Genealogical Evidence and the Americanization of European Family Names

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The purpose of this study is to compare the data on the Americanization of European family names presented in Hanks (2003) with the information that can currently be garnered from the plethora of genealogical websites that have sprung up in the recent past. The results show (1) that many of the origins he proposes fail to conform to the evidence found on those websites, and (2) that most of the surnames which he qualifies as "puzzling" or "unexplained" can be readily accounted for on the basis of this same type of evidence.

KEYWORDS Anthroponomy, Surnames, Americanization, Genealogy, Internet

Introduction

In his article on the Americanization of European surnames in the first two centuries of settlement in the New World, Hanks acknowledges the substantive contribution that the internet has made to his onomastic research:

> In the past few years, the internet has transformed the possibilities for rapid and efficient research in many fields. In no subject is this more true than in personal names research . . . In many cases, the conclusions summarized in this article are indebted, at least in part, to postings on genealogical web sites, too numerous to mention individually. The genealogical evidence is compared with the linguistic patterns of change that are known to have occurred, and evaluated in the light of phonological plausibility. (2003: 141)

Given Hanks' appreciation of the usefulness of the internet in this area, it may seem surprising to find that so many of the origins he proposes are not corroborated by the genealogical evidence one finds there at this point in time. Sometimes it is merely a question of orthographical details (see Appendix 1) but, more often than not, significant differences are found to exist between the etymologies he puts forth and those that the various genealogical websites point to.

However, this can in large part be readily attributed to the exponential growth in the quality and quantity of online genealogical information that has surfaced in the few years since he did his research on this topic. The main purpose of this study, then, is to put forth exactly what genealogical websites currently have to say about the family names for which Hanks (2003) has either proposed a derivation or whose origin he has simply been unable to ascertain, as will be shown in the following two sections.

Alternative origins based on genealogical records

The entries in this section are in alphabetical order and consist of two parts. The source of each Americanized surname proposed by Hanks (2003) is first given along with the page on which it is found, and this is followed (1) by the form of the surname which is suggested by the data that has been found on various genealogical websites, and (2) its origin whenever it can be determined.

It is obviously impossible to provide full genealogical particulars on all the family names under study but anyone interested in verifying these data can do so on websites like Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com, Genealogy.com and FamilySearch.org, or by simply juxtaposing the derived surname and its proposed ancestral form in a search engine like Google. Information can also be gleaned from a plethora of individual family websites whose quality and reliability can vary enormously, and so should generally only be used in conjunction with other correlative and confirmatory data. Needless to say, onomastics is not an exact science but every effort has been made to ensure that all the evidence in support of the proposed origins in this study has been carefully and judiciously weighed.

Abshire

"German *Habicher* 'hawker'" (138)
German *Ibscher* via *Ipsher*, *Ipisher*, from *Überschär* which designated a person living on the remainder of land that was not allotted during the establishment of a village (Bahlow).

Alderfer

"*Alderfer* (German *Altdörfer*)" (151)
Swiss German *Altorfer*, from the placename *Altorf* (*Altdorf*) in Uri.

Altizer

"Dutch ... *Althuyzer* became *Altizer*" (147)
German *Althauser*, from the placename *Althaus* in Rheinland-Pfalz (Bahlow).

Amburgey

"*Amburgey* for [German] *Hamburger*" (127)
German *Amberger*, from the placename *Amberg* in Nordrhein-Westfalen or Bayern.

Amonette

"Amonette *for* [French] Hamond" (123)
French *Amonet*, a variant of *Hamonet*, from the Germanic name *Haimo* (< *haim-* "home") (Tosti, Morlet).

Appleberry

"American *Appleberry* is from Swedish *Appleberg*" (147)

English *Appleberry*, a variant of *Applebury*, probably a placename.

Argue

"*Argue* (from [French] *Arguin*)" (126)

Irish *Argue*, an Anglicization of either *Mac Giolla Fhearga* or *Ó h-Earga* (De Bhulbh, MacLysaght).

Arledge

"English . . . *Arledge* [has] thrived in North America but died out in England" (140)

English *Aldridge*, from the Old English name *Ælfric* (< *alf-* "elf" and *ric* "rule") or *Ædelric* (< *adel-* "noble" and *ric* "rule" (Reaney).

Army

"[French] *Armé* 'armed man' was Americanized as *Army*" (125)

English *Urm(e)y* (also recorded as *Armey*, *Erm(e)y* and *Orm(e)y*).

Arnette

"*Arnette for* [French] *Arnold*" (123)

English *Arnett*, either from the Old English name *Earngeat/ Earngy*D, or from French *Arnet/Arnette* derived from the Germanic name *Arnwald* (< *arn-* "eagle" and *wald* "rule") (Reaney, Tosti, Morlet).

Arquette

"*Arquette for* [French] *Arquet*" (123)

Breton *Arcouet*, a variant of *Argoat*, the name given to inland Brittany (Deshayes).

Averette, Avaritte

"*Averette and* Everette *for* [English] Everett" (123); "*Avaritte* for [English] *Everett*" (127)

English *Avory/Avery* via *Averett/Averitt/Everett*, from Old English *Ælfræd* (< *alf* "elf" and *rad* "counsel") via Latin *Alveredus* and French *Auvray* (Reaney, Morlet, Tosti).

Axley

"*Axley* (German *Öchsle*)" (151)

English *Axley*, probably an alteration of the common placename *Ashley* (cf. *Axford* from *ash(tree)+ford* in Ekwall, Mills).

Ballengee

"*Ballengee*: from either of two Dutch habitational names, *Van Baelinghem* and *Van Belenghien*. In some cases it may come from *Ballegeer* (from French *Boulanger*)" (147-148)

French *Bellanger*, from Germanic *Beringari* (< *ber(in)-* "bear" and *gari* "spear") (Morlet, Tosti).

Balsbaugh

"German . . . *Pfalzbach* ([became] *Balsbaugh*)" (150)
German *Balsbach*, a placename in Baden-Württemberg.

Barickman

"*Barickman* is from German *Barichmann*" (150)
German *Bergman(n)*, from the common placename *Berg* (Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Barkdoll, Bergdoll

"*Barkdoll/Bergdoll* (Swedish *Bergdahl* 'mountain'")" (135)
German *Berthold*, from the Germanic name *Berhtwald* (< *berht-* "bright" and *wald* "rule") (Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Bashaw

"*Bashaw* (from [French] *Bachoie*)" (126)
French *Bachand*, from the placename *Bachant* in Nord (Tosti).

Baucom, Baucum

"*Balcombe* (a habitational name from a village in Sussex) is spelled variously *Balcum*, *Baucom*, *Baucum* and otherwise in North America)" (134)
German *Von Bakum*, from the placename *Bakum* in Niedersachsen.

Beagley

"*Beagley* (Swiss German *Büchli*, south German *Büchle*)" (151)
English *Beagley*, probably an alteration of the common placename *Bagley* or *Baguley* in Manchester (Reaney).

Bebout, Beabout

"*Bebout*, *Beabout*: probably Americanized forms of French *Bibeau*" (142)
Flemish *Biebaut*, from the Germanic name *Bitbald* (Germain & Herbillon).

Boshers, Boshears, Beshears

"*Boshers*, *Boshears*, *Beshears*: these are probably Americanized forms of the [French] personal name *Bouchard*" (142)
French *Brasseur* via *Broshers*, *Broshears*, *Breshears*, from *brasseur* "brewer" (Morlet, Tosti).

Boyes

"*Boyes* from [French] *Bois*" (126)
English *Boyes*, either from the common French placename *(Le) Bois* or the Germanic name *Boio* (Reaney).

Boyette

"Boyette *for* [French] Boyault" (123)
English *Boyett*, from French *Boyet*, probably a derived from *Boyer*, a variant of *bouvier* "herdsman, cattleman" (cf. *Boyat* in Morlet).

Brine

"Dutch . . . *Bruyn* became *Brine*" (147)
Irish *(O') Brien*, from *Ó Briain* (cf. *Mac Brien/Mac Brine* in De Bhulbh).

Brokaw

"*Brokaw* . . .: from the [Dutch] personal name *Brokaert* or *Brockhard*" (148)
French *Broucard*, from the Germanic name *Burghard* (< *burg-* "fortress, stronghold"
  and *hard* "hard") (Tosti).

Broker

"*Broker* . . .: from the [Dutch] personal name *Brokaert* or *Brockhard*" (148)
German *Bröker*, from the placename *Brök* in Schleswig-Holstein.

Brookhart

"*Brookhart*: from the [Dutch] personal name *Brokaert* or *Brockhard*" (148)
German *Bruckhar(d)t*, an alteration of *Burkhard*, from the Germanic name *Burghard*
  (< *burg-* "fortress, stronghold" and *hard* "hard") (Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Budlong

"*Budlong*: from French *Bouillon*" (142)
Probably from French *Boudillon* or *Budillon*.

Burum

"*Burham* (a habitational name from a village in Kent) is spelled *Burum* in North
  America" (134)
Dutch *Van Burum*, from the placename *Burum* in Friesland.

Bushong

"*Bushong* (from [French] *Bouchon*)" (126)
French *Beauchamp*, a common placename (Morlet, Tosti).

Cagley

"German *Kegler* 'skittle-player', which in colloquial usage denoted an illegitimate
  child, became American *Cagley*" (121)
German *Göckel* via *Kegley*, probably derived from *Gottfried* (< *god-* "god" and *frid*
  "peace") (cf. *Göcke* in Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Camire

"*Camire* for [German] *Kammeyer*" (127)
French *Camiré*, of undetermined origin (Tosti).

Caouette

"Caouette *for* [French] Caillouet" (123)
French *Ca(h)ouet* via Canadian French *Caouette*, from Old Picard *caüe* "jackdaw,"
  a nickname for a loud-mouthed, noisy person (Morlet, Tosti).

Carmony

"*Carmony* (from [French] *Garmigny*, a habitational name from Germigny in Seine-et-Marne)" (127)

French *Carmier* via the Germanicized form *Karmine* (and many other variants), derived from *carême* "Lent," a nickname for someone who fasted during this period (Morlet).

Catching

"*Catching*: from [German] *Götting* or North German *Gätjen*" (152)

English surname, probably an alteration of *Kitchen* (cf. the alteration of *Kitchens* to *Catchings* in MS in the late 1800s), a nickname for someone who worked in a kitchen (Reaney).

Cearley

"*Cearley* (German *Zierle*)" (151)

English *Kerley* via *Carley*, from the placename *Kirkley* in Suffolk (Reaney).

Cheairs

"*Cheairs*: of uncertain etymology, possibly from *Croix-de-la-Chaire*, the name of a district of Genis-Terrenoire" (142)

French *De La Chaire* via *Chaires*, from the common placename *La Chaire* (cf. *Lachaire* in Morlet).

Childrey

"English ... *Childrey* [has] thrived in North America but died out in England" (140)

English *Childers*, from Old English **cildrahus* "children's house, orphanage" (Reaney).

Chisler

"*Chisler* ... from [German] *Schüssler* 'bowl-maker'" (121)

German *Chris(t)ler*, derived from *Christian* (Bahlow).

Chisley

"*Chisley* ... from *Schüssler* 'bowl-maker'" (121)

English *Chisley*, from the placename *Chicheley* in Milton Keynes (Reaney).

Chewning, Chowning

"German *Schöning* ... became *Chowning* and *Chewning*" (151)

English *Chevening*, a placename in Kent.

Coriell, Coryell

"*Coriell*, *Coryell*: from French *Carrière* 'quarry'" (143)

French *Querelle*, from *querelle* "quarrel," a nickname for a quarrelsome person (Morlet).

Corzine

"*Corzine*: Dutch form of a Huguenot name the origin of which has not been identified, though perhaps *Corsin*" (143)

Dutch *Cosijns* (formerly *Cosÿns*), from Old French *cousin* "friend, fellow, kinsman" (cf. English *Cousins*) (Germain & Herbillon, Morlet, Tosti).

Crispell

"*Crispell*: from French *Crespeau* 'curly-haired'" (143)

French *Crispel*, a variant of Old French *crespel* "frizzy, curly" (Tosti, Germain & Herbillon).

Crusan, Cruzan, Cruson, Cruzen

"Dutch . . . *Cruyssen* became *Cruzan*" (147); "*Crusan, Cruzan, Cruson, Cruzen*: from *Cruyssen*, habitational name for someone from any of numerous places in the Netherlands . . ." (148)

Dutch *Kroesen*, derived either from Middle Dutch *croes* "curl" or *cro(e)se* "pitcher, jug" (cf. Flemish *Croe(s)* in Germain & Herbillon).

Cudney

"*Cudney* (German *Kuttner* or *Küttner*)" (151)

English *Codner* via *Cudner*, a variant of *Cordner*, from Old French *cordoanier* (> French *cordonnier*) "cordwainer, shoemaker" (Reaney).

Cushenberry

"American . . . *Cushenberry* is from German *Kusenberg*" (147)

English *Questenberry*/*Questenbury* via *Quisenberry*/*Cusenberry*, from the German placename *Questenberg* in Sachsen-Anhalt.

Damerow

"*Damerow* (from [French] *Damereau*)" (126)

German *Damerow*, a common placename.

Dana

"a variant of *D'Aunay*, from any of several places in France called *Aunay*" (126)

English *Dawney*, from French *Daunay*, i.e., *d'Aunay* "from Aunay," a common placename (Harrison, Reaney, Morlet).

Defreece, Defreese

"*Defreece, Defreese*: from Dutch *De Vries* 'the Frisian'" (148)

French *Deforest* via *Deforeest*/*Defreest*/*Defrees*, from the placename *Forest* in Belgium (Germain & Herbillon).

Delano

"*Delano*: the French name *Delanoue* comes from *de la noie* 'from the swamp'" (143)

French *Delannoy*, from the common placename *Lannoy* (Tosti, Morlet).

Depoy

"*Depoy* from [French] *Depuis*" (126)
French *Dupuy*, from the common placename *Le Puy* (Morlet, Tosti).

Deshong

"*Deshong* (from [French] *Deschaux*)" (126)
French *Deschamps*, from the common placename *Les Champs* (Morlet, Tosti).

Deyo, Deyoe

"*Deyo*, *Deyoe*: Christian Deyo, also known as Christian d'Oiau . . ." (143)
French *de Iou*, an archaic spelling of *de Joux*, from the common placename *Joux*
(cf. *Dejoux* in Tosti).

Dicus, Dycus

"*Dicus*, *Dycus* . . .: from Dutch *Dijkhuis* 'house by the dike'" (148)
English *Dicas*, an alteration of *Dykehouse*, from the placename *Dyke House* in
Durham (Bardsley).

Disharoon

"*Disharoon* (most probably from [French] *de Charente*)" (126)
French surname, first recorded as *Dusharoone*, origin undetermined.

Dobry

"*Dobry*: French *Dobrée* . . ." (144)
Czech *Dobrý*, from *dobrý* "good, kind" (Hanks & Hodges).

Dukelow

"*Dukelow*: most probably an Americanized form of French *Duclos*" (144)
Irish *Dukelow*, an Anglicization of French *Duclos*, from the common placename *Le
Clos* (De Bhulbh, Morlet, Tosti).

Durfee, Durfey

"*Durfee*, *Durfey*: French *D'Urfé*, a habitational name from the chateau of Urfé in the
Loire Valley" (144)
English *Durfee*, from French *D'Urfé* "from Urfé," a placename in Loire (De Bhulbh,
Morlet, Tosti).

Dutcher

"*Dutcher*: an ethnic name for a German (*Deutscher*)" (152)
Dutch *De Duyster*, from Middle Dutch *duister/duyster* "gloomy, stupid" (cf. *Duisters*
in Germain & Herbillon).

Faler

"*Faler* (German *Pfähler*)" (150)
German *Fehler*, a variant of *Feiler* "file maker/cutter" (Bahlow).

Favor(s)

"*Fèvre* . . . was Americanized . . . as *Favor(s)*" (125)

English *Favour*, from Old French *favo(u)r* "help, mercy, beauty" (cf. *Faver(s)* in Reaney).

Forgey

"*Forgey* (from [French] *Forget*)" (126)

Irish *Forgey*, from the Scottish placename *Forgie* in Banffshire (De Bhulbh, Black).

Fortney

"*Fortney* (German *Pförtner*)" (150)

French *Fortineau*, derived from *fort* "strong" (Morlet, Tosti).

Frazee

"American variants [of] . . . Dutch *De Vries* 'the Frisian' . . . include *Frazee*" (148)

Scottish *Frazee*, a variant of *Frazer/Fraser*, of undetermined French origin (cf. *Frasee* in Black).

Gano, Ganoe

"*Gano*, *Ganoe*: from the medieval French forename *Goneau*, *Gonot*, or *Guéneau*" (144)

French *Ganeau*, derived from the Germanic name *Wano* (< *wan-* "hope") (Morlet).

Gaylor, Gaylord

"*Gaylord*, *Gaylor*: from French *Gaillard* 'robust'" (144)

English *Gaylord*, from French *Gaillard*, either from the Germanic name **Gailhard* (< *gail-* "happy" and *hard* "hard") or Old French *gaillard* "lively, vigorous" (Reaney, Tosti, Morlet).

Golladay, Golliday

"*Golladay*, *Golliday*: from Breton *Galloudec*" (144)

French *Gallaudet*, from the Germanic name *Galawald* (< *gal-* "song" and *wald* "rule") (cf. *Gallaud* in Morlet).

Goodroad

"*Goodroad* (from [French] *Gaudreau*)" (127)

French-Canadian *Beauchemin*, translated from *beau* "nice" and *chemin* "road."

Goyer

"*Goyer* . . .: from a region called *Gooi* in the Netherlands)" (148)

German *Geyer/Geier*, either from the placename *Geyer* in Sachsen or *Geier* "vulture," the nickname of a greedy person (Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Grider

"Dutch . . . *De Gruyter* became *Grider*" (147)

German *Greiter*, derived from the placename *Greit* in Bayern.

Helmandollar

"*Helmandollar* (person from *Helmenthal* [in Germany])" (149)
German *Hellenthal* (via *Helmantel* and *Helmantoler*), a placename in Nordrhein-
  Westfalen.

Hemstreet

"*Hemstreet*: from Frisian *Heemstraa/Hemstra*" (148)
Dutch *Van Heemstraaten* (via *Heemstraat*), probably a placename.

Kerbaugh

"*Kerbaugh* . . .: from French *Corbeau*" (144)
German *Kerbach*, a placename in Moselle.

Labauve, Labove

"American Form Labove, Labauve [. . .] French Source Leboeuf '*the bull*'" (124)
French *Labauve* or *Labove*, from the common placename *La Bauve* or *La Bove*.

Lachat

"American Form Lachat [. . .] French Source Lechat '*the cat*'" (124)
French *Lachat*, from the common placename *Lachat* in France or Switzerland
  (Montandon, Morlet, Tosti).

Lamunyon

"*Lamunyon* for . . . Irish . . . *Munyon*" (127)
French *Le Moignon*, derived from Old French *moing* "maimed, crippled," the
  nickname of a one-armed or armless man (cf. *Lemoigne*, *Moignon* in Morlet,
  Tosti, Deshayes).

Lavanway

"*Lavanway* (for [French] *Lavanois*)" (125)
French-Canadian *Livernois*, an alteration of *Nivernois*, derived from the placename
  Nevers in Nièvre.

Linkous

"Henry Linkous['] . . . original [German] name is . . . lost" (132)
German *Linkhorst*, probably a placename (< Middle Low German *horst*
  "undergrowth, brushwood").

Marmon

"*Marmon* (from [French] *Marmont*, the name of places in Lot-et-Garonne and Ain)"
  (126)
English *Merrimoon*, a variant of *Merriman*, from *merry man* (Reaney).

Marso

"*Marso* (from *Marceau*, a variant of *Marcel*)" (126)
Luxembourgian *Marso* (also found in Belgium, France and Germany), of uncertain
  origin (Germain & Herbillon).

Molette

"Molette *for* [French] Molet" (123)
English *Mollett*, a derivative of *Moll*, a pet name for *Mary* (Reaney).

Oakleaf

"Swedish *Eklöf* . . . is first recorded as *Oakleaf* in America" (136)
German *Eichenlaub*, translated from *Eiche* "oak" and *Laub* "leaf."

Ouellette

"Ouellette *for* [French] Ouilet" (123)
French *Ouellet* via French-Canadian *Ouellette*, probably an alteration of *Houellet*, from Old French *ho(u)el* "mattock," the nickname of someone who made or used this type of implement (cf. *Houel* in Tosti, Morlet).

Ourso

"*Ourso* (from [French] *Ourseau* 'little bear')" (126)
Italian *Urso*, from the Latin name *Ursus* (< *ursus* "bear") (Francipane, Tosti).

Outland

"*Outland*: . . . from Dutch *Uitland(er)* 'foreigner, stranger' or from . . . *Van den Ouwenland* 'from the new land'" (149)
Dutch *Oudeland*, a placename in Zeeland and Zuid-Holland.

Overstreet

"*Overstreet* . . .: from Dutch *Overstraete* . . ." (149)
English *Overstreet*, probably a placename.

Perigo

"*Perigo* (from [French] *Périgord*)" (127)
French *Périgois*, of uncertain origin (Tosti).

Perisho

"*Perisho* (from [French] *Pariseau*)" (127)
French *Périchot*, from Breton *Péric*, derived from *Per* "Peter" (Morlet, Tosti).

Pettibone

"*Pettibone* (from [French] *Petitbon* 'good little fellow')" (126)
English *Pettibone*, from French *Petitbon*, an agglutination of *petit Bon* "little Bon, Bon's son" (Tosti).

Piatz

"*Piatz*: a Germanized form of the French personal name *Piat*, Latin *Piatus*, taken first to Germany and then to North America by Huguenot refugees" (145)
Russian German *Piatz*, of undetermined origin.

Porcupine

"*Porcupine*: from either *Brechbühl* 'Brecht's hill' or *Birckenbühl* 'birch-tree hill'"
  (152)
Amerindian *Porcupine*, no longer extant.

Poteet

"*Poteet*: unexplained name brought to Maryland from England by Francis Poteet in
  1667. It is believed that he was a Huguenot" (145)
Italian surname, probably *Potito*, from the Latin name *Potitus* (De Felice).

Poythress

"*Poythress*: probably an altered form of French *Poitras*" (145)
English *Poyt(h)ress*, of undetermined origin.

Provine

"Dutch *Provijn* became *Provine*" (147)
Irish *Purviance*, from Old French *porveance* "supplies, provisions, stock," hence the
  nickname of a purveyor of some sort (cf. Scottish *Purveyance* in Black).

Pushard

"[German] *Buschardt* became *Pushard*" (150)
French *Pochard*, probably a variant of *Bo(u)chard*, from the Germanic name *Burghard*
  (< *burg-* "fortress, stronghold" and *hard* "hard") (Tosti).

Rainwater

"[German] *Rainwater*: from *Reinwasser* 'pure water'" (152)
English *Rainwater*, probably from Dutch/Flemish *Van Regenmorter* via *Rain(e)morter*
  and *Raynewat(t)er*, of undetermined origin.

Remley

"*Remley* (German *Rammler*)" (151)
German *Römmele*, from Middle High German *rommeln* "to make noise, bluster"
  (Bahlow).

Renew

"*Renew*: Anglicization of French *Reneau*" (145)
English *Renew*, from French *Renou(x)*, Germanic *Raginwulf* (< *ragin-* "counsel" and
  wulf "wulf") (Morlet, Tosti).

Rippetoe

"English ... *Rippetoe* [has] thrived in North America but died out in England"
  (140)
French surname, first recorded as *Ribbedeau*, probably French *Ribaudeau*, derived
  from *Ribaud*, from the Germanic name *Ricbald* (< *ric-* "rule" and *bald-* "bold")
  (Morlet).

Robinette

"Robinette *for* [French] *Robinet*" (123)

English *Robinett*, from French *Robinet* or *Robinette*, derived from *Robert*, from the Germanic name *Hrodberht* (*hrod-* "renown" and *berht* "bright, famous") (Bardsley, Harrison, Tosti, Morlet).

Sawtelle

"*Sawtelle* (from [French] *Desautels*" (126)

English *Sawtell*, of undetermined origin.

Semar

"*Semar*: Germanized form of French *Saint Marc*" (145)

German *Semar*, from the Germanic name *Sigmar* (< *sig-* "victory" and *mar* "famous") (Tosti).

Sharum

"*Sharum* from [French] *Charron*" (126)

French *Ducharme*, from the common placename *Le Charme* (Morlet, Tosti).

Shaver

"... from Dutch *Schouwer*, an occupational name for an inspector of market weights and measures" (149)

German *Schäfer* "shepherd" (Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Trice

"*Trice* is probably from German *Treis* "fallow land" [or] from a place called *Treis* in Hesse" (132)

English *Trice*, of undetermined origin.

Tullos

"*Tullos* for [Scottish] *Tulloch*" (127)

Scottish *Tullos*, either a variant of *Tullis*, derived from Gaelic *Mac an Tuile* via *Tully* (> *tuile* "flood"), or from the placename *Tullos* in the City of Aberdeen (Black, Harrison, De Bhulbh, MacLysaght).

Twombly

"*Tremblay* 'aspen' ... gave rise to ... *Twombly*" (127)

English *Twombly*, from the placename *Twemlow Green* in Cheshire (Bardsley, Harrison).

Van Roekel

"*Van Roekel*: Dutch form of [French] *De La Rochelle*" (146)

Dutch *Van Roekel*, from the placename *Roekel* in Gelderland.

Vaughter, Vawter

"German ... *Wachter* became *Vaughter*"; "German ... *Vater* became *Vawter*" (150)

English *Vawter*, from the French placename *Vautorte* in Mayenne.

Verplank

"*Verplank*: probably a Dutchified form of French *Le Blanc* 'white'" (146)

Dutch *Verplank*, from *van der plank* "from the board, plank" as used for a wooden footbridge, probably a placename (cf. Flemish *Verplancke* ("petit pont en bois") in Germain & Herbillon).

Vulgamore

"*Vulgamore*: from [German] *Frankheimer*" (152)

German *Wohlgemuth*, from *wohlgemut* "happy, cheerful" (Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Wingo

"*Wingo*: Americanized form of French *Vigneau* 'vineyard'" (146)

English *Wingo*, of undetermined origin.

Yancey

"*Yancey* is . . . from . . . [Dutch] *Jansen* or *Janse*" (146)

Welsh surname, thought to be an alteration of *Nanney*, from the placename *Nannau* in Gwynedd (Morgan & Morgan).

Yando

"*Yando(w)* (from [French] *Gandon*)" (127)

French-Canadian *Riendeau*, an alteration of *Raguideau* via *Reguindeau*, from *raguider* "to spy on," the nickname of a nosy person (Tosti, Morlet).

Yandow

"*Yando(w)* (from [French] *Gandon*" (127)

French *Guindon*, of uncertain origin (Tosti).

Yeagley, Yeakle

"German . . . *Jäckle* is found as *Yeagley* and *Yeakle*" (150)

Swiss German *Juchli*, of undetermined origin.

Yeargin, Yeargain

"German . . . *Jürgen* is found as *Yeargin* and *Yeargain*" (150)

Welsh *Eurgain*, probably from the placename *Llan-Eurgain* (now Northop) in Flintshire (< *llan* "church" and *Eurgain*, the mythical foundress of Wales).

Yearous

"*Yearous* from the [Dutch] personal name *Joris* (from *Gregorius*)" (146)

German *Jahraus*, a variant of *Jahreis(s)*, either derived from *Gregor(ius)* "Gregory" or from Middle High German *garisen* "ready forged iron" (Jones, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Genealogical data and surnames of undetermined origin

In addition to the many surnames for which Hanks proposes an etymology, whether it be in conformity with the currently available genealogical data or not, he is forced to acknowledge that "[s]ome American names remain unexplained or puzzling, despite the best combined efforts of scholars and family historians" (2003: 137). However, it turns out that most of the surnames he cites do have ready explanations in terms of their national origins if not always etymologically. Following is an account of the cases of the "origin unidentified" surnames he cites as examples:

Anas

Flemish *Van Asse* via French *Vanasse*, from the placename *Asse* in Belgium (Germain & Herbillon).

Arritt

German *Ehret*, derived from Germanic *Erhard* (< *era-* "honor" and *hard* "hard") (Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Bagdon

Lithuanian *Bagdonas*, from Polish *Bogdan* composed of *Bog* "God" and *dan* "gift."

Barbush

Italian *Barbuscio*, derived from *barba* "beard."

Barganier

French *Bergaigne*, from Old French *bargaigne* "bickering, haggling, bargaining," probably the nickname of a tradesman or a quarrelsome individual.

Bargerstock

German *Birkenstock*, a placename in the Rhine area (Bahlow).

Batcho

Hungarian *Bacsó*, from *bacsó* "master shepherd" (Kálmán).

Bedillion

French *Petill(i)on/Pétill(i)on*, from Old French *petillon* "point, thorn," a nickname of uncertain connotation (Tosti, Deshayes).

Bendure

German *Bandur*.

Binkerd

German *Binkert*, a variant of *Benkert*, from the placename *Benk* in Bayern, or derived from *Benk* "bench," the nickname of a cabinet maker (Jones, Bahlow).

Bistany

Lebanese variant of Arabic *B(o)ustani*, from *bustani* "gardener."

Bleth

German *Bleth*.

Bloodsaw

English *Bledsoe*, from the placename *Bletsoe* in Bedfordshire (Smith).

Borash

Polish *Borosz/Boroś*, probably derived from first names like *Borzys...aw* and *Bolebor* (< *bor-* "fight, battle").

Boruff

German *Bogenreiff*, from *Bogen* "bend, curve" and *reif* "barrel hoop," probably the nickname of a cooper (cf. *Reiff* in Bahlow).

Brickson

Norwegian *Eriksen* via *Erickson*, from Germanic *Eirikr* (< *era-* "honor" and *ric* "power") and *sønn* "son" (Hanks & Hodges).

Byassee

English or Scottish *Byars* via *Byas(s)*, from the placename *Byers Green* in Durham or *Byres* in East Lothian, or Old English *byre* "cattleshed" (Reaney).

Bybee

English *Bibby*, derived from *Isabel* via *Bibb* (Reaney).

Carnicom

German *Kernekamp*, from *Kern* "kernel, grain" and *Kamp* "field," probably a placename (cf. *Kern* and *Kamp* in Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Chriscow

Polish *Kryśko* via German *Chriscau*, derived from *Krys-* as in the names *Kryspin*, *Krystyn*, *Krysztof*, etc. (Hoffman).

Dasenbrock

German *Dasenbrock*.

Derryberry

German *Dürrenberger*, from one of the places named *Dürrenberg*.

Derse

German *Derse*.

Desko

Slovak *Desko*.

Gildow

German *Kildau*.

Givner

Jewish *Givner*, derived from *Gibel* via *Givel*, a kinnui for *Gabriel* (Guggenheimer & Guggenheimer).

Glymph

German *Glimpf*, apparently from *Glimpf* "indulgence, leniency," the nickname of a kindly person.

Goheen

Probable alteration of Irish *Guiheen*, an anglicization of *Ó Gaothín*, from *gaoth* "wind" (MacLysaght, De Bhulbh).

Gołis

Polish *Gołis*, derived from *go...y* "bare, naked," probably the nickname of a pauper or a bald-headed man (Hoffman, Hanks & Hodges).

Gongola

Polish *Gągola*, from *gęga* "goose," probably the nickname of a gooseherd (Hoffman).

Hankla

English *Hankley*, probably a placename (cf. *Hankley Common* in Surrey).

Hardina

Czech *Hrdina*, derived from *hrdý* "proud, haughty, conceited" (Hanks & Hodges).

Hickernell

German *Hagenau*, a common placename in Germany.

Hively

German *Haible*, a regional variant of *Haub(e)l*, from *Haube* "bonnet," a nickname for a maker or seller of this item (Bahlow).

Hoppock

German *Haubach*, a placename in Baden-Württemburg.

Jadwin

English *Jadwin*, probable alteration of *Jeudwin*, an Anglo-French pronunciation of *Goldwin*, from the Old English name *Goldwine* composed of *gold-* "gold" and *win* "friend" (Reaney).

Jenelle

French *Journel* via *Journell* and *Jernell*, derived from *jour* "day," probably the nickname of a day laborer (Tosti).

Jividen

French *Gévaudan*, a placename in Lozère and Alpes-de-Haute-Provence.

Kagarise

German *Kegreiss*.

Karrels

Luxemburgian *Karels*, a variant of *Charles* (Germain & Herbillon).

Larr

German *Lahr*, a common placename in Germany.

Leckrone

German *Leckron*.

Luckadoo

French *Lucadou*, from the placename *Le Lucadou* in Aveyron.

Mallernee

French *Moulineaux* via *Molyneaux* and *Mallonee*, from the common placename *(Les) Moulineaux* in Normandy.

Mehok

Hungarian *Mihók*, derived from *Mihály* "Michael" (Kálmán).

Nafus

Flemish *Neeff*, from Middle Dutch *neef* "nephew" (Germain & Herbillon).

Namanny

German *Namanny*, probable alteration of Hungarian *Namény*, of uncertain origin (Kálmán).

Narehood

German *Nedderhut* via *Nederhood* and *Nerhut*.

Noojin

Irish *Newgent*, a variant of *Nugent*, from the common French placename *Nogent* (MacLysaght, De Bhulbh, Reaney).

Omohundro

English *Omohundro*, probably an alteration of *Mohun*, from the French placename *Moyon* in Normandy (Bardsley).

Pitstick

German *Pützstück*.

Plybon

Probable alteration of German *Bleibaum*, a variant of the habitational name *Blöhbaum*, from Middle Low German *bloen* "bloom" and German *Baum* "tree" (Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Reliford

English *Rutherford*, a placename in Roxburghshire.

Shelnutt

German *Schildknecht*, from *schild* "shield" and *knecht* "servant," the nickname of a knight's squire (Bahlow, Jones).

Shelor

German *Schüler* "pupil, student" (Bahlow, Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Sroufe

German *Schroff*, from Middle High German *schroffe* "sharp stone, jagged rock" (Kohlheim & Kohlheim).

Tresner

German *Tressner*, probably derived from the placename *Tressau* in Bayern or *Tressow* in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

Tyo

French *Taillon*, probably derived from Old French *tailleor* "tailor; stone cutter; glass engraver; vine pruner; tallage collector."

Conclusion

As noted at the outset, the proliferation of internet websites devoted to genealogy has opened up onomastic vistas that are nothing short of revolutionary and that would have been undreamed of just a few years ago. Yet, the study of the origin and development of family names in North America must be seen as a work in progress rather than a fait accompli for much still remains to be done in this area.

For example, apart from the "origin unidentified" surnames cited by Hanks (2003) that were accounted for in the last section, there are others which still remain partially or completely mysterious in terms of their European provenience. In some cases, little is missing except the exact form of the original name. Thus, *Vitatoe* has been traced back to Jean Vittiteau born in Condom, France, in 1630. The only problem is that *Vittiteau* is not a known French surname and efforts to associate it with one have remained unsuccessful. In other cases, the country of origin is known or suspected but nothing else, e.g., *Drumwright* (Germany), *Gilyeo* (England), *Manasco* (Wales).

Then there are those for which the trail simply runs cold somewhere in the US at some point during the seventeenth or eighteenth century, and beyond which nothing can be ascertained at the present time. These include *Clevidence* (Maryland *c.* 1740), *Clubine* (New Jersey 1764), *Coaxum* (South Carolina *c.* 1800), *Corprew* (unknown *c.* 1620), *Lasyone* (Louisiana 1801), *Manire* (Virginia *c.* 1680), *Peatross* (< *Patris*) (Virginia *c.* 1658). In sum, although work in this area of onomastic research has progressed enormously in the past few years, it is far from complete and still awaits further investigation.

Appendix 1

The following surnames have been found through the same sort of online genealogical research described at the outset to have slightly different original forms (though identical or very similar etymologies) than those given in Hanks (2003).

NA surname	Hanks	Genealogical records
Abair	Habert	Hébert
Ashey	Hachet/Hachée	Haché
Ballor	Ballard	Balard
Bartlette	Bartlett	Bartlette
Beachler	Büchler	Bichler
Beaudette/Bodette	Baudet	Beaudet
Betcher	Böttcher	Betcher
Bobo	Bobeau	Baubeau
Bonesteel	Bohnestiel	Bohnenstiel
Bonette	Bonet	Bonnette
Brackbill	Brechbühl	Brechbühler
Cleckner	Klöckner	Glöckner
Conine	Konijn	Conyn
Creviston	Gravenstein/Greifenstein	Greiffenstein
Deaderick	Diederick (Dutch)	Dietterich (German)
Deatrick	Diederick (Dutch)	Dietrich (German)
Deshazo	Deschazeau	De Chazeaux
Deshane	Duchêne	Deschênes
Dickensheets	Dickenscheid	Dickenschied
Downhour	Daunhauer	Dauenhauer
Esterline	Österling	Österlen
Evilsizor	Ebelshaüser	Ibelshauser
Faucette	Fawcett	Fausset
Philyaw/Fillyaw/ Filyaw	Filiault	Filieux
Fraleigh	Fröhlich	Frölich
Frownfelter	Frauenfelter	Frauenfelder
Hawver	Haver (Dutch)	Haber (German)
Holtsclaw	Holzklau	Holtzklau
Keplinger	Köpplinger	Keplinger
Lafavor	Lefèvre	Lefebvre
Lamaster	Lemaître	Lemaistre
Laizure/Leisure	Lesieur	Lesueur
Lowmaster	Lohmeister	Laumeister
Lybrand	Liutbrand	Leibbrand
Majette	Majette	Maget
Milette	Emilet	Milet (< Émile)
Minette	Minet	Minette
Morissette	Mauricet	Morisset (< Maurice)
Peckenpaugh/Peckinpah	Bickenbach	Beckenbach

Peelman	Biehlmann	Bielman
Rewis	Ruijs	Ruis
Rulon	Roland	Rolland
Sackrider	Sackreuter	Sackenreuter
Shorette	Charrette	Charette
Shryock	Schreijöck	Schreijack
Teets	Dietz (German)	Tiets (Dutch)
Teffeteller	Diefenthäler	Tiefenthäler
Turnipseed	Rübesam	Rebsamen
Utsey	Jutze	Jutzi
Vestal	Vasseur	Vassal
Yantz/Yonts/Yontz/Younts	Jansz (Dutch)	Janss (German)
Yaun	Jan (Dutch)	Jaun (Swiss German)
Yerkey	Jerke	Jerkes
Yoakum	Joachim	Jochem
Yoast	Joost (Dutch)	Jost (German)
Yo(u)nker	Jonker (Dutch)	Juncker (German)
Youtsey	Jutze	Jutzy

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