



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 6 Issue 11

December 2019



The annual “Our Members Share” meeting Tuesday, December 17th, 2019

IN ORDER TO CELEBRATE the December holidays each year, we take time to focus on our members. This is your opportunity to share with us all.

Please consider sharing with your fellow members during our traditional holiday program, with a 5 -10 minute presentation.

If you have:

- ★ A story to tell
- ★ An artifact or photo(s) passed down from an ancestor
- ★ A recent DNA discovery
- ★ Anything else related to your genealogical journey

In order to make sure everyone has time to share, please contact us at info@capecodgenealogy.org with your name and topic — *prior to December 10th*.



Another tradition at our December meeting is to eliminate the Dunkin’ Munchkins, in favor of more traditional holiday goodies donated by our members. Please consider baking/providing holiday treats we can all share during our social time prior to our meeting. If you are sharing a family traditional item, perhaps add a small sign telling us what it is and why it is significant to you.

Our meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at the [Brewster Ladies’ Library](#), Rte 6A, in the auditorium, which can be accessed from the side entrance. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10 A.M., with coffee and refreshments available from 9:30 A.M.

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

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, Sturgis Library, 1 p.m. **No meeting in December.** Next: January 28, 2020, 1 p.m. Bebe Brock, chairman (crosby1635@gmail.com).

Computer Users – 2nd Tuesday, [usually at Dennis Public Library], 10 a.m. - noon. Next: December 10, 2019, **Brewster Ladies' Library**; topic will relate to Photo Management and Editing. All are welcome. Leaders: Bill Horrocks (wdh2@psu.edu), Bob Oppenheim (Roppen@msn.com), and Jim Sullivan (thesignco@outlook.com).

DNA – 1st Tuesday, [usually Dennis Public Library]/ Next: December 3, **Brewster Ladies' Library**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (see notice, page 4). Walter Murphy, leader (wmgenealogy@gmail.com).

German – 1st Tuesday, 10 a.m.–Noon, Brewster Ladies' Library. Next: December 3, 2019 (see notice, page 4). Ann Croston, leader (acroston125@comcast.net).

Irish – **No meeting in December.** 4th Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. Next: January 27, 2020. Jim Sullivan has graciously agreed to facilitate meetings January through May while leader *Pat Flaherty* (patcarole@gmail.com) is away.

Writing Family History – 3rd Friday, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. Next: December 20, 2019. Pippa Ryan, chairman (writers.sig@gmail.com).

Please Welcome New Members

Elizabeth (Betsy) Brown

Irene Checkovich

Nancy Jo Goulart

Alden Howland Lumbard

Membership Reminder

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS for 2020 were sent to all members on November 1st (by email if we have an email address for you, by US mail if we don't). We ask that you return your completed form and payment to CCGS no later than January 1st. If you don't remember receiving your renewal notice, please contact

membership@capecodgenealogy.org

or print one from the CCGS website. (It can be found on the "Join CCGS" tab.)

A Message from Walter

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN – in more ways than one! By the time our members receive this issue of *CCGS News*, Thanksgiving will be in the rear-view mirror, although some leftovers may not be. Looking ahead, many will have a good deal of holiday shopping still to do. And then comes another new year; can you believe that next year will be 2020?!

In the middle of all of this will be CCGS's typically festive December monthly meeting on the 17th. This is the annual "Our Members Share" get-together, which gives members a chance to share a story, artifacts or photos, a recent DNA discovery, or anything else related to your genealogical journey. It also gives members a chance to share holiday treats in place of the usual DD Munchkins. If you would like to share, please email info@capecodgenealogy.org with your name and topic prior to December 10th. If you need a reminder – or even if you don't – check out the colorful homepage on the CCGS website (<https://capecodgenealogy.org/>), which is thanks to the hard work of Joan Frederici.

December is also important for another reason: the deadline for membership dues for 2020 is January 1. The details can be found on page 2. I know that this deadline can become lost among all the holiday festivities, but if you haven't already paid your dues, please take this opportunity to do so.

Switching gears, we have some bad news and good news with regard to the Dennis Public Library. As many of you know, the library experienced a mechanical failure in an air handler on November 8, which caused extensive water damage to portions of the

building – including the meeting room where several of our SIGs meet. This caused some of our SIGs to either cancel or move their meetings, so check the SIG calendars elsewhere in this issue. As of this writing, wi-fi and computers are still down. Even so, both the library and our Genealogy Room are open at their regular hours.

The good news is that the library is now a Family Search Affiliate Library. This means that it has access to additional digital records not available outside a Family History Center or an Affiliate Library. These digital records include images and name indexes. Currently, there are about 400 million original records available in a digital format. This – combined with *Ancestry.com*, *American Ancestors*, and *Find My Past* – means that CCGS members now have access to a treasure trove of research sources.

As we begin to look ahead to 2020, I once again want to remind members that our February 15 and April 25 monthly meetings are both on a Saturday – not the usual third Tuesday – at the usual time. Please mark your calendars.

I hope to see many of you at the monthly meeting on December 17. If you can't make it, let me take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year.

– Walter
(wgmgenealogy@gmail.com)

Give the Gift of Genealogy

Have a friend or family member who's hard to buy for? This holiday season, give the gift of genealogy with a membership to CCGS! Pick up a new member application at the December monthly meeting, or print one from the CCGS website, or email

membership@capecodgenealogy.org

to request that an application be sent to you via U.S. mail.

News from CCGS Special Interest Groups

The DNA SIG

AS A RESULT OF THE DAMAGE done to the Dennis Public Library's meeting Room, we have moved our December 3 meeting to the Brewster Ladies' Library. It will be at the usual 1:30 time in the lower level meeting room. Please note that the Downstairs Meeting room only holds 20 people.

The meeting will devote time for a question and answer round-table session. This is an opportunity for people to ask for help, get guidance from the group, or to demonstrate new finds and breakthroughs. No question is too elementary. In addition, the group will discuss how it will use its new book, *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*, and hopefully distribute those copies that remain unclaimed. Time permitting, the group will also discuss "tree

strength" and continue to examine tools provided by DNA Painter (dnapainter.com).

German SIG

Please join us at the Brewster Ladies' Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 3 in the Downstairs Meeting Room).

OUR DECEMBER MEETING TOPIC will be "Celebrating the Christmas Season with Neighbors, Friends & German SIG members."

How did your ancestors celebrate the season either in the homeland or in the land of freedom? And how are your "homeland "cousins" celebrating it this year? A worksheet was sent to the email list, concerning your immigrant family and neighborhood. (Note: do not despair if you are unable to complete the "assignment". Alternatively, we hope that you will share some new and interesting developments in your research or will prepare to query our members for research advice.)

Bitte besuchen Sie uns auf unserer jährlichen Weihnachtsfeier. (Please join us at our annual Christmas Party!)

A sign-up sheet was sent to everyone on the email list. (Rumor has it that we may enjoy some German Sausage & some other delicacies again this year – but we need more to make it a party.) Please email me if you can bring beverages or other treats.

Holiday Traditions of Germany

Froehliche Weihnachten

According to legend, on Christmas Eve in Germany rivers turn to wine, animals speak to each other, tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open up to reveal precious gems, and church bells can be heard ringing from the bottom of the sea. Of course, only the pure in heart can witness this Christmas magic. All others must

content themselves with traditional German celebrating, of which there is plenty. As a matter of fact, there is so much celebrating that it has to begin on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day.

As in many other European countries, on the eve of Dec. 6th children place a shoe or boot by the fireplace. During the night, St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children, hops from house to house carrying a book of sins in which all of the misdeeds of the children are written. If they have been good, he fills the shoe or boot with delicious holiday edibles. If they have not been good, their shoe is filled with twigs.

December 21st, supposedly the shortest day (longest night) of the year, is dubbed St. Thomas Day. In parts of the Sauerland, whoever wakes up late or arrives late to work on that day is issued the title "Thomas Donkey." They are given a cardboard donkey and are the subject of numerous jokes throughout the day. But this gentle abuse ends deliciously with *Thomasplitzchen* — round, iced currant buns.

CCGS Calendar for December 2019

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| December 3 | German SIG , 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library, Downstairs conference room (<i>see page 4</i>) |
| December 3 | DNA SIG , 1:30 p.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (<i>see page 4</i>) |
| December 10 | Computer Users SIG , 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (<i>note different place</i>) |
| December 17 | Monthly CCGS Meeting ,
Brewster Ladies' Library, 10 a.m. (<i>see page 1</i>) |
| December 20 | Writing Family History SIG , 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library |
| December 25 | Merry Christmas ! |



Volunteer News

WHAT'S UP WITH HOSPITALITY?

THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE greets our members at meetings. A committee member orders the coffee and donuts the day before our monthly meetings, picks them up on meeting day, sets them up that morning, and cleans up after the meeting. Committee members alternate doing this, so any one person is responsible only a couple of times a year, and there's always another member there to help.

If you are able to attend our monthly meetings and arrive a little early, you could help out by volunteering to provide this service. It's also an opportunity to meet other members as they enjoy the refreshments. The chair of the committee, Judy Jones, would like to hear from you, (judyjx2@aol.com).

We all know Hospitality is a favorite committee! Who doesn't like coffee and donuts?

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!*

Looking Ahead

NERGC 2021 Update

The NERGC 2021 conference committee has announced the featured speakers for the next conference, to be held April 14 – 17, 2021, in Springfield, MA. -- Angie Bush, DearMYRTLE, and John Grenham. More information to follow!

In addition, the committee has opened the “Call For Papers” for conference presentation proposals. The deadline for proposals will be March 1, 2020. Further information will be available at our December meeting, or may be found at the the NERGC website: <https://nergc.org/2021-conference-2/call-for-papers/>.

— Joan Frederici

Webinar, Falmouth Genealogical Society

CCGS members will remember MARY RODDY, C.G., who gave a webinar program for us last March. In January Ms. Roddy will present another webinar — this one on writing — at the January meeting of the FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY. Thank you to Alice Stelzer for calling this to our attention.

January 11, 2020, 10 a.m.: “Telling Their Stories When they Left No Stories,” by Mary Roddy, CG.

A WEBSITE BROADCAST to Falmouth Public Library Hermann Foundation Meeting Room. Viewing from home will also be supported.

You’ve spent years (or decades) working on your genealogy. Now it’s finally time to take all that data and put it together into a story for your relatives — yes, even your spouse and children! — will want to read. Mary Roddy will show you how

to take your data and “fluff it up” with the kind of detail that draws your reader into the story of their ancestors’ lives.

Check the websites of the Falmouth Library or the Falmouth Genealogical Society for details.

When in France . . .

GIFT BUYING SEASON IS UPON us and many people will receive DNA test kits — except people who live in France. According to the French publication *The Local*, the only way you can take a DNA test legally is by getting medical approval or a court order allowing you to undergo one.

Anyone who breaks the law faces a fine of up to €3,750.

One reason is that French doctors have complained they are seeing more patients who are worried about the results, when a test tells them they are at risk for different diseases.

“We regularly have consultations with people because they had no idea what they were getting into,” says Professor Stanislas Lyonnet, director of an institute on genetic disease. “They did a test they thought would be fun but they are often actually receiving crucial — and sometimes scientifically sound — information.”

Obviously French residents have found ways to get around the law because an estimated 100,000 people in France have had their DNA sequenced using a home kit. A poll carried out by *Le Figaro* in August revealed that 78 percent of respondents wanted France to lift the ban on DNA tests.

— Alice Plouchard Stelzer



Report from the November Meeting

THE ANNUAL JOINT PROGRAM for Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies took place on November 9, 2019 at St. Peter's Church in Osterville. Our presenter was Michael Strauss, an expert on military aspects of genealogy. He provided two presentations—the first on Military records for genealogists, and the second on using Military Maps.

For Military Records, he listed several categories of records, particularly related to World War Two. The first is records of those Americans who fought for Canada or England before the USA entry into World War Two. 30,000 men fought in this group. The service files are open only to families until the serviceperson has been deceased for 20 years, at which time the records become accessible to the public. *Ancestry.com* has records of these deceased veterans.

Second is records of the National Guard, which became a component of the Army; some men were also members of a state militia. These latter records

can be a substitute for World War Two records which were destroyed in the fire of 1973 at the National Archives building in St. Louis.

Third is draft registration cards, of which there were four for World War Two, starting in 1940. The cards have the code number of those cards which were selected at random for the draft by the Secretary of War. They contain useful genealogical information. Fold 3 contains personnel records. One can contact the Archives in St. Louis for any file; using their Form 180 is one option. The record of anyone who was discharged 62 years before the present is public. Before that time, the information is available to immediate family members. The fire destroyed these records from 1912 to 1960 for the Army and records from 1947-1969 for the Army Air Corps.

The Individual Deceased Personnel Files (IDPF) were stored at Fort Knox and not affected by the fire. There is no restriction on access, and they are available from St. Louis.

Morning Reports were filled out every morning during World War Two for those serving; information here included anything noteworthy in that military unit.

Other available data include crew reports, Navy cruise books, Submarine Patrol Reports, Merchant-Marine Reports, Red Cross Reports, missing Air Crew Reports (which are useful because they list next-of-kin), and final payroll records.

Women in service are found in official personnel files, both civilian and military. The Office of Price Administration (OPA) gives information on rationing of supplies and ration books.

Military maps are highly useful for giving information on the location of units, troop movements, supply lines, and locations of draft registrations. Pre-Revolutionary maps were done by the British Royal Corps of Engineers, throughout the American Colonial era. American patriots used British maps during the Revolution. In 1779 the Army Corps of Engineers was constructed, and then re-established in 1794 and 1802. Maps were made prior to , during, and after specific battles. In 1838 the Army Corps of Topographical Engineers was created, focused on Western exploration, lighthouse locations, and other topics. The Confederate forces had their own Corps of Engineers throughout the Civil War. The Coastal Survey was established in 1807, which is now our current NOAA.

The types of military maps include panoramic (birds' eye views), fortifications, battlefields, travel routes, topographical features, day-to-day situations during the last two years of World War Two, draft registration maps to show were to register, city plans, railroads, and propaganda.

Military maps tell the command structure of a military unit.

War periods include maps from the French and Indian (Seven-Year) War (really nine years), and subsequent wars; they sometimes can indicate how a war began.

Locating maps can be done in several ways: the Library of Congress, searching by organization at the two Washington, D.C. area quarters of the National Archives and its regional branches, the U.S. Serial Set through Pro-Quest, New Orleans maps for the War of 1812, the David Ramsey Collection, *Familysearch.org*, and historic map collections in state archives, state libraries, genealogical societies, university libraries, special collections, and private collections sometimes available for purchase through *e-bay*.

— David Martin

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 December 22.

Parking Notice

For the December CCGS Meeting, and other regular meetings at the Brewster Ladies' Library, in consideration of the Library's regular patrons, we ask that you park in the adjoining parking lot, behind the Baptist Church, next door to the Library, unless you are disabled and need to park close to the building.