

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY



**ANNUAL REPORTS
NOVEMBER 2019**

**PO Box 1476
Trenton, NJ 08607-1476**

www.gsnj.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
9 November 2019

This past year the Society was fortunate to receive initial grant funding in the amount of \$5,703 from the New Jersey Historical Commission for fiscal year 2020. The Society is indeed appreciative. The Trustees have continued to make the best use of these funds, keeping registration fees for educational programs low and holding dues to the lowest possible level. Grant funds continue to help the Society deal with the rising costs of publishing the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* and the GSNJ Newsletter. They also play a role in ongoing projects, including the digitization of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, which will continue in 2020.

GSNJ's activities and services, including educational programs, our website, and the GSNJ Newsletter, are run by volunteers, including the officers and trustees. The very generous donation of time and effort by these dedicated individuals allows us to apply your dues, program registration fees, and donations directly to necessary expenses, such as printing, postage, and educational programs. GSNJ's success and longevity as a non-profit organization is due largely to our committed volunteers. We offer sincere thanks and appreciation to all.

In 2019 the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, under the continued editorship of Jane Fletcher Fiske, has presented many excellent articles and each issue has been delivered as scheduled. Some outstanding new articles this year were: "The Best Dresser: The Pangborn Family of Newark (and Finally Hollywood)," "A Decoding Challenge: Discovery of the Gravestone of Lieutenant Nathan Allen, Esquire (1748–1812)," "Who Was Elizabeth Chrison, Wife of Arie Van Ette?," "Murder in Kingwood! The Crime, Punishment, and Ancestry of James Vannetta of Hunterdon County," "The Gloria Project," and "A Likely English Origin of Richard Pewtinger." Along with the new articles, we have continued: "The Early Sandford Family in New Jersey, Revisited; Part 9: Third and Fourth Generations, Descendants of William² Sandford," "The Curious Case of Potter P. P. Sandford," and "The Johnson Family of Newark." Fortunately, the Society has been able to continue the number of pages at sixty-four per issue, up from the decades-old standard of forty-eight. This allows members to receive more value for their membership dues.

The Society's mission to preserve and publish cemetery inscriptions continues to be a major focus. This past year saw the publication of inscriptions from the Van Brakle-Lequier Burial Ground of Holmdel Township, Monmouth County, and the Flemington Baptist Churchyard, Borough of Flemington, Hunterdon County. Transcriptions of many cemeteries have been prepared for publication in the 2020 issues of *GMNJ*. We look forward to working on other cemeteries in 2020 for future publication and addition to our website content. We hope you will join us. If you are interested in helping with these projects, please contact us at GSNJ Tombstone Hunts, PO Box 1476, Trenton, NJ, 08607-1476, or by email at <membership@gsnj.org>. Non-members, as well, are always welcome and invited to participate.

The 2019 GSNJ Spring Program was held on Saturday, 1 June 2019 at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ. There were over one hundred attendees, and two tracks of lectures were provided. The first track consisted of lectures on 17th and 18th century research and using maps, and two lectures on tools used in Genealogy – Evernote and Facebook. The second track included lectures on land research, the New Jersey Early Land Records Project and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

The Society also continues to support the New Jersey Early Land Records Project being undertaken by the New Jersey State Archives. The goal of the project is the archival processing of roughly 10,600 West Jersey "loose papers" and the addition/completion of index data entry for over 60,000 land instruments.

We look forward to continuing our mission: promoting interest in genealogy, preserving genealogical and historical materials, and serving genealogical researchers nationwide. Your comments, assistance, and participation are encouraged and welcomed. Should you wish to contact me on any Society matter, I look forward to hearing from you at <president@gsnj.org>.

C. Arthur Lawton III, President.

**Minutes of the 97th Annual Meeting of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Saturday, December 8, 2018**

The ninety-seventh Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held on Saturday, December 8, 2018, in the Pane Room, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey. After registration and refreshments, President C. Arthur Lawton opened the meeting at 10:49 A.M. The minutes of the previous year's annual meeting were read by Recording Secretary Pamelyn Bush. The minutes were approved as read. Committee annual reports were made available, and a motion from the floor to dispense with their reading was approved.

Nominations of Trustees:

Melissa A. Johnson presented nominations for a Slate of Trustees to be elected for the Term ending 2021. They are:

Joan E. Betancourt, Monmouth County, New Jersey
Joseph R. Klett, Mercer County, New Jersey
Chester Arthur Lawton III, Mercer County, New Jersey
Joan M. Lowry, Middlesex County, New Jersey
Christine Murphy, Morris County, New Jersey

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2021 was elected.

New Business:

1. President Lawton announced that the new publication, *Middlesex County Graveyard Locator*, compiled by Ed Raser with 280 burial places, maps and descriptions, is now available for purchase. Flyers announcing the publication are on the table.
2. President Lawton reminded members that the organization depends on funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission which funds many of the GSNJ publications including a mini-grant to help with publication of the *Middlesex County Gravestone Locator*.

President Lawton reminded attendees that the Special Collections Room in Alexander Library would be available for research from 1 to 5 p.m. this afternoon.

The business meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

President C. Arthur Lawton introduced the featured speaker, Melissa A. Johnson, CG, who spoke on the topic, "*Twentieth-Century New Jersey Research*."

The meeting ended at 11:42 A.M. Approximately 50 persons participated in the event.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush, GSNJ Recording Secretary

**Nominating Committee
The Genealogical Society of NJ
9 November 2019**

The GSNJ Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for Trustee of the Class of 2022: Pamelyn P. Bush, Melissa A. Johnson, Albert C. King, Elizabeth King Pellicane, and Mary Ellen Rogan.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Arthur Lawton III

GSNJ Bible Record Annual Report
9 November 2019

Upon the retirement of Fred Sisser III as chair of the Bible & Family Records Collection, care of the collection was turned over to Janet Riemer in June 2019. At that time the collection numbered 6165. Since then, 22 records have been added to the collection. A list of all of those added in 2019 will be sent to the editor to be published in the January 2020 issue of *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

***THE GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE OF NEW JERSEY* Annual Report**
November 2019

Volume 94 contains a wealth of genealogical articles on New Jersey families, with both established authors and new ones, from Salt Lake City, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts submitting material for publication. We began the year with “The Best Dresser: The Pangborn Family of Newark (and Finally Hollywood),” by Quentin Burrows, JD, and Darcie Hind Posz, CG. The two authors trace the ancestry of a Hollywood actor and comedian of a century ago back to a family of engineers in Newark and a Civil War nurse. A frequent contributor to *GMNJ*, William N. Stryker wrote of finding a long-lost gravestone of a Revolutionary War ancestor, in “A Decoding Challenge: Discovery of the Gravestone of Lieutenant Nathan Allen, Esquire (1748–1812).” Dr. William B. Saxbe Jr., CG, FASG, contributed two fine pieces of research on the New Jersey Van Etten family: “Who Was Elizabeth Chrison, Wife of Arie Van Ette?” in the May issue, and the entertaining “Murder in Kingwood! The Crime, Punishment, and Ancestry of James Vannetta of Hunterdon County,” in the September issue. Also in the September issue, Rev. W. Becket Soule in “The Gloria Project” describes the surprising discovery that the mother he had known was not who she said she was, and the search that revealed her true identity. Robert Pittenger’s “A Likely English Origin of Richard Pewtinger,” delves into the English background of a young man who came to New Jersey as an indentured servant to Sir Philip Carteret in 1665.

Along with the new articles, we have continued “The Early Sandford Family in New Jersey, Revisited; Part 9: Third and Fourth Generations, Descendants of William² Sandford,” by co-authors Sharon Olson and Chris Schopfer, an expansion of an article by Trustee Janet T. Riemer that appeared in *GMNJ* in 2007. An appending article, “The Curious Case of Potter P. P. Sandford,” concludes the Sandford family history by the two descendants of William² Sandford. Also continued in three more parts is a thoroughly documented narrative lineage, “The Johnson Family of Newark,” by Trustee Melissa A. Johnson, CG. She concludes with a mother and daughter of the fourth and fifth generations.

Source material is always included. Cemetery records in this volume include inscriptions from the Van Brakle-Lequier Burial Ground of Holmdel Township, Monmouth County, and the Flemington Baptist Churchyard, Borough of Flemington, Hunterdon County. A few early records of the Overseers of the Poor in Bridgewater, Somerset County, from the collections of Trustee Fred Sisser III, have been transcribed. Church records are represented in May by “Lebanon Reformed Church Marriages, 1876–1882, Officiated by Sanford W. Roe, D.D.,” and in September by “First Presbyterian Church of Trenton Baptisms, 1838 to 1903.” An introduction by Trustee Joseph R. Klett in the latter article explains the importance of these records. The January issue contains a list of Bible and Family Records processed during the previous year. Photographs of documents, people, and places illustrate each issue.

We hope that the variety of material published in *GMNJ* this year will inspire our readers to contribute their own work. Volunteers interested in transcribing original records are needed. Well-researched and well-referenced articles on New Jersey subjects or families are always welcome. Contact the editor for guidance.

– Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG, Editor

**Gravestone Committee Annual Report
November 9, 2019**

In 2019 the gravestone committee continued to format older field notes from prior recordings into articles ready for publication in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*. Approximately four or five older cemeteries for various counties of New Jersey are prepared for publication in the next few years, with others being typed and formatted during the year. For several of the larger cemeteries, it was decided to bypass publication in *GMNJ* and add them directly to *Find-A-Grave* (www.findagrave.com) by volunteers using the “userid” of GSNJ Tombstone Hounds.

Two small tombstone hound expeditions took place this year. One in the spring checked the 1964 transcriptions of the Flemington Baptist Churchyard of Hunterdon County. During the summer, another group checked the 1977 transcriptions of the Vincent Methodist Cemetery in the Town of Nutley, Essex County. Several expeditions by GSNJ volunteers are planned for next spring, summer or early fall.

Cemetery inscriptions which were published in *GMNJ* since the 2018 annual report include the Van Brakle-Lequier Burial Ground of Holmdel, Monmouth County, and the Flemington Baptist Churchyard, Borough of Flemington, Hunterdon County. Almost every issue of the *GMNJ* will contain at least one article featuring historic New Jersey cemeteries of interest to our members.

Pamelyn P. Bush,
Gravestone Committee Chair

**Genealogical Society of New Jersey
Membership / Circulation Report for 9 November 2019**

Members	
Annual	431
Family	40
Supporting	4
Contributing	11
Life	<u>46</u>
	532
Subscriptions	
Complimentary	4
Subscriber - Individual	27
Subscriber - Service	<u>58</u>
	89
Total Circulation for 2019	
(less ½ Family Members):	601

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan M. Lowry
Membership Chair

**Corresponding Secretary Annual Report
November 2019**

The primary responsibility of this officer is to reply to requests for research information. From November 2018, through October 2019, 138 items of mail or email were received and answered. Some of the requests used the form on the website requesting searches in multiple collections for specific individual names. Other requests were for photocopies 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, and thence to me. This year many requests came via social media and were forwarded from the GSNJ webmaster who monitors both Facebook and Twitter.

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 a brochure identifying professional genealogists is sent, or a recommendation is made of another possible source of the requested information. It is suggested that all 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.

Janet Riemer
Corresponding Secretary

GSNJ Program Committee Annual Report

GSNJ hosted two programs in the past year, the 2018 GSNJ Annual Meeting and the 2019 GSNJ Spring Program.

The 97th GSNJ Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, 8 December 2018 at the Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. The event was free and open to the public. Over fifty people attended the meeting. The Annual Meeting concluded with the slate of the following five trustee candidates being approved by membership vote: Joan E. Betancourt, Joseph R. Klett, Chester Arthur Lawton III, Joan M. Lowry, and Christine Murphy. The Feature Presentation was delivered by Melissa A. Johnson, CG, who spoke on the topic, "*Twentieth-Century New Jersey Research.*" Surveys about the speaker and the event were collected from attendees.

The 2019 GSNJ Spring Program was held on Saturday, 1 June 2019 at Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, NJ. There were over one hundred attendees, and two tracks of lectures were provided. The first track consisted of lectures on 17th and 18th century research and using maps, and two lectures on tools used in Genealogy – Evernote and Facebook. The second track included lectures on land research, the New Jersey Early Land Records Project and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

After the lectures a special GSNJ Membership meeting was held to vote on By-law revisions. Approximately 35 members attended and the revisions were approved without dissent.

During lunch, box lunches and refreshments were provided and door prizes were awarded. GSNJ Trustees also manned an on-site bookstore. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan E. Betancourt
Program Chair, 2019

**Manuscript Committee Annual Report
November 2019**

Activities of the Manuscript Committee Chairman for the 2018-2019 year have included:

1. Checking and re-filing of items used by patrons in Special Collections & University Archives, Rutgers University Library. The following figures are for the period from November 20, 2018 through October 15, 2019.

GSNJ Surname Envelopes	16
Doman Collection Envelopes	0
Bible Records Notebooks	0
Cemetery Inscriptions	11
Alleman Collection	5
Drake Collection	13
Others	<u>33</u>
Total	78

The photocopied and bound Bible records, shelved in the New Jersey Room, were used extensively and are not included in this tally. Also not included are the items photocopied to reply to research requests received by the Corresponding Secretary.

2. Regular maintenance of the collections has been carried on. This included:

Replacement of badly worn envelopes and folders with new, acid—free materials

Repair of tears of loose sheets

Photocopying onto good paper of embrittled items

Checking of surname envelopes with index cards in the reading room. A volunteer has assisted with this task.

3. Manuscripts and monographs donated to the Society have been received, acknowledged, accessioned and filed. The large collection of Wilson B. Brown, recently donated, is being processed with the assistance of Trustee, Christine Murphy. Contributions of family research are greatly appreciated.

Janet T. Riemer, Chairman
