



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 6 Issue 5

May 2019

Join us on Tuesday, May 21st, in the auditorium of Brewster Ladies' Library

Mining Genealogical Gold In Federal Records

presented by **Linda MacIver**



OFTEN WE THINK that the census records are the only federal records that hold useful information on our ancestors, but this is not the case! We look forward to hearing from Ms. MacIver on what to look for and how to access this valuable gold mine! Please join us for her presentation on May 21st.

LINDA MACIVER is hardly a newcomer to Government records. After several years as a school, college, and corporate librarian, Linda joined the Government Documents Department of the Boston Public Library, the GPO regional library for Massachusetts.

Over the course of 27 years, and as the Documents and Social Sciences departments merged, Linda attacked the considerable volume of patron genealogy reference requests with her comprehensive knowledge of records; federal, state and local. When the personal computer/internet era changed everything, Linda developed a variety of computer-based genealogy classes and lecture series, all free to patrons and satisfying a growing public interest in family history.

As the recipient of the Richard S. Lackey Scholarship for 2018, Linda was awarded tuition and coverage for some other expenses for the week-long seminar, the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records, held at NARA in Washington, DC, in July. She will be sharing with us some of her discoveries regarding the wealth of federal records useful for genealogical research, as well as some breakthroughs in her own family history. You haven't done that "reasonably exhaustive search" unless you include more than the usual federal records. It really is a myth that our families weren't important enough to be in records preserved at the National Archives. Come and hear why!

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., but plan to join us at 9:30 for coffee and donuts and an opportunity to socialize with others who are researching their family genealogy.

Out of consideration for the Library's regular patrons, we ask that you use the adjoining parking lot behind the Baptist church, unless you are disabled and need to park close to the building.

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Mailing address:

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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 – 4th Tuesday, Sturgis Library. *Next:* May 28, 2019, 1 p.m., Bebe Brock, chairman.

Computer Users – [usually] 2nd Tuesday. *Next:* *Thursday May 16*, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. (See notice, page 3.) Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim (Roppen@msn.com), and Jim Sullivan, co-chairmen (notice, p. 4).

DNA – 1st Tuesday, Dennis Public Library. *Next:* May 7, 2019, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (notice, p. 4).

German – 1st Tuesday, Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* May 7, 2019, 10 a.m.– Noon. Topic: **"Roman Germany – Are you descended from a Roman Soldier?"** Ann Croston, chairman. acroston125@comcast.net. (See p. 11.)

Irish – 4th Monday, Dennis Public Library. *Next:* May 27, 2019, 10 a.m.; Pat Concannon, chairman.

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* May 17, 2019, 10 a.m. to noon; Pippa Ryan, 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!

Calendar for May 2019

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 7 | DNA SIG, 1:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library |
| May 7 | German SIG, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library |
| May 16 | – special date - Computer Users SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library |
| May 17 | Writing Family History SIG, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library |
| May 21 | CCGS Monthly Meeting, Brewster Ladies' Library (see p. 1) |
| May 27 | Irish SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library |
| May 28 | Cape Cod Families SIG, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library, Barnstable |

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

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

REFLECTIONS FROM RALPH

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED that several of the ancestry/ethnicity DNA testing companies were recently offering substantial mark-downs on the cost of their DNA kits. For the most part, this was to mark the celebration of National DNA Day on April 25. Most of the sales will have ended by the time anyone reads this column. However, for those contemplating taking a test, **23andMe** will be offering the sale on their Health+Ancestry kit until May 13, which is just after Mother's Day. It seems worth noting that DNA Day was intended to commemorate the 1953 publication of scientific papers describing the double helix structure of DNA and also to mark the completion of the Human Genome Project in 2003.

Recently, NEHGS initiated its "Countdown to 2020" event series, commemorating the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing. They opened the series with the installation of a replica of the Mayflower in the front courtyard of NEHGS and with the unveiling of a tribute to the Wampanoag people. Those registered for the CCGS Bus Trip to Boston will have an opportunity to visit these exhibits on May 2. But fear not, the exhibits will be on display at NEHGS through 2020.

We hope those members returning to the Cape as the weather continues to improve will be able to renew your participation in our monthly programs and Special Interest Groups. See complete details for our May meeting, featuring a presentation by Linda MacIver, in this newsletter. Also, our annual luncheon meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 18, at the Riverway in South Yarmouth.

More details on registration for this meeting will be mailed in the near future.

—Ralph

Welcome to New Members

Kathleen Hunt
Jo Anne Makely
Amy Woodrick
Sherill Baldwin
Beverly Lawton
Julia Perry



And the Winners are . . .

Congratulations to the five winners of the Volunteers' Drawing held at the April 2019 Monthly Meeting. They are:

Debra Merigan – Lunch at Annual Meeting
Dorothy Robinson – Annual Membership
Jack Keating – Bus Trip
Shirley Barron – \$50 Amazon Gift Card
Wayne Van Buren – \$100 Amazon Gift Card

Thanks go out to all of the CCGS Volunteers for the many hours of service they provide so we can all enjoy the benefits of CCGS membership!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Additional volunteer help is needed by CCGS in several areas. Please take a look below and see if you might be able to be of assistance. Remember, you're not just helping CCGS. You're also helping another Volunteer.

- MEMBERSHIP needs a second person to greet visitors at the monthly meeting from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Sharing this position means you needn't be at every meeting. If you think you might be able to help, please contact Madelyn McHugh at membership@capecodgenealogy.org.
- SET-UP: A couple of people with A/V abilities are needed to help set up equipment for our meetings. Experience with webinars would be especially helpful, but not necessary for every meeting. If you can help, please contact Kate Peace at kate.peace@capecodgenealogy.org or Joan Frederici at joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org

THE GENEALOGY LIBRARY has several needs for Volunteer help. Please take a look at the list below and contact Carol Magenau at librarian@capecodgenealogy.org for more information or to volunteer.

- There's an opening for additional Staff for regularly scheduled Tuesday afternoons or Saturday mornings (once a month).
- The Library is in possession of unique manuscript materials that should be entered into Worldcat. This could be

done from home on your own computer.

- Also a job that can be done from your home computer - a catalog record needs to be created for various journals and electronic resources that are not currently listed in the catalog.
- Carol Magenau, the Librarian, has been posting to the CCGS Blog summaries of the various journals received at the Library. It would be very helpful if a few people could each take over writing a summary, perhaps of a journal you are already receiving.

Computer Users SIG

REMEMBER that our meeting is on **Thursday, May 16**, not on our usual Tuesday. We will be doing some planning for future meetings as well as looking at some important websites and reviewing mapping. If you want to influence our agenda, this is the meeting to come to.

— Bob Oppenheim

DNA SIG

The May meeting will be Tuesday, May 7, 2019, 1:30-3:30 p.m., at the Dennis Public Library., reports: "After the usual open discussion time, we will move on to the new tools on *MyHeritage* and new formats on *Ancestry*. I will show a real time profile (me) on DNA Painter. Finally we will review the differences between the major companies." Summer chairman Teri Grey is expected to take over in June.

— Walter Murphy, winter chairman

— wamgenealogy@gmail.com

Meet Our Board Members

SUZANNE WALTON

Suzanne reminisces, “For as long as I can remember, I had a goal of retiring to Cape Cod and getting a dog. It really was just a dream, but here I am for fifteen years now, dog and all.” How did this all happen?

She and her cousin, both “only children,” born a week apart, spent a lot of time together as youngsters, including at her cousin’s parents’ cottage in North Falmouth. “It was the smell of the honeysuckle, the split rail fence we rode like cowgirls, and the swing in the backyard over a bed of pine needles that got me hooked on Cape Cod. And guess what the first three things were that I did in the yard of my Cape Cod house?”

Luckily, when the North Falmouth cottage was sold, another aunt and uncle built a house on Popponessett Island, at a time when there were only four or five cottages on the whole Island, clams and beach plums were wild and free for the taking, and New Seabury wasn’t even on the drawing board. If Cape Cod wasn’t already cemented in Suzanne’s future before she spent time on this Island, it was after she did.

It was this uncle who once told her, “Learn how to type, but don’t tell anyone you know how.” In many ways it was he who introduced her to the idea of following a somewhat atypical career for a woman at the time. Approaching graduation from UMass, she applied to grad schools and interviewed for a job; the best offer was from General Motors in Framingham. When she asked the standard question about what she’d be doing in five years if things were

going well, and they told her she’d be sent to Detroit, off she went to Kent State to get an MBA instead!

Her first position was with TIAA-CREF in New York City, in the Securities Department doing private placements. There was only one paragraph in her finance textbook about private placements, there were no other women doing that job at the time at TIAA, Suzanne had never set foot in NYC before, and didn’t know a soul there. Well, 32 years and two jobs later, she was still in NYC working on private corporate financial transactions.

One of the good things about this job was meeting people engaged in many different occupations and seeing how things got made. She remembers being totally intrigued watching silicon crystals grow that would later be sliced and turned into semiconductors. “I also toured very smelly paper pulp plants and garbage dumps, so it wasn’t all intriguing!”

Between jobs two and three, she had a couple of months off during the summer. They were spent on the Cape like almost every other summer vacation of her life. “I was creeping my way east across the Cape. From North Falmouth and then Mashpee, I started renting in West Dennis and then finally in Orleans before buying my home in Brewster.”

For the first several years after she retired, Suzanne was actively involved as a Habitat for Humanity volunteer: “I found that to be a very rewarding experience, but my knees weren’t enjoying it so much.” While she was looking for another pastime, an ad in the *Cape Codder* for a lecture at CCGS caught her eye. She got involved, first as the NERGC Delegate, then became a Director-At-Large, and then took on her current challenge, Volunteer Coordinator.

Suzanne can trace her interest in genealogy back pretty far. It had been well established by other relatives that there was a line on her mother's side going back to the *Mayflower*. And there was the proverbial family lore about the ancestor mariner lost at sea: her third great grandfather, Thomas Snow. The story had it that he was lost at sea in 1840, his wife, Delilah Young, remarried in 1852, he reappeared in Orleans to find her married, and disappeared never to be heard from again. His son, Nathaniel, was the last of her ancestors to be born on Cape Cod.

Suzanne carried that story around in the back of her mind for years. "It wasn't until I retired that I could dig into it, only to find almost nothing to support it. But one thread of intrigue exists on the Deaths page of his wife's family bible where his father-in-law, Zenas Young, wrote, 'Thomas Snow my sun in law *supposed* to be loust at Sea....' Was there some doubt in Zenas's mind? There's no subsequent entry relating to this, but his own death in 1854 could have been before any such return. This could be my forever brick wall."

Suzanne says she has no shortage of brick walls. "I'm missing a great grandfather on my father's side. Looks like only DNA can solve this one, so I'm in the process of pursuing that." This research takes her to Scotland, and she plans to visit there next fall.

Having had no time for things like cooking, gardening, and dogs when she was working, Suzanne has since acquired



Suzanne, with puppy Echo

gardens and dogs, but more or less given up on cooking. Her raspberry patch, which she started from scratch, has turned out to be more than she bargained for, but the jam makes it all worthwhile. A couple of years ago she built a raised garden for perennial cutting flowers. It's still a work in process. She feels she was incredibly lucky to become friends with a family who knows where you can still find some "Olde Cape Cod." There are still wild oysters to be harvested and blueberries, mushrooms, and cranberries to be picked — if you know where to look.

As some of her friends spend more time in Florida, she still sees no reason to leave here, except for a visit. "Between working on brick walls, endless gardening, the wild picking, repairing the swing and split rail fence, and taking care of my Irish Water Spaniel, Echo, I'm feeling very lucky. Or is Echo taking care of me?"

Reports from the NERGC Conference



NERGC Meeting of Professional Genealogists, with CCGS Member Bob Ward in foreground.

—photo courtesy of David Martin, with permission of Robert Ward

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE 2019

A Summary— David Martin

The 15th Biennial Conference of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) was held in Manchester, NH from April 3-6, 2019. As always, the conference was comprehensive in its scope of many subtopics within the field of genealogy, but also there were some obvious trends in the types of topics available. Sixteen members of the Society attended and provided helpful volunteer service in activities such as exhibit administration, evaluation of sessions, conference registration, and hosts and monitors for individual presentations.

The first conference day provided opportunities for full-day special focuses— Librarians and Local Historians Day, Technology Day, Military Day, Beginning DNA Day, Professional Genealogist Day, and Society Management Day. Also on the first day was a Research Tour by bus of six different research sites in Southern New Hampshire for genealogists.

The keynote address was provided by Cyndi Ingle—the owner and operator of “Cyndi’s List,” which is a comprehensive listing of the many genealogical websites available today. Cyndi has catalogued more than 300,000 genealogical websites into alphabetic categories, which make the website (cyndi@cyndislist.com) a vital tool for genealogists embarking on internet-based searches. An obvious thread across

many sessions was the creative use of the internet, but not to the exclusion of on-site investigations to such locations as town halls, cemeteries, historical societies — all of which continue to be tried-and-true methods which remain essential.

An obvious theme within the approximately 130 sessions, to no one's surprise, was an emphasis on the many aspects of DNA as a tool for genealogical research. Large-group speakers and smaller workshop sessions provided insight into the methodologies for DNA research, how and where to send DNA samples, how to interpret results, and the limitations of DNA for family history.

Another thread of sessions focused on regional genealogical investigation—sometimes by country, sometimes by state, and sometimes by geographic region; the scope related to areas that were well outside New England.

Several sessions that were related to the writing of genealogical narratives gave participants ideas on how to organize their records for producing articles and books about family history.

Other themes were methodologies and problem-solving, preservation, developing research plans, minority groups, adoptions and parentage, Loyalists, French-Canadian genealogy, divorce and tax records, and companies in genealogy.

As part of its obligation as a member Society of NERGC, CCGS provided a speaker for one of the sessions; David Martin gave a presentation entitled, "Will the Real John C. Fowler Please Stand Up?", which was a detailed case study of a challenging parentage identification problem that took about 30 years to resolve. Joan Frederici served as the Delegate to the NERGC Planning Committee throughout

the process of planning this conference. Phyllis Day coordinated several aspects of the Exhibits.

The next conference of NERGC will be in two years—April 14-17,2021—to be held at the Springfield, Mass. Conference Center. Mark your calendar now, and consider volunteering to be involved in the planning process which begins this June.

Thoughts on NERGC 2019

Joan Frederici

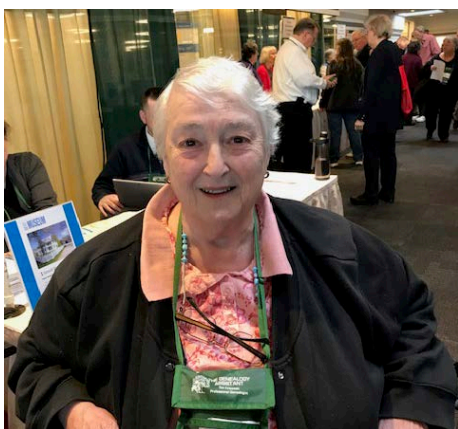
After recently returning from the NERGC Conference in Manchester, N.H., I found myself reflecting on the "important moments" of the week. What stands out is not the BEST speaker... the Best session... not even what new research tip I learned. Instead, this year, the highlight of the entire conference week was the people. Whether it was meeting up with members of CCGS, catching up with those I have not seen since the last conference, or making new friends, I find that I enjoyed the social aspects of the week the most.

Volunteering — in the past, I have introduced speakers and worked as a door monitor for individual sessions. This year, I decided to set some time aside and work in the Registration area. It was a great experience. I met those who were attending their first conference, repeat attendees, and speakers — all excited and looking forward to the days to follow. I ran into some of these people on another day and discovered we were now "old friends."

I attended the Society Management Day as a part of the Wednesday "Pre-conference" where I met members of societies from all over the country and all age ranges — genealogy is not reserved for those who are retired! Many younger

individuals research around their regular schedules of work and raising a family — as a matter of fact, there is an active organization for genealogists under the age of 50, which is called Nextgen!

On Thursday evening, we had a table at the Society Fair where we displayed our brochures and literature. When I arrived there, I was greeted by Kendra Nedjar, a “long distance” member of CCGS — these individuals are not close enough to the Cape area to attend our meetings; but in some cases, are able to attend the conference. Kendra made sure to stop by and introduce herself, so that she is now more than just a name on our membership list. She is a sweet lady and we met up a number of times over the next two days.



CCGS Member Kendra Nedjar

There were a few members who attended that I did not see, unfortunately; but it was a wonderful opportunity to meet up with those I did. Plans are already underway for the next NERGC conference,

to be held in Springfield, on April 14 – 17, 2021. Save the date!! Anyone who would like to become involved in any aspect of future planning for this conference, is asked to contact Joan Frederici.



CCGS Table at Society Fair, with Volunteers Bob Ward, Joan Frederici, and David Martin.



Left to right, seated: Michael Strauss (bearded as Civil War reenactor), (an unidentified member of Nextgen), Melanie McComb, David Lambert (both of NEHGS), Daniel Earle of Michigan; and standing, visitor Joan Frederici.

*SAR Program to Honor
Revolutionary War Soldier
Abraham Swift
(1762-1846)*

Gravesite Ceremony, Old Town Burial
Ground, Falmouth
Saturday, May 18, 2019
10:00 AM

THE CAPE COD CHAPTER of the Sons of the Revolution (SAR) invites CCGS members and friends to attend a ceremony to honor Revolutionary Patriot Abraham Swift of Sandwich and to mark his grave.

The order of the ceremony will be: welcoming remarks by Robert A. Gifford, President of the Cape Cod Chapter of SAR; presentation of colors by the Falmouth Police Department and the Col. Henry Knox Regimental Color Guard; Invocation by Chapter Chaplain Charles A. Wry; Pledge of Allegiance led by Troop 42, Falmouth Boy Scouts; Introduction of Dignitaries and Participants; a short address by Mark Schmidt, Executive Director of the Falmouth Historical Society, on the Falmouth Historical Context; then the Life of Patriot Abraham Swift by (descendants) David Standish Martin and Duncan Swift Martin; singing of *America The Beautiful*, written by Falmouth's Katharine Lee Bates, followed by dedication of the SAR grave marker and presentation of a wreath by the Boy Scouts; and finally the Benediction by Chaplain Wry.

Abraham Swift was born in Sandwich, Mass., 17 October 1762, and married Olive

Lawrence 4 May 1799 in Falmouth. He was the son of Jabez Swift (b. 1732) and Hannah Perry of Sandwich. His death date, 19 March 1846, is in Falmouth Vital Records and on his stone in the Old Burial Ground in Falmouth. His headstone was restored by the Falmouth Historical Society and the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

Abraham enlisted in 1779 as a private in Captain Joseph Palmer's Company of Colonel Freeman's Massachusetts Regiment (DAR III: 191). The *DAR Patriot Index* lists him in Volume 1, p. 663 as a Private in the Massachusetts Militia. His Pension Index number is 11501, and records indicate that he enlisted at Falmouth. His Federal Pension Application is 27151. His annual pension was \$33.08, as of 1833.

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution, pp. 310-311, describes his service as 8 days on an alarm at Dartmouth and Falmouth in September 1778, followed by 9 months and 28 days for a company stationed at Falmouth to guard the shore and during which he acted as a fifer, and later for 2 months at Falmouth. He was discharged 20 September 1781. The story of the April 1779 alarm is of interest. On April 3 a fleet of British ships were intent on retaliation against the Rebels for having been repulsed on April 1 in a previous attempt at an attack. The British had occupied the Elizabeth Islands, and were using Tarpaulin Cove on Naushon as a harbor. On the night of April 2, the British were "enjoying a frolic" at the home of John Slocum, a British sympathizer, on Pasque Island, not far from Tarpaulin Cove. But when Slocum overheard the British plan to invade Falmouth, his British sympathies gave way, and he sent his son running down the islands to row across to Woods Hole and warn the colonials that the British

were planning an attack. When the British arrived at 9 a.m. on the following morning, they were “greeted” by Rebel gunfire from solid entrenchments on the beach, and successfully repulsed them. Two days later after firing on Falmouth in several other locations, the British moved off to Nonamisset Island and then later Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket.

Later, in addition, *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia* (1913) lists him as a member of Captain T. Swift’s Company in Lieutenant Colonel D. Nye’s Regiment during the War of 1812, serving

from January 20 to January 31 and October 2 to October 5, 1814, at Falmouth.

David S. Martin, Abraham’s 4th great grandson, was admitted to membership in the Sons of the American Revolution in 1991 in the Washington, D.C., chapter of SAR. Duncan S. Martin, brother of David, is also a direct descendant of Abraham.

Abraham’s son Jabez (2nd) went to the Gold Rush in California from Falmouth in 1849, leaving a wife and children behind; he died in California in that year. His headstone is nearby the headstones for Abraham and Olive.

German SIG News

MAYBE YOU ARE JUST trying to identify a German great-grandparent, but the May meeting will take your interest in Germany a lot further back than that.

The group will meet at the Brewster Ladies’ Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 7. The topic this time will be **Roman Germany**, and participants will examine such questions as: Are you descended from a Roman Soldier? What evidence of Roman Civilization - forts, watchtowers, cartways, or early artifacts were found in your German village or town? What is the earliest history of your village? “Since not all of you may have Roman antiquities,”

chairman Ann Croston comments (realistically?), you may explore what antiquities were found in your area. Where did they come from?”

In what promises to be a fascinating lesson in ancient European history. Ann has provided handouts and worksheets that focus on the Roman occupation of Germany, what antiquities remain to provide information about it, and the Alemanni invasion that ended it. Maps are included.

If you are not already on the mailing list for this SIG, you might want to email Ann (acroston125@comcast.net) and ask for the handouts.