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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 8 Issue 12

December 2021

Greetings Members and Friends!

**Please Join us at our Next Meeting
Tuesday, December 21 at 10:00 AM, Eastern Time**

**Our meeting will be brought to you via [Zoom](#).
More details will follow before the meeting on how to register.**

We hope you will join us for *Our Members Share* informal meeting. Sit in a comfortable chair in front of your computer or other device. Be sure to have coffee or tea and sweets at hand. We will have mini-presentations by members who will share their genealogical gems with us. We would welcome anyone who has something fun, informative, or interesting to share regarding their family history or process of research. Stories, memorabilia, and photos related to your family roots will motivate all of us to continue on our own journey of discovery. Please consider a ten-to-fifteen-minute presentation.



You may spontaneously come forward during the meeting, but if you would like to contact us for any tips or “heads up,” and if you have any special questions, please email the Society at info@capecodgenealogy.org or contact the President, Walter Murphy at wmgenealogy@gmail.com.

Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

Season's Greetings! For CCGS members, that means Shopping, Sharing – and Dues.

As far as Christmas shopping goes, my wife handles most of that, especially as it relates to the five grandkids. That said, our oldest grandchild is inclined to send an email reminder to Grandpa (😊) just in case. Elsewhere – and from a genealogy perspective – the usual DNA sales abound, but I think I am covered there.

December's Monthly Membership Meeting (on December 21) will be the annual "Our Members Share" get-together. Please consider offering a 10-15 minute "share" of your successes (or disappoints), heirlooms/artifacts, photos, or recent discoveries with fellow members. With Zoom, we can easily flow from one member's share to the next. Your contribution will help add to the festivities. And don't forget to have your favorite seasonal goodies next you before you log on to Zoom.

This is also the time of year when membership renewals and dues are ...well...due. At less than 10¢ a day, the annual \$30 is a genealogy value that can't be beat. As I mentioned last month, we have a new feature this year – a "Buy Now" button in the "Join CCGS" section of the website. This allows dues to be paid online by credit card or PayPal.

Even if you use this new option, please continue to mail the renewal form to P.O. Box 1394, Harwich, MA 02645. For those who want to continue using a check, there is a new renewal form in the "Join CCGS" section, accompanied by an updated letter from Membership Chair, Judy Jones. 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!

Finally, I wish everyone a Happy Holiday season. As the weather gets colder and we all begin to hunker down, please remember to stay *Safe*, and stay *Healthy*.

Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)

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

If you missed Lisa Louise Cooke's presentation to the CCGS on Saturday, November 13, 2021 or you just want to see more of this genealogical powerhouse's work, you might want to consider:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/GenealogyGems>

Do yourself a favor. Follow the link and peruse the extent of Lisa's offerings. If you are doing this for the first time, I can almost guarantee that you will be amazed.

**Change is hard.
Have you ever tried to bend a coin?**

**Please Welcome
New Members**

**Michael & Patricia Topp
Toby Broderick
Alan Francis
Lyn Tomei
Beverley Colgan
Julie Esposito**

Nominating Committee News

Your Nominating Committee is currently developing a list of candidates for Officer and Director positions for two-year terms:

1. President
2. Recording Secretary
3. Directors-at-Large

The link below will take you to the 2020 Bylaw Revisions in the “About” section of the CCGS website where you will find job descriptions for the above positions in Articles V and VI:

<https://capecodgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2020-bylaw-revision.pdf>

We encourage members who are interested or know a member who they think might be interested in any of these positions to contact a member of the Nominating Committee directly. We appreciate your assistance in this important matter.

Bob Oppenheim -- Roppen@msn.com

Judy Jones -- judyjx2@aol.com

Pat Flaherty -- patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com



Please take note: Beginning January 2021, the CCGS Monthly Meetings will be held **nightly** at 7:00 PM. The day of the month, the third Tuesday, will remain the same.

Hash Tags Explained!

By L. Ray Sears, III

Older folks may know # as the pound sign or the number sign, but programmers and the Internet Social Media Sites have co-opted the symbol to make "trends" - a short-cut to make searches easy and tag information with a common moniker. For example, if you add the hashtag #CapeCod to one of your Facebook or YouTube posts, then people can find you with a search for that tag. Try it now! Go to Google and search for #CapeCod.

So, to that end, we ask that when you post information on the Internet that is relevant to our Society, please add the hash tag #CCGenSoc to enhance our social media presence. If you have another idea for a CCGS Hash Tag let us know (info@capecodgenealogy.org).

There are still some spots available for the Free Genealogy Course offered in January and February 2022. Join us!

Celebrating 50 Years

Cape Cod Genealogical Society, Inc.
Building Families Through Genealogy
Past ~ Present ~ Future
1971 ~ 2021 ~ 2071

Are you an experienced genealogist who would like a "refresher" on genealogical methods? Are you new to genealogy and would like a course on how to begin and how to continue?

If you're either one, you'll want to consider this opportunity!

Special FREE Genealogy Course
CCGS Genealogy Course Offered at Two Convenient Times

Session ONE (2021):	Session TWO (2022):
September 14, 21, and 28 October 5, 12, and 19 from 6:30 -8:00 p.m.	January 13, 20, and 27 February 3, 10, and 17 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
CLICK ON THIS LINK TO REGISTER: https://www.eventbrite.com/c/ccgs-genealogy-course-fall-2021-tickets-168115912219	CLICK ON THIS LINK TO REGISTER: https://www.eventbrite.com/x/ccgs-genealogy-course-winter-2022-tickets-168645734933

Topics Include:

- General Introduction to Genealogy
- Immigration and Migration in Genealogy
- Land and Probate Records for Genealogists
- Using the Census for Genealogical Research
- DNA Methods for Genealogists
- Case Studies in Breaking Down Brick Walls

Space is Limited **Registration is now OPEN!**

Fall Registration Ends on September 10th

For additional information email the CCGS Education Committee Chairman at Education@CapeCodGenealogy.org. **Registration Technical Help:** info@CapeCodGenealogy.org

Program Summary, November 13, 2021

Written by *David Martin*

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

www.capecodgenealogy.org

The Google Toolbox & Genealogy

by Lisa Louise Cooke

This meeting was the Annual Joint Meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society and the Cape Cod Genealogical Society and speaker Lisa Louise Cooke presented two topics. In the first of her two presentations, Lisa Cooke provided a number of specific strategies which can be used by genealogists to effectively use all of the potential of Google for ancestor searching.

Many of these ideas can be found in her book, *Genealogy Tool Box*. When one has exhausted the possibilities of the well-known genealogical search engines and data bases, Google can give options that go beyond those sources. Many changes have occurred in Google since 2008, and it constantly continues to evolve and grow.

Some Google searches involve data from Wikipedia. A big advancement is the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence (see <https://ai.google/>). Lisa's description of *Newspaper Navigator* in her Episode 25 gives information on the newspaper applications.

Because Google does not always understand complex questions, there are particular steps that can be followed in applying Google to genealogy:

1. Formulate a search plan—simplify the question; identify what is unique about that person.
2. Build the Search Query—search for facts or search for complex information; use Search Operators which use punctuation marks for codes. Quotation marks around a name asks Google to look only for that. Try first name and last name; then try last name, comma, and first name. The asterisk holds a place between two key words for other possible inserts that may exist.

The minus sign directly in front of a word or word-name asks Google to search **except** for that word, thus narrowing the search; .. placed between two dates in a search tells the range for the search—e.g., 1790..1810

3. Analyze the results—are they too broad, too narrow, or outdated?
4. Improve results by changing the question—subtract or add a word, shift from individual questions to collections to Tools for Advanced Searches.
5. Copy the list of URLs and type them in “Related”; paste them in the site on Google.com.
6. Bookmark searches with Google Alert, for future use. One can get a free account; this step sets a future plan for further research. Google Books has an OCR capability to store many older books which can now be searched.

Restarting Genealogical Cold Cases

As in police detective work with long-past crimes, genealogy sometimes has to take a “cold case” approach to reactivate it and try new strategies. There are twelve strategies to follow in this process:

1. Retrieve the original information; use notetaking on the Cloud; *Evernote* has a phone “app”, and *OneNote* can also be used. Use source citations. Lisa's Episode 70, gives details.
2. Retrieve all previous case information, such as family group sheets, pedigree charts, descendancy charts, and individual summary reports.
3. Get fully acquainted with the case; look at photographs, reread materials, question what you already have.
4. Generate a time-line; identify gaps, look for inconsistencies, study your ancestor in the context of events of his/her time, locally and worldwide. *Timelinemaker.com* and *Timeline.knightlab.com* are tools for creating timelines.

5. Look at the “big picture”; search Google books - *books.google.com*.
6. Begin to narrow down the possible people as family members; move outward to other possible contacts—friends, acquaintances, witnesses, neighbors (FANS).
7. Formulate questions; write what you know, using blogger.com, which can be posted to others; record the questions.
8. Develop hypotheses.
9. Search for new evidence, using published checklists found in *FamilyTree Magazine* or *Ancestry*.
10. Use media outlets for backing up, such as blogs and *Facebook*; set up a conference call.
11. Use *Google Alerts* to find items on family history on eBay.
12. Post “Wanted” posters for others to see who might be able to help; also post wanted-matches on DNA resources.

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!



Riddle:

**What comes once in a minute,
Twice in a moment,
And never in a thousand years?**

The letter M.

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 held 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, December 14 at 10:00 AM**. It will remain a Zoom-only meeting. Our member Martin Conroy, will lead off with an update on his use of the TNG-supported website for his family tree. Bob Oppenheim will continue the discussion of tools and apps which could facilitate your genealogical research and will speak to Clooze (documentation aids). Bill Horrocks will speak to One Drive and the Windows Snipping Tool; and Kathy Kaldis will speak to Google Drive.*

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, December 7 at 1:30 PM**. The group will discuss the “Are You Experienced” blog by The DNA Geek, the International Society of Genetic Genealogists (ISOGG), and (time permitting) DNA Painter. There should be something for everyone!*

The SIG will enjoy a holiday hiatus and will skip the January meeting. As a result, the first 2022 (yikes!) meeting will be on February 1.

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, December 7 at 10:00 AM.

It's a holiday celebration. Topics are "Celebrating Christmas," "Christmas in Heidelberg" with Pam Eaton, our CCGS Newsletter Editor with remembrances of living in Germany during 1956-1959 as a child and "Workshop Sharing Time" with discussions of Christmas and other holiday observances in our German villages.

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, December 27 at 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, December 17 at 10:00 AM.



Christmas Memories by L. Ray Sears, III

Pam Eaton (the Newsletter Editor) asked me for Christmas memories from my times in Germany. From 1980, I have great memories of visiting Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Germany's fairy tale dream town or "Christmas town," and eating roasted chestnuts right from the charcoal oven on the street corner in my little town of Worms am Rhein.

I would like to think I have memories from my first "tour" in Germany from 1952-1955, but I had to be refreshed about my early days from Mom's memory banks. Mom and I missed our first flight to Germany in December 1952 and had to layover on Governor's Island in New York City Harbor, which at that time was a military installation. Dad had gone over by ship in the summer of 1952 just a week after I was born. The Korean War was on but fortunately we were heading east to meet up with my dad, who was stationed in Stuttgart with the 91st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AAA) Gun Battalion. He worked at Flak Kaserne, a great pun since the job of the 95th with its 40mm guns was to fill the sky with flak. A kaserne is a German Army base.

While he waited at Frankfurt am Mein (do all German towns have a river in their name?) for a plane that we were not on, we boarded a Military Air Transport Service (MATS) Lockheed Super Constellation or Super Connie from Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts for our flight across the Atlantic. Winter headwinds resulted in a slow crossing to the point that we had to land in Keflavik, Iceland, to spend the night and refuel. At six months old, I got my first taste of reindeer milk. When we took off the next day, Mom was watching out the window and asked the colonel sitting next to us if it was normal for flames to be pouring out of the four engines. "Oh yes," said the colonel, "that is standard operating procedure for these aircraft." Sure enough, you can search YouTube to this day to watch a MATS Super Connie take off and see the flames pouring out of the engine exhausts.

I am sure my first flight at six months on a military plane was either an adventure or a nightmare for Mom. So, for my first Christmas, December 1952, we finally met up with Dad. We lived in Pattonville, Ludwigsburg, Baden Wurtemberg for a year. Dad and his buddy were both business majors in college. When they found out the Army had a Finance Corps, they transferred to a desk job from their field artillery posts. We moved to quarters on Meisenstraße in Zirndorf, near Furth and Nuremburg in October 1953. (If you are not familiar with that funny German ß, that is the symbol for a double-s - i.e., Meisen Street.)



My sister was born in the summer of 1954 at Nuremburg Army Hospital, so she had her first Christmas in Germany too. Here is a photo of us in late 1954



Another photo is one of us in a pedal car that is surely the one I got for Christmas 1954. I guess you could buy nearly anything at the Post Exchange. There is a baby carriage for my sister in the background.

We lived in a third-floor apartment and the story is, when Christmas was over, rather than drag the tree down the stairs and leave a mess, Dad threw it out the window.

By the time he got downstairs to dispose of the tree, it was gone! I understand times were still tough in Germany in those years.

For many years after our return to the “Land of Round Doorknobs and the Big P.X.,” we had a wax Christmas angel from Germany at the top of our tree.

Happy Holidays

CCGS Calendar

Wednesday, December 1
Board Meeting, 2 PM

Tuesday, December 7
German SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, December 7
DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

Tuesday, December 14
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

Friday, December 17
Writers SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, December 21
Monthly Meeting 10:00 AM
Our Members Share

Monday, December 27
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

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,
Newsletter Editor,
Unless otherwise indicated