

Introduction to Carpenter Family Research Group 2 & 3

Much research has been done on the ancestry of the Providence, Rhode Island Carpenter line (aka Group 2 of the Carpenter Cousins Y-DNA Project) and the Rehoboth, Massachusetts Carpenter line (aka Group 3) over the last two centuries.

Much of the English ancestry has been disproved by finding significant will errors about 2003. This cut the English ancestry to the American lines leaving only two confirmed generations in England.

Trying to find correct documents and sources to move these Carpenter lines farther back in time has not been successful.

This report cover past efforts and more current research efforts.

These two Carpenter lines have a very similar Y-DNA profiles with a genetic distance of 3 at 111 Y-DNA markers. But, it is important to know we can tell them apart even at 37 markers. See Part 3 at: <https://carpentercousins.com/Group3-2024/aqwg00.html>

Remember that these two Carpenter lines came to America in 1635 and 1638. And a child from each family married into the other family. Clearly they were not first cousins!

Group 2 – William Carpenter born about 1608ish (no confirmed birth or baptism dates) and he may have been from Amesbury in Wiltshire, England. He married in America and settled in Providence, Rhode Island. See the Group 2 descendant report on the left side of the web page at: <https://carpentercousins.com>



Group 3 – The three (3) William Carpenter who came to America came over as a family. The senior William Carpenter was born about 1575 (no confirmed birth or baptism dates) and was the father of William Carpenter born about 1605 likely on the Shalbourne border of Wiltshire and Berkshire.

This William (in the middle) was married with a wife Abigail and children. The most junior of the William Carpenters to arrive in 1638 was christened on 25 Dec 1631 in Shalbourne, Berkshire, now in, Wiltshire, England. This family eventually settled in Rehoboth, Massachusetts.

See the Group 3 descendant report on the left side of the web page at: <https://carpentercousins.com>

Early Research

Most of the early research on these Carpenter lines come from the mid-1800s supported by a Carpenter Family Association. This led to two significant books on these two families. There were others, but

these two are the most important for most researchers. Both contain the English Ancestry as they knew it.

Group 2 – Book

“History and Genealogy of the CARPENTER FAMILY IN AMERICA from the settlement at Providence, RI 1637-1901.”

By Daniel Hoogland Carpenter of Maplewood, Essex, NJ.

Published 1901 by the Marion Press of Jamacia, Queensborough, NY . 370 Pages.

Group 3 – Book

“A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF THE REHOBOTH BRANCH OF THE CARPENTER FAMILY IN AMERICA. Also known as the CARPENTER MEMORIAL.

By Amos Bugbee Carpenter

Published 1898 By: Press of Carpenter & Morehouse, Amherst, MA. About 900 pages.

There are 35 pages of “English Ancestry” cited in this last book. See:

<https://carpentercousins.com/1898/images/CMPg01to99.pdf> – Go to digital page 12 of 114. Zoom as needed.

More Modern Research

With the rise of the internet and along with an avalanche of genealogical records came a deluge of people putting their genealogy online – often with no or little sources. And many people shared and copied their information which was multiplied more than a thousand fold. This led to the infamous collections called the “One World Tree” and “The Millennium File.”

Google AI has the following.

“In the genealogy community, the Millennium File and One World Tree are infamous examples of highly unreliable, automated, and unsourced databases that proliferated massive amounts of misinformation. Injected into Ancestry.com during the early 2000s, these tools aggressively merged different family trees using early computer algorithms. They became notorious for generating absurd, fictional bloodlines—famously linking everyday users back to Adam and Eve, King Arthur, or European royalty with zero historical evidence.

The history, mechanics, and reputation of these two databases reveal why modern genealogists treat them with extreme caution.” They are often referred to a “Junk Genealogy.”

Today there are extremely large collaborative family trees where anyone with a free account can view, add, and edit information for deceased ancestors. Uncontrolled collaborative trees, like FamilySearch Family Tree that has no one in charge of any part of the massive tree. Very few records are “read only” and those are due to repeated spamming and deliberate misinformation being entered on Church Leadership and historically important government officials individual records. Individual Tree records can not be made “Read Only” ... at this time and there is no plans to do so.

Google AI reports:

“FamilySearch.org Family Tree is a massive, crowd-sourced shared global pedigree designed to host one single, public profile for every deceased person who ever lived.

Because the tree is entirely public and collaborative for deceased individuals, other users can alter or incorrectly merge shared ancestor profiles.”

Adding notes and sources by users are supposed to minimize the impact of errors and incorrect information. However reality shows this is not working well, especially on the most popular lineages. Many dedicated researchers eventually tire and grow weary of defending, correcting and educating newer or more naive users.

In time the individual or individuals trying to maintain those records give up and surrender to the uneducated, the naive, the ignorant but mostly well meaning ... and way too many “cooks.”

The net result is that often well researched and documented data can be much more easily corrupted than the laborious and time consuming task of correcting those records. And when the maintainers quit then corruption is inevitable.

When using any such genealogical tree, from anywhere, one must verify for themselves the accuracy of the line. One needs to prove the lineage by accurate documentation. When in doubt, Verify.

DNA Testing

With the advent of DNA testing for genealogical purposes, there was the promise of being able to find your specific tribe or family line using the scientific science of genetic testing.

Some people made millions of dollars on fake science claims focused on specific groups. Those of African descent were encouraged to DNA test to find where in Africa their tribe ancestry came from. Over time and many investigations many of these “snake charmers” were stopped and more rigorous rules and regulations were put in place. “Let the buyer be aware” became the watchword.

As people became more educated and self-trained, they started surname projects, maternal ancestral projects, geographical projects and Haplogroup projects. Many of these early efforts failed for one reason or the other.

One of the first uses of Y-Chromosomal DNA (Y-DNA) testing was to help determine relationships between people were the same or similar surname.

The Carpenter Cousins Project was started in 2002 after a Carpenter Family Association gathering in Florida. It was determined that a free standing public Y-DNA effort could help shed some information on many of the wild claims and speculations given as fact on the internet.

Spread mostly by word of mouth and in various online forums, the Carpenter Cousins Project began to grow and develop. Luckily, the Project was able to attract several noted Carpenter researchers who were willing to help like Terry Lee Carpenter, John Leslie Carpenter and many others. In addition, one person who stepped in to help was John F. Chandler, Ph. D – an astrophysicist – who had married a Carpenter. He used his skills to properly organize and teach about the best way to use Y-DNA testing.

Indeed, then and now the focus was on genetic genealogy triangulation by comparing matching genetic profiles to the proven by documentation paper trail genealogies. We were able to determine that

members of various groups were related both genetically and genealogically by genetic genealogy triangulation. Those member matching genetically but not genealogically were considered detached or unconnected. And in time, many of them were able to close the genealogical gaps using various techniques.

And with this genetic profiling many genetic groups were identified. The Project then showed the genetic profiles in various Y-DNA tables and used a drop down pedigree to show the relationship and the mutation to the group mean. This means we showed our triangulation for people to see.

With Y-DNA testing descendant lines, slowly but surely the various genealogy lines were trimmed and compiled together based on genetic genealogy triangulation.

Today, the Carpenter Cousins Project has some 45 organized genetic groups with most of them having documented descendant genealogies. From all DNA testing companies, including FTDNA.com, there has been about 548 Y-DNA testers.

Modern Genealogy Research

The Carpenter Cousins Project, by showing its work, shows how we did things and by putting the genetic profile with the correct genealogical research helped create Genetic Genealogy Research.

But, let us be very clear – paper trail reach is the most important part of genealogy. DNA testing can not prove by itself a relationship to x ancestor. DNA testing is a genetic check or cross check of the documented genealogy back to the most recent common ancestor (MRCA).

With more decent genealogical records online and more dedicated organizations sharing information, the modern day of genealogical research has become realistic.

In the Carpenter Cousins Project, one researcher stood out. Eugene Cole Zubrinsky would later become a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists (FASG) due to his research, editing and publishing skills. He is one of only 50 people at a time to hold this honor.

He worked for almost two years to compile a record of the immediate extended family of the William Carpenters who came to America in 1635 and 1638. His work was seminal and the foundation of what was known and provable about those two immigrant families. In 2008, he published his first 12 Carpenter Sketches. And there has been updates here and there over the years. See: <https://www.carpentercousins.com/carplink.htm>

But there has always been questions or hoping that some unique Carpenter document could be found that was not available back in 2008.

The last current effort

For this purpose, I contacted and hired a Wiltshire Genealogical Researcher to try to find anything new or any that may have been missed. The following links provide a 2026 review of records by Clare Humphreys Vicentini, of Spire Genealogy. I will let her words speak for her.

Group 2 – Providence, Rhode Island Carpenters

<https://carpentercousins.com/Providence-Carpenter-Research-July-2026.pdf>

Group 3 – Rehoboth, Massachusetts Carpenters

<https://carpentercousins.com/William-Carpenter-Shalbourne-Research-June2026.pdf>

Conclusion for the 2026 Research

For the Shalbourne research, we did extend the research to East Court and Devizes, but she had no success that endeavor.

On Page 2 of her Providence report she speculated whether an Agnes Carpenter buried in 1624 in Amesbury could have been Richard Carpenter's wife. She was not aware, but research done years ago explored that possibility and found otherwise. Agnes was the wife of a John Carpenter. See: <https://carpentercousins.com/JC-14710.pdf>

We also explored the Alice Carpenter she mentioned in the last report and other hints she cited in emails. I should mention that she found Gene Zubrinsky's Carpenter Sketches as one of the best and most complete research efforts she has seen.

While these new reports are interesting, the June & July 2026 research efforts contain nothing that calls for revising what already appears in the Carpenter Sketches.

The main reason is simply the lack of records. The information we need no longer exists in any manner we can access.

The following article “Vital Records in England – What is or what is not available” with an Amesbury & Shalbourne focus may be helpful in understanding this. Please see the following. <https://carpentercousins.com/English-VR-Amesbury-Shalbourne.pdf>

Finally, one long term goal was to find a biological male Carpenter descendant that matches the genetic profile of Group 2 or Group 3 from another Carpenter line in England. This Y-DNA testing effort has helped other groups like Group 15, but not for the Providence, RI & Rehoboth, MA Carpenters of Group 2 & 3. Maybe one day we will get lucky!?

We know more correct information today that our Carpenters knew just 25 years ago let alone a century ago. But for now we are in a holding pattern and it can be frustrating.

The best I can say is, “Hang in there!”

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<https://carpentercousins.com>

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