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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 8 Issue 7 July 2021

Greetings!

**Please join us at our next Meeting
Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 10:00 AM, EDT via [Zoom](#)**

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

Reconstructing Communities Using Sanborn Insurance Maps, Census Records and City Directories with Ari Wilkins



Recreating neighborhoods can provide rich and insightful details about an ancestor's life and surroundings. This lecture will demonstrate ways to build a map using Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, census records, and city directories in Google Maps.

Ari Wilkins graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in interior design.

She has been actively researching family history since 1998. Ms. Wilkins has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, the American Library Association, RootsTech, and a multitude of state and local societies.

Ari has been a Library Associate at Dallas Public Library since 2007. She speaks on a multitude of genealogical subjects and specializes in African American research.

A Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

What a difference a few years make. A review of the past five years revealed that no newsletters were published during July-August 2016. Then, in each of the following three years, there was a single summer edition. Last year, in the Summer of COVID, there was no newsletter, but “special” president’s messages were sent out in both July and August. Now, here it is 2021 and *lots* is going on. As a result, our esteemed editor, Pam Eaton, has given her blessing and you can expect to see newsletters in both July and August (which appears to be something of a first).

In addition to our regularly scheduled activities, the *lots* of things that will be going on in the weeks and months ahead begins with the public kick-off for our 50th Anniversary Celebration. That will be held at the gazebo on **August 25** on the Village Green at the corner of Old Bass River Road and Route 6A in Dennis. More details will follow.

Then, on Saturday, **October 16**, we will be conducting our virtual Genealogy Day. This event will also be open to the public and will offer a great array of presentations and consultations. We will also take that opportunity to begin to sell tickets for the April 2022 Gala.

You all recently received a letter from me noting that part of our budget included donations from the membership. While the dollar amounts are obviously important, broad participation is something that foundations and others look at when deciding whether or how much to donate. So, I am happy to report that over 20% of the membership quickly responded with a donation either by check or through the new donate button on our website! And, just as gratifying, the two most popular amounts were \$50 (50 for the 50th!) and \$100. I expect to report a similarly strong flow of supporting donations in next month’s President’s Message (hint, hint).

As an important aside, the planning for the 50th (especially our application for a grant) has been the catalyst to begin to record our volunteer hours in more detail. Indeed, we will likely have to verify our volunteer hours to grantors in order to show how we are making use of their grant money. With that in mind, our Board, Committee Chairs, and SIG leaders have already been asked to record their hours using the Clockify platform. The early results make it apparent that our actual totals for the rest of the year will be much higher than originally estimated. You can expect to see and hear more about this.

On a totally different subject, please look at **page 5** where you will see the new Board of Directors and Committee chairs. All of the nominees were elected in a landslide vote in the recent election, and I look forward to working with everyone in what promises to be an exciting and fruitful next twelve months. With the election now in the rear-view mirror, I am taking this opportunity to publicly thank **Noreen Cahalane** and **Suzanne Walton** for their time on the Board. Noreen has stepped down as Treasurer and Suzanne was not eligible to continue as Director-at-Large due to term limits. Thank you, Noreen and Suzanne!

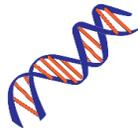
Finally, summer is here (along with the initial surge of summer visitors) and COVID restrictions have been greatly reduced. While it is great to get out and about, please remember to continue to stay *Safe* and to stay *Healthy*.

Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)

Happy Birthday America!

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, but Sturgis Library in Barnstable is opening up. If all goes well, Bebe will begin holding meetings there on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The first one scheduled is **September 28** at 1:00 PM.

Computer Users

Leader **Bob Oppenheim** roppen@msn.com holds a meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM (except in July and August). When the library reopens, post-COVID, the meeting will be held at the Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Avenue, Dennis Port. Meetings held at the library will be simulcast on Zoom and all of the members will get an invitation to join us on Zoom, just like we have been doing for our season that ended June 2021. Any changes to this arrangement will be emailed to the membership and published in the newsletter, time permitting. The next SIG will be held on **September 14, 2021**. Our member, Ray Sears, is going to talk to us about WikiTree. I, for one, have no idea what a membership and participation in WikiTree can do to help me with my genealogy. I suspect that I will have a better idea after we hear from Ray.

More about us: Our fifteen months in isolation because of COVID-19, taught us, the **Computer Users' SIG**, how to reach out to our members using Zoom. We found out that meeting on Zoom was easy and acceptable by most, preferred by some, and attractive to several members who live off-Cape and would otherwise be unable to attend in-person meetings. If meeting us off-line, joining us on Zoom is easy and free. All you need is a computer, tablet, or smart phone ... and an invitation! If you think that you have not been receiving invitations to join us or if you are a CCGS member and want to see what we are about, send a message to info@capecodgenealogy.org and ask to be added to the list.

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 has been holding a Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM. Walter sends out an agenda and a Zoom invitation to register for each session. 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.”

With the arrival of summer, the Group has decided to enjoy a two-month hiatus. The next meeting is planned for **September 7**. However, in the ensuing weeks, Walter will send emails to the distribution list as DNA developments warrant. If you are interested in being kept up-to-date, but are not yet a member of this SIG, send Walter an email.

German

Leader **Ann Croston** acroston125@comcast.net advises that there are no meetings scheduled for this summer. Ann, however, will continue to communicate by email and on our Facebook page, Cape Cod Genealogical Society - German SIG, when items of interest come up. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **October 5** at 10:00 AM.

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 advises that the group will meet during the summer. She holds a Zoom meeting usually on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next SIG will be held on Monday, **July 26**.

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 **September 17**. The group is taking a summer break and not holding meetings in July and August. It is our hope to resume meetings in a hybrid format of “in-person” and “Zoom” in September if the libraries are open to group meetings at that time.

Anyone with an interest in sharing their writing with the group regarding personal genealogy or about family members (including pets), anything historical, current event topics, articles of personal satisfaction and more are most welcome. We explore many styles of writing and narrative, even poetry and discovered family letters, as well as discuss the possibilities of publication.

Everyone is welcome to participate and share their work, writing tips and techniques. If you do not have anything to share, join us anyway. You may become inspired!



**Cape Cod Genealogical Society
Board of Directors 2021-2022**

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Walter Murphy
Kathy Kaldis
Judy Needham
Bebe Brock
Nancy Daniels

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer

Mailing address:

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

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L. Ray Sears
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Immediate Past President
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Director at Large
Communications Technology
Library
Education
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Publications
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Please Welcome our Voted-in Slate of Officers and Committee Chairs
for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

President, Walter Murphy
Vice-President, Kathy Kaldis
Recording Secretary, Judy Needham
Corresponding Secretary, Bebe Brock
Treasurer, Nancy Daniels
Director-at-Large, L. Ray Sears
Director-at-Large & Nominating Committee, Judy Jones
Nominating Committee, Pat Flaherty
Nominating Committee, Bob Oppenheim
Director-at-Large (Appointed), Brian O'Donnell

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!





50th Anniversary Committee Update

Since last month's Newsletter, a lot of progress has been made in the planning for our 50th Anniversary. In addition to the details regarding the kick-off event in August at the Gazebo on the Dennis Village Green and the Genealogy Day in October mentioned earlier in the President's Message, a grant application was filed with the Cape Cod Foundation in early June. If approved, this grant will be one of the four sources of funds that will help us celebrate our anniversary in the manner it deserves and – at least as importantly – help us attract the new members that will lay the groundwork for the Society's growth over the next 50 years.

That grant proposal included proposed activities for schools, specifically involving 25 third-grade classes in public and private schools. In order to facilitate this activity, the Board approved the nomination of Kathy Kaldis as chair of a new Youth Services Committee. If this interests you, please step up and become a member of this important new committee. Please contact President, Walter Murphy at wmgenealogy@gmail.com.

Other important items of the Anniversary Committee include the following:

- The approval of a new CCGS logo that will allow us the flexibility to highlight our 50th;
- Increased branding to enhance our visibility;
- The expansion of our Cape Cod Resources Book (highlighted in our current Journal);
- Progress toward an archival round-table in April 2022 (which includes primary sources for Cape Cod records, even if they are off-Cape).

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 6.



Gazebo on Dennis Village Green

**A Message from Librarian
Carol Magenau**

Help Wanted!

Are you an experienced genealogy researcher who would enjoy helping others in their quests? Are you available Tuesdays (1-4), Thursdays (10-4) and/or Saturday mornings (10-noon)? The CCGS Library is looking to add to our roster of dedicated volunteers to staff our room in the Dennis Public Library, located at 5 Hall Street in Dennis Port.

Library volunteers commit to one or more regular monthly shifts of two or three hours. An orientation to the collection is provided, and you are encouraged to spend a shift observing with another volunteer before flying solo. When there are no customers during your shift, you can get to know the resources we have by pursuing your own research!

At this point I have not decided when regular hours will resume post-COVID, but it will likely be in August or September. Please contact me at librarian@capecodgenealogy.org if you would like to contribute to the Society by helping out in the library. I hope you will join us!

~ Carol Magenau, CCGS Librarian



**Program Summary of the
June 2021 Meeting**

Written by *William Horrocks*

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

**Ohio Land Records
Unique, Confusing and a Goldmine
by Rick Sayre**



The monthly meeting of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society on 15 June 2021 featured a talk by distinguished genealogist Rick Sayre.

Unique, yes. Confusing, **definitely**. A Goldmine, ?

Sayre's talk, which was expertly presented and handsomely illustrated, involved records and maps dating from a relatively unknown period in American history, after the Revolution, but before the United States had an organized central government under the U.S. Constitution. It was a time when the Congress of the Confederation (of

the thirteen original colonies) was in charge, but which had very little power and had no mandate to raise tax revenues.

There was a large area, mostly unsettled except by native peoples, west of the mid-Atlantic and New England states of today and had been yielded to the United States by Britain by the 1783 Treaty of Paris, which ended the American War for Independence. It was bounded on the north by the Great Lakes and British Canada (the French lost their American lands to Britain in the "Seven Years War" and the Treaty of Paris), and bounded on the west by the Mississippi River, beyond which was territory claimed by Spain as Spanish Louisiana. The southern border was the Ohio River, with the eastern boundary being Pennsylvania and the Appalachian Mountains.

The Congress was interested in establishing new states in the area, particularly to raise funds for the Treasury by selling off parcels of land to settlers and others. To these ends, the Northwest Ordinance was issued in 1787. For example, Connecticut claimed all of the land to its west as far as the Mississippi River as its "Western Reserve." Congress established the Northwest Territory (not to be confused with the frigid Canadian area of the same name). It was from this large tract that the present-day states of Ohio (1803), Indiana (1816),

Illinois (1818), Michigan (1837), Wisconsin (1848), and Minnesota (1858) were admitted to the Union, one-by-one in the years indicated. The first U.S. Congress reaffirmed a slightly modified Ordinance in 1789. The Northwest Territory was slave-free, which turned out to be very important later.

In order for the government to sell parcels of land, it was first necessary to obtain accurate surveys and to establish who owned what. The Ohio segment became the pilot experiment for the Public Land Survey System (PLSS). It was not simple. The land was divided into more than twelve surveys or tracts with names such as Seven Ranges, Ohio Company's Purchase, Connecticut Western Reserve, Virginia Military District, and Congress Lands, to name just a few. Sayre made a careful scholarly study of all of it, and the handout accompanying his talk provides a thirty-four-reference bibliography, many of which are online. Sayre also pointed to many map-related resources which are necessary for visualizing the material and making use of it. He recommends a *FamilySearch* Wiki article on Ohio land and property as a useful introduction.

Why would we as genealogists be interested in this material? On one hand, anyone with deep New

England roots may well have ancestors who had migrated to Ohio and therefore find family connections. On the other hand, Sayre is interested because five generations of his ancestors lived in an Ohio county. Sayre did not illustrate how his findings informed his genealogical study of his own family. Perhaps his goal was to illustrate how dogged research can unearth potentially valuable information about land use and real estate transfers in order to yield important insights into the lives of long-dead relatives. If such studies accomplish this goal for any particular individual, then one has discovered a goldmine.

Federal lands in Ohio and elsewhere are listed on the *Bureau of Land Management* (BLM) website. Congressional lands in northwest Ohio are online at the website of the *Library of Congress*. Ohio land deeds are available on the *Marietta College* website and Territorial Papers of the Northwest Territory of Ohio are online at *Familysearch.org*. Frequently the sellers of Ohio lands were non-resident land-owners from places such as Massachusetts, another New England connection. Sayre recommended as further related reading, the work of historian David McCullough, *The Pioneers*.

**Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day.
Teach a person to use the Internet and he won't bother you for
weeks, months, maybe years.**

**Please welcome new members
Eric Grundset
Dwight Fitch**

Hitchhiking Around New England

By Lee MacDonald

Cape Cod in the early 1960s was a different time and a different place. It was a time before shoulder seasons extended the tourist season and retirees increased the year-round population. In the winter you could drive from Dennis to Hyannis on Route 28 and hardly see another car. The Cape was a summer place. Restaurants didn't have to import foreign labor; there were plenty of American college students looking for work on the Cape.

My friend John and I were a part of that summer place. We were in college and were here on school vacation, looking to make a little money and have a good time. One frequent pastime was cruising Hyannis, looking at other people, them looking at us. I had a white Triumph, TR2 sports car. John had a red MGA. * We would put the tops down and ride through town on Main Street, make the loop and do it again. Sometimes we'd just pull into a parking lot and walk around.



Lee in his TR2 about 1965



MGA* Similar to
John's

It was on one of these trips to Hyannis, by the Mill Hill Club that we came upon two women, about our age, "thumbing" a ride. Naturally, we stopped to give them a ride. Since we each had two-seater cars, one joined me and one joined John. That was the start of summer romances for both of us.

But alas, summer romances usually end on Labor Day when the tortuous trip off the Cape, back to reality began. The women went back to school in Connecticut. John and I went our separate ways in the Boston area. But in my case the romance didn't end. By significantly jacking up my parent's long-distance phone bill, I kept the romance alive.

But dating would be more difficult. I was going to school in Boston; she was 150 miles away in Connecticut. I put the TR2 away for the winter. It didn't do well in the cold or snow. Somehow, I thought that the only option was to "thumb" to Connecticut. I traveled back and forth to Wentworth Institute, a two-year technical school in Boston on public transportation every weekday. Boston was the birthplace of public transportation, but somehow it never occurred to me that public transportation would be a logical alternative to thumbing.

About once a month on Fridays, I would pack my suitcase and ride the MTA to school. It would become the MBTA in 1964. I would carry my suitcase between classes and then after school ride the "T" to a station near the "Mass Pike." On my suitcase, I had taped a handwritten sign on one side saying NEW HAVEN and on the other side, BOSTON. I would walk from the "T" to the "Mass Pike" entrance ramp, set my suitcase down with the NEW HAVEN side facing on-coming traffic and stick my thumb out.



Usually, it was a truck driver or salesman, looking for some company, who would stop for me. I usually got a ride as far as Hartford, and often all the way to New Haven where her family would pick me up. I stayed the weekend at her family's house and on Sunday, someone would give me a ride back to the Route I-91 entrance ramp and I would place my suitcase down with the BOSTON side facing on-coming traffic and begin the trip back.

Thumbing a ride is a lost mode of transportation, as it should be. I think back on it and I would be mortified if one of my children was "thumbing" around New England. I can't imagine what my mother thought, but being a teenager, I was invulnerable and knew what I was doing, at least, so I thought.

And oh, by the way, John and I married those women.

* **Photo Credit:** Wikimedia Commons contributors, "File: MGA 1600 (1960).jpg," Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:MGA_1600_\(1960\).jpg&oldid=480101526](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:MGA_1600_(1960).jpg&oldid=480101526) (accessed June 27, 2021).



**Happy and Safe 4th of July
Photo by Pam Eaton**

CCGS Calendar

July 7, Wednesday
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

July 20, Tuesday
Special Summer Meeting, 10:00 AM
Ari Wilkins
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Census Records,
& City Directories

July 26, Monday
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

August 4, Wednesday
Board Meeting 2:00 PM

August 23, Monday
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

August 25, Wednesday
50th Anniversary Celebration
Kick-off event in late afternoon/early evening
Gazebo at Dennis Village Green

September 1, Wednesday
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

Tuesday, September 7
DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

Tuesday, September 14
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

Friday, September 17
Writers SIG, 10:00 AM

September 21, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Michael Strauss
All in a Day's Work:
Occupational Genealogical Research

September 27, Monday
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, September 28
Cape Cod Families SIG, 1:00 PM

Tuesday, October 5
German SIG, 10:00 AM

October 16, Saturday
50th Anniversary Celebration
Genealogy Day
Eastham Public Library

October 19, Tuesday
Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
Daniel Earl
Funeral Homes & Family History

November 13, Saturday
Joint Membership Meeting
with Falmouth Genealogical Society
Lisa Louise Cook

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@capecodgenealogy.org and in the subject line, write: *For Newsletter Editor*

Thank you, Newsletter Editor,
Pam Eaton