

MY IVES GENEALOGY

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Who Am I?

Any “accurate and complete” answer to that question had best be left to the philosophers. Suffice it to say that for the purposes of this document, and this project, I am a direct male descendant (a member of the 11th generation) of William Ives (1607-1648).

At somewhat more length, I am a son of Charles Heebner Ives (and Margaret Schmidt), who was a son of Albert Granger Ives (and Esther Phoebe Heebner), who was a son of Edwin Ives (and Cornelia Ann Warren), who was a son of Mineas Ives (and Mary Combs), who was a son of Levi Ives (and Caroline Pratt), who was a son of Benjamin Ives (and Rachel Baldwin), who was a son of Benjamin Ives (and Hannah Moss), who was a son of John Ives (and Mary Gillette), who was a son of John Ives (and Hannah Merriman), who was a son of the aforementioned William Ives (and Hannah ?).

The roots of my genealogical research are several: 1) an interest in who I am and where I came from (I won't bother delving into where I am going); 2) an interest in pursuing this work as a 'semi-academic' research project (idle hands are the devil's playground) and; 3) an interest in keeping my mind active as I head into my “reclining years.”

I am not engaging in this work with any heraldic or snobbery intent. I mean, yes, I am descended from Charlemagne – but if you can trace your ancestry back at all, who isn't descended from him (after all, he had a number of wives and over a dozen concubines)? And, I get much more enjoyment out of knowing that I also am descended from “Ralph the Simple” and “Lulach the Fool.”

Nor is my research aimed at preparing any kind of “publication” at its conclusion. It IS designed to generate a series of databases, the primary purpose of each being to serve as a Research Tool; to acquire as much as possible of the best available data and information concerning the various Ives lineages. The impetus is... Research; not the accumulation of legally-recognized information and documentation that would stand up in a court of law. I always will discard the chaff in favor of the wheat.

Early Ives In America

The Ives genealogy for today's Ives descendants in America seems to originate from one of a relatively limited number of early Ives branches. Among these, there is the 'Timothy' Ives branch (born 1610 in Suffolk, England and died 1640 in Virginia). Likewise, there is the “Thomas” Ives branch (born 1647 in Cornwall, England and died 1695 in Salem, Massachusetts). There also is the 'Miles' Ives branch (born 1598 in Suffolk, England and died 1684 in Boston). However, there are no direct male descendants of Miles (his children were all female). And there are at least another 89 progenitors of other Ives familial lineages in the New World.

And, then there is my ancestral line... the 'William' Ives (born 1607 in Langham Village, Rutland, England, and died 1648 in New Haven, CT) branch. The great majority of my research has been directed towards this branch – its main Ives trunk and its various and sundry affined family branches (including the Heebners, Warrs, Douds, Pfisters, Mosses, Warrens, Scrantons, and Gregorys).

My Approach & The State Of Affairs

As of the date of this document the major genealogical database (I am maintaining a number of other databases on the other Ives branches and on other families) contains 73,000+ records, comprising over 25,000+ marriages, among over 10,400 surnames, over a period of many many generations. The physical size of this information is 19500+ megabytes (19.5+Gb) of data and these data include facts/text and over 13,900 associated media files – e.g., census pages, passenger lists, various documents, draft cards, photos, etc.

Additionally, I also maintain over 125 ancillary databases – containing either lineage information about other Ives line progenitors, or on a number of “problem” Ives for whom descendants can be found, but not ancestors or lineage progenitors.

I emphasize that these are not “my” databases, but rather that these are databases that I maintain. Far too many Ives researchers and informants – past and present – have contributed data to these databases over a period of years and decades for me to call them “my” databases.

While I have no qualms about the basic reliability of almost all of the information in the database(s), there obviously are some cases which either were dismissed out of hand (e.g., another genealogical researcher putting Odin in my ancestral line) or which have certain conflicts of dates, places, or ancestry with the information from other researchers (e.g., a father just cannot be born after the son). I have tried to take a cautionary stance with these data as opposed to a blindly optimistic approach. Because I am not attempting to establish certifiable legalities, I use what I term the BDA approach – always use the Best Data Available – at the time of my research.

My work is a compilation of what information I find about many people and it never has been (nor will it ever be) intended to represent the absolute totality of available information. Nor do I make any claims as to the absolute and complete objective veracity and positive “smoking gun” proof of all of the database's information. I'm just doing the best that I can with the information, access, time, and tools at hand. My tools include hard copy searching, Internet-based searching, the use of the Family Tree Maker software programs to organize and gather information, and the subscription to online genealogical databases.

I am engaged in a personal interest, not in the pursuit of the Holy Grail, and my objective is to pursue the genealogical research that is of interest to me, not to provide a comprehensive genealogy of the Ives and affined families (nor to provide all known information about all or any Ives ancestor or relative... that always will be a “work in progress”). Simply put, my goal is to identify as many members of the various Ives family trees as is possible.

Given all of the above, this database will always be an active in-use research tool – its contents and data subject to change/correction and addition on a regular (i.e., daily) basis. It never will be a “finished product,” nor do I anticipate that it ever will be something about which it can be said... “and that is the last word on that person or branch.” Genealogy is nothing if not malleable and dynamic.

Availability Of My Database Information

If anyone wishes to have a copy of my entire database (including the 13,900+ media files), I am more than happy to provide the same on a USB thumb drive at no cost (other than that of the thumb drive). At the present time, my database can be made available either in several of the Family Tree Maker formats or in the more generic GEDCOM standard format (used by a number of other genealogical programs). The textual core of my database, as well as a number of summary and descriptive documents generated by myself and by a number of other excellent Ives researchers, can be downloaded from the Ives genealogy web page that I maintain (and which I update from time to time) at: <http://ivescentral.com/genealogy/>

I'm also happy to provide whatever information that any of the databases that I maintain may have on a specific person or lineage – via e-mail or snail mail. It should be kept in mind, of course, that my work is dynamic and that my database, and the included information, grows and changes on a weekly, if not daily, basis. Be forewarned – if I send you information (either via e-mail or in hard-copy or on electronic media), that information may have been modified or augmented by the time you read it!

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