

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

October 14, 2017

November 18, 2017

December 16, 2017

January 13, 2018

February 10, 2018

March 10, 2018

April 14, 2018

May 14, 2018

Queset House 2:30-4:30

**Dates in red are the third
Saturday**

September Meeting

The second meeting of the second season of the Ames Free Library Genealogy Club will take place Saturday, October 14th at Queset House from 2:30-4:30. Please note that next month's meeting will be a week late due to the library's closing to honor Veteran's Day.

Genetic Genealogy

Many thanks to member Brian Sheehan who did an excellent job getting us all more up to speed on DNA and its impact on modern genealogy. Brian finally got me going with my Ancestry DNA account!

In many cases Ancestry.com can only tell you that you are distant cousins with someone, but for a few they parse out the common lines of descent. Reasoning that those ancestors are solidly mine, I decided to make a genetic family tree to see how it connected with my paper tree.

As we have all learned from Brian, you don't share DNA with all the people in your paper genealogy because half of your parent's DNA doesn't come down to you. That means you only have no more than 1/16th of any great grandparents DNA, etc.

Ancestry's shared common ancestor "trick" can only work reliably for relationships within 10 generations so it's unlikely to confirm that Mayflower descent. Cont'd Next Page



Ancestry on YouTube

Did you know that there can be a helpful menu bar on the profile page at Ancestry? It appears under the name and birth and death dates. If you can't see it, go to the upper right corner and open "Tools" and click on "Show Research Tools" Along with staples like "Print," "View in Tree," and "Merge with Duplicate" you also gain access to "View Notes" and "View Comments"

Ever discover a relative like Lizzie Windsor who you would like everyone to know is the Queen of England? Many Ancestry members try to squeeze a title into the name section or add a special character to indicate something unusual. This just screws up Ancestry's search algorithm which thinks that "Q. Lizzie Windsor," and "Lizzie Windsor" are two different people. You can fix this by bringing up the "Facts" section on a Profile page and clicking on the box where you want the note or comment to go then clicking on "View Notes or Comments."

It doesn't matter which you click on since the menu box that appears allows you to open either . What's the difference? A comment is visible to everyone if your page is public while a note can only be viewed by you or anyone you choose to be an editor. Notes and comments can be synced with Family Tree Maker and Roots Web.

For me DNA links already found by Ancestry not surprisingly show a connection to all my grandparents, but also six of eight great-grandparents and eight of sixteen great-great grandparents. The most distant links tied me genetically to several 7th great grandparents.

Having more people take the DNA test might provide more shared common ancestors, but just as likely I don't share enough DNA with those very real ancestors to establish a DNA link.

If you want to learn more about DNA, Brian recommends the work of Blaine Bettinger. You can get started by going to his website **The Genetic Genealogist** (thegeneticgenealogist.com). He also has two books available on Kindle. **The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy** is an entry level guide. The other, part of the National Genealogical Society's Special Topics Series, is **Genetic Genealogy in Practice**.

Simple Trick Solves Decades Old Mystery

Sometimes the simplest things can have a major impact. Listening to Christa Cowan on YouTube, I was reminded that the default view on Ancestry is the so-called family view. Like most old-time genealogists, I had immediately changed that to pedigree view because it looks like the old fashioned paper forms we all used.

Now, as I have mentioned before, the big mystery in my family is my grandmother's adoption by a member of her own family. This was a pretty common event in the 19th century, but which family member was the biological parent? I had narrowed things down to a prime suspect Roderick Thomson and two of his sisters. Recently, I learned that Roderick married a daughter of German immigrants named Christine or Christina Moore.

Flipping my tree to family view just to check it out, I was reminded that my adopted great-grandfather Seth Catlin was married before marrying Roderick's youngest sister Carrie. He had married a Margaret Moore. I've read enough detective stories to know there are no coincidences, and a couple of hours of research confirmed that Margaret and Christine were indeed sisters. Seth was the baby's uncle by marriage and Carrie was her biological aunt making it almost certain my grandmother was Roderick and Christine's child. So flip from pedigree to family view occasionally, you might be surprised what you find.