



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 6 Issue 7

Summer 2019

A Message from Walter

AS I WRITE THIS, SUMMER is half over (well, almost) and the Cape Cod Genealogical Society has begun a new year (well, at least fiscally). With the new year we have three new members on your Board of Directors: Brian O'Donnell (Vice President/Program Chair), Noreen Cahalane (Treasurer), and Judy Jones (Director-at-Large). In addition, I have moved from Director to President. Accordingly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ralph Ryall for his service as President, Kate Peace for her service as both Vice-President and Program Chair, and Mary Lou Cahalane for keeping our books straight. Ralph will remain on the board as Immediate Past President and Publicity Chair. Kate and Mary Lou will be leaving the board, but I am sure we will see their smiling faces at upcoming CCGS meetings.

When I finally decided to say "yes" to the Nominating Committee's (Joan Frederici and Ellen Geanacopoulos) inquiry about my interest in becoming President, I committed to two years. The primary reason behind that decision is because the next two years look like they will be quite interesting, if not outright fun. For example, next year will be the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing on Cape Cod (and Plymouth). Then, not to be outdone, 2021 will be the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. In other words, "Plymouth 400" will be immediately followed by "CCGS 50." That combination should allow for a number of activities (and volunteer opportunities) and I want to be part of that. I hope you do too.

Changes are afoot for two of our SIGs. As highlighted in more detail elsewhere in this Newsletter, both the Irish and DNA SIGs are losing their leaders. This is a great opportunity for new faces to step up and help these popular SIGs continue!

One of the first things I did in my new role was to visit the Brewster Ladies Library (BLL) to reserve the dates/rooms through next May for our Board of Directors and CCGS monthly meetings. Securing the Board of Directors dates was no problem. But imagine my surprise when I learned that the preferred dates for our monthly meetings (the third Tuesday of the month) were already booked for November, February, and April! November was no problem as that is the month that we have a joint meeting with the Falmouth Genealogical Society. But the February and April dates had been taken by school vacation activities, leaving us out in the cold. I was able to reserve **Saturday**, April 25, for that month's meeting. At this writing, however, a February date remains up in the air. Regardless of whatever February date is finally settled on, it will be unusual. So, expect to see frequent reminders of the new meeting times for February and April. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing everyone at the normal time for September's meeting – September 17.

Cape Cod Genealogical Society Board of Directors 2019-2020

OFFICERS

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Walter Murphy | President |
| Brian O'Donnell | Vice-President |
| Judy Needham | Recording Secretary |
| Bebe Brock | Corresponding Secretary |
| Noreen Cahalane | Treasurer |

DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Ralph Ryall | Past President |
| Nancy DeNise | Director at Large |
| Judy Jones | Director at Large |
| Jane Hester | Director at Large |
| Suzanne Walton | Director at Large |
| Joan Frederici | Communications Technology |
| Carol Magenau | Librarian |
| David Martin | Education |
| Madelyn McHugh | Membership |
| Carolyn Weiss | Publications |
| Ralph Ryall | Publicity |

Mailing address:

Cape Cod Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1394
East Harwich, MA 02645
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:* August 27, 2019, 1 p.m., Bebe Brock, chairman.

Computer Users – 2nd Tuesday, Dennis Public Library,, 10 a.m. - noon. **No meeting in August.** *Next:* September 10, 2019. All are welcome. Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim (Roppen@msn.com), and Jim Sullivan, co-chairmen. See also notice, page 5.

DNA – 1st Tuesday, Dennis Public Library. *Next:* August 6, 2019, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Teri Grey, summer chairman. New leader(s) are needed after

September. August meeting: three case studies presented by members, and discussion of a new tool, DNA Painter Trees. See Notice, page 4.

German – 1st Tuesday, 10 a.m.–Noon, Brewster Ladies' Library. **No meeting in September.** *Next:* October 1, 2019. Ann Croston, leader: acroston125@comcast.net.

Irish – 4th Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. Will meet all summer: August 26, Sept. 23, etc. *New Summer facilitator: Pat Flaherty: patcarole@gmail.com. Winter facilitator needed!* See Notice, page 4.

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. **Will meet all summer on regular schedule:** *Next:* August 16, 2019. Pippa Ryan, chairman

Calendar for August 2019

| | |
|-----------|---|
| August 6 | DNA SIG, 1:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library |
| August 16 | Writing Family History SIG, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library |
| August 26 | Irish SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library |
| August 27 | Cape Cod Families SIG, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library, Barnstable |

THE MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
will hold its Fall 2019 Conference
"Unraveling Your Roots"

Portland, Maine – September 13 and 14
Friday sessions at Maine Historical Society
Saturday sessions at Riverside Inn and Suites

Deadline for submitting material for the Handout Table, or for the Syllabus, must be received by August 16. For information,

<https://maineroots.org/product/2019-fall-conference/>

MEET OUR BOARD (MOB)

ONE OF THE NEW OFFICERS elected at the meeting in June is Vice-President Brian O'Donnell, who has graciously agreed to be presented here. These MOB sketches appear every other month, alternating with "Volunteer Highlights" sketches. Since many Volunteers eventually agree to serve as Officers, and Officers slip back into the ranks every few years as Volunteers (the Officers volunteer, too!), a fair amount of overlap between the two categories is becoming apparent. Thumbnail sketches of several of the other officers elected this time will be found on page 6 and 7, along with references to the *Newsletter* volume and page in which a "Volunteer Highlights" sketch of that person was published.

BRIAN O'DONNELL



OUR NEW VICE-PRESIDENT, Brian O'Donnell, has been an active member of CCGS since 2014 when he attended a genealogy class put on by the Society through the Academy for Lifelong Learning. Originally from New York, he came to Cape Cod via Okinawa when his father, a

career Air Force NCO, was assigned to Otis AFB in the mid-fifties.

He attended Providence College on an ROTC scholarship and entered the Army as an Infantry Officer upon graduation in 1968. After returning from Vietnam he served as an instructor in the Army's Ranger school and later trained to become a helicopter pilot. After six years of service in the Army he made an interservice transfer to the Marine Corps and completed a military career there flying helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

After retiring in 1992 he worked in aviation in Guatemala, and later with a regional economic development agency in Eastern North Carolina. He and his family returned to Cape Cod in 1996 and acquired a perpetual home improvement project in West Barnstable that has been a continuous work in progress. Since moving "back home" he worked as an airline pilot for a regional carrier and after retiring there did volunteer work with the Barnstable County Beekeepers Association and construction work with Habitat for Humanity.

Having an avid interest in history he became interested in genealogy through a cousin who was researching the maternal line of their family. Genealogy seemed like a personalized extension of learning history, and a means to chronicle the family story to children and grandchildren. His main area of interest has been his paternal line which originates primarily from Ireland and the New York City area.

Do you have a notice for the next Newsletter? Perhaps a webinar or conference to call to members' attention? Contact the editor at janeffiske@gmail.com. by August 20.

SIG News

DNA Group

THIS GROUP IS IN URGENT NEED OF A NEW LEADER! There are 80 or so members who are on the list for email notices and bulletins, about 25 of whom attend the monthly meetings at the Dennis Public Library. Teri Grey will continue to lead it through September, but then she will be stepping down. Walter Murphy, who has led it in the winter months when Teri was in Florida, has recently picked up his new responsibilities as President of CCGS.

Walter says,

This [new] position will require a good amount of my time as it involves participation in a number of CCGS meetings and activities. As a result, I don't feel that I will be able to devote the time and effort needed to continue on as the SIG's winter chair.

So this puts us in a bit of a quandary. I don't want to see the SIG fade away and I am sure you don't either. It is obvious, therefore, that one or more people need to step up and help lead the group if it is to continue.

The format does not have to remain the same. Teri and I both did a fair amount of teaching (for lack of a better term) and explaining, but that is not a prerequisite. Other SIGs are a combination of ongoing round table discussions and/or various topics led by different people. Topics and formats do not have to fall solely on the shoulders of one individual. A new leader or leaders can simply be a facilitator or moderator and does not have to be an expert. It can simply be an opportunity where a

bunch of people get together and share findings and ask questions etc.

I expect to continue to attend meetings and will even help get things off to a running start for the October and November meetings if need be. There are over 80 people on this distribution, so I hope by then others will step up and that the SIG will continue, even if it is led by committee.

Please think about it.

TERI GREY RECOMMENDS to anyone interested in getting beyond basic genetic genealogy, the book *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies* by Debbie Parker Wayne (available on Amazon). Teri says, "I have thoroughly enjoyed chairing the meetings of this group and will continue to join you as a member whenever I am on the Cape."

Irish Group

A SPECIAL THANKS to PAT CONCANNON, facilitator of the **Irish Special Interest Group** for at least 18 years. She has passed the mantle to Pat Flaherty as of June. The group meets the 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Dennis Public Library on Hall Street in Dennisport. Upcoming meeting dates are: Aug 26th, Sept 23rd and Oct 28th. We are looking for an individual to facilitate this lively group during the winter months. Any questions or to be added to the mailing list, please e-mail Pat Flaherty -- patcarole@gmail.com

Computer Users Group

2019-2020 Monthly Programs

All meetings (circumstances permitting) are
second Tuesday, 10-11:30 AM
at Dennis Public Library, Dennisport

*Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim, and
Jim Sullivan, Facilitators*

THE MISSION OF OUR group is to assist our members in making better use of that remarkable research tool, the computer. Our members' computer skills can range from accomplished to newbie. We strive to meet the needs of all. While we have some ideas for the coming year's programs (below), we will also commit to being user driven. Somewhere, somehow, we will do our best to address all your needs.

The topics that are shown below stemmed, in major part, from our May survey. Based mostly on our survey, our tentative content for 2019-2020 will focus on the subjects listed below. All meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month, our normal meeting time. It has been our experience that some of these dates may change. If they do, our members will be advised by email.

- **Accessing the Digital Versions of the *Barnstable Patriot* and the *Yarmouth Register*:** This is a target of opportunity presentation brought to us by David Martin. In it, T. C. Carter will show how to use these resources for genealogy.
- **Researching with Deeds, Land Records:** David Martin and Bob Ward will explore how the history of a dwelling or parcel can be a surprising source of insight into the lives of your ancestors.
- **Cyndi's List Explored:** This is another target of opportunity presentation arranged by David Martin. This presentation is more on the mechanics of getting the most out of the

1000s of links assembled in Cyndi's List than it is about any particular set of links.

- **Computer Security:** We are continually exposed to new threats which makes this topic worthy of an annual re-visit.
- **Photo Management:** Storing originals, copying and enhancing; best practices, practical solutions.
- **Organizing and Saving Your Research:** What is good for you? We will explore some practices ranging from minimalist to over-kill, you pick what is best for you.

Contact: Bill Horrocks, wdh2@psu.edu, or Bob Oppenheim Roppen@msn.com, or Jim Sullivan thesignco@outlook.com if you have questions.

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

Access to *Ancestry.com*, *AmericanAncestors.org*,
FindMyPast and more!

DID YOU KNOW?

If you think you are interested in a SIG, even if you can't attend, it's a good idea to contact the leader, or facilitator, and ask to be added to the mailing list for that group.

Several of the SIG leaders send out occasional emails to their lists, noting announcements, online programs, and other relevant items or events.

REPORTS FROM THE JUNE 2019 MEETING

Following lunch at the Riverway Lobster House, new officers were elected and then we watched and listened to a presentation by Christopher Klein, author of a new book, *When the Irish Invaded Canada*. Photographs taken at the meeting by Joan Frederici and Regina Mullen appear below, along with thumb-nail sketches of some of the other newly-elected officers. And finally, there is a report of the presentation, by David Martin.



*Outgoing President Ralph R. Ryall with incoming President Walter Murphy
—photo by Regina Mullen*

President – Walter Murphy



Walter was featured in “Volunteer Highlights,” in the February 2019 Newsletter (vol. 6 no. 2). He is well known by many of our local members as Winter Facilitator for the DNA Special Interest Group since October 2018.



*Lunch at the Riverway
—photo, Joan Frederici*



Director-at-Large – Judy Jones

Judy was featured in “Volunteer Highlights,” a year ago in the Summer 2018 Newsletter (vol. 5 no. 7). She has been an active member of the Society for several years, and the chair of the Hospitality Committee.

Treasurer – Noreen Cahalane

Noreen Cahalane, daughter of our current treasurer, Mary Lou Cahalane, will bring her expertise as an accountant to the Board. She will be the subject of a more complete MOB sketch in a future issue of the Newsletter

Recording Secretary – Judy Needham



Judy is returning to the Board as Recording Secretary, a position she has held for one year. Previous to this, she was a Director-at-Large for one year. She is also well known by frequent visitors to our Genealogy Library, where she has been a volunteer for many years.

Corresponding Secretary – Bebe Brock

Bebe, a long-time member of CCGS, is well known as she is one of our greeters at our monthly meetings, as well as the leader of the Cape Cod Families Special Interest Group. She continues to serve on the Board, as Corresponding Secretary.

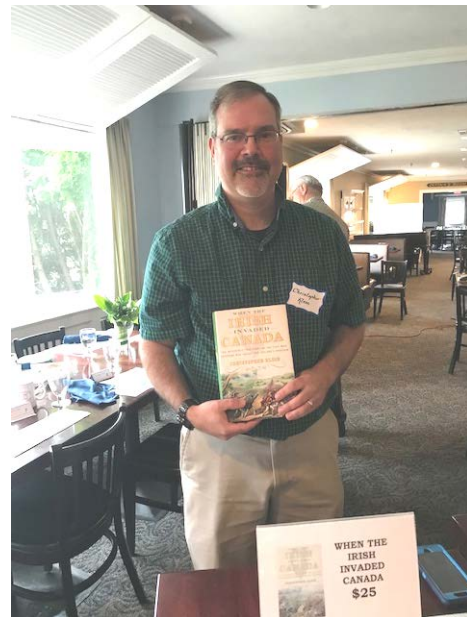
Director-at-Large – Suzanne Walton

Suzanne has been a Director-at-Large for several years. She was featured in “Meet Our Board,” in the May 2019 issue of the Newsletter (vol. 6 no. 5). She has served as a NERGC Delegate, and as our Volunteer Coordinator for the past four years.



Above and at top right: More luncheon photos, courtesy of Joan Frederici.

At right: Speaker and author Christopher Klein



The Program: *When the Irish Invaded Canada*

THE SOCIETY'S PROGRAM for the Annual Meeting of June 2019 featured a presentation by Christopher Klein on the little-known topic of the Irish invasion of Canada during the 19th century--five times between 1866 and 1871, in what is known as the Fenian Raids. The aim was to hold Canada hostage and ransom it for Irish independence.

For prior history, the British had colonized Canada for 700 years by the 18th century. During that time, penal laws were effected, discriminating against Irish Catholics; in 1845 came the Irish potato failure, in which a million Irish died. Two million people had to immigrate. The Irish came to America as refugees, not seeking to explore a new territory as did many other immigrants; they spoke Irish and were largely illiterate and Catholic.

The USA had invaded Canada before the 1775 Revolution, and did still further incursions there in 1812. The Pork and Bean War took place in 1828, centering on Maine and New Brunswick. The Pig War occurred in 1859 around the San Juan Islands. In the 1850's came the No Nothing Movement of 1854, which stimulated the Irish to rise up—at this time many people of Irish descent were elected to offices in Massachusetts.

The Fenian Brotherhood, consisting of young Irish rebels in Ireland had been established in 1848. James Stevenson went to England and Paris, and met John Mahony, as a partner. Money was raised to send back to Ireland for a revolution. In the American Civil War, 200,000 Irish men were part of the Union Army and 20,000 joined the Confederate side. The Fenians were operating in secret, and the Catholic Church forbade secret societies,

however. In 1863 a Fenian group in Chicago wanted to set up an Irish Republic in the USA, and sold bonds to raise funds.

The Fenians decided to attack Canada as the nearest British colony. The Fenians wanted to help the USA to conquer Canada and then would seek help from the USA for setting up an Irish Republic. President Andrew Johnson had a meeting with the Fenians, but did not commit to helping them.

In 1866 a new plan for four new states in Canada was conceived, and a joint North-South army (from the now-finished Civil War) planned to force England to pay the Alabama Claims that had originated in the Civil War because England had aided the South.

The plan was to have a landing across the Great Lakes and Buffalo, to march on Toronto. An American warship was in the Niagara River, and the Irish got the pilot drunk in Buffalo, to remove the ship as a barrier to the invasion. Landing at Fort Erie, the Irish drew the Canadians into a trap, and routed them. But the Americans cut the Irish supply lines and took Irish prisoners. Future president Grover Cleveland got the Irish released in Buffalo.

Another invasion attempt was made in 1871 and failed; President Grant pardoned the leader.

The Fenian raids did have the eventual effect of bringing self-government to Canada from England with the establishment of the Canadian Confederation of 1867. The Irish Republic was eventually established later, as fruits of the labor of the Fenians. All in all, a fascinating account of a part of history that has remained covered.

—David Martin