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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 8 Issue 6

June 2021

Greetings!

**Please join us at our next Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM, EDT via [Zoom](#)**

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

Ohio Land Records Unique, Confusing and a Goldmine with Rick Sayre



Please welcome back Rick Sayre, our speaker from November 2020. This time Rick will be speaking about Ohio Land Records. This presentation is relevant to many Massachusetts lines. Ohio land grants were somewhat complicated, but important to westward migration. Many Mayflower and Cape Cod First Families ended up in Ohio due to the geographical nature of the grants.

Rick Sayre, CG, CGL, FUGA, is a long-time researcher and instructor in genealogical topics and is also a retired colonel having served thirty-one years in the U.S. Army. Rick and his wife Pam coordinate the *Advanced Land Course and Researching* in Washington, D.C., *Without Leaving Home* offered by the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) and the *Advanced Land Course* at Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP). Rick co-coordinates with Judy Russell, JD, CG,

CGL, the Law School for Genealogists at GRIP and the FHL Law Library course at SLIG. He also coordinates the *Using Maps in Genealogy* course at SLIG. Rick also instructs in the *Advanced Methodology* course offered by SLIG. He lectures at national conferences and presents nationwide seminars. His areas of expertise encompass records of the *National Archives*, the *Bureau of Land Management*, and the *Daughters of the American Revolution*, including military records, land records, using maps in genealogy, urban research, and government documents. Rick is experienced in the localities of western Pennsylvania and Ohio. Rick is also a trustee of the *Board for Certification of Genealogists*, and is a past president of BCG.

A Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

Our annual meeting is fast approaching, on Tuesday, June 15. The meeting will be virtual via Zoom. So, once again, we will **not** be having the annual luncheon. I am optimistic that, with the recent progress in vaccinations and the governor's pronouncements, we will be able to gather next year and enjoy good food and good company.

We will be conducting our annual election at this meeting. The candidates and details are highlighted elsewhere in this Newsletter and the election will be conducted online. This will be the first election under the new staggered terms outlined by the bylaws that you recently ratified. In that sense, this election kicks off a new era. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

With the upcoming election in mind – and out of curiosity – I went back and compared the current Board of Directors to the Board of two years ago. After this election is complete, almost half (seven) of the fifteen board members will be new additions, having joined over just the past two years. This speaks well of the willingness of “new faces” to step into leadership positions.

Even so, we still need help. For example, and most importantly, Joan Frederici, past VP, past President, and current Communications Technology chair, has decided to step away from the Board (after only 10 years!). So, on behalf of the Board and the membership, I thank you, Joan, for all you have done for this Society. I look forward to seeing you at in-person meetings in the not-too-distant future.

Joan's departure leaves a vacancy as chair of the Communications Technology Committee. We will be using our website and our other social media outlets over the next year to help update members and advertise to the public about the activities associated with CCGS's 50th anniversary celebration. If you have experience managing and monitoring websites and other means of digital communication, please consider joining the Computer Technology Committee, perhaps even as its chair. It will be a rewarding way to become involved with – and give back to – our Society.

In addition, the Board has authorized the formation of two new committees, a COVID Committee and a Youth Services Committee. The former will plan for the transition from all “at home” meetings to resuming more in-person activities, including such things as issues of liability among other concerns. Jo Anne Makely has volunteered to chair this committee. The Youth Service Committee is a result of the Society's need to look to the future and attract younger members. This need has been identified by the Anniversary Committee and is a factor in the overall planning. Again, please consider joining these committees. If you have any questions, please contact me and I will pass them on.

As I noted in last month's message, the Anniversary Committee will soon be asking for volunteers and contributions. Depending on timing and the post office, you have either already received, or will soon receive, a letter from me asking for your anniversary donation. Please be as generous as you can. While the amount of your donation is obviously important, the Committee would like to see a very high participation rate. Foundations and corporate sponsors will be looking for evidence that our membership is supporting the effort with broad-based contributions before deciding whether to make a donation of their own. Thank you for your help.



As always, and even as COVID restrictions are loosened, please remember to stay *Safe* and to 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). In non-COVID times, the SIG meets at the Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Avenue, Dennis Port. The next SIG will be held on **June 8**, the focus will be twofold. Our scheduled subject is *Courseware and Gifts*.

We will briefly explore the status of genealogical courseware and some genealogical gift suggestions via links to current reviews. The meeting will also focus on what we want to discuss in the coming year as attendees will have an opportunity to determine what topics the group will explore. Need we say more?

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 **June 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 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 **June 1** meeting will include an overview of GEDmatch.com, including real time use of its basic/free tools. If someone wants a head start, GEDmatch's new website has a how-it-works section (<https://www.gedmatch.com/how-it-works>), including a link to a YouTube review. The Group has decided to take a summer vacation, so this meeting will be the last until September.

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 **June 1**. *The meeting's discussion will be on sharing our queries, next research steps, a family story project and planning for 2021-2022.*

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, **June 28**.

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 **June 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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Walter Murphy
Brian O'Donnell
Judy Needham
Bebe Brock
Noreen Cahalane

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
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Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Communications Technology
Librarian
Education
Membership
Publications
Publicity

Just spent 15 minutes searching for my phone in my car while using my phone as a flashlight. 😊

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!



**Please welcome new member
Reverend Dr. Becket Soule**



The 50th Anniversary Committee is diligently working to bring you the best Anniversary EVER! Stay tuned for further details in the July Newsletter.

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.

The U.S. is “opening up.” Last chance to take advantage of this great resource!

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New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference

NERGC – A Success!

By NERGC Delegate, Joan Frederici

with statistics from Jonathan Stevens, NERGC Newsletter Editor

11,821 total views of sessions
5,588 during scheduled times for our
gathering and track days
94 sessions viewed 6,233 times as on-demand
13 popular sessions with over 100 on demand views

Me: This show is boring.

Boss: Again, this is a Zoom conference.

Hahahahahaha ... NERGC was NOT boring!

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR, 2021 -2022



PRESIDENT (One Year): Walter Murphy is President of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. He began his genealogical journey in 1974, within months of the passing of his paternal grandfather (and the loss of all the information that went with him). In addition to CCGS, he is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Mayflower Society, and the Sons of the American Revolution. Walter lives in Harwich, Massachusetts.

VICE-PRESIDENT (Two Years): Kathy Kaldis, a professional genealogist, holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and has completed many advanced level genealogical institute courses. She is very active in the genealogical community, serving in many leadership positions for a number of organizations. She is a proud member of the Lexington, MA DAR, and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Kathy grew up on Cape Cod and currently resides in Leominster, Massachusetts.



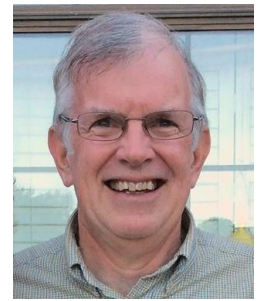
RECORDING SECRETARY (One Year): Judy Needham has served on the board of directors of CCGS for several years, first as a Director-at-Large and, currently, as the Recording Secretary. She is a Life Member of New England Historical and Genealogical Society and a former Governor of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants. She has Cape Cod roots and has been fascinated by her ancestors and their stories most of her life. She is currently living in South Yarmouth, Massachusetts.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY (Two Years): Bebe Brock. Melvina H. “Bebe” Brock is the current Corresponding Secretary of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. Following in the footsteps of her two grandmothers, a great-grandmother and a great aunt, all of whom joined the Daughters of the American Revolution in the 1930s, she has been researching for over fifty years. She lives in Centerville, Massachusetts.



TREASURER (Two Years): Nancy Daniels. After moving to Cape Cod in 2002, Nancy joined CCGS and before long was elected Treasurer of the Society, a position she enjoyed for many years. After stepping down from the board, she continued as a volunteer for the Education Committee and in the genealogy room at the library. Currently, she has decided to return to the board, once again as Treasurer.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (Two Years): L. Ray Sears, III has been a member of CCGS for over 30 years, researching the Sears Family history since 1976. He has published many books about the family and moderates the Sears Family Association website (SearsR.com) and published the 2nd Edition of the *Sears Genealogical Catalogue* in 2019. His family has lived on Quivet Neck in East Dennis since the original Richard Sears arrived in 1639. He is a member of the Cape Cod Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Massachusetts Chapter of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. He edited the Society's *Bulletin* for many years and has now assembled the *Journal of the CCGS* for eleven years. His blogsite, <http://capecodfolks.blogspot.com/> focuses on his work on Cape Cod ancestors. His new book *Let Go To Listen* (<https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/CapeCodRuminations>) is a compilation of ruminations that you have read in the CCGS publications. He has a B.S. Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon and an MBA from the University of Utah. He has held professional engineering licenses in Massachusetts and Oklahoma and can be reached at LRSears@gmail.com.



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (Two Years) & NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One Year): Judy Jones has been a board member for the past two years and is interested in serving another 2-year term as a Director-at-Large. Many will recognize her from her role on the Hospitality Committee, pre-pandemic, as she arrived for our Tuesday morning meetings, following a stop at Dunkin's for coffee and munchkins.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One Year): Pat Flaherty has been a member of the Cape Cod Genealogy Society since 2016 and currently facilitates the Irish Special Interest Group. Pat began interviewing family members about their lives close to 50 years ago, continuing as time permitted during her career in the financial services industry. Upon retirement in 2004, family history became front and center. A life-long student, with a B.S. in Management from the University of Massachusetts Boston and an M.B.A. from Northeastern University, she completed the Certificate in Genealogical Research at Boston University in 2010. Having spent summers in Harwich Port when growing up, Pat now splits time between West Harwich and Boston, when she and her husband are not traveling the world.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One Year): Bob Oppenheim

I've been a member of the CCGS for maybe ten years, could be eight, I'm really not sure. I have enjoyed and participated in the Computer User's, German, Writer's and DNA SIGs. I have been the Chair of the Computer User's SIG since the 2018-19 session. My interest in and pursuit of genealogy goes back over thirty years (when *Family Tree Maker* was a Broderbund product) and you had to buy ship manifests on CDs). My personal genealogy work product is undergoing a re-do to upgrade my source documentation.

Program Summary of the May Meeting

Written by *David Martin*

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

www.capecodgenealogy.org

The Real Life of Vital Records, Secrets to Finding Them Today by Diane MacLean Boumenot



Diane MacLean Boumenot, professional genealogist, provided an in-depth description of vital records and their types and locations, particularly for New England. Court records are an important source for information such as land records, probate records, adoptions, and divorces.

In the Colonial era, marriages were recorded often by the officiant and sometimes by families. During this time, there were no town halls; the town clerk recorded information, often at her or his own home. A fee was required for registration, which probably held off some people from recording events. Today we find that the Colonial era records have often been taken as paper copies and re-ordered (sometimes confusingly) and then bound in leather volumes during the nineteenth century. The town clerk created the name for such volumes. During this time, we also need to remember that numerous original towns were divided or split off from each other; therefore, it is important to know which town existed at the time of the event being researched, rather than the present-day town if there had been a later division.

The anatomy of an early vital record may be very comprehensive in some compilations, including marriage and all or some of the children in a family, and deaths, all in the same entry. Looking at the date of the recording is fundamental. The indexes may be misleading because if the first letter of a name was misread, then that name will be entered in the wrong alphabetical sequence.

The life cycle of a colonial record is helpful to consider. In the alphabetic index, all of the names beginning with a particular letter may be listed without regard to the alphabetic order of the full spelling; so, if your ancestor's name began with a "c", you should look through ALL of the c's in that index to see if you can find him or her. Some abstracts were published during the nineteenth century, and microfilming was done in the twentieth century. In the 1990s, the use of the Internet began; genealogical data were not image-driven, but rather text-driven. Optical Character Recognition recording began to be put online, with attendant errors due to the misreading of original writing by the OCR process. Then came digitization with new and more accurate indexing. Today records are pulled together from several sources at once, and then labeled (and sometimes the labeling is flawed).

One should always use the Internet to try to get back to the original record if possible. In the period from the end of the Revolution up to about 1850, the records were not always reliable. Sometimes typescripts from several sources became combined together. Sometimes town records were used, and sometimes collections of newspaper clippings were assembled. Some dates can also be wrong and flaws in transcription occurred due to issues such as typesetting, misreading, and different handwriting styles from different periods of time. Torrey's compilation of marriages is considered to be of good quality, as is the recent work known as the *Great Migration Project*; historical societies may have useful data. The data from the *Daughters of the American*

Revolution is considered to be of high quality. In using the *FamilySearch* program, one should “drill down” to find further information; a place can be entered in the search box in order to find out the resources that are available for that location.

How shall we know when we have found an original record? We need to ask a series of questions:

- Is it in a published book of records?
- Is it handwritten? If so, is the handwriting all the same? Is the writing with the same pen?
- Does the record appear that it was not all written on the same day (i.e., after the event)?

We need to save all of the information on the title and its location in order to have an accurate citation.

Why can we not find some vital records? Several reasons could apply. The event was never recorded at all; in the period between the Revolution and 1850, only about one quarter of the events were recorded. They may have been lost to fire, or may be misspelled. Perhaps the church or town where the event occurred is in a different place than where the ancestor lived.

The state-level recording of vital records for Massachusetts began in 1841, by centralizing the data collected by the towns. The original town records tend to be more accurate than the state records. The need for the state to become involved is that the population was becoming more mobile - people were not being born, living, and dying close to the same locale - they had to branch out to find a spouse and to seek employment. In today’s state records, data also include address, marriage information, employment, and birthplace. Marriage Intention Documents provide the maiden names of wives. Sometimes printed forms were given to doctors and mid-wives to fill in at the time of an event and then sent to the state for compilation into a record book; often these original forms were then destroyed. However, some of these forms still exist and have been microfilmed and can be valuable original records. For all states, it is important to know the following: the relationships between churches and the government; when the state started to mandate the keeping of vital records; what data were filmed; what indexing projects the state has initiated.

In building evidence without vital records, a number of resources can be substitutes, including transcribed bible records, divorce records as a method of determining a marriage record, cemetery plot cards, church records, military pension records, census information (although one cannot assume that all the children listed in a household record are the children of the head of household), newspapers with particular emphasis on obituaries, immigration records, and naturalization records. Marriage records are the event most often recorded in newspapers.

When visiting a Town Clerk’s office as a genealogist, it is important to dress well, be patient, be friendly and say that you “request” a copy of the original record.



**Corporation Beach, Dennis
On a Chilly Spring Day**

CCGS Calendar

June 1, Tuesday

German SIG, 10:00 AM

June 1, Tuesday

DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

June 2, Wednesday

Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

June 8, Tuesday

Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

June 15, Tuesday

Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM

Rick Sayre

Ohio Land Records

Unique, Confusing and a Goldmine

June 18, Friday

Writers SIG, 10:00 AM

June 28, Monday

Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

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

Lisa Louise Cooke

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