax and there is no escape for Madame la Multi, as the Englishman calls the transplanted American woman with money.”²⁴

Modern accountings, too, vary, but again put the number in the hundreds of millions. American social historian E. Digby Baltzell (1915-1996) estimates that more than \$220 million crossed the Atlantic with the dollar princesses.²⁵ Eric Homberger, Emeritus Professor of American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich explains that “The problem with putting a figure, a very large figure, to the transatlantic marriages is that it oversimplifies what was a complex process. Marriage into European noble families was not something to be settled by hauling out a cheque book and buying a husband...” In America, brides kept their property and wealth. In many European countries, such as Great Britain, husbands assumed complete control over their wives’ assets.²⁶ When American brides married European husbands, the terms of their citizenship and financial arrangements were haggled over by lawyers and sometimes government officials, and the terms differed greatly from couple to couple. Records of these marriage settlements are elusive.²⁷

²⁴ Mary Boyle O’Reilly, “Dollars Earned in U. S. Pay British War Taxes,” *Tacoma Times* (Tacoma, Washington), 10 July 1916.

²⁵ Fowler, xiii.

²⁶ This changed in England, at least, when Parliament passed the *Married Women’s Property Act* in 1882, which allowed a married woman to retain/control her own property. Ferry, 18, 189; *Titled Americans*, Introduction.

²⁷ A number of different U.S. laws governed women’s citizenship during Gilded Age. As Meg Hacker of the National Archives writes, “At certain times in our country’s history, marriage—at least for the woman—could affect one’s citizenship status. If an American woman married a foreigner before 1907 and the married couple continued to reside in the United States, she did not, because of her marriage, cease to be an American citizen. The American woman remained a U.S. citizen even after her marriage to a non-U.S. citizen.” Note that even if American law allowed American women who married non-citizens to keep their citizenship pre-1907, foreign laws/marriage settlements might mandate they give up their American citizenship to assume their titles. Hacker continues, “An act of March 2, 1907, also known as the Expatriation Act...mandated that ‘any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband.’ Upon marriage, regardless of where the couple resided, the woman’s legal identity morphed into her husband’s.” Then, “The Cable Act (also known as the ‘Married Women’s Independent Nationality Act’ or the ‘Married Women’s Act’) passed on September 22, 1922, and repealed the 1907 Expatriation Act. An American woman who married a non-U.S. citizen after September 22, 1922, would no longer lose her citizenship if her husband was eligible to become a citizen.” Again, though, American women marrying titled Europeans also had to contend with the laws and customs of their husbands’ realms. For more on American

Exact numbers notwithstanding, eventually, there was a public outcry against “the exploitation of American women,” “the betrayal of democratic principles,” and, especially, the fact that this massive amount of money was leaving the U.S., often untaxed.²⁸ One editorial in Montana titled “American Fortunes Abroad: Here You Get an Idea of the Millions That Have Gone to Europe in the Last 25 Years,” reads in part,

It is claimed that American women are the natural enemies of democracy. They deliberately marry titled foreigners and take out of the United States the money which their fathers have so laboriously acquired. In proof of this argument there may be mentioned the hundreds of young women who have done this during the past one hundred years. It is not necessary to give their names, for a century back, as there are enough who have done so in the past twenty-five years to back up the argument.²⁹

The article goes on to share “a partial list of the American heiresses who have married nobles during the past twenty-five years, the sums of money that they have taken abroad, and the titles of their husband.”³⁰

Elected officials vowed to take legal action, including introducing taxes on the heiresses’ fortunes as they left the country. Representative Stanley Bowdle of Ohio called the transatlantic marriages “a distinct peril to this republic.” He continued to say:

today in most of the states a man’s descendants cannot succeed to a modest inheritance without paying a tax to the state. But we have hundreds of millions removed permanently from America by a lot of shiftless lords, dukes, and others who enjoy the money while they live and then hand it on to progeny that has nothing but contempt for our democratic institutions. And they get this from American toil without one penny of tax. Under ancient feudalism the overlord at least lived in the center of his estates and knew his tenants.

laws related to marriage and citizenship, see Meg Hacker, “When Saying “I Do Meant Giving Up Your U.S. Citizenship,” *Archives.gov*, <https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/prologue/2014/spring/citizenship.pdf>.

²⁸ Montgomery, 163.

²⁹ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899; Goodwin, “Dollar Princesses.”

³⁰ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899. There are similar articles available. The articles do not explain how the sums were ascertained.

America shortly will be an assemblage of industrial feudal states whose owners live 3000 miles away.”³¹

One article in the *New York Times* on the Congressional debate titled, “Calls Title Lure a Peril: It Will Be a Political Problem Soon, Says Bowdle,” specifically cites some of N.J.’s “dollar princesses,” who are largely absent from the small body of existing literature on American women and royal marriages. First, though, allow us to consider some of the more famous American heiresses who married nobility, in order of year married.³²

As railroad scion and Senator from New York Chauncey M. Depew noted, in his variation on a popular line at the time,

due to the different methods in which [American and English] girls are brought up...the American girl comes along, prettier than her English sister, full of dash, and snap, and go, sprightly, dazzling, and audacious, and she is a revelation to the Englishman...As a rule he belongs to an old and historic family, is well educated, traveled, and polished, but poor. He knows nothing of business, and to support his estate requires an increased income. The American girl whom he gets acquainted with has that income, so in marrying her he goes to heaven and gets—the earth.³³

³¹ “Calls Title Lure a Peril: It Will Be a Political Problem Soon, Says Bowdle,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 17 July 1914.

³² As noted, there is a small body of scholarly literature and some popular sources addressing this topic of dollar princesses. This article seeks not to re-invent the wheel. The information provided about the phenomenon thus far serves to contextualize the experience of the largely unmentioned N.J. women who will be introduced shortly. Those interested in further reading on the dollar princesses generally must consider (presented in order of year published) Elizabeth Eliot’s *Heiresses And Coronets: The Story Of Lovely Ladies And Noble Men* (New York: McDowell and Obolensky, 1959); Ralph G. Martin’s *Jennie: The Life of Lady Randolph Churchill: The Romantic Years 1854-1895* (New York: Prentice Hall, 1969); Ruth Brandon’s *The Dollar Princesses: Sagas of Upward Nobility, 1870-1914* (New York: Knopf, 1980); Maureen Montgomery’s *Gilded Prostitution: Status, Money, and Transatlantic Marriages, 1870-1914* (London: Routledge, 1989); Gail MacColl and Carol McD. Wallace’s *To Marry and English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery* (New York: Workman Publishing, 1989); Marian Fowler’s *In a Gilded Cage: American Heiresses who Married British Aristocrats* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1993); Jerry E. Patterson’s *The First Four Hundred: Mrs. Astor’s New York in the Gilded Age* (New York: Rizzoli, 2000); Eric Homberg’s *Mrs. Astor’s New York: Money and Social Power in a Gilded Age* (Cambridge: Yale University Press, 2002); Amanda Mackenzie Stuart’s *Consuelo and Alva Vanderbilt: The Story of a Daughter and a Mother in the Gilded Age* (New York: Harper Collins, 2005); and Julie Ferry’s *The Transatlantic Marriage Bureau: Husband Hunting in the Gilded Age: How American Heiresses Conquered the Aristocracy* (London: Aurum Press, 2017). For an article-length look, see Richard W. Davis, “We Are All Americans Now!': Anglo-American Marriages in the Later Nineteenth Century,” *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 135, no. 2 (Jun., 1991): 140-99.

³³ “Why English Noblemen Seek American Heiresses: Chauncey M. Depew’s Views of the Subject,” available in the reprint of *Titled Americans*, 253-258.

The famed Winston Churchill's mother, Jennie Jerome Churchill, has been called the forerunner of the wealthy American women- full of "dash, snap, and go," if you will- who came to England in the late 19th century and married titles.³⁴ Jennie was born in Brooklyn in 1854 to Clara and Leonard Jerome, who had been dubbed "the King of Wall Street" thanks to the wealth he had accumulated through the stock market. Jennie was a renowned beauty, and coupled with her family's wealth, was one of the most eligible women in high society when she came of age.

While the families of many later dollar princesses would eagerly escort their daughters to the altar, Jennie's parents had some real concerns about Lord Randolph Spencer-Churchill (1849-1895), third son of the 7th Duke of Marlborough. Her mother reportedly called him "hasty...rash...headstrong...unconsidered...impulsive." The Marlboroughs were not so keen on the Randolphys, either. They ultimately refused to attend the wedding in April 1874, which took place at the British Embassy in Paris. Jennie's marriage was thought to have taken a relatively modest \$250K abroad.³⁵

Winston, future prime minister, was born in November 1874.³⁶ A second son, John, followed in 1880. The vivacious Jennie reportedly had numerous affairs that scandal mongers insisted included even the Prince of Wales. She campaigned in support of her husband's political career, and later became something of a political mentor to her son, Winston Churchill (though they had a complicated relationship). After her husband's death, Jennie married a man Winston's

³⁴ Ms. Jerome was by no means the first American woman ever to marry European nobility, but authors generally point to her as the first of this Gilded Age craze. See for example Eliot, 13-14.

³⁵ Birth and death years are presented for the "dollar princesses" and their husbands wherever available. *Titled Americans*, Introduction; "American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years," *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899; Eliot, 62.

³⁶ *Titled Americans*, Introduction; "American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years," *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899.

age and quipped, “He has a future and I have a past, so we should be all right.” Years later she married for the third time — to a man even younger.³⁷ Jennie died in 1921, aged 67, in London.

Frances “Fanny” Work was born in 1857 in New York, the daughter of self-made millionaire Frank Work and his wife, Ellen. She grew up in fabulous wealth in their Elm Court home in Newport, Rhode Island. She was among New York City’s fabled “400,” the name given to the wealthiest of the wealthy because only 400 guests at a time could fit into the fabulous ballroom of one Mrs. Astor’s home, where the most exclusive entertainments were held.³⁸ Fanny arrived in London and became the toast of the town.

In 1880, she married James Burke Roche (1852-1920), the second son of Baron Fermoy. She discovered that his title came with no land, no house and no estate. But, he was a baron and she now a baroness. Papers claimed her marriage took \$1 million out of the U.S.³⁹ Their marriage was not a happy one and lasted only seven years, but their first son, Edmund Maurice, is the maternal grandfather of Princess Diana, meaning Frances’s marriage led to the birth of the current future heir to the British throne in Prince William.⁴⁰ Frances later re-married, but divorced for a second time when her father threatened to disinherit her. She died 26 January 1947, aged 89, in New York City.⁴¹

³⁷ *Titled Americans*, 53; Goodwin, “Dollar Princesses;” Jennie Jerome Churchill and Randolph Spencer Churchill, *The reminiscences of Lady Randolph Churchill* (New York: Century, 1908); Ralph G. Martin, *Jennie: The Life of Lady Randolph Churchill: The Romantic Years 1854-1895* (New York: Prentice Hall, 1969); Anne Sebba, *The Remarkable Life of Lady Randolph Churchill* (New York: Norton and Co., 2007); Anita Leslie, *Lady Randolph Churchill: The Story of Jennie Jerome* (New York: Scribner, 1969); Eliot, Chapter 6.

³⁸ There are many explorations of the so-called “400,” available, one source which specifically discusses these “Patriarchs” in relation to the American/Royal marriages would be Eliot, Chapter 4.

³⁹ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899.

⁴⁰ MacColl and McD. Wallace, 132; Goodwin, “Dollar Princesses.”

⁴¹ Owen Amos, “The Other American in Prince Harry’s Family,” *BBC NEWS.com*, 27 November 1917, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42141518>

Mary Leiter Curzon, heir to the Marshall Field retail business her father co-founded, was born to Mary Theresa and Levi Leiter in 1870 in Chicago. She moved with her family to Washington, D.C. in the 1880s. She was an immediate social sensation, a beautiful “swanlike” figure who quickly became close friends with the young first lady Frances Cleveland, wife of Grover Cleveland. Leiter’s social success followed her to London, where she met Lord George Curzon (1859-1925). The marriage in 1895 was said to be responsible for \$5 million American dollars going abroad.⁴²

Mary and George Curzon moved to Bombay when he was appointed Viceroy of India. Mary’s elevation to Vicerine made her the highest ranked American woman ever in the British Empire. The centerpiece event of the Curzons’ tenure was the 1902 Delhi Durbar, organized to celebrate the coronation of Prince Albert as King Edward VII. Mary wore an elaborate dress designed by the House of Worth, the most famous designer of the day. Known as “the peacock dress,” the gown was an extravagance of gold cloth embroidered with peacock feathers, and Mary wore it with a huge diamond necklace and a pearl-tipped tiara. The Curzons stayed together until her death (largely attributed to tropical disease and fertility issues) on 18 July 1906 in London at age thirty-six.⁴³

Consuelo Vanderbilt remains one of the most famous heiresses in U.S. history. She was born to Alva and William K. Vanderbilt in 1877. Her beauty was celebrated in newspapers around the world, and she was one of the wealthiest young women in the United States in her day. By the time she she’d made her debut in 1895, the entire country knew she had access to \$20 million — a sum equal to almost \$4 billion today. Consuelo fell in love with someone her mother, Alva,

⁴² “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899.

⁴³ Eliot, Chapter 9; Nigel Nicolson, *Mary Curzon: The Story of the Heiress from Chicago Who Married Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India* (New York: Harper and Row, 1978); MacColl and McD. Wallace, all; Ferry, 264-265.

deemed unsuitable because she wanted her daughter to marry nobility, and had someone handpicked.⁴⁴

The fabled beauty was thus married to a cash-poor but pedigree-rich Englishman, the 9th Duke of Marlborough (1871-1934), in a ceremony that became a media circus. Hundreds of New York's finest were called out to restrain thousands of onlookers desperate to see the bride in her wedding finery in 1895. The newspapers of the day carried exhaustively detailed descriptions of the trousseau: her pink lace corset apparently had gold hooks, and her silk stockings were held up by diamond-encrusted garters. Many suspected Alva herself was leaking these details to the press.

According to some accounts, William K. Vanderbilt promised to present the Duke of Marlborough \$2,500,000. Another report accused Consuelo of ultimately taking \$5 million out of the U.S. economy. It seems money can't buy happiness, though, and it was an unhappy marriage from the very start. Consuelo eventually obtained a divorce. She went on to marry for love and find meaning in her life as a political activist; she was an early advocate for women's suffrage.⁴⁵ She passed on 6 December 1964 in Southampton, New York.

It should be noted that many of the women entering into these royal marriages were terribly young, and some were pushed into their marriages by their families. Some went along willingly, swept away by the seeming romance of it all but having no idea what they were getting into. In a few cases, there may have been genuine love. As Maureen Montgomery notes in *Gilded Prostitution: Status, Money, and Transatlantic Marriages, 1870-1914*, "social ambition is the most frequently alluded to in explanations for so many American women marrying titled husbands" but

⁴⁴ Fowler, 127-200; Tintner, 15-19.

⁴⁵ "American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years," *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899; Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan, "The Glitter and the Gold," *Ladies' Home Journal* 69, issue 9 (September 1952): 54-55, 176-177, 179-184; Goodwin, "Dollar Princesses;" Tintner, 15-19; Mackenzie Stuart, *Consuelo and Alva Vanderbilt: The Story of a Daughter and a Mother in the Guided Age* (New York: Harper Collins, 2005); Eliot, Chapter 12.

reasons varied and “We are forced into speculating about the possible reasons why a particular group of women opted for foreign husbands. Without any specific evidence- autobiographical information is few and far between as well as problematic- we are left with interpreting the more public side of life rather than the private and the personal.”⁴⁶

Heir to the British throne and prolific partier the Prince of Wales, Albert Edward (Bertie to his friends), thoroughly enjoyed the company of American heiresses abroad and is credited with legitimizing them as wives in the eyes of sycophantic nobles. He reportedly once enthused, “American girls are livelier, better educated, and less hampered by etiquette...They are not as squeamish as their English sisters...”⁴⁷ Many of the dollar princesses gained entrée into his inner circle. This may have had something to do with the fact that they spent massively arranging elaborate entertainments for him. It is ironic that many of these women, snubbed by American society for being from “new money,” were quite good enough for the future king of England.⁴⁸

Having learned a bit about some of the more famous “dollar princesses,” consider now the relatively unknown ones from New Jersey. Some of these women were indeed fabulously rich, others of more modest means. This is not a comprehensive list, and the historical record sheds more light on some than on others. Women are presented in order of the year they married.

Constance Kinney was born in 1854 to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Sherwood Kinney of Kinnelon (Morris County) and Washington, D.C. Francis made millions as a tobacco magnate. In 1872, Constance married Count Casear Gianotti, the Grand Master of Ceremonies at the Court of the Quirinal, Rome. The historical record sheds scant light on Constance’s relationship with her noble, but the papers of Ulysses S. Grant reveal that he wrote to George P. Marsh, U.S. Minister, Florence,

⁴⁶ For more on the motivations behind these marriages, see Fowler; Tintner, 15-19; MacColl and McD. Wallace; Montgomery, 64, 135, 179; and Eliot, 34-37.

⁴⁷ MacColl and McD. Wallace, 82; Goodwin, “Dollar Princesses.”

⁴⁸ Eliot, 66-67.

introducing a Constance Kinney to him. Could this be related?⁴⁹ A newspaper article notes that “This lady, a handsome blond, captivated the young officer in the Italian Army somewhere on the Italian lakes.” One newspaper called him “the handsomest blond man in Italy” and noted that he was a “man of fine manners” and “amiable temper.” Sources accused Kinney of taking \$1,000,000 out of the U.S.⁵⁰

The Count and Countess had two daughters, both of whom would be godchildren of Queen Margherita of Italy. The *New York Times* noted that Constance became a “leader in Italian society” after her marriage. The marriage by all accounts was a happy one.⁵¹ The Countess, predeceased by her husband, died in June 1915. Her obituary noted that “she never forgot her native land. She was famous for her kindness to Americans who visited in Rome.”⁵²

Consuelo Yzanga is perhaps the most (relatively) famous of the N.J. women who married European nobility, most likely because the man she married was a British Duke. As Elizabeth Eliot shared in *Heiresses and Coronets*, citing a Gilded Age newspaper report, “Dukes are the loftiest kind of noblemen in England. There are only 27 of them in the whole of the United Kingdom. Of these there are only two available for matrimonial purposes.” Eliot concludes, “...the value of dukes over other noblemen was very well understood, and they were freely invited- in the public press- to name their own price.”⁵³

⁴⁹ John Y. Simon, ed., *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant: November 1, 1869-October 31, 1870* (Carbondale and Edwardsville: Southern University Press, 1995), 111. Author’s note: In records, Gianotti’s name is alternately spelled “Casear,” “Caesar,” and “Cesare.”

⁵⁰ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899; H.W. Bowman, *The Money Question under the X-rays of Prophecy: Or, The Battle for Gold Divinely Told* (Boston: Advent Christian Publication Society, 1897), 345.

⁵¹ *Titled Americans*, 67.

⁵² The year of her birth is occasionally given as 1858. “An American Countess,” *Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.), 13 November 1888; “American Countess Dead,” *New York Tribune* (New York, New York), 28 June 1915; *Titled Americans*, 67.

⁵³ The name is sometimes spelled “Iznaga.” Eliot, 78-79.

Born in 1853 in New York City, Consuelo was the second of four children of diplomat Antonio Modesto Yznaga del Valle and Ellen Maria Clement. Antonio came from a Cuban family who owned a large plantation and sugar mills. The young couple set up housekeeping and raised their children primarily on a plantation in Louisiana. Throughout their marriage, Antonio and Ellen also had homes in places like New York and in Newport, Rhode Island. Here, they were met with some suspicion by elites for their foreign lineage, southern residency, and supposedly eccentric ways. The family was based out of a home in Orange, N.J.⁵⁴ when daughter Consuelo, whom papers called “one of the most beautiful women in America,” began her merely weeks long courtship with George Victor Drogo Montagu, the Viscount Mandeville (1853-1892). George would, upon the death of his father, become the Duke of Manchester. The couple married on 22 May 1876; 700 guests reportedly attended the reception and the bride’s trousseau reportedly cost \$75,000.⁵⁵ Newspaper reports accused Consuelo of taking a relatively modest \$50,000 out of the U.S.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Antonio is buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in East Orange.

⁵⁵ “Wedding Bells,” *Indiana State Sentinel* (Indianapolis, Indiana), 12 April 1876; Eliot, Chapter 7. Consuelo Yznaga also features heavily throughout Julie Ferry, *The Transatlantic Marriage Bureau: Husband Hunting in the Gilded Age: How American Heiresses Conquered the Aristocracy* (London: Aurum Press, 2017).

⁵⁶ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899.



Duchess of Manchester by Jose Maria Mora, circa 1883. Courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London.

According to all accounts, Viscount Mandeville brought his young American bride, at this point called Lady Mandeville, to a family home across the pond and promptly resumed his bachelor lifestyle. The birth of three children and ascendancy to the Dukedom did little to tame the Duke's licentious and profligate ways. The Duchess of Manchester, as Consuelo was known after the death of her father-in-law, seems to have borne this behavior with resignation. For example, in a letter that has been reprinted in many sources, Consuelo responded to an invitation thusly: "Mandeville is yachting with the Gosfords and his movements are so erratic that I think I had better say he won't come with me on Sunday, nor on the 13th

either. He so often disappoints me that I generally make up my mind to go without him." Upon his death, one American newspaper called him, "one of the vilest men that ever married a decent American girl."⁵⁷ The long-suffering Duchess of Manchester, though unhappy in marriage, proved popular in British society and supported many charities. She died on 20 November 1909 in London, leaving an estate valued at between \$5-6 million.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ "Duke of Manchester Dead," *Seattle Post Intelligencer* (Seattle, Washington), 19 August 1892.

⁵⁸ "Left Fortune to Heirs," *Topeka State Journal* (Topeka, Kansas), 22 December 1909; Eliot, Chapter 7.

Miss Florence Binney was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Binney, of Burlington, N.J.⁵⁹ Born in 1866, her first marriage, to Thomas Kingsland, ended in divorce.⁶⁰ She married Sicilian Don Pietro (b. 1847), Prince of Camporeale and Duke of Aldragana, in Burlington in 1888 and became the Princess Camporeale and Duchess of Aldragana. The Princess was oft-cited in the papers as one of the problematic heiresses taking vast sums of money out of the States. Papers listed the sum at \$500,000. The couple was still married as of 1909, but little is known of them after that date.⁶¹

May Campbell Cuyler, daughter of Major James Wayne Cuyler and his wife Alice of Morristown, N.J., and Baltimore, MD, was born in 1871. The *New York Times* reported that she was known round the world as “the Morristown beauty.” She was described by that paper as “rather tall, with wavy brown hair and languishing eyes.” She married Sir Philip Henry Brian Grey Egerton (1864-1937), 12th Baronet, on January 4, 1893.⁶² Sir Philip was described as “a fine specimen of a handsome Englishman” and a “mighty hunter in many lands.” The wedding took place in London and received extensive coverage in the press, with the *New York Times* reporting that the “whole American colony is a stir with preparations for the wedding.”⁶³ Gifts included a diamond tiara.⁶⁴ An 1899 newspaper article accused Cuyler of taking \$500,000 out of the U.S.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ Records sometimes call her Mary.

⁶⁰ Marriage records available via the N.J. State archives indicate they were married in 1876. It is unclear if that date is wrong, or the widely reported year of her birth.

⁶¹ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899; “Twenty American Girls Who Have by Marriage Become Princesses and Therefore Ought To-Be Happy,” *Sunday Call* (San Francisco, CA) 29 October 1899; “Yankee Princesses,” *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 8 January 1907; “Our Near Queens: Yankee Princesses and Duchesses,” *Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Utah), 13 September 1908; “About People and Social Incidents,” *New York Daily Tribune* (New York, New York), 2 November 1906; *Titled Americans*, 31.

⁶² Grey Egerton is sometimes hyphenated. MacColl and McD. Wallace, 328.

⁶³ “An American Girl Abroad,” *Wichita Daily Eagle* (Wichita, Kansas), 16 January 1898; *New York Times* (New York, NY), 4 January 1893.

⁶⁴ MacColl and McD. Wallace, 328.

⁶⁵ “American Fortunes Abroad: Here you get an idea of the millions that have gone to Europe in the last 25 years,” *Inter Mountain* (Butte, Montana), 3 May 1899.

Lady Grey Egerton entered English society, hobnobbing with even the Prince and Princess



Mary Carolyn Campbell (“May”) (Née Cuyler), Lady Grey-Egerton by Alexander Bassano, 1897. Courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London.

of Wales (as so many dollar princesses in Great Britain did).⁶⁶ An article published a few years after her wedding noted, “no American woman is more popular in the swell set of the British metropolis than she, and her American manner of dressing well and becomingly serves to enhance her charmingly personality.” Her picture “was included in the famous ‘Book of Beauty’ that was published last year.”⁶⁷

She was reportedly planning to attend the 1902 coronation of the Prince of Wales as King Edward VII (indicating their status, dollar princesses would have been well represented there; however, the Prince fell ill and the ceremony was postponed. A smaller affair was eventually

held). A 1904 article in *The Sketch: A Journal of Art and Actuality*, noted that the Grey Egertons lived in England, had twin sons and a daughter, and that May “is an exceptionally good swimmer and a fine musician. She was one of the first women in Society who discovered the charm of bicycling, and in the winter months she is an indefatigable skater.”⁶⁸

The Grey Egerton marriage ended in divorce in 1905 after, as the *New York Times* put it, “rumors of differences in tastes between her and her husband.” A 1907 *Red Book* article noted, “Neither her beauty nor her wit appealed much to Sir Philip, who found other attractions.” May

⁶⁶ “Lady Grey-Egerton,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 6 February 1898.

⁶⁷ “An American Girl Abroad,” *Wichita Daily Eagle* (Wichita, Kansas), 16 January 1898.

⁶⁸ “Lady Grey-Egerton,” *The Sketch: A Journal of Art and Actuality* Volume XLVI (London) 27 July 1904.

went on to marry a New Yorker, the also divorced Richard McCreery, in London in 1907. The *New York Times*, in its coverage of the “quiet” wedding, noted that she was a vegetarian and was an “extremely pretty woman, small and blond.” Her sons were both killed in WWI.⁶⁹ May passed in 1959.⁷⁰

Elizabeth Marie LaRoche was born c. 1865 to Mr. and Mrs. William Tell LaRoche of Harrington Park, N.J. Her father was a judge and also a doctor, serving as the President of the NY College of Dentistry for a time. Her mother, Elizabeth, was “was one of the Old New York Quackenbushes.” A 26 August 1895 *New York Times* article shared, “COL Howland Roberts (1845-1917), son of the late Sir Thomas Roberts of County Cork, Ireland, will marry Miss Elizabeth Marie, youngest daughter of Dr. WT LaRoche of Harrington, N.J.”⁷¹ Elizabeth Marie married the 5th Baronet (1895 – 1917) and became Lady Roberts on October 21, 1895. The couple had two children, and their marriage lasted until his death. Lady Roberts herself passed 11 April 1949 at 84 years of age.⁷²

⁶⁹ “Their Coronation Jewels: Display by the American Women Have Been One of the Most Brilliant Features,” *New York Times* (New York, New York), 29 June 1902; “The World of Society,” *Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.), 20 June 1905; “Richard M’Creery Wedded In London: Lady Grey-Egerton Becomes the Bride Of A New Yorker; Couple Both Divorced; Bride a Daughter of an Army Officer -- Bridegroom Descended from Justice,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 3 March 1907; Charles Edward Russell, “Billions for Bad Blue Blood: The Price the Woman Pays,” *Red Book Magazine*, November 1908, 33-48; MacColl and McD. Wallace, 328.

⁷⁰ “Mary Carolyn Campbell (‘May’, née Cuyler), Lady Grey-Egerton,” *National Portrait Gallery*, <https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/person/mp83422/mary-carolyn-campbell-may-nee-cuyler-lady-grey-egerton>.

⁷¹ “Col. Roberts Will Wed an American,” *New York Times* (New York, New York), 26 August 1895.

⁷² “Lady Roberts,” *New York Times* (New York, New York), 17 April 1949; MacColl and McD. Wallace, 339; “Elizabeth Marie LaRoche,” *The Peerage*, <http://www.thepeerage.com/p56002.htm#i560012>.

Heiress Miss Florence E. Hazard of Shrewsbury, N.J. was born to E.C. Hazard, a “millionaire grocer,” and his wife, Florence in 1882.⁷³ Florence E. met Prince Francis (Franz) Auersperg (1869 - 1918) of Austria when she was reportedly “around 16,” and they announced their engagement about a year later in April 1899.⁷⁴ The *Chicago Daily Tribune* and the *New York World* reported that in Vienna the “engagement is hailed by court and aristocratic circles here with



Title: Princess Auersperg.
Creator(s): Bain News Service,
publisher. 1915. Courtesy Library
of Congress.

gratification, as the Prince seemed to have hopelessly wrecked his career by fast living and gambling before he left Vienna three years ago.” Francis was definitely a bit of a rascal, but claimed to have come to America determined to start a new life. He was a medical student at the Long Island college hospital at the time the engagement was announced.⁷⁵

The couple wed that June. The Prince and Princess lived for a time at the stately family home called Shrewsbury Manor. (A gossip magazine noted in 1900 that Shrewsbury Manor had a Turkish bath that quote “has no peer in N.J.”)⁷⁶ Problems arose shortly after the marriage when creditors started coming after the prince. He was hauled into the bankruptcy courts on more than one occasion.⁷⁷ When the Princess inherited a fortune from her father, and her husband wanted it put in his name, Florence

⁷³ “Telegrams in brief,” 1899 paper, need to find citation via LoC

⁷⁴ “Princess Auersperg Weds J. J. Murphy: Divorcee of Last Winter Marries Son of ex-New York Senator at Seabright; County Judge Officiates; Bride Is a Daughter of Late Edw. C. Hazard -- Ex-Husband a Medical Officer of Red Cross in Austria,” *New York Times* (New York, New York), 2 May 1915.

⁷⁵ “COMES TO AMERICA. Prince Is a Student and Will Study Medicine in New York,” *Topeka State Journal* (Topeka, Kansas), 27 April 1899.

⁷⁶ “Twenty American Girls Who Have by Marriage Become Princesses and Therefore Ought To-Be Happy,” *Sunday Call* (San Francisco, CA) 29 October 1899; “Yankee Princesses,” *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 8 January 1907.

⁷⁷ “A Prince a Bankrupt,” *Evening Times* (Washington, DC), 2 February 1901; “Doctor of Royal Birth is Sued,” *The World* (New York: New York), 30 March 1903.

had had enough. She was convinced he had married her for her money. Dr. Auersperg moved to Texas, but after WWI broke out in the summer of 1914, he returned to Austria to become a medical officer with the Austrian Red Cross. In January 1915, the princess filed for divorce. She testified “that she had exerted every effort for a reconciliation,” but was unsuccessful. The final decree was granted in Hoboken, New Jersey on January 21, 1915 on the grounds of desertion. Florence married John J. Murphy, a former Senator’s son, at her sister’s home in Seabright, N.J. in May 1915 with only immediate family in attendance.⁷⁸ She died in 1960.

Maude Louise Lorillard was born to “million tobacco manufacturer” Pierre Lorillard IV and his wife, Emily Taylor, in 1876. In 1760, Pierre’s great-grandfather had founded P. Lorillard and Company in New York City - today, Lorillard Tobacco Company is the oldest tobacco company in the U.S., producing, among other products, Newport brand cigarettes. The Pierre Lorillard IV’s had numerous properties, to include in Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey. The tobacco factory was for many years in Jersey City, and the family had a horse farm in Rancocas, which is now a part of Westampton Township in Burlington County.⁷⁹

Youngest Lorillard daughter Maude was described by papers as “a tall girl, with a slight figure and large dark eyes and hair, and exquisite complexion.” She first married Thomas Suffern Taler on 15 April 1893 in what was called “one of the largest and most fashionable affairs in town during the Spring of that year.” They had one child. Maude sued for divorce on the grounds of desertion in 1902, and married a banker, the Honorable Cecil Baring (1864–1934) later that same

⁷⁸ “Princess Auersperg Weds J. J. Murphy: Divorcee of Last Winter Marries Son of ex-New York Senator at Seabright. County Judge Officiates Bride Is a Daughter of Late Edw. C. Hazard -- Ex-Husband a Medical Officer of Red Cross in Austria,” *New York Times* (New York, New York), 2 May 1915. Monmouth County Historical Commissioner Randy Gabrielan notes via correspondence with the author that “she was married at the Rumson, not Seabright, home of her sister Helen. The newspaper reported “Seabright” because eastern Rumson was long-called Seabright.”

⁷⁹ “Monmouth Park Racetrack,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 2 August 1871. Those interested in the history of NJ, specifically the seaside resort towns, during the Gilded Age, should see Randall Gabrielan’s *Birth of the Jersey Shore: The Personalities & Politics that Built America's Resort* (The History Press), 2015.

year. Baring, heir to a hereditary British title, happened to be a business partner of T. Suffern Tailer's. As the wire services reported, "The news of the marriage of Mr. Cecil Baring, who, in all probability, will someday become Lord Revelstoke, and Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer, created quite a flutter in society." Maude would be known as "The Honorable Mrs. Cecil Baring." The Barings spent most of their time in a castle on an island they bought off the coast of Ireland in 1904; they remained wed until Maude's death in London in 1922. Not until after Maude's death would her husband finally succeed to the title of 3rd Baron Revelstoke.⁸⁰

Romaine Stone, touted by contemporaneous newspapers as a "great beauty" and a "great belle," seems to have been luckier in royal love than the Princess Auersperg.⁸¹ She was born to General and Mrs. Roy Stone of Mendham and Morristown N.J. and Washington D.C. General Stone served in the Civil War and Spanish American War.⁸² Romaine first married Lawrence Turnure, Jr. on 7 July 1890. His father, the elder Lawrence Turnure, "was for many years a conspicuous figure in Wall Street." Romaine and Lawrence Jr.'s marriage ended when Lawrence met an early death in 1901. He had long suffered "delicate lungs."⁸³

A 21 May 1903 *New York Times* article reported the engagement of the wealthy young widow to Augustus Debonnaire John Monson (1868-1940), the 9th Baron Monson, who at the time served as a secretary to his uncle, the British ambassador in Paris. Their wedding at the British

⁸⁰ "Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer Obtains Her Divorce," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 15 August 1902; "Cecil Baring Weds Mrs. T. Suffern Tailer," *St. Louis Republic* (St. Louis, Missouri), 16 November 1902; Montgomery, 252; Gail MacColl and McD. Wallace, 341.

⁸¹ "What is doing in society," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 22 May 1903; "Women here and there," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 5 July 1903.

⁸² MacColl and McD. Wallace, 352.

⁸³ "Society topics of the week," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 15 June 1890; "What is doing in society," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 3 May 1899; "What is doing in society," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 18 May 1900; "Miss Turnure weds in London," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 18 July 1922.

consulate in Paris on 1 July 1903, was quite a society affair.⁸⁴ Lord Monson was no fan of his wife's native country, as an article from February 1904 not so tactfully points out. Titled, "Lord Monson Doesn't Like Us," it reads in part, "Lord and Lady Monson, who have been visiting this country since the first of the year...will leave this town [Morristown] early next week for Florence, Italy, where they will join Lord Monson's mother...Lord Monson has not been favorably impressed with his visit to this country."⁸⁵ Despite this, it appears the couple had a long and productive relationship. An excerpt from *Ainslee's Society Magazine*, June 1905, reads,

Lady Monson...is...devoted to country life in England...a very great part of every year she spends, by preference, at her husband's beautiful home, Barton Hall, and there she entertains not only extensively and luxuriously, but chiefly the diplomats, domestic and foreign. This capacity for gathering about her quite the most interesting among notable men has made her house parties rather famous in an enviable way, and has given Lady Monson a marked reputation as a hostess. Her husband is the nephew of Sir Edmund Monson, the well-known ambassador to France, and Lady Monson is herself a famous beauty. Before her ...marriage... she was Miss Romaine Stone, and celebrated in London, Newport, and New York for a uniquely delicate loveliness of face and form. Her beauty was, indeed, as widely talked about and ardently admired in London ...[she] belongs to the ever-growing class of American women who have created a deep impression on London society by making the very most of some particular talent or taste or feature. Society in these days, like the professions of war, law or medicine, is in the hands of the specialists; and I think that the American women who came over to carve out their own social way saw this opportunity at once and have developed it in a quite remarkable fashion.⁸⁶

During WWI, Lady Monson was active in the Red Cross in Rome, where her husband was stationed as Commissioner General of the British Red Cross in Italy. Lord and Lady Monson stayed together until death did them part, with him passing in 1940 and her following on 1 January

⁸⁴ "To Marry Lord Monson," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 21 May 1903; "Mrs. Turnure marries Lord Monson in Paris," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 2 July 1903; "Women here and there," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 5 July 1903; MacColl and McD. Wallace, 352.

⁸⁵ "Lord Monson Doesn't Like Us," *New York Times* (New York, NY), 20 February 1904.

⁸⁶ Excerpt from *Ainslee's*, Vol. 15, No. 5, June 1905. Project Gutenberg's *Ainslee's*, Vol. 15, No. 5, June 1905, by Various. <http://archive.org/stream/ainsleesvolnojun27864gut/pg27864.txt>

1943.⁸⁷ Interestingly, a grandson later wrote *Nouveaux Pauvres*, a “lifestyle manual for poverty stricken aristocrats.”⁸⁸

Anita Stewart was born in Elberon on 7 August 1886, though her family was based out of New York. They were likely summering in Elberon in a period where so many of the nation’s wealthiest flocked to the state’s coast. Anita was the only daughter of William Rhinelanders Stewart and his wife, Jean. Jean and William divorced in 1906, and Jean married James Henry Smith later that year. He died in 1907 leaving an estate estimated at between \$30-60 million.⁸⁹

Anita became engaged to Prince Miguel (1878-1923), Duke of Viseu, grandson of King Miguel I of Portugal, and the eldest son of Dom Miguel, Duke of Braganza in July 1909. The couple had only met in April. A newspaper article announcing the engagement noted, “his name has been mentioned in connection with three other American heiresses in the last few months.”⁹⁰ It appears the Prince had massive debts with which he, like so many of his fellow European nobles, thought an American heiress might be able to assist.⁹¹

⁸⁷ “Miss Turnure weds in London,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 18 July 1922; “Dowager Lady Monson,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 2 January 1943.

⁸⁸ MacColl and McD. Wallace, 352.

⁸⁹ “Young American Woman Who is to Marry Prince Miguel,” *Los Angeles Herald* (Los Angeles, CA), 21 July 1909; “An American Line of Princesses,” *Evening Times* (Grand Forks, North Dakota) 14 August 1909; “Miss Turnure weds in London,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 18 July 1922; “Anita Stewart Morris, 91, Dies; Heiress wed a European Prince,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 16 September 1977; “Anita Stewart will wed Prince Miguel,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 10 July 1909.

⁹⁰ “Young American Woman Who is to Marry Prince Miguel,” *Los Angeles Herald* (Los Angeles, CA), 21 July 1909; “Anita Stewart will wed Prince Miguel,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 10 July 1909.

⁹¹ “Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again,” *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 20 February 1920; “The Love Graft: Princess Miguel of Braganza, and the Prince she bought,” *Spokane Press* (Spokane, Washington), 14 December 1909; “Anita Stewart Morris, 91, Dies; Heiress wed a European Prince,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 16 September 1977; “Anita Stewart will wed Prince Miguel,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 10 July 1909; “An American Princess: Miss Anita Stewart’s Engagement to Prince Miguel of Braganza an Interesting Chapter in Certain Recent Family Happenings Here,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 11 July 1909.



“Anita Stewart, seated, Princess of Braganza.” Undated. Creator(s): Bain News Service, publisher. Courtesy Library of Congress.

The couple wed in September 1909 in Scotland at a ceremony well-attended by the nobility. When the bride arrived at the church, she “graciously posed for an army of photographers and waved her hand to cheers.”⁹² Papers reported, “Glorious weather adds a perfect touch to the general atmosphere of jubilation.” The press dubbed the wedding decor

brilliant and extensive. It included rustic arches leading to the church bearing numerous inscriptions, like ‘God Bless the Prince and Beautiful Bride,’ ‘Long Life and Happiness to the Prince and Princess’ and so forth. The interior of the church was festooned with evergreens...palms, white lilies and lilies of the valley. The color feature was the predominance of purple, blue and rich red- colors of the royal house of Braganza.⁹³

A newspaper article titled, “The Love Graft: Princess

Miguel of Braganza, and the Prince She Bought,” reported that the bride’s mother paid the groom a \$5 million dowry. Other reports put the number at \$2 million. Either way, the marriage settlement did not ease his economic woes. Jean continued to assist the couple financially, though she eventually cut the Prince off.⁹⁴ Financial ruin followed. Creditors seized his assets; one article blared the headline, “Creditor Hunts Miguel: Scotland Yard is asked to Find Anita Stewart’s Husband.”⁹⁵ During WWI, the situation became untenable as the Prince was an Austrian subject.

⁹² “Miss Stewart Weds, hold to her faith,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 16 September 1909.

⁹³ “Bride of Braganza,” *Evening Star* (Washington, DC), 15 September 1909; “Anita Stewart Morris, 91, Dies; Heiress wed a European Prince,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 16 September 1977.

⁹⁴ “The Love Graft: Princess Miguel of Braganza, and the Prince She Bought,” *Spokane Press* (Spokane, Washington), 14 December 1909; “Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again,” *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 25 February 1920; “2,000,000 for Miss Stewart,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 11 July 1909.

⁹⁵ “Princes Effects Removed for Sale,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 13 February 1910; “Creditor Hunts Miguel: Scotland Yard is Asked to Find Anita Stewart’s Husband,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 14 July 1912.

The couple went to Berlin, where Dom Miguel was commissioned in the Saxon cavalry of the Guard. Newspapers reported,

six months later, in March, 1916, when Portugal joined the cause of the allies, Dom Miguel at the instance of his father, the duke of Braganza, resigned his commission in the Saxon army and withdrew with his wife and children to Switzerland. The duke of Braganza felt that it would destroy any prospect he might have of eventually becoming king at Lisbon if he and his sons were to remain in Germany and Austria that is to say, countries with which Portugal was at war.⁹⁶

The trustees of Anita's estate eventually found themselves legally unable to get money to her, and so the Prince left his wife and children and, according to reports, went

once more to Germany, where the Kaiser bestowed upon him a commission as captain of the Sixth Prussian Lancer regiment, with pay and allowances. Dom Miguel's American wife and his children, abandoned to their fate in Switzerland, were subjected to many privations.⁹⁷

Anita wanted to return to the U.S. with her children, but,

as peace between this country and Germany had not yet been definitely concluded, and Dom Miguel, as an officer of the German army, was technically still an enemy alien, a disability shared by his American born wife and by his children, she experienced the utmost difficulty in obtaining permission from the United States government to return to her native land."⁹⁸

⁹⁶ "Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again," *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 20 February 1920.

⁹⁷ "Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again," *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 20 February 1920.

⁹⁸ "Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again," *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 20 February 1920.

Anita successfully returned to the United States with her children in December 1919.⁹⁹ Surprising many, Miguel eventually “came to New York and worked for his brother-in-law’s brokerage firm and became a popular figure here until his death in 1923.” Princess Anita, as she was known, opened a photographic studio in New York and in 1946 married Lewis Gouverneur Morris (a former Wall Street broker). She died in 1977.¹⁰⁰



Dollar princesses in Gilded Age pop culture:

Miss Gabrielle Ray as “Daisy” in the play “The Dollar Princess.” Bassano Photo. Undated. Courtesy Library of Congress.

Gilded Age pop culture was full of heavily stereotyped references to the dollar princess phenomena. One cartoon featured a “Lord Heavydebts” who addresses a woman, saying, “I hate your beastly loud voice and manners, but, er...let’s marry, you know.” “Miss Doubledollar” replies, “I like somebody else better, but just think of the style I could put on...well, I am your girl.”¹⁰¹ A musical comedy of the day, “The American Girl,” included the verse:

The Almighty dollar will buy you, you bet
A superior class of coronet
That’s why I’ve come from over the way
From NYC of the USA.¹⁰²

⁹⁹ “Braganza Princess Here,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 31 December 1919.

¹⁰⁰ “Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again,” *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 20 February 1920; “Anita Stewart Morris, 91, Dies; Heiress wed a European Prince,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 16 September 1977; “Princess Braganca (stet) Married to L.G. Morris,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 11 April 1946; “Princess Braganca (stet) to be Wed April 10,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 23 March 1946; “Royal Prince Sells Life Insurance Here,” *New York Times* (New York, NY), 3 January 1923.

¹⁰¹ MacColl and McD. Wallace, 135.

¹⁰² MacColl and McD. Wallace, 89; Fowler, *In a Gilded Cage: American Heiresses Who Married British Aristocrats* (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1993), xiii.



**Dollar princesses in
Gilded Age pop
culture:**

**Left, an unknown
woman in a 1913
postcard. Courtesy
author's collection.**

**Right: Lady Grey
Egerton (formerly
of Moorestown,
NJ) adorns a
playing card.
Courtesy NY
Public Library
Digital Collection.**

By the turn of the century, this joke was getting old. There was the aforementioned outcry against vast sums of money leaving the States. There was also the plain fact that many of the most well-publicized American/royal marriages were unhappy, ending in scandal or divorce. This was no secret; people talked – and the press, which had covered the early marriages so gleefully, was quick to follow their often sordid ends. As Charles Edward Russell concluded his lengthy 1907 piece in *Red Book Magazine* titled, “Billions for Bad Blue Blood: The Price the Woman Pays,” “IT IS NOT WISE TO BUY AND SELL WOMEN.”¹⁰³ Social norms were changing, too, and the “new” American money made on Wall Street or railroads, in factories or oil fields, either was not so new, or was increasingly accepted. America was gaining importance on the world stage, and European nobility, losing its allure. As Maureen Montgomery, quoting novelist Adelina Kingscote, notes in *Gilded Prostitution*, “Young America no longer wishes to merge itself into another

¹⁰³ Emphasis in the original. Charles Edward Russell, “Billions for Bad Blue Blood: The Price the Woman Pays,” *Red Book Magazine*, November 1908, 48; see also Eliot, 31, 260.

nation...Art, refinement, comfort, luxury, emotion- these are creeping to America; no need to go abroad for them”¹⁰⁴ The death of King Edward VII in 1910– that former playboy prince so enamored with American women– was another blow to the American/royal marriage system. His successors, George and Mary, made it clear they disapproved of American wives and conspicuous consumption.¹⁰⁵ As the 9th Duke of Marlborough remarked, “This period of social intercourse, this period of international relations, is not likely to reoccur because Europe and its traditions no longer appeal with the same force and vigor to the American feminine mind as they did in the closing years of the Victorian era.”

World War I sounded the death knell for American women and royal marriages on a broad scale. A 1920 newspaper read,

These be parlous days for the International marriage. Nearly every liner from Europe brings home women victim American women who bartered through marriage their citizenship for a German, an Austrian or a Hungarian title of more or less authenticity and value. If their positions abroad were awkward and disappointing before 1914, the Great War has now rendered those positions intolerable. So they are returning home, disillusioned and with shipwrecked fortunes to seek refuge in their native land.”¹⁰⁶

And as historian Eric Homberger wrote decades later, “The war turned American attention away from the heiresses, and did much to destroy the world of the European aristocracy. It was Hollywood, not aristocratic chateaux in Europe, which caught the imagination of Americans in the inter-war years.”¹⁰⁷

Today, the dollar princesses have re-entered the popular consciousness a bit thanks to *Downton Abbey* and the 7 episode Smithsonian Channel spin-off, *Million Dollar American Princesses* (2015-2016). Britain’s Prince Harry’s marriage to American actress Meghan Markle

¹⁰⁴ Montgomery, 64.

¹⁰⁵ “To Keep Peers from Debasing their Blood,” *Salt Lake Tribune* (Salt Lake City, Utah), 2 March 1913.

¹⁰⁶ “Princess of Braganza Safely Home Again,” *Pioche Record* (Pioche, Nevada), 20 February 1920.

¹⁰⁷ *Titled Americans*, Introduction; Ferry, 271.

has re-ignited some interest as well, with popular press articles like the BBC's Owen Amos's, "The Other American in Prince Harry's Family" and the Telegraph's Chris Graham's, "Frances Ellen Work: The New York Roots of Prince Harry." In the grand scheme of things, though, the women are largely forgotten. One is unlikely to find them in textbooks. If you look, you can find references to them aplenty in archival sources, particularly newspapers; and there is that small body of secondary literature. Why is that secondary literature, such as it is, so relatively quiet on the "Jersey Girls," to use a popular modern phrase? With close to 500 dollar princesses making the trek overseas during the Gilded Age, it is certainly unsurprising that not all have complete published biographies as Jennie Jerome and Consuelo Vanderbilt do. There has been no purposeful slight to New Jersey. This article consolidates for the first time biographical sketches of some of the very interesting local dollar princesses who have simply fallen through the cracks.

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