



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 6 Issue 8

September 2019

September Meeting – Tuesday September 17th, 2019

The September 17th meeting will open the 2019 – 2020 monthly program sessions of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. The CCGS meeting will take place at the [Brewster Ladies' Library](#), Rte. 6A, Brewster.

[The USA and the Holocaust: Finding Family in the Sources](#)

HISTORIAN NORAH SCHNEIDER will trace changes to immigration in the United States and Germany during the 1930s and 1940s with the Third Reich's rise to power and the outbreak of the Second World War. Using her own family's experiences, she will show how the history influences the sources available to trace Jewish genealogy during this time.

Norah Schneider, Ph.D., has a Bachelors degree from DePauw University, a Masters degree in American and European History from Providence College, and a Ph.D. in Humanities from Salve Regina University, where she wrote her doctoral dissertation on the Third Reich and the Holocaust. She taught history at multiple universities in Rhode Island, including seminars on the Third Reich and the Holocaust at Rhode Island School of Design, and worked as a Research Consultant at the United States Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island before returning to her hometown of Falmouth, Massachusetts. She is currently the Collections Manager at Falmouth Museums on the Green and Falmouth Historical Society and also works as a Contract Historian.

The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., but plan to join us at 9:30 for coffee and donuts and an opportunity to socialize with others who are researching their family genealogy.

Out of consideration for the Library's regular patrons, we ask that you use the adjoining parking lot behind the Baptist church, unless you are disabled and need to park close to the building.

*Cape Cod Genealogical Society
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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:* September 24, 2019, 1 p.m., Bebe Brock, chairman.

Computer Users – 2nd Tuesday, Dennis Public Library, 10 a.m. - noon. *Next:* September 10, 2019. All are welcome. Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim (Roppen@msn.com), and Jim Sullivan, co-chairmen.

DNA – 1st Tuesday, Dennis Public Library. *Next:* September 3, 2019, 1:30-3:30 p.m. **This group is still in need of leadership help.** The summer leader, Teri Grey, is permanently stepping down and Walter Murphy, the winter chair, is pulling back. The group has a history of multiple leaders. Before Teri and Walter, the group was founded (in 2016) and led by Everett Johnson and Mike Carroll. And, before it was designated as a SIG, it was referred to as the DNA "discussion group." The next meeting is September 3 and Teri has a planned agenda. Hopefully, interested members can remain afterward and discuss what is needed for this popular group to remain vibrant.

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. *Next:* September 23. **Temporary facilitator:** Pat Flaherty: patcarole@gmail.com. **Winter facilitator needed after October!** The main topic for the September 23rd meeting is "Timelines," both genealogical and historical. See Notice on page 4.

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* September 20, 2019. Pippa Ryan, chairman.

Welcome to New Members

Sam Sturgis
Debra Yonker-Hecht
Deborah Baker

Do you have a notice for the next *Newsletter*? SIG News, or perhaps a webinar or conference to call to members' attention? Please contact the editor at janeffiske@gmail.com. by September 20.

A Message from Walter

TIRED OF SUMMER? Well, welcome to September. Most of the crowds are gone (or soon will be) and the Cape Cod Genealogical Society is getting back into full swing! Our Program Committee is lining up speakers and the Special Interest Groups that were on summer hiatus are coming back to life. In addition, we also have exciting twists for two of the colder months.

With all of that brewing, please make sure to “come home” to our first monthly meeting of the 2019-2020 season on Tuesday, September 17 at the Brewster Ladies’ Library (BLL). Our invited speaker is Norah Schneider, who will present her lecture on “The USA and the Holocaust: Finding Family in the Sources.” More details can be found elsewhere in this issue. This is the first in what promises to be a series of thought-provoking presentations being put together by the aforementioned Program Committee, which is chaired by VP Brian O’Donnell. But, as always, many heads(!) make light work; so, if you have a suggestion for an upcoming meeting, please pass it on to Brian, me, or any board member.

Two of the six SIGs are returning from summer vacation and two others are in need of leadership help. The Computer Users group will be back online beginning September 10 and the German SIG will begin their *neu* season on October 1. As mentioned in the recent Summer newsletter, Pat Concannon has relinquished the chair of the Irish SIG after 18 years. Pat Flaherty has stepped in as leader through October, but the group is in need of a winter facilitator. Similarly, the DNA SIG needs help. Teri Grey has permanently stepped

away as the summer leader and it seems unlikely that I will be able to consistently fill the role of winter chair. Let’s not let these two popular SIGs suffer from a leadership vacuum! Please think about stepping up and volunteering to help lead the group of your choice. As I mentioned last month, it does not have to be a solo performance; leadership by committee is a great alternative (for example, the DNA SIG has historically had two chairs and Computer Users currently has three leaders).

Our calendar for upcoming monthly meetings has finally been settled. We were locked out of the usual third Tuesday dates at the BLL by school vacation activities during both February and April. The Board had previously discussed the possibility of having a weekend monthly meeting(s) to allow those folks who cannot attend on weekdays the chance to gather with fellow members. So, we took the opportunity provided by the calendar conflicts to look for and schedule the meetings for both months on a **Saturday**; accordingly, they will be on February 15 and April 25, respectively. The times will be the same as a “normal” meeting; the official start time is 10 a.m., but members and guests are encouraged to arrive earlier for socializing and refreshments at 9:30 a.m. Members will be regularly reminded of this change.

I look forward to seeing everyone on September 17.

Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)

September 2016 – an Issue to Remember?

HOPEFULLY MOST CCGS members have taken a look at the new CCGS website. If not, please do so – it's "awesome!" Those who have explored the website may have noticed that the September 2016 issue of the CCGS *Newsletter* is missing from that publication's 2016-2019 archives. If anyone happens to have a copy of this lost issue in either their physical or digital library, please contact **Tim Martin**:
tim.martin@capecodgenealogy.org.

Calling All Lothropps

THE LOTHROPP FAMILY Foundation biennial reunion weekend is September 13 - 15, 2019. The dinner will be held Saturday evening at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis. It commences at 6:00 p.m. Cost \$37.00/pp with a cash bar. Guest speaker Dr. Margaret Bendroth, Director of the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston, will speak on the significance of the upcoming 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims.

Deborah Baker, President of the LFF and a new member of CCGS, says, "We would enjoy having CCGS members attend the dinner and mingle with Lothrop descendants as well, perhaps finding "cousins" amongst the group. I'll need to make a final count the week before the event. Interested folks can reach me at dbbaker@comcast.net or by calling 508-971-1236." Please contact Deborah **by Friday, September 6.**

Irish SIG

THE IRISH SIG IS STILL LOOKING for a winter leader but that did not stop the group from having a lively August meeting. In addition to a number of topics that were discussed in a robust roundtable format, the group made plans for the rest of the year. The main topic for the September 23rd meeting is "Timelines," both genealogical and historical. The October 28th meeting will highlight the "Cancellation Books" from the Valuation Office (the Cancellation Books followed the publication of the better-known Griffith's Primary Valuation). The November 25th get-together will feature relevant Twitter sites. There will be no December meeting. The fourth Mondays of the month for 2020 are being reserved at the Dennis Public Library in anticipation of a continued interest in exchanging ideas and knowledge, highlighting specific topics of interest, and finding winter facilitators.

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!*

Calendar for September 2019

- September 3 DNA SIG, 1:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library
- September 10 Computer Uses SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library
- September 13-14: Fall Conference of Maine Genealogical Society at Portland
- September 14 Lothrop Reunion Dinner (see Invitation on page 4)
- September 17 CCGS Monthly Meeting, Brewster Ladies' Library (Notice, page 1)
- September 20 Writing Family History SIG, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library
- September 23 Irish SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library
- September 24 Cape Cod Families SIG, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library, Barnstable

See also the Schedule for Education Classes on page 8.

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

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

News from the Communications Technology Committee

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, we have worked on redesigning our Society website. If you have not looked at it lately, please visit the site and let us know what you think. It will always be a work in progress, as we continue to update and add new information about the Society. <https://capecodgenealogy.org>.

CCGS has a Facebook Page, as well as a Facebook Group. Why two? Because each of these serves a different purpose. Our Page allows us to post upcoming events and news for public distribution. Our Group is a "closed" group, which means that you must be pre-approved to read and comment on anything posted to the group. This is a simple process and is designed to eliminate inappropriate posting to the site. In general, we want to attract genealogists, both members and non-members, who can then ask for assistance with their research, share news related to genealogy, or respond to others.

In both the Page and the Group, it is important that we keep as much activity as possible, meaning that someone needs to be commenting or responding on a daily basis. For this reason, we are advertising for 2 or 3 individuals who would commit to checking one or both of these sites and responding to posts that have been made. If you currently are a Facebook user, please consider helping us out. It will take only minutes of your time, one or two days a week. For more information on what is involved, contact

joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org



Volunteer Highlights

L. RAY SEARS

IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR with the name Ray Sears, take a look at any issue of *The Journal*. Ray has been a contributing author to *The Journal* and its predecessor, *The Bulletin*, for twenty years. Contributing is an understatement — he's had an article in almost every issue! As a volunteer, Ray created the name index for *The Bulletin*, a publication that he subsequently edited. He began editing *The Journal* from its inception in 2011, and continues as technical editor today. Keep your eye out for a new book, *Let Go and Listen! Cape Cod Ruminations*, a compilation of all of his earlier *Ruminations* articles.

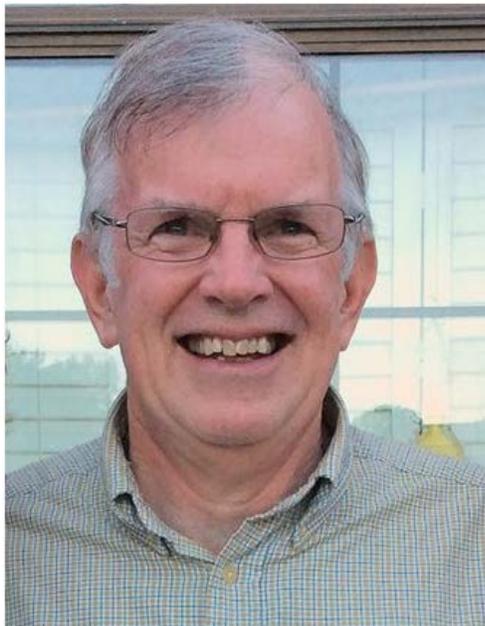
Summering on Cape Cod, Ray had the opportunity to come to know and learn from many of his Sears relatives, a family that goes back to 1639 on the Cape, so there was a lot to learn. One story Ray likes to tell is about his Dad, Les Sears. Ray's cousin, Howard Bailey Sears, had resigned from the position of Sesuit Harbormaster in 1959. Les was expecting to continue to have his old mooring privileges. Harold "Skip" Howes, the new harbormaster, had other ideas. He told Les that he'd have to move his mooring to the south end of the harbor, which was in the marsh. Les, believing that the Sears had arrived in East Dennis before the Howes, asserted his right to moor his boat wherever he pleased. However, the Sears family spent the summer slogging through the marsh as it came to be proven that Thomas

Howes had arrived in 1638. What a difference a year makes!

Such stories were not rare. His grandpa, Leslie, who was born on Quivet Neck, East Dennis in 1892, moved away and retired back to the Cape in 1952. When he visited the Cape while living in Boston, Leslie would buy fresh eggs from his cousin, Elsie Snow. Now that he was retired, he continued to do so but noticed that the price was thirty cents a dozen less. He questioned Elsie about this and was told that he had been paying the "summer people's price", but now that he was full time he got the "local people's price".

Ray sees gathering stories such as these as part of doing genealogy, but for him, there's a lot more to it than that. The Sears family genealogy was originally printed in 1890, and Ray was given a copy by his grandmother in 1976. It ended with his great grandpa. He started updating it and has been doing so ever since. He has discovered and posted to a public tree on Ancestry over 80,000 descendants of Richard Sears of Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony, including more than 30,000 grandchildren. The letters, emails, photos and other family memorabilia comprise 100,000 documents (the "Sears Archives") that have all been scanned for use by future researchers. You cannot overstate what an accomplishment this is! As if that's not enough, Ray has started a tree on *WikiTree.com*, having already posted over 2000

Sears. Being a self-proclaimed “pack rat”, it should be noted that the Sears Archives contain his first CCGS membership card, number 551, dated December 31, 1991.



He and his wife, Vickie, raised their three daughters while living in the Oklahoma oil patch where Ray was working as an engineer for Halliburton. There they received many visitors with Sears roots, and Ray continued his research. He especially enjoys making direct contact with other Sears descendants by letter and now email. Over the years, this has proven to be a valuable source of information and memorabilia. Family vacations almost always included visits to cemeteries, called “grave gardens” by his daughters.

It was while living in Oklahoma that Ray joined CCGS. He later moved to the Cape during the dot com boom and became more involved with the Society, including his volunteer work with the Publications Committee. It was during this time that Ray installed a mailbox at the Sears cemetery in Brewster. Its original purpose long past, it continues to periodically receive “mail”. So if

you want to drop Ray a note and are in no hurry for a response, deposit it there. Finding it could be a geocaching experience and a nice walk in a grave garden.

Although he returned to Oklahoma after three years, taking a position with Northrup Grumman working on the B1 bomber, he has never stopped being involved with CCGS, albeit remotely. He is able to telephonically participate in monthly Publications Committee meetings and electronically receives all the articles for *The Journal*. On the subject of volunteering Ray says, “Volunteering really helps you expand your reach beyond what can be accomplished on your own. You also get an inside look at the workings of an organization.” He has found volunteer opportunities with CCGS that were short term and others that are recurring. Either way he says, “Volunteers are appreciated and the sense of helping out a great organization is my compensation.”

He has found doing genealogy, “immensely rewarding to do with others and to share what you find rather than trying to keep it all under wraps.” He enjoys collaborating with others, making new connections, and the opportunity to explore new ideas that lead to discovering cousins. Ray is living proof of the adage, “Try genealogy, you can’t get fired and you can’t quit.”

The Journal

The *Journal* editors will again be happy to receive brief articles from members on the topic of “Why I Do Genealogy”; **deadline is September 30** for sending in manuscripts. Articles may be sent in care of Carolyn Weiss at carlysue01@comcast.net.

Both issues of the 2020 *Journal* will have a section related to the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*; the *Journal* invites those with an interest and a story to tell, to be thinking about submitting a manuscript on any aspect of the topic, for the Spring issue--**deadline January 31, 2020**; or the Fall issue--**deadline September 30, 2020**. Manuscripts for the Spring 2020 issue may be sent to David Martin at davidchina.2000@yahoo.com. Manuscripts for the Fall 2020 issue may be sent to Carolyn Weiss at carlysue01@comcast.net

Genealogy Education Courses for Fall

The Education Committee of the Society is once again providing education workshops for Genealogy. Each of the two series below is being offered this Fall:

Barnstable Community Center (formerly Senior Center)

Thursdays, 1-3 p.m.

- September 26:
General Introduction to Genealogical Methods
—David Martin
- October 3:
Immigration and Migration
—Ralph Ryall and Carolyn Weiss
- October 31:
Using the Census — Joan Frederici
- November 7:
DNA for Genealogy — Walter Murphy
- November 14:
Land and Probate Records
—Bob Ward and David Martin

Mashpee Public Library

Mondays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

- September 23:
General Introduction to Genealogical Methods
—David Martin
- September 30:
Immigration and Migration
—Ralph Ryall and Carolyn Weiss
- October 7:
Using the Census — Joan Frederici
- October 28:
DNA for Genealogy — Walter Murphy
- November 4:
Land and Probate Records
—Bob Ward and David Martin

CCGS members may register for either series; for registration details and questions, contact David Martin at davidchina.2000@yahoo.com.

All workshops are free!

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