



CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 7 Issue 3

March 2020

*March Meeting – TUESDAY, March 17, 2020
10 AM, Brewster Ladies' Library*

A WHOLE NEW WORLD OF CATHOLIC RECORDS

by Margaret Fortier

THIS TALK COVERS THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS in online Catholic records (US and International), what the records mean, what they contain, and how to find them online and offline. Sacramental records will be discussed, as well as other Catholic records (newspapers, parish histories, cemeteries, etc.). Attendees will receive a locator chart for online Catholic records worldwide.

Named for her grandmothers and inspired by her mother's phenomenal memory, Margaret R. Fortier, CG[®], is a Boston-based genealogical researcher, lecturer, and writer. Her client and personal research focuses on French-Canadian, Italian, Irish, and Portuguese immigrants. She holds an MS in Human Factors in Information Design from Bentley University. She serves on the board of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists and is a member of the New England chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild as well as several local and national genealogical societies.



Coffee & Donuts at 9:30

Parking

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.

Cape Cod Genealogical Society
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Mailing address:

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East Harwich, MA 02645
www.capecodgenealogy.org

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs) are informal member gatherings for the purpose of sharing information, research techniques, and references, regarding specific topics or geographical areas. For more information, see the Society's website: <https://capecodgenealogy.org/>

Cape Cod Families

The Cape Cod Families SIG meets regularly throughout the year on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. at Sturgis Library, Route 6A, Barnstable Village. Leader, Bebe Brock (crosby1635@gmail.com). *Next meeting:* March 24.

Computer in Genealogy

The Computers in Genealogy SIG meets the second Tuesday of the month September through June, from 10 a.m. – noon at the Dennis Public Library in Dennis Port. Leaders, Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim and Jim Sullivan (wah2@psu.edu,

roppen@msn.com, thesignco@outlook.com). The March meeting will be about setting up a website (or perhaps a blog). This topic is likely to generate more sessions as we discuss objectives, maintenance, mechanics, content, and more. *Next meeting:* March 10.

DNA Research

The DNA SIG meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1 p.m.–3 p.m. at the Dennis Public Library in Dennis Port. Leader, Walter Murphy (wmgenealogy@gmail.com). *Next meeting:* March 3.

German Research

The German SIG meets on the first Tuesday of the month October through May from 10 a.m. – noon at the Brewster Ladies' Library on 6A in Brewster. Leader, Ann Croston (acroston125@comcast.net). In March we are partnering with the **Computer SIG** to present **Finding & Using Maps (both German and U.S. Historical)**. Bob Oppenheim will be bringing & discussing his very helpful Mapping "How-To" Handouts and Bill Horrocks will be giving his Google Earth presentation (from the internet website). *Next meeting:* March 3.

Irish Research

The Irish SIG meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 10 a.m. – noon at the Dennis Public Library in Dennis Port. Leader through May, Jim Sullivan (thesignco@outlook.com). *Next meeting:* March 24.

Writers

The Writing SIG meets on the third Friday of the month all year from 10 a.m. – noon at the Brewster Ladies' Library on 6A in Brewster. Leader, Pippa Ryan (writers.sig@gmail.com). A forum for sharing your writing about ancestors for either family members, personal satisfaction, or possible publication. Connect with fellow writers in a caring and mutual-critiquing format. There are many styles of writing and narrative we explore, including poetry. Everyone is welcome to share their story, writing tips and techniques. *Next meeting:* March 20.

A Message from Walter

AS MANY OF YOU know, our February monthly meeting was held on Saturday February 15. This was the first Saturday monthly meeting in a long time. I am pleased to report that an unofficial count revealed that 90 people braved the cold temperatures (in the teens) to attend. Our April meeting will also be a Saturday event – on April 25. The temperatures are likely to be noticeably warmer and Brian O'Donnell has lined up another great speaker. So please put this on your calendar.

Meanwhile, the “Cape Cod 400” committee continues to prepare for the **March 29 Genealogy Day**. It will be held at the Eastham Public Library from noon to 4:00; registration begins at 11:15 am. Four speakers – presenting five topics – have been confirmed. In addition, individual genealogical consultations will also be offered. The committee can always use more volunteers to help during the day, so if you're interested, please get in touch with me. At the least, plan on stopping by – and tell your friends and neighbors. More details can be found on the CCGS website.

I trust that most of you have seen the recent email from our Publicity Committee alerting our membership to a call to action from the Massachusetts Genealogical Council regarding **threatened access to vital records**. According to MGC, Governor Charlie Baker's 2021 budget bill included language to close vital records. The link to the MGC home page, with further details, including how to contact state senators and reps is: <https://www.massgencouncil.org/>.

On a happier note, the Family History Center in Franklin is holding its annual conference on March 28. Many of our members look forward to this event. The link for details is:

http://www.nefamilyhistory.com/?fbclid=IwAR2jSeLI6e3EAhSJM8LVq1x_QV4ocyO5etDkZbKjT3msxL4FH16t4j0_wWM.

As mentioned last month, the Nominating Committee was ready to determine what openings there might be on our Board of Directors in advance of June's annual election of five officers and two directors-at-large. As it turns out, we need one director-at-large as well as three members of a new Nominating Committee. The director-at-large will be a member of the Board and must be a member in good standing for one year prior to July 1, 2020; the new director's term is two years (he/she may be re-elected for one additional term). Each of the three Nominating Committee members will have a one-year term and are limited to three consecutive terms. This committee is responsible for the slate of officers who are elected each year, including two Directors-at-Large and the Nominating Committee members for the following year. Being a Board member is a great way to meet people and be part of the spirit of this Society. So, if one of the current Nominating Committee members (Joan Frederici, Pippa Ryan, and Marla Vincent) approaches you, please say “yes.” You won't regret it.

—Walter

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

Report on the February Meeting

USING SPREADSHEETS IN GENEALOGY, by Susan M. O'Connor

AT THE REGULAR CCGS program meeting of Saturday, February 15, 2020, Susan O'Connor provided a presentation on the subject of using computer-generated spreadsheets for genealogical data organization and for research.

She has used the Roots Magic and Legacy software programs to generate spreadsheets. The tools needed on the genealogist's Desk Top are Word, Excel, Powerpoint, and One-Note. And the tools of Adobe Acrobat, Paint, and Snipping Tool are very helpful in the process.

She has created various kinds of charts, both pedigree and descendency, and the charts when color-coded make apparent the sometimes confusing relationships such as second and third cousins, and cousins once- or twice-removed, etc. A spreadsheet uses both rows and columns for layout of data.

She uses Excel to color-code common ancestors in a list of relatives, so as to visually indicate how people are related to each other. She recommends printing out on legal-size paper in order to have adequate space.

When one has created a spreadsheet, then the empty cells become the clear indicator of where the next avenues of research should proceed. A key for the color codes is, of course, essential when sharing the charts with others. An advantage of spreadsheets is that they can both sort and filter the data, and Excel can count items and make those tallies into what is known as a Pivot Table—such as the total of people in a chart who have the same occupation. Copying and pasting data into an Excel table can be done easily.

The form for the spreadsheets used in her presentation can be downloaded from <https://tinyurl.com;SpreadsheetsToolkit>.

She also discussed applications of spreadsheets to DNA research. She underscored the importance of being sensitive and "kind" when sharing DNA data with others when those data might be

surprising or even disturbing to the other person. She also reminded everyone that once a person puts their data on Google, Google then owns the data.

She offered to provide assistance if anyone wished to contact her on the topic at smoconnor@live.com.

— David Martin

Alice Recommends

FREE 24-hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon

March 12-13, 2020 - LIVE! (Thursday March 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.— Friday, March 13, 2020 at 4:59 p.m. EDT).

FamilyTreeWebinars.com and *MyHeritage* invite genealogists in making history as they embark on the **FREE first-ever 24-hour genealogy webinar marathon**, where you will learn how to trace your ancestors from the world's top genealogists and educators. From advanced Googling to DNA, from The Great Lakes to Australia and Germany, there's something for everyone... in every time zone. And thanks to *FamilyTreeWebinars.com* and *MyHeritage*, the entire event is free! Pop in for a session or two, or stick around for the full 24 hours — it's completely up to you. There will even be time for Q&A and door prizes. If you can't join in real time, they've got you covered: all recordings will be available absolutely free for a week.

Register at www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com/24. Live attendance is limited to the first 3,000 attendees.



Volunteer Highlights

PHYLLIS DAY

DOES ANYONE NOT know Phyllis? She gets around! As she says, "I like to be busy." From the Falmouth Genealogy Society, to CCGS, to NERGC, you'll find Phyllis volunteering her time to help out where help is needed and telling it like it is.

Phyllis has been a "Cape Codder" since 1970 when she moved here with her husband Charlie, with whom she recently celebrated her fiftieth wedding anniversary. She raised her two sons here and now enjoys having her two grandchildren and two grandpaws come for visits.

Her volunteering actually started earlier than her interest in genealogy when she would be *volunteered* by the nuns at her parochial school in Boston to do any number of jobs. Once on the Cape, her master's degree in Public Administration served her well. Phyllis worked twenty-five years for the Trial Court of Barnstable, the last half as Superior Court Clerk. (Bet she's got some good stories from that time!)

She got started with genealogy when she visited her maternal grandmother's townland in Donegal back in 1995 and ever since she has avidly pursued it. Phyllis is always "talking to her dead relatives" as she searches the internet for evidence of their existence and demise. But she's not one to use just the internet. There's always another trip to somewhere to dig up old papers, meet distant relatives, and find old gravestones. In that regard, Phyllis volunteers as a contributor for *Find A Grave*, so it might be thanks to her that you have seen your ancestor's gravestone on that site.

Speaking of "always another trip," Phyllis was off again this past summer to County Donegal to work with a cousin on attempting to identify forty

plus DNA matches. Some were found in collateral lines, and further searching identified them as descendants of her second-great-grandmother's siblings. She is now thanking a *new* cousin in Washington State for extending her family tree. Where to next, Phyllis?



Joining FGS in 2009 and CCGS in 2013, she is on the FGS Executive Committee, is their Delegate to NERGC where she volunteers to chair the Society Fair and the Libraries, Archives & Museums Showcase, serves on the CCGS Hospitality Committee and has recently joined the CCGS 50 Committee. Considering her 30 years of experience planning large events for political candidates and alumni events for Suffolk University, we should be looking forward to a good time! On behalf of FGS, she is also busy preparing an Early Falmouth

Families program as part of “Mayflower 400 – History Still Alive” that will be presented at the Falmouth Public Library Joy of Learning Series in April.

In 2015 when CCGS chaired the Hospitality Committee for NERGC in Providence, Phyllis joined the Committee, and good thing she did, along with two others from the Rhode Island Genealogical Society. The Committee was handed a binder that supposedly contained everything they needed to know and do, which was, they were told, “just pass out candy and smiley face stickers.” Well, the binder turned out to be just about empty, and the job was quite a bit bigger, including – among other things – planning a research trip, making restaurant recommendations, identifying local attractions of interest, running the query board, and staffing a hospitality table. This is when Phyllis’s 30 years of event planning really came in handy! She made sure the Committee tested out as many restaurants as possible on Federal Hill and she knew exactly where to acquire 28 pounds of candy—every last piece of which was consumed – at the best possible price.

Phyllis really does get around!

Please Welcome New Members

Marti Baker

Jo Ann Burk & Stephen Cuyler

Nancy & Kevin Collins

Ed & Liz Gardella

Karen & John Gilligan III

Christine Greeley

Diane Gross

Karen Maier

Maureen McPhee

Kathy & Brian Murphy

For all the procrastinators out there!! -- The deadline for submissions of your presentation proposals has been extended. New deadline will be March 15, 2020.

