

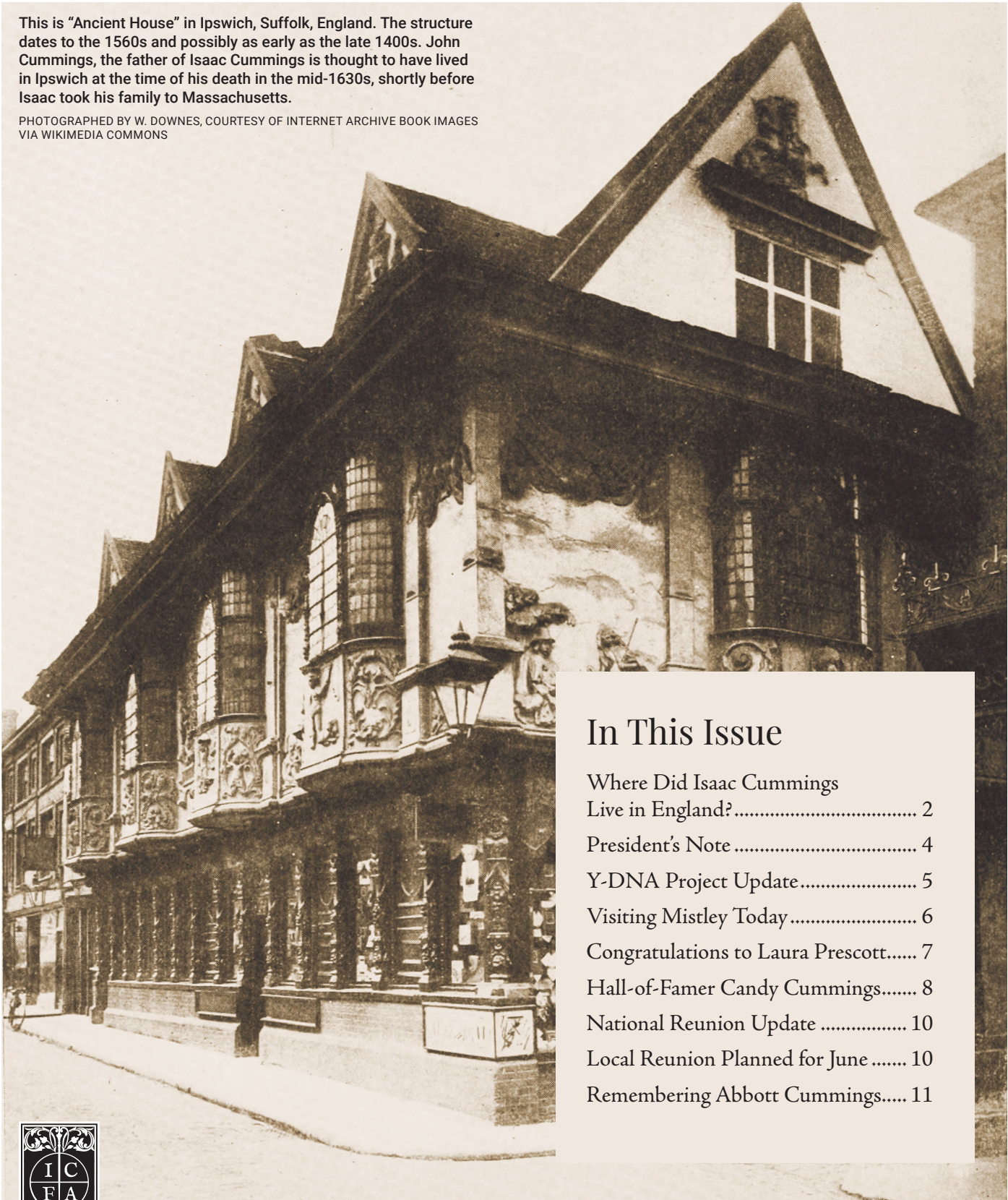
RENEW NOW!

CUMMINGS CHRONICLES

FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF ISAAC CUMMINGS (1601-1677)

This is "Ancient House" in Ipswich, Suffolk, England. The structure dates to the 1560s and possibly as early as the late 1400s. John Cummings, the father of Isaac Cummings is thought to have lived in Ipswich at the time of his death in the mid-1630s, shortly before Isaac took his family to Massachusetts.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY W. DOWNES, COURTESY OF INTERNET ARCHIVE BOOK IMAGES VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



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Where Did Isaac Cummings Live in England?



HADLEIGH CASTLE, ESSEX. BY CHRIS BEACH FROM LONDON (FLICKR) [CC BY 2.0, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS]

The origins of Isaac Cummings in Eastern England have been researched over the years by several members of the Isaac Cummings Family Association, including John Plummer, David Butler Cummings, and Abbott Cummings. This summary of what we know about the geographical roots of Isaac and some of his family members borrows extensively from their work, which can be found at ICFA's website.

NOTE: PLACES IN **BOLDFACE** ARE MARKED ON THE COMPANION MAP AT RIGHT.

Most of the very early immigrants to New England came from Eastern England, often from the counties of Suffolk and Essex. And those counties are where the families of Isaac Cummings had lived for generations prior to his departure for Massachusetts with his wife and children about 1635.

Isaac's family, with the Cummings name spelled various ways including Commyn and Commin, appears in the records of numerous Essex and Suffolk communities during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Isaac appears to have been baptized April 5, 1601 at **Easthorpe**, Essex, England, the son of John and Amy (Green) Cummings. John, who was born in 1565, owned land in **Copford**, Essex in 1606, and fathered children born in both Easthorpe and Copford. The communities were less than two miles apart. John's father (Isaac's grandfather) may also have been named John and may have been baptized in **Bocking**, which is about ten miles east of Easthorpe.

A number of probable members of the family of Isaac's mother, Amy Greene, have also been found in Easthorpe, and **Birch**, which abuts Easthorpe and Copford on the south.



1. Eastthorpe
2. Copford
3. Bocking
4. Birch
5. Ipswich
6. Great Tey
7. Woolverstone
8. Tolleshunt D'Arcy
9. Mistley
10. Colchester

MAP OF ESSEX. PUBLIC DOMAIN, COURTESY OF [HTTPS://FROMOLDBOOKS.ORG/R/N/PAGES/UNEDITED-ESSEX-MAP/](https://fromoldbooks.org/r/n/pages/unedited-essex-map/)

There are indications that Isaac’s father John was wealthy and most of his properties were located near Eastthorpe. About 1624 or 1625, John may have moved to Ipswich, Suffolk, where he is thought to have died a decade later. In his will dated 1634 there are bequests to Isaac and three other children named Ursula, John and Abraham.

Several places in the region show up in John’s will, which was extensively analyzed by David Butler Cummings. Land at **Great Tey** near Copford was given to Abraham, who also lived with his family in a home at **Woolverstone** in Suffolk, about four miles south of Ipswich. **Tolleshunt D’Arcy** in Essex, about six miles south of Eastthorpe, was where Isaac’s brother John lived with his family.

Abbott Cummings found in his research that in 1630, Isaac and Abraham penned their livestock together in **Mistley**. The town of **Colchester** in Essex, about midway between Tolleshunt D’Arcy and Mistley, was where Isaac and his brother John were required by their father to make payments to one another, perhaps as part of will-related family business arrangements. Another possible family location was the village of **Doddinghurst** in Essex, about 23 miles south of Tolleshunt D’Arcy, where Isaac’s uncle Robert Cum-

mings (his father’s brother) may have lived with his family.

In 1633 records show Isaac was in debt to his father for 44 pounds, an amount that was forgiven in his father’s will. Perhaps Isaac borrowed the money to buy property in Mistley, and perhaps following his father’s death and the waiver of this debt he sold the property and used the funds to help finance his move to Massachusetts.

Isaac is thought to have left Mistley and England not long after his father’s death. John Plummer suggests that Isaac may have left in June of 1635 on the ship *Great Hope of Ipswich*, arriving in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in August of that year. What is known is that Isaac disappeared from the Mistley records in 1635 and by mid-1636 reappeared in Massachusetts with his wife Anne and three children where they settled among a growing group of other English settlers, some number of whom were probably former neighbors from Essex and Suffolk. By July of 1636 he had already started building his future by obtaining a grant of land in Watertown, just west of Boston. ?

NOTE: AN ARTICLE ENTITLED “WHERE DID ISAAC CUMMINGS LIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS?” WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *CHRONICLES*.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

By DAVID ROLAND



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Janine Balistreri, Everett MA
Andrew Cummings, Middletown RI
Will Ross Cummings, Kent WA
Gary Cummins, Traverse City MI
Lawrence Davies, Apopka FL
Clinton Exley, Woodstock GA
Timothy & Karen Farrell, Shaker Heights OH
Kathryn & Paul Faulkner, Hillsborough, NB, Canada
Jo Ann Ford, Newnan GA
Robert Shervin, Jackson WY
Deborah King, Casper WY
Daniel Kreter, Albany CA
John McNamee Jr., Fairfield CT
Roger & Jeanne McNitt, LaJolla CA
Susan Parisi, Fairport NY
Sharlot Prokop, Tucson AZ
William Rand, Sagamore Hills OH
Thomas & Kelly Redlin, Oak Creek WI
Dr. Jerry Stubben, Pueblo West CO
Roger & Connie Tuttle, Harpersfield OH
Patty Wheet, Holcomb KS

Hello Cummings Cousins, and welcome to the exciting Spring Issue of *Cummings Chronicles*. This is my first edition as President of ICFA and I'm delighted to bring you such an interesting mix of stories and updates.

Most of us do genealogy for fun and come to it later rather than earlier in life. We enjoy the challenge of research and the thrill of discovering (and sharing) our ancestors' stories. For some of us family history also becomes a kind of truth seeking, an exercise in learning more about how we came to be, well, ourselves.

Christine Kenneally's splendid book *The Invisible History of The Human Race: How DNA and History Shape Our Identities and Our Futures*, argues that "the effect of a family may be so powerful that it can be replicated down through many generations, over and over through hundreds of years. It's no wonder that so many people choose to study the distant histories of their families to understand how they work today."

Today's genealogists are fortunate. A quarter century ago, about the time ICFA was being organized, our digging often started with a few scraps of information from older relatives and moved on to laborious searching through paper records and hand-cranked rolls of microfilm. The Internet was more a promise than a solution. My but things have changed. Building a five generation tree and finding scores of new "cousins" today is sometimes only a click (or a DNA test) away.

Which brings me back to Christine Kenneally, who advises genealogists to take advantage of "all the modern tools we can use." ICFA has done just that. In this issue you will find updates on our "modern" tools – the successful Y-chromosome DNA Project and our unique digital database (which includes more than 34,000 individuals and 12,000 families) – as well as reporting on the English origins of Isaac Cummings and his families. Also featured are a story about baseball great Candy Cummings, reminders of new and departed friends, and family reunions where we can meet kin and learn even more about our shared ancestral history.

We hope you will find this edition enjoyable and useful. ICFA's primary focus is on collecting and sharing the stories of people who lived as far back as four centuries ago. That's a lot of stories. We're here to help you find and tell yours. Let me hear from you at rolandmail@aol.com.

Y-DNA Project Update

BY JOHN CLEARY AND TIM CUMMINGS

As all members will know, Isaac Cummings emigrated to colonial North America in the 1630s and is the founder of the lineage the Association commemorates. Members of his family remained in the home villages in Essex and Suffolk, England, meaning collateral descendants could still live in England today. But ICFA's project focuses on Isaac's American descendants from his two sons, four grandsons, and other males in subsequent generations.

Y-DNA is particularly useful to study the spread of a surname or a male-line descent lineage (only males carry Y chromosomes). The first phase of the project tested invited Association members on 67 short tandem repeat (STR) markers at Family Tree DNA. Several other previously-tested men, some with different surnames, were also invited to participate. A few men have recently progressed to 111 markers. The member family testers were selected to ensure a representative spread across all of the known branches of the lineage.

Phase 1 of the project hoped to gain answers to a number of initial questions.

Q: Can a distinctive genetic signature for Isaac Cummings be identified?

A: A distinctive 67-marker haplotype (genetic signature) that is very likely to have been Isaac's has been identified. It is noticeable that at the 37- and 67-marker levels our testers have no other close matches other than the project members.

Q: Can some/most/all of the tester members of the Association be shown to be descended from Isaac?

A: All of the tested men with a genealogical (historical) profile of descent from Isaac have a form of the Isaac Cummings haplotype, and so are members of one genetic family, which can be confidently linked to Isaac Cummings.

Q: Can this be used to identify other DNA testers as descendants of Isaac?

A: In principle, yes it can. The project has identified some matching testers named Cummings who are not members of the Association but who do match the Isaac haplotype. They are without doubt descended either from Isaac or his relatives who remained in England. There have also been matches to a small number of people with

different surnames. Because of the haplotype's distinctive nature, the likelihood is very high that they are also descendants of this Cummings family.

Q: Can distinctive genetic markers be identified for different branches of the Isaac Cummings lineage, such as descendants of Isaac's sons and grandsons?

A: To some extent this has happened, but the first phase of testing has not yet managed to identify shared genetic markers for the particular branches of Isaac's sons or grandsons.

Q: If genetic branches of the lineage can be identified, do they agree with and confirm the branches described through genealogical research up to the present?

A: Research on this is ongoing, and it will form the subject for Part 2 of the report, but there are some indications of genetic branches that appear to confirm genealogical research.

CONCLUSION

This report has looked at the general conclusions we can take from the Phase 1 of the Association's DNA study. Our impression is that some of the testers' genealogical branches have been confirmed by genetic data while others seem to be questioned by the same data. In our next report we will look in more detail at how the genetic and genealogical data fit with each other and we will propose some directions for future research. ¶

Three years ago ICFA launched its **Y-chromosome DNA surname project**. The effort now includes nearly 40 men, most from member families. John Cleary and Tim Cummings have extensive experience in DNA testing and analysis and recently joined the program as guest administrators and advisors.

Their report is the first in a series presenting main findings from the initial phases of the project.



LEFT: THE MISTLEY TOWERS AND WAR MEMORIAL THAT BELONGED TO ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH UNTIL IT WAS DEMOLISHED IN 1870. PAUL FARMER CC BY-SA 2.0 VIA WIKI COMMONS.

RIGHT: WELCOME TO MISTLEY. KEITH EVANS, GEOGRAPH.ORG.UK VIA WIKI COMMONS

Visiting Mistley Today

“

Mistley is charming with centuries-old stone buildings, a town square, a hotel, a museum, restaurants and miles of nearby fields and farmland. It is a wonderful, picturesque place to visit..”

- LINC CUMMINGS



THIS 1772 PAINTING OF MISTLEY SHOWS THE STILL INTACT ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIVER STOUR. ENGLISH LANDSCAPE FROM MISTLEY HALL, ESSEX (ELIAS MARTIN) - NATIONALMUSEUM STOCKHOLM PUBLIC DOMAIN VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

In the fall of 2015, former ICFA President Linc Cummings and his wife Marti were in Eastern England and visited areas of Essex and Suffolk where Isaac Cummings and his extended family lived before he took his wife and children to Colonial Massachusetts. The region is about 60 miles northeast of London and Isaac's forbears are thought to have lived there for at least several generations in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Linc and Marti were visiting Linc's daughter, Deborah Cummings Harris, who lives in nearby Stansted Mountfitchet. The geographical proximity gave them the opportunity to spend a day with Deborah and their grandchildren that included a stop in Mistley, where Isaac lived prior to his departure for Massachusetts about 1635. Linc described Mistley as "a quaint coastal village in northeast Essex on the River Stour where Isaac Cummings lived and became the first known Cummings to emigrate to America."

Located on the south shore of the River Stour Estuary, Mistley was once a thriving port community that now has a population of about 2,700. A large but vacant wharf warehouse is indicative of a lack of commercial activity. It is contiguous to the Village of Manningtree which has more than double the population of Mistley and a larger offering of shops, restaurants and accommodations. Mistley and Manningtree, both of which lay claim to being the smallest town in England, are connected by a tree-lined Riverwalk. A train ride to London's Liverpool Station takes about an hour.

Perhaps the best-known tourist highlight is the Mistley Towers, neoclassical twin towers of the now demolished Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Mistley in Essex designed by famous architect Robert Adam in 1776.

Linc noted that he had hoped that Mistley itself might be a location for a future ICFA reunion or travel activity, but was disappointed to realize that a lack of hotel accommodations and other amenities would prevent such an event. But with access to rail service and larger communities such as neighbor Manningtree and nearby Colchester, he encourages anyone visiting the area with an interest in Cummings family history to plan a visit to Mistley and its environs.

The centuries seem to have passed Mistley by as a focus of trade and business activity. Perhaps the same was true in Isaac's time and that was one of his reasons for taking his family to Massachusetts. ?

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAURA PRESCOTT

Immediate Past ICFA President Laura Prescott was recently honored by the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) with the creation of the Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service.



Congratulations, Laura!

As most of Laura's ICFA friends know, she has been battling stage 4 cancer. She tells us she is continuing to hold her own and we wish her the very best.

The honor was announced this past September at APG's Professional Management Conference in Washington, D.C., where Association President Billie Stone Fogarty presented Laura with an engraved crystal award. Laura is a past APG President and longtime, active member. The award will be given yearly to recognize service to the field of professional genealogy.

"Laura has meant so much to the organization and to the field of professional genealogy that it is only fitting that the award be named in her honor and that she be the first recipient," said the APG president.

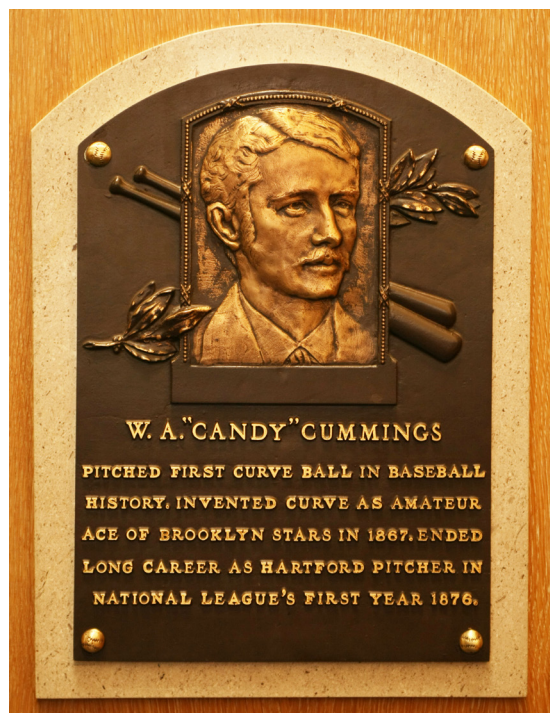
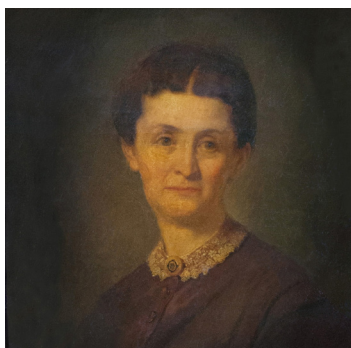
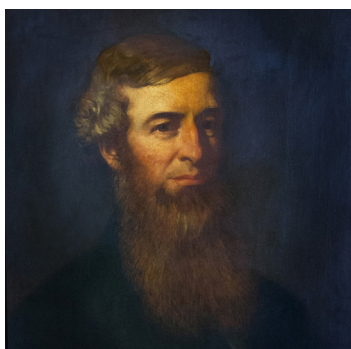
The award was created in recognition of exemplary professionalism and continuing encouragement to other professional genealogists. It acknowledges those with a career devoted to uplifting fellow genealogists and improving their career circumstances and opportunities, and dedicated service to the field of professional genealogy. It will hereinafter be named the Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy.

Laura is the recently retired director of Ancestry Academy, an educational website unit of ancestry.com that offers instructional videos on a wide variety of genealogical topics. She has been a professional researcher, writer, and speaker for many years and has worked for the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Her articles have appeared in *Ancestry*, *New England Ancestors*, *Genealogical Computing*, *NGS News Magazine*, and *Digital Genealogist*. She holds a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College.

Baseball pioneer. Inventor of the curveball. Hall-of-Famer. Candy Cummings was all of these. A star pitcher in the latter half of the 1800s, he played on several top baseball teams of the time.

By Stephen Robert Katz



LEFT: THE PARENTS OF CANDY CUMMINGS

RIGHT: CANDY CUMMINGS' PLAQUE IN THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME GALLERY. COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY, COOPERSTOWN, NY.

HALL-OF-FAMER Candy Cummings

Candy—officially, William Arthur Cummings—was born in 1848 in the central Massachusetts town of Ware, then a village of farmers, small-scale manufacturers, and a burgeoning textile mill industry. His parents were William Brackenridge Cummings, a producer of straw goods, and Mary Parker (néé Clarke).



CANDY CUMMINGS. COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME LIBRARY, COOPERSTOWN, NY.

Candy had a distinguished lineage. His paternal ancestry can be traced back to Isaac Cummings, who was among the earliest migrants from the British Isles to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, arriving about 1635. Isaac's descendants eventually made their way to Ware, becoming prominent members of the community. Jacob Cummings—Candy's great-great-grandfather—was one of the town's founding fathers and a leading local political figure. His paternal grandfather, Joseph Cummings, a deacon in the local church, represented Ware in the colonial and state legislatures. On Candy's mother's side, his grandfather, Avery Clarke, a local bonnet maker, was also a Massachusetts legislator.

In 1852, when Candy was a lad of around four years old, his parents moved the family to Brooklyn, New York. Referred to as the “crucible of baseball,” Brook-

Special thanks to Stephen Katz for sharing his extensive knowledge of Candy Cummings and his family, which descends from Isaac (1601-1677) through his son John (1630-1700). Portraits of William Brackenridge Cummings and Mary Parker (Clarke) Cummings, 1870. Artist: John Bernard Whittaker (1836-1926). Photos of the portraits are by Suzanne Durand Photography, Gilbertville, Massachusetts. The portraits are the property of the Young Men's Library Association, Ware, Massachusetts, and were photographed with their kind permission.

lyn—then an independent city—was a focal point of the baseball world. It boasted some of the best teams in the country, and it was there that Candy got his start in organized baseball.

The idea of trying to make a baseball curve came to him when he was still a youth. According to his own account, he and his friends were throwing clam shells, and as he watched them swerve left and right, he wondered whether he could make a baseball curve in the same way. Months of experimenting turned into years before Candy was ready to unleash his “secret weapon” in actual competition. He introduced the curveball to an unsuspecting baseball world in a game between his crack Brooklyn club, the Excelsiors, and the Harvard College nine, in 1867. Since then, the curveball has become a potent weapon in any pitcher’s arsenal.

In 1872, Candy joined the Mutual Base Ball Club of New York City, one of the founding clubs of baseball’s first professional league, which is also regarded as the first major league. After his stint with the Mutuals, he played for big-league clubs in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Hartford, and Cincinnati. In 1877, while Candy was affiliated with a team in Lynn, Massachusetts—the Live Oaks—he was elected the first president of baseball’s first minor league.

When his playing days were over, Candy returned to Ware, and then moved to Athol, Massachusetts, where he opened a painting and wallpapering business. He remained in Athol for several years, and then moved to Toledo, Ohio. He died there in 1924. His remains were returned to Ware for burial in the Cummings family plot in the town’s historic Aspen Grove Cemetery.

Ranking at or near the top in nearly every statistical category for pitchers, Candy was one of the best hurlers of his era. Fifteen years after his death—in 1939—he was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

Oh, and his nickname “Candy”? In his day, the moniker was given to someone who was the best at what he did. ♡

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There’s much more about Candy Cummings’s life and career in my book, *WARE’S BOYS OF SUMMER: The Stories of Seven Major League Baseball Players from One Small Central Massachusetts Town*; ordering information is available on my website, www.stephenkatz.com. I would love to hear from anyone who has stories or memorabilia relating to him: warebaseballhistory@gmail.com.

ICFA DATABASE REMINDER

Remember, password access to the private ICFA Database of is one of your member benefits. This collection represents the best family trees that members have provided to the Association during the past quarter century. It currently contains 34,358 Individuals, 12,151 Families, and 4,662 Unique Surnames.

We urge you to use it as part of your research. If you haven’t visited the ICFA database yet or for a while, log on and look for your ancestors and the information connected to them. And don’t overlook the Photos and Headstones sections which are linked to specific individuals.

Please contact our Database Chair Sherry Milham at smilham@yahoo.com if you have questions about access or research use.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Don’t forget to renew your membership for 2018. If you have already renewed, please consider buying a gift membership for a member of your family who shares your interest in Cummings Family genealogy.

ICFA is actively seeking members from families not currently part of The association and from families who have been longtime members. Younger members are especially welcome as we recruit and identify our next generation of participants and leaders.

Remember, membership is open to all descendants of Isaac Cummings (1601-1677) and anyone else who is interested in our activities. Annual memberships are \$20 for an individual, and \$25 for a family, which includes husband, wife, and children under the age of 18 years.

Memberships run for a full calendar year beginning January 1 and during the period member are granted password access to the ICFA Genealogy Database, receive the *Cummings Chronicles* newsletter and other member communications including information about the ICFA Reunion. Contributions help defray operating costs of the Association. Members who become delinquent are placed on the inactive list until membership is renewed.

Payments for current and past members, and applications for new members should be sent to:

Darla Jarvis
98 Bee Hole Road, Loudon NH 03307

An application/renewal form is provided on page 13.

NATIONAL REUNION UPDATE

BY DARLA JARVIS

The Association sponsors bi-annual reunions to conduct business and provide social opportunities where members may exchange information and form family friendships with other members.

As many of you know, starting in 1997 we began holding a biennial ICFA Reunion in odd numbered years. Of the ten reunions held, two were in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the rest were in the east, mostly in New England. Our most recent reunion was in the Washington DC area in July 2015.

In October 2015 I sent out a survey to all members seeking guidance on where and when to have the 2017 reunion. The "where" results were to hold it in the western U.S. with Washington State barely edging out California. The "when" results were to convene after Labor Day when airfare was less costly. Accordingly, after an exhaustive (and exhausting) search of 19 Seattle hotels I was able to arrange a very good deal at a very nice hotel for ICFA members. However, the lower hotel rates required us to financially guarantee a minimum level of attendees and room nights six months prior to the event. Unfortunately, we did not have enough firm reservations from members to make this commitment and postponed the 2017 reunion. The Executive Committee agreed that we should next look at opportunities for 2019.

As we think about "where and when" for 2019, I would like to avoid some of the issues that arose in the 2017 attempt, starting with the cost of lodging. One interesting approach to holding down expenses is to schedule our reunion at a college or university during the summer when most students are gone. Many schools are willing to host such an event, providing a dorm room, meals and meeting rooms at much reduced rates than commercial hotels. For example, I was recently quoted \$64 per night for a deluxe single and \$54 for a double by one Massachusetts college. The deluxe package included linens, soap, shampoo, towels and a private attached bath. Meals were \$8, \$9 and \$11 for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Please let me know what you think of this novel approach to help offset travel costs and result in more attendees. If you have a favorite college in your town or an alma mater that you regularly visit and are willing to check with them about such an arrangement, feel free to take the initiative. In any case, we will be asking you soon about your thoughts on a 2019 location, so by all means let me know your location preferences (darjarv@comcast.net). Thank you.

IN MEMORIAM



RECENT ICFA MEMBER DEATHS

March 18, 2015 Orman F. Cummings, Jr., age 75, in Falmouth, Maine. Became a member in 2004.

November 22, 2015 Rev. Roswell Sherrard Cummings, age 89, in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Became a member in 2002.

March 11, 2016 Leon Arthur Cummings, age 93, in Southborough, Massachusetts. Became a member in 2007.

August 12, 2016 Doris M. Sandell, age 88, in Raymond, Maine. Became a member in 1997 and served as ICFA Membership Chair 2009-2011.

May 9 2017 Marjorie Cummings Byrnes, age 104, in Sag Harbor, New York. Became a member in 2006.

May 29, 2017 Abbott Lowell Cummings, age 94, in Hadley, Massachusetts. Became a member in 2004 and was named an Honorary Lifetime Member in 2007.

April 21, 2018 Alan Ward Cummings, age 65, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Became a member in 2005.

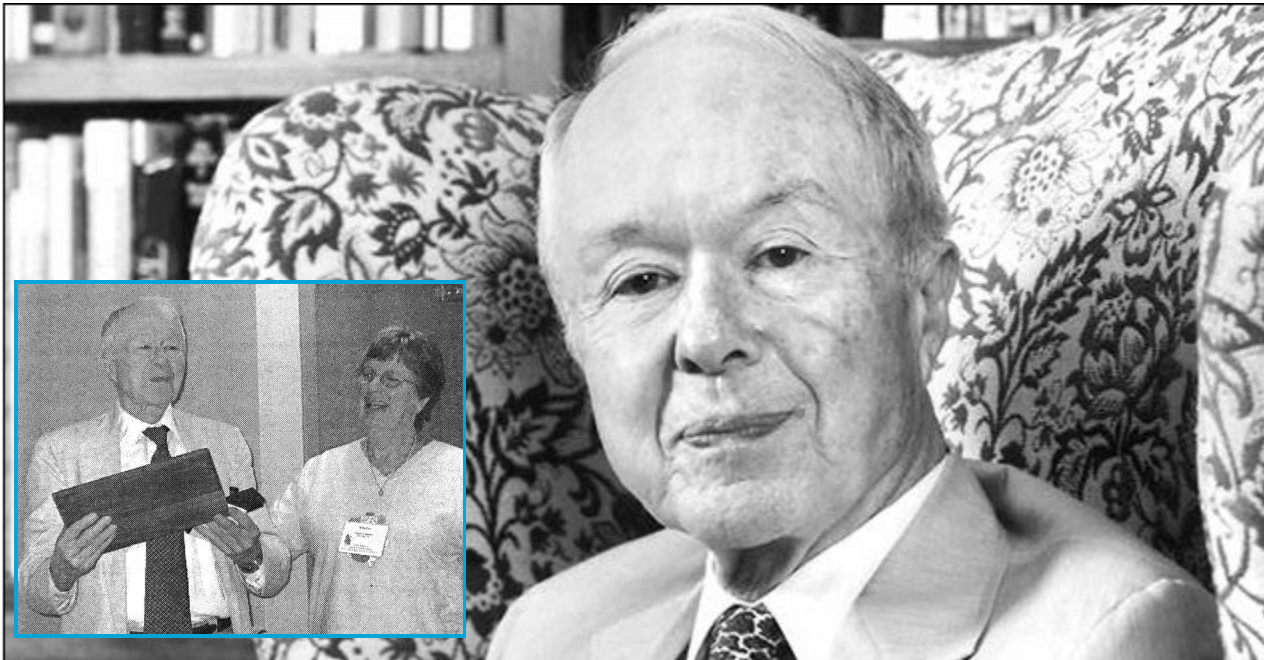
LOCAL WISCONSIN REUNION PLANNED FOR JUNE

ICFA Member Tom Redlin has announced a Cummings Family Reunion in Menomonie, Wisconsin, on Saturday June 9, 2018 honoring Phebe Louise Cummings Witt, her husband August Ferdinand "Fred" Witt, and Ann Elizabeth Hillman Wold, the wife of their son Freddie Witt. The event is planned for descendants of all three honorees "and those important to them," reports Tom. The reunion will be held from 12-7 p.m. in the Farm Bureau Shelter at Pine Ave and Wakanda Park Road, 900 Pine Avenue East, Menomonie WI 54751.

Tom is a maternal line Cummings via his mother Virginia and Phebe, whose parents were Sanford (1831-1887) and Martha Brown Cummings. Sanford's line descends from Isaac Cummings through his son, John Cummings (1630-1700). Festivities include a mini bass tournament, food and craft competitions, games, a water park and the Dunn County Historical Society and Heritage Museum. For more information visit wittcumplingsreunion.com or write Tom at tomredlinAAF@gmail.com.

Remembering Abbott Cummings

BY SHERRY MILHAM



INSET: ABBOTT CUMMINGS AND SHERRY MILHAM ARE SHOWN TOGETHER AT THE 2007 ICFA REUNION IN DANVERS MASSACHUSETTS, WHEN SHE PRESENTED HIS HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD.

Our good friend Abbott Lowell Cummings died May 29, 2017, in Hadley, Massachusetts, aged 94. He was born March 14, 1923, in Saint Albans, Vermont the son of the Rev. Stanley & Louise Lowell (Green). He was Trustee Emeritus and a Life Member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), and a Life Member of the Isaac Cummings Family Association. During his career, he was an architectural historian (PhD in Architectural History), preservationist, antiquarian, genealogist and nationally known as a superb writer and lecturer. One interviewer said that after he had spoken for nearly two hours, he didn't even misplace so much as a comma.

I believe I first met Abbott during the 1999 ICFA reunion at Cape Ann, Massachusetts. He became my mentor, educating me in all aspects of proper research, and the importance of documentation. He made it quite clear that research with incomplete or inaccurate documentation of events, people, and other things was not worth the paper upon which it was written.

Later, I began conducting genealogical research for Abbott at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. He would give me a problem for which he wanted an answer, trusting me to find the resources and docu-

ment the discoveries as I had been counseled. My reward was when I discovered something that he hadn't anticipated, thus sending him (and me) excitedly onto another path.

In July 2017, NEHGS received Abbott's expansive collection of genealogical research papers, family documents and heirlooms, including four large file cabinets and many boxes. His book, *The Descendants of John Comins (ca. 1668-1751) and his wife Mary, of Woburn and Oxford, Massachusetts and Windham County, Connecticut*, is a research classic. The NEHGS publication "American Ancestors" Vol. 18, No. 3, Fall 2017, pgs. 20-21, contains an article regarding this event. As with everything in this fantastic collection, each item was carefully labeled and organized, by Abbott, prior to his death.

I'll always be grateful to Abbott for his generosity and friendship. And for being the interesting, multi-talented and generous gentleman he was. My daughter Kim and I will never forget one of our visits to New England when Abbott had suggested we bring skirts because he was treating us to a dinner at one of his favorite restaurants. When Abbott went out to dinner, he dressed in coat and tie and often brought a hat and wanted us to dress accordingly. Thank you, Abbott. ♪

CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

Election of ICFA's officers, committee chairs and other members of the Board of Directors traditionally occurs at our biennial reunions. However, since we are not holding another Reunion until 2019, the Board recently took action involving several members of the leadership team consistent with the requirements of the Association's Bylaws.

The following changes have been approved: Membership Chair Tamara Larson will relieve longtime Treasurer Sandra Wilcoxon and they are currently working on the transition requirements and schedule. Secretary Darla Jarvis has assumed the role of Membership Chair from Tamara and the search for a new secretary has begun (see announcement at right). We are very grateful to Sandra for her many years of strong and reliable service to the organization. Likewise to Tamara for her years overseeing our membership function and willingness to assume the Treasurer's role (she is a former CPA, by the way, so it is a great fit), and to Darla for her continued stalwart support of our needs (she is also our former President and newsletter editor and remains our Reunion Chair, as many of you know). Thank you all.



DARLA JARVIS



TAMARA LARSON

ICFA LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

David Roland - President
Darla Jarvis – Secretary (Temporary)
Tamara Larson - Treasurer

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Rosemary Byrnes Doyle - Newsletter
Darla Jarvis – Membership and Reunion
Sherry Milham - Database
Beth D. Rosenquist - Historian

TRUSTEES

Sheila Arestad
Lincoln Cummings
Barry Moravek

PAST PRESIDENTS

Laura Prescott (2015-17)
Lincoln Cummings (2011-15)
Leigh E. Cummings, Jr., (2009-11)
David L. Cummings, (2001-03 and 2007-09)
Sherry Milham (2005-07)
Darla Jarvis (2003-05)
Barry C. K. Moravek (1997-2001)

HELP WANTED

ICFA is seeking qualified members to fill two important leadership roles – **Board Secretary** and **Social Media Coordinator**. As noted in the previous item, current Secretary Darla Jarvis will be adding the responsibilities of Membership Chair to her role as Reunion Chair and is ready to hand over the Secretarial role to another volunteer. The Social Media role is new.

The organization's ByLaws describe the Secretary's role as having charge of the records of the Association, participating in and preparing minutes of the Executive Committee, and seeing that meeting notices are timely mailed to Board.

It is not a time-consuming role, as Darla will confirm, but requires attention to detail and is perfect for anyone with administrative experience and the time to participate in 30-60 minute conference call meetings roughly every quarter.

The Social Media role is perfect for anyone who has experience with online services as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and other social platforms that most of our older members have heard about but generally don't participate in.

ICFA recognizes that social media will be an important part of our future communications strategy and is prepared to begin participating (we already have a Facebook page) with the guidance of an interested member (or two, or three) who can begin to build our networks.

Please contact President David Roland at rolandmail@aol.com to express interest (or nominations and ideas) in these openings.

PUBLICATIONS

ICFA publishes the *Cummings Chronicles* newsletter to provide a forum for historical discussion and inquiry to support its "network" of Isaac Cummings descendants and researchers. Members are encouraged to submit articles and information of interest to Rosemary Byrnes Doyle at 63295 Johnson Ranch Rd., Bend, OR 97701 or rosemary@doylearabians.com.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES

ICFA has developed a master Isaac Cummings descendants database utilizing genealogies and family trees largely provided by its members.

Members may forward queries about the database by contacting Administrator Sherry Milham at 82181 Bergman Drive, Indio, CA 92201 or smilham@yahoo.com and are encouraged to forward their lineages as they are updated and corrected when members learn and verify more about their line of descent.

Be sure to visit us online at
<http://isaaccummingsfamily.org>

ICFA STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Isaac Cummings Family Association, Inc. (ICFA) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that was established in 1996 by a small group of Isaac Cummings descendants to develop, preserve, and share information about the history and genealogy of Isaac's American descendants. The organization also supports research into the English origins of Isaac and his ancestors, honors Isaac and his families as early Massachusetts pioneers, and promotes the search for artifacts and other items of interest to Isaac's descendants and family historians.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to descendants of Isaac Cummings who was born in Essex, England in 1601 and died in Topsfield, Massachusetts in 1677, and anyone who is interested in Isaac's descendant families and the ICFA. Annual memberships are \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family including spouse and children under 18. Membership runs for a full calendar year beginning January 1 and entitles members to access the private ICFA Genealogy Database, receive the *Cummings Chronicles* newsletter, Reunion information and other communications during the membership period. Membership funds are used to defray the Association's operating costs. Members who do not pay dues by January 1 become delinquent and are placed on the inactive list.

Here's an idea! →

If you have a child, grandchild or relative who can help us, give them a surprise gift of an ICFA membership and get them involved as an active member of the ICFA family.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

Check one: New Member Renewal **Type of Membership:** Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Note: Your email address will be used only for ICFA newsletter and other communications purposes.



Please make your check or money order payable to Isaac Cummings Family Association and send both form and check to:

Darla Jarvis
98 Bee Hole Road
Loudon NH 03307

For more information, please email at: icfamembership@gmail.com

NOTE: An important benefit of ICFA membership is that you can enter your family's lineage/family tree from Isaac into the Association's extensive private genealogy database. For more information on how to do so and also on how to use the database for research purposes, please contact Administrator Sherry Milham at smilham@yahoo.com.

ICFA is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and my contribution may help defray expenses involved in operating ICFA. I understand that membership is from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year. I acknowledge that ICFA may have access to my contact information. Furthermore, I trust the honest intent of the Association's volunteer board members and other leaders and hold them harmless of any actions and obligations.