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# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

**Volume 10 Issue 1  
February 2023**

**Please Join us at our Monthly Meeting  
Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00 PM, Eastern Time**

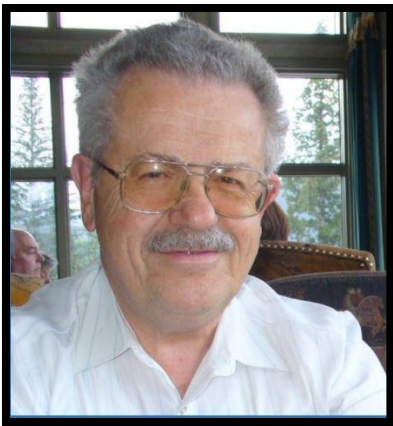
Our meeting will be brought to you via **Zoom**.

Members will receive an email a 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.

*Please Welcome David Martin*

## *Back to Genealogy Basics: Little-Used Strategies for Family Historians*



David Martin's presentation will offer ideas, tips, and explanations on a variety of little-used strategies for genealogical researchers. He offers a review of some tried-and-true techniques as well. Some of his topics include the following:

A keystone for finding the most useful genealogical **websites**.

Working through **neighbors** to find ancestors.

Finding **maiden names**.

Uncovering unused treasures at the **courthouse**.

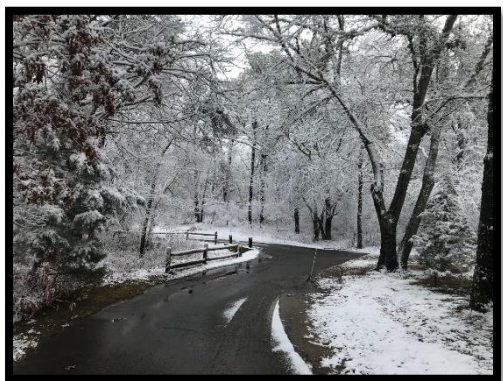
Using a **will** as a genealogical tool.

And more .....

**Dr. David Martin** graduated from Yale with a B.A. and holds a Master's and Certificate of Advanced Study degrees from Harvard School of Education, and a Ph.D. from Boston College. Among his many interests is genealogy, where he serves on the Board of CCGS, has been a past president, and is the current Education Chair. David asks that you plan to attend to learn these approaches, as well as share ideas that you may have found helpful on any of these topics. CCGS President Judy Fenner will assist.

# Message from the CCGS President

## Judy Fenner



Good things are happening!

It is encouraging to see more members stepping up to volunteer on short-and-long-term projects. Your help is appreciated and always needed! Thank you.

Special thanks go to Jim Sullivan and Pat Merriell for their dogged persistence in getting the new scanner set up in the library. Instructions for its use will be posted to help you with your scanning. Please use the library reservation system to reserve a time to scan.

Currently there are volunteers at the library on Thursday afternoons from 1-4. All are welcome to come in and do research. If you have availability to volunteer some time, we could expand our library hours. Please give it some thought.

David Martin, Walter Murphy, and I will be going to Leominster on February 17 to transfer the books in Kathy Kaldis' storage locker to a U-Haul van and transport them to our storage locker in Hyannis. Jeff Schiebe will meet us in Leominster to help pack up and Bob Firth has volunteered to meet us on our return to Hyannis to help with the unloading. Thank you, gentlemen, for doing this. The books are a genealogical collection from the Melrose and Middleboro Public Library and were to be given away to anyone who had interest. Kathy Kaldis, our former Vice President, took the opportunity to acquire the books for CCGS. Stay tuned for further notice on the status of the books in future CCGS newsletters. The books will eventually be organized and cataloged, then available to our CCGS members. Thank you, Kathy, for this treasure.

Do you plan to go to Springfield this coming May to attend NERGC 2023? This will be the **17<sup>th</sup> New England Regional Genealogical Conference**. A recent email blast was sent to all subscribers with information on the presentations and early bird registration. I will be there, along with some other CCGS members. As a Society, we have agreed to "donate" 25 volunteer hours and could use your help if you are there. We always have fun and it is a great way to mingle with friends and colleagues who are interested in genealogy and to attend interesting, professional presentations.

A bylaw amendment to the list of Standing Committees was approved by the Board of Directors and the Membership establishing a Long-Range Planning Committee to look to things we might do in the future. You will soon receive a survey from the Long-Range Planning Committee. Please fill it out and send it back. The results will be used to plan meetings, etc. so please share your thoughts. We hope for a response from everyone!

There has been an interest in holding Saturday morning hands-on workshops in person at the Dennis Public Library. The first of these is February 18. See information on page 5 in this newsletter. You are encouraged to offer suggestions for topics for these workshops. We hope to do them on a regular basis.

This is your Society and we want to support your needs.

Happy researching!!!

Judy  
[president@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:president@capecodgenealogy.org)

**Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
Board of Directors 2022-2023**

**OFFICERS**

Judy Fenner	President
Jo Anne Makely	Vice-President
Pat Merriell	Recording Secretary
Bebe Brock	Corresponding Secretary
Nancy Daniels	Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Walter Murphy	Immediate Past President
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Pam Eaton	Director at Large
L. Ray Sears	Director at Large
Brian O'Donnell	Director at Large
Carolyn Weiss	Board Member
David Martin	Board Member
Bob Oppenheim	Board Member

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TBD	Library
David Martin	Education
Judy Jones	Membership
Carolyn Weiss	Publications
Pat Merriell	Communications
Jo Anne Makely	Program
TBD	Financial Review
Jo Anne Makely	Youth Services
L. Ray Sears	Technology
Bob Oppenheim	Long Range Planning

**Mailing address:**  
**Cape Cod Genealogical Society**  
**P.O. Box 1394**  
**Harwich, MA 02645**  
[www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org)

**Board Meeting Invitation**

Ever wonder what is discussed at the **Board of Directors** 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 and meets via Zoom. President, Judy Fenner, sends out the Board Agenda with a Zoom link to join the meeting. The Board welcomes any member and at the end of the meeting, offers an “open forum” for any attending member to express a thought, an opinion, ask questions, etc. After the meeting and when the meeting minutes are approved, the minutes will be posted onto the Members Tab on the CCGS website for any member to view.

**Board Meeting News**

Bob Oppenheim is the chair of the new **Long-Range Planning Committee**. During the January monthly meeting, a vote was taken from members to approve the committee. The Committee is tasked with exploring long range goals for the future of the Society and welcomes your ideas. Soon, the Committee will send out a survey to all members. We urge you to fill out the survey!

Kathy Kaldis, our 2022 Vice President announced that she is going back to school and has resigned from the office of Vice President and from the Committees she is on. We will miss this vibrant individual and wish her all the best. Jo Anne Makely has been appointed Interim Vice President and in charge of programming.

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

The AI platform ChatGPT <https://chat.openai.com/auth/login> can generate human-like text based on the input it is given. This could revolutionize the task of narrating the story of your ancestral families. Overnight it has become extraordinarily busy, so much so, that you have a better than even chance of being told to come back later if you try to use it at a peak time.

If you are using this for the first time, you will have to create an account to sign in. But come and hear about it, time permitting, at our upcoming Computer Users' SIG, on Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 AM.

**Special Shout-Out to Those  
Interested in**

**French Canadian  
Genealogy**

**CCGS Member  
Anne Firth  
would like to talk with you  
to compare research, data, ideas!**

**Please email  
[info@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org)  
and ask for Anne Firth.**

**Helpful Websites Directed to French Canadian Records  
Recommended by a CCGS Member**

**[www.prdh-igd.com](http://www.prdh-igd.com)**

**Catholic Baptisms and Marriages 1621-1849**

**Podcast: "Maple Stars and Stripes"  
Free, language tips, and research information.**

**The Drouin Collection:**

**Births/Marriages/Deaths and Baptisms from about 1620-1940s  
Originals of microfilm, some digitized. Over 61 million records of  
Province of Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, and others.**

**Some interesting tidbits: Priest and Minister notes about the family.**

**This collection is accessed through *Ancestry.ca*, *Ancestry World Explorer*, *FamilySearch*.**



## The Announcement Used to Promote the February 18, 2023 Workshop



*Relax, not your immediate family. Your ancestors are looking for you.  
They want to tell you about their lives, where they lived, what they did.  
They have surprises waiting for you to discover.  
Do you want to learn what they have to say?*

*Come spend a few hours with me. Maybe we can get them to talk to us.  
No, this is not an invitation to a séance.  
It is an invitation to learn a little about your family through genealogy  
(the study of family ancestral lines: Merriam-Webster).*

**When:** Saturday, February 18, 2023

**Where:** Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Street, Dennis Port, MA.

**What:** Learn to use the world's largest, **absolutely free**, on-line collection of genealogical data, FamilySearch.

**Bring:** If you want to, bring your own laptop computer (as long as it has wireless internet capability), we will try to get you researching on your own

**Take Away:** Two papers done for the Cape Cod Genealogical Society. One on using *FamilySearch* and another on finding webinars about the hows and whys of genealogical research.

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Your genealogy tour guide: Bob Oppenheim, Cape Cod Genealogical Society member.

**Stop by – drop in any time between 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Please Welcome New Members**

Laurie Smith-Frailey  
Denise Fjeld  
Derek “Rick” Russell  
Patty Donohoe  
Marilyn Graves  
Jay Wyman  
Susan Feinberg  
Ellen McKey

## Education News

Our very own member, **David Martin**, Chair of the CCGS Education Committee will be offering the following courses this winter and spring. If you are interested, please contact David directly at [davidmartindr@aol.com](mailto:davidmartindr@aol.com) or call him on his cell at 508-527-0460 for more information.

*Cape Cod Community College*, on-line via **Zoom**, 6 sessions,  
**Wednesdays**, starting **February 8**, 6:00 – 7:30 PM.  
Call 508-375-5010 to register.

*Dennis Public Library*, Hall Street, Dennis Port, **in-person**, 6 sessions,  
**Wednesdays**, starting **April 5**, 6:00 – 7:30 PM.  
Call 508-760-6219 to register.

*Whelden Library*, West Barnstable, Route 149, **in-person**, 3 sessions,  
**Thursdays**, **April 13, 27, and May 19** from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.  
Call 508-362-2262 to register.

Any questions? Contact David Martin at 508-527-0460 or email at:  
[davidmartindr@aol.com](mailto:davidmartindr@aol.com)

# Library News

The Cape Cod Genealogical Society maintains a well-established Genealogy Library at the Dennis Public Library at 5 Hall Street, Dennis Port. On Thursdays from 1 PM to 4 PM., this research center is staffed with Society volunteers who are ready to assist you with your genealogy research. You are welcome to drop by the Library during that time, or you may set up an appointment at [librarian@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:librarian@capecodgenealogy.org).

In addition to an extensive collection of books and periodicals, the Genealogy Library has computer access to several genealogical sites, such as, *Ancestry*, *Family Search* and *American Ancestors*.

Volunteer opportunities are available at the Genealogy Library. We need a Library coordinator and organizer to manage the different shifts. We also are looking for CCGS members who are interested in learning how to use, demonstrate to others, and help visitors who have materials to scan and photos to restore.



## Vivid-Pix High-Speed Scanner

Soon available for use  
to CCGS members and friends!

It comes with Vivid-Pix's [Memory Station](#)  
with bundled [Restore Photo Software](#).

**What did the cowboy say  
when he went into the  
car dealership in Germany?  
Audi!**

## Program Summary December 20, 2022

Written by *David Martin*

Our December meeting has traditionally been an informal meeting with presenters from the Society. Members shared personal genealogical investigations which represented different kinds of positive breakthroughs for their research.

**Walter Murphy** provided a presentation on Y-DNA research, which traces the male lines passed from father to son to son, etc., which can lead one to go back millennia in history. This feature contrasts with autosomal DNA research which provides valid information out to perhaps third cousins, but after that, the percentage of reliability declines rapidly. Y-DNA is patrilineal, but one can conduct it on both maternal and paternal lines. Walter has recently focused on his maternal side and was able to find two cousins who consented to be tested; as a result, he discovered some names of individuals of which he had not been previously aware. Testing is continuing. He found a match as far back as 400 years. He pointed out that this genetic information can confirm other documentary evidence that one may have collected previously. Interestingly, although his immediate heritage is English and Irish, he found Arabic surnames who lived in the Middle East when his investigation pushed back several hundred years.

**Jeff Schiebe's** presentation was entitled "Cousins, Cousins, Cousins" and focused on what is sometimes referred to as the Great Eight, one's full set of great-grandparents. He found that one great-grandfather had immigrated from the Pomeranian section of Prussia in the 1860s to the United States. He made use of a Family Bible in the research. In the process of the research, he re-connected with a younger cousin, and they began to share

information, which proved to be highly fruitful. This cousin had possession of several original documents and photographs, which proved to be a treasure trove of information that he had not seen before. He also pointed out some examples of interesting gravestones that recorded multiple generations of a family. He noted that when a deceased person's effects are being divided, female heirs tend to collect the family records, whereas male heirs frequently collect items such as tools that were owned by the deceased. He summarized his focus by noting that cousins: (1) can help to validate data; (2) make new connections; (3) provide different perspectives on one's family than previously known; and (4) can help trigger family memories.

**Walter Murphy** addressed self-publishing, referring to his second book, entitled, "From Whence We Came," which is a genealogical account of his family from 1823 to 1901. The book was self-published by a print-on-demand publisher (Lulu). It contains maps, census records, vital records, and photographs. He cited the important help that he received from the professional genealogist, Andrew Pierce. The book was a ten-year effort. He is now writing a third book, which is entitled, "From Mom to the Mayflower, With a Detour to the Mayflower."

**Alan Francis** spoke briefly about writing one's own narrative story. (A copy of his book is available at our Research Center in the Dennis Library. He indicated that on Google, there is a list of sixteen questions that should be answered when writing an autobiography.



## Program Summary, January 17, 2023

Written by *David Martin*



### Success with Jewish DNA Basics of DNA and How to Overcome Issues

with  
**Jarrett Ross**

The Society's January 2023 Program Meeting featured a presentation by Jarrett Ross, an expert in Jewish genealogy. He reviewed the basics of DNA and genealogy, including mitochondrial DNA, X and Y chromosomes, centiMorgans (cM), mutations, and the meiosis process.

He focused particularly on the endogamous aspect of Jewish heritage, resulting from Jewish communities intermarrying over several thousand years in different parts of the world where Jews have resided. He made an important distinction between *Identical By Descent* (IBD) versus *Identical By State* (IBS). IBD is a DNA match which is the result of inheritance without any recombination of DNA from forebears, whereas IBS is a match which is the result of NO inheritance from a recent common ancestor. Both IBD and IBS figure in Jewish inheritance, although IBS is more frequent because of intermarriage and endogamy within the community. Some relationships may appear to be closer than they actually are.

This endogamy is not only the result of cousins marrying cousins, but also other multiple relationships such as a widower marrying the sister of his deceased wife as his second wife. The researcher must confirm DNA relationships with a paper trail, then create and test a hypothesis.

When a conclusion is reached, expand the family tree. The census is a valuable tool for paper-trail verification, along with other records such as immigration records. The website [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org) is a valuable resource in this research.

For identification of significant DNA matches, there are several processes. First is verifying names and locations, through examining common and uncommon names, and also variations of surnames. Second is using DNA segments that are considered strong; 20-30 shared cM segments are considered high, and more than 30 shared cM segments are considered strong. Third is sorting the data by shared DNA groups according to percentages shared. Last is the use of GEDmatch to sort according to the larger segments.

Other communities in which endogamy and DNA analysis are important include French-Canadians, Colonial New England, many small towns where there has been lack of mobility and influx of new citizens, Acadians, West Virginia, and the Amish and Mennonites.

For those interested in further details, readers are advised to go to the website of the RootsTech Conference of 2022 to view the presentation there by Jarrett Ross.

## 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.

*The following is general information. Please email the SIG leader for further details and/or to be added to their list to receive the email announcements for meetings and handouts.*

You may also visit our website at [www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org).



### Cape Cod Families

[capecodfamiliesSIG@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:capecodfamiliesSIG@capecodgenealogy.org)

Leader **Bebe Brock** advises that all are working independently, and carefully following the on-going announcements from Sturgis Library, whether open or not (where the group meets) and adhering to any mask requirements. Bebe is currently holding meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM.

### Computer Users

[computerusersSIG@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:computerusersSIG@capecodgenealogy.org)

Leader **Bob Oppenheim** 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. When we do re-convene, meetings will be simulcast on Zoom and all the Computer 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.

### DNA

[dnaSIG@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:dnaSIG@capecodgenealogy.org)

Leader **Walter Murphy** 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.

## German

[germanSIG@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:germanSIG@capecodgenealogy.org)

Bob Oppenheim hosts the German SIG on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM. Meeting notices and items of interest are communicated to the members by email and are posted on the Group’s Facebook page: Cape Cod Genealogical Society – German SIG. Bob and Ann Croston are Co-chairs of the SIG.

## Irish Research

[irishresearchSIG@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:irishresearchSIG@capecodgenealogy.org)

Leader **Pat Flaherty** holds a Zoom meeting on the fourth Monday of the month at 10:00 AM, however, gatherings are 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. Please contact Pat if you wish to be added to her email list.

## Writers

[writersSIG@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:writersSIG@capecodgenealogy.org)

Leader **Pippa Dodd Ryan** 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!



**I found out I’m terrified of elevators, so,  
I’m taking steps to avoid them.**

# CCGS Calendar

Tuesday, February 7  
German SIG 10:00 AM

Tuesday, February 7  
DNA SIG 1:30 PM

Tuesday, February 14  
Computer SIG 10:00 AM

Friday, February 17  
Writers SIG 10:00 AM

Saturday, February 18  
Workshop 10:00 AM

Tuesday, February 21  
Monthly Meeting 7:00 PM

Tuesday, February 28  
Cape Cod Families SIG 1:00 PM

## Full Conference Registration by February 15th.

### 17th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



3-6 May 2023  
MassMutual Center  
Springfield, Massachusetts

## NERGC 2023

To Register or Learn More,  
Visit [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org)

100+ Presentations  
8 Tracks  
7 Workshops  
Wed. Pre-conference  
Large Exhibit Hall  
Special Interest Groups  
Ancestors Road Show  
Society Fair

Save today with early bird registration!

**Do you plan on attending NERGC 2023?**  
**There is an early bird special, but you must register by February 15. If you DO plan to attend, please let David Martin know, so he can facilitate sharing and perhaps carpooling, along with coordinating our Society's presence ([davidmartindr@aol.com](mailto:davidmartindr@aol.com)).**

**No act of kindness, no matter  
how small, is ever wasted.  
Aesop**