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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 8 Issue 8

August 2021

Greetings!



A Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

It's August! It is our 50th Anniversary Month! Let's celebrate!

As everyone knows by now, our wonderful Society was founded on August 25, 1971. In recognition of this, we had planned to have an in-person Kickoff event at the Bandstand in Dennis, on the corner of 6A and Old Bass River Road. Unfortunately, Covid has reared its ugly head again. A new variant is particularly contagious and Barnstable County (and much of Massachusetts) is classified as having "substantial" coronavirus spread. So, even though the event would be outdoors, our membership remains a high-risk group. As a result, your 50th Anniversary Committee has adopted a "Plan B." We now plan to have a virtual Kickoff event for members (in lieu of a regular virtual monthly meeting) on the evening of **Wednesday, August 25**. An "informational" event geared to non-members will still be held at the Bandstand earlier in the day, but it will be much smaller and involve only a few masked members.



I am disappointed that these decisions had to be made, but discretion is the better part of valor and the safety of our members is paramount. That said, we are moving on, so please make sure that you take this golden (pun intended) opportunity to ensure that this **fourth Wednesday of August** (rather than the usual third Tuesday) is on your calendar. I look forward to “seeing” you there. Members will receive more details before the meeting on how to register.

Despite this change in plans, we still have a number of “50th” events to come – plus normal Society activities – both virtual and (hopefully) in-person. In past messages I have noted that the time will come when we will need volunteers to help assure that our celebrations will run smoothly. That time is considerably closer, so please consider this a “call to action” to help out. We are all busy and your efforts will not be time-consuming. We need new faces (not the same 20 people). If it has been a while since you have helped out – or if you never have – now is the time to step up and offer your services. This will help in the overall planning in the weeks and months ahead. Please contact me and find out how you can assist.

In addition, we need a chair for the Publicity Committee. This is a Board position and, as the name implies, it involves getting our message out to both our membership and – even more importantly – to the general public. The need for a Publicity Chair will increase as our anniversary year unfolds. If you have marketing, advertising, design, or other related skills please consider stepping up and being part of the growth of CCGS.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, we are introducing a new feature – a goal thermometer – to show the degree of participation of members who have contributed to the funding of the 50th Anniversary (a more artsy version will appear in coming weeks). To date, a bit more than 25% of the membership has made a contribution. As I have noted in the past, foundations and sponsors are more interested in participation than dollar amounts and we have an aggressive goal of 80% participation. We are still in the relatively early stages of our efforts but, regardless of the amount, please consider making a donation sooner rather than later; this will help with our planning (the mailing address is P.O. Box 1394, Harwich, MA 02645). Thank you.

Finally, we have been seeing a surge in new COVID cases on the Cape. They have increased to levels last seen in late March, early April. While it is great to get out and about in the sun (while also hoping for rain at night), please continue 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 at 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.”

The next meeting is planned for **September 7**. Walter would appreciate any ideas for areas of discussion to kickoff the new DNA year. Nothing is too elementary. If you are not yet a member of this SIG and would like to join us, 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 holds a Zoom meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM. The next SIG will be held on Monday, **September 27**.

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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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!

😊😊😊

**What is the longest word in the dictionary?
SMILES
Because there's a mile between each 'S'**

**Please Welcome New Member
Susanne Haenisch**





50th Anniversary Grant Goal

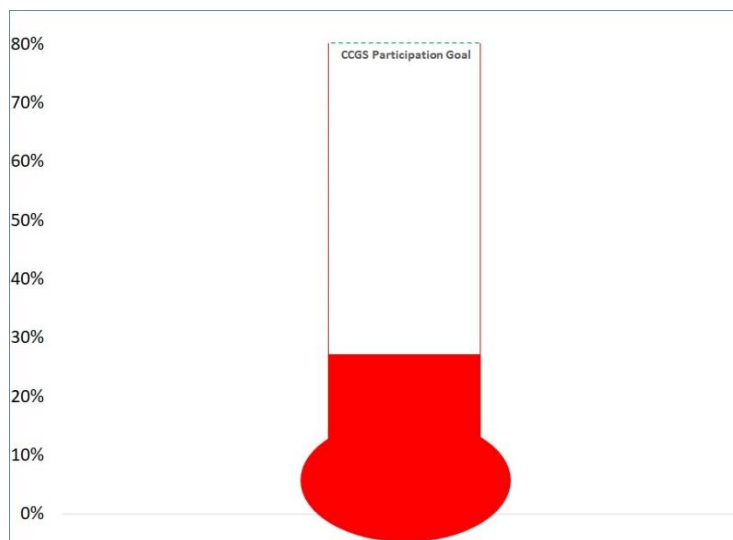
A grant application was filed with the Cape Cod Foundation in early June. If approved, this grant will be one of the four sources of funds that will help us celebrate our anniversary in the manner it deserves and – at least as importantly – help us attract the new members that will lay the groundwork 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 .

Grant sponsors are more interested in participation than dollar amounts. So far, 25% of our membership has donated. We have an ambitious hope that we will reach our goal of 80%. No matter what dollar amount you donate, please send your donation to:

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

Thank you!



Engaging the Younger Generations

Kathleen Kaldis, CCGS Vice President & Youth Services Committee Chair

The **CCGS Youth Services Committee** is a newly established committee formed to engage the younger generations in researching and appreciating their family history and heritage. It is an honor to serve as the first chair of this committee and help build the CCGS to be a multigenerational organization. As we move forward, the CCGS will be adding elements to our events and mission to be inclusive of all ages as we ***Build Families Through Genealogy*** and sustain the Society for the *NEXT 50 YEARS!*

My passion for genealogy started with my grandmother and her cousins' stories about our Scottish and Irish heritage. When I married a first-generation Greek, learning of his noble Byzantine heritage fascinated me. My children learned to appreciate their family history through my genealogical endeavors. As they grew up, my children would attend family reunions. They traveled with me to the repositories while I gathered the records. They would complete Girl Scout merit badges on family history. We would go through old photo albums while describing the people and places in the photo. *Opa!* Every summer, they volunteered at the annual Greek Festival in Centerville.

The more you make family history an inherent part of your everyday family life, the more likely your children will appreciate it from an early age. That exposure creates an appreciation and will often lead the younger generations to want to know more. The desire to learn more is also known as another "life calling;" it is also known as genealogy. Think about how many ancestors it took to make you, YOU! Think about the dash of life, simply the time between someone's birth date and their death date – the dash. The *Dash of Life* is what it is all about.

Ancestors went to school, worked their first job, were teenagers, had a high school summer fling, broke up with a boy-/girlfriend, went to war, had a baby, cared for a loved one on their death bed, moved to a new home, and so many more experiences of everyday life. Times may change, but people do not. Think of the lives of your ancestors and their daily experiences. Now, think about those events – help your children or grandchildren discover the one common element. Relating to an ancestor is part of the empathy needed to learn more; building a connection to the past is critical as you engage the younger generations in genealogy.

Resources to help engage the younger generations to appreciate their family history:

• Websites:

- Cyndi's List (www.Cyndislist.com)
 - Kids, Teens & The Next Generation subject page. <https://www.cyndislist.com/kids/>
- The Family History Guide (www.thefhguide.com)
 - Youth Connect with Your Ancestors landing page <https://www.thefhguide.com/youth1.html>
- The NextGen Genealogy Network
 - <https://www.tnggn.org>
- Twitter: Brick Wall Busters Hour #BWBHour

- **Engaging the Younger Generations:**

- Interview relatives
- Build time capsules
- Look at old photos and describe the people and the places
- Teach cursive handwriting – soon, there will be a generation of children who will not read documents written in cursive
- Create family trees – draw, computer program, Internet
- Research famous people (movie stars, authors, sports stars, etc.)
- When children read stories or go to the movies, have them create family trees on the characters
- Girl and Boy Scouts have merit badges for genealogy and family history
- Visit family cemetery plots and teach the children to care for the stones and plots
- Share stories from generations of the past; talk about what it was like when you were a child, teenager, or young adult
- Pick a Date Game: Pick a date and look at old newspapers
- Look at maps from different dates
- Host a family reunion and allow the younger generation to host their cohort cousins
- Create a Family History Blog – and actively seek content from relatives
- Participate in a National Archives lock-in sleepover in Washington, D.C.

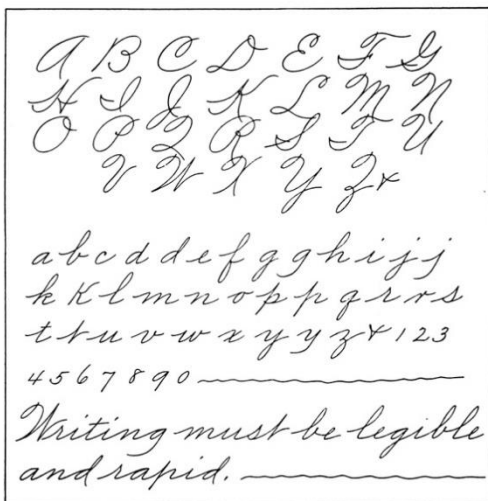


FIG. 87—Modern American Writing, engraved from pen and ink copy by E. C. Mills, Penman, Rochester, N. Y. (1909).



- **Books**

- *Roots for Kids: Finding Your Family Stories*, by Susan Provost Beller
- *My Family Tree and Me*, by Dušan Petričić
- *300 Questions to Ask Your Parents Before It's Too Late*, by Shannon L. Alder
- *Who Do You Think You Are? Be a Family Detective*, by Dan Waddell

**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
July 2021 Meeting**

Written by *David Martin*

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

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



The Society's special monthly program for July 2021 featured Ari Wilkins and her presentation on the use of Fire Insurance Maps, the census, city directories, and Google

Earth as means of constructing a picture of a community for genealogical purposes.

Fire Insurance Maps began to be constructed in 1846, with a focus at first on the location of businesses, and then in later years also including residences. The company is the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company.

Organization of the maps is on the basis of neighborhoods, showing street and avenue locations and buildings. By the 1950s most communities in the United States of more than 25,000 residents had been mapped. The Library of Congress has the original "sheets" of the maps, numbering 25,000 sheets in their original form. The program *ProQuest* provides access to the maps; one chooses a state, a city, and then the year of choice. An index sheet comes up first, where one looks for the streets and addresses, and then finds the sheet number. A color code is provided, showing the building materials used in the construction of the building. The volume number is important to use. Only some of the maps are digitized.

The decennial census is another valuable tool in reconstructing communities. Census enumerators collected data by neighborhoods. Data include street names, surnames, gender, age, and birthplace. Some censuses used supplemental questions, which can also provide valuable demographic information about a household. For the 1880 Census, enumerators were given maps to use. Prior to the 1850 Census, only the Heads of Households were listed by name. Census records are available in digitized form from www.stevemorse.org.

City directories are another valuable tool to use. They were originally developed to assist salespeople in seeking clients. Data were collected in the fall of each year, but generally not able to be published until about a year afterward. As with census enumerators, the canvassers for city directories collected information by neighborhoods. Some city directories list surnames alphabetically and then in a separate section, again list names and households by neighborhood, some by street addresses in the sequence of house numbers. In this regard, city directories can be useful census-substitutes. Some city directories also list the employers of residents. Everyone of age 18 or older were included. African American residents were sometimes noted with the symbol © to refer to as “colored.” The legend is important to consult when

beginning to use a directory. In searching the surname list, if someone is not found at first, it is useful to try alternative spellings. The programs *Ancestry*, *Fold 3*, and *My Heritage* all have digitized city directories.

The program *Google Earth* is a useful tool in assembling the data from all of these sources. It is free to download. One can assemble data together in a visual representation. One would take the data from place lists, accessible resources, photographs, Sanborn Maps, and more, and superimpose them onto the visual representation of a location. In this way, one can sometimes actually see how a neighborhood looked in the past.



Summer Day in Chatham

APPROVED SOCIAL MEDIA RULES & GUIDELINES

- Be kind. Insulting or bullying other members or non-members will get you banned from the group without prior warning.
- Be civil. We do not condone foul language. Breaking this rule once will land you a warning. Doing it repeatedly will get you banned.
- No advertising. Don't use the group to advertise yours or someone else's business, page, fundraiser or website. These posts will be immediately removed, and you might get banned.
- Use the search option. To avoid cluttering the group, please search the feed before asking a question. Someone might have already asked the same thing before.
- Stick to the topic. We only allow posts and comments related to the group's activity. Off-topic content will be removed, and you will get a warning.
- No spamming. Asking the same question or posting the same comment repeatedly after it has been removed by admins due to rule violation will result in a ban.
- Report rule-breaking. If you see a post/comment that violates our rules, report it to the admins — DO NOT verbally attack the author of said post/comment.
- Think before you report. Don't report posts or comments that aren't breaking any rules just because you don't like or agree with their content.
- Talk to the admin team. If you have any questions or concerns or are experiencing issues in the group, please turn to one of the admins for help. That's what we're here for!

Approved by the Board: July 7, 2021

Building Families Through Genealogy

Past ~ Present ~ Future

1971 ~ 2021 ~ 2071

On the Lighter Side

Reprinted (and adapted) from the CCGS Bulletin, Fall 2009, Vol XXXV, Page 124

In the Records – Name or Nickname?

Has this ever happened to you? In the 1850 federal census, an ancestor has two girls, Ann, age 3, and Mary, age 5. In the 1860 census, the ancestor has Nancy, age 13, and Polly, age 15. What happened to the first two daughters, Ann and Mary? Where were these two, Nancy and Polly, in 1850?

The reason this puzzles people in the 1990s is that today, Nancy and Polly are used as names of their own, and we are mainly unaware that Nancy was a nickname for Ann and Polly was a nickname for Mary.

Try the following quiz:

Nickname	Name
1. Jenins	A. Margareta
2. Lola	B. Henry
3. Lon	C. Theresa
4. Meta	D. Millicent
5. Pat	E. Delores
6. Harry	F. John
7. Lissa	G. Martha
8. Nola	H. Sarah
9. Sally	I. Olive
10. Zita	J. Lawrence

Answers: 1-F, 2-E, 3-J, 4-A, 5-G, 6-B, 7-D, 8-I, 9-H, 10-C

Below are some more names that are uncommon today. Perhaps you can eliminate some “missing” ancestor by matching name and nickname. To be called by the middle name was common in 19th century America too.

Kit for Christopher; Pip for Phillip; Cort/Curt for Conrad; Jack/Cob for Jacob or John; Cole and Claus for Nicholas; Hob, Bet and Rab for Robert; Tam and Massey for Thomas; Birdle for Bridget; Dee for Deborah; Dixie for Benedicta; Dolly for Dorothy; Greer for Gregoria; Gretchen, Tira, and Megan for Margaret; Neysa for Agnes; Elsa for Alice; Amy for Amelia; Netta and Jeanie for Jane; Duggie for Douglas; and, Wat for Walter.

CCGS Calendar

August 4, Wednesday
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

August 25, Wednesday
50th Anniversary Celebration
Kick-off event, 4 to 7 PM
Bandstand 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