



# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

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## *January Meeting Will Feature A Presentation on DNA Testing for Adoptees*

DNA TESTING IS A VALUABLE NEW RESOURCE for adoptees and others who are researching issues of unknown parentage. At our CCGS meeting on January 16, Thomas Greve, current President of the Falmouth Genealogical Society, will guide us on what tests are available to consumers, what information they can provide, and how to identify genetic ancestors using DNA matches. His presentation is entitled “Autosomal DNA Testing for Adoptees”.



**THOMAS GREVE** is a genealogical researcher and speaker from Falmouth, Massachusetts. After pursuing the history of his own family for over 10 years, he began researching professionally in 2016. Thomas currently serves as president of Falmouth Genealogical Society and holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University’s Center for Professional Education.

He is also a proud member of Unclaimed Persons, a group of volunteer genealogists who donate their time and research skills to assist medical examiners in locating the next-of-kin of deceased individuals. Thomas specializes in the use of DNA testing as evidence of identity and kinship, and enjoys helping adoptees locate biological family members.

At the **BREWSTER LADIES' LIBRARY**, Rte. 6A, Brewster,  
on **Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 10 a.m.**

*All are invited to come earlier for socializing and refreshments at 9:30.*

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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** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library. *Next:* 23 January 2018. Bebe Brock, chairman.

**Computer Users** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* 9 January 2018, David Martin, chairman.

**German** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.. *Next:* 2 January 2018, Brewster Ladies Library, downstairs meeting room (**note different time**

**and room!**). Jan. topic: German Church Record Websites, and a talk on Prussian history. The purpose of the CCGS German Special Interest Group is to share information and resources to aid in tracing our German ancestors. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about their German ancestors; the history, traditions, and customs of Germany; research strategies in Germany & the US; how to find help in Germany; and much more. For further information, contact Ann Croston at [acroston125@comcast.net](mailto:acroston125@comcast.net). (See report of December meeting on page 4.)

**Irish** - 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* 22 January 2018. Pat Concannon, chairman.

**Writing Family History** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* 19 January 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!

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**The DNA Group**

The next meeting of the **DNA Discussion Group** will take place 2 January 2018 (first Tuesday), at the Dennis Public Library. Leader Teri Grey <[terigrey@gmail.com](mailto:terigrey@gmail.com)> will not be present this time. Although a volunteer to take Teri's place was not found, members decided to get together anyway, with their laptops, for an open discussion. All with an interest in the subject are welcome.

If there is something you would like to see in CCGS News for February, please contact Jane Fiske <[janeffiske@gmail.com](mailto:janeffiske@gmail.com)> no later than January 25th.

## JOTTINGS FROM JOAN

WELCOME TO 2018! The years seem to fly by so fast – it feels like I have just written a 2017 New Year’s message for the newsletter, yet here I am once again.

As time passes so quickly, I want to remind you of exciting events that will be here before we know it. In two years, we will be announcing the start of 2020 and the approaching year-long festivities being planned for the anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. A quick look in Google will uncover “Mayflower 400” with communities in England and the Netherlands commemorating the early history leading up to the Pilgrim’s departure. “Plymouth 400” will celebrate the arrival of the ship and its passengers to Plymouth and the founding of the Plymouth Colony. Not to be left out, there is even a “Massachusetts 400.”

In all these planned festivities, not many are including the actual first stop of this historic voyage. The *Mayflower* first anchored in Provincetown Harbor and stayed there for a month before moving on. This is where the *Mayflower* Compact was signed. Exploration teams were sent out to scout out the area and uncovered Native American graves, stole buried corn that was being stored over the winter, and finally met up with a less than hospitable group of Native Americans. (After desecrating graves and stealing their corn, should that have been a surprise?) At this point, it was decided they needed to find a friendlier location and the ship moved on to what is now Plymouth.

Among our members, we have many descendants of those first Pilgrims who stepped foot on Cape Cod soil. While some of these descendants live here on the Cape now, others are living all over the country. Many others, with no Pilgrim ancestry, have an interest in the early history and settlement of Cape Cod for a variety of reasons. So now, I am turning to you, all our members. What should we be doing to commemorate these historic events? I am looking for suggestions for activities you might like to participate in as we approach the November 11, 2020, anniversary of the Cape Cod arrival. Whether it is speakers, workshops, or other special events, it is not too early to plan for this exciting time. Please contact me with your ideas at

[joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org).

— Joan

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### *Did You Forget?*

The Membership Committee reminds us that the deadline for payment of 2018 membership dues is 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).

## *Problems with the Blog Site*

If you have attempted recently to access our blog site, you have received a strange message: "This site can't be reached."

We do not know what happened to it, but investigation shows that about December 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> the blog became inaccessible. David F. (our Technology chair) has been unable to find any answers as to what happened or why, so he cannot fix it. The only solution appears to be the creation of a new blog for our Society, which he is in the process of doing.

The new blog can be accessed through our website, but currently all that is on it is an announcement of our December meeting. Once it is fully functional, you will receive a message from us about signing up for notifications of new posts on the new blog.

We apologize for any inconvenience you may have experienced.

## *Received at the Library*

*Your Genealogy Today* for Nov./Dec. 2017, tells us that colonial church records were often concerned with secular matters such as relief for the poor or adoption, even a bounty for a wolf's pelt. Post Office records are revealed as a source of geographical information, as well as subscriber lists, since post offices used to collect subscription fees for newspapers and magazines. Extensive tips for scrap booking are offered. Among other interesting stories is one of horror, an ancestor buried alive with sleeping sickness at age twenty-one.

In the featured article in *Internet Genealogy* (Oct./Nov. 2017), Sue Lisk offers tips for learning about the geographical and social context of ancestors' lives. Resources recommended include the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection ([www.davidrumsey.com/luna/serolet/allCollections](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/serolet/allCollections)), Old Maps Online ([www.oldmapsonline.org](http://www.oldmapsonline.org)), and the Atlas of Historical County Boundaries (<http://publications-newberry.org/ahchp>). Two articles focus on slavery: in Britain and its colonies, and insurance records, primarily in the southern US. Findmypast and the Catholic Church are collaborating on the Catholic

Heritage Project. As always, there are reviews of websites new and old, and a review of Heredis, a genealogy software package.

*Mass-Pocha* for Oct. 2017 summarizes an earlier talk on the Genealogical value of Jewish cemetery records, as well as one on the art of taking an oral history.

*The CCGS Genealogy Room*  
is located in the Dennis Public Library  
5 Hall Street, Dennisport  
Hours: Tuesday 1-4 • Thursday 10-4  
Saturday 10-12

## *German SIG*

Ann Croston, chairman, reports:

What a great Christmas Party we had on Tuesday! We are all antsy to go on a German Christmas Market River Cruise! A BIG thanks to all who gave presentations on Christmas market and brought in German Christmas foods.

One highlight was Bob & Shirley Oppenheim's very ample German sausage platters – Nurnberger Bratwurst (a favorite), Thüringer Rostbratwurst, Coarse Bratwurst, and Weisswurst (reportedly to be eaten by cutting off the end of the sausage and sucking out the contents!), and two German Mustards for sausage dipping. Bob reported that in his research he found he had a family-related German butcher who settled in Wisconsin. Source for the sausages and other specialties:

<http://karlssausage.com>.



(Next meeting January 2, 2018. See notice, page 2.)