

CUMMINGS CHRONICLES

FOR THE DESCENDANTS OF ISAAC CUMMINGS (1601-1677)

CONTAINS SALEM REUNION PHOTOS!

THE WHIPPLE HOUSE IN IPSWICH DATES TO 1677 AND IN 1927 WAS MOVED FROM ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION IN THE TOWN TO ITS CURRENT SITE ON PROPERTY ONCE OWNED BY ISAAC CUMMINGS. PHOTO CREDIT: ELIZABETH B. THOMSEN [WIKICOMMONS]

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Isaac's Colonial Life Before Topsfield

By Megan Donoghue

As a student and as a professional, the history of New England life in the 17th century has long held my interest. I am grateful to have been awarded the ICFA Scholarship, and it is a pleasure to delve into the life and times of Isaac Cummings, a fellow North Shore resident (although a much earlier one to be sure).

I am principally researching the elusive period of time that Isaac Cummings spent in Ipswich after arriving in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. I am also seeking to better understand and explain the context of the settings in which he and his family lived. Cummings has proved to be a paradigm of his class and culture: participatory in the world around him apropos of his time, but of a humble presence in the records.

Through my research I discovered that Isaac Cummings' time in Ipswich may have been a brief period in his life, but it is nonetheless important. It shows us the path of so many English people at this time and what it took to succeed in the New England Colonies.

I started my research with the helpful ICFA website, which led me to the question: where did this information come from, and was there more to be found in the same and other sources? I moved on to reviewing records that would help me to understand Cummings as a man of his time. For those questions, I turned to the primary and secondary documents that others have used to produce the story of Isaac Cummings. The most data on I found on Isaac was in *The Ancient Records – Town of Ipswich, 1634-1654*. In it I found not only the familiar data points I had read on the ICFA website, but also the ways in which Cummings interacted with his fellow townspeople. This helped me to gather an idea of how interdependent this community was on all of its members, in what ways they interacted, and how often members of the community moved around the Colony.

To this information I added sources rich in the context of the time to answer my next questions: Why did people move around from town to town after they moved from England? Did the ways in which they interacted within a community influence that? Was movement motivated more by human connection, by land availability, or by something else? To track down Isaac Cummings in this context, I added to those questions: where did Isaac Cummings move from and move to when he arrived in Massachusetts?

Cummings' first colonial community of note was in 1635 in Watertown, about ten miles west of Boston. With my general knowledge of colonial families amassing large tracts of land to divide among future generations, I knew that the thirty-five acres he received in 1635 was not enough to satisfy his familial needs. I also knew he and many of his neighbors were coming from an England of great social, economic, and religious upheaval—even to the point of being on the brink of civil war. I found secondary sources on Wa-



Megan Donoghue is the first ICFA Scholarship Recipient and a graduate student in the History Department at Salem State University in Salem, Massachusetts.

This article is adapted from Megan's interim project report for the University's Spring Term. Her access to libraries and other sources of primary source materials is currently limited by emergency pandemic closures, but with a bit of luck she hopes to complete her scholarship work by mid-to late summer. Her final report will become the basis of another article in the next issue of *Cummings Chronicles*.

tertown society, which led to the remarkable discovery that Cummings' acreage was not meager at all in that time and place. According to historian Roger Thompson, a moratorium had been placed on land grants in 1635, and before that most grants were between one and twelve acres.

In this perspective, Cummings' thirty-five acres can be seen as a substantial gift and a draw to the Watertown community. The land grants system reopens in 1636 and the strife that this causes within the already crowded town causes some community members to seek life and land elsewhere.

Was community strife in Watertown a motivating factor for Cummings to move north 35 miles or so to Ipswich? After all, he was a man who left the increasing friction and friction of England for the promise of the blessed life to which he alluded in his last will and testament? Do we see a similar pattern of conflict and movement in the records of Ipswich? How did Cummings interact with his Ipswich neighbors, and was it typical of the time? Was his sole motivation for leaving Ipswich the sustainingly-large land purchase in Topsfield? Did his proximity and relationship with John Winthrop, Jr. have any influence on his settlement and his ability to acquire attractive properties?

As I read through the records and history of life north of Boston in the mid-seventeenth century, the list of questions continues to grow.

During the coming months I hope to answer many of these questions and write for you again and add to our knowledge of the fascinating life and times of Isaac Cummings. ♪

ICFA DATABASE

Dear Members,

ICFA Database access is a member benefit. Usernames and passwords are emailed after membership applications are received. Members may update usernames and passwords as necessary.

The database has a wealth of information about our Cummings ancestors and their collateral lines. If you are new to the database, start by entering a name in the green box located on the lower right-hand corner of the Welcome Page. Click on the name of the individual and you will be taken to the Individual's Profile Page. The page is filled with details that are worth reviewing multiple times. In the Notes section, one will find information about the Cummings' Y-DNA program, and references to various historical documents, wills, and deed references, including the actual language found in the document. Known family members are also listed with a link to their Individual Profile Page. Source documents are provided along with a trustworthiness scale. Click on tabs titled Family, Ancestors or Descendants to view family trees. Trees can be printed or downloaded by clicking on the PDF tab.

Please take some time and check out all the resources available in the ICFA Database. If you notice missing family members or inaccurate information, please send me an email (shown below) indicating what is missing or inaccurate, along with documentation to support the correction. Your efforts will help grow the size and scope of the ICFA Database. They are greatly appreciated.

Susan Thompson, Archives and Database Chair
skthompson71@comcast.net.

Isaac Cummings (1601-1677)
CUMMINGS-HOBBS-BELL HOUSE

Near this site is a stone foundation built on land purchased in 1652 by Isaac Cummings, an original Topsfield resident.

Isaac was born in Essex County, England, in 1601 and arrived in Massachusetts around 1635 with his wife and three children. His property consisted of 150 acres running south for a half-mile, roughly along both sides of today's East Street. About 100 acres lay to the west reaching today's U.S. Route 1. The remaining 50 acres lay to the east in today's Willowdale State Forest. Isaac died in 1677. His American descendants spread widely throughout the colonies and the nation and today number in the tens of thousands.

Isaac may have resided in the dwelling built on the foundation. His son, also named Isaac, lived here. The property was later acquired by owners named Hobbs and Bell. In the 1920s the upper house structure was moved nearby and later destroyed in a fire.

ISAAC CUMMINGS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
EST. 1996

DEDICATED JULY 12, 2019 BY THE ISAAC CUMMINGS FAMILY ASSOCIATION
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

by DAVID ROLAND

Dear members,

Welcome to another issue of *Cummings Chronicles*. We hope you and everyone in your life remain healthy during these fearful days in Pandemic America – or Pandemica, as I've taken to saying.

Genealogists are by definition historians. Our Cummings ancestors faced their own frightful maladies over nearly four centuries of American life, a thought that reminds us of the perils and fears we share with those families from our past.

I want to thank my past and current ICFA Executive Committee colleagues for their time and efforts on our organization's behalf. Despite our achievements over three decades of activity, we remain a smallish national volunteer group that regularly requires new leaders to continue serving your needs. We have some key officer vacancies at the moment and would love to talk with interested members about what we do and how you might assume a board role. We won't ask for much of your time and think you will enjoy helping guide your family association.

We also need a regular replenishment of new members to maintain our growth. Thanks for your continued participation and renewal and please consider recruiting other members from your Cummings family. Don't forget that we offer individual, family and lifetime membership categories for your convenience.

ICFA exists to expand knowledge of our 17th century Colonial progenitors and their thousands of descendant families. In addition to a collection of fun photos from last year's National Reunion in Salem, Massachusetts (thanks to everyone who shared their favorite shots), this edition contains articles that add to our search for Cummings facts and stories. They focus partly on traditional genealogical research and partly on the newer tools of genetic genealogy. The writer Libby Copeland,

author of a wonderful new book called *The Lost Family: How DNA testing is Upending Who We Are*, says that "this is a really important moment in the history of the American Family and the many ways we now use DNA testing are being led by "citizen scientists." I think the two DNA-related articles in this issue are great examples of citizen science. If you have not yet taken an autosomal or Y-chromosome test, we encourage you to do so. Please contact me directly if you have questions about how to do so at davidroland@outlook.com.

A brief update on ICFA's 2021 Reunion plans: In Salem, it was determined that our next biennial gathering would take place in Wisconsin. Due to unexpected circumstances and concerns caused by the national coronavirus emergency, including financial risks and binding legal obligations for lodging and meeting space, the Executive Committee decided in March to put our plans on hold until later in the year. We will of course let you know when further decisions about the event are made.

Please enjoy your *Chronicles* reading and stay well.

ICFA LEADERSHIP

OFFICERS

David Roland – President
(Vacant) – Vice President
Tamara Larson – Treasurer
(Vacant) – Secretary

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Darla Jarvis – Membership
Susan K. Thompson – Archives and Database
Sheila Arestad -- Reunion
Beth D. Rosenquist – Historian
David Roland – Newsletter

TRUSTEE

Lincoln Cummings

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)

ISAAC CUMMINGS:

Yeoman, Goodman, Churchman

The following essay by Colonial Historian DAVID GOSS is adapted from his talk about Isaac Cummings and his family to ICFA members at our Salem reunion. We are grateful to David for his fine efforts and for permission to reprint his work.

Isaac Cummings' reasons for leaving the security of Essex and Sussex and Old England about 1635 were similar to those of many other countrymen and families who immigrated to early Colonial Massachusetts. There were of course dreams of economic prosperity and opportunities for social advancement in a new land with far fewer people. Indeed, over nearly four decades Isaac became a man of property and a respected leader in both Ipswich and Topsfield. But the central force in his decision to relocate to a dangerous new home can largely be found in another motivation – his religious faith.

Isaac was a member of the first generation of settlers who carved Puritan New England, and more particularly eastern Essex County, out of the wilderness. He was a yeoman farmer by occupation, which is to say, not a gentleman farmer, but a man who would simply be referred to by neighbors and in legal documents as Goodman Cummings. He was also a man of Calvinist faith and a prominent proponent of the newly established Congregational system of church government. For the last 20 years of his life he was known as Deacon Cummings.

So what religious conditions, opportunities and differences motivated Cummings to leave England to come to New England? Well, inasmuch as Cummings fled the hierarchical Church of England to join and support an independent "Congregational" church, it appears that he was what historian Perry Miller would call a "visible saint" who did not support the idea of a monolithic English state church that demanded the membership and participation of the entire English population. He was rather an adherent of that distinct minority of English Puritans who, though not overtly Separatist, nonetheless believed that each group or "gathering of saints" or believers (that is, those who formed a "church") – should be "particular" unto itself. Such gatherings or churches were founded on a written Covenant that was a promise made by those saints to God. And this promise was made by those who

possessed the will and power to confess their faith publicly. Isaac was one of that group who would (in agreement with the local Godly community) swear to uphold their "covenant of faith" through the indwelling strength of the Holy Spirit without the need of enforcement by a church hierarchical government.

This unique view of God's elect sets Isaac Cummings and most of the other immigrants to Ipswich and Massachusetts Bay Colony apart from the great majority of English Puritans who remained in England. Cummings' Church of Christ in Ipswich was essentially an independent congregation under no organized form of church government such as those in England. While everyone was compelled to attend Sabbath meetings, only those who could give personal testimony to being a member of God's elect (that is, the "community of saints") would be given church membership. Being not only a confirmed member of the elect, but a deacon, clearly Isaac Cummings was a highly respected local resident. Each Massachusetts Puritan community congregation devised and adhered to its own covenant, voted on all its own policies and spiritual decisions, evaluated, hired, set clerical salaries and if necessary, even dismissed their own minister as a collective, voting body. Each congregation was in fact, entirely self-governing without the overreaching administrative authority of a hierarchy of archbishops, bishops, priests or even a national assembly.

Ironically, the collectively independent congregations of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635, were adamant in their assertion that they were NOT Separatist, but maintained that they were still firmly "rooted within the framework of the Church of England," an assertion that was, in reality, simply not the case at all. Colonists like Cummings sought and enjoyed their theologically reformed, religious independence despite their confusing claims that they were somehow still connected to the Church of England. Massachusetts Puritans had their differences: throughout the better part of the 17th century, some Puritan churches (in-

cluding those around Ipswich and Topsfield, where the Cummings family lived) publically maintained an attitude of mistrust and alienation from their outspoken Puritan neighbors at Plymouth who were known as the

“Separatist Puritan brethren.” Indeed, the political distance between the two groups of Puritans wouldn’t be officially resolved until the Massachusetts Bay Colony and Plymouth Colony united under a new charter in 1692. ¶

CUMMINGS GENEROSITY

We recently received a letter from our good friend Norm Isler, President of the Topsfield Historical Society. Norm wrote to tell us about a generous act by an Isaac descendant that all of us who support the Society and have been to its magical Parson Capen House in Topsfield will appreciate. Norm is shown at far left on page 7 during the unveiling of the Isaac Historical Marker.

While recently looking for some material in our Historical Collection Series concerning George Francis Dow, our Society's founder, I ran across an item regarding one of your ancestors that I thought might be of interest to you.

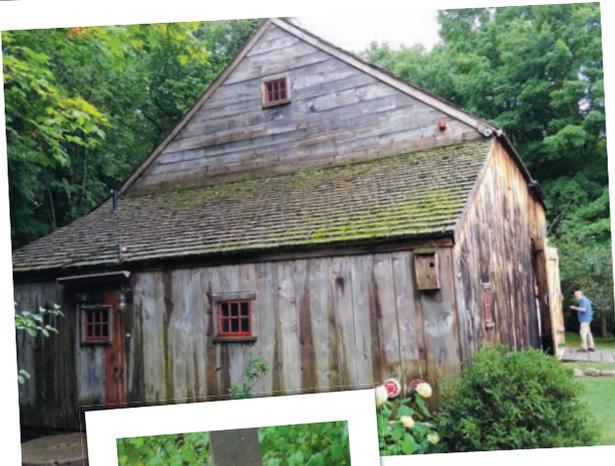
"For twenty years Dow had anticipated acquiring the 1683 Parson Joseph Capen House and finally in April 1912 David Cummings of Boston bequest 27 shares of United Shoe Machinery stock that enabled the Society to make an offer which was finally accepted in 1914. The final distribution of Mr. Cummings' estate gave the Society an additional 8 more shares.

It is very likely that without David's timely generosity the Capen House would not have been acquired. That would have been a great loss not only for the Society but for generations to come. Our Society clearly has a special relationship with the Cummings Family that this finding substantiates.

Would anyone care to research this generous Cummings relative and tell us about his life and family story in the next issue of "Cummings Chronicles?"

By the way, Norm also reminded us that all the books and collections the Society has ever published have now been digitized with help from the Boston Public Library. They are available at no charge from the Society's website, where you can also learn about and join the Society: <http://topsfieldhistory.org>.

Gould Barn



Parson Capen House, Topsfield



Topsfield

ICFA's motor coach (left) journey to Topsfield included the Parson Capon House and the Gould Barn, opposite page. Above, members are shown visiting the Cummings-Hobbs-Bell House site to dedicate the historical marker pictured on page 3. Attendees also visited the Cummings-Lamson-Smith Burial Grounds site and the South Side Cemetery.



Topsfield's South Side Cemetery has numerous Cummings Family grave markers while the older Cummings-Lamson-Smith Burying Ground only a few.

My Personal Autosomal DNA Spreadsheet Project

by Susan Thompson

I've been a genealogist for decades and started DNA testing my immediate family almost as soon as such tests became available. But testing is one thing and making sense out of the results is another. Eventually I started using a spreadsheet to help me better understand and organize test results. I want to tell you a bit about my approach and what I've learned, but first let me describe how I got to this point.

Initially, I enlisted my father, husband, two uncles and a cousin's participation in male line Y-DNA testing programs like that of the ICFA Y-Project. I had limited to no success, depending on the family line. Then along came autosomal testing at Ancestry.com and elsewhere and with it a renewed enthusiasm for discovering new relatives. [Autosomal DNA is inherited from the 22 pairs of autosomal chromosomes of both parents as opposed to the X and Y sex chromosomes.] I enlisted relatives from parents, aunts, uncles, sister, cousins, husband, children, niece, grandchildren and in-laws to assist with the journey to find more information about our family roots.

While my Y-DNA results were less than hoped for, my autosomal test results returned thousands of matches. My matches could be differentiated between maternal and paternal sides because both parents were tested and they shared no DNA in common. Most of the matches were from my paternal side, but who were they and who was the relative in common? Brick walls existed on two lines, one at a great-grandparent level and the other at a great-great-grand parent level. This made it difficult to assess the matches.

Blaine Bettinger, a noted genetic genealogist, reminds researchers working with autosomal results of the importance of developing family trees that include collateral lines back to the 4th to 6th cousin level. With each collateral line and match, of course, comes the hope of finding individuals with impeccably sourced family trees who can help fill in the blanks in our trees.

Clustering programs of one sort or another were then developed to help people match groups of relatives with other relatives. In my case, clustering revealed that an outsized number of matches were related to the Cummings line, but I needed to organize them in a way that made sense and would make the information useful. My most recent relative named Cummings was my grandmother, Ireta Susan Cummings. My 5th great-grandfather was Stephen Cummings Sr (1736 MA, about 1815 NY).

Ancestry recently developed a program called "ThruLines." It displays DNA matches to an ancestor, the amount of shared centimorgans and segments and the person's path to the ancestor. They are assigned to ancestors based on matching tree information. Unfortunately, this assumes a member's tree information is accurate. Such is not always the case. ThruLines provides matches to the 5th great-grandparent level.

I began to wonder if individuals identified as sharing DNA on ThruLines can be used to develop a family tree that includes more collateral lines? Can the information be consolidated and displayed on a spreadsheet starting at the 5th great-grandparent level progressing to the present? ICFA has a large database of family histories which I now look after, but it does not and cannot include every family member who lived between Isaac Cummings b. 1601 and today. But there is a lot to work with and hopefully it will continue to grow as new members add new information.

So using ICFA's Family Group Record for Stephen Cummings Sr as a starting point, I recorded his list of offspring, their spouses and corresponding birth and death years on a spreadsheet. Each offspring was given an ID # between 1 and 11. For the next generation, I recorded all offspring of the aforementioned individuals, their spouses, and corresponding birth and death years. They were given ID #s that reflected their parents number, their birth position, and a color. This pattern continued for each subsequent generation. Individuals identified as sharing matches at the 5th great-grand parent level per ThruLines, but not in the ICFA Database, were added to the spreadsheet thus growing the family tree. Additionally, I highlighted names of persons sharing DNA according to ThruLines. I also recorded the earliest ID # in parenthesis if the person appeared more than once.

The spreadsheet is still a work in progress, but it is clear intermarriage was prevalent within family lines. I found numerous incidences of one Cummings marrying into another Cummings line or marrying a close relative. I spotted family members who were missing from the ICFA Database. Some members are believed not to be related at all, but DNA proves differently.

This effort makes me wonder about the effect of intermarriage or the switching of the male and female Cumming's line has on shared DNA. An individual's relatedness to the Isaac Cummings line can be demonstrated by using autosomal DNA, but how many people does it take? Can the

matching chromosomes be identified? Will the chromosome be different on different lines, and how many participants are required for a definitive answer? Will an autosomal project be a better approach to addressing the migration pattern of the Cummings family? Can results of an Autosomal and Y-DNA project be combined to tell a more complete story of the family?

DNA does not answer all the questions. But when it is combined with information about migration patterns, continued war service, occupations, families, family names, famous or infamous relatives and other stories discovered during the research process, it will add much needed detail to a larger family tree.

As ICFA looks for new ways to help its members conduct their genealogical searches, I believe that autosomal DNA testing will play an increasingly important role. We're already thinking about how to adapt my personal spreadsheet approach to help other Cummings researchers. ■

Cummings DNA Spreadsheet

Shared DNA
(ID#) refers to another Cummings line

Direct Line	Spouse
Stephen Cummings Sr. 1736 Attleboro, MA-aft 1810 New Lisbon, Otsego, NY	Mary bef 1755-aft 1810 New Lisbon, Otsego, NY

ID #	Direct Line	Spouse
6	Elizabeth Cummings 1765 RI - 1859 PA	John Brown Wakley Sr 1759 - 1838

ID #	Direct Line	Spouse
6A	Female abt 1785 -	
6B	Female abt 1786 -	
6C	Nathan Wakley 1786-1870	
6D	Noah E. Wakley 1787 - after 1870	Hulda Ruggles 1788-1862
6E	Martha Wakley 1790 - 1863	Levi Cummings 1786-1863(11)
6F	John Brown Wakley c. 1796 - 1864	Dinah Cook 1797-1834 (8C) Mary Ann Murdock
6G	Dr. Orlando Wakley c. 1798 - 1880	Lydia Slosson; Thankful Strong; Mary A. Childs
6H	Joseph Wakley abt 1799 - 1834	
6I	Phebe Wakley 1799/1800-1876	John Fogarty Boom 1800-1862
6J	Mary/Polly Wakely 1802-1881	Alvah Thompson 1797-1870
6K	Abigail R. Wakely 1805-1885	Mattison Cummings 1812-1887 (3A2)
6L	Orrin Wakley c. 1808 - 1848	Malinda Schoonover 1812-1884

Treasurer's Update

ICFA's financial position was very healthy for many years while membership revenues accumulated and spending was very low. In recent years we have increased our spending to support the organization and its mission, but membership dues have not sufficiently replaced the new spending.

In 2015 the Association launched its very successful Y-Chromosome DNA project by funding the testing of carefully-selected men who represented different descendant lines. Today we have 50 men in the growing project and a large number of them have paid for their own tests.

We also began hiring outside professional help for such functions as our website, publications and CPA and tax advisory firms to assist with annual state and federal filings.

Last year we funded about 40% of Salem Reunion-related expenses to reduce event costs for members and their guests, a share consistent with our spending on other recent biennial reunions. Most recently we launched and fully funded the ICFA Scholarship program.

This year we expect annual income of \$2,000 to \$2,500 from membership fees and operating expenses of \$7,000 to \$8,000. We began 2020 with \$20,710 in total assets and expect a December 31 balance of between \$14,000 and \$15,000.

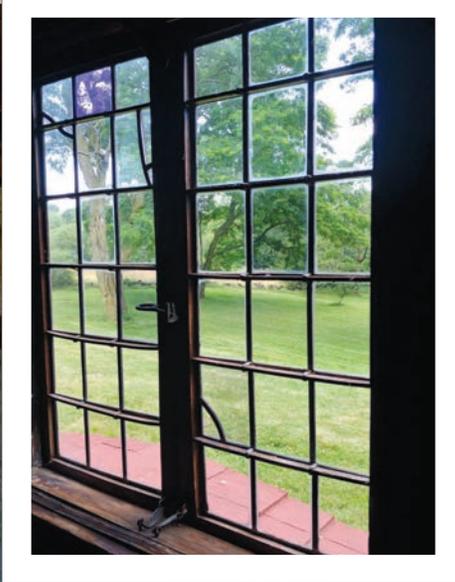
Your Board's Executive Committee is paying close attention to our financial prospects over the next two years.

Adding more members will provide additional revenue. Slowing our spending will buy us more time. But the reality is that the organization will likely need to find new sources of revenue and make some choices about expenditures, or both, if we are to maintain our long-term health.

Stay well.

Tamara Larson
Treasurer
tamara.l.larson@gmail.com

*Top photo: tour guide Jim McAllister at the Salem Village Witchcraft Victims' Memorial.
Other photos: scenes from ICFA's visit to the house of witchcraft victim Rebecca Nurse.*



Salem and Danvers

Accounts tell of the Cummings and Lamson families working together for mutual benefit. In 1730 John Lamson (III) and John Lamson, Jr. (IV) were joined by Captain Joseph Cummings and Joseph Cummings, Jr. in the construction of a bridge over the Ipswich River near a ford on the Lamson farm. This Old Asbury Street bridge made cart traffic possible between the farms. The Lamson Bridge crossing was taken down by Bradley Webster Palmer in 1925, when he moved Asbury Street west to a new Ipswich River crossing.

On November 25, 1736, Captain Joseph Cummings' daughter, Sarah Cummings, married Benjamin Lamson. Of their seven children, six survived childhood. Of the three daughters, one married into the Adams family and the other two married into the Wiggin family.

The second marriage on November 11, 1751 was between Captain Joseph Cummings (father of Sarah) and

Pricilla Lamson. This was widower Captain Joseph's second marriage, which had no children. Pricilla became Sarah (Cummings) Lamson's stepmother! Pricilla and Benjamin Cummings were first cousins. Captain Joseph Cummings (1692-1794) outlived his wives, daughter, son-in-law, and some of his grandchildren as well.

In conclusion, the Cummings/Lamson family connections in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries included spouses, cousins, and a stepmother, in lines crisscrossing the early settler generations. Descendants of the children of Sara Cummings and Benjamin Lamson may include the family names Lamson, Adams, and Wiggin. ♪

NEAL L. TRUBOWITZ, PH.D., is the seasonal Park Interpreter at Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield, MA. Neal is pictured on page 7, second from left in the unveiling of the Isaac Historical Marker photo.

Ipswich town historian Gordon Harris at the Whipple House, where the re-created 1657 Alexander Knight house is also located on what was once Isaac's land.



MEMBERSHIP CONTINUES TO RISE

Hello ICFA Members,

I'm pleased to report that our numbers have grown significantly over the past year. We have 126 current members – 82 Individual, 42 Family and 2 Lifetime.

An ICFA membership is priced at \$20 for individuals and \$25 for families. What a bargain! These amounts are only a \$5 increase from the initial membership fees established in 1997. Lifetime membership was finalized in 2007 at 20 times the current rate (\$400) and includes spouse and children under the age of 18.

Our membership represents 30 states. Tied for first place are Massachusetts and Wisconsin with 10 memberships each. Since last reported in our Cummings Chronicles we have an additional 29 new members joining in 2019 and 10 new members joining us so far in 2020.

PayPal has become the quickest and most preferred way to join the Association. Members have utilized this handy tool a total of 76 times since it became available last year. It can be found on our web site, <http://isaaccummingsfamily.org>, under "How To Join". Of course we are happy to accept your personal check if you prefer and you can just send it to me at the mailing address below.

Thank you for your 2020 membership and continued support.

Darla Jarvis
Membership Chair
icfamembership@gmail.com

Need to renew? Go online at <http://isaaccummingsfamily.org> or use the form on the last page of this newsletter.

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Meghan Boyd Jupiter, FL
Eva Brink Glendale, AZ
Margaret Carsley Florence, MA
Clint Crawley Oak Creek, WI
Bailey & Aaron Cross Menomonie, WI
Dirk Cummings & Meg Stadler Hendersonville, NC
Jay Cummings Swanton, VT
John & Karen Cummings Madison, GA
Richard Cummings St Albans, VT
Roger Cummings Greensboro, NC
Ross & Jaclyn Cummings Jupiter, FL
Scott Cummings Lithia, FL
Rebecca Ewing Farmington, MO
Peter & Katherine Fadum Oakley, CA
Michael & Jeanne Francisco St Charles, MO
Mark Hartzheim Minocqua, WI
Roxanne & Mark Klink Grantsburg, WI
Tammy Leach Menomonie, WI
Theresa Manzelli Weymouth, MA
Virginia & Jim McCormack Pawcatuck, CT
Mark Naylor Concord, NH
Sheila Ostling Raleigh, NC
Megan Petronsky Chesterland, OH
Jacob Redlin Cudah, WI
Travis Redlin Aurora, CO
Virginia Redlin Sarasota, FL
Maureen Robinson Hudson, OH
Jodiann & Craig Tuma Coleman, WI
Phillip Walton St Charles, MI
Rose Aitken Olympia, WA
Diane DeVore Snelville, GA
Alyssa Cummings-Lemke Bemidji, MN
Holly Holman San Francisco, CA
David Robinson Davis, CA
Stephen Ward Long Valley, NJ
Cheri White Happy Camp, CA
Susan Arnold Niskayuna, NY
Sarah Powelson Gorham, ME
Deborah Appleby Whitman, MA



Reunion chair Darla Jarvis, right, receiving flowers at the closing banquet with treasurer Tamara Larson, left, and historian Beth Rosenquist.

Y-DNA Project Update

ICFA launched its private Y-Chromosome DNA project in 2015. The program now has test results from 50 participants, most from ICFA member families. This article is the third in a series of Chronicle reports by project co-administrators JOHN CLEARY and TIM CUMMINGS. The first two reports can be found in past issues available on the newsletter page at our website.

The first phase of our project began with basic testing by Family Tree DNA of a group of presumed Isaac's male descendants. It was intended to genetically prove that they shared Isaac as their common ancestor and use their test results to start dividing Isaac's lineage into branches descending from his sons and grandsons.

In 2018 the project moved into its second phase. This step involves using a more comprehensive Y-DNA test known as the Big Y, offered by FTDNA as an upgrade to its basic Y-DNA test.

Those following our Y-DNA Project will be familiar with the strings of numbers that form the test results, known as haplotypes. Sometimes these numbers go up or down by one or two values, which are the mutations we track. These numbers have several strengths and are excellent for showing whether a group of people are likely descendants of a common ancestor. We have to date shown that most members of the project group are beyond all reasonable doubt descendants of Isaac in the direct male line.

The Big-Y Test

The haplotype tests also have weaknesses. For example, what if a value increases by 1 in one generation, and then a couple of generations later goes down again by 1, returning to its original value? Two mutations happened here, but they are permanently invisible to later generations. We need a test where any change that appears will be permanent.

This is what the Big Y does – it reads long sequences of Y-DNA and identifies every change from the ancestral human sequence. On average, we can expect one mutation every 3 or so generations in an ancestral line (it can be higher or lower, as DNA changes randomly), and these then remain permanently on our DNA as a record of our descent lineage.

Big-Y is a very high resolution test. The current Family Tree DNA Big-Y looks at 700 locations (markers) on a man's Y-chromosome compared to the 67 or 111 lower resolution markers of most of our current Isaac Cummings testers.

Big Y testing for ICF

As these tests are not inexpensive, we established some key questions to help recommend who should take this test and what we hope to discover:

1. What is the haplogroup of the Isaac Cummings lineage?
2. Can we identify unique SNP(s) for all Isaac descendants?
3. Can we identify unique SNP(s) for descendants of Isaac's sons or grandsons?
4. Can we find related lineages who share some of Isaac's SNPs?

In this report we will look at the first three questions (saving under Question 4 some very new and exciting discoveries giving new clues for the Cummings' origins in England for our next article).

1. Isaac Cummings' Haplogroup: R-DF27

Haplogroups are ancient descent lineages that use widespread and ancient SNPs to link all Y-DNA testers back to ancestors from the Bronze Age. We can never know the names of these ancestors, but we can see these ancient lineages living on in today's people. Isaac Cummings and his Y-line descendants are in the large haplogroup of Eurasian origin R1b, and their broad subgroup marker is known as DF27. Though found all across western Europe, this has been described as the "Gallic-Iberian branch" of R1b, as it is particularly common in Spain, Portugal, France and southern England.

2. Isaac Cummings' Unique SNPs

Three Big Y tests have now been carried out for ICFA Project members. Two of them are descended from son John born in 1630 and one from son Isaac born in 1633. Because we have descendants of both sons, we can identify unique SNPs of their father. These must be:

- SNPs that all three testers share (so both sons had these markers)
- SNPs that are NOT found in any person outside this lineage

The three Big Y tests produced a list of five unique SNPs, shared by all. Because these are found in descendants of both Isaac's sons, they cannot be new mutations in either son – they were all present in Isaac himself.

Were they new mutations in Isaac himself? Almost certainly not. Five new SNPs in one person would be very unusual. These SNPs must have appeared over a few centuries before Isaac's birth in 1601, appearing one by one in his Y-line ancestors, and maybe one of them was Isaac's. It is always

possible there could be people in England still who have some of these SNPs, and if so, they would be descendants of near-relatives of Isaac. But to date, these are only found in ICFA people. Having all of these five SNPs makes a good test of descent from Isaac (or maybe from his father or grandfather).

3. Isaac's sons' SNPs

Because we tested descendants of John 1630 and Isaac 1633, we also found new SNPs that appeared in their own descent lines. We only have one Isaac 1633 tester so far, and he has five more unique SNPs. These SNPs appeared in this Isaac lineage:

Isaac-1601 > Isaac-1633 > John-1666 > Samuel-1709 > John-1753

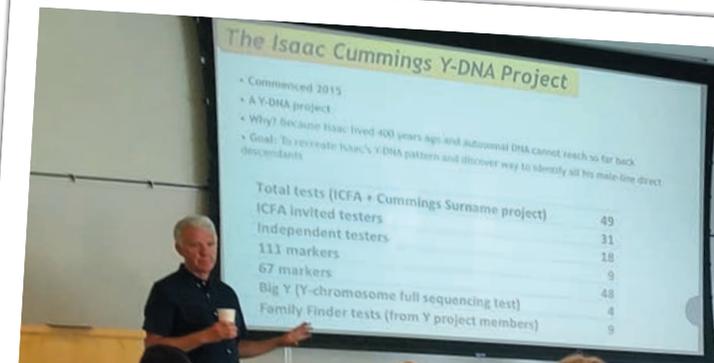
Five SNPs appearing in about 400 years is a typical rate of mutation, but at the moment we cannot say when any of these SNPs appeared – just sometime between Isaac 1633 and the modern tester. If more Isaac 1633 descendants would test, then we can begin to place them more precisely on the tree.

In the case of son John, we have two testers and a better idea of where to place the SNPs. One tester had six new SNPs and the other had three – but two of them were shared by both, so they must have a common ancestor closer than John-1630 who already had those SNPs. Their lineage is:

Isaac-1601 > John-1630 > Abraham-1664 > Abraham-1690 > Stephen-1736 > Elijah-1765

So we know that two of the new SNPs appeared by Elijah and then each tester has respectively 4 and 1 new SNPs appearing in their lines since Elijah.

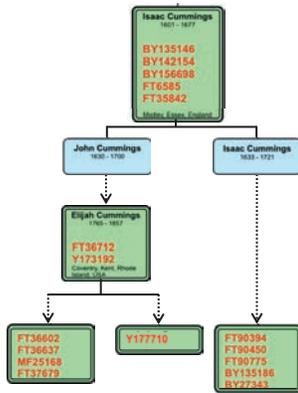
Genetic Genealogy advisor John Cleary, presenting Y-chromosome and autosomal DNA seminars and a scene from the annual banquet.



Putting it all together

These three Big Y tests provide just a skeleton view of the ICFA Y-Tree. In the tree diagram we can see the two SNPs allocated to Elijah: they appeared in ancestors between John-1630 and Elijah. All the private SNPs of the three testers appeared somewhere between the ancestor shown immediately above and themselves.

With further testing, the ancestors who first bore each of these SNPs could be identified.



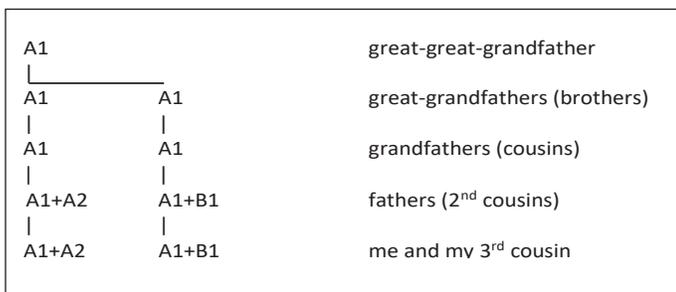
Suggested further testing

Big Y tests are intensive and fairly expensive. Unlike the haplotype Y tests not everyone needs to test. A few carefully chosen representatives of each line will give the best information. A good strategy for further exploration is to find at least one tester for each of Isaac's grandsons in the Project – there are six of these, and testers have been found so far for two of them.

Using Big-Y to Track Permanent mutations

Suppose a man's great-great-grandfather had a mutation which we call A1. These permanent mutations are known as SNPs (usually pronounced "snips"). Then 3 generations later, the man's father and his 2nd cousin have their own SNPs which we can call A2 (his father's) and B1 (his cousin's father), plus A1 inherited from their common ancestor. The man will inherit A1+A2, while the cousin's son will inherit A1+B1.

With this information we can now build a simple tree:



From now on anyone who has both A1 and A2 must be descended from the man's father, and anyone with A1 and B1 from his second cousin. Anyone who has A1 but neither A2 nor B1 must be descended from another line from the man's great-great-grandfather, but cannot be descended from his father or his cousin. This way, we can build a true tree of the descent from a common ancestor – and we have begun to do this for Isaac's descendants. ■

CALLING NEW TESTERS AND PROJECT UPGRADES!

Do you want to join in the new discoveries being made through the comprehensive Big Y test? As we anticipate the likely Y-DNA special sales to be offered by Family Tree DNA around Father's Day, now is a great time to consider an upgrade of your Y-67 or Y-111 results to Big Y. Or, if you haven't been tested yet, to do so and join the ICFA Project at the Y-67 or Y-111 level. A second descendant of Isaac Cummings b. 1633 is urgently needed to continue our Project research. Tests by men who descend from all of Isaac's grandsons (we now have 2 of 6 – Abraham b. 1664 and John b. 1666) is the next target for the project, so we encourage men descended from the other grandsons to consider upgrading your test.



Former President Dave Cummings and baseball historian and speaker Stephen Katz

**A NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL ORGANIZATION FOR DESCENDANTS AND RESEARCHERS OF
THE EARLY AMERICAN COLONIST ISAAC CUMMINGS (1601–1677)**

ABOUT ICFA

Isaac Cummings arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony with his wife and family from Essex, England, about 1635. He died in Topsfield, Massachusetts, in 1677. His American descendants today number in the hundreds of thousands. The Isaac Cummings Family Association (ICFA) was organized in the mid-1990's by a small group of these descendants who were serious family historians independently exploring their Cummings family ancestry. Their objective was to organize and share their efforts to discover, collect, and preserve information about the history and genealogy of Isaac's American families and honor them as nation-building pioneers. For the past quarter century, ICFA has helped Isaac's descendants and researchers find and understand their shared Cummings heritage and family connections. ICFA holds national reunions, publishes a newsletter, operates a DNA testing project, maintains an online genealogical database and archive, and supports traditional and genetic research into the history of Isaac and his English ancestors.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to descendants of Isaac Cummings 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. Lifetime Memberships are also available at a cost of \$400, twenty times the current individual rate of \$20. A Lifetime Membership includes spouse and children under 18 for the duration of the purchasing member's life. 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

NOTE: This application is also available online at ICFA's Web site (isaaccummingsfamily.org) where dues payment can be made using your PayPal account.

Check one: New Member Renewal

Type of Membership: Individual \$20.00 Family \$25.00 Lifetime \$400.00

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

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.