



CCGS NEWS

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Using DNA as a Research Tool

May Meeting to Feature a Presentation

by Seema Kenney

WHETHER YOU'VE TAKEN or are still considering a DNA test to determine your kinship with someone or to trace your lineage, knowing how to work with the results you receive is crucial! Receiving the test results is one thing, understanding them and using them as a research tool are totally different things. Join us at the CCGS meeting on Tuesday, May 15, for a presentation by Seema Kenney on "DNA Results as a Research Option."



Seema Kenney is an experienced software instructor and a professional genealogist. Her known roots are deep in New England as well as England, Germany, and Sweden. She has a certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University; completed the *ProGen* study program; and is an active member and officer of several genealogical societies.

Our meeting will be held at the [Brewster Ladies' Library](#), Rte. 6A, Brewster, on **Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at 10 a.m.** Please consider arriving early for socializing and refreshments at 9:30.



A SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 10 A.M.

Finding Your Mayflower Ancestors

Dennis Public Library Meeting Room

Let Us Help You Connect with a *Mayflower* Passenger

Our Library and Staff have Resources to help.

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S I Gs

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, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library. *Next:* May 22, 2018. Bebe Brock, chairman.

Computer Users – 2nd Tuesday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* May 8, 2018. David Martin, chairman.

German – 1st Tuesday, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.. *Next:* May 1, 2018, Brewster Ladies Library. *Topic:* Photo Restoration with *Guest Speaker*

Bob Tucker. Also, Non-Dominant Groups in Germany: Romani, Traveling Musicians, and Entertainers. Chairman Ann Croston, <acroston125@comcast.net>.

Irish – 4th Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* May 28, 2018. Pat Concannon, chairman.

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* May 18, 2018, 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!

The DNA Group

The DNA Discussion Group will meet May 1 at the Dennis Public Library from 1 to 3. The group will discuss creating and using Mirror Trees and then take ideas for topics for the summer months. All with an interest in the subject are welcome.

Welcome to New Members

Cynthia Burke
James Rogers & Shirley Barron
Ruth Brenneman
Louise Kirkpatrick
Andrew & Richard Eldredge

The Cape Cod Genealogical Library
is located in the Dennis Public Library
5 Hall Street, Dennisport
Hours: Tuesday 1–4 • Thursday 10–4
Saturday 10–12

JOTTINGS FROM JOAN

CAPE COD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY currently has more than 300 members, living in more than half the states throughout the country. Keeping everyone up to date on what is going on is not always easy. Communications are relayed through several different ways: our website, blog, Facebook Page and Group, occasional email blasts, as well as sending out information to various local media here on Cape Cod. Newsletters and special announcements are emailed to the majority of our members — only 10% have not given us an email address; if you are not receiving notifications by email, contact us at info@capecodgenealogy.org.

Recently, I have received messages from individuals who have had problems accessing our blog. Several months ago, our original blog suffered an outage, which was never able to be resolved. Our webmaster created a new blog site, with a slightly different address. It can be reached directly at Cape Cod Genealogy Blog or by going to our capecodgenealogy.org and following the links to the “full blog.” Once at the blog site, you can subscribe to be notified of new blog posts by submitting your email address in the box in the upper right-hand column, where it states, “Follow by Email.” If you had received notifications in the past, you will need to re-submit your email address, as this is a new blog and the previous subscriptions do not get forwarded.

We maintain two sites on Facebook. The Cape Cod Genealogical Facebook

[Page](#) is available to be viewed by the public; if you “like” and follow us on that site, you will receive notifications of new posts whenever they are added. Events are periodically posted on this site, as well as occasional posts and photos.

The second Facebook site is our Group, [Cape Cod Genealogical Public Group](#). Although it is considered a “public Group” you must be pre-approved by an administrator before you are granted entry to the site. On this site you can ask for help with research questions and/or share information about the surnames you are researching. To request access to this Group, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/629815270390600/?ref=bookmarks>.

I hope that these instructions will improve our communications to everyone.

—Joan

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Calendar for May 2018

- May 1 DNA Discussion Group
- May 1 German SIG
- May 8 Computer Users SIG
- May 12 *Mayflower* Presentation,
Dennis Public Library
- May 15 CCGS Monthly Meeting:
Seema Kenney, Speaker
- May 18 Writing Family History SIG
- May 22 Cape Cod Families SIG
- May 28 Irish SIG

VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

ANN CROSTON GERMAN SIG LEADER

WOULD SOMEONE WHOSE CAREER was in accounting for small businesses make a great SIG leader? You bet! Just take a look at the German SIG and its leader, Ann Croston. Ann has been a member of CCGS for five years and had been a member of the SIG for two years when a new leader was needed. She stepped up to continue the work begun by her predecessor, Carol Wister. Carol very ably set the foundation of the group. Today, the German SIG has over 20 members who meet monthly at the BLL to share information and resources to aid in tracing their German ancestors.

Ann's ancestors came not only from Germany, but the Netherlands, England, Ireland, and "a few unknowns" as well. She started her genealogy "career" even earlier than her business one, researching her family and helping others do the same. She has discovered an ancestor who was a Burgher (mayor) in 1400, one who was a baker in the mid-1600s, and a female ancestor who went to jail in 1608.

Through the German SIG, Ann is continuing this tradition of discovery. To quote Ann, "Genealogy is like working a puzzle, solving a mystery ... a personal connection makes it all the more fun." The German SIG tries to make that personal connection by offering opportunities to learn more about your German ancestors, the history, traditions, and customs of Germany, research strategies in Germany and the U.S., how to find help in Germany, and much more. Sound interesting?



Ann (right) with two members of the German SIG, Karen Debenham (left) and Vicki Blair-Smith (center)

Maybe you'd like to join the German SIG if you have German ancestors, or maybe you'd like to lead a new SIG that pursues a topic of interest to you. An approach that's worked well for Ann is to have a mission statement, plot out a year of topics, break down each topic into subtopics, have members sign up to lead discussions on subtopics of interest to them, and intersperse research meetings with guest speakers and workshops. For the fiscal year 2017/18, the schedule called for three guest speakers and one workshop. This formula has been a real winner for the German SIG!

Ann's personal experience leading the SIG is summed up in the following quote, "Leading the German SIG, although intimidating at first, has been a great experience. I have been overjoyed with the interest, curiosity, and helpfulness of the members. We are sometimes awestruck in learning about the daily lives of our ancestors. I think we feel closer to them as real human beings ... not just names, dates, and places."