Please Join us at our Monthly Meeting  
**Tuesday, October 17, at 10:00 AM, Eastern Time**  
at Brewster Ladies’ Library

Our meeting will be brought to you via both Zoom and in-person. Members will receive an email a few days 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.

**Please Welcome Sarah Dixwell (Dixie) Brown**

*Regicide in the Family: Finding John Dixwell*  
*reg·i·cide a person who kills or takes part in killing a king*

Sarah Dixwell Brown is directly descended from a man who killed a king. The story of that man, John Dixwell, is the subject of her new book, *Regicide in the Family: Finding John Dixwell.*

On a cold January day in 1649, England’s Charles the First was beheaded in a public execution after being found guilty of betraying his own people. John Dixwell was one of 59 judges who attended his trial and signed his death warrant. What made those men willing to execute their king?

John Dixwell’s story had disappeared in Brown’s branch of his descendants. She stumbled on him by accident in an ancient book in the British Museum when she was 28, but did not know until she went back to the U.S. and asked her father, that Dixwell was her many greats grandfather. She was so startled and captivated to discover she was named after a king-killer, she began learning everything she could about him and his fateful decision. Her interest became an obsession when her father handed her John Dixwell’s key to Dover Castle, casually wrapped in a plastic produce bag. Up to that moment, her father had never mentioned he had the key Dixwell brought with him when he fled to the New World as a fugitive from justice.

Becoming the ninth descendant to own the key made Brown feel so connected to her namesake that she went to England, carrying the key, in search of all things Dixwell. Could she learn enough about his life to understand why he threw away everything to stop a king’s tyrannical rule? Was there still a door at Dover Castle she could unlock?

Brown taught writing at Stanford University, Santa Clara University, Mount Holyoke College and the Commonwealth Honors College at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She has published numerous personal essays in national and local publications.
Greetings and Happy Halloween to all!

As I read the draft of the newsletter sent to me by Pam Eaton (Newsletter Editor), I can’t help but be impressed at all of you, our members, with what you are doing. The Barnstable County Probate Project clocked 90 hours of volunteer time in September. Wow!! Thanks to each of you for your participation. Note that we still have some blank spaces for October.

Remember that help is available at our room in the Dennis Public Library on Thursday afternoons and two Tuesdays each month. Go to the website to sign up or just drop in and a volunteer will help you with your research. In addition, you are welcome to use our amazing scanner which can scan books, papers and artifacts. Bring a thumb drive to record your scans.

I know we have members with great family stories or research finds to share. Please offer to give a presentation as part of our December meeting. Sign up with Jo Anne Makely.

We will have lobster rolls and chicken salad rolls available on pre-order for our November joint meeting in Osterville. More info will be available soon.

Please let me know if you want to have lunch with us (Dutch Treat) at the Scargo Café after the October meeting. It’s a great time for socializing.

Looking forward to seeing you at Brewster Ladies’ Library or on Zoom on October 17th.

Judy Fenner
president@capecodgenealogy.org

Summer Birds, including fledglings: Photos by Louise Kirkpatrick, Member CCGS
Cape Cod Genealogical Society
Board of Directors 2023-2024

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Bob Oppenheim  Long Range Planning

Mailing address:
Cape Cod Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1394
Harwich, MA 02645
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.

Please Welcome New Members

Rudi Nuissl
Brendan O’Donnell
Steven Mairella
We all like to eat, and a great number of us also like to cook. We are in the planning stages of compiling a cookbook to sell to raise funds to purchase audio visual equipment for hybrid meetings. We need YOUR cooperation! Will you be willing to send in recipes to make our book a success?

Send me an email: pippa.ryan@outlook.com - let me know how many recipes you would like to contribute to the Cookbook.

It would be GREAT if we had 100% participation of ALL the members of the CCGS. If everyone contributed just one recipe, we’d have enough to make the book!

Get back to me, let me know the number of recipes you would like to submit to the book (don’t send any at this time, we’ll call for submissions later).

Dig through your files – the categories in the book will be:

- Appetizers/Beverages
- Soups/Salads
- Vegetables/Sides
- Main Dishes/Casseroles
  - Breads
  - Desserts
- Ethnic and Family

Imagine giving the cookbook as a gift to family members with your recipes in it.

Due to me by October 22, 2023.

Thank you in advance for supporting the Cookbook Project of the CCGS.
October is Family History Month

Join Us in Celebrating
Family History Month

Dig into your family tree.

Visit the National Genealogical Society for great tips and tricks. There are many resources available on this website for your family history search.

https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/family-history-month/

And … come visit us at our CCGS Library, located in the Dennis Public Library
5 Hall Street
Dennis Port, MA 02639

We are open on Thursdays from 1:00 to 4:00 PM and also on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (same times).

Please contact one of our Library Volunteers:
Librarian@CapeCodGenealogy.org
For Questions and to Make a Reservation.
Here’s Something Fun!

The Allen County Public Library is offering a FREE Virtual Webinar.

What Do I Do with All My Stuff?
Organizing to Preserve and Pass Down

Wednesday, October 25
From 2:00 to 2:30 PM Eastern Time

Glean some tips for organizing what you have spent a lifetime gathering so it is appreciated and preserved for your descendants and interested others. We may be in more trouble than we think!

Register in advance for this program.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to join the program.

https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9189306

The above link takes you directly to Allen County’s website page to register for this event.
Hospitality Committee Musings

In pre-COVID times, the Society provided coffee and donut holes at the Monthly Meetings. We had a full, capable, volunteer Hospitality Committee who not only arranged the purchase of the goodies, but also provided cups, napkins, stirrers, cream and sweetener. Set-up was a necessary task, along with clean-up. In addition, there was a greeter or two who made sure every member who arrived would sign-in, pick up the speaker’s handout, and pick up their name badge. It was a well-run committee and they did a fine job. The costs for coffee and munchkins were nominal then and the Society’s budget was able to provide this service.

With our post-COVID hybrid meetings, our in-person numbers are down. Many members are attending via Zoom from the comfort of their own homes. Most of those who were on the Hospitality Committee are no longer members. The cost to provide coffee and donuts has risen dramatically.

For now, going forward, this “perk” will be suspended and the Board members offer their sincere apologies to those who are missing this aspect. We invite you to bring your own coffee! We also ask members if they would consider volunteering for this important committee. We still need greeters and helpers at the back of the house to welcome the arrivals and make sure they register and pick up any handout. If you are interested, please let the President know (email address can be found on page 2).

We hope that when our in-person participants rise in number, we will again be able to provide coffee. Thank you to all for your consideration.
The Society enjoyed a presentation on *Avoiding Pitfalls in Genealogy*, by Pam Vestal of Portland, Oregon.

She listed and then elaborated on eight different faulty assumptions made by genealogists.

1. **Assumption 1**
   **I understand what I am reading.**

   The meanings of different terms over the years have changed in many cases. For example, “nephew” at times in the past has meant grandson or granddaughter. “Brother” has meant brother-in-law, and “cousin” has meant anyone who is related to the person, no matter how far removed. The term “Mrs.” has been a term of respect and applied sometimes to an unmarried woman. “Junior” and “Senior” have referred to simply the younger or older of two people with the same name, even though they may not have been in the same family. “Infant” refers sometimes to anyone under the age of 21. Different states have had differing regulations on the age of legality, both for getting married and the ability to sign contracts. Also, we need to remember that people sometimes lied about their ages, either for vanity or for avoiding the payment of taxes.

2. **Assumption 2**
   **The person that I am talking to is knowledgeable.**

   Sometimes the public family trees contain a number of serious errors. One needs to be persistent in order to check sources and verifiability of information from anyone.

3. **Assumption 3**
   **I know my ancestors’ names.**

   Sometimes the entry of a name on a record, such as the Census, may contain a name which is not really a name—for example, “Mother” Smith and “Grandma” Cathey. Spelling variations are a serious problem in many cases, especially since spelling in the past was phonetic and was not standardized in many cases until toward the end of the 19th century. In doing Internet research, the use of wild cards (e.g., “?”) for some letters can help to find variations, especially for vowels. And, of course, many people “Americanized” their names after immigrating, and thus their records in most recent times do not resemble the original names that might be, for example, on an immigration record. Using Google Translate, with the sound option turned on, can indicate how a name may have sounded versus how it is/was spelled. One could create a time-line for an ancestor in order to trace the life events which might have included the making of a change of name.

4. **Assumption 4**
   **I know where my ancestor lived.**

   The use of old maps can indicate where a supposed location might have been in the past in terms of changed boundaries between countries and counties. It is also helpful to re-interpret the handwriting that one finds in past documents. Census enumerators made errors in recording or mis-heard what an interviewee might have said. Sometimes people listed their geographical location on a record by the name of the nearest large city, whereas they really lived in a smaller place which is not named. The use of a gazetteer as a dictionary of place names can be a fruitful way of finding the facts.
5. Assumption 5
   **I can find everything on-line.**

In fact, the great majority of data is still not on-line and may never be. A number of available repositories need always to be explored. These include: libraries, archives, county clerk offices, courthouses, land records, historical societies, genealogical societies, naturalization records, probate records, employment records, institutional records, fraternal organizations, business ledgers, newspapers, religious denominational records, club records, tax rolls, funeral home records, photographs, county fair records, coroner records, and university records. One can locate useful archives by using ArchiveGrid https://oclc.org/archivegrid/.

6. Assumption 6
   **I already have all the information.**

Sometimes a death record in one locale has different information from the burial record for the same individual; verification is needed in this case, one way or another. An important factor is the “informant” who has filled in the information on a death record; we need to check on the likelihood of accuracy of that informant, dependent on who that was in terms of whether they were in a position to have verifiable facts about the deceased.

7. Assumption 7
   **I have found all of the information in this document.**

Even though some information may have been gleaned from a particular page in a document, we need to turn the page to see what else is there, as well as to see what other information may be in the pages preceding the one that we have just used. A comparison of different records about the same person can indicate inconsistencies which need follow-through. Sometimes one can find a hidden clue; reading the document aloud to oneself and listening to it as you read it, may indicate some additional element. Passenger lists can be misleading about point of origin; if a person departed from a European port, they would be on a manifest for that ship; but that person may have been simply going to England on that ship, and then embarked on another ship to come to America; thus, the person could have been on two passenger lists. Also, sometimes there were separate pages on passenger lists for those who paid cash for passage, compared with those who had bought a “through-ticket” for both ports—individuals in the same family could therefore be separated on the passenger list rather than being listed together as one family.

8. Assumption 8
   **I don’t need the original record.**

Every time a record is transcribed rather than copied, errors can creep in. Sometimes we make the mistake of only reading part, rather than all, of a record. Some transcribers used abbreviations such as “do” for “ditto” and the “do” can become confused as perhaps being part of a name. Again, re-examining the handwriting can address this problem. It is always preferable to attempt to find the original record rather than a transcription.

Thus, the important point is always examining the assumptions that we are making and questioning if we are assuming thoroughly and correctly. It is also helpful to think how interpretations of original records may have changed over time; revisiting previously examined documents and visiting as-yet unused repositories can provide a new opportunity for accuracy.
The Society featured Pam Holland, who provided a concise presentation about the definitions and use of DNA for family history. The Basics were defined. The cell contains a nucleus, which contains chromosomes. Each cell has 22 pairs of non-sex chromosomes, which are autosomal; a 23rd pair determines sex (XX for female and XY for male). Mitochondrial DNA is found outside the cell.

**Autosomal DNA** is the subject of the most popular DNA testing. Five companies engage in this kind of testing, *Ancestry, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andme, My Heritage,* and a new company known as *Living DNA.* The company compares one’s sample with others in its database and looks for matches and makes predictions about the closeness of the relationship. Half of our DNA is inherited from each parent; that percentage reduces to one quarter from each grandparent, etc., down to 6 and a quarter percent from each 2nd great grandparent. The half from each parent is randomly combined in each of us. Not every person in one’s family tree has contributed to one’s DNA—hence the difference between a Genetic Tree and a Genealogical Tree. Autosomal DNA is used for men and women. It looks at the 22 non-sex chromosome pairs and the X chromosome on chromosome 23. It is the random combination of the DNA inherited from ALL of one’s ancestors. In genealogy, it can be useful for up to 6 generations in the past. It can also inform about non-paternity events, contradictions, and unexpected results.

*X-DNA* is found in both males and females but is passed down only through maternal lines. Males inherit the X from their mothers, but females get it from both their mothers and fathers.

*Y-DNA* is found only in males because the Y chromosome is not present in females. It is used to trace paternal ancestry and in one-name studies. Thus, the Y goes from father to father to father, etc. Women have to use their fathers to trace it. Y-DNA remains stable for hundreds of thousands of years. *FamilyTreeDNA* is the only company testing Y-DNA.

*Mitochondrial DNA* is passed from mother to mother to mother, etc. Males carry mitochondrial DNA, but only females can pass it to their children. It is stable and can be useful to see if two people share an ancestor, to follow migration patterns, and to find a maternal haplogroup.

A **haplogroup** is an ancient grouping. A maternal haplogroup, resulting from mitochondrial DNA, can be tested by *FamilyTreeDNA* and *23andme;* a paternal haplogroup resulting from Y-DNA, can be tested by *FamilyTreeDNA* and *23andme.*

The **Ethnicity Estimate** feature of DNA testing tends to be less reliable; it compares an individual’s DNA with reference groups. The various companies have different sizes and locations of their samples from which they create their reference groups, thus explaining why one could get different results from different companies. In addition, companies are constantly adding samples to their databases, thus explaining why one might get one ethnicity estimate from a company at one point and then later get a different ethnicity result from the same company.

In carrying out DNA testing, one should specify one’s goals. Is one interested in ethnicity, or
matrilineal lines, or patrilineal lines, or relationships to someone else who has tested, or non-paternity results? DNA cannot break through brick walls without genealogical research; it generally cannot determine a particular Native American tribe; and the results cannot be viewed as proof-positive of a suspected ancestor. To learn ethnic origins, connect with genetic cousins, connect with biological family, and take an autosomal test. To identify the father of a recent male ancestor, do an autosomal and Y-DNA test. To identify the father of an historic male ancestor, do a Y-DNA test. To identify the mother of a recent female ancestor, take autosomal and mitochondrial tests. To identify the mother of an historic female, take a mitochondrial test. To learn about health predispositions, do an autosomal test with 23andme.

In selecting a testing company, remember that each one has different features. FamilyTreeDNA is the only one offering Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA testing; their autosomal test is called Family Finder. Ancestry DNA, which has the largest database, only offers autosomal testing. My Heritage only offers autosomal testing. 23andme as well as the newer LivingDNA only offer autosomal testing. Ancestry DNA and 23andme require a saliva sample, while My Heritage and FamilyTreeDNA require a cheek swab.

To obtain the most benefit from DNA testing, follow these recommendations:
1. Give the testing company a detailed family tree, back to 8 generations.
2. Link the results to yourself at Ancestry, My Heritage, and FamilyTreeDNA.
3. Make sure that the Profile that you submit has information on surnames and locations.
4. Test your close relatives.
5. Test with multiple companies if you can afford the fees because different companies can provide different information.
**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.

*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).

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**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.

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**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). The Group has started to meet in person after our long Zoom-only, COVID-necessitated hiatus. Our in-person meetings will all be hybrid, that is both Zoom and in-person, so we will not lose any of the members that have joined the group from off-Cape locations. Our meeting space is the meeting room at the Dennis Public Library, 5 Hall Street, Dennis Port, except when otherwise announced. We have used facilities at the Brewster Ladies’ Library when the room at the Dennis Library is unavailable.

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**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

Co-Chairs Ann Croston and Bob Oppenheim host a monthly hybrid Zoom meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM (except in July and August). The meeting is held at the Brewster Ladies’ Library in the upstairs auditorium when it is available, otherwise in the downstairs meeting room.

In addition, Ann posts notices of events and items of interest on the SIG’s Facebook Group, the Cape Cod Genealogical Society German SIG https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCGS.GermanSIG. Because the meetings are hybrid, attendees have the option of attending in person or on Zoom.

Irish Research
irishresearchSIG@capecodgenealogy.org

Leader Pat Flaherty holds a Zoom or in-person meeting. Gatherings are held every three months and Irish SIG members are advised via email on specific dates and times. 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

Leaders Sherill Baldwin and Lee MacDonald hold a Zoom meeting on the third Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Anyone interested 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 is most welcome. We explore many styles of writing and narrative, even poetry, 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! For more information, contact Sherill Baldwin.
**CCGS Calendar**

**Wednesday, October 4**
Board Meeting, via Zoom, 2:00 PM

All SIG Meetings for the rest of 2023
Details Emailed Separately to SIG Members

**Tuesday, October 17**
Monthly Meeting (Hybrid), 10:00 AM
Brewster Ladies’ Library
Sarah Dixwell Brown
*John Dixwell, Regicide*

**Saturday, November 18**
Joint Annual Meeting with Falmouth (Hybrid), 10:00 AM
St. Peter’s Church in Osterville
Program to be Decided

**Tuesday, December 19**
Monthly Meeting (Hybrid), 10:00 AM
Brewster Ladies’ Library
Members Share

*Mayflower Pumpkin Couple
Chatham, Mass.*