



# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

Volume 7 Issue 1

January 2020

*January Meeting – Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library – Coffee & Donuts at 9:30*

## THE PLYMOUTH 400 STORY INFLUENCES ON THE NATIVE PERSPECTIVE, *by Ron Petersen*

AS WE ENTER THE YEAR 2020, we begin the commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and the founding of Plymouth Colony. This story is foundational in our nation's history, and Plymouth 400 gives us the opportunity to contemplate it in a fuller sense. This presentation will focus on an often-marginalized aspect of the story- the perspective of the Native Americans who had occupied the land for centuries before the arrival of the Mayflower. We will consider pre-Mayflower encounters between the Natives and Europeans from 1602-1619, and how actions and behaviors might have influenced how the Natives perceived the white sails that they were seeing with

increasing frequency. We will also consider the development of relations between the Wampanoags and the Plymouth Pilgrims in the early years of the colony, with a particular focus on the events that occurred on Cape Cod.

RON PETERSEN has been a year-around resident of Orleans since 2012 when he and his wife Val retired, relocating here from Connecticut. After a long career in corporate compliance and global security, Ron has been able to immerse himself in his intense interest in local history. He is the Chair of the Orleans Historical Commission, and has served on the Commission for more than six years. He was also Chair of the Orleans 1918 Commemoration Committee, Co-Chair of the Orleans Historical Markers Committee, a four-term member of the Orleans

Community Preservation Committee, and a former board member and officer of the Orleans Historical Society. He is working with CapeCod2020 on a symposium that will recognize the Cape Cod role in the Plymouth 400 Commemoration and writes a monthly column in the *Cape Coddler* on local historical topics. Ron also serves as a board member and historian of the Orleans Firebirds of the Cape Cod Baseball League.

*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](http://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** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Sturgis Library, 1 p.m. *Next:* January 28, 2020. Bebe Brock, chairman ([crosby1635@gmail.com](mailto:crosby1635@gmail.com)).

**Computer Users** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, **Brewster Ladies' Library**, 10 a.m. - noon. *Next:* January 14, 2020, "Expanding Your Research and Organizing Everything You find.. All are welcome. Leaders: Bill Horrocks ([wah2@psu.edu](mailto:wah2@psu.edu)), Bob Oppenheim ([Roppen@msn.com](mailto:Roppen@msn.com)), and Jim Sullivan ([thesignco@outlook.com](mailto:thesignco@outlook.com)).

**DNA** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, [usually Dennis Public Library]/ *Next:* January 7, 2020, **Brewster Ladies' Library**, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (see notice, page 4). Walter Murphy, leader ([wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com)).

**German** – 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, 10 a.m.–Noon, Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* January 7, 2020 (see notice, page 4). Ann Croston, leader ([acroston125@comcast.net](mailto:acroston125@comcast.net)).

**Irish** – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 10 a.m., *Next:* January 27, 2020, **Brewster Ladies' Library** (temporary location; see notice, page 5). Jim Sullivan has graciously agreed to facilitate meetings January through May while leader *Pat Flaherty* ([patcarole@gmail.com](mailto:patcarole@gmail.com)) is away.

**Writing Family History** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* January 17, 2020. Pippa Ryan, chairman ([writers.sig@gmail.com](mailto:writers.sig@gmail.com)).

\*\*\*\*\*

*Please Welcome New Members*

Kelly Mooney  
Linde MacLeod & Paul Robinson

\*\*\*

*Membership Reminder*

The deadline for payment of 2020 membership dues is January 1st. If you haven't already done so, please send your check and completed renewal form to CCGS today. If you didn't receive or have misplaced your renewal form, please contact Membership Chairman Madelyn McHugh ([membership@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:membership@capecodgenealogy.org)) or print one from the CCGS website. (Click on the "Join CCGS" tab.)

\*\*\*

*Parking Notice*

For the 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.

## *A Message from Walter*

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Some might even say Happy New Decade. I, for one, will likely require a longer-than-normal time getting used to putting that second “2” on dates after 10 years of automatically writing a “1” for 2010, 2011, 2012, etc. “2020” will take some getting used to.

A new year is often a time to both look back and look ahead. Last year was a good year for the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. For example, the Education Committee expanded its course offerings to five, from three. A new Cape Cod 400 committee was formed late in the year and is diligently making plans to help members celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower to Cape Cod’s shores. The recent *Journal* was bursting with articles on various topics. Our monthly meetings continue to be well-attended as members gather to socialize and listen to a continuing array of interesting and informative speakers. And our six Special Interest Groups (SIGs) remain vibrant.

I am looking forward to 2020 (and beyond) for our Society. The aforementioned Cape Cod 400 committee will keep CCGS members abreast of relevant activities and timelines (in fact, a calendar of 2020 events on Cape Cod can be found in this issue). If you have any suggestions for activities, please let me know. The committee has already scheduled two “Genealogy Days” (in March and October) that are expected to attract potential new members from all across the Cape. All of this has our Program Chair, Brian O’Donnell, working overtime to provide speakers for both our monthly meetings and the Genealogy Days. So, if you know or know of an interesting speaker

or two, please let Brian or me know. A list of the speakers already planned for the next few monthly meetings can be found on page 8.

As if one celebration is not enough, the new year will also mark the beginning of preparations for the celebration of the Society’s 50th anniversary in 2021. That may seem like a long way off but, as most of us know, you are only 50 once. It is anticipated that an anniversary dinner or luncheon could be one of our most popular events ever. As a result, a long lead time for a venue and a program is needed. Please consider help planning for “CCGS 50” by joining the currently very small committee.

On a more mundane level, a new year often brings up the subject of resolutions. I have a suggestion: resolve to back up your entire genealogical database for storage at an off-site location. I try to remind the members of the DNA SIG to back up their data at the beginning of every new month. With the start of this new year/decade, I plan to back up everything – data, media, trees, etc., even if I haven’t touched it in over a year – on to three thumb drives. My three lucky kids will each get one of the drives. At the very least, my data will be in a safe place out of my house and it might even engender some interest from these next-generation descendants.

I look forward to seeing everyone at one event or another in 2020. If you have any questions or ideas, let me know. And please resolve to volunteer and help out on one of our activities/committees in 2020.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year. As I often say to those same three kids, have fun – but not too much!

Walter ([wgmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wgmgenealogy@gmail.com))



### VOLUNTEER ARCHIVIST(S) NEEDED.

As we look forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, it is apparent that we are in need of someone who would assume the role of the CCGS Archivist. This person will lead the effort to organize the materials that reside both at our Genealogy Room in the Dennis Public Library and at the Brewster Ladies' Library. These efforts would also include creating a user-friendly description of our collection and facilitating the preservation of these treasures. All of this will help in the preparation of materials for the 50th anniversary festivities. If this might be of interest to you, please contact Walter Murphy ([wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com)).

\*\*\*\*\*

### *What's up with the Education Committee?*

GENEALOGICAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH are the primary missions of CCGS. The Education Committee has responsibility for helping to carry out this mission. Its members plan, develop, and conduct genealogy courses for CCGS members and the general public at different locations around the Cape and Islands, including senior centers and libraries. Topics include: Overview of Genealogical Research; the Federal Census; Immigration and Migration; DNA for Genealogists; and Land and Probate Records. Content is aimed at beginning and intermediate genealogists. Each topic is supported by teaching materials. If you're a person who is comfortable speaking to

small groups and are familiar with one or more of these topics, why not share your knowledge with others, or start by assisting, and join the Education Committee? David Martin, the Chair of this Committee, would like to hear from you ([davidchina\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:davidchina_2000@yahoo.com)).

\*\*\*\*\*

### SIG News

\*\*\*

#### *The DNA SIG*

AS NOTED ON PAGE TWO, the January 7 meeting will once again take place at the Brewster Ladies' Library, at 1:30 in the downstairs meeting room. Hopefully, the repairs at the Dennis Public Library will be done in time for our February 4 meeting. In addition to the usual round table discussion/Q&A session, this meeting will begin the multi-month review of *Genetic Genealogy in Practice* by Blaine T. Bettinger and Debbie Parker Wayne. Chapters one and two will be covered.

\*\*\*

#### *Computer Users SIG*

Temporarily relocated to the Brewster Ladies' Library, the group will meet from 10 a.m. to noon, January 14, 2020. The topic will be **"Expanding Your Research and Organizing Everything You find,"** (focusing on including data from sources outside the databases with which your genealogical software is integrated.) Bob Oppenheim will explore some practices ranging from minimalist to over-kill; you pick what is best for you. All are welcome.

\*\*\*

### German SIG

The January meeting will take place at the Brewster Ladies' Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 in the upstairs auditorium. The focus will be on our immigrant ancestors' villages in Germany. The email message sent out to all members and interested friends of this SIG includes suggestions and a worksheet, repeated from 2018 at members' request. Ann Croston, leader, suggests that we (1) Dig Deeper for an already-researched Ancestor; (2) Choose another Ancestor to remember; or (3) Choose a notable person from the area.

She quotes comments by Curt Witcher, Director of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana (which has an exceptional genealogical collection), about the importance of putting one's ancestors into local context. Recommended as "the most useful guidebook for understanding the art of local history writing" is *Nearby History: Exploring the Past around You* (Lanham, Md., 2019), originally written in 1982 by the late David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty, and expertly updated and revised this year by Larry Cebula.

### Irish SIG

The next meeting for the Irish SIG is Monday, January 27, 2020 at 10 a.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the Brewster Ladies' Library. Note the change in venue; the usual meeting room at the Dennis Public Library is still out of service. Since the BLL is closed on Mondays, you can park in the Library parking lot and enter directly through the lower level.

The January speaker is Joan O'Donnell who will report on her recent trip to Ireland and also Twitter for Genealogists.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Looking Ahead – NERGC 2021

The NERGC 2021 conference committee has announced the featured speakers for the next conference, to be held April 14 – 17, 2021, in Springfield, Mass.: 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 January meeting, or may be found at the the NERGC website: <https://nergc.org/2021-conference-2/call-for-papers/>.

– Joan Frederici



#### THE CCGS 50 COMMITTEE NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

A few more members to join the current committee of three would help to get the planning process going for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of CCGS. Although not until 2021, we hope to hold event(s) worthy of the significance of this milestone – and that takes time. If you are willing to share your talents in the planning for this event, please contact Walter Murphy ([wgmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wgmgenealogy@gmail.com)).



## Volunteer Highlights

### KAREN SCHRADER

KAREN HAS BEEN A CCGS member for seven years and a volunteer for five of those years. Currently she is the member of the Publications Committee responsible for submitting notices and advertisements to media contacts, and she assists in proofreading the monthly newsletter. With a professional background in Education, she was a Reading Specialist in North Salem, New York before retiring with her husband to Cape Cod in 2004.



Not uncommonly, Karen's journey with genealogy started out with her knowing absolutely nothing about her ancestors. Her father, who grew up on a farm in Missouri, never talked about his family or his childhood. However, it wasn't long after a conversation with cousins at a family wedding about her paternal grandparents that she was hooked on learning more. After discovering her grandmother's maiden name, Chapman, Karen was able to trace generations of her lineage from her grandmother on the family farm in Missouri through five states to the discovery of a Revolutionary War ancestor, Nathan Bostwick (1746–1829), Ensign in the 7th Connecticut Regiment. Connecting her grandmother to this patriot enabled her to become a member of the

DAR, and she encourages others with similar connections to pursue membership.

When she discovered a genealogy compiled by Henry Anthon Bostwick in 1901, *A Genealogy of the Bostwick Family in America. The Descendants of Arthur Bostwick of Stratford Connecticut*, Karen was successful in tracing paternal ancestors back to England in the late 1600s. An amazing discovery! (And a reminder to all of us that there is much excellent genealogical material available in printed works.)

Research into her maternal ancestors is at an earlier stage of development. We can all relate to her piles of documents that include cemetery records, marriage licenses, photographs, land registers, census records, family anecdotes and more just waiting to be organized and digested. Someday, Karen will know more about the Bass and Bryant families than where they were born (North Carolina) and where they are buried (Bass Chapel Cemetery in Bassville, Missouri).

An organization like CCGS needs volunteers like Karen to keep it going and do their share. She is fascinated by the discoveries she has made, and happy to share with others. Like the rest of us, she relishes those research tips that lead to breaking through brick walls.

While Karen may have started her genealogy journey from scratch, her four children and five grandchildren have quite a head start!

## Program Summary, December 17, 2019

by David Martin

THE ANNUAL DECEMBER meeting of 2019 featured once again a variety of CCGS members making presentations on their own genealogical work and discoveries.

First was Past President Joan Frederici informing everyone about the 2021 Conference of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC), for April 2021 in Springfield, Mass. Several of the leading Keynote speakers have already been identified. In addition, each sponsoring Society (of which CCGS is one) is expected to provide one speaker for the conference on any topic related to genealogy. Anyone who might be interested in making a presentation or in learning more about that role is invited to contact Joan at [joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org) by April, 2020 this year to explore a possible topic.

Next was a presentation by Priscilla Ryan, with illustrations, on her great-grandfather Joseph Varnum Bowie's letters from the Civil War. He regularly wrote home to his wife, Susan Chase Bowie. Priscilla read excerpts from the 35 letters that were saved. He was wounded on 19 September 1864 during the Third Battle of Winchester, also known as the Battle of Opequon. One of his letters describes the actions and emotions he and others experienced during the fierce battle in which he received his wound. Later ones follow the treatment he received during his recovery and his eventual return to active duty. Priscilla's husband provided slides of maps of the battle, tintypes of Joseph and Susan, and examples of Joseph's handwriting.

Debra Yonker-Hecht described the process of making genealogical "cold calls" to family members while in Germany, which proved

successful in adding family genealogical information.

Walter Murphy's presentation focused on his great-grandfather, David Murphy (1823-1872). He cited documents ranging from the birth of David's wife in Boston, David's probable baptism in Ireland, a ship's manifest, his 1848 marriage, the 1870 census, naturalization papers, and David's 1872 death certificate. Walter also shared slides of the townland in Ireland where David likely grew up and probably left when he emigrated. Two more slides were shown--an article from the July 12, 1872 *Boston Globe* describing how David was found in the street the previous day suffering from sunstroke and was brought home where he died that evening; the second slide showed side-by-side pictures of David's son, John, and Walter's own son. Despite the five generations between the two, both Walter and his son see a fairly strong facial resemblance. As such, this may give a hint as to what David might have looked like, which -- together with the story from the *Globe* -- has caused Walter to think of his great-great-grandfather as more of a "real person" rather than just a collection of documents.

Judy Needham presented two important charts for the year 2020 anniversary of the arrival of the *Mayflower*. One chart showed silhouettes of all 102 passengers on the ship at the time of their arrival in 1620. The second chart showed the same people some months later, but those who had died were now colored gray instead of black. This pairing was a vivid demonstration of how nearly half of the passengers had passed away in the first year.

David Martin related a possibly genetic story involving his father-in-law who was a

professor in Berlin in the mid-1930s. He and a colleague had been attending an all-day conference on physics, and at the end of the day, his father-in-law asked his colleague to wait for him—he wanted to go back into the conference and speak with a man who he said looked a lot like him. Keep in mind that his father-in-law was an only son and had no

known male relatives in his generation. His father-in-law emerged soon with a broad smile; he told his colleague that that man's grandmother lived in a village in the mountains of Hungary which his own grandfather used to visit occasionally as a traveling salesman! Draw your own conclusions.



### CCGS Calendar for January 2020

- January 7      **German SIG**, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library, Downstairs conference room (*see page 5*)
- January 7      **DNA SIG**, 1:30 p.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (*see page 4*).
- January 11     **Falmouth** Genealogical Society, 10 a.m., Falmouth Library: Webinar by Mary Roddy, CG (*see December Newsletter*).
- January 14     **Computer Users SIG**, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (*see page 4*).
- January 17     **Writing Family History SIG**, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library.
- January 21     **Monthly CCGS Meeting**, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (*see page 1*). Coffee & Donuts at 9:30.
- January 26     A **Plymouth 400 event**, 2 p.m., Atwood House, **Chatham**. Bill Horrocks will talk about the voyage of the *Mayflower* from landfall off Cape Cod through her encounter with Pollock Rip,

- to dropping anchor in Provincetown harbor; followed by documentary film *Stephano* about Pilgrim Stephen Hopkins.
- January 27     **Irish SIG**, 10 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library (*see page 5*).
- January 28     **Cape Cod Families SIG**, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library.

### Future CCGS Monthly Programs Brewster Ladies' Library, 10 a.m.

- FEBRUARY:  
Susan O'Connor, "Adding Spreadsheets to your Genealogy Toolkit," **SATURDAY**, February 15, 2020.
- MARCH:  
Margaret Fortier, "A Whole New World of Catholic Records," **TUESDAY**, 17 March 2020.
- APRIL:  
Ray Sears, "On Demand Publishing" and "Making a Family Tree," **SATURDAY**, April 25 2020.