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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 8 Issue 11

November 2021

Greetings Members and Friends!

**Please Join us at our Next Meeting
Saturday, November 13 at 10:00 AM, Eastern Time via [Zoom](#)**

Special Joint Meeting with the *Falmouth Genealogical Society*

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

Lisa Louise Cooke
With Two Presentations:

How to Reopen & Work a Genealogical Cold Case
and
The Genealogists Google Search Methodology

Lisa Louise Cooke found her passion for family history at her grandmother's knee at the age of 8. She is now the owner of *Genealogy Gems*, a genealogy and family history multi-media company founded in 2007.

She is Producer and Host of the *Genealogy Gems Podcast*, the popular online genealogy audio show available at www.GenealogyGems.com, on your smartphone's native podcast app, and through the Genealogy Gems app available through app stores. Her podcast brings genealogy news, research strategies, expert interviews and inspiration to genealogists in 75 countries around the world, and has been downloaded nearly 4 million times. She also produces the weekly genealogy YouTube live show *Elevenses with Lisa* at the *Genealogy Gems YouTube channel*.



Please welcome Lisa Cooke!

Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

Time flies when you're having fun! Just the other day – while the power was out – I was thinking that it felt like Labor Day was only a few days ago. And then on **Halloween** morning, our esteemed editor, Pam Eaton, texted to inform me that she was working on this Newsletter. That meant that I had to get going on this message and that November (along with the Holidays) was at hand. To quote Pam, *Yikes!*

Before we look ahead, I do want to look back at October's *All Things Cape Cod* genealogy day. To say that it was a success wouldn't do it justice. Kathy Kaldis assembled a great array of speakers. Not only did the speakers discuss underrepresented areas of history/genealogy, they did so seamlessly. Indeed, it was as if they had gotten together and coordinated their presentations. The virtual nature of the day resulted in well over 100 registrations; people attended from coast to coast and at least three countries. To top it off, we have already begun to see new members join CCGS! This could turn out to be an annual event.

November marks the beginning of dues season. Dues remain \$30. As usual, if new members join before the end of the year, their membership will be good through 2022. We have a new feature this year – a *Buy Now* button in the *Join CCGS* section of the website. That allows dues to be paid online by credit card or PayPal (it has already been used at least once!). For those who want to continue using a check, there is also an updated letter from Membership chair, Judy Jones, as well as a new renewal form in the *Join CCGS* section. Payment is due by January 1. Please try to send in your dues as soon as possible and continue to enjoy all the benefits of membership. Prompt payments also make it easier for both Judy and our Treasurer, Nancy Daniels, to stay on top of things. If you don't plan to renew, please let me know why. If it is something that I can facilitate a remedy for, I will do my best to do so. I would be disappointed to see someone leave even as we celebrate the Society's golden anniversary. Thank you!

November will also mark the return of the joint meeting with the Falmouth Genealogical Society, which had to be cancelled last year. These meetings began in 2007 and there was some hope that this year's meeting could be a hybrid event. That was not meant to be – “Wait till next year!” You can find the details for this meeting elsewhere in this Newsletter and on the home page of the CCGS website (<https://capecodgenealogy.org/>).

While on the topic of monthly programs, I do want to remind everyone that December's program will be our annual Member's Share meeting when CCGS members share their successes (and disappointments) – and perhaps even heirlooms and artifacts – with fellow members. I will remind you of this again next month, but my hope is that this nudge will provide some motivation to be a presenter at this special meeting. Stay warm, and please continue to stay *Safe* and to stay *Healthy*.

Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)



Happy Thanksgiving

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***Special Announcement
from Computer SIG Leader, Bob Oppenheim***

Those of you interested in many good, free webinars might look in on the latest offerings from The Family History Library. See their schedule of webinars at:

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars#Upcoming_Webinars.

The November 2021 offerings have many courses that are particularly targeted at members researching ancestors in Eastern Europe.

**What did Betsy Ross say when they
asked if the flag was ready?
Give me a minute, man!**

**Please Welcome New Members
Patricia DeAngelis
Bursley McNamara
Deborah Rothschild
Greg Masterson**

**Membership Renewal Time
is coming up!
You will soon receive an
email blast with renewal
instructions.**



50th Anniversary Updates

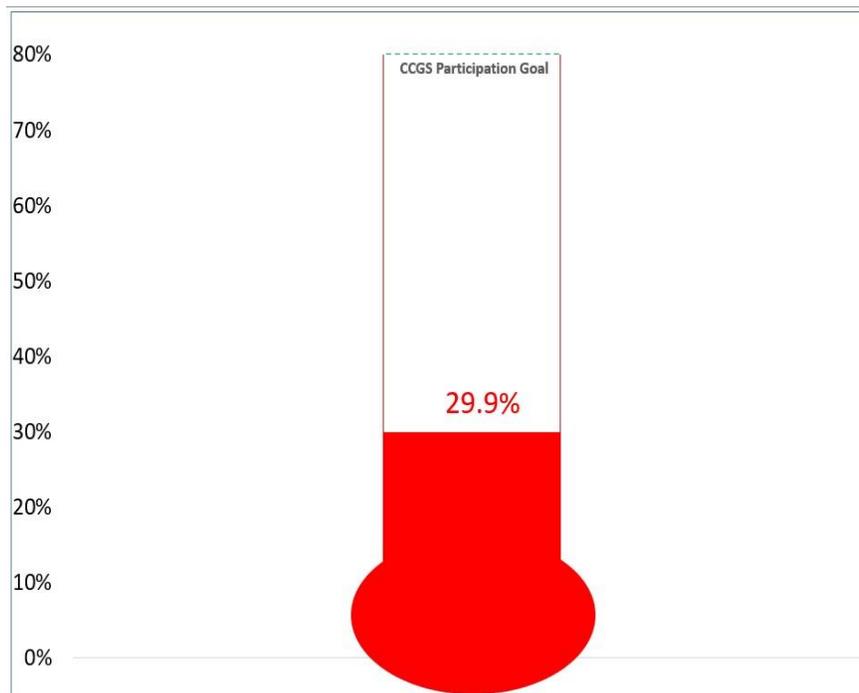
Greetings!

The thermometer needs to **grow up!!!**

Grant sponsors are more interested in participation than dollar amounts. So far, 29.9% 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!



Program Summary, October 16, 2021

Written by *David Martin*

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

www.capecodgenealogy.org

All Things Cape Cod: Cape Cod Genealogy Day

The Cape Cod Genealogical Society provided a well-attended **virtual all-day conference** on Saturday, October 16, which featured five different speakers, with a focus on different ways for getting information about under-represented groups in American genealogical research. **Society President Walter Murphy**, in his welcome statement, cited the significance of the Genealogy Day as a part of the 50th Anniversary of the Society, and pointed out the several advantages of membership in the Society.

Skip Finley of Martha's Vineyard, a published author, provided an engaging narrative about *New England Whaling Captains of Color*. Fifty captains of whaling vessels from the region had ancestries that were variously recorded as "Negro", "Mulatto", West Indian, Cape Verdean, and South Sea Islander. Many of these people initially became captains when their previous experience as crew members was needed to replace a white captain who had either become sick or had died. A notable example was Paul Cuffee of New Bedford, who had previously been a slave. Forty percent of the whaling ship crews were also people of color; a full one-third of the crew of the famous ship Charles W. Morgan were people of color. Signing on to a whaling ship was a way of escape for members of all of these groups, especially in the 19th century.

Kathleen Kaldis, Vice-President of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society, presented techniques for *Researching Female Ancestors*—a persistent challenge for genealogists. The problem has been due to several reasons: women were considered to be property for a long time; they had to assume their husband's surname and their maiden names are difficult to locate; and women sometimes also changed their first names. Techniques for

identifying female ancestors include using census records, marriage records, baptism records, widow's pensions in military pension applications, immigration records, newspaper articles about divorces, looking at land records for tracing ownership of a house to previous owners, lists of heirs in probated wills, and examining middle names of children which sometimes can be a clue to the maiden name of their mother.

Andrew Pierce, a professional genealogist, described ways in which the family history of those with Wampanoag and other *Native American Ancestry* can be investigated. Among the techniques are looking at marriage records because some indigenous people married non-indigenous people for whom there is a marriage record, checking land deeds, using the state census and local censuses such as those done in the 18th century in Yarmouth, Harwich and Mashpee, special censuses done on Cape Cod Native Americans, and looking at court records for both civil and criminal proceedings. In addition, records of guardianships of Native Americans, wills, account books from stores, newspaper stories, missionary records, ships' crew lists, military records, and town pauper records may also yield information for the researcher.

Jim Coogan, retired educator and local historian and author, described myths and truths about *Enslaved People on Cape Cod*. One myth is that there were no slaves on Cape Cod; another is that advocacy of abolition was strong throughout New England, and another is that New England people viewed slavery largely as a moral evil. In fact, Massachusetts in 1641 actually legalized slavery; in New England, the first slaves were Native Americans who may have been made slaves because of a civil or criminal disobedience. Records of these slaves appear in wills describing the distribution of property. Black slaves came to New England in smaller numbers than in the South because the North was not primarily a good environment for significant agriculture. By the early 1700s, sentiments about ensuring the human rights of slaves began to be seen and heard; James Otis in 1765 was an early abolitionist, and the Quakers had begun to push for abolition on a small scale in the late 1600s. Massachusetts abolished slavery in

1780, but the practice continued until 1830. Slaves escaping from the South moved north in the 1830s, among whom was the famous Frederick Douglass, who came to New Bedford. Some Cape Cod houses have been identified as former “safe houses” for sheltering escaped slaves as part of the “Underground Railroad” system. Coogan pointed out that ship owners and captains were involved in the “Triangular Trade” which brought slaves to the West Indies in exchange for molasses, which then was brought to Boston to make rum, and then sailed elsewhere to sell it. Resources for researching the background of enslaved individuals include the Nickerson Room at Cape Cod Community College, Sturgis Library in Barnstable Village, the Massachusetts State Archives in Dorchester, Plymouth Colony Records in Plymouth, and the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston.

Sara Campbell, a professional genealogist, made a presentation on *Historic Maps of Cape Cod and Beyond*. She showed how maps can tell stories. For example, one can look closely at the artwork in the margins of old maps, the artwork in the “cartouche” or inset at the bottom of the map, and in many cases the names of homeowners written directly on the locations of their homes. The artwork tells us about what life was like at the time that the map was drawn. In 1830 the State of

Massachusetts began to require that all towns create a map of the town. The canvas-backed maps of different counties give valuable information and have been reproduced in published atlases. A genealogist can examine a map for the location of names of homeowners and then compare that information to the latest results from the Federal Census.

A mid-day Roundtable, chaired by Past Society President David Martin, included Kathleen Kaldis, Ray Sears of the Society, historian Nancy Shoemaker, and Jim Coogan. The group discussed how the study of history can illuminate the stories of individual lives by identifying contemporary historical events in their lives. The group also discussed ways in which young people’s interest in genealogy can be stimulated through education and other community experiences.



A turkey doesn’t know it’s Thanksgiving time and a hawk waits for lunch.

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, and carefully watching for the announcement that Sturgis Library will open (where the group meets). If all goes well, Bebe will soon begin holding meetings there, post-COVID on the 4th Tuesday of the month 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 Street, Dennis Port. Currently, meetings will be simulcast on Zoom and all of the SIG members will get an invitation to participate virtually. Any changes to this arrangement will be emailed to the membership and published in the next newsletter, time permitting.

*The next Computer SIG will be held on **Tuesday, November 9 at 10:00 AM**. Our member, Ann Crosten, is going to start by sharing with us some of the work and techniques she has used to bring substance to her project, “The Dennis Village Walking Tour – History Revisited” <https://www.facebook.com/groups/764316657111963>. Her research into the history of Dennis’ buildings is just the kind of thing that we can use to add to the life stories of our own ancestors. During the remainder of the meeting, I will begin a discussion of some of the important tools that may assist us in our genealogy, specifically, “DropBox” and “Snagit.”*

DNA

Leader **Walter Murphy** wmgenealogy@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM. He 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 DNA SIG will be held on **Tuesday, November 2 at 1:30 PM**. The group will begin by reviewing chromosome painting of ethnicity estimates. That will be followed by “DNA Beginnings: Matching at Ancestry and What it Means,” which is the third in a series of blogs published by Roberta Estes of DNAeXplained.com fame. Walter will then present an update on the Murphy Marker. The final discussion will differentiate between genealogies, lineage, and deep ancestry. There should be something for everyone!*

The group is in need of some new ideas. So please join this SIG and add a fresh voice.

German

Leader **Ann Croston** acroston125@comcast.net holds Zoom meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. Ann communicates via email and on our Facebook page, Cape Cod Genealogical Society - German SIG, when items of interest come up.

The next German SIG will be held on [Tuesday, November 2 at 10:00 AM.](#)

Two worksheets focus on the question...what do you know about your ancestor? Setting down on paper “the facts” will show where the gaps are and lead you to further research paths. Pick your favorite ancestor or someone new. If you have a brick wall on one ancestor, try researching the spouse in depth. Focus is a key word for me. By concentrating on one individual, my great (2) grandmother, instead of the myriad of ancestors, I have been able to really stretch my understanding of her life & times and tracked down some great resources for further study.

Irish Research

Leader **Pat Flaherty** patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM. 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.

The next Irish SIG will be held on [Monday, November 22, 10:00 AM.](#)

Writers

Leader **Pippa Dodd Ryan** pippa.doddryan@gmail.com holds a Zoom meeting on the third Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. 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!

The next Writers SIG will be held on [Friday, November 19, at 10:00 AM.](#)



A Blast from the Past

Louis and Warren A World War I Story by Lee MacDonald

**As Published in the
Journal of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society
Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 2019**

The elderly man walked slowly along the path. A white, airy, cloud-like layer hugged the ground and covered his way. He took slow deliberate steps and the cloud-like layer parted and refilled behind him as he walked through it. He wore a World War One uniform. The patches on his shoulders identified him as an Army veteran. By-and-by he came to a park bench where another elderly man sat. He also wore a uniform, that of a World War One Marine. He approached the Marine and asked if he might join him on the bench. "Please do," the Marine responded.

"You here for the event?" the Marine asked. "Yes," the soldier responded. They said nothing for a while. The Army vet eventually turned to the Marine, extended his hand and said, "I'm Louis." The Marine shook his hand and said, "I'm Warren, nice to meet you."

They said nothing for a time, then to break the ice, Louis asked Warren, "That Indian head on your shoulder patch, what unit were you in?" Warren responded, "Second Division, 6th Marine Regiment. You?"

Louis, the Army veteran, quickly added, "79th Division, 316th Infantry."

They were silent for a while and then Warren asked, "Did you keep in touch with the boys in your unit, I mean, before you got here?"

Louis shook his head, "No. No, so many boys I trained with didn't come back." He sat silently for a few seconds and quietly added, "Plus, I'd just as soon forget about what we went through. We got to France in mid-July of 1918 and finished our training over there just in time for the Meuse - Argonne campaign. We were excited. We were finally going to do what they sent us over there to do. Rumors were that this was the big push. They placed us in a sector between the Meuse River and the Argonne Forest. Our objective was a big cathedral at the top of a hill, in a town called Montfaucon. To get there we had to cross an open field and climb that heavily fortified hill. The enemy had a perfect view of the valley from that church. They had been in those positions for four years. For four years they had been strengthening their defensive position. We had never been in battle and we were facing a heavily fortified, experienced enemy. We went over the top at 5:30 and didn't meet too much resistance until later that morning when the fog lifted. That's when the machine guns opened up. They had the whole field covered."

Louis, thoughtfully said, "So many boys didn't make it back. I sometimes wonder why I was spared and so many of those boys weren't. I truly believe that someone was watching over me." He paused and then added, "Do you ever think that, Warren?"

Warren shook his head and said, “I feel the same way. On 18 July we were on the Soissons front. We went “over the top” at 7 am. Had a very hot reception and I had a bullet go through my pack and lodge in my bible. If I hadn’t had that bible in my pack, I would have received a “Bon Blighty.” Lost my whole section except one man. After that, I knew someone was watching out for me. But knowing that I made it and so many others didn’t, has haunted me for my whole life.”

The cloud-like layer slowly began to separate and the men looked down on a heavenly view of a white church sitting on a little rise, its steeple pointing up towards the men. Suddenly the organ music began and the bride stepped out into the aisle, accompanied by her father. The groom waited at the other end of the aisle.

Warren spoke first, “What a lovely bride.” Louis responded, “That’s my granddaughter, Debbie - and my son Hank walking her down the aisle.”

Warren added, “The groom, Lee, he’s my grandson - and the mother of the groom, Ruth, she’s my daughter.” They watched the ceremony in silence.

After the ceremony the bride and groom walked back down the aisle and through the big church doors where the wedding attendees showered them with confetti. It was a happy occasion.

After the wedding neither Warren nor Louis spoke for several minutes. They both were lost in their thoughts. Warren spoke first, “I wonder if they ever think about how different life would have been for them had someone not been watching over us while we were over there.”

Louis paused and said, “I wonder.”



CCGS Calendar

Tuesday, November 2
German SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, November 2
DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

Wednesday, November 3
Board Meeting, 2 PM

Tuesday, November 9
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

Saturday, November 13
Joint Membership Meeting, 10:00 AM
with Falmouth Genealogical Society
Speaker: Lisa Louise Cook

Friday, November 19
Writers SIG, 10:00 AM

Monday, November 22
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, December 21
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

All photos
(except for speaker photos)
are by
Pam Eaton,
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unless otherwise indicated