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CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 9 Issue 5 May 2022

**Please Join us at our Next Meeting
Tuesday, May 17, 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 to receive a registration link.

*Daily Life in the U.S. Lifesaving Service
Along the Coast of New England in the 19th Century
with Dennis Picard*

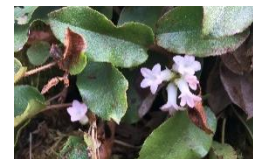


In 1879, faced with the loss of the lives of crew and passengers of grounded or wrecked ships, the Federal government established and supported an organization called the United States Life Saving Service. This organization designed, built and manned lifesaving stations on all the U.S. coastlines, including those of the Great Lakes. The daily duties at these buildings were supervised by the station keeper and carried out by individuals called “surfmen.” Come hear about their daily routines, as well as some of their stories of lifesaving on the New England coast.

Dennis D. Picard, has been a museum professional in the living history field for forty years. He began his career in 1978 at Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and spent twelve years filling various positions including lead interpreter, where he researched and designed many public programs which are still offered by that institution today. He also served on the staff of Hancock Shaker Village as a historic trade craftsman and site interpreter. Picard is the recipient of various grants that allowed him to serve as project coordinator for research and implementation of programs and events at several historic sites and museums. He has also served as a consultant for many historical societies and museums. His museum experience afforded him the ability to author many articles on the lifestyles and folkways of New England. He has edited film scripts and reviewed historic novels for accuracy of content. Picard held the position of Assistant Director and Director at several sites including Fort Number Four in Charlestown, New Hampshire, and the Sheffield Historical Society in the Massachusetts Berkshires. He recently retired after 27 years at Storowton Village Museum, West Springfield, Massachusetts. During the 2017-2019 academic years, Picard taught Museum Studies & Historic Site Interpretation at Westfield State University in Massachusetts. He is also the President of the Board of Directors of the Pioneer Valley History Network. He serves as a member of the editorial board of the Country School Journal and Grants Committee of the Country School Association of America.

Message from the CCGS President, Walter Murphy

According to the *Cape Cod Times*, April showers were well below normal. Even so, I have begun to notice new colors in my travels, which suggests that mayflowers will be here in a timely fashion. Similarly – and to really stretch a metaphor – our Bylaws and Nominating Committees have been hard at work and their efforts will “blossom” in the weeks ahead. (BOOO!)



First up are the new bylaws. These are a rewrite of the current version, which has been around since 2016. The new bylaws were approved by your Board in April, were sent to members for their review shortly thereafter, and will be presented to members for their ratification at the May 17 monthly meeting. The ratification requires approval by two-thirds of the members attending the meeting, so please plan to attend and cast your vote on this important matter.

The membership meeting in June is designated as CCGS’s Annual Meeting, where the Society’s Officers, Directors-at-Large, and the Nominating Committee (whose terms are expiring) shall be elected. The current Nominating Committee presented this year’s slate of nominees of the Society to the Board at its April meeting. That slate – along with pictures and bios – can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter. More broadly, the slate will be sent to each member at least ten calendar days before the vote at the June 21 meeting.

By definition, these will be two of the most important meetings of the year. At the same time, both meetings will have two interesting speakers (Dennis Picard in May and Judy Russell in June), so please make a point of being punctual so that we can conduct the business portion of the meeting in a timely fashion and leave plenty of time for our speakers to share their knowledge.

That’s all for now. Please remember to stay *Safe*, and stay *Healthy*.

Walter (wmgenealogy@gmail.com)



Bourne National Cemetery, 2011

**Cape Cod Genealogical Society
Board of Directors 2021-2022**

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

RootsTech 2022 is long gone. You have to wonder about a conference that, over the course of three (or was it four?) days had over 1,000 presentations. Thankfully, the organizers realized that none of the attendees were able to see everything that they were interested in. There is a facility for going back and looking in on topics of interest that you may have missed.

Go to this website:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/home>

You will land on the *Welcome to the Family* page where you will have the option to subscribe for updates. Pause for a moment and enjoy the majesty of the Rocky Mountains in the background of the view of Salt Lake City.

Then scroll down to the *Sessions* panel and use the *Search* function to find sessions of interest.

Don't forget to look for downloadable syllabi - sometimes their take-away value is just as important as the session itself.

**Please Welcome
New Member**

Brenda Lee

Program Summary, April 19, 2022

Written by *David Martin*

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

www.capecodgenealogy.org



Alien Registration Files with Carol Kostakos Petranek

The April 2022 Program of the Society featured a presentation by Carol K. Petranek on the topic of using Alien Registration Files from the U.S. Government for genealogical research.

Frequently overlooked are records at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on Alien Registrations that took place in 1940 and later during the World War II era under the Alien Registration Act.

The importance of these records is their provision of potentially a great deal of information on an immigrant ancestor. However, it was emphasized that one also needs to verify information found in those records since the ancestor could have been under stress at the time of being queried by government officials on their background. The Act required the completion of a form which included date and place of birth, occupation, and status of becoming naturalized. Individuals of age 14 and older who planned to stay in the USA for a month or longer had to complete the form. They also had to provide a photograph and a fingerprint, after which they were assigned a number on a card which they would carry with them.

During the period of 1940-1944, five and a half million people registered under this Act. After 1944, another 60 million new files were created. Anyone who received a number and a card but who never re-contacted any government agency afterward would not have an actual file. Those who did contact a government office afterward, for any

reason, however, would have a file; reasons for re-contacting the government could be applying for Social Security, a lost card, etc. Anyone immigrating AFTER 1944, however, would have a file. The file is known as an A-File.

In addition to the information mentioned earlier, files may also contain affidavits of witnesses for documents, passenger ship identity, name of a spouse, correspondence between the government and the person, marriage, baptism, evidence of being supported by another person, their registration in their original country, and family letters. Some immigrants for some reason may have been deported, and that situation requires further research by the genealogist and perhaps an appeal.

The 1940 USA Population Census has a column for "Citizenship." If the abbreviation "na" is found in that column opposite a person's name, it means that they had become a citizen. But if that column has "al", it means that the person is an alien at the time of the Census and thus they may have a file. A certificate of citizenship is not usually in the file because that certificate is not normally duplicated.

Genealogists are cautioned about name changes, since immigrants sometimes modified or simplified the spelling of their names or may have used more than one name in their original country. Thus, a researcher needs to try as many alternatives as possible in the search. Usually, the signature used by the immigrant can indicate his or her preferred name. Researchers need to remember that immigrants arrived from a variety of cultures, and their original ethnicities can influence naming patterns used because of various local traditions and practices. For example, in some cultures, actual birth dates are not important, whereas other holidays such as name days are important.

In the case of immigrants in this time period, the applications for citizenship were destroyed.

Researchers are also advised to consider that clerks would sometimes have to transliterate some more complex names, and thus spelling variations could enter when the transliteration is not accurate.

At this time, anyone whose birth year is 1923 or later and was an immigrant would have his or her file located at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS). For persons born before 1923, the file would be at NARA. However, it is possible that a post-1923 file might not be at USCIS, and so one should check NARA anyway.

Sometimes a researcher may find that the government office turns down a request or says that it is missing; it is important to continue to appeal that response because sometimes a subsequent request will be granted.

The website for NARA to use for starting a name search is <https://www.archive.gov/research/catalog> and another is <https://www.archive.gov/research/immigration>.

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 following the ongoing announcements from Sturgis Library, whether open or not (where the group meets) and adhering to any mask requirements. 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 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 re-opened and we will eventually return to the library, but **not for our May 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, May 10 at 10:00 AM**. It will be a Zoom meeting. Our member, Walter Murphy, will give us an update on getting and using DNA results. The focus will be on recent happenings in the industry and things that are of interest to our members who may not be interested in deep diving into mapping their genome. (If you are interested, Walter's DNA SIG is the place to be.)*

DNA

Leader **Walter Murphy** 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.

The June 7 agenda is still largely a work in progress, but Ancestry’s new ethnicity tools and estimates will surely involve some discussion.

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.

Irish Research

Leader **Pat Flaherty** 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, June 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, May 20 at 10:00 AM.



June 2022 Candidates for Election



PRESIDENT (Two Years) B. Judy Fenner, or just Judy to those that know her. Judy is no newcomer to managing not-for-profits like ours. She has been an active member of our Board where she is serving on the 50th Anniversary Committee and is the Chair of the Bylaws Committee. She is a member of the NEHGS and is a Past President of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. She has also been Co-Chair of two NERGC conferences (Portland, Maine and Glastonbury, Connecticut); a speaker at several NERGC conferences; and has taught courses in beginning genealogy. Judy says that she has been researching her family for over 50 years.

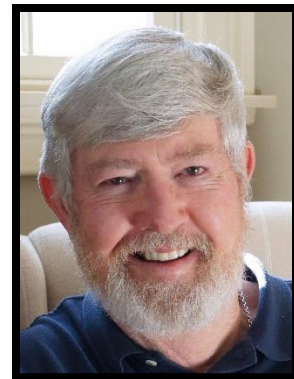
Judy has been a member of the Order of the Eastern Star for 35 years where she has held several leadership positions. She was Worthy Grand Matron of Massachusetts, 2002-2003, serving as leader of 10,000 members. She was Chairman of Deputies for Brazil for the General Grand Chapter, 2009-2021, responsible for coordinating Deputies in five regions of Brazil (yes, Judy is bilingual in English and Portuguese). She is currently a member of the Registration Committee and also Chairman of Deputies for Brazil of the General Grand Chapter (the international governing body), 2021-2024. In addition, she has assisted in founding new Chapters, and in assuring compliance with rules and regulations of the Order. Besides her work for the Order of the Eastern Star, she is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, the New England Association of Parliamentarians and the George Demeter Unit in Massachusetts, where she is Past President and Past Secretary. And, she is clerk and member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, on the Vestry and was Co-Warden (term expired January 2022). Breaking down brick walls giving you a pain in the neck? In addition to her other credentials, Judy is a retired physical therapist.

RECORDING SECRETARY (Two-Years) Patricia “Pat” Merriell. Pat is a Boston native and currently lives in Centerville. She spent thirty-four years in southeastern Ohio and moved back east in 2013 to care for her mother. Pat joined Ancestry.com in 2016 and has been researching off and on since then. Now that she is retired, Pat hopes to devote more time to her research and do some site visits to relatives for interviews, along with visiting archives and cemeteries. Pat is the mother of two sons and grandmother to four spectacular girls. Pat has worked as a substitute teacher, bookkeeper, real estate broker, and paralegal. She has served as a board member of Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Ohio and the Centerville Civic Association. Pat is working hard to break through brick walls for her paternal grandfather and maternal great-grandmother.



DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (Two-Years) Pam Eaton, along with her husband, Baird, caught the genealogical bug in 2010 while researching the history of an 1894 family wedding gown in their possession. Pam enjoys writing narrative poetry and, during the pandemic, wrote a poem about Mayflower passenger Stephen Hopkins. The poem was read by a local actor, in Pilgrim costume, filmed by Lower Cape TV and can now be found on YouTube (Search: Stephen Hopkins is my Name). Pam has been an active member of CCGS for several years, has been on the Board as a Director at Large from 2020 to 2022 and is a regular attendee at our meetings and SIGs. She has been our Newsletter Editor for the past two years.

DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE (Two-Years) Brian O'Donnell has been an active member of CCGS since 2014 when he attended a genealogy class put on by the Society through the Academy for Lifelong Learning. Originally from New York he came to Cape Cod via Okinawa when his father, a career Air Force NCO, was assigned to Otis AFB in the mid-fifties. After graduating from college, he served in the Army and later transferred to the Marine Corps. After retiring from the service, he and his family returned to Cape Cod and acquired a perpetual home improvement project in West Barnstable. Since moving "back home" he has worked as an airline pilot for a regional carrier, served on the board of the Barnstable County Beekeepers Association and has done volunteer construction work with Habitat for Humanity. Having an avid interest in history, he became interested in genealogy through a cousin who was researching the maternal line of their family. Genealogy seemed like a personalized extension of learning history and a means to chronicle the family story to children and grandchildren. His main area of interest has been his paternal line which originates primarily from Ireland and the New York City area.

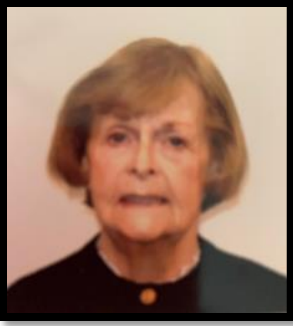


NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One-Year) Judy Jones is a retired teacher who moved to the Cape almost 15 years ago. One of the first things she did upon arrival was to dig out the research she had started with her sister many, many years ago and then look for a genealogy group that shared her interest. She found us!! Since then, she has served as a NERGC delegate, been on the Board as a Director-at-Large for three years and is now the Chair of the Membership Committee. She is also a member of the Mayflower Society, DAR, Maine Genealogical Society, some other family associations and a couple of historical associations. She reports that she is looking forward to the day that, as Hospitality Committee Chair, she gets to stop at Dunkins to pick up coffee and donuts and welcome you back to in-person meetings.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One-Year) Pat Flaherty. Pat has been a member of the Cape Cod Genealogy Society since 2016 and currently facilitates the Irish Special Interest Group. Pat began interviewing family members about their lives close to 50 years ago, continuing, as time permitted, during her career in the financial services industry. Upon retirement in 2004, family history became front and center. She describes herself as a life-long student. She holds a B.S. in Management from the University of Massachusetts Boston and an M.B.A. from Northeastern University. She completed the Certificate in Genealogical Research at Boston University in 2010. Having spent summers in Harwich Port when growing up, Pat now splits time between West Harwich and Boston, when she and her husband are not traveling the world.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE (One Year) Jo Anne Makely. Jo Anne is a former Mayor, Township of Mahwah, New Jersey; Presidential Appointment, Advisory Board, Federal Regional Council; Chair, Army Corps of Engineers, Ramapo River Basin Committee; Member of Board of Directors and VP, Soule Kindred in America; DAR Genealogical Records Chair for the State of New Jersey; Trustee, Bergen County Genealogical Society; awarded the Joyce Kilmer Outstanding Citizen Award. Her former volunteer experience includes: Chair, Historic Register Committee, Greene County Historical Society; and Chair, Grants Committee, Greene County Council of the Arts. She holds a B.S. from Adelphi University.



Jo Anne has been a member of the NEHGS since 1995 where her positions included: Trustee; Secretary of the Board; Councilor, and member, Nominating Committee; Chair, Human Resources Committee; member, Executive Committee; tour participant, *Great Migration By Sea & By Land* (2015), and *A Golden Land: The Country Houses and Gardens of Buckinghamshire* (2016); member, Charles Ewer Society for Lifetime Giving; and supporter member of the Cornerstone Society for Giving. She is also chair of Genealogical Records for the Massachusetts NSDAR and Historian for the Hannah Winthrop Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.



**High Tide
Chase Garden Creek
Yarmouth Port, MA**

CCGS Calendar

Tuesday, May 3
German SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 3
DNA SIG, 1:30 PM

Wednesday, May 4
Board Meeting, 2:00 PM

Tuesday, May 10
Computer SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, May 17
Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM
Dennis D. Picard
Daily Life in the U.S. Lifesaving Service

Friday, May 20
Writers 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

Monday, June 27
Irish SIG, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, July 19
Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM
Lori Berdak Miller
Military Records/Death Files

Tuesday, August 16
Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM
Michael Leclerc, CG
Tips & Strategies Using MS Word & Google Docs

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

I know a lot of jokes about retired people.

But none of them work.