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# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

**Volume 11 Issue 4**

**August 2024**

**Please Join us at our Monthly Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 20 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](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org)  
to receive the registration link.

*Please Welcome Andrew Noone, Author*  
*Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy*



What possessed a woman from the elite society of eighteenth-century New England to conspire with an American soldier and two British run-away soldiers to murder her husband at the midpoint of the American Revolution? The story of Bathsheba Spooner (1746-1778) is the most sensational “true crime” tragedy of the American 1700s. She was the first woman in American history to be executed following the Declaration of Independence. She was just 32 years old and her penalty for “inciting, abetting and procuring the manner and form of murder” was death by hanging. Along with her three conspirators, this was carried out in Worcester’s Washington Square before a crowd of 5,000 spectators on July 2, 1778.

**Andrew Noone** became interested in Spooner when he realized that his house was adjacent to Green Hill Park in Worcester where Spooner was buried in an unmarked grave with her five-month-old unborn son. He became fascinated with the story, and began to research the murder and trial.

Noone is an independent scholar with graduate degrees in art history and musicology from Syracuse University. He has been music specialist in the Worcester Public Schools and has taught dozens of college courses in the humanities at several colleges in Massachusetts, including Clark University, where he taught ESL and received a graduate certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). He completed three years of study in the Keepers of the Republic program (in American history), hosted by the American Antiquarian Society. He has published with Worldwide Books and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Previously a member of the Worcester Historical Commission, he is currently a docent for Preservation Worcester.

## Message from the CCGS President Judy Fenner

Dear Members and Friends,



It hardly seems possible that we are moving inexorably toward fall. I hope all have had an enjoyable and restful summer. I am looking forward to the monthly membership meeting on August 20 at 10:00 AM. As it is summer, it is very important that you let me know ASAP if you plan to go to Scargo for a Dutch Treat Lunch after the meeting. ([bfennerpgm@comcast.net](mailto:bfennerpgm@comcast.net) or 508-776-9401). Hope to see you there.

The **Book Scanning Project** is finished with thanks to Lindsay and Lori Burton for their hard work! We will be keeping some of the books for the CCGS Library. Soon, a list will go out to the membership of the remaining books. **You will be able to request books on a first come first served basis** and we will let you know where to pick them up. The requests will need to be in seven days after the email goes out, after which the Cape Cod Libraries will have a chance to request books. Any remaining books will go to an LDS Church in Vermont.

The **Probate Record Scanning Project for Barnstable County** is still in progress. We are up to 1939! The final goal is 1950! We have some very loyal volunteers but could use more help even if you come only for one session. If you can fold and unfold paper you can do what is required. We have learned a lot about different probate records and have had fun getting to know each other and sharing ancestor stories. Try it. You'll like it. The September schedule will be sent to all members, and we hope you will consider participating at least once.

My friends, this is YOUR Society, and we would love to have you actively participating in our ongoing projects. If you have suggestions for activities, programs or future projects please let me know. As with any organization, you will get out of it what you contribute and each of us can contribute something.

Please mark your calendars for the November joint meeting with the Falmouth Genealogy Society on Saturday, November 16, at 10:00 AM. The meeting is at St. Peter's Church in Osterville and the usual lobster rolls or chicken salad sandwiches will be available to order.

I look forward to your active participation!

Wishing you success in finding your ancestors,

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



## Cape Cod Genealogical Society Board of Directors 2024-2025

### OFFICERS

Judy Fenner	President
Jo Anne Makely	Vice President
Ed Brown	Treasurer
Kate Peace	Recording Secretary
Bebe Brock	Corresponding Secretary

### BOARD MEMBERS

Walter Murphy	Past President
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Jeff Schiebe	Director at Large
Judy Needham	Director at Large
Lynne Zalesak	Director at Large
Carolyn Weiss	Board Member
David Martin	Board Member
Bob Oppenheim	Board Member
Pat Merriell	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:**  
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**Harwich, MA 02645**

[www.capecodgenealogy.org](http://www.capecodgenealogy.org)

[info@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:info@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.

## 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](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org).**

**Write “Bob O.” in the subject box.**

**The CCGS Genealogy Library  
and Research Center  
is located at the  
Dennis Public Library  
5 Hall Street Dennis Port, MA**

**Research Center Hours:  
1 to 4 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays and all Thursdays  
(Please note that, on occasion, the CCGS Research Center  
may not be open due to unforeseen events.)**

**We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library!  
We have access to many records not available through public means.  
Our holdings include a wealth of resources  
relating to genealogical research.**

**Two computers are available for your research  
with access to:**

*Ancestry.com*  
*FamilySearch.org*  
*AmericanAncestors.org*  
*Newspapers.com (NEW !!!!)*

**Please contact  
[librarian@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:librarian@capecodgenealogy.org)  
to reserve a space or for more information.  
Walk-ins are welcome if space is available.**

**Can you spare three hours on one  
Tuesday or Thursday afternoon a month?  
We are *always* looking for new volunteers!  
Please use the above link to ask for more details.**

**Please Welcome  
New and Returning Members**

**Ellen & Steven Blanchard  
Judith O'Brien  
Nancy Jerauld  
Ann Bowerman**

## **Final Farewell Hugh Blair-Smith 1935 – 2024**

**Hugh Blair-Smith of Dennis, passed away on August 3, 2024, at the age of 88.87 years, just shy of his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday in September.**

**Hugh was a member of the Society and a participant  
in attending monthly meetings.**

**Hugh's life's work involved contributions to space exploration (to the  
moon and back) and computer science.**

**He enjoyed many years of  
sailing the coastal waters of Massachusetts.**

**Our sincere sympathy is extended to his wife, Vicki, children and  
grandchildren.**



## Probate Project

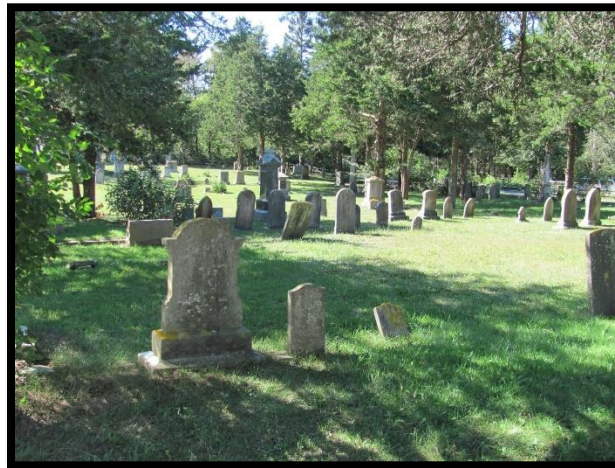
Remember, we have a volunteer Probate Project going on. A group has been meeting at the Barnstable County Courthouse and scanning in old probate records (for FamilySearch). They are having a lot of fun, as they work on their tasks, chatting and laughing. It's only for a few hours here and there. Think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

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

**Job Requirements:**  
the ability to fold and unfold paper.



## Harwich Cemetery Headstone Project



We have ongoing projects, but a new undertaking is from CCGS member, Bruce Paige. He is looking for a small group of volunteers to help at a Harwich Cemetery. The headstones are in need of cleaning up. If you have experience in cleaning headstones, great, but if not, we can show you the ropes where the goal is to clean, without harming the stones or the surrounding natural setting.

Please email [info@capecodgenealogy.org](mailto:info@capecodgenealogy.org) and in the subject line, write: Harwich Cemetery Project.

## **Education Updates**

**Interested in learning more about genealogy basics?  
Our own David Martin, CCGS Board Member and Education Chair, will  
present a series of classes:**

### **Dennis Public Library**

**5 Hall Street  
Dennis Port, MA  
508-760-6219**

**Six Saturdays, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM  
September 14, September 28  
October 12  
November 9, November 23  
December 14**

**Please call the library  
to register and reserve a spot.**

### **Eldredge Library**

**564 Main Street  
Chatham, MA  
508-945-5170**

**Four Thursdays, 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM  
October 10, October 17, October 24, October 31**

**Please visit the Eldredge Library at  
[eldredgelibrary.org](http://eldredgelibrary.org)  
Click on Calendar of All Events (menu on left side)  
Find the beginning date of October 10 to Register online**



## Program Summary, June 18, 2024

Written by *David Martin*



### After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy with Thomas MacEntee

The Society enjoyed a presentation by genealogist Thomas MacEntee on the topic of what to do with one's genealogy when no longer around. The problem centers on finding someone or something to inherit your research. The preservation of videos, tape recordings, books, paper manuscripts, paper items, and even an old wedding dress are specific examples.

A digital footprint is left on our participation in social media. A codicil in a will can specify the disposition of genealogical research and data which otherwise no one would want to inherit and would be thrown out because of its doubtful value to anyone else.

Some specific preparations, including adding labels on items such as photographs; making a plan; treating your research as an INVESTMENT (total up the money that you spend annually on genealogical research); and writing up biographical sketches of individual ancestors as a summation of what has been learned.

A first major step is getting organized, such as color-coding information according to different family groups. Janine Adams' book, *Organize Your Family History*, and Myrtle's *The Organized Genealogist* on Facebook, are two good resources. A second step is taking a full inventory of what is on paper, digital, and book forms. Books can be donated, digital items can be included in data bases, and some browsers have ways to designate a successor user.

Further recommendations are talking to family members in advance to find out who may be interested in

inheriting your genealogy and communicating personal wishes about what to do with it.

A number of major repositories may be interested in one's data, but it is important to include in your will a donation to go with the data because repositories have expenses in order to process and organize the data when they receive them; a suggested amount would be \$100 per linear foot of material being donated.

Some examples of organizations that may be interested in personal data in some form would be: Newberry Library in Chicago, the Fort Wayne (IN) Library, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City Family History Library (if the material is in boxes), Pritzker Military Library in Chicago, local historical societies if the information relates to historical figures from that community, the New York Public Library, the Godfrey Library in Connecticut, a genealogical society, a museum if the data relates to the provenance of an item held at that museum, and a university library if the data is focused on someone who had been connected with that university.

Some aspects of technology can be useful in preparing data for inheritance. These include scanners for photographic negatives and other items. Reviewing possible items for purchase can be done at Best Buy, but the best prices seem to be available via Amazon.

To summarize possible steps, remember to do the following:

- Get organized
- Take inventory
- Include the process in one’s estate planning
- Back up data, especially to the Cloud
- Talk with family members about your wishes
- Contact the organization to which one wishes to donate
- Prescribe a donation to be made to whatever facilities

you wish to designate as recipients, and put that designation in your will

- Post some items online which you wish to give to unidentified individuals

Thomas provided his email address for those who wish to contact him: [hidefgen@gmail.com](mailto:hidefgen@gmail.com).



Summer Day in Chatham

## 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. While membership in the SIGs is restricted to members of the Society, guests just wanting to see what the Society is all about or who are interested in a particular topic are always welcome. Use the email links below to request a link if you want to attend a Zoom meeting. Any meeting held at the Brewster Ladies' Library is open to the public.

*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. 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](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). 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. Out of consideration for the members that have joined the group from off-Cape locations, our meetings will continue to be hybrid meetings or only on Zoom. Hybrid meetings are held 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. If it involves a computer and it can benefit your genealogy, it's a topic that we are likely to discuss. The SIG has a rich collection of meeting handouts, website listings and other resources available to its members.

In addition, items of interest are routinely posted on the Computer SIG's Facebook Group site. Find it at the Cape Cod Genealogical Society Computer SIG <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCGS.ComputerSig>. Members of the Society are invited to join.

## 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 a monthly hybrid meeting (Zoom and in-person) on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM (except in July, August and September). The meeting is held at the Brewster Ladies’ Library in the upstairs auditorium when it is available, otherwise in the downstairs meeting room. Members discuss their genealogy with an emphasis on methodologies for gathering information about the life and times of their German ancestors, along with a smattering of tales about what they have learned.

In addition, items of interest are routinely posted on the German SIG’s Facebook Group site. Find it at the Cape Cod Genealogical Society German SIG <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CCGS.GermanSIG>. Members of the Society are invited to join.

## Irish Research

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

The Society has recently added two new SIG groups.



## Family Tree Maker (FTM) Users Group

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

**Bob Oppenheim** hosts a meeting of users of this popular genealogical software application on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon. At this time, it is a Zoom-only meeting. Members of the Group have the option of joining a session or not, depending on whether they have questions to ask or techniques to share. The Group also shares a growing library of FTM solutions to common problems, links to helpful videos, and videos of its past meetings.

## Roots Magic Users Group

[davidmartingdr@aol.com](mailto:davidmartingdr@aol.com)

**David Martin** hosts the meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:30 AM. This is a Zoom-only meeting. Discussion includes sharing challenges, solving problems, and discussing new developments produced by the Roots Magic company.

## *CCGS Monthly Meeting Calendar*

**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 (morning and afternoon sessions)**

**Michael LeClerk**

- 1. Analyzing Probate Documents**
- 2. Reading and Understanding Old Manuscripts**

**Tuesday, December 17, Monthly Meeting 10:00 AM**

**Members Share**



**Field of Cosmos  
Dennis, MA**