



# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

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## *A Message from our CCGS President Walter Murphy*

As I am sure you are aware, much of the President's Message in the Society's just-released Journal focused on how vibrant our Society has been during this "new normal." Due to the printing schedule of the Journal, that message was written in February-March. I am pleased to report that as we enter June, our Society appears to be even more vibrant than it was then. For example, our SIGs have had more time to adjust and at least three of the SIGs have now been conducting virtual meetings; the attendance appears to have been larger than it has been during the most recent in-person gatherings.

Another example is that in recent weeks, there were openings for the chairs of two of our standing committees, Membership and Publicity. In both cases, members quickly volunteered to fill those important roles. Similarly, all five of the Society's officers have agreed to remain in place for another one-year term and the Nominating Committee identified two members who have agreed to new two-year Director-at-Large terms.

I am also pleased to report that we received a \$1,000 anonymous donation in honor of Kate Peace, our immediate past Vice President and Program chair. Kate had found an old diary in her mother's house and went to great pains to track down the writer's descendants and make sure the diary was returned to them.

If you are looking for things to do or for some help, the Society's website, Facebook page and blog are continuously being updated (links to the latter two can be found on the website's [homepage](#)). Both the Dennis and Orleans public libraries have made research tools available on a limited basis; the former currently has the library addition of *Ancestry.com* on its homepage, and the latter has purchased a subscription to *Newspapers.com* for its cardholders. Meanwhile, our "Members Helping Members" resource remains available for those needing

help with brick walls (let me know – with specifics – if you need help, and I will have one of those volunteers get in touch with you).

Even with all of this good news, there are some things that we just can't control. Governor Baker has instituted a four-phase "Reopening Massachusetts," the details of which can be found [here](#). The bottom line at this point is that gatherings will be limited to less than 10 people at least through June, and perhaps longer. As a result, our popular in-person annual meeting has been cancelled. Your Board has been discussing alternative ways to efficiently conduct an official election of the officers and directors by the membership. Fortunately, our by-laws do afford us some flexibility.

Similarly, the bi-annual NERGC conference scheduled for April 2021 will be done remotely. NERGC is exploring options and would appreciate hearing from members who might have experience with any relevant technologies. Let me know if you think you can help and I will pass it on.

Finally, and as always, *stay Home, stay Healthy, stay Safe.*

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

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**Cape Cod Genealogical Society**  
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## What's Happening with the Membership Committee?

**LOTS!** First, meet our new committee Chair, Jo Anne Crowley Makely. Jo Anne has been immersed in genealogy, both professionally and personally, for a long time. She currently serves as the Secretary of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) and is also the Chair of its Human Resources Committee. Jo Anne lives in Plymouth where she has her ancestral roots in this country. Her late husband had ancestors on the Cape who were among the proprietors of Nauset (Eastham).



Having joined CCGS only two years ago, Jo Anne has already become a member of the Cape Cod 400 Committee and now Chair of the Membership Committee. As the Chair of a Standing Committee, Jo Anne has also joined the Board of Directors. We are lucky beneficiaries of her experience at NEHGS as well as her previous endeavors which include serving as mayor of the Township of Mahwah in New Jersey and Chair of the Historic Register Committee of Greene County (NY) Historical Society.

Also exciting is that Madelyn McHugh, Jo Anne's predecessor, has agreed to remain on the committee and continue to be

responsible for maintaining the membership database. Several years ago, we acquired the *Past Perfect* software package in which this database is situated. Madelyn is experienced in working with it, which will significantly facilitate this transition.

The Membership Committee plays a very important role in the ongoing activities of the Society, from recruiting new members to supporting enhancements to the benefits of membership. As Jo Anne assumes the position of Membership Chair, she'd like to hear what ideas you have for enhancing the value of membership in the Society as she starts to develop plans for the future. We're a group of some 260 people who all share a common interest in genealogy. So keep your eye out and share your ideas for making CCGS an even better membership experience. You can share your thoughts with Jo Anne at [JoAnne.Makely@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:JoAnne.Makely@capecodgenealogy.org).

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Please welcome new member  
Karen Potter

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## Genealogy During the Pandemic

MANY OF US HAVE found the isolation required by the current health crisis to have changed our lifestyles significantly. The situation has also affected how genealogists carry out their work. In the upcoming Fall issue of the Society *Journal*, we would like to include anecdotes from members about how they have managed, in spite of the closures of many research facilities, to somehow continue researching their family

histories. Any member who would like to share a page, half a page, or a paragraph about how they have adapted and continued their research during this challenging time, is invited to send the material to Carolyn Weiss (editor of the Fall issue) at any time prior to August 15.

Carolyn's email address is [carlysue01@comcast.net](mailto:carlysue01@comcast.net). You can also ask her questions before you write something, too. Please consider sharing your ongoing processes during this time—it will be helpful and encouraging to others to learn what you have managed to continue doing.

## SIGS – SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS [SIGS] 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 our website: [www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org)

**During the current Covid19 pandemic the SIGs will not be meeting in person. Many of the Groups are carrying on meetings via Zoom.**

### NEWS FROM THE SIG LEADERS

#### Cape Cod Families

This SIG *usually* meets regularly throughout the year on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m. at Sturgis Library. Leader, Bebe Brock ([crosby1635@gmail.com](mailto:crosby1635@gmail.com)). Now that we can't meet in person, and since we are all working on different families, we are all working on our own. Bebe, who has been working with her daughter via *FaceTime* each Sunday, says, "I guess I trained her well."

#### Computers in Genealogy

The Computers in Genealogy SIG meets the second Tuesday of the month, September through June, from 10 a.m. to noon, *usually* 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)). This was one of the first SIGs to go to *Zoom* meetings, back in April, and will do so again in June, our final meeting before the

Summer break. At our May meeting we discussed what we do with our genealogy when we die – a cheery subject. The discussion did get into ways we could share our work, things we should do to facilitate an heir picking up our work and options for donating our work. The members expressed interest in the possibility that the Group could take some kind of role in facilitating the process of conserving our members' work. Accordingly, this will be investigated and a report to the Group made sometime in our coming year. We also discussed the results of our survey of topics of interest for the coming year. Suffice it to say that we have a lot of things to talk about.

Our *Zoom* sessions have been drawing between 20 and 25 people which is more than we would normally expect at the library. The extra people seem to be a group that logistically would have difficulty in attending our library meetings. We have discussed the idea of doing a *Zoom* meeting

from the library so that our members could have two choices in how to attend. At this point that is the plan. Assuming that the library is open, we can test the technology later this summer.

Our June meeting will be on the second Tuesday, June 9, at 10:00 a.m. Guest speaker T. C. Carter will address the topic of searching historic Cape Newspapers. We will also have a short piece on the status of genealogical software. I think there may be some surprises.

New members are welcome. You can't go wrong with a Group whose motto is "OY!"

### DNA Research

The DNA SIG meets the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., when possible at the Dennis Public Library. Leader, Walter Murphy ([wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com)). The Group met remotely in May and the attendance was larger than it has been in a long time. Time flies when you're having fun. We are scheduled to have our next meeting on Tuesday, June 2 at 1:30 p.m. Once again, it will be remote via **Zoom**. If you signed up for last month's remote session, you will automatically get a **Zoom** invite for June's meeting. If not and you want to join this June's fun, let me know and I will add you to the list.

Speaking of fun, I enjoyed last month's meeting and the feedback was favorable. However, there seemed to be a consensus that we schedule upcoming meetings for 90 minutes rather than the usual two hours. I will do that and if we go over 90 minutes, then we go over.

The chapter on the X chromosome is next up, so that is an obvious candidate for our next topic. Since our last meeting, I got my Big Y results and I can discuss what I know

(a little), what I don't know (a lot), and the potential surprise regarding my surname. Please pass along any other topics you have an interest in.

We will also have the usual roundtable Q&A session, and we will devote some time to those of us who feel that they are still in the beginning stages of genetic genealogy and need a venue to discuss "basic" questions and ideas.

I have a sense that we might want to continue these remote sessions in some form even when the libraries are open again. Perhaps hybrid sessions? We can discuss that as well.

Stay safe, — Walter

### 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. Leader Ann Croston ([acroston125@comcast.net](mailto:acroston125@comcast.net)) sends email to members with suggestions for webinars and projects to work on until we can meet again in person. Ann sent us the following **comments from members**, "in no particular order:"

*Hi everyone and thanks to you Ann for sending us information on the webinars, etc. I am so very impressed with how well the German SIG has continued throughout this health crisis! I love receiving the notices of the meetings, with the agendas and info. Great job!*

#### Among the suggestions were

— **Lisa Louise Cooke's free webinar on google searching** ... *very well worth it ... great tips! ...*

— **Deciphering German Handwriting. webinar by Katherine Schober.** *I thought it was very good, although it was slightly fast-paced. That could be my old eyes... her suggestions were very helpful and I plan to*



browse through some of those websites she mentioned.

— **NYGB Webinar on German Online Records ... can't wait to explore the websites suggested.**

— **Discover the Holdings of German Archives by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, CG, 5/20/20.** *I did watch it and there was a TON of information. What is now REALLY abundantly clear to me is that I definitely need to make up a cheat sheet of German words and keep them attached to my computer!*

— **Emigration via Hamburg by Andrea Bentschneider — 5/21/20.** *Ann, this was very informative. Thank you so much for suggesting it. I watched it yesterday with interest since my maternal grandfather lived in Hamburg. He came to New York on the steamship Wieland in August of 1892 traveling alone in cabin class. He arrived again in August 1896 on the Persia, proving that he went back to Germany for a visit. The records are in the State Archives of Hamburg and also online in Ancestry as I discovered several years ago. I will now look for the return voyages. Couldn't see the web yesterday, but Andrea Bentschneider is the lady who does my research in Europe ... very helpful.*

**Ann continues with her own thoughts:** *Hello friends. It's been so enjoyable reading your notes here. Thanks. You each have shared a contribution that reminded me that our research timelines don't always match our hopeful reality timelines. But then sometimes they do!! And now here is my own comment.*

— **German Surname research 5/18/20.** *Just quickly looking at the worksheet — and I thought I would give it a fast try. My grandmother's maiden name was Heuser. Heus means "hay" and that makes sense - her father had a farm. He likely made hay! Cool!*

*I should add that I may continue to have some mini worksheets for the German SIG and will be planning the topics and meeting style for 2020-*

*2021. I would like everyone to make suggestions.* — Ann

### 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. Jim Sullivan ([thesignco@outlook.com](mailto:thesignco@outlook.com)), who has been Leader through May, reports that **Pat Flaherty** is back and he shared this report from her:

Thanks to everyone who attended the first Irish SIG **Zoom** Meeting. Here is information on what we discussed and what is upcoming for the June Meeting. The following websites were discussed:

- <https://www.logainm.ie/en/> for Irish place names. Joan O'Donnell noted that if you scroll to the "Current database contents" section with the navy-blue background and click on "town lands" — the first in the list — you can search by county to find a townland which then gives a map that names the surrounding townlands. Gina Mullen added two websites which can be useful when searching for townlands: <https://www.townlands.ie/> Townlands in Ireland, and Geohive <https://geohive.ie/index.html>
- <https://www.swilson.info/> Swilson Information, a treasure-trove on townlands and many other things.
- Ireland xo — <https://irelandxo.com/> — everyone is encouraged to upload their information to this website.
- Genealogical: [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical\\_Word\\_Lists](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Genealogical_Word_Lists) Walter Murphy discussed this useful tool at *Family Search* — specifically how it helped him with Latin in birth records.

- Patte Henry e-mailed me after the meeting to give me the information on the webinar by Lisa Louise Cook giving tips for using Google for Genealogical Searches.

<https://lisalouisecooke.com/2017/10/07/improve-google-search-results/>

- Jim Sullivan talked about the benefits of John Grenham's website — (there is a paywall).

<https://www.johngrenham.com/>

Meetings are back to the regular schedule of the 4th Monday of the month, the next meeting will be: **Monday, June 22, at 10:00 a.m.**

Our preliminary agenda includes:

- *Boston Passenger Lists on Family Search* — presentation by Gina Mullen
- *Finding Townlands using John Grenham's website* — Jim Sullivan

Take Care and Be Safe. *Pat Flaherty*

### 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, says, "I've heard from some folks about having a ZOOM gathering on June 19 and so I think I will make that happen. I sent a message to the Group asking if they have been doing much writing, and enclosed a condensed piece of a journal I have been keeping. We are all living through history in the making.

**Patty Porcaro:** Thanks for sending your piece around. It offered a sort of solace of shared experiences and an encouragement to write.

**Alice Stelzer:** I loved your piece and would like to suggest that we all could write a piece on our reaction to the virus and the lockdown and, in particular, how it has

affected our ability to research our ancestors. A *Zoom* meeting would certainly work.

**David Martin:** An excellent piece, Pippa. And I see no reason why the Writers SIG could not meet at its regular monthly time via *Zoom*. It would be nice, of course, if members would send ahead of time any possible writings for the Group, before reading them aloud as usual at the virtual "meeting" for everyone; but it's not necessary, and in the virtual meeting if anyone had something to share that had not been sent in printed form, that would also be fine—just as we do in the face-to-face meetings.

**Pam Eaton:** I'd like to see what others might write about their time in this topsy-turvy world.

**Lee MacDonald:** Pippa, I liked your piece. I would join for a *Zoom* meeting moving forward. It seemed to work well for the DNA SIG. I started the stay-at-home confinement thinking it would be a great way to catch up on my writing projects, and it was - for a while. Then, without that monthly SIG meeting deadlines slipped and writers block set in. So, it will be nice to get back to meeting thru *Zoom*.

**Kate Peace:** I encourage all to try Google Drive, or any sharing platform, so that we can continue to enjoy one another's genealogical masterpieces!

**Keep writing!** Does anyone have any creative ideas to share? For example, write your own biography in less than 200 words, write your mother's or father's, what was your relationship like with your siblings (if you had any), write about all the places you have lived, write how you met your spouse... That sort of thing.

Be safe, stay healthy, Pippa  
([writers.sig@gmail.com](mailto:writers.sig@gmail.com)).

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## The Spring Journal is Here!

WHETHER YOU'RE THE KIND of reader who sits right down and devours a journal from cover to cover the day it's delivered, or the kind, like me, who sets it beside a favorite chair, to savor in bits and pieces over days to come, there's a treat in store. The Spring issue of the Society's Journal (Volume 10, no. 1) is here. It has been distributed both on-line on our website and in paper form to all members who wish to receive the hard copy. Featured within the issue are sections on: Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the *Mayflower*, articles related to Cape Cod, special features of a general genealogical nature, Historical Houses, and numerous others, including reviews of recent genealogical publications. Anyone wishing to obtain additional copies at \$5 each may contact co-editor David Martin at [davidchina\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:davidchina_2000@yahoo.com), or 508-527-0460.

The deadline for initial submission of manuscripts for the Fall issue is September 30; please consider writing a piece for the Journal and if interested, contact co-editor Carolyn Weiss at [carlysue01@comcast.net](mailto:carlysue01@comcast.net) in advance with any questions.

## The Newsletter

IN MORE NORMAL TIMES, the Newsletter announces each month's speaker and program details, and provides minimal information about SIG meetings. There is always a message from the Society's President. Some issues feature a profile interview with a Board Member (Meet Our Board) or a Volunteer (Volunteer Highlights). Sometimes a report and photographs from the previous month's meeting are included.

Now, when we are all social distancing because of the pandemic and cannot meet in groups, there are no meetings to report, but our members are coming up with all kinds of good suggestions for virtual meetings or sources for online research. We don't want to duplicate news that is available on the website, but we do want to help keep our members in touch with each other.

If there is anything YOU think would be a good addition to the Newsletter, *please* let us know. We welcome suggestions and new ideas. If there's something you'd rather not see in these pages, tell us that, too.

We acknowledge with thanks the help of regular volunteers Karen Schrader, Alice Stelzer, and Suzanne Walton, and all the other CCGS members who now and then help to put an issue together.

- Jane Fiske, editor ([janeffiske@gmail.com](mailto:janeffiske@gmail.com))
- Pam Eaton, contributing editor
- Pippa Dodd Ryan, contributing editor