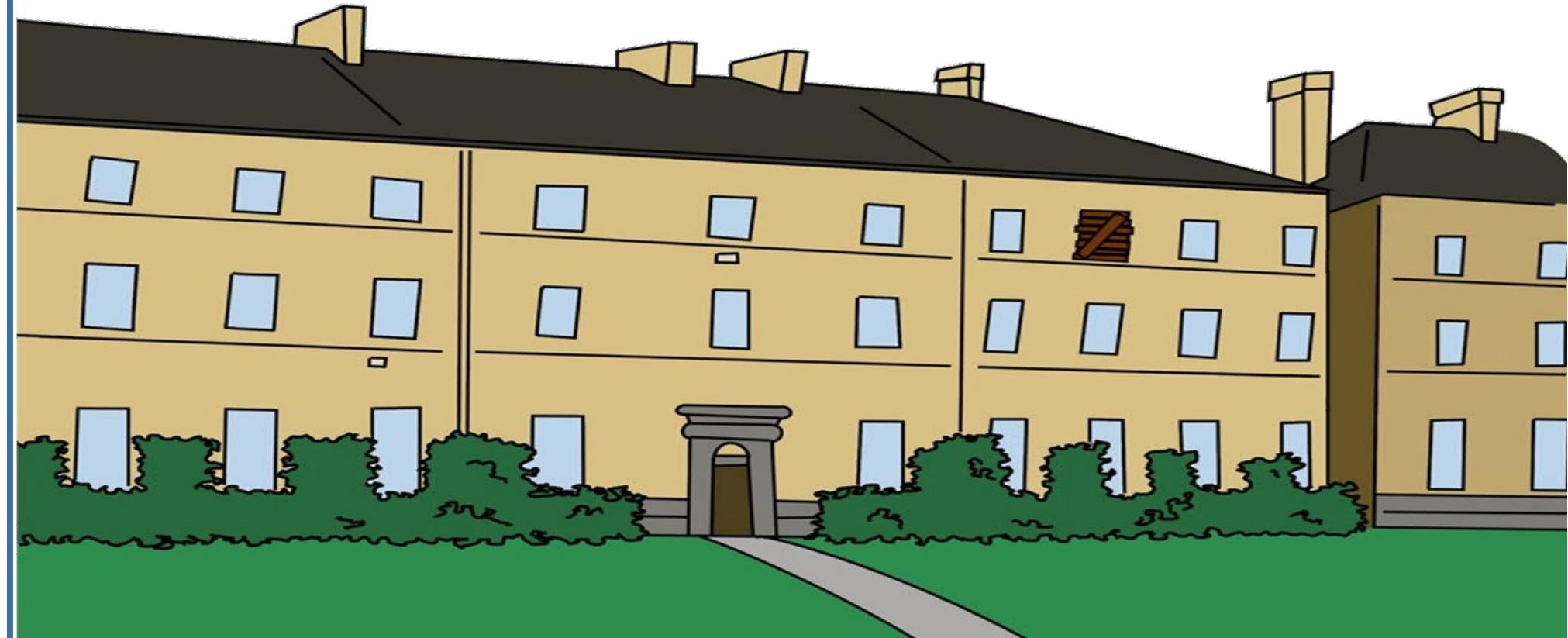


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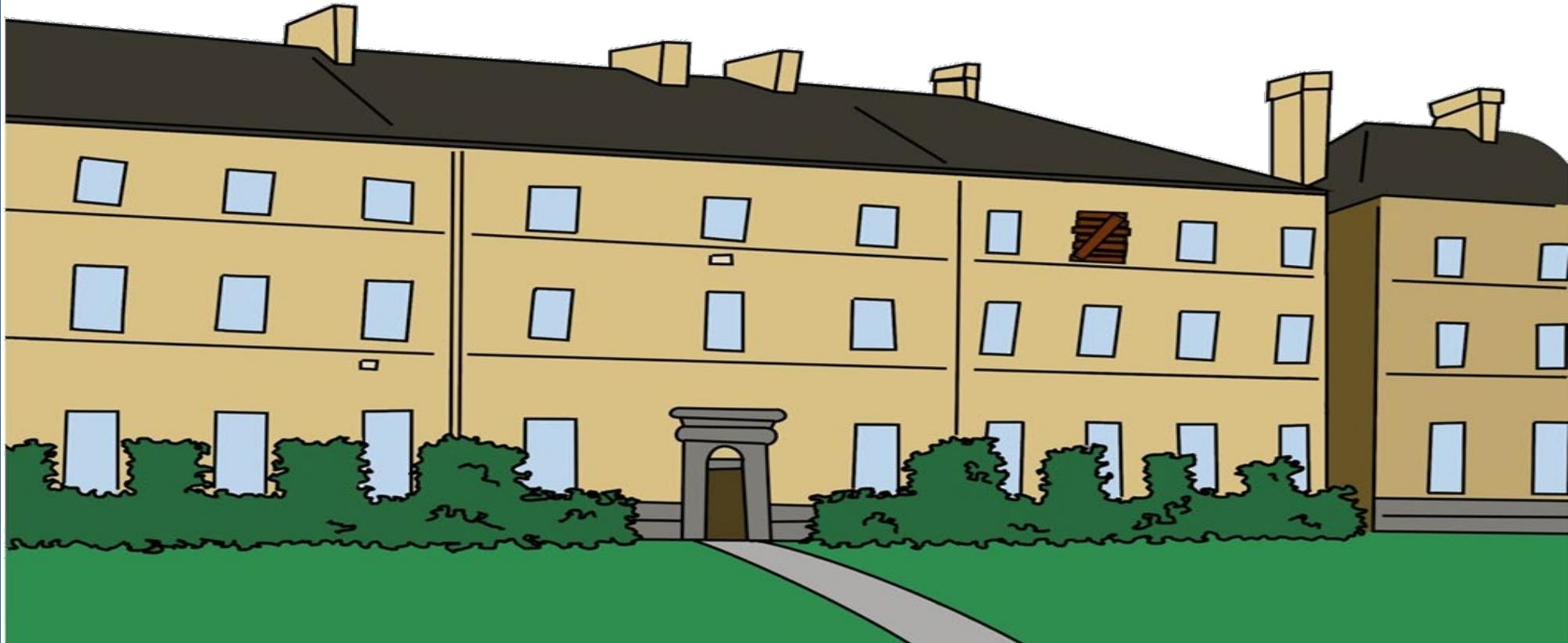
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



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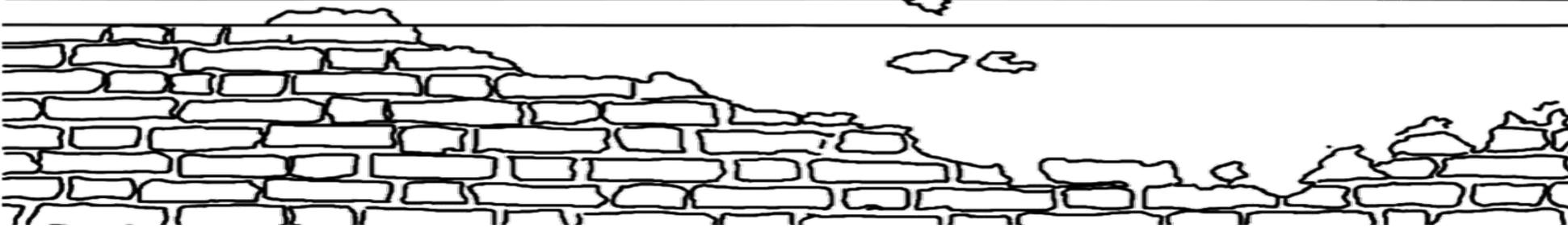
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*# 031 -- Inheritance and the Fate of Second Sons -- February, 2022*





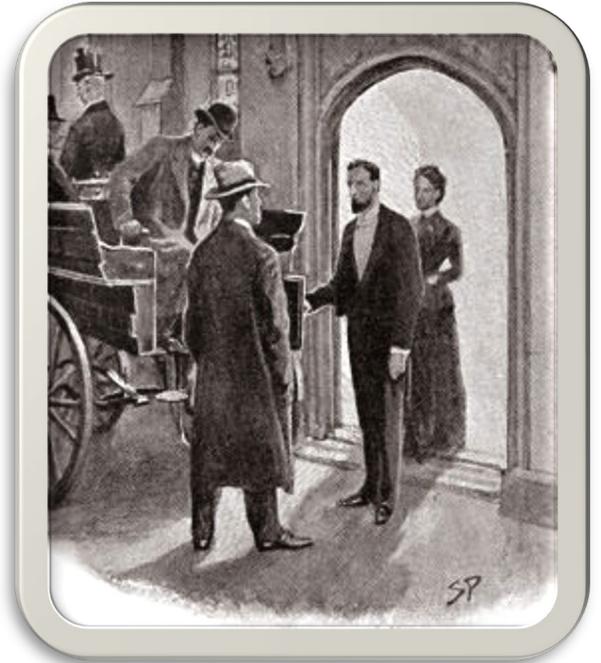
*Welcome to topic # 031... today we will be looking at the passing of property in the Victorian period.*



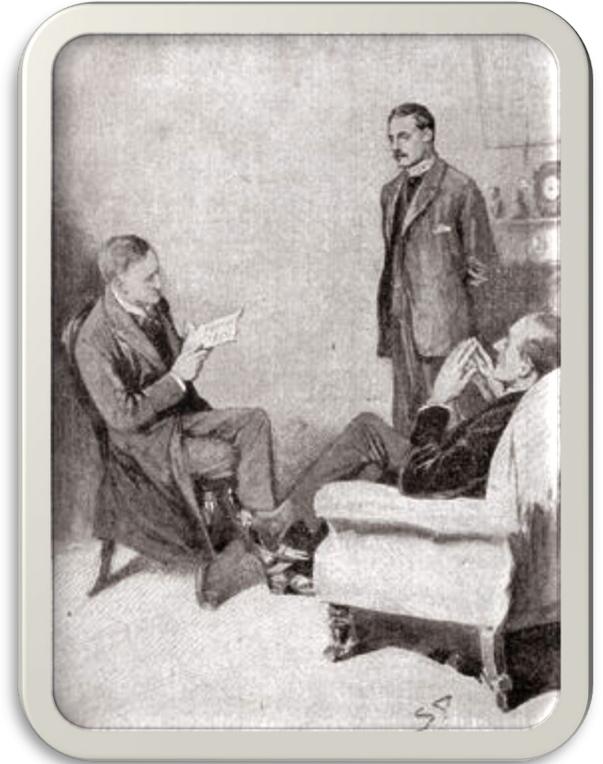
*The brief review of the fate  
of Sir Charles' estate in  
chapter five of the Hounds of  
the Baskerville...*



*...provides a short guide to English inheritance laws applied primarily to the aristocracy and other large landowners.*



*In this chapter, Dr. Mortimer notes that Henry Baskerville will inherit Baskerville Hall because it is entailed, and should he pass, the estate would then go to James Desmond, a distant cousin.*

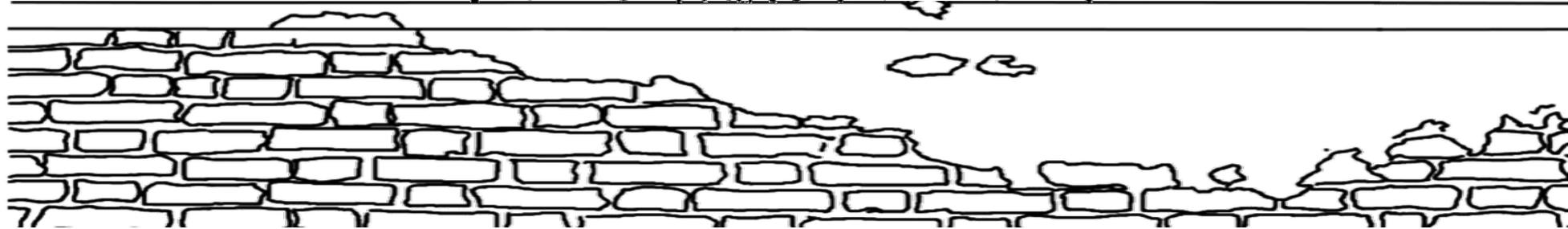


*Sir Henry, however, could distribute funds associated with the estate as he desired.*

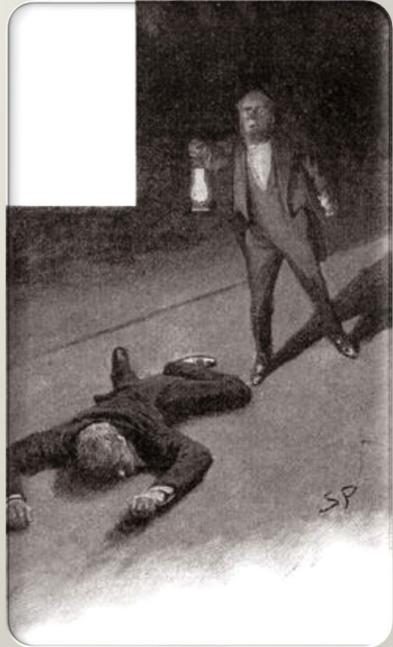




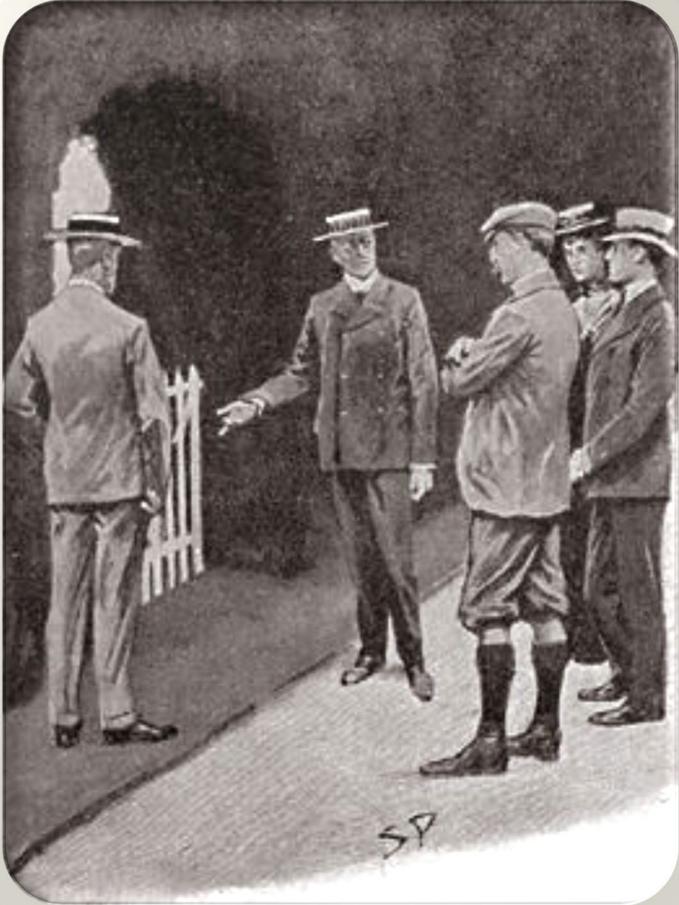
*The new baronet's response, however, was that the majority of the estate needed to be passed to the next in line to ensure the upkeep of Baskerville Hall.*



*When Sir Charles died, his  
title of baronet and all  
the land associated with it  
passed on to his closest...*



*...living male relation (his nephew Henry) and would have done so regardless of any living female relatives.*



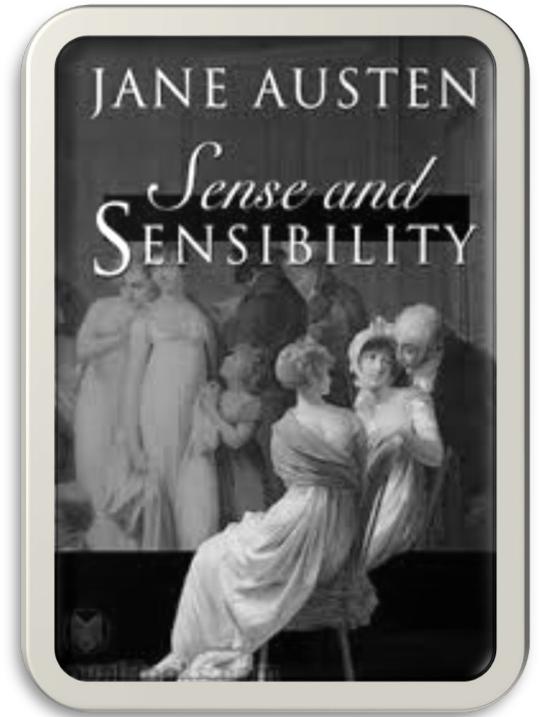
*Beyond the oldest male  
descendent, any other children  
received whatever their  
father's will dictated.*



*Thus, wives, daughters, and  
"second sons" could find  
themselves homeless if the  
inheritor was so inclined...*



*...to turn them out (such as the fate of the Dashwood women in Jane Austen's novel *Sense and Sensibility*.)*



*With such future, most women sought  
as "fortunate" a marriage as possible  
while younger brothers prepared  
themselves to earn their own way...*

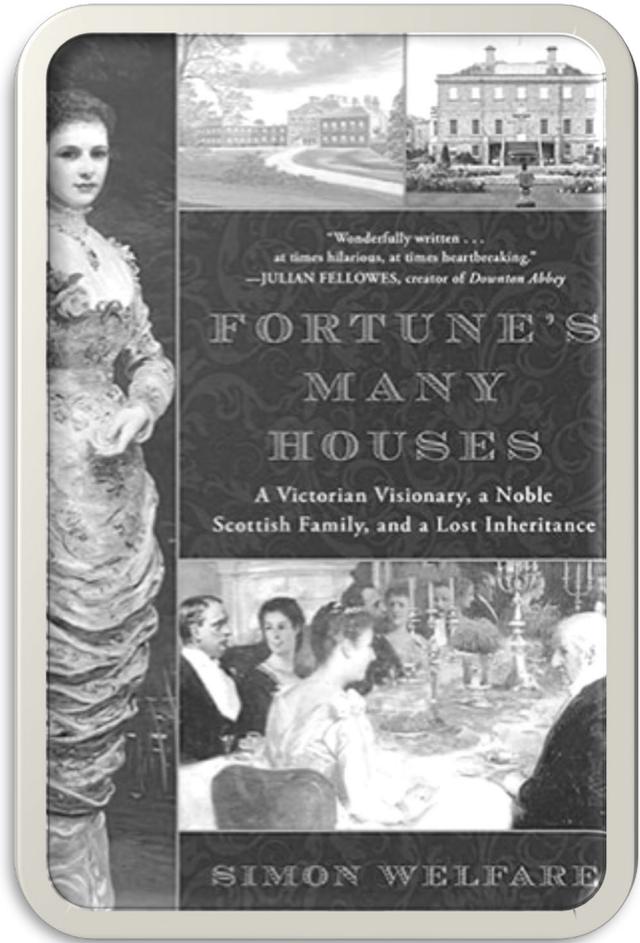


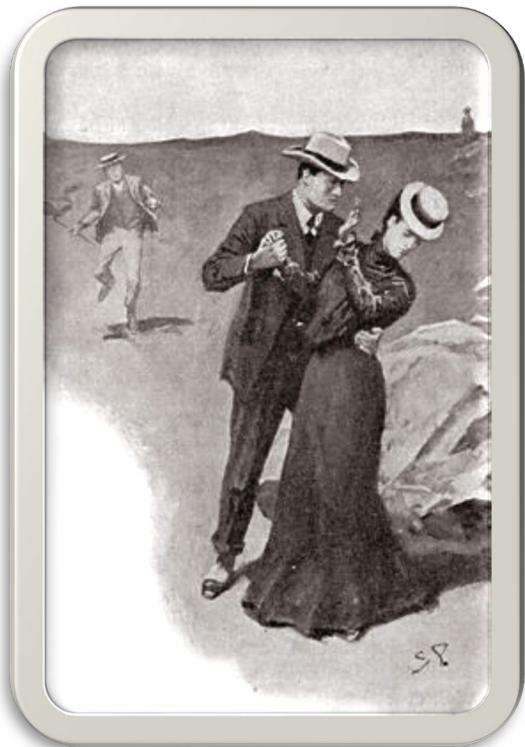
—• *Who Do I Think You Were?*® —•

*A*  
**VICTORIAN'S  
INHERITANCE**

BY COUNSELLOR + GENEALOGIST = GENEATHERAPIST  
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*...usually in such class-appropriate professions as the clergy or the military – although a “fortunate” marriage of their own was not out of the question.*





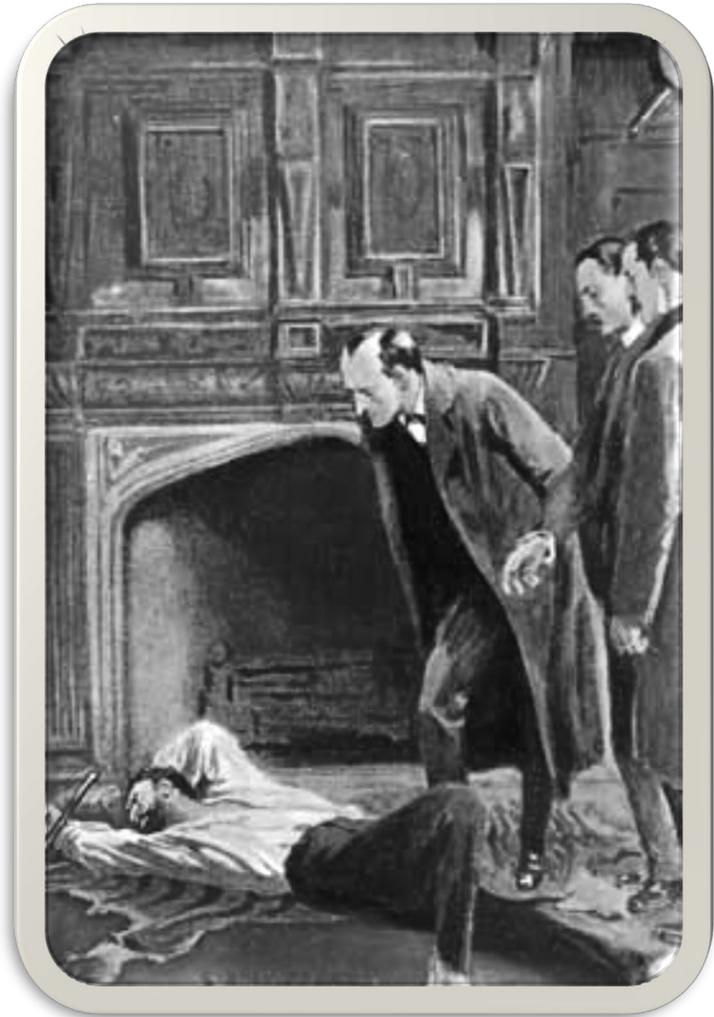
*Some even took to go abroad  
such as Sir Henry's father did  
to Canada and Rodger Baskerville  
to Central America.*





*Given his country squire ancestry,  
Sherlock Holmes would have been all  
too aware that, with an older brother,  
he could anticipate little inheritance.*





*As a "second son," he would have to make his own way in the world, and he carved out his own vocation.*



*Unlike the traditional path,  
however, he created the  
unique profession of  
consulting detective.*



*Not only did English inheritance law in the 1800s provide the basis for the motive in many a plot...*



*...it also helped create  
one of its most  
intriguing and popular  
characters.*



*So we have completed  
topic # 031 in our  
series...*

*Yes, but we'll be  
back with another  
topic soon...*



## References for this topic:

- 1) <https://americancountess.wordpress.com/2013/03/17/the-entailment-or-how-the-english-aristocracy-perpetuated-itself-and-why-lady-mary-will-never-the-countess-of-grantham/>
- 2) <http://blogs.northcountrypublicradio.org/inbox/tag/inheritance-law/>



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