



www.capecodgenealogy.org

CCGS NEWS

A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Volume 11 Issue 3

June 2024

**Please Join us at our Annual Meeting
Tuesday, June 18, at 10:00 AM, Eastern Time
Brewster Ladies' Library**

Our meeting will be brought to you via **Zoom and in-person**.
Members will receive an email with the registration link five days before the meeting.

Non-members are asked to email us at info@capecodgenealogy.org
to receive the registration link.

*Please Welcome Thomas MacEntee
After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy*



Have you ever considered what will happen to your years of genealogy research once you're gone? Learn how to ensure that your hard work carries on. Through a combination of planning, common sense and new technologies, Thomas will review how to create an action plan for preserving your research.

Thomas MacEntee is an author, educator, student, advocate, marketer, storyteller, entrepreneur and that "genealogy guy" who helps you accomplish your family history goals.

Having taught over 1,000 in-person and virtual genealogy lectures since 2010, serving on the boards of many genealogical societies, organizing a group of over 1,000 genealogy bloggers, and helping researchers save money on genealogy products and services, Thomas is ready for the next chapter in his professional journey: changing the way genealogists acquire new research skills, motivating researchers to take a chance on new technologies, and improving how family stories and heirlooms are preserved and passed on to the next generations.

Message from the CCGS President Judy Fenner



June Roses
Dennis, MA

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Summer everyone. I hope you have time to connect with family.

Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers takes place on Tuesday, June 18th at 10:00 AM. There will be short annual reports and voting for officers and Board Members.

If you are planning to join us for a Dutch Treat Lunch at Scargo Café after the Annual Meeting, please call or email me so I can give them a rough idea of how many will be there. We can add more on the meeting day but calls ahead will help the Scargo folks to estimate the space we will need.

(508) 776-9401 or bfennerpgm@comcast.net

A warm welcome to our new members. Please avail yourselves of all the opportunities that await you here.

We are in need of volunteers to keep projects going. The Probate Scanning Project is chugging along and we are up to 1938 with the final goal of 1950. Those of us working on flattening and reassembling records will soon be doing so on the second floor, as the basement area is being renovated for another use. We have a loyal corps of regular volunteers but welcome anyone who wants to come just once or twice to see what it's all about.

The book scanning project is a huge success thanks to our wonderful scanners Lindsay and Lori Burton. We will be moving the second batch of books to Cataumet in the next few weeks. Also being scanned are some of the Society's holdings at the Dennis Public Library and Sturgis Library.

Bob Oppenheim and Ann Croston are working on the Resource Guide and would appreciate volunteers to help identify resources in the various towns. Contact Bob at: roppen@msn.com .

Walter Murphy is looking for help staffing our CCGS Genealogy Library at the Dennis Public Library on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. librarian@capecodgenealogy.org

May your brick walls come tumbling down!

Judy
president@capecodgenealogy.org



**Cape Cod Genealogical Society
Board of Directors 2023-2024**

OFFICERS

Judy Fenner	President
Jo Anne Makely	Vice President
Pat Merriell	Recording Secretary
Bebe Brock	Corresponding Secretary
Ed Brown	Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Walter Murphy	Immediate Past President
Pam Eaton	Director at Large
Brian O'Donnell	Director at Large
Ann Croston	Director at Large
Jeff Schiebe	Director at Large
Carolyn Weiss	Board Member
David Martin	Board Member
Bob Oppenheim	Board Member

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

TBD	Library
David Martin	Education
TBD	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

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.

**The Nominating Committee presents the following slate for
FY2024/2025 to be elected at the 2024 Annual Meeting:**

President: Judy Fenner (2 years)
Director at Large: Judy Needham (2 years)
Director at Large: Lynn Zalesak (2 years)
Nominating Committee:
David Martin (1 year)
Gina Mullen (1 year)
Brenda Hayes (1 year)

Urgent Message from the President, Judy Fenner

Despite diligent efforts on the part of our 2024 Nominating Committee, the recruitment for a *Recording Secretary* has hit a road block.

The *Recording Secretary* is an important role for the Society. The main focus for this position is to keep the minutes of the monthly board meetings, which are held on Zoom (the first Wednesday of the month at 2:00 PM). There is no meeting in July.

These minutes are crucial to the operation of the Society to the point where, according to Massachusetts law, an organization cannot exist without the position of *Recording Secretary* being filled.

In addition to keeping Board Meeting minutes, the *Recording Secretary* is responsible for checking back files where the answer to an odd and infrequent question might be found. These files are held in the basement of the Brewster Ladies' Library and are easily accessible.

If anyone in the CCGS membership has questions or would like to become a candidate for this important position, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee and they will be happy to assist:

Pat Flaherty – patcarolegenealogy@gmail.com

David Martin – davidchina_2000@yahoo.com

Gina Mullen – rmm.genealogy@gmail.com

Volunteer Call-Out to All Members

CCGS needs a technical volunteer to help with our monthly hybrid meetings (Zoom and in-person). We are looking for someone with audio/visual experience, along with computer skills to monitor a remote speaker and assist with the Zoom meeting features. If you do not have full tech experience, would you be interested? You can be trained by our very own Bob Oppenheim. We welcome any interest!



**Please drop a line to Bob, at our website info line:
info@capecodgenealogy.org.**

Write “Bob O.” in the subject box.

**Please Welcome
New Members**

**Bob Power
Bart Partington
John Lapham**

**The CCGS Genealogy Library
is located inside the Dennis Public Library,
tucked away in a back corner.**

5 Hall Street, Dennis Port, MA

Hours:

2nd and 4th Tuesdays and all Thursdays, 1 to 4 PM

**We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library!
We have access to many records not available through public means.**

**Our holdings include a varied wealth of resources
relating to genealogical research.**

Two computers are available for your research.

Access to Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org.

Walk-ins welcome.

Reservations also welcome and questions too!

librarian@capecodgenealogy.org

**Please note that sometimes we are not open due to an
unforeseen issue and we apologize for this.**

P.S. We are always looking for new volunteers!

An Important Message from Sturgis Library (Barnstable, MA)

Are you a user of Sturgis Library's digital newspaper archive of the Barnstable Patriot and Register newspapers? Well, we have some bad news and some good news...

As you know, the archive consists of searchable issues of the two newspapers from the 1830s through 2017. It has been used by thousands of researchers across the country and around the world, who appreciate the access to Cape Cod and national news from the early 19th through the 21st centuries.

The bad news: We originally contracted with Olive Software to develop the archive, and when the second phase of the project was completed, in partnership with the Dennis and Yarmouth libraries, the company was sold to Ignite Tech. We have learned in the last few months that Ignite will no longer host the newspaper archives created by Olive Software, including ours and a number of other newspaper archives created by Massachusetts libraries. Our newspaper archive will become **unavailable for online use at the end of June, 2024.**

The good news: We will be working with Boston Public Library to transfer our archive to Digital Commonwealth, an online archive of historic collections across the state. **A little more bad news:** It will take a year for us to transition to this new format. But in the end, it will mean that researchers will have access to our -- and others' -- newspaper archives and historic documents, photographs, and other materials, all in one place.

In the meantime, the staff still has access to the scanned images of the paper which can be emailed to users, and researchers may also come and browse the newspapers on microfilm.

For more information, please contact Library Director Lucy Loomis at 508-362-8448 or at director@sturgislibrary.org.

Lucy Loomis
Director, Sturgis Library
3090 Main Street
Barnstable MA 02630
508-362-8448
www.sturgislibrary.org



Attention CCGS Members

New England Regional Genealogical Consortium
(NERGC) is looking for new board members,
starting July 1, 2024.

The board meets 4 to 6 times a year, mostly virtually,
and sometimes on the same day as the delegates meeting.

Check out the website for descriptions of the duties:

www.NERGC.org

On the home page, click on the **green button** for
2024 Board of Directors Election Info

For two-year terms:

Vice President

Secretary

Assistant Treasurer

For a three-year term:

Director

Other board offices are held by Seema Kenney, President; Lois Lopatin, Treasurer,
Sara Campbell and Jonathan Stevens, Directors.

Please email Dwight Fitch, nominating@nergc.org
if you have any questions or are interested in joining the fun!

Details about terms and responsibilities can be found in the bylaws

<https://nergc.org/bylaws/>

Program Summary, April 16, 2024

Written by *David Martin*



Genealogical Value of Probate Records with Anastasia Welsh Perrino, Esq.

At its April 2024 monthly meeting, the Society had an engaging presentation by Anastasia Welsh Perrino, the Register of Probate and Family Court for Barnstable County at the Barnstable County Courthouse in Barnstable Village. She provided an overview of the many different kinds of possible documents which are contained in an individual's Probate Packet, and which may be of interest to family historians. In addition to her work as Register, she is also the Register of Wills and the Clerk of Probate, dealing with Family Law. The Register of Wills position is an elected position.

The Probate Court covers all of Barnstable County; the Islands each have their own county probate courts. Registers are magistrates and have the authority to sign off on non-contested probate matters without the need for the involvement of a judge.

The earliest records in the County date from approximately 1643 to the present. However, naturalizations of Cape Codders (which were the province of the states until the federal creation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1906) are held in the Superior Court of Barnstable County. Among the potentially useful information that could be contained in a Probate Packet, which is available from a deceased person's file to the public upon request, include the following:

- Guardianships and adoptions
- Names of personal representatives
- Conservatorship of a minor
- Formal and informal court cases
- Records of incapacitated adults
- Death records
- Trusts
- Person lost at sea; Coast Guard records
- Wills
- Military affidavits
- Name changes
- Licenses to sell the property of a decedent
- Police reports
- Inventories of a decedent's possessions
- Child support records
- Assets and liabilities; insolvency cases
- Paternity and birth records
- Divorces, marriages, and annulments
- Out-of-wedlock cases
- Names of trustees
- Equity complaints
- Obituaries

If a woman wants to assume her husband's surname after using her maiden name for a time, she must request permission. For citizens who die abroad,

sometimes a report from the American Embassy in that country could be found in the Probate Packet.

The CCGS Society is directly involved in an exciting project in collaboration with the Office of Probate. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as part of its FamilySearch data, is actively scanning probate documents from Barnstable County files from 1918 to 1950. Society volunteers, twice per week, open original probate packet contents and prepare them for the scanners and then replace the documents in the original packet. This project is leading to the digitization of many

important original documents on Cape Cod. Anyone interested in volunteering (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons) should contact Judy Fenner at bjfennerpgm@comcast.net.

Patrons may visit the Probate Office, second floor of the County Courthouse, during regular working hours and request to see records of ancestors' probates. The website for the office is Barnstablecountypfc.com; one can go onto the website and make a request through email, including questions to be answered via Zoom.

Probate Project

Remember, we have a volunteer Probate Project going on. A group has been meeting at the Barnstable County Courthouse and scanning in old probate records (for FamilySearch). They are having a lot of fun, as they work on their tasks, chatting and laughing. It's only for a few hours here and there. Think about joining us! Contact President Judy Fenner for more information:

president@capecodgenealogy.org

Program Summary, May 21, 2024

Written by *David Martin*



Rakes, Rogues, and Renegades in the Family Members Share

For its monthly May program, the Society featured four member-presenters who each described family individuals and events representing the “dark side” of family history—all true anecdotes.

Walter Murphy described an ancestor who had been hanged in Salem as a witch in 1692. She was Mary Esty, his eighth great grandmother. Her sister was also hanged; her mother had also been accused but spared. Born in England in 1634 and arriving in North America in 1656, she was the grandmother of the wife of one of Walter’s Mayflower ancestors. All of the accused who confessed to being witches were spared; 19 were hanged and one elderly man was pressed to death. Mary did not plead guilty but pled for others to be spared and for the bloodshed to be stopped. Eight of her accusers sat and mimicked every move Mary made; when Mary looked up at the ceiling, her accusers all looked up too and claimed that Mary was trying to break their necks. In 1702 the Massachusetts General Court declared that the witch trials were illegal. In 1711, the Colony overturned prior convictions, and in the same year, families of those who had been executed were compensated. Only in 1957 did the State officially apologize for the witch trials.

Susan Feinberg presented a “Shakespearian Tragedy” -- the story of Mary Rabinowitz and her paternal uncle, Charles Rabinowitz. Mary died in 1915 at the age of 17. The story includes possible incest, murder, and suicide. Her paternal uncle Charles had been living in the household with Mary and her parents. He was infatuated with Mary and became jealous of a young suitor of Mary’s. He purchased a gun, then shot her in her bed while she was sleeping; afterwards, he left the house, shot himself and died on the way to the hospital. Mary lingered with the gunshot wound but ultimately died from infection. Susan used traditional genealogical research techniques to learn that Susan’s grandmother was a first cousin of the victim’s mother.

Susan later connected with descendants of Mary’s younger sister through DNA-testing, and these relatives were unaware of what had happened to Mary.

Ellen Geanacopoulos related a story of 17th century French Canada. Her seventh great grandfather, Antoine, was in the French Army, defending French Canada from Native Americans. The King of France had offered land to new settlers from France; her ancestor received land in 1667 in an area east of Montreal, on the St. Lawrence River. Later the King identified 800 eligible young women to be brought to French Canada in 1667-1668 to potentially become wives of the male settlers who had come there first; these young women were referred to as “Daughters of the King” or in French “Les filles du Roi”; they were chaperoned by Ursuline nuns until they married. Ellen’s ancestor Antoine and his new bride of Les filles de Roi, turned out to be unsuccessful farmers; Antoine then turned to making land deals and fell into debt. He had an affair with another man’s wife; that wife’s husband, Julien, surprised the couple in his own home and bedroom and shot and killed Antoine. Julien was tried and sentenced to death. The murderer’s marriage was annulled; Julian was imprisoned, won his appeal for a retrial, and then complained about life in prison. He was placed under house arrest and given permission to return to check on his business, and subsequently disappeared. After marrying three times, Antoine’s son fathered 13 children. Ellen said that her family had never talked to her about this story.

Jeff Schiebe made a presentation with several anecdotes. The first was a total bombshell (as Jeff described it), told to him recently by a first cousin. The cousin related the story that as a young man, his father (the cousin’s, not Jeff’s) had simultaneously dated two women, impregnated them both and had to choose which one to marry. The two children were born about the

same time. Nothing was ever spoken about the “other woman and child.” This all remained a secret until DNA identified the relationship. Jeff’s cousin learned of a “new” half-sister and now Jeff has a “new” half-cousin and looks forward to learning more of the story of this new family.

Another anecdote involved his parents before they were married; it was eventually learned that although his father had told the family that he had been driving his Chevrolet in 1937 when an accident occurred and the Chevy rolled over, landing on its roof, he was not at the wheel. The truth turned out to be that it was his mother, not his father, who had “rolled” the car, an example of a “little lie” that had been perpetuated for a long time in the family. His mother had been too young to drive and had no license. The young couple, along with another couple were lucky to escape without harm.

Another account involved the newspaper report of his grandfather being arraigned on a liquor charge in 1936 for having an unregulated working distillery on his property in the back of his 80-acre farm. It turned out that someone working for his grandfather had a connection with a Chicago syndicate, of which his grandfather was perhaps unaware.

In another story, a great-grandfather had been arrested for reckless driving and being under the influence in 1897. Instead of choosing jail, he paid a \$10 fine. Jeff

found the information on Newspapers.com—otherwise, he would never have known the story.

A final story involved his fourth great-grandfather, who was born in Germany in 1744. In 1765 he joined the Hessian army and went to the North American colonies as part of the British army in 1776. During 1776-1777, he fought for the British in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown, among others, in the American Revolution. Then in 1778 he deserted to the Patriot side. The Treaty of Paris ended that war in 1783, after which the new American government awarded him land, horses, and a cow in recognition of his deserting to the Patriot side. He married a Mennonite woman in 1783; they had eight children. Trouble in the family led to his wife obtaining a restraining order against him; she took the girl children to live with her, and he took the boy children to live with him. Their sixth child founded the town of Sykesville, PA. Subsequent generations produced very large families, resulting in many cousins—Jeff’s mother had 37 first cousins!

Another meeting of this type for individual sharing will be scheduled as a follow-up by the Society at a later date. In the meantime, this presentation has been posted on the CCGS website under the Members’ Tab and will remain indefinitely.

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.



Cape Cod Families

capecodfamiliesSIG@capecodgenealogy.org

Leader **Bebe Brock** advises that all are working independently. Bebe is currently holding meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 PM at Sturgis Library, Barnstable.

Computer Users

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). Although the Group has started hybrid meetings (Zoom and in-person), there have been some instances that meetings are only Zoom, depending on unforeseen circumstances. We do not wish to lose any of the members that have joined the group from off-Cape locations, so our meetings will continue to be hybrid meetings or only Zoom. We gather in 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.

DNA

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 meeting (Zoom and in-person) 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>.

Irish Research

irishresearchSIG@capecodgenealogy.org

Leader **Pat Flaherty** holds a Zoom or in-person meeting every three months. Gatherings are currently on hold as Pat Flaherty is in Limerick, Ireland, studying for her Master's Degree. 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 Monthly Meeting Calendar

Tuesday, June 18, Annual Meeting 10:00 AM

Thomas MacEntee

After You're Gone; Future Proofing your Genealogy

No Meeting in July.

Tuesday, August 20, Monthly Meeting 10:00 AM

Andrew Spooner, Author

Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy

Tuesday, September 17, Monthly Meeting 10:00 AM

NEHGS, Awaiting Speaker

Using and Evaluating Mug Books (County Histories) for Family Research

Tuesday, October 15, Monthly Meeting 10:00 AM

Susan Feinberg, CCGS Member

Topic TBD

Saturday, November 16, 10:00 AM

Joint Meeting with Falmouth

Speaker TBD

Tuesday, December 17, Monthly Meeting 10:00 AM

Members Share