

Our meeting this month was a viewing of two videos by Crista Cowen of Ancestry. One was on their ethnicity test and the other was DNA cousin matching. Here are those videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmbmAt5bm34> Part 1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LG-8Y19ANCc> Part 2

Those videos are a couple of years old and since then Ancestry (and other DNA testing sites) have made their regions of origin more granular, and have many more people who have taken a test. That expands the number of DNA cousins you might connect with. The latest figure I found was that Ancestry now has 15 million people who have taken their DNA test.

Jay Shock mentioned a site he's been using that accesses your and other public trees on Ancestry and groups together DNA cousin matches, making it easier to find likely common ancestors. The site is free to start and becomes paid after you've used up their free allotment of matches: <https://www.geneticaffairs.com/>

Jay also talked about the service provided by the Diocese of Pittsburgh's Archives and Records Center if you have Catholic ancestors in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Greene, Lawrence and Washington counties. Even if you don't know your ancestor's church, if you know their country of origin and where they lived, the staff can often find their church. Here's the page with more information and how to request a search, which costs \$15.00 an hour and usually takes two hours or less. <https://diopitt.org/genealogy>

We're off in December to celebrate the holidays. Our January meeting is on Tuesday, January 21st. Our topic will be "Seek and Ye Shall Find: Become an Ancestry Search Expert".