Knowing the events and circumstances that affected our ancestors' lives will tell us more about who they were as people, why they did the things that they did, and even help to break down some brick walls. Joan Frederici will be using examples and giving suggestions for how to establish context of the time and areas that would have affected our ancestors' lives. Suggestions will range from the expected to a few unusual ideas that Joan has found helpful in her own research.

Come at 9:30 for coffee, tea, donuts and socializing.

Please use the door directly entering the auditorium as the rest of the library is not open on Monday.
Happy New Year, everyone! As we begin 2017, many of us will be thinking about resolutions for the new year. Don’t forget to look at your genealogical practices when you do this!

Is this the year that you will organize your research, learn about new records or visit new repositories? What plans are you making for this brand-new year? I would like to take this opportunity to suggest a way to cover all these areas.

Have you ever attended a conference? Whether it is a one-day event or of several days’ duration, conferences are fantastic ways to give our research a boost. From a wide assortment of speakers to workshops to exhibit halls (where you can speak to vendors who display their genealogically related products, find books that will assist you in your research, and pick up an assortment of “free stuff” – I have not had to purchase pens or note pads in several years!). Meeting other genealogists from other areas may help you break through brick walls, give insight into records you may not be aware of, and may even, in some cases, introduce you to unknown cousins.

If you have never attended a conference, the NERGC Conference in April is a wonderful way for you to experience a national level conference and see what it is all about. We will have speakers from all over the US who will share their expertise. People like Blaine Bettinger and Diahan Southard, who are experts in DNA, Daniel Horowitz, from MyHeritage, Juliana Szucs, from Ancestry.com, Robert Raymond, Michael J Hall, and Cherie Busch, all from FamilySearch.org. These are all individuals that we cannot afford to bring to Cape Cod for our monthly meetings, so this will be an opportunity you do not want to miss.

Over the next few months, I will be reporting the latest news from NERGC on our blog. I hope that you will give some thought to attending at least a part of this year’s conference in Springfield, MA, in April.

Joan
At the December holiday meeting, CCGS members celebrated the 45th anniversary of the Society.

As is the annual custom, several members enlightened the audience with their genealogical stories.

And great holiday treats were enjoyed by all.

Here are a couple of great ways to get involved in your Society without making a large time commitment. More hands make less work. Just choose what you would like to do and contact the chair.

The COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE is looking for members to help in the following areas: maintaining and updating our Facebook page, maintaining and updating our Twitter feed, assisting in keeping the website up to date, and/or assisting in the maintenance of the Society’s blog.

Some of these tasks only take a few minutes 2-3 times a week. Others may be only an hour commitment a week or less. Chair: David Frederici (dcfcapecodgenealogy.org).

The PROGRAM COMMITTEE needs help in planning the meeting programs for fall 2017 and winter/spring 2018, such as selecting meeting topics and speakers, preparing CCGS blog postings to publicize speakers and topics of upcoming monthly meetings. If there were enough committee members, each would only have to work on one meeting a year.

Chair: Ralph Ryall (ralfrile@gmail.com).

The lead article in Your genealogy today for Nov./Dec. 2016 concerns genealogical tourism and the importance of advance preparation to make the most of your trip to the ancestral homeland.

In "Our Aviation Ancestors" we learn about both military and civilian records for pilots and support personnel. Obscure sources for Civil War research are reviewed, and a moving story about World War II research takes the author to the Luxembourg cemetery.

The National Genealogical Society Quarterly (Sept. 2016) deals with tricky genealogical mysteries: identifying a birth family in frontier days, three candidates for a wife in 19th century New York State, and resolving the question of a birth name in the early 20th century. All these cases make use of indirect evidence in puzzling out solutions to genealogical mysteries. Completing the issue is a more philosophical treatise on the nature of genealogical identity and what is required to prove it.
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 at capecodgenealogy.org.

Cape Cod Families – 4th Tuesday
Next: 1/24, Sturgis Library

Computer Users – 2nd Tuesday,
Next: 1/10, 10 AM, Dennis Public Lib

German – 1st Tuesday; 10 AM – 12 Noon
Next: 1/3, *BLL

Irish - 4th Mon; 10 AM
Next: 1/23, Dennis Public Library

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday;
Next 1/20, 10 AM, B **L**

*BLL is Brewster Ladies Library

SAVE THE DATE
Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past
April 26-29, 2017 NERGC CONFERENCE
MassMutual Convention Center
Springfield, Massachusetts

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Three-part course on: vital records, the census, immigration records, church records, computer software for genealogists, internet genealogical research, and more.

Place: Sturgis Library, Barnstable Village, Route 6A

Dates: Saturdays, January 7, 21, 28, 2017

Time:10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Register: Call Sturgis Library at 508-362-6636, and speak with or leave message for Ms. Curry.

Cape Cod Genealogical Society is a qualified section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership Dues and Donations are Tax Deductible as permitted by law