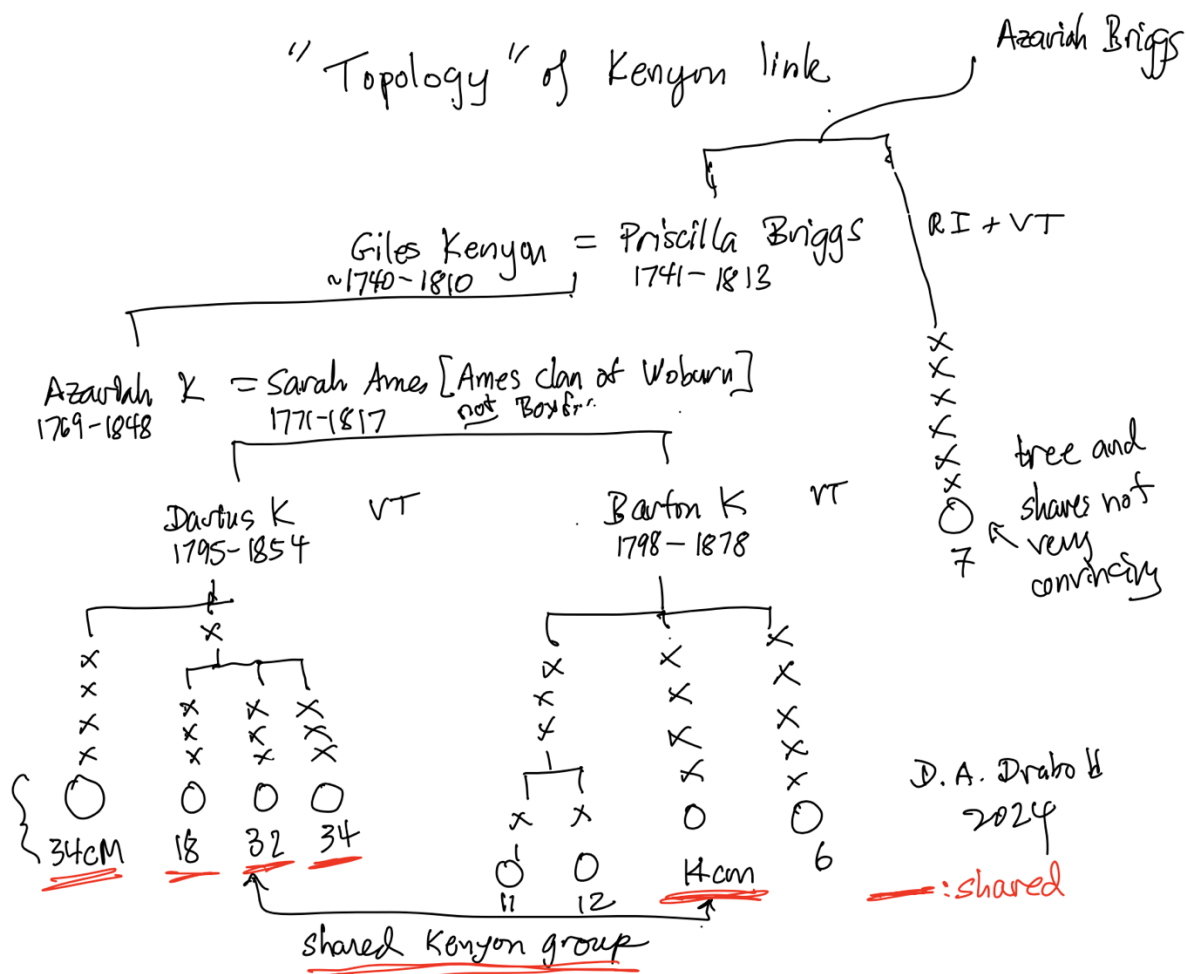


Ancestry.com DNA hints for Joseph Ames of Franklin, Hancock, Maine and Bradford, Penobscot, Maine. D. A. Drabold, drabold@ohio.edu, daviddrabold.com, Sept. 2024.

This little document describes Ancestry DNA evidence that Joseph Ames or Abigail Moore descend from a particular branch of a Kenyon-related family of RI and VT. These DNA matches include four links at the 20-34 cM level descending in distinct lines from Darius Kenyon (1795-1854) and his brother Barton Kenyon (1798-1878). These links occur for at least three descendants of Joseph Ames including my father, but also two cousins that descend from siblings of my GG GF, James Kenniston Ames, son of Joseph Ames (1822-1887). I suppress names of DNA matches below for privacy. The sketch that follows is the structure given by Ancestry.com ThruLines. X represents historical people identified in ThruLines. I checked ThruLines, which are often unreliable, but not so here (in the sense that the people shown appear to have the indicated descent). There is another line from Darius that I noticed with similar length to the existing three that I do not show below. Concisely, I conjecture that Joseph Ames descends from a daughter of Priscilla and Giles.



The shorter links are not shared with the “main” Kenyon group, and from their shares it is not obvious to me whether the DNA match stems from the Giles and Priscilla.

From other shares and detailed knowledge concerning Joseph Ames (abt 1778- aft 1833) and his wife Abigail Moore (abt 1782- aft 1833) (both of Franklin, Hancock, ME and Bradford, Penobscot, ME), this Kenyon match originates in ancestors of Joseph or Abigail. From Joseph’s birth date it must be that he was born to some generation *preceding* Azariah and Sarah his wife. Other DNA matches and records show that Abigail is a daughter of Edward Proctor Moore and Adah Wormwood (of Hancock County, ME), and thus the Kenyon link involves Joseph Ames. I conclude that Joseph Ames is most probably a descendant of the *parents of either Azariah Kenyon¹ or his wife, Sarah Eames²* (this Eames family [Eames of Woburn] is distinct from Ames, Sarah (1771-1817) is daughter of Robert Eames (b 1738, d. Rocky Hill, CT in 1770) and his wife Sarah Morton (b 1743). CT town records state that Sarah was born after the death of her father Robert, who died at about the age of 31.

There is much circumstantial evidence to suggest that the father of Joseph Ames is Amos Ames (born Groton, MA 1756 to Amos Ames and Abigail Bulkeley) of Sullivan, ME, bordering Franklin (called township 8 at the time), and Amos is of the Boxford clan (the correct Ames line for Joseph from Y DNA tests). So, there is some basis for taking Amos to be father of Joseph³. Yet there is no Ames marriage to the Kenyon/Briggs or Eames/Morton families that I can find. And yet the DNA is clear that there is shared blood with this Kenyon related group.

So which family does Joseph’s mother come from: Kenyon/Briggs or Eames/Morton? Unfortunately, the DNA tests are currently ambiguous on this (there is a Thruline from Azariah Briggs, father of Priscilla, but I am not convinced that it is real. If it is “real” it would be evidence supporting descent from Kenyon/Briggs). There are reasons to favor the Kenyon/Briggs family since Giles and Priscilla were known to have several children.

¹ Parents: Giles Kenyon (b 1740, Kingstown RI, d 1810, Hinesburg, VT) and Priscilla Briggs (b 1741 in RI, d. Hinesburg abt 1813). Giles and Priscilla were married on 3 May, 1760 in Richmond, RI.

² Parents: Robert Eames (b. 1738, d. Rocky Hill, CT in 1770) and his wife Sarah Morton (b 1743). CT town records show that Sarah was born after the death of her father Robert, who died quite young. Note: This Eames family is known on DNA grounds to be distinct from the Ames family I discuss here. Eames are of the Woburn line and Ames is from Robert of Boxford (there is proof of the latter statement from familytreedna.com Y DNA tests in patrilineal Ames descendants). This family is best discussed in the book of Spofford Ames: <https://archive.org/details/eamesamesgenealo00ames/page/n7/mode/2up>

³ I note that autosomal DNA matches do not strongly support this. Amos descends from Robert Jr, the son of Robert Ames of Boxford (and Rebecca Blake, a celebrated “Salem witch”), but the DNA matches look stronger for descendants of Robert Jr brother John. These Ames lived primarily in Groton, MA. See the relevant Ancestry pages in my Drabold-papai-research: <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/25763682/person/222584013085/facts> For much more detail see: <https://people.ohio.edu/drabold/pubs/lmh.pdf>

American Kenyons⁴ (p. 99) infers that Giles and Priscilla had six daughters under 16 years of age in the 1774 RI census. In the 1790 Voluntown, CT census, they had four females under 16. By contrast It appears that Robert Eames and Sarah Morton, had only two children, a son William (1768-1843) and Sarah, the wife of Azariah Kenyon. Thus, there are no (known) females of suitable age on this side while there are several female children of Giles and Priscilla. There is another thing that points to Giles and Priscilla. Amos Ames fought in the Battle of Rhode Island in the Revolution at about the right time (1777) to conceive Joseph (there is a Dec 1777 Muster Roll for his company in North Kingstown, RI), and Giles Kenyon is recorded in the 1774 RI census as living in Exeter, RI, only a few miles from North Kingstown. No paper trail supports this conjecture at this point.

I note that in the same 1774 RI census, there is a Jacob Ames living in Coventry, Kent, RI again close to Giles and Priscilla. I have no idea who this Jacob is, but he *might* be the Jacob Ames born in Groton MA to John Ames II of Groton in 1726⁵. This Jacob is also of the Robert Ames of Boxford line and would fit well into other Ames DNA matches among kits that I administer. However, to be clear, I have no other evidence supporting this conjecture and it is currently a research topic.

This presentation is not proof, but the existence of four lines from Darius, another from his brother Barton (“shared” in the Ancestry sense with the four lines from Darius), the occurrence of exactly these matches in multiple lines of descent to in our Ames family up to the present day, along with considerations of chronology make it quite plausible.

⁴ Kenyon, Howard Nathaniel, *American Kenyons: history of Kenyons and English connections of American Kenyons, genealogy of the American Kenyons of Rhode Island, miscellaneous Kenyon material*. Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle, 1979.

⁵ This Jacob Ames in Coventry, RI is head of a household in RI census of 1774 so at least 21, thus born before 1753. He may be older, as he is the father (?) of say a 16-year-old child reported in the RI census — that might make him born before 1740. This would seem to make Jacob Ames of Groton born 1726 (son of John II) or Jacob Ames of Groton 1728 (son of Jacob, brother of John II) candidates.