

AMES FREE LIBRARY GENEALOGY CLUB

Who We Are

The Ames Free Library Genealogy Club is a group dedicated to helping each other with genealogical research. The group is free and open to all who have an interest in family history. We meet monthly to use the library's free access to ancestry.com. Research help and access to the New England Historic Genealogical Society databases will be provided by local historian Ed Hands. Now in our third season, the group is adding this monthly newsletter and other features during the year.

Meeting Dates

September 17, 2016

October 8, 2016

November 12, 2016

December 10, 2016

January 14, 2017

February 11, 2017

March 11, 2017

April 8, 2017

May 13, 2017

June 10, 2017

Queset House 2:30-4:30

September Meeting

Hi, welcome to our new newsletter that will, with luck, be published each month before our regular monthly meeting at Queset House from 2:30-4:30. Even though we call ourselves a club our meetings are free and open to all. Veterans of the club will note that our September meeting will be held on the THIRD Saturday of September instead of our usual second Saturday. Yup, I had trouble getting the old engine started after "retiring" in June.

The September meeting will include a brief presentation on using the card catalog at ancestry.com. Turns out that when I saw "card catalog" I reverted back to my college days in the library. Turns out that the Ancestry card catalog gives you another way to narrow your searches and find newly added material.

I now have a unlimited access Ancestry account which gives us access to their newspaper and military records databases plus all of their Ancestry Academy courses. Coupled with my membership in GenealogyBank and at the NEHGS AmericanAncestors site, we now have even more resources at our fingertips.

Let's also plan to update each other on our summer research.

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New In Ancestry

Crista Cowan has a video blog on YouTube and once a month she updates changes at ancestry.com. Here's a summary:

In July:

- Added 160 million new records for 5 countries and updated millions more.
- You could become a naturalized US citizen in either a county, state, or federal court. Ancestry added 20 sets of court records and updated 7 sets.
- Netherlands vital records were added.
- if you have an Ancestry membership you can take advantage of their video courses found in the Extras menu. Whether a course is free or costs depends on the program and your subscription.

In August:

- Added 25 million records from 7 countries.
- Added records from England's Somerset and Norfolk Counties from the 1530s to the 20th century.
- Added records from 1760-1890 from Saxony, Germany and 1874-1955 from Salzhausen. A suggestion: Germany was actually dozens of different countries until 1871 so begin your German research by exhausting every American source.

Speak For Yourself John

The romantic story of John Alden, Priscilla Mullin, and Myles Standish was probably the first Pilgrim story we all heard back in elementary school. I've pretty much run out of chances to add John and Priscilla to my family tree. I'm a descendant of William Ames who by a now debunked tradition married Hannah, the supposed daughter of John and Priscilla. There is no solid evidence to support this idea and much to refute it. However, I was rather surprised that a "newish" feature of Ancestry turned up a real connection to John Alden.

If you open a full profile or life story at Ancestry, the program calculates that person's relationship to you. If my research is accurate, for example, someone named Susannah Hagar (1653-1731) is my "8th great grandmother." That's a pretty easy calculation for a genealogy program, but as I was adding members of the Pabodie family, John Alden turned up as my "step 4th great-grandfather of my 4th great-grandfather." Still no DNA connection, but a good showing of just how powerful an Ancestry family tree can be.

American Ancestors Update

The staid old New England Historical Genealogical Society is really trying hard to play catch up in the world of internet genealogy. Non-subscribers can access a really good blog at vita-breviis.org. They also have a fun twitter feed @ancestorexperts.

The fall edition of American Ancestors announced the addition of the following databases from FamilySearch. Remember FamilySearch itself is free.

Argentina, Baptisms 1645-1930

California, Birth Index 1905-1995

California Births and Christenings 1812-1988

Norfolk, England Parish Registers 1538-1900

Scotland Births, Baptism, Marriages 1560-1950

