

SOME MORE POSSESSIONS

JIM PUDE
Saratoga, California

In her article “Possessions” in the May 2017 *Word Ways*, Susan Thorpe presented an A-Z listing of phrases which consist of the possessive of a personal name and some noun or noun phrase with which it is familiarly linked, e.g., “Finnegan’s Wake.” Susan’s spare roster of examples of this prepossessingly possessive posse did not attempt to be comprehensive, and neither does this lengthier supplemental one:

Mathematics: ABEGG’S RULE, ABEL’S THEOREM, ARCHIMEDES’ PROBLEM, BERNOULLI’S THEOREM, DE MOIVRE’S THEOREM, DE MORGAN’S THEOREM, DESARGUES’ THEOREM, DESCARTES’ RULE OF SIGNS, EUCLID’S ALGORITHM, EULER’S EQUATION/FORMULA, FERMAT’S PRINCIPLE, FOURIER’S THEOREM, GAUSS’S THEOREM, GOLDBACH’S CONJECTURE, HUDDE’S RULES, LAPLACE’S EQUATIONS, NEWTON’S METHOD/PARALLELOGRAM, PASCAL’S LAW/TRIANGLE, RIEMANN’S HYPOTHESIS

Science and Technology: ARCHIMEDES’ PRINCIPLE/SCREW, BISHOP’S RING, COULOMB’S LAW, EINSTEIN’S PHOTOELECTRIC EQUATION, EVE’S CONSTANT, GAUSE’S PRINCIPLE, GOLDBEATER’S SKIN, GOLDSCHMIDT’S PROCESS, HALLEY’S METHOD, HENRY’S LAW, HEISENBERG’S PRINCIPLE, HUBBLE’S CONSTANT, HUYGHENS’ PRINCIPLE, KELVIN’S LAW, KIRCHOFF’S LAW, MAXWELL’S DEMON, NEWTON’S DISC, NEWTON’S LAW OF COOLING/MOTION, OLDHAM’S COUPLING, PASCHEN’S LAW, SCHRÖDINGER’S CAT/WAVE EQUATION, WALLACE’S LINE, WEBER’S LINE, ZÖLLNER’S LINES (optical illusion)

Fauna ALLEN’S SWAMP MONKEY, BAIRD’S TAPIR, BRYDE’S WHALE, BURCHELL’S ZEBRA, COMMERSON’S DOLPHIN, COOPER’S HAWK, DALL’S PORPOISE, DARWIN’S FINCH/FROG/SHEEP, DAVID’S SQUIRREL, DE BRAZZA’S MONKEY, DEMIDOFF’S BUSHBABY, DEVILLE’S TAMARIN, EVERETT’S TREE SHREW, FOWLER’S TOAD, GEOFFROY’S CAT, GOELDI’S MARMOSET, GRANT’S ZEBRA, GREVY’S ZEBRA, HAMLYN’S GUENON, HENDES’ WOOLY MONKEY, JACKSON’S CHAMELEON, KLOSS’ GIBBON, LADY AMHERST’S PHEASANT, MILLER’S CHAMELEON/MONGOOSE, OERSTED’S SQUIRREL MONKEY, ORSINI’S VIPER, OWSTON’S PALM CIVET, PALLAS’ CAT, PERE DAVID’S DEER, PHARAOH’S CHICKEN, PREZEWALSKI’S HORSE, ROSS’S GOOSE/GULL/SEAL, RUSSELL’S VIPER, SMITH’S LONGSPUR, STELLER’S EIDER/JAY/SEA COW/SEA EAGLE/SEA LION, TEMMINCK’S GOLDEN CAT/PANGOLIN/STINT, VENUS’S FLOWER BASKET (a sponge)/GIRDLE (a ribbon-like marine animal), VERREAUX’S SIFAKA, WHITE’S THRUSH, WILSON’S PETREL/PHALAROPE/PLOVER/SNIPE/TERN/THRUSH

Flora ADAM’S APPLE/CAP/FLANNEL/NEEDLE-AND-THREAD/PITCHER, DARWIN’S TULIP, DAVID’S-HARP, EVE’S-DARNING-NEEDLE, GOLDIE’S FERN, GRANDFATHER’S BEARD, HERCULES’ CLUB (pepperwood tree), JACOB’S-STAFF, JOHN’S-WORT, JUPITER’S-BEARD, KING’S-FERN/-FRUIT/SPEAR, MERLIN’S-GRASS, PATTON’S HEMLOCK, QUEEN ANNE’S LACE, QUEEN’S CRAPE MYRTLE/-DELIGHT/-FLOWER/-ROOT/FETTLE/WREATH, SAMPSON’S SNAKEROOT, SOLOMON’S LILY/PLUME, VENUS’ HAIR/LOOKING-GLASS

Medicine and Physiology BELL’S LAW, CROHN’S DISEASE, DARWIN’S TUBERCLE, DESCEMET’S MEMBRANE, GRAVE’S DISEASE, HANSEN’S DISEASE, HUNTINGTON’S CHOREA, JACOBSEN’S CARTILEGE/NERVE/ ORGAN, JOHNE’S BACILLUS, KING’S EVIL (scrofula), KOCH’S BACILLUS/ LAWS/POSTULATES, LEGIONNAIRES’ DISEASE, MCBURNNEY’S POINT, MORTON’S TOE (a disease), TURK’S CELL, WEIL’S DISEASE, ZENKER’S DEGENERATION

Upstairs vs. Downstairs in Webster's Third New International Dictionary

Upstairs: GOD'S ACRE, GOD'S COUNTRY, GOD'S-EYE, GOD'S PEACE, GOD'S PENNY, GOD'S PLENTY, GOD'S TRUCE, GOD'S WORD, CHRIST'S-THORN, LORD'S DAY, LORD'S ROOM, LORD'S SUPPER, LORD'S TABLE (altar), ELIJAH'S CUP, ST. ANDREW'S CROSS (cross), SAINT-ANDREW'S-CROSS (plant), ST. ANDREW'S DAY, SAINT-ANN'S-BARK, ST. ANTHONY'S CROSS, ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE, ST. AUSTIN'S/AUGUSTINE'S SUMMER, ST. BARNABY'S DAY, SAINT-BARNABY'S-THISTLE, SAINT-BERNARD'S-LILY, SAINT-BRUNO'S-LILY, SAINT-CATHERINE'S-FLOWER, ST. CUTHBERT'S BEADS, ST. CUTHBERT'S DUCK, SAINT-DABE-OC'S-HEATH, ST. EDWARD'S CROWN, ST. ELMO'S/ULMO'S FIRE/LIGHT, ST. GEORGE'S DAY, ST. GEORGE'S DUCK, ST. GEORGE'S MUSHROOM, ST. GEORGE'S ROUND, SAINT-IGNATIUS'S-BEAN, SAINT-JACOB'S-DIPPER, SAINT-JAMES'S-LILY, SAINT-JOHN'S-BREAD, ST. JOHN'S EVE, ST. JOHN'S FIRE, SAINT-JOHN'S-WORT, SAINT-JOHN'S-WORT-FAMILY, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DAY, SAINT-JOSEPH'S-LILY, ST. LUCY'S DAY, ST. LUKE'S SUMMER, ST. MARK'S FLY, ST. MARTIN'S BIRD, ST. MARTIN'S DAY, ST. MARTIN'S SUMMER, SAINT-MARY'S-THISTLE, ST. NICHOLAS' CLERK (a thief), SAINT-PATRICK'S-CABBAGE, ST. PATRICK'S DAY, ST. PETER'S FISH, SAINT-PETER'S-WORT, SAINT-PETER'S-WREATH, SAINT'S DAY, ST. VALENTINE'S DAY, ST. VITUS' DANCE, PETER'S PENCE

Downstairs SATAN'S MUSHROOM, DEVIL'S ADVOCATE, DEVIL'S-APPLE, DEVIL'S-APRON, DEVIL'S BIT, DEVIL'S-BITE, DEVIL'S-BONES, DEVIL'S BOOK, DEVIL'S BUCKLE, DEVIL'S-CLAW, DEVIL'S CLUB, DEVIL'S COACHHORSE, DEVIL'S CORKSCREW, DEVILS-COTTON, DEVIL'S DARNING NEEDLE, DEVIL'S DOZEN, DEVIL'S DUNG, DEVIL'S DYKE, DEVIL'S-FIG, DEVIL'S-FINGER, DEVIL'S-FLAX, DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE, DEVIL'S-GRANDMOTHER, DEVIL'S-GRASS, DEVIL'S-GRIP, DEVIL'S-GUT, DEVIL'S-HAIR, DEVIL'S-HAND, DEVIL'S-HEAD-IN-A-BUSH, DEVIL'S-HORN, DEVIL'S HORSE, DEVIL'S IRONWEED, DEVIL'S IVY, DEVIL'S-KNITTING-NEEDLE, DEVIL'S MARK, DEVIL'S MASS, DEVIL'S MILK, DEVIL'S OWN TIME, DEVIL'S PAINTBRUSH, DEVIL'S PATERNOSTER, DEVIL'S PICTURE BOOK, DEVIL'S-PITCH-FORKS, DEVIL'S-PLAQUE, DEVIL'S-RATTLEBOX, DEVIL'S-ROOT, DEVIL'S SHOESTRING, DEVIL'S SLIDE, DEVIL'S-SNUFFBOX, DEVIL'S TATTOO, DEVIL'S TOENAIL, DEVIL'S-TONGUE, DEVIL'S TRUMPET, DEVIL'S-WALKING-STICK, DEVIL'S-WEED, DEATH'S-HEAD, DEATH'S-HEAD MOTH, DEATH'S-HERB, CHARON'S STAIRCASE

Two-story tally: Upstairs 62, Downstairs 58

Places (Mostly U.S.) BENT'S FORT, COOGAN'S BLUFF (Polo Grounds, NYC), DEVIL'S ISLAND (Fr. Guiana), DEVIL'S POSTPILE (Nat'l Mon, CA), DEVIL'S TOWER (Nat'l Mon, WY), DRAKE'S BAY (CA), GRANTS PASS (city, OR), HELLS CANYON (ID-OR), KING'S CANYON (Nat'l Park, CA), PIKE'S PEAK, SEWARD'S FOLLY (Alaska), TOMS RIVER (city, NJ) VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

War and Peace (U.S.) KING PHILIP'S WAR (1675-76), KING WILLIAM'S WAR (1689-97), QUEEN ANNE'S WAR (1701-14), KING GEORGE'S WAR (1744-48), ROGERS' RANGERS, PONTIAC'S WAR/CONSPIRACY (1763-5), KING'S MOUNTAIN, SHAY'S REBELLION, JAY'S TREATY, HARPER'S FERRY, PICKETT'S CHARGE, CUSTER'S LAST STAND, CHIEF JOSEPH'S WAR

Art *THE ARTIST'S MOTHER* (Whistler), *THE ARTIST'S STUDIO* (Courbet), *BALSHAZZAR'S FEAST* (Allston), *CAMPBELL'S SOUP CANS* (Warhol), *CHRISTINA'S WORLD* (Wyeth), *LOT'S DAUGHTERS* (Carrà), *PROCESSION IN ST. MARK'S SQUARE* (Gent. Bellini)

Theater HAMLET'S SOLILOQUY; *LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN* (Wilde), 5 plays by G. B. Shaw: *MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION*, *THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE*, *CAPTAIN BRASSBOUND'S CONVERSION*, *JOHN BULL'S OTHER ISLAND*, *FANNY'S FIRST PLAY*; ZIEGFELD'S FOLLIES

Music "ALICE'S RESTAURANT" (A. Guthrie), "ANITRA'S DANCE" (Grieg), "BONAPARTE'S RETREAT" (K. King song), BRAHMS' LULLABY, "BUNTHORNE'S SONG" (Gilbert & Sullivan), *DUKE BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE* (Bartók opera), "ELMER'S TUNE," "SAM'S SONG," "SIEGFRIED'S IDYLL"/ "RHINE JOURNEY" (Wagner), "SOLVEIG'S SONG" (Grieg), *THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE* (Dukas), *TILL EULENSPIEGEL'S MERRY PRANKS* (Strauss)

Poetry *BISHOP BLOUGRAM'S APOLOGY* (R. Browning), *THE CHILDREN'S HOUR* (Longfellow), *CHYLDE HAROLD'S PILGRIMAGE* (Byron), *DEOR'S LAMENT* (Old English poem), *JOHN BROWN'S BODY* (Benét), *LADY GERALDINE'S COURTSHIP* (E. B. Browning), *THE SHEPHERDES CALENDER* (Spenser), *SKIPPER IRESON'S RIDE* (Whittier), *THE WHITE KNIGHT'S SONG* (Carroll)

Fiction *ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND* (Carroll), *ALL THE KING'S MEN* (Warren), *ALMAYER'S FOLLY* (Conrad); BULFINCH'S MYTHOLOGY, "THE CANON'S YEOMAN'S TALE" and 21 other similarly-named "tales" in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*; *CHARLOTTE'S WEB* (White), *GOD'S LITTLE ACRE* (Caldwell), GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES, *THE HANDMAID'S TALE* (Atwood); 7 short stories by Hawthorne: "DR. HEIDEGGER'S EXPERIMENT," "HOWE'S MASQUERADE," "LITTLE ANNIE'S RAMBLE," "THE MINISTER'S BLACK VEIL," "RAPPACCINI'S DAUGHTER," "ROGER MALVIN'S FUNERAL," "THE TOLL-GATHERER'S DAY"; *HUMBOLDT'S GIFT* (Bellow), *KING SOLOMON'S MINES* (Haggard), *LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER* (Lawrence), *SOPHIE'S CHOICE* (Styron), *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN* (Stowe)

Nonfiction AUGUSTINE'S *CONFessions*, CEASAR'S *COMMENTARIES*, *THE DEVIL'S DICTIONARY* (Bierce), *GOODE'S ATLAS*, *HAMMOND'S ATLAS*, *HOYLE'S RULES OF CARD GAMES*, *JAYNE'S SHIPS*, etc., *KING SOLOMON'S RING* (Lorenz), *PETerson'S FIELD GUIDES*, PLUTARCH'S *LIVES*, *POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK* (Franklin), *ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDER*

Miscellaneous ADAM'S ALE (water), CHARLES' WAIN (old name for Big Dipper), DAVY JONES' LOCKER, FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER, GABRIEL'S HORN, GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK, GRANDMOTHER'S CLOCK, GREAT CEASAR'S GHOST, THE LORD'S PRAYER, QUEEN'S ARM (musket), SAMSON'S CROWN (an achievement of great renown which costs the life of the doer), SAY'S LAW (economics), TRAJAN'S COLUMN, VERY'S NIGHT SIGNALS

Some other promising categories of personal-name possessive phrases that had to be omitted from this listing include commercial names, cinema and television titles and periodicals' names.