

# **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY**



**ANNUAL REPORTS  
NOVEMBER 2020**

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

**[www.gsnj.org](http://www.gsnj.org)**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**14 November 2020**

This past year the Society was fortunate to receive grant funding in the amount of \$6,444 from the New Jersey Historical Commission for fiscal year 2021. The Society is indeed appreciative, as it represents a 13% increase over what was received last year. 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 online digital presentation of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*.

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 2020 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: "Tompkins v. Tompkins: Conflicting Views of an Early Divorce," "The Widow Lare Remarries (Disproving an Official Marriage Record)," "Three John Sandford/Sanford/Santfords, Three Revolutionary War Soldiers," "Four Peter Bogerts of Bergen County," and "Searching for the Parents of Sarah Lefler of Newark." I encourage GSNJ members and others seriously interested in family history to consider contributing to the Society's journal. I quote Editor Fiske in her annual report: "We hope that the variety of material published in *GMNJ* this year will inspire our readers to contribute their own work. Well-researched and well-referenced articles on New Jersey subjects or families are always welcome. Aspiring writers who need help in developing or focusing ideas should not hesitate to contact the editor for guidance. Additionally, *GMNJ* is in need of new volunteers to transcribe original records. Short fillers that provide bits of interest are always needed, and we encourage readers to send us any they come across while researching." Finally, 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.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the 2020 GSNJ Spring Program was held on Saturday, 6 June 2020 as a virtual program via the Zoom Meeting App. This venue worked out surprisingly well. There were over one hundred attendees, and six lectures were provided. The program consisted of lectures on Immigrant Records from the National Archives: College Park, A Beginner's Guide to Genetic Genealogy, African American Cemeteries in New Jersey, Writing and Publishing Your Family History, Researching Irish Ancestors and Researching New Jersey American Revolutionary and Civil War Ancestors.

The Society also continues to support the New Jersey Early Land Records Project being undertaken by the New Jersey State Archives. This project will likely reach its conclusion this year. The goal of the project has been 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 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY  
Saturday, November 9, 2019**

The ninety-eighth Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, in the Pané Room, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, New Jersey. After registration and refreshments, President C. Arthur Lawton opened the meeting at 10:35 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 are available on the Society's website, <http://www.gsnj.org> on the Officers and Trustees page. A motion from the floor to dispense with their reading was approved.

**Nominations of Trustees:**

As chair of the nominations committee, Trustee C. Arthur Lawton presented a committee motion to nominate the Slate of Trustees to be elected for the Term ending 2022. They are:

Pamelyn P. Bush, Sullivan County, PA  
Melissa A. Johnson, Monmouth County, NJ  
Albert C. King, Mercer County, NJ  
Elizabeth Pellicane, Hunterdon County, NJ  
Mary Ellen Rogan, Middlesex County, NJ

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2022 was elected.

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 which helped with the 2018 publication of the *Middlesex County Gravestone Locator*.

**Old Business:** There was no old business carried over from 2018.

**New Business:**

Member George Apgar announced that in 2020 he would be forming a Palatines to America Society for the Middle Colonies which includes New Jersey.

President Lawton announced 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 10:45 A.M.

President C. Arthur Lawton introduced the featured speaker, Mark White, President of the Monmouth County Genealogy Society, who spoke on the topic, "*Urban Research*."

The lecture ended at 11:42 A.M.  
Approximately 30 persons participated in the event.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamelyn P. Bush,

**Nominating Committee  
The Genealogical Society of NJ  
14 November 2020**

The GSNJ Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for Trustees of the Class of 2023: Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Laura Cubbage-Draper, Alexander D. Everitt, Jr, Scott A. Holmes, Janet T. Riemer.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. Arthur Lawton III

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**GSNJ Bible Record Annual Report  
14 November 2020**

Upon the retirement of Fred Sisser III as chair of the Bible & Family Records Collection last year, the collection numbered 6165. 22 records were then added in the remainder of the year. Another 22 were added this year. A list of all of those added in 2020 will be sent to the editor to be published in the January 2021 issue of *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Riemer, Chair

**ANNUAL REPORT  
*The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*  
November 2020**

Volume 95 of *GMNJ* includes genealogical articles on New Jersey families that span over three centuries, representing several different geographical areas and immigrant backgrounds. Authors range from aspiring Certified Genealogists to a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, but significantly include some who have not sought professional status whose interest in particular families has led them to in-depth study.

The year began with “Tompkins v. Tompkins: Conflicting Views of an Early Divorce,” by Pamelyn P. Bush, CG, a Trustee of GSNJ (and an often-anonymous contributor to *GMNJ*) who also contributed to the September issue, “The Widow Lare Remarries (Disproving an Official Marriage Record).” Both articles demonstrate careful examination and analysis of primary records. Sharon Olson, co-author with Chris Schopfer of an important article on the early Sanfords that ran for over two years in *GMNJ*, has given us an unrelated study, “Three John Sandford/Sanford/Santfords, Three Revolutionary War Soldiers,” which sorts out old published errors involving Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York, and sets the record straight; a second part will appear in the January issue. Another article that uses analysis of primary records to deal with errors and confusion is “Four Peter Bogerts of Bergen County,” by Karen Hand Wolzanski, a native of New Jersey now living in Florida, who has studied the Bogerts, a Dutch family, for many years. The English origin of Hugh Hicks (1730-1808) of Hunterdon County was presented by William B. Saxbe Jr., CG, FASG, in January and May. Joseph R. Klett, well known to all New Jersey researchers and members of GSNJ alike, returned to the Weaver family of Salem County, with an article on the allied Scheck/Sax/Sacks family, Palatine immigrants, in January, and more on the Weaver Descendants in May. New authors included Michael W. McCormick, AG, who wrote about the family of his ancestors John Trust Severns and wife Emma Jane Smith, of Burlington County, and Sharon Green, CG, who in May presented an educational article on method: “Searching for the Parents of Sarah Lefler of Newark.” All of the articles published are thoroughly cited to the sources used and make significant contributions to what is known of the families concerned.

*GMNJ* is still in need of new volunteers to transcribe original records. Cemetery records, lacking in this volume, will be resumed in the future. Each issue in Volume 95 includes an installment of the Records of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton, first “Baptisms, 1838 to 1903” (January and May) and “Marriages, 1841 to 1900” (started in September), to be continued next year. A few early records of the Overseers of the Poor in Bridgewater, Somerset County, transcribed from the collections of Trustee Fred Sisser III, have been included when space permits. Also used as a “filler” are three pages of names of New Jersey people that were found in the records of the Dartmouth, Massachusetts, Society of Friends (Quakers) currently being transcribed and published. Short fillers that provide bits of interest are always needed, and we encourage readers to send us any they come across while researching.

The hard work of members of the Editorial Board who serve as proofreaders is an essential part of the production of each issue and an invaluable help to the editor. We hope that the variety of material published in *GMNJ* this year will inspire our readers to contribute their own work. Well-researched and well-referenced articles on New Jersey subjects or families are always welcome. However, aspiring writers who need help in developing or focusing ideas should not hesitate to contact the editor for guidance.

— JANE FLETCHER FISKE, FASG, EDITOR

**Gravestone Committee Annual Report**  
**November 14, 2020**

In 2020 the gravestone committee did not conduct any tombstone hound expeditions due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Older recordings of cemeteries not yet published generally involve groups of volunteers rechecking the gravestones. They check to see if grave markers are still present or missing, and are they still readable? They also transcribe newer stones added since the cemetery was last recorded.

We are planning one excursion for the fall of 2021, but it depends on the availability of pairs of volunteers working together to record and check the headstones. At this time, New Jersey is under a state of emergency with rigid requirements in place to limit social gatherings.

After two volunteers checked most of the cemetery last year, three-fourths of Vincent Methodist Cemetery in Nutley is ready for publication in the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*. One small strip in the rear of the cemetery remains unchecked. In the meantime, this committee continues to format older field notes from prior recordings into articles for publication in the *GMNJ*. For several of the larger cemeteries, the committee decided to bypass publication and add the inscriptions directly to *Find-A-Grave* ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)) by volunteers using the "user-id" of GSNJ Tombstone Hounds.

Pamelyn P. Bush  
Gravestone Committee Chair

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**Genealogical Society of New Jersey**  
**Membership / Circulation Report for 14 November 2020**

Members	
Annual	452
Family	36
Supporting	5
Contributing	5
Life	<u>47</u>
	545
Subscriptions	
Complimentary	4
Subscriber - Individual	27
Subscriber - Service	<u>57</u>
	88
Total Circulation for 2019 (less ½ Family Members):	615

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joan M. Lowry, Chair

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**Manuscript Committee Annual Report**  
**14 November 2020**

Activities of the Manuscript Committee Chairman for the 2019-2020 year were curtailed in early March 2020, when the library where the collections are held was closed due to the pandemic. Records of use have been inaccessible since, and maintenance has been halted. Activities will commence once the library reopens. Manuscripts and monographs donated to the Society in normal times are acknowledged, accessioned, and filed. Contributions of family research are greatly appreciated.

Janet T. Riemer, Chairman

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**Corresponding Secretary Annual Report  
November 2020**

The primary responsibility of this officer is to reply to requests for research information. From November 2019, through October 2020, 80 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 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.

This year, due to the pandemic, many requests received since March have not yet been completed. Requestors were notified that the Rutgers Library where the GSNJ collections are held, has been closed and I cannot search the collections or photocopy Bible records. Requests for articles from the magazine have been completed, but the others are on a to-do list that will be addressed once the library is re-opened.

Janet Riemer, Corresponding Secretary

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**GSNJ Program Committee Annual Report**

GSNJ hosted two programs in the past year: the 2019 GSNJ Annual Meeting and the 2020 GSNJ Spring Program.

The 98<sup>th</sup> GSNJ Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, 9 November 2019 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: Pamelyn R. Bush, Elizabeth Pellicane, Melissa A. Johnson, Mary Ellen Rogan and Albert C. King. The Feature Presentation was delivered by Mark White, President, Monmouth County Genealogy Society, who spoke on the topic, "Urban Research." Surveys about the speaker and the event were collected from attendees.

The 2020 GSNJ Spring Program was held on Saturday, 6 June 2020 as a virtual program. There were over one hundred attendees, and six lectures were provided. The program consisted of lectures on Immigrant Records from the National Archives: College Park, A Beginner's Guide to Genetic Genealogy, African American Cemeteries in New Jersey, Writing and Publishing Your Family History, Researching Irish Ancestors and Researching New Jersey American Revolutionary and Civil War Ancestors. Door prizes were awarded. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Murphy, Program Chair

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**Genealogical Society of New Jersey**  
**Annual Report of the Treasurer**  
**07/01/2019 - 06/30/2020**

	<b>Total</b>		
	GSNJ	Land Records	Total
<b>Income</b>			
Membership dues	\$24,227.15		\$24,227.15
Publication sales	\$2,401.34		\$2,401.34
Program registrations	\$4,860.00		\$4,860.00
Research & photocopies	\$69.50		\$69.50
Returned checks	-\$60.00		-\$60.00
Publicatons shipping	\$277.20		\$277.20
Interest Income	\$741.61		\$741.61
NJHC General Operating Support Grant	\$5,703.00		\$5,703.00
Donations	\$1,303.72	\$53,901.23	\$55,204.95
<b>Subtotal of income</b>	<b>\$39,523.52</b>	<b>\$53,901.23</b>	<b>\$93,424.75</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Printing of <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$5,864.61		\$5,864.61
Editor fees for <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$9,000.00		\$9,000.00
Other printing	\$1,626.68		\$1,626.68
Postage	\$3,236.01		\$3,236.01
Accounting	\$1,595.00		\$1,595.00
Mail-out services	\$2,319.46		\$2,319.46
Advertising	\$40.00		\$40.00
Software	\$242.99		\$242.99
Web Site Domain/Hosting/Maintenance	\$477.43		\$477.43
Supplies	\$177.45		\$177.45
Program/meeting catering and food expenses	\$196.27		\$196.27
Other program expenses (custodial fees)	\$85.90		\$85.90
Storage rental	\$2,816.02		\$2,816.02
Insurance	\$924.00		\$924.00
Organizational dues	\$138.00		\$138.00
Corporate filing fees	\$30.00		\$30.00
Bank fees	\$587.31	\$30.33	\$617.64
Program speaker fees & expenses	\$2,383.67		\$2,383.67
Misc. operational expenses (PO Box)	\$288.00		\$288.00
Land Records data entry services		\$51,527.52	\$51,527.52
Land Records payroll expenses		\$1,405.78	\$1,405.78
<b>Subtotal of expenses</b>	<b>\$32,028.80</b>	<b>\$52,963.63</b>	<b>\$84,992.43</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$7,494.72</b>	<b>\$937.60</b>	<b>\$8,432.32</b>
<b>Monetary Assets</b>			
<b>Bank Accounts</b>			
Checking Account(s)	\$18,157.00		\$18,157.00
Land Records Account		\$19,486.72	\$19,486.72
Paypal Account	\$1,975.52		\$1,975.52
Savings Account	\$3,877.24		\$3,877.24
Savings CDs (3)	\$63,280.98		\$63,280.98
Life Members CD	\$29,716.84		\$29,716.84
Publication Fund CDs (3)	\$57,508.55		\$57,508.55
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>\$174,516.13</b>	<b>\$19,486.72</b>	<b>\$194,002.85</b>
<b>Endowments</b>			
Mildred Meeker Franklin Bequest	\$6,073.34		\$6,073.34
<b>Total endowments</b>	<b>\$6,073.34</b>		<b>\$6,073.34</b>
<b>Other Monetary Assets</b>			
Undeposited Funds	\$370.00		\$370.00
<b>Other Assets Total</b>	<b>\$370.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$370.00</b>
<b>Net worth of the Society as of June 30, 2020*</b>	<b>\$180,959.47</b>	<b>\$19,486.72</b>	<b>\$200,446.19</b>

\* Includes only monetary assets

Joan E. Betancourt, Treasurer