



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 6 Issue 9

October 2019

October Meeting – Tuesday October 15th, 2019

10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (coffee at 9:30)

Land Ho! Calling All Mayflower Descendants

A presentation by Kathleen Kaldis

NEXT YEAR, 2020, IS ALMOST HERE, and among other things it will be the 400th Anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. New England is currently in the grip of Mayflower Fever, planning celebrations and updating old stereotypes that we learned in elementary school. There's no better time to learn more about that ship and its passengers — Pilgrims and otherwise — who dared to leave behind their lives in England and Holland and set out for the New World. Even if you're pretty sure you are *not* a Mayflower Descendant, come and hear new perspectives about the voyage that heralded the start of New England's Great Migration.



Our speaker, KATHLEEN KALDIS (*The Ancestor Finder, Genealogist, NERGC 2020 Director, Lecturer*), is a professional genealogist known as *The Ancestor Finder*. Her interest in genealogy started at a young age when she heard stories about how her great great-grandfather, who was born on Cape Breton Island, came to Boston to build Fenway Park. Her enthusiasm shines through when she shares her passion of genealogy with her clients and audiences.

Kathleen is currently employed as a Genealogist at the *Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants*, and used to work at *The New England Historic Genealogical Society* in Boston. She holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University, and has successfully completed many advanced level genealogical institute courses. Kathleen is very active within the genealogical community, and serves in many leadership positions for many organizations. She is a proud member of the Lexington, Massachusetts DAR and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Her areas of genealogical expertise include: New England and the Atlantic Canadian Provinces, lineage research, researching mariners, and resolving tough genealogical problems.

Kathleen and her husband grew up on Cape Cod and went to Dennis -Yarmouth High School. She currently resides in Leominster, Massachusetts and has three grown daughters.

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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:* October 22, 2019, 1 p.m., Bebe Brock, chairman.

Computer Users – 2nd Tuesday, Dennis Public Library, 10 a.m. - noon. *Next:* October 8, 2019. All are welcome. Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim (Roppen@msn.com), and Jim Sullivan, co-chairmen.

DNA – 1st Tuesday, Dennis Public Library. *Next:* October 1, 1:30-3:30 p.m. See notice on page 4. **This group is still in need of leadership help.** The summer leader, Teri Grey, has permanently stepped down and Walter Murphy, formerly the winter chair, would like to pull 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.” Hopefully, interested members can do what is needed for this popular group to remain vibrant.

German – 1st Tuesday, 10 a.m.–Noon, Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* October 1, 2019. Ann Croston, leader: acroston125@comcast.net.

Irish – 4th Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* October 28. **Temporary facilitator:** Pat Flaherty: patcarole@gmail.com. **Winter facilitator needed after October!**

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* October 18, 2019. Pippa Ryan, chairman.

Parking for Meetings

When you attend CCGS Meetings at the Brewster Ladies' Library, we ask that, out of consideration for the Library's regular patrons, you use the adjoining parking lot behind the Baptist Church, unless you are disabled and need to park close to the building.

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 October 22.

A Message from Walter

THE FIRST CCGS MONTHLY meeting of the 2019-2020 season on September 17 was virtually a full house. We welcomed a new member, introduced five guests, and had the opportunity to hear a scintillating presentation by our speaker, Norah Schneider. It was a great kick-off.

Our Program Chair, Brian O'Donnell has been busy setting the stage for the rest of the year. October will have CCGS member Kathy Kaldis, who's presentation is titled "Land Ho! Calling all Mayflower Descendants" (more details are on page 1); November is our joint meeting with the Falmouth Genealogical Society (FGS); and December will be our holiday meeting with its usual collection of mini-presentations by CCGS members. If you would like to participate with a presentation, please contact Brian (BJMDOD98@gmail.com); I have.

Speaking of the Mayflower, the clock is ticking. September 16 was the 399th anniversary of when the Pilgrims set sail from England. November 9th (the date of our joint meeting with the FGS) is the 399th anniversary of when the Pilgrims spotted Cape Cod after 66 days at sea. Just a few days ago, seven CCGS members got together to explore how we can best recognize and celebrate the Pilgrims' journey. A number of great ideas are on the drawing board. The next meeting is 10:00am, October 24 at the Brewster Ladies Library. If you are interested, please join us

or contact me through my email address below.

All of the details for the CCGS/FGS joint meeting on November 9 have been settled, and the specifics can be found on page 4. The good news is that the "Lobster Roll Lady" – Judy Fenner – will be back at it again this year. The even better news is that the prices for the optional lunch choices (lobster rolls and chicken rolls) are unchanged. It is important to RSVP your menu choice as soon as possible because we have been thrown a bit of a calendar curve ball this year. (I was tempted write RSVP ASAP but thought better of it!) The deadline to select the menu choice is November 1, which is right about the same time as when the November newsletter will be available. As a result, there will not be as much wiggle room as there has been in other years between the release of the next newsletter and the menu selection deadline. If you plan to attend and want to choose one of Judy's creations, please do so sooner rather than later.

Finally, a quick reminder about our February 15 and April 25 monthly meetings. They are both on a Saturday – not the usual third Tuesday – so it might be a good idea to mark your calendars now.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next monthly meeting on October 15.

–Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)

November CCGS Meeting

OUR ANNUAL JOINT MEETING with the Falmouth Genealogical Society will be held Saturday, November 9, 2019 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 421 Wianno Ave., Osterville.

Choice of lunch menu must be made **NO LATER THAN Friday, November 1**: lobster roll (\$15), or chicken salad roll (\$9); both include chips, homemade brownie, and beverage. Please let Judy Fenner know your selection by e-mailing her at <bfennerpgm@comcast.net> or phoning 508-776-9401 (leave a message if no answer). Judy prefers that payment be made on the day of the event. Checks should be made out to Masona Chapter – not to Judy.

Our invited speaker for the joint meeting on November 9 is Michael L. Strauss, AG. Mr. Strauss will be giving two presentations:

- ★ “Researching your World War II Ancestors.”
- ★ “Following the Armies: Researching Military Maps (from Colonial to Vietnam).”

The meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. Please *do not* arrive before 10 a.m.

The CCGS Genealogy Library

is located in

the Dennis Public Library

5 Hall Street, Dennis Port

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Hours:

Tuesday 1–4 • Thursday 10–4

Saturday 10–12

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

News from CCGS Special Interest Groups

DNA SIG

THE NEXT MEETING of the DNA SIG is scheduled for Oct 1, at 1:30, at the Dennis Public Library on Hall St. in Dennis Port.

The goal is to cover three things. First, this should be something of an organizational meeting to discuss how we will proceed in coming months. The best way forward is likely a cooperative effort by many, not just one or two.

Second, time will be devoted for a question and answer round-table session. This would be an opportunity for people to ask for help and get guidance from the group. *No question is too elementary.* This could become a regular feature.

Finally, Walter Murphy will show his "DNA 101 -- and Beyond" power point presentation that will be used at sessions around the Cape, courtesy of the CCGS Education Committee. His hope is that the presentation will generate questions for discussion and possibly some critiquing so that he is better prepared for other groups.

Irish SIG

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.

German SIG

Please join us at the Brewster Ladies Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 1. Our meeting will be in the downstairs conference room.

Our meeting will focus on the location of family in the Land of Opportunity – State – City – Village – Map – Geography – Topography – Main Products & Occupations – Religion. By exploring records and events on this side of the pond we may find a clue as to our ancestors' locations in Germany.

An e-mail was sent out to members that included a worksheet on which to record "landing" information (U.S. or Canada) for a German immigrant ancestor. Please fill out and bring to the meeting; if you didn't receive it, email or call group leader Ann Croston.

As aids to finding information, Ann suggests googling "Germans" or "German settlements in xxx [place]." She also mentions PERSI (Periodical Source Index), on Findmypast and thus available at the CCGS Library – an incredible resource that you may be completely unaware of. **PERSI** is an index of millions of articles, how-to guides, genealogies, local histories and more that have appeared in society publications from around the world. Both family history and history societies publish regular periodicals for their members and have done for generations. These publications cover the area or subject specific to

that society and go into incredible detail – some of which may well contain information about your family.

You might find the detailed history of one family, a biography of a local figure, a history of peach-pickers in a certain area or details about early colonial communities and where they came from. There is a vast amount of information in PERSI just waiting to be discovered. You'll find records from the USA, the UK and Ireland, Australia, Canada and more.

During September, Ann has sent out several other interesting and informative emails to members of the German SIG. Whether or not you are able to attend meetings, do consider participating in the group by e-mail! Contact Ann Croston, <acroston125@comcast.net>.

Ann also sent the following notice along from *The French Genealogy Blog*:

French Ancestry?

Sound the fanfare, *Filae.com*, one of the two major French commercial genealogy websites, now has pages in English. Click on the French flag in the upper right hand corner and a blended US/UK flag will drop down. Click on that and away you go.

For those of you who have been intimidated by the French, you may now jump in and explore many, many French genealogy resources, all of them pretty well indexed.

If you have French ancestors or German ancestors who lived near the border with France you may want to check this out.

Enjoy!



Where Volunteers are Most Needed Right Now

- The newly formed committee in charge of **planning events** to celebrate the 400th anniversary in 2020 of the arrival of the Pilgrims needs a few more members. You'd be getting in on the ground floor of the process and be able to make significant contributions to the effort. (Contact Walter Murphy – wmgenealogy@gmail.com)
- One or two people (get together with a friend) are needed to develop program(s) aimed at **attracting new members** and enhancing their membership experience. Contact Membership Chair, Madelyn McHugh: membership@capecodgenealogy.org)
- Calling all Facebook users – this one's for you. CCGS maintains a FB Page and a FB Group. Both are in need of people to periodically check the site and **respond to posts** so as to generate more traffic. This should take only a few minutes a couple of times a week. (Contact Joan Frederici - joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org)
- The editor of the monthly CCGS **Newsletter** is looking for two people. Someone who could back her up as **understudy** would be most helpful, with the thought being that they might someday assume the position. Also needed is someone to act as a **reporter** for the Newsletter. This person would gather news from the various committees, SIGs, and officers and pass it on for publication. (Contact Jane Fiske – janeffiske@gmail.com)

- First impressions are important! The Membership Committee needs a second person to **greet guests** at our monthly meetings and provide them with information about joining the Society. If you regularly attend meetings and can arrive a little early, it won't take too much time. (Contact Madelyn McHugh – membership@capecodgenealogy.org)
- We're getting ready to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of CCGS. The committee is in the formative stages. If **planning events and celebrations** is your thing, jump on board. (Contact Walter Murphy - wmgenealogy@gmail.com)
- Last but not least, the **Hospitality Committee**, who we thank for refreshments at every meeting, can always use a helping hand. (Contact Judy Jones - JudyJx2@aol.com)

Binge Watching the National Archives?

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES has presented a live "Virtual Genealogy Fair" on *YouTube* since 2013. The 2019 Fair is set for 23 October from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. EDT. In addition to the live presentations, slides and handouts are available to download. See:

www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair.

The Virtual Fair presentations offer family history research tools in Federal records for all skill levels.

NARA "archives" the videos, slides and handouts on the website above. Even if you have never "binge watched" anything, or are tired of watching hours and hours of reruns of *Game of Thrones* or *Downton Abbey*, you can pick up the binge watching habit and expand your genealogical knowledge at the same time. You

can pick and choose among the individual presentations as well. Videos, slides and handouts are available for sessions beginning with 2013 and handouts prepared by NARA are available for the 2010-12 sessions.

— Regina Mullen

Report from September CCGS Meeting

Jewish Genealogy and The Challenge of The Holocaust

Norah Schneider, Ph.D., Collections Manager for Museums on the Green and the Falmouth Historical Society, presented a well-researched program for genealogists on how to conduct research on Jewish genealogy, in view of the paucity of records. She used specific examples from her own family, including her maternal grandmother. Several factors must be kept in mind when carrying out Jewish genealogical research:

- Isolation
- Xenophobia
- Racism
- Anti-Semitism
- Anti-Catholicism

In regard to American awareness of what became known during the 1930s as “The Holocaust”, she pointed out that the Jewish weekly newspaper, the *Sentinel*, first reported on events in Germany in January of 1930 when Hitler was on his way to power; the reporting continued there through World War II, but the general mainstream American media failed to pick up these stories until much later. In fact, it was not until November 1938 with an article in *The New York Times* about the event in

Berlin known as Kristallnacht (when Nazi’s burned, destroyed, and looted German homes and businesses) that the mainstream press began to fully account the atrocities perpetrated by the Nazis.

The continuing reported events in the *Sentinel* included the large anti-Nazi protests in January 1933 in Madison Square Garden and elsewhere, the passage of the Nuremberg Laws of 1935 which defined who was a Jew (by blood, not religion), and more.

If a person could prove that she/he had no Jewish parentage in any of the four grandparents, they could be defined as Aryan. Some genealogists produced fake data for Christian ancestry in order to assist Jews to show that they were “not Jewish”; some Catholic priests produced false birth and marriage certificates in order to help Jews in this work.

Kristallnacht changed everything; after that time, Jews began to attempt to emigrate in great numbers. Prior to that time, if a Jewish person were put in a concentration camp, that could have been because of political reasons and the person could eventually have been released. But after *Kristallnacht*, any Jew in a concentration camp would probably never leave alive. Some Jews began to hide, while others sought to join relatives in neighboring countries. Then, after War II began in 1939 and Germany occupied its neighboring countries, Jews sought to emigrate to other countries such as England, the USA, Canada, and Australia. In order to carry out this emigration, however, not only was a visa needed but also a “sponsor” in the intended receiving country. In the United States, certain agencies tried to promote sponsorship of Jewish children, with some success.

— David Martin

*Family History Library
Free October 2019 Webinars*

MOST PEOPLE WHO ATTEMPT to read early German script come away with the impression that it's about as legible as hen scratches. The German SIG members have been working on this problem for some time, but for the rest of us, help is at hand.

The **Family History Library** is offering a seminar on **German/Slavic Handwriting** from October 21-25, 2019. For those of us at a distance, this means a week of free Webinars (online classes). Topics include sessions on Dutch, German, Latin, Polish, and Russian handwriting. The same classes are repeated at different times on different days; most are for beginners, with German offered at for both beginner and intermediate levels.

For details, go to [FamilySearch Newsroom](#), but remember that the times given are for Mountain Time, which is two hours behind Cape Cod.

Check out [Family History Library classes and webinars](#) to learn about other subjects that are available.

CCGS Calendar for October 2019

- October 1 German SIG, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library, downstairs conference room
- October 1 DNA SIG, 1:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library
- October 8 Computer Users SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library
- October 15 CCGS Monthly Meeting, Brewster Ladies' Library, 10 a.m. (Coffee and donuts at 9:30). (For topic & speaker information, see page 1)
- October 18 Writing Family History SIG, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library
- October 21-25 FHL free Webinars on German, Latin, & Slavic Handwriting
- October 23 Virtual Genealogy Fair, NARA online, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- October 24 Cape Cod Families SIG, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library, Barnstable
- October 28 Irish SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library
- November 1 **DEADLINE** for menu choice for November joint meeting with Falmouth Genealogical Society (see page 4)
