

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

**PO Box 1476
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www.gsnj.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2023 was an exciting year for the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, we held our first in-person program in three years—the society's Spring Conference—which was held in April with a tremendous turnout. We now look forward to our first in-person annual meeting since 2019, as we see you all on Saturday, December 9 at the Morristown & Morris Township Library, which has graciously hosted us this year and opened their collections to meeting attendees.

Once again, GSNJ has benefited from the hard work and dedication of an enthusiastic group of trustees and officers who spend countless hours ensuring that GSNJ continues to provide services and activities that benefit its members. In 2023, two long-serving trustees, Joan Manierre Lowry and Chester Arthur "Art" Lawton III, who recently retired from service to the board after many years, were designated as Trustee Emeriti. Today, we recognize their efforts in a special awards ceremony.

GSNJ has also been tremendously grateful for the staff, volunteers, and donors who have made the New Jersey Early Land Records Project possible over the past several years. As the project comes to an end, we've been extremely proud of its success and the benefits it brings to the genealogical community.

GSNJ was once again fortunate to receive grant funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission. We continue to use these funds to expand educational programming and services for members.

GSNJ loves hearing comments, suggestions and feedback from its members, so please feel free to reach out to us at any time via president@gsnj.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Melissa A. Johnson
President

**Minutes of the 101st Annual Meeting of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Wednesday, 16 November 2022**

The 101st Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held virtually on Wednesday, 16 November 2022, using the Zoom platform. President Melissa Johnson welcomed attendees to the third virtual annual meeting. She introduced Vice President Christine Murphy, who instructed attendees on using the Zoom “raise-your-hand” function, used throughout the meeting to count members and administer votes.

President Johnson opened the meeting at 7:35 P.M. and read the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting. After a motion and a second, the minutes were approved as read.

President Johnson announced that committee reports are available on the Society’s website, <http://www.gsnj.org>, on the Officers and Trustees page. A motion and second from the floor to dispense with their reading was approved.

Nominations of Trustees:

Trustee Johnson presented a Nominations Committee motion to nominate the Slate of Trustees to be elected for the term ending 2025. They are:

Pamelyn P. Bush, CG, Northampton County, Pennsylvania
Melissa A. Johnson, CG, Monmouth County, New Jersey
Albert C. King, Somerset County, New Jersey
Elizabeth King Pellicane, Hunterdon County, New Jersey
Mary Ellen Rogan, Middlesex County, New Jersey

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2025 was elected.

Old Business: There was no old business from 2021.

New Business: There was no new business.

A motion to adjourn was presented by a GSNJ member from the audience. The motion was seconded. All approved. The business meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

At 8:00 P.M., President Melissa Johnson introduced the featured speaker of the November Webinar, Mary K. Risseeuw, who spoke about “*19th- and 20th-Century Dutch Migration Patterns.*” The lecture ended at 9:15 P.M.

Approximately eighty people participated in the annual meeting, including eleven GSNJ Trustees. Ninety-one persons attended the November webinar, including fifty-one GSNJ members and forty non-members.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush,
GSNJ Recording Secretary

Annual Report of the GSNJ Nominating Committee

The GSNJ Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for Trustees of the Class of 2026:

Janice Cross-Gilyard, Union County, New Jersey
Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Middlesex County, New Jersey
Alexander D. Everitt, Jr., Sussex County, New Jersey
Lisa Minard, Burlington County, New Jersey
Janet T. Riemer, GSNJ Fellow, Mercer County, New Jersey

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Rogan, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Bible Record Committee

The bound volumes of this collection have been made available for research in the New Jersey State Archives (NJSA) Manuscript Room. Staff members at NJSA have graciously scanned records that have been requested, and they've been forwarded to the requestors electronically.

Additions to the collection can now be accessioned. Although only five were received this year, the backlog from the past is now being addressed. They have been added to the collection bringing the total to 6253.

6227: Abraham Inskeep Bible Record
6228: Bible of Benjamin Prudden
6229: Joseph Bowne and Hannah Anderson Family Record
6230: Van Tuyl-Rolph-Holbert-Voorhees Records
6231: Webster Newcomb Family Record
6232: Sydney Wiggins Bible Record
6233: Peter Aller Bible Record
6234: Robert Davison Family Record
6235: Bastedo Breese Families Record
6236: Benjamin Boyd Bible Record
6237: George Williams – Wanted
6238: Daniel Bowman Bible Record
6239: Benjamin F. Hendrickson Bible Record
6240: John Morrell Bible Record
6241: Joshua Wright Family Record
6242: Caleb Scattergood Family Record
6243: George McCracken Bible Record
6244: Howell-Salmon Family Bible

6245: Fredderic Lunger Bible Record
6246: Samuel Morris Bible Record
6247: Park Family Bible Record
6248: Henry Morrison Bible Record
6249: Rea Family Bible
6250: Southard Family Record
6251: Van Note, Packer Bible Record
6252: WhiteKnaght/Whitenack Family Record
6253: Stephen Kitchell Bible Record

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

**Annual Report of the Editorial Committee
of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ)***

Volume 98 (2023) of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* includes articles relating to families of Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Somerset, and Warren counties, spanning the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. In this volume, authors contributed Beekman, Böshaar, Browne, Burwell, Bush, Corlies, Kise, Linaberry, Lorentz, More, Staats, Thompson, Tindall, Titus, Van Nuys, Vanscoten, Voorhees, Williamson, and Woos family research. Other articles include inscriptions from the Vincent Methodist Cemetery of Nutley (Essex), Old Union Cemetery of Hope Township (Warren), and Pleasant Grove Cemetery of Jackson Township (Ocean). Other source material includes a few Bible records and the account book of a Monmouth County coffin maker.

Editorial committee members spend many hours proofreading each final draft of *GMNJ* while searching for possible errors in the narrative text, accessing online links for validity, and checking citations for content accuracy. Committee members also “blindly review” each work submitted to *GMNJ*. Without knowing the author’s name, they judge every article sent to our Editor on merit, not solely on the author’s reputation as a genealogical writer.

GSNJ members will have noticed the long delay in receiving issues of *GMNJ* this year. First, we transitioned to a new printing company after McNaughton & Gunn was sold to Sheridan Press. Secondly, with the retirement of Jane Fletcher Fiske at the end of 2022, GSNJ engaged in a four-month search for a new editor. In May 2023, we welcomed Deanna Eckman Korte as Editor of *GMNJ*.

A newly established Writers’ Group for *GMNJ* started in July 2023 under the leadership of this committee and hosted by GSNJ President Melissa A. Johnson and Editor Deanna E. Korte. All GSNJ members and non-members interested in writing for *GMNJ* are invited to describe their research subjects and stumbling blocks to completing their work. At monthly meetings, two or

three hosts provide guidance and help on finding new material and encouragement to prospective writers with the promise that *GMNJ* will publish more scholarly genealogical articles.

Pamelyn P. Bush, Chair
GMNJ Editorial Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Manuscript Committee

As Alexander Library, where the GSNJ collections are held, has been closed due to the pandemic and subsequent water damage from Hurricane Ida, Manuscript Committee activities have been curtailed. The record of usage has been irrelevant and maintenance halted. Many of the collections were moved to the New Jersey Room and others were moved off-site.

The library has re-opened but research can only be done by appointment. Library staff brings requested material to a designated location to be studied. In the case of GSNJ materials, what may be helpful is difficult to determine. I'm now allowed to access the New Jersey Room and may be able to assist. How long this situation will prevail is unknown.

Manuscripts and monographs donated to the Society are acknowledged, accessioned, and filed. The papers of Shirley Moore Barnes have been recently received, and a finding aid is being prepared. Contributions of family research are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Gravestone Committee

In 2023, the gravestone committee did not conduct any onsite tombstone hound expeditions. Older recordings of cemeteries not yet published generally involve pairs of volunteers checking the gravestones one last time. Volunteers check to see if grave markers are still present or missing, and still legible. They also transcribe newer stones added since the cemetery was last recorded. Additionally, the GSNJ cemetery collection of field notes and previously recorded inscriptions is closed until Special Collections and University Archives, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, reopens to the public.

Serialization of Vincent Methodist Cemetery concluded in January 2023 of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*. Later issues published inscriptions from the Old Union Cemetery in Hope Township, Warren County, and Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Jackson Township, Ocean County. In the meantime, this committee will continue to format older field notes from prior recordings into articles for publication by GSNJ. For several larger cemeteries, it was decided to

bypass publication in *GMNJ* and add inscriptions directly to *Find-A-Grave* (<https://www.findagrave.com>) using the “userid” of GSNJ Tombstone Hounds.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush, Member

Annual GSNJ Membership/Circulation Report

Annual	507
Family	36
Supporting	4
Contributing	5
Life	42
Total Memberships:	594
Complimentary	4
Subscriber - Individual	24
Subscriber - Service	47
Total Subscriptions:	75
Total Circulation (Less ½ Family Members) as of 30 November 2023:	651

GSNJ regretfully announces the passing of several members reported since the 101st Annual Meeting:

- Shirley M Barnes of Billerica, Massachusetts, a member since 1985, died January 2023.
- Dr. Barbara J. Combs of Eugene, Oregon, a member since 1996, died April 2023.

Welcome to our 106 new members who joined GSNJ in 2023:

Susan Andrews, Roxbury Twp, NJ
Marleen Applegate, Ashland, OH
Donald E. Ayers, Waxhaw, NC
Jerri Barclay, Cranbury, NJ
David Bennett, Windermere, FL
Lillian Bialy, Pittsgrove, NJ
Milissa Boyer Kafes, Carmel Hamlet, NY
Sherry Brady, Dunnellon, FL
Robin Cade, Bristow, VA
Lance Catlin, Punta Gorda, FL
Lana Chalker, Hobe Sound, FL
Susan Chasmer, Union City, NJ
Maureen Chelak, Barnegat Twp, NJ
Susan Cicala, Flemington, NJ
Cathi Clore Frost, St. Helens, OR
Michele Cole, Pace, FL
Curtis Crowell, Hightstown, NJ
Jody Cursio, Ashburn, VA
Jennifer Daugherty, Greenville, NC
Robert E. Day, Barre, MA
Amber Decker, Worthington, OH
Dorothy DePalma, Pt Pleasant, NJ
Robert Doll, Anacortes, WA
William Eakins, Asheville, NC
Tricia Elgarten, Morristown, NJ
Anne W. Engel, Bethesda, MD
Kay Eramo, Merrimack, NH
Althea Fejes, Yardley, PA
Sarah Feyrer, Long Valley, NJ
Sarah Filik, Neptune City, NJ
David Flomerfelt, Oak Harbor, WA
Diana Frost, Princeton Jct, NJ
Elizabeth Garry, Morrisville, PA
Suzanne Groth, Hamilton Twp, NJ
Jonelle Hilleary, Alexandria, VA
Maryjean Hochberg, Wallingford, VT
Jennifer Howell, Vale, NC
Barbara Hyde, Aberdeen, MD
Angie Indik, Plymouth Meeting, PA
Taras Iwaniw, Gloucester City, NJ
Rachael Johnson, Jamesburg, NJ
Eden Joy, Washington, DC
Gretchen Klebahn, Melbourne, KY
Ann Knowles, Andover, MA
Karen Konrath, Fleetwood, PA
Cecilia Kornish, Metuchen, NJ

Deanna Korte, Pataskala, OH
Elizabeth Lanigan, Bordentown, NJ
Patricia Laubscher, Edgewater, MD
Brenda Leonard, Kendall Park, NJ
Debra Levinson, Toms River, NJ
Library of the Chathams, Chatham, NJ
Karen Lindley, Odenton, MD
Keri Logan, Portland, OR
Robert Marguccio, Clarksboro, NJ
Lee Martin, Greenwich, OH
Marg McCann, Toronto, ON
Janet McKee, Pendleton, IN
Valerie Neidich Williams, Glenside, PA
Mary Paternoster, Wall Twp, NJ
Kathryn Paye, Laguna Niguel, CA
Dana Philipps, South Plainfield, NJ
Susan Pniewski, Toms River, NJ
Thomas Record, Bristol, VT
Rebecca Reich, Teaneck, NJ
Marianne Rhebergen, Hopewell, NJ
Janice Rhodes, Woodbridge, NJ
Judith Rice, Fort Wayne, IN
Cynthia Richardson, Barneveld, NY
Janice Rohn, Brick Twp, NJ
Patricia Romagna, Monmouth Jct, NJ
Peter Rutan, Elk Grove, CA
Michael Saxton, Orange, VA
Linda Schilling, Cranbury, NJ
Paula Schwartz, Avon Lake, OH
William G. Shannon, Hamilton, NJ
Holly Shaw-Hollis, Philadelphia, PA
Tracy Simon, Hamilton Twp, NJ
Maryjo Smith, Doylestown, PA
Barry Smith, Palmyra, PA
Judith Smith, Georgetown, DE
Anita Sohus, La Cañada Flintridge, A
Rhonda Soper-Traut, Stafford Twp, NJ
Martin Spielman, East Brunswick, NJ
Tina Stangle, Blackwood, NJ
Marsh Stanley, Dacono, CO
Robert L. Stark, Fayetteville, AR
Robert Stewart, Little Silver, NJ
Darlene Stover, Keyport, NJ
Carolyn A. Strecker, Jersey City, NJ
Trish Stryjewski, Florence, NJ
Claudia Sudweeks, Highland, UT

Harry S. Sutton, Wolfeboro, NH
Jessica Tagliaferri, Wanaque, NJ
Theodore M. Tarter, Rancocas, NJ
Heather Tilton Benoit, Byram Twp, NJ
Joseph Tindall, Dover, DE
Michael Traynor, Pequannock Twp, NJ
Mary Ellen Turner, West Windsor, NJ
Jennifer Viscusi, Richboro, PA
Pamela Vittorio, Brooklyn, NY

Debra Vliet, Richmond, VA
Virginia Wahl, Easthampton, MA
Donald Wallace, Boulder, CO
Robert Weiss, Matawan, NJ
Thomas Westerfield, Aurora, IL
James Whitaker, Bayonne, NJ
Patricia Wilkin, Sanford, NC
Ivy Wills, Georgetown, TX
Betty Young, Tucson, AZ

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Corresponding Secretary

The primary responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary is to reply to requests for research information. From September 2022 through September 2023, 70 items of mail or email were received. Some of the requests used the form on the website requesting searches in multiple collections for specific individual names. Other requests were for photocopies or scans of Bible records, cemetery inscriptions, or articles published in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*. Some requests were forwarded from Rutgers University's "Ask a Librarian" to Special Collections & University Archives (SC/UA), and thence to me. Some requests come via social media and were forwarded from the GSNJ webmaster who monitors social media.

As done in the past, this is a volunteer project, carried out with assistance from another trustee, as time permits. Unfortunately, extensive research cannot be done but then the requestor is referred to the GSNJ website which identifies professional genealogists, or a recommendation is made of another possible source of the requested information. It is suggested that mail inquiries for research include a self-addressed, stamped envelope to expedite a reply. When one is not present and an email address is provided, an email reply is sent. Many requests are answered by email with attachments.

The temporary relocation of the Bible and Family Records Collection and the Gravestone Inscriptions Collection to the NJ State Archives to permit access and increased scanning has helped greatly. Requests for articles from the magazine have been completed and I am now permitted in the NJ Room one morning a week to search the collections there for requestors.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Program Committee

GSNJ hosted two programs in the past year: the 2022 Annual Meeting and the 2023 Spring Conference. GSNJ 100th Annual Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, 16 November 2022. The event was free and open to the public. The meeting was followed by the monthly webinar series.

The 2023 GSNJ Spring Conference was held on Saturday, 22 April 2023 as an in-person program. Eight lectures were presented as part of two tracks. The program consisted of the following lectures: Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries, The Miracles and Sins of Church and Cemetery Records, Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches?, Using Probate and Estate Records to Raise the Dead, The Danger of Distant Matches, Learn How to Find and Plat Your Ancestor's Land, The Helen Marley Story, and Finding Treasures in Military Records. Door prizes were awarded. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

The GSNJ Webinar Series – “Your Roots Pursuits” continued in 2023. Webinars were scheduled monthly with various topics each month, including: What is WikiTree?, Genealogical Writing with Q&A about Publishing in GMNJ, Whether the Weather: How Weather Affected Our Ancestors, The Dutch Reformed Churches in America, She Came from Nowhere: A Case Study Approach to a Difficult Genealogical Problem, Weird Things I Have Inherited and How to Preserve Them, Finding Our Ancestors by Researching the Neighbors, American Military Records of the 18th and 19th Century, African-American Genealogy: Strategies for Researching, Genealogy in the 21st Century: Using DNA to Aid Your Paper Research, Finding Records on FamilySearch, and 10 Common Lineage Society Application Mistakes—and How to Avoid Them.

GSNJ's members-only virtual programs continued in 2023. Office Hours are held on the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. This program allows members to come and ask questions of the Trustees. Noontime Knowledge is held on the third Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. A topic related to New Jersey genealogy is discussed. These two programs alternate months and are each presented six times a year.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Johnson, Interim Chair

Annual Report of the Treasurer 7/1/2022-6/30/2023

	Total		
Income	GSNJ	Land Records	Total
Membership dues	\$24,246.89		\$24,246.89
Publication sales	\$1,882.73		\$1,882.73
Program registrations	\$7,044.96		\$7,044.96
Interest Income	\$367.84		\$367.84
NJHC General Operating Support Grant	\$7,411.00		\$7,411.00
Donations	\$3,897.07	\$250.00	\$4,147.07
Subtotal of income	\$44,850.49	\$250.00	\$45,100.49
Expense			
Printing of <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$12,733.23		\$12,733.23
Editor fees for <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$6,750.00		\$6,750.00
Social Media Manager	\$1,200.00		\$1,200.00
Graphic Artist	\$579.26		\$579.26
Other printing	\$399.01		\$399.01
Postage and P.O. Box	\$4,328.45		\$4,328.45
Accounting	\$1,860.00		\$1,860.00
Legal Support	\$300.00		\$300.00
Advertising	\$1,771.01		\$1,771.01
Software	\$2,475.89		\$2,475.89
Web Site Domain/Hosting/Maintenance	\$1,162.71		\$1,162.71
Supplies	\$595.89		\$595.89
Program/meeting catering and food expenses	\$2,837.50		\$2,837.50
Other non-personnel expenses	\$1,098.13		\$1,098.13
Storage rental	\$4,097.00		\$4,097.00
Insurance	\$630.00		\$630.00
Organizational dues	\$238.00		\$238.00
Corporate filing fees	\$55.50		\$55.50
Travel	\$2,818.51		\$2,818.51
Bank fees	\$875.31		\$875.31
Program speaker fees & expenses	\$4,475.00		\$4,475.00
Misc. operational expenses	\$570.83		\$570.83
Land Records data entry services		\$20,811.00	\$20,811.00
Land Records payroll expenses		\$1,575.73	\$1,575.73
Subtotal of expenses	\$51,851.23	\$22,386.73	\$74,237.96
Net Income	-\$7,000.74	-\$22,136.73	-\$29,137.47
Monetary Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Checking Account(s)	\$20,498.21		\$20,498.21
Land Records Account		\$4,343.70	\$4,343.70
Paypal Account	\$1,644.94		\$1,644.94
Savings Account	\$33,780.49		\$33,780.49
Savings CDs (3)	\$63,372.53		\$63,372.53
Publication Fund CDs (3)	\$57,969.14		\$57,969.14
Total investments	\$177,265.31	\$4,343.70	\$181,609.01
Endowments			
Mildred Meeker Franklin Bequest	\$6,083.82		\$6,083.82
Total endowments	\$6,083.82		\$6,083.82
Other Monetary Assets			
Undeposited Funds	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other Assets Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net worth of the Society as of June 30, 2022*	\$183,349.13	\$4,343.70	\$187,692.83

* Includes only monetary assets

Respectfully submitted, Joan E. Betancourt, Chair