



# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

Volume 6 Issue 1

January 2019

## January Meeting – Tuesday January 15<sup>th</sup> at Brewster Ladies' Library, 10 a.m.



THIS MONTH, WE ARE PLEASED to welcome *DEVON NOEL LEE* from Humble, Texas, via webinar, who will speak about using the **Applied Genealogy Proof Standard**. Ms. Lee and her husband Andrew have a popular website and YouTube channel called Family History Fanatics ([familyhistoryfanatics.com](http://familyhistoryfanatics.com)), and have written about and produced videos on a wide variety of genealogical research topics. Ms. Lee will be our guest via webinar at Brewster Ladies' Library on Tuesday January 15, 2019.

We may all know that it's important to cite your sources in genealogical research, but too often in the excitement of discovery we fail to do so. The Internet is full of family trees, but how frustrating it is to come across one that looks relevant, only to find that no source is given! A remedy is finally in sight. Ms. Lee explains,

The Genealogy Proof Standard improves the quality of research as it is used. Online research tree building has lacked the application of GPS in a meaningful way. Using *FamilySearch* Family Tree, online genealogy finally marries tree building with evidence and conclusions through attaching sources and explaining why. This class reviews GPS to ensure we're all starting at the same spot and then demonstrates through case studies how to apply the gold standard of genealogy on the one world tree.

The meeting opens at 9:30 with **coffee and donuts**, announcements and program to follow at 10 a.m. We hope to see you there, but if the weather is bad, or if you would prefer to watch the presentation from your home laptop or computer, Ms. Lee has provided a link where you can log in to the webinar program and register to view the talk. We will also post the link on our website (<http://www.capecodgenealogy.org/>) so that you can simply click on it, enter your name and email, and a link will be emailed to you for viewing the program. We are looking forward to Ms. Lee's interesting and informative talk.

**Cape Cod Genealogical Society**  
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**Mailing address:**

Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1394  
East Harwich, MA 02645  
[www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org)

**SIGs**

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS** are informal member gatherings for the purpose of sharing information, research techniques, data and references, regarding specific topics or geographical areas. For more information, see the Society's website.

**Cape Cod Families** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Sturgis Library. *Next:* January 22, 2019, 1 p.m., Bebe Brock, chairman.

**Computer Users** — *Next:* January 8, 2019, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. Topic: "No SIG? No problem. We will explore sites devoted to the UK (and Ireland) and Canada." Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim ([Roppen@msn.com](mailto:Roppen@msn.com)), and Jim Sullivan, co-chairmen.

**DNA** — *Next:* January 8, 2019, 1:30-3:30 p.m [a week later than the usual 1st Tuesday because of the holiday], Dennis Public Library. Walter Murphy, winter chairman.  
[wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com).

**German** – *Next:* January 8, 2019, 10 a.m.–12 Noon [a week later than the usual 1st Tuesday because of the holiday], Brewster Ladies' Library. Ann Croston, chairman.

**Irish** —4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* January 28, 2019. Pat Concannon, chairman.

**Writing Family History** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* January 18, 2019. Alice Plouchard Stelzer, chairman. We share our writing and give helpful feedback, learning from each other. You are welcome to attend even if you haven't written anything!

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*Calendar for January 2019*

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| January 8  | DNA SIG, 1:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library                             |
| January 8  | German SIG, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library                         |
| January 8  | Computer Users SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library                    |
| January 15 | CCGS Monthly Meeting, Brewster Ladies' Library (see p. 1 for program) |
| January 18 | Writing Family History SIG, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library         |
| January 22 | Cape Cod Families SIG, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library, Barnstable            |
| January 28 | Irish SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library                             |

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## REFLECTIONS FROM RALPH

THE NEW YEAR OF 2019 is now upon us! It's during the early weeks of each New Year that many of us think about making resolutions, even if previous years' resolutions went unmet. Included among the more obvious resolutions that one might consider: shedding some pounds, getting more exercise, reading more books, learning a new skill, getting more sleep, and so on. Resolutions are often aimed at abandoning bad habits and/or improving one's self. For you dedicated genealogists, from the beginner to the seasoned researcher, there is surely a resolution you can make that will not only improve your skills but also one that you will enjoy maintaining.

If you haven't already settled on a "genealogy resolution" for 2019, let me suggest some ideas. Close to home, i.e., within CCGS, you might consider becoming involved with one of our Special Interest Groups, or become a regular attendee at our monthly general program meetings. You might even consider submitting an article to our biannual Journal. This year also marks the 15th conference of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) to be held in Manchester, NH, on April 3 – 6. You might want to reserve one or more days to attend some of the presentations from the many noted speakers, or participate in a workshop or other genealogical activity on the program. As a final suggestion for a skill-improving resolution, you might want to visit [www.familytreewebinars.com](http://www.familytreewebinars.com) to view the line-up of live webinars covering a wide range of genealogical topics being covered in 2019. I'm certain you will find something in this list of webinars that will spark your interest; and registration is FREE.

Regardless of whether you are a "resolution-type" person or not, I hope that the year of 2019 brings you some significant breakthroughs in your genealogical searches. I encourage you to share your achievements with your fellow members at CCGS, and please let us know how CCGS can better serve the needs of our members. Finally, a special thank you to those members, like Nancy Ware and Bill Read, who shared stories from their family history journeys at our December 2018 meeting.

—Ralph  
— [ryalfrile@aol.com](mailto:ryalfrile@aol.com)

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### *Did You Forget?*

The Membership Committee reminds us that the deadline for payment of 2019 membership dues is [was?] January 1st. Don't miss an issue of the Newsletter or the *Journal*! If you haven't already done so, please send your check and completed renewal form to CCGS today. If you didn't receive or have misplaced your renewal form, please contact Madelyn McHugh at [membership@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:membership@capecodgenealogy.org)

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### *A Reminder about Parking*

IT WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED by the staff of the Brewster Ladies' Library if we use the adjacent church parking lot, if possible, when attending a CCGS Meeting. It is important to leave room in the library's parking lot for library patrons.

## MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

As more and more people move to Cape Cod, CCGS is continually adding members. New people usually don't know older ones, and, given the geographical extent of the Cape, those of us who have been here a while frequently don't know each other. In the Newsletter this past year, we presented several Volunteer Highlights, describing some of the people who do the volunteer work that helps keep the Society alive and well. While we intend to continue the VH every other month, in alternating months we will add a new series that will help everyone get to know the people who are currently Officers and Directors of our Society. We hope that their stories, like those of the Volunteers, will inspire members new and old to step forward and become more involved.

We begin with our current president, Ralph Ryall.



RALPH RYALL, the current president of CCGS, had a peripheral introduction to genealogy at a young age when he helped his father with caretaking of several family burial plots in a small, historic, private cemetery in his hometown of Saratoga Springs, New York. Many of Ralph's paternal line were buried in that cemetery, including his paternal great grandparents and great-great grandparents. However, as an 11 or 12-year-old boy, his focus was on getting the mowing and trimming completed so he could get back home and attend to the things that boys that age do. Some questions he never thought to ask his

father back then included: who were these people?; why are they buried here?; and why do you spend so many hours on summer weekends tending to these grounds after working all week as a plumber? Not long after, Ralph passed his cemetery chores off to his younger brother and moved on to high school and then to college, marking an end to his early venture into genealogy for some years to come.

Ralph met his wife, Deborah, during his senior year of high school and they stayed in touch during college. Upon completing his B.S. degree in Chemistry, Ralph and Deborah married and moved to Durham, North Carolina, where Ralph attended graduate school at Duke University. In retrospect he realizes just how fortunate he was, not only to attend graduate school but also to have been "tagged" with a very high number in the military draft lottery during the height of the Vietnam War. Things may have turned out much differently in a parallel universe!

After completing his doctorate in Chemistry, Ralph started his professional career as a chemist, working for Pfizer in Brooklyn, New York. For you history buffs, this was the original site where Charles Pfizer started his fine chemicals business in

the 19<sup>th</sup> century and which eventually evolved into a major pharmaceutical research and manufacturing business.

Upon starting a family, and yearning to move from apartment living in New York, Ralph and Deborah moved to Rockaway (Morris County), New Jersey, where they raised two daughters. Over the next 30+ years, Ralph worked in pharmaceutical research and development, first, at American Cyanamid, and then at Johnson & Johnson. During this time, there were the occasional visits to his roots in upstate New York, where his mother still resided, that included some intermittent attempts to fill in missing pieces of the family tree.

In 2013, Ralph and Deborah retired to Cape Cod and, in searching for something meaningful to focus on, Ralph joined the genealogy activity group of Nauset Newcomers, a lower-Cape non-profit for newcomers and long-time residents to meet new people. The genealogy group, known as "Climb Your Family Tree" was led by Nancy Daniels, a long-time member of CCGS. Inspired by Nancy's guidance during the monthly meetings of that small activity group, Ralph made significant progress in identifying ancestors and associated sources. The following year, he joined CCGS where he gained even further insights from speakers at the monthly meetings and from co-members in the SIGs. At this point, there was no turning back; he was hooked by the desire to learn as much as possible about his ancestors who came from England, Ireland, Scotland, France, and Germany. When the brick walls stifled progress, he started working on Deborah's family tree which included several early New England settlers.

A combination of naiveté and Ralph's strong desire to delve deeply into

genealogical research made it impossible to turn down the opportunity to join the CCGS Board in 2016 as Program Chair/VP. After two satisfying years as Program Chair, Ralph now finds himself president of CCGS and pleased to be serving with such a knowledgeable and enthusiastic group of volunteers. He says, "The organization essentially runs itself, fueled by the many volunteers who not only serve on the Board, but also by those serving on the various standing committees, those organizing and leading the Special Interest Groups, and the many working behind the scenes to ensure that CCGS continues its mission to promote research and education in genealogy and history."

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### *DNA SIG News*

From Walter Murphy, who is heading the DNA SIG while Teri Grey is in Florida for the winter, comes the news that AncestryDNA is updating again, particularly in Ireland. "I recently saw a message on the closed AncestryDNA Matching Facebook group that Ancestry now has 92 regions in Ireland. Sure enough, when I checked my sister's results, her Irish results went from four in one region in Ireland to three. My brother went from none to one. Thanks to my wife, our kids now have four regions in Ireland. Me? No changes! So if you have a fairly large percent of Ireland/Scotland in Ancestry -- and even if your percentage is not all that high -- you might want to take a look."

At the January meeting, the plan is to talk about AncestryDNA circles and Facebook groups. Walter also hopes/expects to



begin "a more detailed discussion on DNA matches -- most specifically how best to find them, how to measure the strength of the match, and how to sort them. That is something that very well might begin in January and extend into February as we will probably revisit some old tools and begin to discover and use new tools."

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### *Welcome to New Members*

William Downs  
Patricia Rentz

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### *Looking Ahead*

**January 8, 2019:** German SIG, topic "Village & Church websites — Online Searching."

**February 28, 2019:** Deadline for submitting articles for the CCGS *Journal*.

**April 3-6, 2019:** 15<sup>th</sup> NERGC Conference, in Manchester, N.H.

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### *German SIG News*

**Village & Church Website Searching** is the topic for our January 2019 meeting. Members of the group have already been asked to complete a work sheet, and the date for returning it is past, but come anyway and learn techniques while hearing about someone else's German ancestor. We will draw names from a hat and Brenda Collins will demonstrate how to find your German village and/or church website and then explain some of the options within.

--acroston125@comcast.net

*The CCGS Genealogy Library*  
is located in  
the Dennis Public Library  
5 Hall Street, Dennisport

Hours:  
Tuesday 1-4 • Thursday 10-4  
Saturday 10-12

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### *Journal Seeking Writers!*

YOUR SOCIETY'S *JOURNAL* is seeking contributors of articles for the Spring 2019 issue. Two specific categories are of interest:

- one-page reflections on "How I Got Interested in Genealogy," and
- articles about either a Brick-Wall that you have solved or a Brick-Wall that you have not yet solved and would like help with.

First drafts of either of these, or any other genealogical article that you would like to submit, are due **February 28, 2019**, and should be sent to David Martin at 10 Colonial Farm Circle, Marstons Mills 02648, or by email to [davidchina\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:davidchina_2000@yahoo.com).

If you'd like to discuss an idea or ask any questions in the meantime, just send an email message or call 508-527-0460. Thanks for considering a contribution — a good way to get yourself in print!!

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### *NERGC — Save The Date!*

**April 3-6, 2019:** 15<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference, in Manchester, New Hampshire.