

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](https://www.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

March 8, 2020

Queset House 2:00-4:30

March Meeting

The February Meeting of the Ames Free Library Genealogy Club will take place this Saturday, February 8 at Queset House from 2:00-4:30.

Mayflower 400th Anniversary

American Ancestry magazine arrived in the mail today, and I would recommend getting a copy of this, the winter 2020 edition, if you have any interest in Pilgrim genealogy.

The magazine includes information on the various festivities planned for this year in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. This part of the magazine also includes two articles by members of the Wampanoag Nation for whom the 400th anniversary is not such a happy occasion.

The rest of the magazine is devoted to feature articles often excerpting some of the new books being published for the anniversary. Of particular interest is a chart summarizing what we know about Mayflower DNA. Other articles deal with some of the unknowns of Pilgrim research.

Finally, scattered throughout are notes about some of the research sites and webinars available for NEHGS members and non-members alike.

I'll have a copy on hand for the meeting.

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The DNA evidence is interesting. The most common DNA grouping among the men on the Mayflower was R-M269. Not very helpful considering 100 million European men have this same DNA today. On the other hand William Brewster and William Bradford who came from Scrooby in Nottinghamshire belonged to DNA group I-M253. This group is most common in Scandinavia and is a marker of places visited by the Vikings. Scrooby was located in the Danelaw which 700 years before the Mayflower sailed was ruled by Vikings. There's a good chance, then, that Brewster and Bradford had Viking ancestors.

New at Ancestry

A quick look at the Ancestry Card Catalog reveals a bunch of new databases from Maine. These include a number of cemetery records and Probate Estate Records for York County 1690-1917. Also useful for many of our researchers are New York Indexes of Births and Deaths in the latter half of the 19th century.

Crista Cowan is back as Ancestry's spokesperson after a hiatus since November. She provided an update on ThruLines which Ancestry has made somewhat easier to use. If you have done a DNA, the thru lines page gives you additional information by simply scrolling over the pictures. Ancestry also has added new filters in thruLines that allow you to quickly find, for instance, new matches.

Ancestry has also added a new relationship feature. Previously the fact page included your main sources in the center of the page. Click on a source and it tells you

what facts that source supports. Now Ancestry will also tell you what if any family relationships that source supports. For example, click on a source like the 1910 census and Ancestry will tell you who was in the household and what relationships they shared.

An Irish Research Suggestion

Despite the often bitter relationship between England and Ireland, individual Irishmen and women often spent time in England. Several of my Donovan ancestors were sea captains in the carrying trade between Cork and ports in England so they occasionally appear in shipping news. One Donovan like many Irish served in the British navy during the Crimean War. Other Irish went to England to work in the mills or become servants just as they did here. Of course, when the Famine struck not every Irishman rushed to America. Many went to England. So if you are stuck in your Irish research you might want to widen your search to England.

Like the United States, England holds a census every ten years beginning in 1841. Most Irish immigration went to England's largest cities like London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham.

Military and court records are another source of information. In the famine years many Irish in England were convicted of petty crimes and transported to Australia or given the choice of joining the British Armed Forces. Eventually some of these Irish found their way to America.

If you have an Irish ancestor pegged in the old country and then lose them before picking them up years later in America, try checking England.