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The American Ancestry of Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Is Revealed by American Scholar

Johnson is Related to at Least Ten U.S. Presidents and Many Notable U.S. Political Figures

August 1, 2019—Boston, Massachusetts—Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson, the British Prime Minister, has Turkish, Jewish, noble German, and much English ancestry. However, the extensive American ancestry of the newly-elected head of the U.K. government is much less known.

Gary Boyd Roberts, Senior Research Scholar Emeritus at American Ancestors, also known as New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), has studied the American forebears and notable kin of Johnson and published his recent findings on AmericanAncestors.org.

The new Prime Minister has family relationships with ten U.S. Presidents: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, Grover Cleveland, William Howard Taft, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush—and to many political, industrial, and cultural icons in America’s history.

Photo credit: Gov.UK

Download Boris Johnson’s Ancestry Charts

Johnson’s American ancestry is rooted in New England, largely in Connecticut and Massachusetts, which includes a seventeenth-century Connecticut immigrant of royal descent, Elizabeth (Alsop) Baldwin, a cousin of Queens Anne Boleyn and Elizabeth I—and the ancestors of many American presidents and of the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

According to Roberts, the Prime Minister’s mother, Charlotte Ollie Fawcett, was a daughter of Sir James Edmund Sandford Fawcett, president of the European Commission of Human Rights, and Frances Beatrice Lowe, daughter of paleographer Prof. Elias Avery Lowe, formerly Loew, of Russian Jewish descent, and Helen Tracy Porter, who used the surname Lowe-Porter and was the first English language translator of Thomas Mann. Helen’s parents Henry Clinton Porter Jr. and Clara Holcomb lived in Towanda, Bradford County, Pennsylvania, but their ancestry was completely New England or Long Island. Their parents were Porter, Frisbie, Betts, and Wells. Among the maternal Frisbie

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Gary Boyd Roberts has undertaken considerable research on notable descendants of Rev. John Lathrop and John Strong. Lathrop descendants include U.S. First Ladies Edith Kermit Carow Roosevelt and Nancy (Davis) Reagan; Canadian Prime Minister Sir Robert Laird Borden; the traitor Benedict Arnold; politicians William Jennings Bryan, Thomas E. Dewey, John Foster Dulles, and George and Mitt Romney; poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow; Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. and Jr.; inventor Eli Whitney; financier J. P. Morgan Jr.; artist Georgia O’Keeffe; composer Charles Ives; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints founder Joseph Smith Jr.; Cecil B. DeMille and Agnes de Mille; aviatrix Amelia Earhart; and, among actors, Julie Harris, Clint Eastwood, Cassidy Spacek, and Ben and Casey Affleck. Among Strong descendants are Franklin D. Roosevelt; First Lady Bess (Wallace) Truman; the patriot Nathan Hale; Senators Henry Cabot Lodge II and “Jay” Rockefeller; tycoons John Pierpont Morgan Sr. and Jr.; the Pillsburys of Minneapolis; architect Daniel Hudson Burnham; art patron Isabella Stewart Gardner; and actors Lillian and Dorothy Gish, Glenn Close, and Brooke Shields.

Johnson’s descent from Frederick I, King of Württemberg 1754–1816, whose wife was a great-granddaughter of George II, King of Great Britain 1683–1760, has been well explored online, largely by Richard Carruthers-Zurowski on his blog at VadeMecumGenealogy.blogspot.com.

Several graphic charts detailing some of the key findings of this research on the American ancestry of Boris Johnson by Gary Boyd Roberts can be viewed and downloaded below:

- Foote Ancestry
- Lathrop Ancestry
- Lord Ancestry
- Royal Ancestry
- Smith Ancestry
- Strong Ancestry

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