



# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

Volume 7 Issue 4

April 2020

## *A Message from our CCGS President*

*Walter Murphy*

WHEN I FIRST STARTED THINKING about this month's message, I knew from the outset that it – and this Newsletter – would be unlike any other in the history of this great organization. Then, on St. Patrick's Day, I was forwarded an email from a member who asked "How about doing an online meeting presentation for our meeting, rather than outright cancelling all events? There are many people at home, looking for something to do." Indeed, we have had to cancel a number of meetings scheduled for March and April. Along with the knowledge gleaned at those meetings, they are an opportunity for socializing. So, it is important that the Newsletter gets out as usual and contains some ideas that might entertain our membership and help them focus on something other than the news.

As I was thinking of – and asking for – ideas to highlight, I thought about what a resilient group we are. To name a few examples, our membership, taken as a whole, has experienced a number of wars, a Great Depression, a Great Recession, at least eleven bear markets before this one and major hurricanes. And let's not forget last year's tornado. So, we know how to take care of ourselves and bounce back.

In the spirit of the aforementioned email asking about things to do, I would suggest that a first step should be to go to the CCGS blog, which can be found [here](#). There, Joan Frederici posted an article that, among other things, suggests that "we are the proof that life WILL return to normal one day and this crisis will be behind us," just as other crises and disruptions have. The blog also contains links to the Society's website and Facebook page. As a regular reader of both (I have them bookmarked), I can tell you that each (and the Facebook page in particular) are loaded with ideas, including free webinars and genealogical to-do lists.

Elsewhere, your Board of Directors is planning to have its regularly scheduled April meeting; it won't be "regular" in the sense that it will be held remotely. In addition, the Computer Users SIG is taking steps to have a virtual April meeting. The DNA SIG chairman stole that idea and will attempt to do the same in May. More information on the SIGs can be found on pages 3 and 4 in this Newsletter, along with suggestions from the leaders of two of them for things to do while you're staying home.



For my part, I am using some of my shelter in place time to put together a four-generation, two-binder collection of pictures, documents, newspaper articles and maps for each of my parents. My wife's parents will be next. I also am doing a very thorough, multi-device backup of all my genealogical files. I previously shared four DNA-related videos with DNA SIG members from last month's RootsTech 2020 as they were being released. But there are more; if you're into binge watching, a total of seventeen videos are available, each of which is about an hour. You can find them [here](#).

So, please check out what is already "out there" by CCGS on its social media and by the various SIGs to help keep you engaged. And rest assured that other activities and networking/help ideas will be searched for. If you have any ideas along those lines, please let me know.

Stay home, stay healthy, stay safe,

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Cape Cod Genealogical Society — Board of Directors 2019-2020*

### *OFFICERS*

<i>Walter Murphy</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Brian O'Donnell</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
<i>Judy Needham</i>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
<i>Bebe Brock</i>	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
<i>Noreen Cahalane</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>

**Mailing address:**

Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1394  
East Harwich, MA 02645  
www.[capecodgenealogy.org](http://capecodgenealogy.org)

### *DIRECTORS*

<i>Ralph Ryall</i>	<i>Past President</i>
<i>Nancy DeNise</i>	<i>Director at Large</i>
<i>Judy Jones</i>	<i>Director at Large</i>
<i>Jane Hester</i>	<i>Director at Large</i>
<i>Suzanne Walton</i>	<i>Director at Large</i>
<i>Joan Frederici</i>	<i>Communications Technology</i>
<i>Carol Magenau</i>	<i>Librarian</i>
<i>David Martin</i>	<i>Education</i>
<i>Madelyn McHugh</i>	<i>Membership</i>
<i>Carolyn Weiss</i>	<i>Publications</i>
<i>Ralph Ryall</i>	<i>Publicity</i>

## *Special Interest Group Information*

**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:

<https://capecodgenealogy.org/>

**Please Note that ALL SIG meetings will be canceled, postponed, or virtual until further notice.** When the current health crisis is over and the libraries reopen, each group will again resume meeting on its regular schedule. In the meantime, some SIG leaders have offered suggestions, and one, the Computer Users SIG, has scheduled a virtual meeting, at its normal meeting time. See below for details.

### **Cape Cod Families**

The Cape Cod Families SIG usually 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](mailto:crosby1635@gmail.com)). Next meeting: to be announced.

### **Computers in Genealogy**

The Computers in Genealogy SIG meets the second Tuesday of the month, September through June, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Dennis Public Library in Dennis Port. Leaders, Bill Horrocks ([wdh2@psu.edu](mailto:w dh2@psu.edu)), Bob Oppenheim ([Roppen@msn.com](mailto:Roppen@msn.com)), and Jim Sullivan ([thesignco@outlook.com](mailto:thesignco@outlook.com)). The next meeting, April 14, 10 a.m., will be a *Virtual Meeting*, hosted by ZOOM®, on the subject of **Fire Insurance Maps—where to find them, how to use them**. Members planning to attend

should email Bob Oppenheim (address above) in advance, in order to get set-up instructions.

### **DNA Research**

The DNA SIG normally meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Dennis Public Library in Dennis Port. Leader, Walter Murphy ([wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com)). *Next meeting*: to be announced.

### **German SIG**

The German SIG usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month, October through May, from 10 a.m. until noon at the Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next meeting*: to be announced. In the meantime, leader Ann Croston ([acroston125@comcast.net](mailto:acroston125@comcast.net)) has suggestions for extra-curricular activity while we are all hunkered down:

- Clean up your folders and in-box.
- Pick an ancestor or a location to do more in-depth research.
- Check out the FREE Genealogy Webinars. Share your finds with our group. I have watched a few and picked up many new tricks and new websites. Ancestry has several from the recent Roots-Tech.  
<https://www.rootstech.org/category/2019-rootstech-sessions>
- Sort your picture collection.
- Search for online images and maps of places to add to your story.
- Study beginning or a higher level of DNA research.
- If you are on Ancestry, search out related Trees and contact the owner.
- Send hello messages to your near and far cousins.
- Make a list of your genealogy collection (places or surnames) and find people/places where you can donate your material.

- Consider locating and contacting a Professional Researcher to get an estimate on preliminary research.

### Irish Research

The Irish SIG usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Dennis Public Library in Dennis Port. Leader through May, Jim Sullivan ([thesignco@outlook.com](mailto:thesignco@outlook.com)). *Next meeting:* to be announced.

### Writers SIG

The Writers SIG usually meets on the third Friday of the month, all year round, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Brewster Ladies' Library. Leader, Pippa Ryan ([writers.sig@gmail.com](mailto:writers.sig@gmail.com)). It is 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. We explore many styles of writing and narrative, including poetry. Everyone is welcome to share their story, writing tips and techniques. *Next meeting:* to be announced.

In the meantime, leader Pippa Ryan suggests that you JOURNAL your experience of these trying times: right now, sit down and write your thoughts and feelings about what has been happening for the past few weeks. What have you done, how have you reacted, how have you prepared? How is your family coping with the closeness? Years from now you won't recall most of it and MANY years from now it will be a chronicle of an experience you lived through to share with your loved ones. Stay safe, stay healthy, stay calm! A blog I enjoy: <http://nancysfamilyhistoryblog.blogspot.com/>

\*\*\*

### What's Happening with the Publications Committee?

The main function of the Publications Committee is the production of the bi-annual "Journal" in June and December. The Committee solicits articles from both members and non members on topics of interest to genealogists. It welcomes input from the Society members in particular. At Publication Committee meetings, committee members recommend ideas for articles, suggest people to write such articles, set policies for the Journal and edit and proofread articles before publication.

A sampling of future articles to be published in the two *Journal* issues of 2020 follows:

- Technology and Photo Management
- Articles from the Writers' SIG
- A Special *Mayflower* section in each issue with articles on "The Mayflower Compact"; Christopher Jones, *Mayflower* Master; Roundup of books on the *Mayflower*; John Gorham; Massasoit and Three Treaties; and Edward Winslow
- Roman Catholicism, Greek Orthodox Religion, Unitarian Universalism
- Book Reviews

Anyone interested in submitting articles for the Journal should email Carolyn Weiss at [Carlysue01@comcast.net](mailto:Carlysue01@comcast.net).

\*\*\*

### Please Welcome New Member

Barbara Anne Kearney

\*\*\*

## *Communications Technology Committee*

During this time of social distancing and self-isolation, the **Communications Technology Committee** is working to communicate to our members what is happening within both the Society and the genealogical world.

On Facebook, we have been sharing posts from societies and genealogists to let you know what resources are available to you online while you are working from home. Genealogists have always been noted for their generosity and we are seeing a wonderful response to the recent shutdowns that are happening worldwide. Companies and societies like the [New York Genealogical and Biographical Society](#), [Ancestry Academy](#), and [My Heritage](#) have extended free offers to everyone, whether a subscriber or not. Individuals have also shared information via blogs and posts and these also are being shared by us, in turn. In addition, some of our SIG leaders have offered suggestions for activities genealogists can participate in during this time.

On our [Cape Cod Genealogy Blog](#) and our [Cape Cod Genealogical Society website](#), we will keep you informed of what is happening that relates to the Society. This will include:

- any further cancellation or postponements that become necessary
- rescheduling of events, when that happens
- any other announcements, such as those from our president and SIG leaders

This information, of course, will also be shared on Facebook.

If you are not currently on Facebook, you may want to consider joining so that you will be able to benefit from all that is offered there. You can Google “Facebook” and once you get to their site, you will be asked to “Sign up” or “Log in.” Click on “Sign up” and follow the

directions there. Once you are on the site, in the upper left hand side, you will see a “search” box – type in Cape Cod Genealogical Society; you will then see a column of relevant responses, look for the one that says “Page” under the CCGS name... click here and once on our page, just below the old image click on “Like” and then on “Follow.” By doing this, you will receive notification of any posts that are added to the CCGS page.

You may subscribe to our [CCGS Blog](#) by looking for the “Follow by Email” box on the upper right hand side, just under the blue banner. Simply type in your email address and click on “Submit.” You will then be notified whenever a new post is uploaded to the blog.

We look forward to seeing everyone, when things get back to normal once again. In the meantime, please keep track of us at the above locations.

— Joan Frederici

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Breaking News*

THE NEHGS HAS JUST ANNOUNCED that, to help people keep up their family history research from home, their Library is providing free access to books on its Digital Collections website. Normally available only to American Ancestors and NEHGS members, these include [city directories](#), [family history books](#), and [local history books](#). Need an 1824 directory of Baltimore? Vital records of Hampton, New Hampshire? Or maybe you'd like to plan for a post-social-distancing family gathering by reading about past reunions of other families. You'll find all of these and much more in these digital book collections. If you have questions, or stories of discoveries you have made in them, please contact [library@nehgs.org](mailto:library@nehgs.org).



## *APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH*

WHILE MANY THINGS are at the moment not as they usually are, one constant is the thanks we owe to our volunteers. Our regular meetings and special events may have to be canceled or held in virtual environments, but many of our volunteers are working to keep these and other activities going as we all find our way through this difficult time. The Website and Facebook page are being updated on a regular basis, the Newsletter is being published, the Journal will arrive, some SIGs are finding new ways to carry on without face-to-face meetings, and the list goes on.

These are all evidence of the vibrant Society that we have based on our all volunteer crew. We will need to postpone any formal “thank you” for the hours of service our volunteers provide, but every volunteer should know that their contribution plays an important role in our overall effort and will be even more important in helping us get back to “normal” when the time comes. Let’s be looking forward to that time, and in the meantime be thinking about how we can bring renewed energy and ideas to the work at hand.

Last year we said, “It would be wonderful to see lots of new names on the volunteer list the next time it’s published.” I’m pleased to say that the list below includes ten such new names, and I fear that some of our newest volunteers may not yet be included. A very big virtual “thank you” to all of you! *If you are one of those volunteers who should be on the list but isn’t, please contact Suzanne Walton, Volunteer Coordinator ([SEWalton@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:SEWalton@capecodgenealogy.org)) so this can be remedied.*

*Shirley Barron  
Judy Bedigian  
Bebe Brock  
Mary Lou Cahalane  
Louise Crespi  
Ann Croston  
Nancy Daniels  
Phyllis Day  
Nancy DeNise  
Carol Dubay  
Bo Durst  
Pam Eaton  
Pam Eichin  
Jane Fiske  
Pat Flaherty  
Joan Frederici  
Ed Galvin  
Ellen Geanacopoulos  
Teri Grey*

*Jane Hester  
Bill Horrocks  
Judy Jones  
Kathy Kaldis  
Barbara Knisell  
Nancy Larned  
Debra Lawless  
Cherrill Corby Lewis  
George Lewis  
Margo Lewis  
Carol Magenau  
Jo Anne Makely  
David Martin  
Tim Martin  
Madelyn McHugh  
Debra Merigan  
Gina Mullen  
Walter Murphy  
Judy Needham*

*Brian O’Donnell  
Joan O’Donnell  
Bob Oppenheim  
Patty Porcaro  
Kate Peace  
Dorothy Robinson  
Ralph Ryall  
Pippa Ryan  
Karen Schrader  
Ray Sears  
Alice Stelzer  
Jim Sullivan  
Becky Sullivan  
Wayne Van Buren  
Marla Vincent  
Suzanne Walton  
Bob Ward  
Carolyn Weiss  
Deb Yonker-Hecht*