GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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www.gsnj.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For more than a century, the Genealogical Society of New Jersey has brought together generations of members united by a shared passion for discovering and preserving New Jersey history and family legacies. Our long-term accomplishments reflect not just the records we've collected or the research we've published, but the dynamic, supportive community we've built along the way. A community that continues to grow stronger with each passing year.

In 2025, GSNJ implemented targeted initiatives, including a dual-track spring program, monthly webinars, and the annual meeting presentation, while also establishing a Preservation and Archival Committee to safeguard our historical records for the future. Through ongoing collaboration and strategic development, GSNJ continues to advance endeavors that reflect our ongoing commitment to providing valuable educational opportunities for genealogists at all levels. These efforts underscore our dedication to supporting members as we strive to ensure these programs remain accessible despite challenges posed by rising operational costs. In closing, the Genealogical Society of New Jersey is tremendously grateful for your continued support of the mission to preserve New Jersey's rich history. Together, we will continue discovering, procuring, preserving, and publishing information about New Jersey families for generations to come while we continue to deliver meaningful benefits to our members.

As always, we thank our GSNJ Officers and Board of Trustees who continue to guide programs and initiatives that make a meaningful impact. We are grateful for their leadership and steadfast focus on advancing our shared vision forward in the days and years to come.

Mary Szaro, CG
President

Minutes of the 103rd Annual Meeting of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Saturday, 7 December 2024

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held on Saturday, 7 December 2024, in person at the Plainfield Public Library, 800 Park Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey. Vice-President Mary Ellen Rogan welcomed attendees to the annual meeting.

Vice-President Rogan opened the business meeting at 11:15 A.M. There were 24 attendees. A show of hands indicated there were 19 members; 7 of which were current GSNJ Trustees. Vice-President Rogan read the minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting for Recording Secretary Pamelyn Bush who was absent. After a motion by member Pattie Christie and a second by member Tom Ankner, the minutes were approved as read.

Vice-President Rogan announced the 2024 Annual Report is available on the Society's website, http://www.gsnj.org, on the Officers and Trustees page. A motion was made by Trustee Daniel Klein and a second by Trustee Mary Szaro, to dispense with their reading; motion was approved.

Nominations of Trustees:
Trustee Szaro presented a Nominations Committee motion to nominate the Slate of Trustees to be elected for the term ending 2027. They are:

Joan E. Betancourt, Monmouth County, New Jersey
Elizabeth DeSapio, Hunterdon County, New Jersey
Debbie Hadley, Ocean County, New Jersey
Daniel Klein, Hudson County, New Jersey
Mary Szaro, CG, Middlesex County, New Jersey

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2027 was elected.

Old Business: There was no old business from 2023
New Business: There was no new business from GSNJ for 2024.

Attendee George Apgar announced there would be a seminar on December 21, 2024 on tracing DNA roots to 1700s North America at the Plainfield Public Library. Flyers were made available to the attendees.

Attendee Apgar presented a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Betty DeSapio. All approved. The business meeting adjourned at 11:25 A.M.

At 11:30 A.M., Vice-President Rogan introduced the speaker, Sarah Hull, Head of Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections at the Plainfield Public Library, who presented *"Genealogy Resources at the Plainfield Public Library."* The lecture ended at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan E. Betancourt,
GSNJ Trustee

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 2028:

- Pamelyn P. Bush, Northampton County, PA
- Melissa A. Johnson, Monmouth County, NJ
- Elizabeth (Jean) King Pellicane, Hunterdon County, NJ
- Mary Ellen Rogan, Middlesex County, NJ

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Klein, Chair
GSNJ Nominating Committee

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

Volume 100 (2025) of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* includes articles relating to families of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Salem, and Union counties, spanning the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. In this volume, authors contributed Aste, Baumann, Bishop, Brant, Brouwer, Chapman, Craig, DeGroot, Dey, Durand, Edsall, Ley, Lyons, Marlott, Shelp, Shute, van Etten, Van Wagoner, Wade, Wert, Woodruff, and Yawger family research. Other articles include naturalizations found in Allinson's Laws, and gravestone inscriptions from the Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery of Morris County and the Pennington African Cemetery in Mercer County.

The Writers' Group for *GMNJ* continued in 2025 under the leadership of this committee and was hosted by Editor Deanna E. Korte, GSNJ Vice-President Melissa A. Johnson, and Editorial Committee Chair Pamelyn P. Bush. 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 hosts provide guidance and encouragement to prospective writers with the promise that *GMNJ* will publish more scholarly genealogical articles.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush, Chair
GMNJ Editorial Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Manuscript Committee

GSNJ collections are held in the Alexander Library, Special Collections and University Archives. However, Special Collections and University Archives has been closed to the public

due to water damage from Hurricane Ida, and as a result, Manuscript Committee activities have been curtailed.

Many of the collections were moved to the New Jersey Room, the Bible and Family Records Collection and the Cemetery Records and Transcriptions Collection were temporarily moved to the NJ State Archives, and others were moved off-site.

Research can only be done by appointment (see the GSNJ Collections page at www.gsnj.org for instructions). Library staff bring the requested material to a designated location to be studied. How long this situation will prevail is still unknown.

Manuscripts and monographs donated to the Society are acknowledged, accessioned, and filed. A finding aid for the General Collection has been created and is available at www.gsnj.org. Contributions of family research are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair
GSNJ Manuscript Committee

Report of the GSNJ Gravestone Committee

During 2025, the Gravestone Committee did not conduct any on-site tombstone hound expeditions. Older recordings of cemeteries to be published generally involve pairs of volunteers checking the gravestones one last time. Volunteers will check to see if grave markers are still present, missing, or continue to be legible. They might also transcribe newer gravestones added since the cemetery was last recorded.

In 2021, the GSNJ cemetery collection of field notes and previously recorded inscriptions was temporarily transferred to the New Jersey State Archives while Special Collections and University Archives, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, is undergoing repairs.

The serialization of Pompton Plains Reformed Church Cemetery inscriptions began in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ)* January 2024 issue and continued through the May 2025 issue . These churchyard inscriptions are now complete. The *GMNJ* September 2025 issue contains inscriptions from the Pennington African Cemetery in Pennington Borough, Mercer County. For the future, this committee will continue to format older field notes from prior recordings into articles for publication.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush, Chair
GSNJ Gravestone Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Membership Committee

Current memberships are available with three different delivery options for society publications and communications. These options include:

• Digital: All publications and communications delivered digitally only.
• Print GMNJ: Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey (GMNJ) delivered in print; other publications and communications delivered digitally.
• Print Only: GMNJ, GSNJ Newsletter, and all communications delivered in print only.
No subscription to *NewsBrief* (GSNJ's digital-only e-zine).

Membership/Circulation Report as of 9/20/25:

Membership & Delivery Method	#
Annual Members – Digital Delivery	195
Annual Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	115
Annual Members – Print Only Delivery	18
Family Members – Digital Delivery	4
Family Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	5
Family Members – Print Only Delivery	1
Supporting Members – Digital Delivery	2
Supporting Members – Print Only Delivery	1
Contributing Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	7
International Members – Digital Delivery	1
Life Members – Digital Delivery	17
Life Members – Print GMNJ Delivery	14
Life Members – Print Only Delivery	5
Total Members	**385**

Subscribers 68
Complimentary Subscribers 4
Total Subscribers 72
Total Circulation (less ½ family members): 457

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Minerd, Chair
GSNJ Membership Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Programs Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Programs Committee
The Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ) hosted the following programs during the past year.

2024

2024 Annual Meeting
The **2024 Annual Meeting** was held on Saturday, December 7, 2024, at the Plainfield Public Library. Sarah Hull, Archivist and Head of the Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections Department, delivered an excellent presentation titled *"Genealogy Resources at the Plainfield Public Library."*
The Q&A session was lively and engaging, with attendees asking insightful questions. The event was free and open to the public.

2024 Webinar Series: "Your Roots Pursuits"
GSNJ's ongoing webinar series, *"Your Roots Pursuits,"* featured an engaging lineup of expert speakers throughout 2024, including:

- (November session was rescheduled to January 2025)
- Deanna Korte — Unlocking and Researching Your Swedish Family History

2025

2025 Conference
The **2025 GSNJ Genealogy Conference** took place on Saturday, June 7, 2025, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in East Brunswick, New Jersey.
This year's conference featured Catherine Medich, Head of Reference for the New Jersey State Archives (NJSA), as the keynote speaker.
Opening remarks were delivered by Mary Szaro, CG, GSNJ President, followed by a full day of presentations representing:

- Burlington County Library System
- Elizabeth Public Library
- Lawnside Historical Society / Peter Mott House
- Montclair History Center
- Morristown & Morris Township Public Library
- Newark Public Library

Conference attendees left with practical strategies and fresh insights to enhance their genealogical research in New Jersey. The program featured two concurrent tracks, offering a variety of sessions, including:

- What is New at the New Jersey State Archives Besides Wi-Fi — Catherine Medich, NJSA
- Charles F. Cummings NJ Information Center — Vanessa Castaldo, Newark Public Library
- Build Your Family Tree at the Elizabeth Public Library: Local History & Special Collections Department's Genealogical Resources — Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Elizabeth Public Library

- A Town Built on a Foundation of Families — Linda P. Shockley, Lawnside Historical Society / Peter Mott House
- Connecting the Past with Who We Are Today: The Collections of the Montclair History Center — Erin Benz, Montclair History Center
- "Everyone's Got One of Those": Highlights from the New Jersey Room at the Burlington County Library — Kyle Brinster, Burlington County Library System
- Introduction to the Genealogical Collections at the Caroline Rose Foster North Jersey History and Genealogy Center — James Lewis, Morristown & Morris Township Library

During lunch, attendees enjoyed networking and participated in door prize drawings. Post-conference surveys reflected overwhelmingly positive feedback and provided helpful suggestions for future events.

2025 Webinar Series: "Your Roots Pursuits"

The *"Your Roots Pursuits"* webinar series continued into 2025 with a diverse lineup of speakers and topics, including:

- Kate Townsend — *Beyond the Computer Screen: Planning for Repository Visits*
- Andre Kearns — *Finding Milly: Tracing Enslaved Ancestors Using Full-Text Search by FamilySearch*
- Taneya Y. Koonce — *Documenting Family History in the Digital Age*
- Jennifer Zinck — *DNA & Your Family Tree*
- Judy Nimer Muhn — *No Dead Ends: Finding Your Way Through Family Roadblocks*
- Cheri Hudson Passey — *In Other News…Finding Family in the Paper*
- Mark Thompson – *Intro to AI for Family Historians*
- Bernice Alexander Bennett – *The Emotional Side of DNA*
- Kate Penny Howard – *Creating a Robust Narrative with AI*
- Cherekana Feliciano – *Celebrating Family History Month: Your Family History Matters*

Looking Ahead

Planning is underway for the 2026 GSNJ Conference and the upcoming 2026 webinar series.

The Programs Committee remains committed to providing high-quality educational programming that supports genealogists at every stage of their research journey.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Gilyard, Chair
GSNJ Programs Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Corresponding Secretary

The primary responsibility of this officer is to reply to requests for research information. From October 2024 through mid-October 2025, 84 requests were received, many of which requested research in multiple collections for specific individual names. Other requests were for photocopies or scans of Bible and Family records, cemetery inscriptions, or articles published in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey.* Requests are received by mail, email, social media, through GSNJ's website, and through Rutgers University's "Ask a Librarian" via Special Collections & University Archives (SC/UA).

As done in the past, this is a volunteer project carried out with assistance from the Bible Records Committee chairperson, as time permits. Unfortunately, extensive research cannot be done and the requester 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 Cemetery Records and Transcriptions Collection to the NJ State Archives to permit access and increased scanning has helped greatly. Requests for *GMNJ* articles have been completed by the Bible and Family Records chair. This officer and a helper are now permitted in the New Jersey Room one morning a week to search the collections there for requestors. SC/UA remains closed to the public.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer
GSNJ Corresponding Secretary

Annual Report of the Treasurer
7/1/2024-6/30/2025

	Total
Income	GSNJ
Membership dues	$20,744.00
Publication sales	$1,709.00
Program registrations	$5,158.00
Interest Income	$5,162.00
NJHC General Operating Support Grant	$7,670.00
Donations	$1,912.00
Subtotal of income	**$42,355.00**

Expense	
Printing of *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*	$7,570.00
Editor fees for *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*	$18,500.00
Printing GSNJ Newsletter	$370.00
Social Media Manager	$1,200.00
Graphic Artist	$742.50
Other printing	$788.24
Postage and P.O. Box	$1,556.34
Accounting	$2,060.00
Legal Support	$0.00
Advertising	$904.50
Software	$93.34
Web Site Domain/Hosting/Maintenance	$590.00
Supplies	$9,269.49
Program/meeting catering and food expenses	$586.50
Other non-personnel expenses	$1,076.99
Storage rental	$6,633.00
Insurance	$638.00
Organizational dues	$358.00
Corporate filing fees	$33.00
Travel	$172.90
Bank fees	$968.93
Program speaker fees & expenses	$4,025.00
Misc. operational expenses	$20.49
Subtotal of expenses	**$58,157.22**
Net Income	**-$15,802.22**

Monetary Assets

Bank Accounts	
Checking Account(s)	$7,051.08
Paypal Account	$1,660.77
Money Market Account	$9,981.68
Savings CDs (3)	$68,302.87
Publication Fund CDs (3)	$60,701.30
Total investments	**$147,697.70**
Endowments	
Mildred Meeker Franklin Bequest	$6,561.42
Total endowments	**$6,561.42**
Other Monetary Assets	
Undeposited Funds	$0.00
Other Assets Total	**$0.00**
Net worth of the Society as of June 30, 2025*	**$154,259.12**

* Includes only monetary assets

Respectfully submitted,
Joan E. Betancourt,
GSNJ Treasurer