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# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

**Volume 9 Issue 3 March 2022**

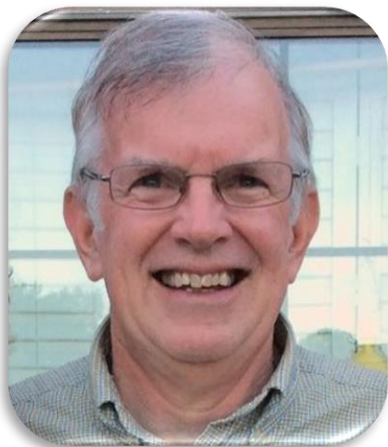
**Please Join us at our Next Meeting  
Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM, Eastern Time**

Our meeting will be brought to you via **Zoom**.

Members will receive an email one week before the meeting with an invitation and registration link.

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

**Using *LearnForeverLearn*  
to Examine your Family Tree  
for Endogamy and Pedigree Collapse  
with *L. Ray Sears, III***



Cape Cod ancestors in the 17th and 18th centuries were part of an endogamous community where cousins married cousins. This makes traditional use of autosomal DNA very difficult. Using the *LearnForeverLearn* tool, a genealogist can easily visualize pedigree collapse by allowing the tool to analyze a GEDCOM of a person's ancestors and possibly find a way to sort out all those autosomal DNA matches you have.

**L. Ray Sears, III** is a licensed professional engineer with service in the Army Signal Corps, at Halliburton Company and with Northrop Grumman at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. He has been researching the Sears Family History since 1976 and published the *Second Edition of the Sears Genealogical Catalogue* in 2019. He was technical editor of the Society's *Bulletin* for over ten years and now the Society's *Journal* for eleven years. His book, *Let Go To Listen* is a compilation of ruminations about Cape Cod that have been published over the past twenty years.

## Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

Do you remember the old ditty that begins “Thirty days hath September, ... ?” I do and, despite that, February 28<sup>th</sup> snuck up on me. As a result, I totally forgot about the President’s Message until our editor, Pam Eaton, informed me that she had begun work on March’s Newsletter. Oops!

Fortunately, I have a ready-made topic for this month’s message – our Library. As many of you may remember, our home base, the Dennis Public Library, had to close in late 2019 due to a flood in their electrical closet. Then, of course, the DPL – and CCGS – had to deal with COVID-related closings. Moreover, we needed to get our own IP address and Comcast account. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that all of that is behind us. Our CCGS Library is officially open for business.

We have brand new computers (thanks to a corporate sponsor). The furniture and books have been rearranged to improve social distancing. And we have installed an air purifier. This should make both volunteers and patrons comfortable. The nearby picture clearly shows the new, improved, and safe layout.

Our Family Search affiliate library connection was re-established several months ago and is available on the CCGS network, as is American Ancestors (NEHGS). Ancestry’s library edition is available on DPL’s public computers. We also have a Chromebook available at the front desk for public Family Search affiliate records when the CCGS library is closed.



The official opening for our library occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and, for now, will be open only on Thursdays from 1-4 P.M. However, we will soon make an online booking calendar available for appointments at other times.

With that in mind, we could use some volunteers. A few folks have already stepped up, but we can always use more help. If you would like an in-person tour, let me know and I will be happy to show you around (and encourage you to help out). In addition, if you have questions or comments, you can email [librarian@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:librarian@capecodgenealogy.org).

A number of people worked to improve the library’s physical layout as well as its secure beneath-the-surface infrastructure. Through it all, the Board provided the financial support. The result is an asset that we can all be proud of.

Changing the subject, the deadline for payment of 2022 membership dues has passed and the Board will soon approve a new password for the Members Section of our website. So, if you haven’t sent in your \$30, you run the risk of losing or weakening access to the many benefits of membership. If you have sent in your dues, thank you.

That’s all for now. Please remember to stay *Safe*, and stay *Healthy*. **And** ... be sure to wear something **GREEN** on St. Patrick’s Day.

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



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

The folks at **MyHeritage** offer many free courses. A new one that was just recently announced is an introductory course in genealogy. It advertises as self-paced and can be started anytime and worked on at your leisure. I would expect that many of us think that they are well beyond such a course—having taken several myself, I often find useful content. Check it out at:

<https://education.myheritage.com/courses/genealogy-for-beginners/>

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

The new schedule of **LEGACY Family Tree Webinars for 2022** has been released. When you see this, some will have passed, but there are 116 of them! Peruse the offerings at:

[https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/?list\\_view=true&multiple=true](https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/?list_view=true&multiple=true)

These are quality offerings, worth your time if the subject is of interest. Note that if you register, there are options to watch the recorded presentation if you forget to attend.

(I've done this more times than I care to admit.)

There is also often a printed syllabus available for download.

**What happened when I  
swallowed a dictionary?**

**It gave me thesaurus throat I've ever had.**

**Please Welcome  
New Members**

**Kathy Reggio  
Ron Petersen**

## **Final Farewell**

**John Bimshas  
1932 – 2022**

John Bimshas, of Plymouth, passed away on January 28, 2022.

Mr. Bimshas had many interests,  
including being a loyal attendee at the  
Society's Program Meetings from 2005 – 2017.

Due to COVID, services will be held at a later date.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to his three sons, grandchildren  
and extended family.



**Sunset at Paine's Creek Landing, Brewster**

## Program Summary, February 15, 2022

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)



### Tips & Tricks for Finding Elusive Individuals in the Census with Jenna Smith

The Society's monthly program presentation for February 2022 featured genealogist **Jenna Smith** on the topic of *Finding Individuals in the Census*, a presentation made from her location near the Family History Library of Salt Lake City.

Jenna indicated the importance of using the Census as a genealogical tool together with other sources; the Census is an excellent starting point for establishing the time and location of an ancestor.

The U.S. Population Censuses of 1900 and 1910 listed the number of children born in a household as well as those who were still living.

She addressed the problem of brick walls in relation to the Census; brick wall Census problems are particularly often found in the South. To begin solving a brick wall, we need to ask the following questions:

- What is already known?
- Who gave that information?
- Was the source public or private?
- What assumptions should be challenged?
- What evidence needs to be re-examined?
- How can we use newspaper information in the process?
- How can we solidify the knowledge that we have about the current generation?

Some research tips for addressing brick walls would be:

Look at family groups (siblings, cousins, etc.) rather than just direct lines.

Work backward in time, present to past.

Look at the supplemental columns in the Census beyond name, age, and place.

Remember that the Censuses were not always taken on the same day or month of the year, so the age of an individual may vary more than 10 years across different Censuses.

Look at the instructions given to the Census enumerator, printed at the top of the page.

Look for correlated information in city directories and draft registrations.

Use wildcards for searches (substitute a ? or an \* for a letter in the name, for variations in spellings).

Look for the least common first name within a family first.

Remember that the Censuses of 1850, 1860, and 1870 did not give the relationships among members of a household.

Be aware of possible handwriting and transcription errors.

The 1870 Census was the first to enumerate African Americans.

Remember that families were sometimes fractured; relatives may not have lived together.

Use search engines such as *Ancestry* to identify others in a family to check.

Some additional points were given as general information. The term "grass widow" was used to identify a woman whose husband was absent for a long period. Some individuals were enumerated more than once in different decennial Censuses. The Census can also be used to narrow the range of years for the time when a person immigrated by looking at a Census when the person had not yet arrived, and then a next Census when she/he had arrived.

Supplements to using the Census include state censuses, church lists, tax records, and account books, among others. Distinguishing between two persons with the same name to determine if they are the same person is another genealogical challenge. Using other records in a linkage analysis can be used to carry out a check. City directories can be among the most useful for checking Census information. On a Census the term "non-declarant" refers to a person who has not been naturalized.

For a system of keeping a record of research conducted, Jenna recommended using a chart.

district in which an ancestor lived, before looking for the name itself.

She also recommended that for the 1950 census release in April 2022, genealogists consult [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org) to identify the enumeration



Wychmere Harbor,  
Harwich Port, MA  
The "Tyrone"

Still Winter & Cold!

Why have we never  
seen this headline:

Psychic Wins Lottery

# *A Case of Multiple Identity – Solving a Mystery*

by David Martin

Zoom Webinar

Friday, *April 8*

**12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM, Eastern Time**

*The Cape Cod Tufts Club* extends a special invitation to CCGS members and friends, and also invites alumni, parents, friends of Tufts and members of the Intercollegiate Alumni of Cape Cod and Islands and the general public, to learn how to solve a genealogical puzzle that has roots that date back to the 1800s.

The speaker, Professor/Dean Emeritus from Gallaudet University, *Dr. David Martin*, will present on a long-standing mystery that is near and dear to his heart. A mid-19th century ancestor seemed to have no identifiable parents, a very common name, and many possible options for what could be true.

Starting with very little information, the investigator on the case pursued many avenues involving probates, divorce records, medical records, Native American archives, DNA and military pension records. The most important clue discovered? A Civil War Military Pension application from service in the Union Navy. This document, among other things, revealed a concussion this relative sustained from the cannons on the ironclad ship, the *Monitor*, as it battled with the South's ironclad vessel, the *Merrimack*. Through many indirect "detective" leads and blind alleys, the enigma was finally solved with a variety of techniques that may help others to track down elusive ancestors.



This event will be held via Zoom webinar. Please join us! To register, please visit this link:

<https://rsvp.tufts.edu/event/56da03f0-80d2-4073-9d19-780c33972038/summary>



**About Dr. David S. Martin:** David is Professor/Dean Emeritus from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC. He graduated from Yale with a B.A., holds a Master's and Certificate of Advanced Study degrees from the Harvard School of Education, and the Ph.D. from Boston College. His interests involve genealogy, local history, astronomy, and the organ; he is the current Treasurer of the Yale Club of Cape Cod, the President of the Marston Mills Historical Society, and a current board member of CCGS. He coordinated a Cape-wide Symposium in late 2020 on The Significance of Cape Cod in the Plimoth Colony, and will draw on that information for his presentation.

## 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 fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM and will let her group know.

### 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). PRE-COVID, these meetings were held at the Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Street, Dennis Port. We have been meeting virtually using Zoom during COVID. The library has just re-opened and we will eventually return to the library, but not for our March 2022 meeting. When we do re-convene, meetings will be simulcast on Zoom and all of the SIG members will receive an invitation to participate virtually. Any changes to this arrangement will be emailed to the membership and published in the Newsletter.

***The next Computer SIG will be held on Tuesday, March 8 at 10:00 AM. It will be a Zoom meeting. Our member Bill Horrocks will give us an update on some things we can do with georeferencing maps.***

### DNA

Leader **Walter Murphy** [wmgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:wmgenealogy@gmail.com) holds a Zoom meeting every other month on the first Tuesday at 1:30 PM. Prior to the Zoom meeting, he sends out both an agenda and a Zoom invitation to register. 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 discussion period is followed by topics of interest.

***February was supposed to be the first meeting of the year, but it was cancelled. In order to make up for that, meetings will be held in March and April, and then revert to an alternating month schedule.***

***As you read this, March’s meeting on March 1 (which focused on triangulation and DNA Painter) is in the history books. The topics for the April 5 meeting are still to be decided.***



## 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, March 1 at 10:00 AM](#). SIG members have received information from Ann and will continue “Putting your ancestors in context in America” with the worksheets that have been provided. There is a new one focusing on the FAN Club which fits with American research. Editor’s Note: My apologies if this current Newsletter is sent out after this meeting.***

## 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, March 18, 10:00 AM](#).***



## On the Lighter Side

### Genealogical Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

**2** parents

**4** grandparents

**8** great-grandparents

**16** 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandparents

**32** 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandparents

**64** 4<sup>th</sup> great grandparents

**128** 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents

**256** 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents

**512** 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents

**1,024** 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents

**2,048** 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents

**4,096** 10<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents

Over the last 400 years.

# CCGS Calendar

Monday, March 28  
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, March 1  
German SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, April 19  
Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Carol Kostakos Petranek  
Alien Registration Files

Tuesday, March 1  
DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

Tuesday, May 17  
Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Dennis Picard  
Daily Life in the U.S. Lifesaving Service  
Along the Coast of New England in the  
19<sup>th</sup> Century

Wednesday, March 2  
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

Tuesday, March 8  
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, June 21  
Annual Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL  
NARA MythBusters:  
Your Family IS in the Archives

Tuesday, March 15  
Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM  
L. Ray Sears, III  
Using *LearnForeverLearn*  
to Examine your Family Tree  
for Endogamy and Pedigree Collapse

Friday, March 18  
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