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# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

**Volume 9 Issue 1 January 2022**

**Greetings Members and Friends!**

**Please Join us at our Next Meeting  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Eastern Time  
Important: Please Note *New Time!***

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

**Non-members are asked to email us at  
[info@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org) to receive a registration link.**

*Researching the History of  
Your Cape Cod (and Beyond) House  
with  
Marian Pierre-Louis*



You can research the history of your house whether it is 20 years old or 150 years old. Marian Pierre-Louis will introduce where to find the deeds to your house, how to chain a deed, and locate other sources of information such as the U.S. Federal Census records. Come learn some tricks to get the most out of your house history research.

**Marian Pierre-Louis** is a professional genealogist and house historian who shares her love of history through her research, blogs and social media (Facebook, Twitter and Google+). She is also the host of *Fieldstone Common*, a weekly history and genealogy podcast focused on author interviews.

## Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

Time flies when you're having fun. I am writing this Message in 2021. By the time you read it, it will be 2022.

😊 As such, this is a good opportunity to look back at 2021 and look ahead to 2022.

The Society's activities last year were influenced by two things – COVID and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our founding in 1971. The two were necessarily inter-twined. While every Board and Monthly Membership meeting in 2021 was conducted via Zoom, we had hoped that August's Anniversary Kick-off and October's Genealogy Day could be at least partially in-person events. However, it became clear that COVID was maintaining its grip and that both would also have to be Zoom events. Even so, many members and guests registered and both programs were successful endeavors. Indeed, Genealogy Day was so successful that we are discussing making it an annual event.

Meanwhile, the Anniversary Committee continues to work on events for 2022. The SCARGO Summit (co-hosted with Family Search) is still planned for April and will likely be held via Zoom. The Gala, which was scheduled to be held at the Cape Codder in April, has been cancelled. The Committee is working on a more member-friendly Plan B that may well be held in the summer closer to CCGS's August birthday.

The biggest development in 2022, not associated with the anniversary, will be the change in the starting time for our monthly membership meetings. Meetings will now be held at **7:00 PM** on the third Tuesday of the month. The day of the month is the same, but the time is obviously different. This is an endeavor to reach out to members who have not been able to attend weekday morning events while still providing a convenient time for those who have regularly attended the Tuesday morning gatherings. In addition, my hope – and expectation – is that this new time will help attract new (and younger) members. (As a side note, among NERGC member societies surveyed, CCGS was the only society to hold weekday morning meetings.) Please mark this important change on your calendar.

Speaking of NERGC and looking ahead, plans are already being made for the 2023 NERGC conference. As a charter society, CCGS typically provides a speaker. A "Call for Papers" should be coming out soon, and I will be encouraging CCGS members to consider submitting a proposal. Think of it as a regional Members Share. (At this year's conference I made a presentation on DNA clustering; truthfully, it was fun.)

A new year often brings up the subject of resolutions. Now is a good time to resolve to back up your entire genealogical database. I try to remind the DNA SIG to back up on a monthly basis, but an annual back up (at the least to the cloud and – *not "or"* – an external drive) is a must.

As a reminder, the deadline for payment of 2022 membership dues was January 1. At \$30, they have been unchanged for at least six years and are a value that can't be beat with all the benefits of membership the Society provides. So, if you haven't sent in your \$30, please do so as soon as you can. If you have sent in your dues, thank you. I look forward to seeing you – either remotely or (hopefully) in person – at one event or another in 2022.

Finally, I wish everyone a **Happy New Year**. As the weather gets colder and COVID cases increase, keep those masks up and don't let your guard down. It is increasingly important for each of us to take care of ourselves. Please remember to stay *Home* (if you can), stay *Safe*, and stay Healthy.

Walter ([wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com))

**Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
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Kathy Kaldis  
Judy Needham  
Bebe Brock  
Nancy Daniels

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Vice-President  
Recording Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary  
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**Mailing address:**

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Harwich, MA 02645  
[www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org)

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

The **Allen County Public Library** publishes a free, monthly *Genealogy Gems Newsletter*. It is full of useful content on free webinars, new library content, tips and tricks for doing research and more.

The sign-up page can be found here:

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/community/genealogy-gems>

If you want to stop receiving it, there are instructions in the newsletter for removing yourself from the mailing list.

Maybe you should give it a try!?

**Khakis.**

**What you need to start the car in Boston.**

**Please Welcome  
New Members**

**Denise Hamilton  
Pamela D. Morgan  
Margie Homko  
Kim Norgren**

## 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.

*This is an opportunity to express your opinion regarding who you think would be a good member of your Society’s leadership team. If you, yourself, would like to be considered, there is no rule against suggesting yourself as a candidate.*

Bob Oppenheim -- [Roppen@msn.com](mailto:Roppen@msn.com)  
Judy Jones -- [judyjx2@aol.com](mailto:judyjx2@aol.com)  
Pat Flaherty -- [patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com)



**Please take note:** Beginning January 2022, the CCGS Monthly Meetings will be held **nightly** at 7:00 PM. The day of the month, the third Tuesday, will remain the same.

There are still some spots available in our  
*Free Genealogy Course*  
this January and February on Thursday afternoons.

**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 ENDED**

**Session TWO (2022):**  
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/e/ccgs-genealogy-course-winter-2022-tickets-168645734933>

**Space is Limited**

**Registration is now OPEN!**

**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

**Winter Registration Ends on January 9th**

For additional information email the CCGS Education Committee Chairman at [Education@CapeCodGenealogy.org](mailto:Education@CapeCodGenealogy.org). Registration Technical Help: [info@CapeCodGenealogy.org](mailto:info@CapeCodGenealogy.org)

An email blast will be sent in a few days with a link to register for the series.  
**Informative and FREE!**  
**Members and Friends Welcome!**



## Program Summary, December 21, 2021

Written by *David Martin*

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

[www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org)

### Our Members Share The Society's Annual Meeting for Sharing Genealogical Findings

**Walter Murphy** was the first speaker in a pre-recorded presentation on a DNA discovery. He pointed out that there are three levels of DNA research. First is the Genealogies level, which encompasses the time period back to 1600-1800; the second is the Lineage level which traces DNA back to the approximate historical time when surnames began to be used; the third is the Deep Ancestry level which goes back to the beginnings of human migrations on the earth.

He then explained the three most widely used types of DNA research today: Autosomal DNA research focusses on the 22 chromosomes that we all share and is the most frequently used type at this time; Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is found in both males and females, but is passed only from mother to her children; Y-DNA is only found in males and is passed only from fathers to sons, thus allowing the establishment of patrilineal lines. He has tested, among others, himself, his son, and a second cousin, all of whom are part of the same haplogroup. Walter and his second cousin share a common great grandfather; he can then extend the link to their great-great grandfather. He has found that the surnames Murphy, O'Byrne, O'Connor, and Beirne occur in the patrilineal line, going back 400-500 years; he found that he is ultimately associated with the Burns rather than the Murphy line, and that there could be a number of reasons for this finding.

**David Martin** presented the story of a stubborn brick wall which interfered with an application to the Mayflower Society, due to an error in one of the Mayflower Society's "Silver Books" which contain lineages of many Mayflower passengers out to 5 generations. David's research on the 6<sup>th</sup> generation, in order to link up with the

Mayflower Society's 5<sup>th</sup> generation, had reported a birth date for the person in the 6<sup>th</sup> generation as 1757. No evidence could be found to document that birth date in any vital records, but he found a birth date of 1779 for the correct ancestor in the Town Record Book for Dartmouth, Mass., referring to a Private Record as the source. That private record was reported to be in the possession of an ancestor who was living in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when the Town Record book was compiled.

When the holder of the Private Record passed away, David and a cousin learned that this man's records were being cleaned out, and they managed to rescue a "Book of Deaths and Ages," a small leather notebook that recorded births, marriages, and deaths for that family (surnamed Sisson); a birth date for the 6<sup>th</sup> generation person was written in the little book as 1779.

Upon placing that date in the application to the Mayflower Society, the application was rejected because 1779 would have meant that the mother would have to have been age 51 at the time of the birth. Then, after consulting a book on Colonial Handwriting, it was found upon careful re-reading of the handwritten number that the actual date was 1774 (the 4 looked like a modern 9, but 9 was written differently in that time). So, the corrected 1774 date was put in the application, which was then accepted for membership.

**Ray Sears** presented the problem of two men with the same name—Joseph Sears, both listed in records as born in the same year of 1746. One was born in Yarmouth, Mass., and the other was born in Morrisina, New York (part of the Bronx). DNA testing was done on 100 men who were descendants of each Joseph, using Y-DNA. During the Revolution, Joseph of Yarmouth was a Patriot, and Joseph of the Bronx was a Loyalist. Because Y-DNA does not change over time, it was established that these two men did not have any common ancestor, and complete lines of descendancy up to the present time from each Joseph were then constructed in order to show their lines as separate.

**Robert Oppenheim** reported on a brick wall that has now been partially broken through. His ancestor, Gustav Robers, had immigrated to Wisconsin from Germany in 1848. Gustav does not appear in any of the usual sources of records for immigrants such as ship passenger lists.

Through help from the German Special Interest Group, he learned of the book, *Geographic Origins of German Immigrants to Wisconsin*, describing immigrants from the 1850s to close to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Although the war occurring in 1848 probably had no direct effect on emigration, it is likely that the economic depression and the schism in the Lutheran church probably led to some emigration. In the index of this book, Bob found

Gustav listed, as a breakthrough. He is still seeking more information such as the name of a ship.

**Pippa Ryan** in follow-up discussion, shared a template for an old gingerbread man that she inherited from her mother, which she is using for fresh gingerbread for the holidays.

**Diane Schoenfelder** is seeking help on a George Soule line; she is finding a lack of documentation for information. The specific person is Lucretia Duel who was born in 1778; anyone with suggestions may contact Diane by writing to [info@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org).

## It's Membership Renewal Time!

The deadline for payment of 2022 membership dues is January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
If you haven't already done so, please send your check and completed renewal form to CCGS today.  
If you didn't receive or have misplaced your renewal form, please visit the CCGS website.  
You may also renew by PayPal.

**Thank you!**



**My landlord wanted to talk  
with me about my extremely  
high heating bills.**

**I said, sure, my door  
is always open.**

## 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](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org).



### Cape Cod Families

Leader **Bebe Brock** [crosby1635@gmail.com](mailto:crosby1635@gmail.com) advises that all are working independently, and carefully watching the on-going announcements from Sturgis Library, whether it will be open or not (where the group meets). If all goes well, Bebe will be holding meetings, post-COVID on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM.

### Computer Users

Leader **Bob Oppenheim** [roppen@msn.com](mailto: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. When we convene at the library, 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, January 11 at 10:00 AM**. It will remain a Zoom-only meeting. Our member **David Martin**, will facilitate a session on using “Roots Magic.” Co-contributors are our members **Walter Murphy**, **George Lewis**, and **Judy Fenner**. Judy uses “Legacy” for its reporting features and she may show us that as well.*

### DNA

Leader **Walter Murphy** [wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto: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, February 1 at 1:30 PM**. The SIG will enjoy a holiday hiatus and will skip the January meeting.*



## German

Leader **Ann Croston** [acroston125@comcast.net](mailto: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, January 4 at 10:00 AM. The session will present “Putting your ancestors in context in America.” Local history and timelines worksheets will be provided.***

## Irish Research

Leader **Pat Flaherty** [patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com) usually holds a Zoom meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM, however, gatherings will now be quarterly. 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, March 28 at 10:00 AM.***

## Writers

Leader **Pippa Dodd Ryan** [pippa.doddryan@gmail.com](mailto: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, January 21 at 10:00 AM.***



## Final Farewells

### Virginia (“Jinny”) Lois Devine 1933 – 2021

#### Remembrances of Jinny by CCGS member Judy Needham:

Jinny was well known in the genealogy circles on Cape Cod. She knew everything about the Nickerson Family trees and especially those Nickersons who went to Canada.

She was born on Cape Cod at the old Belmont Hotel in West Harwich and had a German surname (Schenkelberger), courtesy of her father. It was not until she was much older that she discovered that her roots were very, very deep on Cape Cod. Prior to retiring full time to Dennis, she lived in Milton, Massachusetts, where her home became one of the early ones featured on the PBS show *This Old House*.

She was very active in the Dennis Historical Society, being a past president as well as a resident of Dennis and was also an active member of CCGS.

We worked together every Wednesday at the Nickerson Family Association in Chatham until a short time before her illness, helping Nickersons decipher their family trees.

I am grateful for all she taught me and I still miss her.

### Wayne Van Buren 1939 – 2021

#### Remembrances from CCGS Members:

**David Martin:** Wayne Van Buren was for years a faithful member of the Publications Committee. Among his contributions was his service as the final and meticulous proofreader of *The Journal* just prior to its publication. He always showed his very dry sense of humor and was known for coming to meetings in the dead of winter only dressed in shirt and trousers, never with any overcoat, a hardy soul.

**Bebe Brock:** Wayne and his wife were avid gardeners and created beautiful flower gardens. Wayne was also a cousin of mine through his mother (Cornish and Holmes) of the Plymouth area.

**Nancy Daniels:** Wayne served as Treasurer with the Society for several years.

# CCGS Calendar

Tuesday, January 4  
German SIG, 10:00 AM

Wednesday, January 5  
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

Tuesday, January 11  
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, January 18  
Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM  
Marian Pierre-Louis

Friday, January 21  
Writers 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](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org) and in the subject line, write: *For Newsletter Editor*

Thank you,  
Newsletter Editor, Pam Eaton