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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 8 Issue 5 May 2021

Greetings!

**Please join us at our next Meeting
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 10:00 AM, EDT via [Zoom](#)**

Members will receive more details before the meeting on how to register.

*The Real Life of Vital Records
Secrets to Finding them Today
with Diane Boumenot*



Understanding when, where and why vital records were created, and the changes in those practices over the years, can help us find them today. Learn how to use copies, abstracts, indexes and "substitutes" on the path to the best record. Improve your family history research today by maximizing your ability to locate the records that tie generations together.

Diane MacLean Boumenot specializes in southern New England family history research and publishes genealogical guidance on her website, *One Rhode Island Family*. In 2018 she co-authored, with Maureen Taylor, the National Genealogical Society's NGS Research in the States volume, *Research in Rhode Island*. Diane speaks locally and also on Legacy Family Tree Webinars. She holds a B.A. in American History and English from Wesleyan University. Diane was also a graduate of ProGen 28 and Coordinator of Progen 40. She is currently serving as Vice President of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society and on the Membership Committee, National Genealogical Society.

A Message from the CCGS President Walter Murphy

I recently had the opportunity to view a spreadsheet list of our Society's membership. We currently have about 260 members. While that is down somewhat from a few years ago, we still have members in more than half the states from coast to coast (plus D.C. and Canada). Of note, more than 90% of our members have shared their email address, which makes communicating in these virtual times relatively manageable.

In past messages I have noted how vibrant our Society is. With that in mind, there are several reasons why – despite that vibrancy – our membership has declined in recent years. Most notably, of course, is the impact of the pandemic over the past 14 months. While active attendance at our various virtual meetings has been robust, it is quite likely that sheltering in place has had an impact on our membership as a whole.

Another reason is demographics. It is no secret that we are, for the most part, a bunch of senior citizens. I don't have any numbers, but I am willing to bet that the average age of our membership has increased in the last couple of years. As a result, participation in genealogical activities could be expected to become increasingly problematic.

A final – and related – reason why our membership has declined is that we have not been very good at attracting new, younger members. We had hoped to begin to address that issue last year with plans to hold meetings at more convenient times for those with full-time jobs (and kids!). Then Covid took the wind out of those sails. One of the goals of our 50th Anniversary Committee is to reach out to – and attract – new and younger members. “Younger” not only means the aforementioned working adults, but it also means developing programs and activities at times that will interest a more youthful audience, e.g., college and high school – and even younger – kids.

Not surprisingly, the Anniversary Committee will be asking for volunteers and contributions. As plans are revealed for celebrating the Society's first 50 years, be alert for (and embrace) new, imaginative ideas that will lay the foundation for the next 50.

As usual, please remember to stay *Home* (as often as possible), stay *Safe*, and stay *Healthy*.

Walter (16 at heart) (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)



**Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne
Memorial Day 2011
Photo by Pam Eaton**

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 from 10:00 AM to Noon (except in July and August). In non-COVID times, the SIG meets at the Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Avenue, Dennis Port. The next SIG will be held on **May 11**, the focus being on *DNA Cousins Redux*. *We will also focus part of the meeting on some things that our members are doing – you will have to join us to find out what these things are.*

The last time we explored DNA, Walter Murphy, who chairs the DNA SIG, gave us an overview of DNA testing, what you can expect and what you can do with the information on DNA “cousins” that you will begin to receive from your testing service. We are not going to repeat that. I am hopeful that we can demonstrate some actual examples of genealogical information developed as a result of contacting “cousins.”

More about us: With the onset of COVID-19, the **Computer Users SIG** began meeting on Zoom. Joining us on Zoom is easy and free; all you need is a computer, tablet, or smart phone ... and an invitation! If you are a CCGS member and are not on the invitation list for this SIG, send a message to info@capecodgenealogy.org and ask to be added to the list. After the pandemic is behind us, we will resume meeting at the Dennis Public Library, but will continue with Zoom, so that we can continue to grow and support our members that do not live locally.

We are all about places to search, ways to get organized, what to do with photos and how to get the most out of DNA testing. We also offer software suggestions, back-up strategies, managing and enhancing photos, mapping your ancestors, writing their story and using style guides. These, and more, are the topics we delve into when we meet. We try to have a handout that will cover all the discussion points so note-taking is minimized.

Join CCGS, then join us! Help us select the topics that are important to you.

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 **May 4**. 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 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 101 questions/problems followed by time for “old hands.”

The upcoming **May 4** meeting will include a review of all of the free tools on **DNA Painter**. For those who want to get a head start, a link to an introductory webinar can be found on the site's home page (<https://dnapainter.com/>).

German

Leader **Ann Croston** Dennisvillagetour@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next SIG will be held on **May 4**. The meeting's topic will be *Where to get German Genealogical Help, Free and Not Free*.

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** patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting usually on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next SIG will be held on Monday, **May 24**.

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 **May 21**. 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
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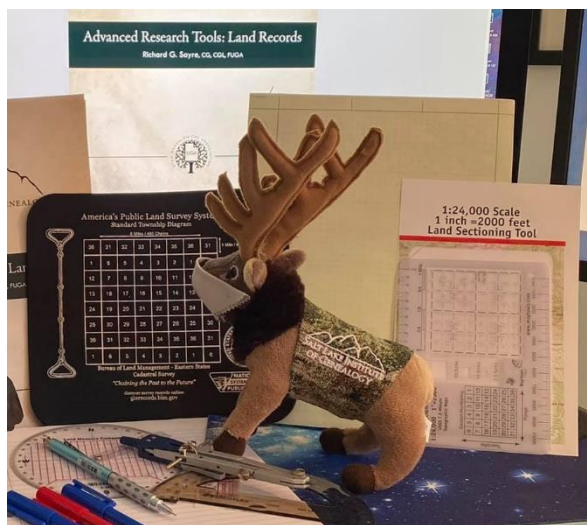
I want to be prepared for all the upcoming events of CCGS. I'm all ready for Diane Boumenot's presentation coming up this month and now I'm working on Rick Sayre's June talk, "Ohio Land Records." You can see me here using various "tools" to understand just what exactly he will be showing us. Will he give us a test? I'll be ready!

Self-Reflection Time!!

*We're busy as can be, Kathy and me.
Researching charts and my family tree.*

*Discovered a cousin up in Kennebunk, Maine.
Kathy said we should visit; travel by train.*

*I said, heck no! Throw a saddle on my back!
We can ride 1850s style; don't need no Cadillac!*



Why are people afraid of computers?
They byte!

50th Anniversary of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

The Committee continues to develop plans for our Anniversary Celebration, which is scheduled to begin on August 25, 2021, with a special meeting to celebrate the actual date of our anniversary. We are planning to highlight many of the historic events during the CCGS fifty years and we will need some help from our members along the way.

We are looking for the history of the Society!

Right now, we are especially in need of older photographs and memories of previous members who are no longer with us. Especially valuable would be anything before the past twenty years. Most of us were not members back then; but there are some of you who were! Also, we have current members who are descended from prior members. Do you have any photos or memorabilia from those earlier years of CCGS history?

Do you have any special memories, of an event or a person, perhaps, that you would like to share with us? As genealogists, we are all aware of the importance of the stories and photos from the past. The history of our Society is no different.

If you can help us out, please email info@capecodgenealogy.org or joan.frederici@capecodgenealogy.org.

Walter has again mentioned in his President's Message that we will be needing more help in the months ahead, as well as funding to make this all happen. Together we will make the 2021-2022 celebration year a great success!

~ Joan Frederici



Ever wonder what the **Board of Directors** discuss at the Board Meetings? Board Meetings are open to all members of the CCGS, excepting those instances when a motion for an executive session is approved. Usually, the Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please let the President, Walter Murphy, know at wmgenealogy@gmail.com so he can send you a Zoom invitation. The Board would welcome any visitor!



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.

**What building is the tallest?
The Library.
Because it has the most stories.**



It is with sadness that we share the news of the death of Mary Choppa. Mary was known to many of our members from her volunteer work with both NERGC and TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association). She had served in many leadership positions within TIARA for many years and helped organize their annual research trips to Ireland. She also was one of the founders of the Celtic Connections Conference, a collaboration between TIARA and the Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI).

At the NERGC 2019 conference, Mary received the *Genealogy Volunteer Award*, which is presented at each conference to an individual who has provided outstanding volunteer service to NERGC or its member societies and to the field of genealogy, over and above the job they were elected or appointed to do.



**NERGC Board of Directors President, John Leppman,
Congratulates Mary Choppa, Receiving
The NERGC 2019 Genealogy Volunteer Award**

New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference

NERGC 2021 Is Happening!

By NERGC Delegate, Joan Frederici

Here it is May already and the NERGC Virtual Conference 2021 has reached the halfway point. But, it is not too late to participate — you have the entire month of May to catch up! Besides the great *On-Demand* sessions, which are available through May 31, there are a number of special programs and events yet to come.

There are five **Special Interest Groups** remaining — Irish (May 6), Scandinavian (May 14), DNA (May 22), African American (May 24), and Eastern European Naming Patterns (May 27). These sessions are live and do have a limited capacity, so if any of these are of interest to you, don't waste time before signing up ... also, if you are already signed up, but find you are unable to attend, please modify your registration to release that spot for another person.

Of course, the **Exhibit Hall** is open daily for you to browse through. Take a look at what the various booths offer as links and/or downloads; but also spend some virtual time in these areas and say hello to the people working in the booths, so they know you have visited. If you would like to speak to someone and the booth is not staffed, you may contact them by using the “Contact Us” button in their booth, then provide your name, email, and a message.

Also, in the Exhibit Hall area will be the second day of the **Libraries, Archives, and Museums**, Wednesday, May 12, and the third day of the **Society Fair**, Sunday, May 16. The participating organizations share information and links related to their organizations, as well as live hours when you will be able to talk to a host. (I recommend visiting Dyer Memorial Library and Archives, on May 12, in particular... they have cookies!! ... and, for those who enjoy puzzles, check out their links!)

Finally, please do not forget to share your evaluations of the speakers and programs you attended. These evaluations are very important to us; your feedback is the basis for improvements to the program for future conferences. Yes, we DO read every evaluation!! To evaluate the sessions you've attended, visit the HAVE FEEDBACK area of the MY EVENT tab, in the Virtual Attendee Hub. At the end of May, all attendees will receive a general conference survey in your email. This is also very important to us, as it collects information on many aspects of the entire conference, besides the speakers.

**Don't interrupt someone working intently on a puzzle.
Chances are you'll hear some crosswords.**

Program Summary of the March Meeting

Written by *David Martin*

The meeting recording is available for viewing in the Members section of the CCGS website.

www.capecodgenealogy.org

Getting Organized One Paper at a Time by *Diana Elder*

For its monthly program for April 2021, the Society enjoyed a presentation by Diana Elder of Salt Lake City on the subject of organizing one's genealogy. She emphasized the importance of having some kind of a planned system.



She addressed personal data bases, with a focus on electronic media. Her initial work, as with many other genealogists, used *Personal Ancestral File* (PAF). When that program closed, she identified other alternatives. One option is to use online trees, such as through *Ancestry*, *Findmypast*, or *MyHeritage*; in this approach, there is a risk of losing data or no longer having access to it if one's subscription should expire, although an advantage is that they synchronize research with online data sources. She stressed the need to do back up; these files are able to be shared. Another option is the use of genealogical software; examples are *Family Tree*

Maker, *Legacy*, *RootsMagic*, and *Ancestral Quest*. Some, but not all, are usable for both a Mac or a PC. She encouraged exploration of each. The pricing is reasonable.

She then focused on sharing. GEDCOM is the mechanism that works well for sharing data with others as well as transferring data from one source to another. Storing one's data in the cloud can be done through *Google Drive*, *Dropbox*, or *Microsoft OneDrive*. When using an electronic filing system, the method of organization needs to be decided. A frequent choice is to organize according to surnames; in this system, women should be listed by their maiden names. She also creates a timeline for her document collection by listing the date of the data entry.

Paper filing, on the other hand, is also important. Paper documents which need careful preservation and filing would include: old letters, manuscripts, certificates, anything handwritten, and any other archival type items. They can be organized in either folders or 3-ring binders. The system of organization could be either by surname, locale, or some numbering system. These documents can also be linked in the software program that one uses.

She also discussed research aids. She pointed out that in the process of note taking, one could use either of the programs known as *Microsoft OneNote* or *Evernote*.



CCGS Calendar

May 4, Tuesday

German SIG, 10:00 AM

May 4, Tuesday

DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

May 5, Wednesday

Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

May 11, Tuesday

Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

May 18, Tuesday

Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM

Diane Boumenot

The Real Life of Vital Records

Secrets to Finding them Today

May 21, Friday

Writers SIG, 10:00 AM

May 24, Monday

Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

June 15, Tuesday

Annual Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM

Rick Sayre

Ohio Land Records,

Unique, Confusing and a Goldmine

July 20, Tuesday

Special Summer Meeting, 10:00 AM

Ari Wilkins

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Census Records,
& City Directories

August 25, Wednesday

CCGS 50th Anniversary Celebration

Kick-off event in late afternoon/early evening

September 21, Tuesday

Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM

Michael Strauss

All in a Day's Work:

Occupational Genealogical Research

October 16, Saturday

Fall Seminar, All Day Event

Eastham Public Library

CCGS 50th Anniversary Celebration

October 19, Tuesday

Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM

Daniel Earl

Funeral Homes & Family History

November 13, Saturday

Joint Membership Meeting

with Falmouth Genealogical Society

December 21, Tuesday

Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM

Our Members Share

Do you have a comment or suggestion?

Perhaps you would like to have an article considered for submission in the Newsletter?

If so, please drop an email to info@genealogy.org and in the subject line, write: *For Newsletter Editor*

Thank you, Newsletter Editor,
Pam Eaton