The William Ives Descendants Report

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The Descendants Report described in this prefatory document has been generated from a genealogical database maintained by the author... but which has been contributed to by hundreds of Ives researchers, present and past, over a number of decades. They have my grateful acknowledgment and my most sincere thanks!

This particular database contains data and information that have been gathered and compiled during a 49-year span of genealogical research. To date, the William Ives database contains ca. 80,000+ records, with 16+k attached digital media files; it weighs in at 25Gb in size. The William Ives lineage contains, by far, the greatest number of Ives descendants in the New World – of any of the known 100 distinct Ives lineages there.

Please note that this report does NOT contain the entirety of the William Ives database – e.g., most data on the many affined families (there are over 11,500 surnames in the database) will not be included; nor will the thousands of media files.

This Descendants Report was produced using Ged2Reg (GEDCOM to Register), a desktop application by Tom Shanley, as well as the Family Tree Maker, OpenOffice, and PrimoPDF programs.   The exported GED file from Family Tree Maker is used by Ged2Reg to extract, organize and format the generational data, data source information, and relationships; the output being in a raw ODT file format which OpenOffice extracts and expands with regard to the data and the footnotes; which PrimoPDF then 'prints' out as a platform-independent PDF file.

[DJI's Note:] I have found Tom's program to be a very powerful and useful report and index generator. It has many options and comes with a very detailed and well explained User's Guide. It can generate reports (Descendants & Ancestors) with structure and contents that commercial genealogy programs cannot match. Its own capabilities (especially for very large databases) are somewhat restricted by the built-in limitations of whatever word processing program that you are using – none of them are problem/limit-free (issues include limits on number of footnotes, and the actual full indexing of large databases – all handled by the word processing program).

This report should in no way be considered either complete (research is an ongoing set of processes; and I am limited to information sources that are available to me) or 100% accurate (typos, non-perfect grammar and syntax, conflicting information, and just plain erroneous information will always be present in a data set of this type, size, and complexity).

The database from which this information is drawn is a purely research-oriented database... designed to acquire and organize data and information. I depend heavily on the 'Notes" field in the Family Tree Maker software for entering all kinds of formatted/unformatted information. Some of the data in the 'Notes' field may contradict other data or even be "erroneous" – this is the nature of a research database: gather all of the available data to have on hand for inspection and evaluation. The database is not designed to present said data and information in a sifted, neatly written "story" context – that is up to you, the viewer and user of this information, to produce according to your own preferences and needs.

This report is thoroughly footnoted, with 46,000+ source footnotes available to the viewer and researcher. Wherever possible, these footnotes have been linked via hypertext to the original information source.

This Descendants Report does <u>NOT</u> contain a name index (the previous version did). While such an index can be generated by the Ged2Reg program, in this particular instance the Name Index would be more than 500 pages in length! While a name index can make person-searching more efficient in smaller documents, in this case the size of the name index would make its actual use counterproductive... there would be many pages worth of the various "Ives, John ?" listings, for example, with no way of determining which John Ives is the one sought; and there would also be dozens of page number listings for just plain "Ives. John."

Since PDF-format text documents can be searched (via either CTRL-F, or SHIFT-CTRL-F for Advanced Search) by the user, I have decided that it is far more efficient and effective to use that function to find a specific person than it is to rely on a 500+ page name index that is so large that you almost would need a name index of the name index! <grin>
I would suggest that the user of this Descendants Report should not search for something as 'common' as "John Ives" (you will spend a lot of time scrolling through them until you find the one that you actually are seeking) or "Ohio" or "Chicago." It is often much quicker and more useful to search either on a spouse's surname, or on their given name and surname (e.g., "Ruth Atwater"); or to search for an 'uncommon' given name such as "Hortense" or "Zebulon" or on any other relatively uncommon search term, e.g., "Honolulu," "Dunmore Cemetery," etc.

New information is always welcome and gratefully received. And corrections to existing data are at least as gratefully received! The "truth" is an elusive goal in any genealogical endeavor and all one can do is to work tirelessly toward it.

The latest version of this report always can be downloaded from: http://www.ivescentral.com/

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