



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

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September 2018

The September 18th meeting will open the 2018 – 2019 monthly program sessions of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. The CCGS meeting will take place at the [Brewster Ladies' Library](#), Rte. 6A, Brewster. As in the past, all members and guests are invited to come earlier for socializing and refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

Unlocking the Cemetery Gate

MARK YOUR CALENDAR to join us for the first general meeting of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society (CCGS) of the 2018 - 2019 program year. The September program will feature a presentation entitled *Unlocking the Cemetery Gate: The Cemetery as Genealogical Resource*, to be given by Ms. Brenda Sullivan of The Gravestone Girls (www.gravestonegirls.com). This presentation is directly targeted to genealogists interested in learning to “read” the cemetery for clues and information. Using both direct observation and deductive reasoning from objects such as writing art, geology, and the cemetery landscape, much new insight can be revealed. That new insight can answer questions, create new inquiries and open doors for further detective work. Brenda’s presentation promises to get you looking at these spaces, both old and new, as a valuable resource for your data collection activities.



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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. *Next:* September 25, 2018, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library. Bebe Brock, chairman.

Computer Users — **NOTE DIFFERENT DATE:** *Next: Wednesday,* September 12, 2018, Dennis Public Library. Bill Horrocks and Bob Oppenheim, co- chairmen.

German – 1st Tuesday; 10 a.m. – 12 Noon, Brewster Ladies' Library. No meeting in September. *Next:* October 2, 2018. Ann Croston,

chairman, acroston125@comcast.net. See page 4 for more on the planned activities of this group.

Irish – 4th Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* September 25, 2018. Pat Concannon, chairman.

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* September 21, 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!

DNA Discussion Group

NEXT meeting Tuesday, September 11, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library. **NOTE DIFFERENT DATE!**

Chairman Teri Grey reports that she will be talking about *DNA Painter* at the September meeting. To prepare to use this tool you will need to:

1. Have your DNA at sites with a Chromosome Browser so that includes *GEDmatch*, *FamilyTreeDNA* (autosomal test - *Family Finder*), *23andMe* and/or *MyHeritage*. You can download *Ancestry* tests and move them to all of these sites except *23andMe*.
2. Have figured out how matches are related to you. Focus on matches with Grandparents, Great Grandparents and higher level relationships. The tool won't really tell you much if you just have matches to your parents (siblings).

Future meeting dates will be October 2, November 13, and December 11, at the usual time.

Volunteers are needed to lead the group for the winter, starting in December. Contact Teri Gray (terigrey@gmail.com) if you are interested and willing.

REFLECTIONS FROM RALPH

IF YOU'RE STARTING TO FILL IN your calendar of activities for September, please be sure to block out Tuesday morning, September 18, for our first CCGS general meeting of the 2018 – 2019 season. Our invited speaker will be Brenda Sullivan from The Gravestone Girls (www.gravestonegirls.com). Brenda's presentation will focus on the cemetery as a genealogical resource. We hope to see a great turnout of attendees, especially from those members who can't be with us during the winter months. Rest assured that our Program Committee, headed by Kate Reid Peace, is busy putting together a stimulating slate of invited speakers for the year ahead. As always, please don't hesitate to suggest to any Board member program topics and/or speakers that you would like to hear from in the months ahead. Likewise, if there is something you would like to see included in this monthly Newsletter, please let me know.

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will be off and running as we enter the Fall season. If you haven't had an opportunity to participate in one or more of these group sessions, or if you haven't been in a while, I strongly encourage you to try it out. It's a great way to bring some focus onto your research as well as to pick up some new tools and/or hints. Please see this Newsletter for meeting times and places for the various SIGs, and add it to your calendar. Also feel free to speak directly to any one of the SIG leaders if you would like to get more information about a specific group. The Computer and German SIGs will have additional info available at the September 18th general meeting.

Finally, I recently came across what looks like an interesting way to bump-start

your genealogy research and also a means of sharing your discoveries. You might want to consider trying out the "52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks Challenge" (for details see the following website <https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks/>). You simply sign up for free and receive a weekly prompt that will get you to think about a specific ancestor and what you might share about that person. How you share the information (blog, social media, writing, one-on-one discussion, etc.) is completely up to you. If you happen to try it, let us know how you like it.

—Ralph
—ryalfrile@aol.com

Calendar for September

- September 11 DNA Discussion Group
German SIG
- September 12 Computer Users SIG
- September 18 Monthly Meeting (*see page 1*)
- September 21 Writing Family History SIG
- September 25 Irish SIG
- September 25 Cape Cod Families SIG

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, October 16: Brewster Ladies' Library. "Electronic Access to Historic Cape Cod Daily Newspapers," presented by David Martin *et al.*

Saturday, November 10: St. Peter's Church, Osterville (joint meeting with Falmouth Genealogical Society). Two presentations by Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL.

Tuesday, December 18: Brewster Ladies' Library.
CCGS Annual Holiday Meeting with informal presentations from members.

The German Special Interest Group

This very active SIG, led by chairman Ann Croston, has an ambitious program planned for the coming year. Ann reports that, with the help of member Bob Oppenheim, the group has defined its current mission:

Our goal for 2018-2019 is to focus on our specific German families, where they came from in greater Germany and where they went in America, including named cities/districts, by named families at specific time periods.

Our overall mission continues to be the exploration of the political, social, and environmental conditions that existed where our families lived and the image, attraction, draw that led them to America.

The next meeting, October 2, will focus on the location of family in Germany – State – City – Village – Map – Geography – Topography – Main Products & Occupations – Religion. Members of the group have already been sent a worksheet to fill out, giving location and information for a German ancestor. If you are interested but have not received a copy of the worksheet—even if you live too far away to attend the meeting—please contact Ann for a copy. She writes, "... If you have not found an ancestor's location, fill in & research what you know, take a good guess & research generally, or trace a famous person from the general area. Also, if you would like a second pair of eyes to look at your ancestor, please send me your gathered information. Perhaps we can help. ... at our meeting we will ask members if they are willing to share their research."

A list of the programs for the rest of the year for the German SIG is available, either from Ann (acroston125@comcast.net) or from the editor of this newsletter (janeffiske@gmail.com).

Welcome to New Members

**James [Duncan] Berry
and
Terence Ladd**

New Resources for Ellis Island

FamilySearch has just made available millions of records for Ellis Island immigration. Did you know that, from 1855 until Ellis Island opened in 1892, immigrants came through the Emigrant Landing Depot at Castle Garden in New York City? The records for both places are now online at *FamilySearch.org*, free to all as a searchable database with images of passenger lists.

For details and an interesting historical account describing what our ancestors experienced as immigrants to the United States in the second half of the 19th century, go online to the *FamilySearch* blog.

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*