



www.CapeCodGenealogy.org

CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 7 Issue 10

December 2020

Greetings!

**Please join us at our next Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 10:00 AM, EST**

**Our meeting will be brought to you via [Zoom](#).
More details will follow before the meeting on how to register.**



We hope you will join us for *Our Members Share* informal meeting. Sit in a comfortable chair in front of your computer or other device. Be sure to have coffee or tea and sweets at hand. We will have some unique mini-presentations by members who have already volunteered to share their genealogical gems with us. We would welcome anyone else who has something fun, informative, or interesting to share regarding their family history or process of research. Stories, memorabilia, and photos related to your family roots will motivate all of us to continue on our own journey of discovery. Please consider a ten-to-fifteen minute presentation.

You are encouraged to let us know ahead of time if you plan to participate so that we may be able to determine the tech aspect. Please email Brian O'Donnell, our Program Chair at bjmdod98@gmail.com or President, Walter Murphy, at wmgenealogy@gmail.com if you would like to share something.



A Message from the CCGS President Walter Murphy

Ho, Ho, Ho! Season's Greetings!

This holiday season will be like no other. For example, online shopping – which some refer to as *shopageddon* – will play a more important role for many of us than in other years. December will also be an active month for the Cape Cod Genealogical Society and its members. Our monthly meeting (on the 15th) will be the annual “Our Members Share” get-together. In prior years members have shared holiday goodies and stories about their genealogical journey. Obviously, we won’t be sharing goodies but that doesn’t mean that you can’t enjoy a cookie and coffee remotely while attending the meeting. Please consider contacting our Program Chair, Brian O’Donnell (bjmdod98@gmail.com), and offer to share ten-to-fifteen minutes with a story, artifacts/photos, or a recent discovery with other members. The last I heard, only three members have volunteered to share. Help add to the festivities.

The December meeting is also when members will have the opportunity to ratify the proposed changes in the bylaws that were previously approved by your Board of Directors. In the first half of November, members were sent the details of those changes. In sum, officers’ terms will be increased to two years, an officer may not serve more than two consecutive terms in any office except by three-quarters vote of the membership present, and the terms of office of the five officers of the Society shall be staggered. If you have any questions or have misplaced the full text of the proposed changes, let me know. But please attend the meeting to participate in the ratification vote.

This is also the time of year when membership renewals and dues are ...well...due. In previous messages I have highlighted (even bragged about) how vibrant our Society has been during these trying times. So, let’s keep it up and renew before the end of the year. For more information, be sure to read the letter from our Membership Chair, Jo Anne Makely, on page nine.

I would like to give a shout out to Pam Eaton, the editor of this Newsletter (which means that she’ll read this before you do!). Not only has she stepped into this new job with enthusiasm, she has also been sending out reminders about the monthly meetings and other publicity-related events (like the bylaws changes). If that weren’t enough, she is tackling all of this (with a big assist from Kathy Kaldis) with a brand-new system, Mailchimp. So, if you’ve noticed differences or difficulties, that’s because all of this is a learning curve – or as Pam and Kathy say, “treading water.” The end result will be a much smoother and more informative system than anything the Society has ever used in the past. Thank you, Pam.

Finally, I wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. As the weather gets colder and we all begin to hunker down (and maybe experiencing a little Covid-19 fatigue), don’t let your guard down. It will be increasingly important to take care of yourself.

Please remember to stay *Home* (if you can), stay *Safe*, and stay *Healthy*.

Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)

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, please email the SIG leader or visit our website: www.capecodgenealogy.org



Cape Cod Families

Leader **Bebe Brock** crosby1635@gmail.com advises that all are working independently. Please contact Bebe for information and additional assistance. This SIG usually meets at Sturgis Library in Barnstable for on-site research with the library's records and will meet again when Covid-19 is under control.

Computer Users

Leader **Bob Oppenheim** roppen@msn.com holds a Zoom meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM (except in July and August). The next SIG will be held on **December 8**, *Finding and Using Digital Book & Navigating Selected Websites (e.g., PERSI, Allen County, Hathitrust, Worldcat)*.

Have you ever been interested in places to search, ways to get organized, what to do with pictures, and how to get the most out of DNA testing? How about software suggestions, backup strategies, managing and enhancing photos, mapping your ancestors, writing their story, and studying style guides? These and more are the topics that we delve into when we meet. We try to have a handout that will cover all of the discussion points so note taking is minimized. Join CCGS, then join us. Help us select the topics that are important to you.

With the onset of Covid-19 in 2020 we started to meet on Zoom. You need to be a member of the SIG to get an invitation. Joining us on Zoom is easy and will cost nothing. All you need is a computer or tablet. Even a smart phone will work. When we go back to meeting in person (the Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Avenue, Dennis Port), we will continue meeting on Zoom. We will just host the meeting at the library. That way, we can continue to grow and support our members who have joined us from far away.

DNA

Leader **Walter Murphy** wmgenealogy@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM. The next SIG will be held on **December 1**. Walter sends out an agenda and a Zoom invitation to register for each session. If you are interested, but are not yet a member of this SIG, send Walter an email. This is an active group that typically attracts more than twenty participants of all levels of interest and expertise to each meeting. All sessions begin with a question-and-answer roundtable discussion, divided into two sections: DNA analysis 101 questions/problems followed by time for "old hands."

December's roundtable will be followed by a review of 23andMe's matching tools as well as their DNA-calculated family tree tool. If time permits, there will also be a brief Y-DNA discussion.

The next meeting will be on **January 5, 2021**. (Good riddance to 2020!) At this early date, the agenda has not been developed. So, if members (new and old) have any topics that they wish to explore, let Walter know.

German

Leader **Ann Croston** Dennisvillagetour@gmail.com Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next SIG will be held on **December 1**. The meeting will explore Meyer's Gazetteer, German village websites, German holiday celebrations, and German regional foods.

We welcome anyone interested in learning more about their German ancestors, the history, traditions, and customs of Germany. We research different websites and strategies in Germany and in the United States on how to find help in obtaining records and information.

The mission of our group is:

- To **explore** the political, social, and environmental conditions that existed when and where our ancestors lived in Germany and in America.
- To **understand** the decisions made, the paths, trials, and tribulations our ancestors undertook to immigrate to America.
- To **focus** on our specific German families, where they came from in greater Germany and where they went to in America, "including named cities/districts, by named families at specific time periods."
- To **learn** of resources and techniques available to further our study of our German ancestors.
- To **organize** our research into a story, outline, timeline, Facebook group, blog or other compilation to share with family or fellow researchers or a greater audience.

Irish Research

Leader **Pat Flaherty** patcarole@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting usually on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM. Because of the holidays, there is no December meeting. The next SIG will be held on Monday, **January 18**.

Anyone with an interest in Irish Genealogy is most welcome. We have members with lots of experience who can help those with little experience. It is a good combination. Our sessions usually include a presentation from a member on available records (either in the United States or in Ireland). We also share strategies for finding those elusive Irish Ancestors wherever they may be lurking. There is always time for good discussions during which questions are answered and experiences are shared.

Writers

Leader **Pippa Dodd Ryan** pippa.doddryan@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting on the third Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next meeting will be held on **December 18**. This is a forum to share your writing about ancestors or current family members (including pets), anything historical, current event topics, articles of personal satisfaction and more. We also discuss the possibilities of publication and explore many styles of writing and narrative, even poetry. Everyone is welcome to share their story, writing tips and techniques in a caring and gentle, mutual-critiquing format. If you do not have anything to share, join us anyway!



**Cape Cod Genealogical Society
Board of Directors 2020-2021**

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Brian O'Donnell
Judy Needham
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Noreen Cahalane

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Vice-President
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Cape Cod Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1394
Harwich, MA 02645
www.CapeCodGenealogy.org

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Director at Large
Communications Technology
Librarian
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**Cape Cod Genealogical Society Plans
Gala for 50th Anniversary**

Save These Dates!

CCGS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on August 25, 2021. We have an anniversary committee that has been busy planning our celebration and we want to update you on what is going to happen. Our committee members are **Phyllis Day, Judy Fenner, Joan Frederici, Kathy Kaldis, David Martin** and **Chair, Robert Ward**.

This will be a year-long celebration! After all, 50 years is something special; but, also, with the current state of the world, we want to make sure that we can celebrate together, *not* virtually!

Although we do not have many of the details confirmed, we do have a few dates for you to set aside. These are all being planned as “in person” events; but most will also have a “Plan B” just in case.

August 25, 2021, Wednesday

Kick-off Event in the late afternoon/early evening

October 16, 2021, Saturday

Fall seminar, all day event

April 30, 2022, Saturday

Gala Anniversary Dinner!

August, 2022, date to be determined

End of the celebration—start of the next 50 years!

Please Welcome New Members

**Margaret Carsley
Martin Conroy**

A Message from Librarian Carol Magenau

During the pandemic, **New England Historic Genealogical Society** (NEHGS) has kindly arranged to provide direct access to members of institutional subscribers. This means you can search **American Ancestors** from home using a special CCGS login! (If you are an NEHGS member, you already have access through your own membership.)

According to the NEHGS website:
AmericanAncestors.org provides access to more

than 1.4 billion records spanning twenty-two countries covering the United States, the British Isles, continental Europe, and beyond, including one of the most extensive online collections of early American genealogical records, the largest searchable collection of published genealogical research journals and magazines, and the largest collection of United States Catholic records online.

To take advantage of this offer, please feel free to contact Carol Magenau for login information at librarian@capecodgenealogy.org. This will be in effect while the library is closed, thanks to NEHGS.

~Carol Magenau

NERGC Update, December 1, 2020 Joan Frederici

Plans to transition our Spring 2021 conference from in-person to virtual are finalizing. Our theme will be “**Springing from the Past into the Future**” and as a result of Covid-19, we will be using the technology of the future to provide our usual great conference, but in the safety of your own home.

The NERGC Conference will be presented online from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on six days:

Thursday, **April 1**
Friday, **April 9**

Saturday, **April 17**
Saturday, **April 24**

Saturday, **May 1**
Saturday, **May 8**

Also, recorded lectures AND the virtual Exhibit Hall will be available online **every day** from April 1 through May 31.

Plans are to present 72 lectures, along with many of the other features you have enjoyed at previous conferences – Ancestors Road Show, Society Fair, Special Interest Groups, Queries.

Our nationally recognized speakers for this conference will include:

Angie Bush, a Master genealogist and Professional Molecular Genealogist

Pat Richley-Erickson, also known as DearMYRTLE

John Grenham, Irish research specialist and author of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*

Stay up-to-date by checking the NERGC website www.nergc.org and their blog at <http://nergc.blogspot.com> for more information as it becomes available.

Alice Recommends

Finding Information

DNA isn't the only way to research. There are some old fashion ways to find information. Have you ever used Google alerts? They can be a helpful way to keep a constant lookout for any online mention of whomever you set one up for. An alert on my maternal grandfather brought me information when he was mentioned in a second cousin's blog. This cousin and I had not communicated in 60 years. I did not know he was researching the family.

I have also used the name of my book and received an alert that some thief has been offering free digital downloads of my book. If you look closely you can see the steam coming out of my ears on that one.

There might be someone out in cyberspace that is researching the same person you are and even though you do not know them yet, they might be a great source of information.

Creating Google alerts is easy. You start by going to Google Alerts. In the box at the top, enter a topic you want to follow. You can select certain settings:

- how often you get notifications
- the types of sites you'll see
- your language
- the part of the world you want information from
- how many results you want to see
- what account is going to get the alert

This research method takes patience. You set up an alert and then forget about it and one day when you are not even thinking about it, you will get an email with information.

I suggest you start with your own name.

~ Alice C. Stelzer

Program Summary of the November Meeting

Written by *David Martin*

The presentation and handouts are currently available in the Members section of the CCGS website and will be available until January 20, 2021.

www.CapeCodGenealogy.org

ACCESSING THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Presentation by *Rick Sayre*, November 2020



The Society's monthly program for November 2020 featured a presentation by **Richard Sayre** on the use of the National Archives for genealogists.

Compared with the past, when personal access in Washington, D.C., was relatively easy, important security measures have now been enacted. However, many useful *Finding Aids* are available to patrons, and online access is on the increase.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) contains records made by the federal government, and thus includes (among other categories), military pension applications, passenger lists, naturalization records, and the Census. *NARA* consists of several components: the archives of documents, a library, a museum, a learning center, and more.

Original documents are stored in caves in Kansas. In addition, *NARA* has formed some working partnerships with organizations such as *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry*, and *Fold 3*. Prior to 1934, different agencies kept different records, but in that year a centralization was begun. Now *NARA* has thirteen *Regional Centers* (the nearest to Cape Cod being in Waltham, MA), seventeen *Record Centers*, and some affiliated archives as well. The mission is to protect government records, and a gradual

process of digitization is under way.

The main website is *NARA.gov*. On that site, by going to *Access Archival Databases (AAD)*, one can learn about the available sources. It is expected that by 2022, *NARA* will no longer be accepting physical records and will receive only digitized records. Many existing records are yet to be digitized, and many documents are not conserved.

On the website, users should open the option, *Research Our Records*. There, a user will find *Catalog*, which contains *Search Tips*. *Record Groups* and *Collections* may be searched, and different levels of *Arrangement* include (in descending order): the *Depository*, the *Research Group*, the *Series*, the *Filing Unit*, and then the actual *Document*. Five percent of the documents are not yet described at the Series Level. Tips are found for searching on an individual's name. Users should register and get a login address, without cost. Only some records are available.

One category is *Bounty-Land Applications*, which is a record of land given to veterans of wars prior to World War One; these can be as useful as military pension files. The user puts in a search term, then the record group, and then uses the filters to narrow the search. The *Record Group Explorer* is used to enter the *Record Group Number*.

FamilySearch, *Ancestry*, and *Fold 3* have contracted with *NARA* to digitize some records and can distribute them for a period of five years, after which the digitized records become part of the *NARA* data base.

In the *AAD*, one searches by categories, such as the period of years, countries, passenger lists, wars, etc. Only a few veterans' records are online. Military records prior to World War One are located in the Washington, D.C., facility; later records are in the St. Louis center, some of which were destroyed by a fire in the past. *NARA* staff will scan an available record and provide a flash drive of it for the patron to take.

Prologue Magazine, *Genealogy Notes*, www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/genealogy-notes.html. This site provides access to the genealogy notes published in *Prologue*, the *NARA*

print publication featuring stores from *NARA* records. The final print publication was retired in 2018.

The website section, *Start Your Family Research*, provides some video programs as aids. Reproductions of microfilmed records can be obtained, either for rent or purchase. The section, *The Twelve Key*, has information about researching at *NARA* also. *NARA* records can also be found online in other places such as the *Office of Coast Survey* maps (NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), *TopoView* (USGS – The US Geological Survey), the *GLO* website (General Land Office), and *Mapping the Freedmen's Bureau* website.

NARA will not send a record if it has already been scanned digitally. All electronic orders are backed up. *Civil Service Records* are stored at the St. Louis center.

A distinction was made between the *Library of Congress* and *NARA*. While *NARA's* mission is to keep records created by the federal government, the *Library of Congress* holds copyrighted materials. The *Regional Centers* contain the original copies of documents which were recorded in that region, although copies of the federal records from anywhere in the country can be accessed from any *Regional Center* and the *NARA* main center.

It was recommended that interested genealogists consider enrolling in the special one-week course, known as *Gen-Fed* (Genealogical Institute on Federal Records), which is given in Washington at *NARA* each summer.

**CAPE COD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1394
HARWICH, MA 02365**

Dear Member,

The year 2020 is finally winding down and it's CCGS renewal time once again. Attached is an invoice for your 2021 annual dues. Payment is due no later than January 1, 2021. To ensure accurate member information as well as proper processing of your payment, please complete the attached form and return it with your check to:

Cape Cod Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1394
Harwich, MA 02645

To our Honorary Members: although no dues payment is requested, we ask that you complete the renewal form and return it to the address listed above in order for us to verify and/or update our records.

The year 2021 promises to be rich in local and family history, as Plymouth and Cape Cod celebrate, hopefully, the postponed 2020 celebration of the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims. Whether you have Mayflower roots, Cape Cod roots, or have an appreciation of the important role the Cape played in this amazing story, you won't want to miss a minute.

Another important celebration is also coming up. We will be starting the festivities of **The Cape Cod Genealogical Society's 50th Anniversary**. Stay tuned and plan to join us in the festivities.

We appreciate your support of CCGS and look forward to your ongoing involvement with the Society. Remember, our meetings are now on ZOOM and you can attend no matter where you live. Renew today and continue to enjoy the great speakers, the Special Interest Groups, the Journal, and all the other benefits that come with membership.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jo Anne Makely
Membership Chair
jamakely@gmail.com

CAPE COD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1394, HARWICH, MA 02645

2021 Annual Dues Invoice

\$30.00 U.S. Membership - \$35.00 Foreign Membership

Please pay dues by January 1, 2021

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Primary Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone #: _____ E-mail address _____

Seasonal Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone #: _____

When will you be at your seasonal address? (for mailing purposes)

From: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ **To:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you receive a printed copy of the CCGS Journal and would like to receive it electronically (accessible via the Members' Area of the CCGS website) please check here: ()

Enclosed is \$30.00 (\$35.00 foreign) for 2021 dues.

I am adding \$ _____ as a donation to the **Library Fund**.

I am adding \$ _____ as a donation to the **General Fund**.

Donations to CCGS are tax deductible under IRS Section 501 (c) (3)

CCGS depends on volunteers. Please indicate below the area(s) in which you can assist.

Education _____ Journal _____

Publicity _____ Research Trips _____

Membership _____ Hospitality _____

Library _____ Conferences _____

Programs _____ Communications Technology _____

Date Received _____ Amount \$ _____

Date Recorded _____ Check # _____

Recorded by _____

Please send form and remittance to: **Cape Cod Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 1394

Harwich, MA 02645

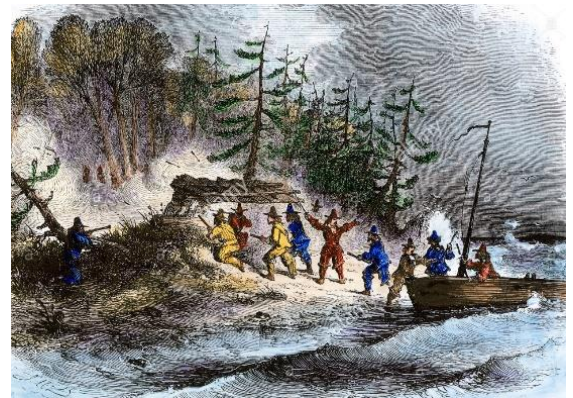
Four Hundred Years Ago - Pilgrim Timeline



December 6 – 20, 1620

**We set off on a final mission,
To make sure Cape Cod could be settled,
But we met up with enemy natives
And we felt as if bedeviled.**

**We extended the exploring as needed,
Beyond Cape Cod land.
We crossed the bay in our shallop,
Our eighteen-member band.**



**We discovered a place with a harbor
Large, ample and wide;
Fresh water, level ground to plant corn
And other good things besides.**

**We returned to the Mayflower,
Told the others what we found;
It was due to God's Providence,
To chance upon this ground.**

**And so we weighed anchor
And sailed across Cape Cod Bay,
North to Plymouth Harbor
As this was where we would stay.**

*In the words of Mayflower Passenger
Stephen Hopkins;
Poem by editor Pam Eaton
"Stephen Hopkins is my Name"*



CCGS Calendar

December 1, Tuesday
German SIG, 10:00 AM

December 1, Tuesday
DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

December 2, Wednesday
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

December 8, Tuesday
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

December 15, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM EST
Our Members Share
Bylaw Vote

December 18, Friday
Writers SIG, 10:00 AM

January 6, Wednesday
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

January 18, Monday
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

January 19, Tuesday
Membership Meeting 10:00 AM
Donna Moughty

February 15, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Ray Sears
Self-publication

March 16, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Todd Kelley and Marcus Hendricks
Two Worlds: Overview of First People

April 20, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Diana Elder

May 18, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Diane Beaumont

June 15, Tuesday
Annual Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Rick Sayre
Land Records

July 20, Tuesday
Special Summer Meeting, 10:00 AM
Ari Wilkins

August 25, Wednesday
CCGS 50th Anniversary Celebration

October 16, Saturday
Fall Seminar, All Day Event
CCGS 50th Anniversary Celebration