

Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Chris Schweizer Investiture

January 25, 2014

Considering the vast amount of true scholarship devoted to Sherlock Holmes, we know relatively little about him as a person and even less about his family. The Master himself drops hints at times, but just enough to make scholars offer thoughts then begin conjecturing and pontificating about who he really is and from whence he came.

In “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter”, Holmes pulls back the curtains to share this nugget of data:

“My ancestors were country squires, who appear to have led much the same life as is natural to their class. But, none the less, my turn that way is in my veins, and may have come with my grandmother, who was the sister of Vernet, the French artist. Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms.”

And it does in deed take a strange form because we now can, at least in part, trace the Great Detective’s family lineage. This great uncle, Horace Vernet, who was appropriately born in the Louvre during the French revolution, continues to be hailed as one of the great artists of his time and was often rewarded through royal commissions. One of his paintings called “Self-Portraits with a Pipe” could easily be mistaken as a portrait of Holmes himself.

In Nashville, we now have a great artist among us. His skillful eye for detail coupled with a dramatic flair of creativity, makes him a peer to any artists, anywhere. His love for “the Game” has brought him into our midst and we will not surrender him for any reason.

From this day forward, when Nashville’s Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars gathers, Chris Schweizer shall be known as:

“Great Uncle Horace”

The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem honor him today and eagerly welcome him into our tribe as he joins our efforts to help remember the Master and his many contributions to our modern world.