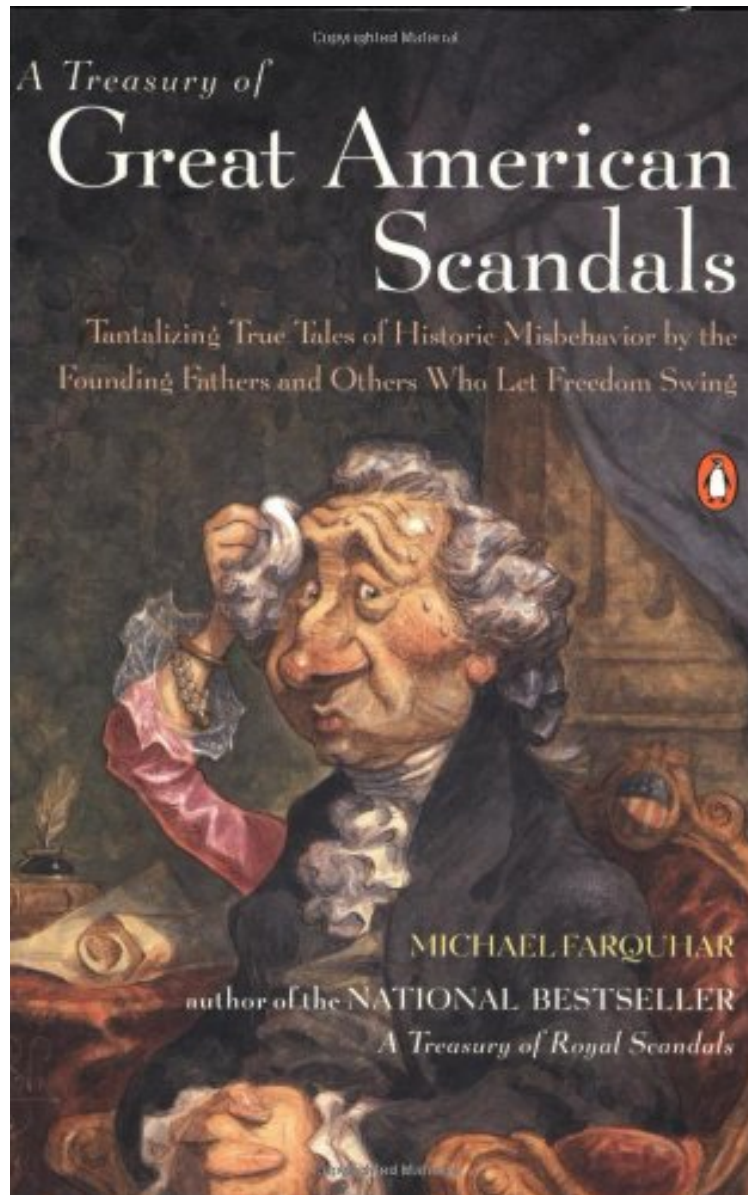


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A Treasury of Great American Scandals: Tantalizing True Tales of Historic Misbehavior by the Founding Fathers and Others Who Let Freedom Swing

Michael Farquhar

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Michael Farquhar : A Treasury of Great American Scandals: Tantalizing True Tales of Historic Misbehavior by the Founding Fathers and Others Who Let Freedom Swing

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *A Treasury of Great American Scandals: Tantalizing True Tales of Historic Misbehavior by the Founding Fathers and Others Who Let Freedom Swing*:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious and Insightful
By Madison Smith
HILARIOUS! Who wouldn't love reading about naughty presidents? This book does an excellent job of keeping the reader interested while providing background history (such as their section on duels). I loved reading this book before bedtime. While the sections are long the individual chapters are short so you can read 2 or 3 stories a day. From the famous Burr-Hamilton duel to Herbert Hoover vs Martin Luther King Jr, this book gives an insight to American History that is not presented in traditional textbooks. Even if you are not a huge history fan, I believe this book will be interesting to all.
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good book to help remind you that political scandal has ...
By Bird Dog Ted
Good book to help remind you that political scandal has always been part of American politics. Even as despicable and shameful as politics are now, it's nothing new for this country. Fun read, with short sections on various famous Americans and their deeds. Find out why Andrew Jackson was considered a homicidal temperamental bully, how Ben Franklin treated his son, or that Jefferson's sex scandal with a slave was as well known in its time as Bill Clinton's scandal. All the embarrassing stuff our founding fathers wish we didn't know about, I just wish this book was longer!
4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. HISTORICAL TABLOID
By Joseph H. Race
This is a fun book with tantalizing tales of misbehavior from times past, and reminds us that human nature does not especially change through the ages. Maybe we have more checks and balances than in those early days of dueling and fist fights on the Congress floor, but our modern politicians and business leaders still manage to get caught with their fingers in the till or "inappropriately" touching the young lasses; plus now we have digital cameras and taped phone calls. In this interesting little volume, you will find slave-owners, fat presidents, old senile chief justices, a FBI director wearing dresses and harassing civil rights leaders, a president who hates Jewish people, and women finally getting the vote and putting a handsome, but unqualified, president into office. Chapter after chapter is enlightening, often causing the reader to laugh out loud and/or exclaiming, "I didn't know that about our Founding Fathers." I guarantee that if you are the type to slow down at the grocery check-out counter and glance at the tabloids, or chitchat with your neighbors after watching the news, you will truly enjoy this one.

Following on the heels of his national bestseller *A Treasury of Royal Scandals*, Michael Farquhar turns his attention to matters a little closer to home with *A Treasury of Great American Scandals*. From the unhappy family relationships of prominent Americans to the feuds, smear campaigns, duels, and infamous sex scandals that have punctuated our history, we see our founding fathers and other American heroes in the course of their all-too-human events. Ineffectual presidents, lazy generals, traitors; treacherous fathers, nagging mothers, ungrateful children, embarrassing siblings; and stories about insanity, death, and disturbing postmortems are all here, as are disagreeable marriages, vile habits, and, of course, sex: good sex, bad sex, and good-bad sex too. We can take comfort in the fact that we are no worse and no better than our forebears. But we do have better media coverage. Bonus educational material: A brief history of the United States, including scandals! The American Hall of Shame! A complete listing of presidential administrations!

From Publishers Weekly
There's nothing about a certain recent president's sexual wanderings in this entertaining collection: notes Farquhar, an editor and writer at the Washington Post, "History needs a little time to percolate.... Besides, the first three centuries of American scandal should put a little perspective on the relatively minor sins of recent memory." The bad behavior is not all sexual (though there is that, too)-it sometimes involved family. George Washington kept his distance from a mother bent on publicly humiliating him. Benjamin Franklin arranged the arrest of his own son, colonial governor of New Jersey and a British loyalist. Dirty campaigns (in 1828, Andrew Jackson accused John Quincy Adams of aspiring to kingship; Adams's followers in turn called Jackson a murderer); congressional floor fights; and demagoguery all figure here. Politicians are the main offenders in this collection, but they are complemented by witch hunters in early Salem, Mass., and other "just plain strange" events. Readers who enjoyed Farquhar's earlier *A Treasury of Royal Scandals* will find much to savor here. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.
About the Author
Michael Farquhar, a former writer and editor at The Washington Post, is the bestselling author of numerous books, including the critically acclaimed *Behind the Palace Doors* and *Secret Lives of the Tsars*, as well as the popular Penguin "Treasury" series: *A Treasury of Royal Scandals*, *A Treasury of Great American Scandals*, *A Treasury of Deception*, *A Treasury of Foolishly Forgotten Americans*, and his latest title, *Bad Days in History*. He lives in Washington, D.C.