

# 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](http://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 17, 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

## October Meeting

Hi, welcome to the second edition of the Genealogical Club Newsletter. The club will be meeting this Saturday, October 8th at Queset House from 2:30-4:30. Even though we call ourselves a club, our meetings are free and open to all. This month we are back to our regular schedule of meeting on the second Saturday of the Month.

Since so many regular members missed the September meeting, I will redo a brief presentation on using the card catalog at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). I will also talk a little bit about finding "war diaries" at the British National Archives.

Before working on our individual "stuff," let's take a few minutes to share our summer research.

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 during a meeting

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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](http://ancestry.com). Here's a summary:

In September:

- For those with an ancestry subscription, there is a new course at Ancestry Academy by Dr. Thomas Jones called Getting Started Right: Documentation for New Genealogists. Ms. Cowan says there is a lot there for experienced genealogists as well.
- Of the new content added in the last month perhaps the most interesting are Irish Police Gazettes (1861-1893) these are not the magazines that used to be found in barber shops, but all points bulletins on wanted, convicted, and missing persons. You can access these records through the card catalog.
- Other new records are pretty specialized: Medway, Kent Poor Law Union records from 1836-1937 and Bexley, Kent Electoral Registers 1734-1965. These are records familiar to American local historians-poor house registers and voting lists for a broad time period but a narrow locality.
- In the US new records for California Indian Censuses from 1928-1933, and New Jersey Episcopal Diocese Records from 1809-1970 have been added

## Free Newspaper Search Sites

I ran across a YouTube video on finding free searchable newspapers on the Internet. The first place to start is [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov). This is a site that is part of the Library of Congress. You can do key word searches in over 11 million pages of newspapers from 1789 to 1922.

Another place to try is the page of Lawson Research Services, the website of forensic genealogist Leslie Lawson <http://www.lawsonresearch.net/forensic-toolbox/category/newspaper> The whole forensic toolbox is worth a look and the newspaper site is a guide to both free and for cost sites. A forensic genealogist, by the way, is someone who tracks down heirs and other people for lawyers.

Other site is: <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/>. This site links to Canadian (lots of French papers), Australian, and Irish (for pay) sites as well as US states. Includes the Library of Congress newspapers, but many others as well. Finally, there is Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List\\_of\\_online\\_newspaper\\_archives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives). I gave the whole listing since the normal search for "list of online newspaper archives" didn't allow turn up the page. In typical wikipedia style this site is exhaustive-did you know Equatorial Guinea had a newspaper in 1911? Tells you whether the site is free or charged. Lists countries and states.

## College Yearbooks

Saturday is my 50th High School Reunion. There are a lot of high school and even more college yearbooks available on Ancestry. To the right is my long lost 1st cousin once removed as Captain of the University of Illinois tennis team in 1934. Finding and tracking him cross country led to finding relatives in Oregon.



HANDS, Captain

