



# CCGS NEWS

*A Publication of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society*

Volume 6 Issue 6

June 2019

Annual Meeting – Tuesday June 18, 2019  
11 a.m., Riverway Lobster House, South Yarmouth

Business Meeting and Luncheon will be followed by a presentation by Christopher Klein:

## **WHEN THE IRISH INVADED CANADA: IT'S NO BLARNEY**

*Just over a year after Robert E. Lee relinquished his sword, a band of Union and Confederate veterans dusted off their guns. These former foes, however, had no intention of reigniting the Civil War. Instead, they fought side by side to undertake one of the most fantastical missions in military history: to seize the British province of Canada and hold it hostage until the independence of Ireland was secured. In this talk, learn the outlandish, little-known story of the self-proclaimed Irish Republican Army that carried out five attacks on Canada—known collectively as the Fenian Raids—between 1866 and 1871. This wasn't some whiskey-fueled undertaking. With the tacit support of the U.S. government, this motley group—including a one-armed war hero, an English spy infiltrating rebel forces, and a radical who staged his own funeral—managed to seize a piece of America's northern neighbor, if only for a matter of days.*

Our special speaker for the June annual meeting at the Riverway in South Yarmouth will be Christopher Klein, historian and author extraordinaire! His published books focus on several local topics, and he will be sharing with us a little-known episode in American and Canadian history that promises to be enlightening. Anyone with Irish or Canadian heritage will be especially interested in his presentation, and everyone will enjoy learning about this unique topic.



CHRISTOPHER KLEIN is the author of four books, including *Strong Boy: The Life and Times of John L. Sullivan, America's First Sports Hero*. A frequent contributor to History.com, Christopher has also written for *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Harvard Magazine*, *Smithsonian.com*, and *AmericanHeritage.com*. He lives in Andover, Massachusetts. More at [www.christopherklein.com](http://www.christopherklein.com).

*Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
Board of Directors 2018-19*

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<i>Kate Reid Peace</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
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*S I Gs*

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS** are informal member gatherings for the purpose of sharing information, research techniques, data and references, regarding specific topics or geographical areas. For more information, see the Society's website.

**Cape Cod Families** – 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday, Sturgis Library. *Next:* June 26, 2019, 1 p.m., Bebe Brock, chairman.

**Computer Users** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday. *Next:* June 11, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. The focus will be on mapping. All are welcome. Bill Horrocks, Bob Oppenheim ([Roppen@msn.com](mailto:Roppen@msn.com)), and Jim Sullivan, co-chairmen.

**DNA** – 1st Tuesday, Dennis Public Library. *Next:* June 4, 2019, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Teri Grey, summer chairman.

**German** – [1st Tuesday, 10 a.m.–Noon, Brewster Ladies' Library.] **No meetings in June or September.** *Next:* October 1, 2019. Ann Croston, chairman. [acroston125@comcast.net](mailto:acroston125@comcast.net).

**Irish** – 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library. *Next:* June 24, 2019. Pat Concannon, chairman.

**Writing Family History** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library. *Next:* June 21, 2019. Pippa Ryan, chairman

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*Calendar for April 2019*

<b>June 4</b>	Deadline for luncheon reservations
June 4	DNA SIG, 1:30 p.m., Dennis Public Library
June 11	Computer Users SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library
<b>June 18</b>	<b>CCGS Annual Luncheon Meeting, Riverway Lobster House</b>
June 21	Writing Family History SIG, 11 a.m., Brewster Ladies' Library
June 24	Irish SIG, 10 a.m., Dennis Public Library
June 26	Cape Cod Families SIG, 1 p.m., Sturgis Library, Barnstable

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*Welcome to New Member*

Shirley Sullivan

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## REFLECTIONS FROM RALPH

BE SURE TO MARK your calendars for Tuesday, June 18, as the date for the CCGS annual luncheon meeting. By now you should have received, by mail, a reservation form for the luncheon at the Riverway Lobster House in South Yarmouth. We will also be electing a slate of officers for the coming year of 2019 – 2020. So, please plan to attend our final general meeting before the summer months. You will find detailed information about our invited speaker on the front page of this newsletter.

As we come to the close of our fiscal year, ending in June, I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of you, our CCGS membership, for your continued support and involvement with the Society. A special note of thanks goes to each and every one of our volunteers, including our Board of Directors and all of the Standing Committees, for all that you have done to make this past year another successful one.

In thinking of this past year, I'm reminded of what a rich year 2019 continues to be, particularly with respect to all of the historical anniversaries that are marked this year. Some of these include the 150th anniversary of the completion of the trans-continental railroad (1869), the approval of the 19th amendment by Congress in 1919, the Wall Street "crash" of 1929, the beginning of World War II in Europe in

1939, the Allied invasion of Europe on D-Day of June 6, 1944, and the 50th anniversary of man first walking on the moon. I think it's safe to say that all of these historical events either directly or indirectly impacted our familial ancestors and/or ourselves.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as President of CCGS this past year and as Vice-President/Program Chair the prior two years.

—Ralph R. Ryall

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Remember, Remember . . .  
The deadline for sending your luncheon reservations to Judy Jones is June 4 !

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## *Volunteer Highlights*

### **PIPPA RYAN**



Is Pippa a “Jersey Girl”? Yes, but fate intervened, and now she’s happily living on Cape Cod. Prior to that, she grew up and lived in New Jersey where she long-ago graduated from the Newark School of Fine and Industrial Arts. She had the notion that she would one day start an Interior Design business. She came to realize that world was best left to others and she “fell back” on other skills leading to a long career in the business world, from which she retired in 2014. Her last position at Monmouth University was as executive secretary for the VP of Information Management.

Four years prior to retirement, Pippa married her husband, Ray. With retirement in mind, they started looking for their next home. After house searches in several states, they branched out and found an opportunity to buy an antique on Cape Cod. Pippa had spent some vacation time here over the years, and Ray “fell in love the minute he crossed the Canal.” Finding an older home that wasn’t a complete disaster (or budget breaker) took some time but eventually, they found their current 1800s home in Barnstable.

Things did not get off to a good start. The small remodeling project they had in mind for the kitchen and bathrooms quickly turned into a major project. A flood occurred after a pipe burst on the second floor. Ray’s car died on the highway, loaded to the gills with breakables. The moving van, with all the rest of their belongings, tipped over and crashed before it left New Jersey. They lived through the snowiest winter on the Cape in a small camper on the property for ten months before they could move into their new home, which now required a total makeover. An addition is currently underway and Pippa’s mother will be joining them on the Cape, shortly.

After house renovations were complete Pippa’s mother proposed that they travel to Germany to see the towns where her grandmother had lived. With those arrangements

made, her mother had a fall that precluded the trip. Pippa was visiting her mother in rehab when she herself had a life-threatening event that she believes she survived only because medical treatment was immediately available. Had she been in Germany at the time, things might have worked out very differently. Fate intervened again!

The seeds for her interest in genealogy were planted early when her maternal grandparents, who had emigrated from Germany in 1922, came to live with them when Pippa was ten. However, it took quite a few years for these seeds to germinate. Some genealogical research that her mother had done in the late 1980s came into her possession in 2015. It gave her leads to follow-up, which she did once retirement gave her the time to do so. Most of her research has been of her German-Hungarian ancestors. Her father's ancestry is English, Irish and Polish; the latter Pippa refers to as her "brick wall", with name changes and spellings severely impeding her research.

Pippa considers herself to be mostly self-taught in the area of genealogy, but she did take the CCGS three-part course at the Sturgis Library in 2015 where she met David Martin. And the rest, as they say, is history. She joined CCGS in 2016 and became a member of the German and Writing SIGs. When Alice Stelzer resigned from leading the Writing SIG, Pippa stepped up. She didn't want to see it disappear and believes in the adages, "many hands make light work" and "Something means more to a person if he has some skin in the game." She hopes to encourage members of the SIG to submit articles for publication in *The Journal*,

something she has done herself several times.

Her diverse interests have also led her to take several classes at A.L.L. (Academy for Lifelong Learning) through Cape Cod Community College; such as a class on travel, gardening, *Being Mortal* and many writing classes. She has written a book on the birth of her granddaughter, Ina, who is now seven years old. While written, the book awaits its illustrations, which Pippa will do herself. She'd like to write another book that would be similar to a memoir. That way Ina, who lives in Colorado, could get to know her through her writing, something Pippa wishes her grandmother had done.

Other things on Pippa's to-do list include joining the Computer and perhaps the Irish SIGs, but these will have to wait because she has recently agreed to stand for election to the CCGS 2019/2020 Nominating Committee. In her words, "I totally enjoy my genealogy family and hope by being part of it, the organization will continue to grow and thrive. I don't feel the need to be the captain of the boat, but I'll take a turn at rowing if I am able. Pitch in!"

### *The CCGS Genealogy Library*

is located in  
the Dennis Public Library  
5 Hall Street, Dennis Port

Hours:  
Tuesday 1-4 • Thursday 10-4  
Saturday 10-12

Access to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com),  
[AmericanAncestors.org](https://www.americanancestors.org), [FindMyPast](https://www.findmypast.com) and  
more!

## *Election of Officers and Directors-at-Large*

On June 18, 2019, at our annual luncheon, members in attendance will be voting to elect the officers and two Directors-at-Large, who will serve on our Board of Directors for the next year. Officers serve for a term of one year and may choose to run again next June for an additional term. While there are a total of four Directors-at-Large, each year two are elected for a two-year term.

Our Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate of officers and Directors for this year's election:

### **President – Walter Murphy**



Walter has served on the Board for one year, finishing the two-year term of Director-at-Large that was vacated when Judy Needham stepped up to become Recording Secretary last June. He is well known by many of our local members who have attended the DNA Special Interest Group since October 2018, when the Teri Grey, leader of that SIG, left the Cape for the winter months.

### **Vice-President – Brian O'Donnell** (photo unavailable)

Brian has been a member of the Society since attending one of our Beginning Genealogy classes several years ago. He has been an active member, attending general meetings and a variety of special interest groups.

### **Treasurer – Noreen Cahalane** (photo unavailable)

Noreen is a younger member of our Society and has not been able to attend many of our meetings, due to her working

schedule, but has maintained an interest in the Society. She is the daughter of our current treasurer, Mary Lou Cahalane, and, as an accountant, will bring her expertise to the Board and the Society.

### **Recording Secretary – Judy Needham**



Judy is returning to the Board of Directors as Recording Secretary, a position she has held for one year. Previous to this, she was a Director-at-Large for one year. She is also well known by frequent visitors to our Genealogy Library, where she has been a volunteer for many years.

### **Corresponding Secretary – Bebe Brock**



Bebe is a long-time member of CCGS and is well known as she is one of our greeters at our monthly meetings, as well as the leader of the Cape Cod Families Special Interest Group. She has served on the Board, as Corresponding Secretary, for a number of years.

**Director-at-Large – Judy Jones**



Judy has been an active member of the Society for several years, attending general meetings as well as special interest groups. She has been the chair of the Hospitality Committee, which provides the coffee and donuts for our monthly meetings and occasionally for a special event. She has also been a NERGC Delegate for the past four years, helping in the planning and serving as a volunteer at two conferences.

**Director-at-Large – Suzanne Walton**



Suzanne has been a Director-at-Large for several years. While in that role, she has also served as a NERGC Delegate for the planning of two conferences, including once as the chair of the NERGC Hospitality and Tour Committee, and as our Volunteer Coordinator for the past four years.

In addition to these seven positions, we will be electing the Nominating Committee, whose task will be to name the candidates for the 2020 election. The slate for the Nominating Committee will be made up of Pippa Ryan, Marla Vincent, and Joan Frederici.



Below is a photo of most of this year’s Board Members, taken at a the May CCGS meeting with speaker Linda McIver.



*From left: Jane Hester, Bebe Brock, Joan Frederici, Judy Needham, Kate Peace, Madelyn McHugh, Ralph Ryall, Nancy DeNise, Mary Lou Cahalane, Linda McIver (speaker), David Martin.*

## A GRAVESTONE STORY

ABRAHAM SWIFT (1762-1846) was a member of the Falmouth Militia during the Revolutionary War, responding to several “alarms” to fend off the British. One of his direct descendants is our member David Martin, who, as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) had arranged for an SAR Gravestone Marking Ceremony during May of this year.

Approximately five years ago, a hurricane blew down a huge tree in the Old Town Burying Ground of Falmouth, where the gravesite is, and split Swift’s gravestone into four pieces (along with several other gravestones of nearby Swift family members). So David had to get the stone repaired before the ceremony could happen. He engaged Baker Monuments of Falmouth to do the work.

In early May, when the gravestone was almost fully repaired, the repairer needed to take the now fully cleaned stone back to the graveyard to test that it would fit back into the foundation. On a lovely morning he drove his truck to the graveyard, tested the stone in its place, and was then carrying it back to his truck to complete the repairs before installing it permanently in a few days. However, a neighbor of the graveyard saw someone taking a stone to a truck and called the Falmouth Police, who responded, detained the repairer, and impounded the stone. The event was immediately reported in the media, including television news on at least four channels, followed by newspaper coverage two days later in the *Falmouth Enterprise* and the *Cape Cod Times*. By the end of the day, all had been straightened out, and the repairer was released along with the stone. The result, of course, was significant publicity for the

gravemarking ceremony which took place on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The ceremony itself was meaningful and well-attended — due partly to the advance “publicity” just mentioned. The event featured the Falmouth Police Color Guard, the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance, a Prayer, the singing of “America the Beautiful,” the hymn composed by Falmouth native Katherine Lee Bates, the reading of contemporary Falmouth history of the 1770s and the Revolution, the reading of Swift’s military service, and four volleys of musket fire by the SAR Color Guard. A luncheon at the Coonamessett Inn concluded the memorable day.



*David Martin (right, behind the microphone), with Duncan Martin (left) ready to accompany “America the Beautiful” on the saxophone.*



*David’s grandniece, Gabriela Paredes, and grandnephew, Gavin Diou, preparing to lay the wreath on the repaired gravestone of their ancestor Abraham Swift.*