

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY



**ANNUAL REPORTS
OCTOBER 2021**

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

www.gsnj.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
20 October 2021

This year is the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey! As we look forward to the next 100 years, we have several events that highlight this occasion.

To commemorate GSNJ's 100 years of genealogical service and scholarship, the Society introduced a Webinar Series that began in January. The Webinar Series of live, virtual presentations are free and open to the public. Recordings of the presentations are available only to members for a limited time. These online presentations allow for the participation of our members who cannot attend educational programs in person. The Webinar Series will continue into 2022 with twelve more webinars being scheduled.

To celebrate its first 100 years, the Society is holding a Centennial Celebration on November 13th with a luncheon and a presentation by keynote speaker, Dr. Tom Jones, who will discuss building a lineage with little or no direct evidence. Joseph Klett, Trustee of the Society, will present a brief history of the GSNJ. The event will be held at the St. Demetrius Community Center, Carteret, New Jersey. We hope you can attend.

The Society is holding its 100th Annual Members' Meeting at 7:30 pm on October 20th via the Zoom platform. The meeting will immediately precede the monthly webinar lecture. At that meeting the Board of Trustees will increase the number of Trustees to sixteen. The remaining two reserve Trustee positions will be filled during the coming year due to the Society's increased workload.

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 in fiscal year 2020. 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 costs for GSNJ's newest educational feature – monthly webinars. Grant funds also play a role in ongoing projects, including providing the capability for an online, searchable, digital presentation of past issues of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*.

GSNJ's activities and services, including educational programs, our website, and the webinars are run by volunteers, including the officers and trustees. The very generous donation of time and effort by these dedicated individuals allows GSNJ 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 to our committed volunteers. We offer them our sincere thanks.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the 2021 GSNJ Spring Genealogy Conference was held on Saturday, May 8th, 2021 as a virtual program via the Zoom platform. This venue again worked out surprisingly well. There were eighty-five attendees, and eight lectures were provided. The program consisted of lectures on Italian Genealogy, records in the New Jersey State Archives, Academic Records, Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy, Sports-Related Ties in Family History, Genealogical Timelines, African American Research and Loose Records.

The Society also continues to support the New Jersey Early Land Records Project being undertaken by the New Jersey State Archives. This project has received additional funding and will be able to continue for at least another 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 for another one hundred years: 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 99th Annual Meeting of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
Saturday, November 14th, 2020**

The ninety-ninth Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held virtually on Saturday, November 14th, 2020, using the Zoom platform. President C. Arthur Lawton welcomed attendees to the first virtual annual meeting and introduced Vice President Melissa Johnson who instructed attendees on how to use the Zoom “raise-your-hand” function which was instrumental throughout the meeting to count members and take votes. When a quorum of members was reached, President C. Arthur Lawton opened the meeting at 11:35 A.M. The minutes of the previous year’s annual meeting were read by Recording Secretary Pamelyn Bush. The minutes were approved as read. President Lawton announced that committee 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 2023. They are:

Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Middlesex County, NJ
Laura Cabbage-Draper, Middlesex County, NJ
Alexander D. Everitt, Jr., Sussex County, NJ
Scott A. Holmes, Hunterdon County, NJ
Janet T. Riemer, Mercer County, NJ

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2023 was elected.

Old Business: There was no old business carried over from 2019.

New Business:

President Lawton thanked long-time trustees, Alexander Everitt and Janet Riemer, for their forty-five years of service each to GSNJ.

The business meeting adjourned at 11:44 A.M.

Vice-President Melissa Johnson introduced the featured speaker, Carol Simon Levin, who spoke on the topic, “*Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey’s Overlooked Role in the Fight for Women Suffrage.*” Ms. Levin portrayed Lillian Ford Feichert of Plainfield and Dunellen, New Jersey, in her fight for women’s suffrage. After her presentation, Carol Simon Levin answered questions placed in the Zoom chat box.

The lecture ended at 1:00 P.M.

Approximately 37 persons participated in the event.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush,
GSNJ Recording Secretary

**Annual Report of the GSNJ Nominating Committee
20 October 2021**

The GSNJ Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees for Trustees of the Class of 2024:

Joan E. Betancourt, Monmouth County, NJ
Janice Platt Hunold, Morris County, NJ
Joseph R. Klett, Mercer County, NJ
C. Arthur Lawton, Mercer County, NJ
Christine Murphy, Morris County, NJ
Matthew J. Weismantel, Burlington County, NJ

Respectfully submitted,
C. Arthur Lawton III, Chair

**Annual Report of the GSNJ Bible Record Committee
20 October 2021**

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, the Rutgers University Alexander Library where the GSNJ Bible and Family Records Collection is housed, has been closed for the entire year. As a result, Bible records could not be photocopied when requested. To compensate, two Rutgers students working in Special Collections/University Archives scanned 67 requested records in pdf format. These records were forwarded electronically to the requestors.

Also, records accessioned last year could not be filed in the collection and are being held until the library re-opens. Only one new record was added this year. It too will be held until access becomes possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

**Annual Report of the Editorial Committee of The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey
20 October 2021**

Volume 96 of *GMNJ* includes genealogical articles on New Jersey families of Salem, Hunterdon, Somerset, Essex, and Mercer counties, spanning the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. This year, our authors have published results of many years of research to the Sandford/Sanford, Weaver, Horner, Vanator/Van Etten, and Lare/Lair families. In addition, the January issue always includes a list of all the Bible and family records processed during the previous year.

Serialized source material includes marriages recorded by the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton ministers and continuing the records from the New Jersey Court of Oyer and Terminer, 1749–1762. Another article contains inscriptions from the Vincent Methodist Cemetery of Nutley, copied by trustee Janet T. Riemer. It will continue in 2022. Sadly, we lost our most voluminous cemetery-inscription copyist and writer with the passing of Edward J. Raser in early 2021.

The editorial committee spends many hours proofreading each issue of *GMNJ* for the editor, Jane Fletcher Fiske. Often, editorial assistants will check references in articles by authors who live far from New Jersey resources. And one member even stood at the edge of a busy highway to photograph a historic house needed for an article in volume 96. (Thank you, Patti.) Finally, the Genealogical Society of New Jersey is fortunate to retain Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG, as our Editor of *GMNJ* since 2009. She not only superbly edits but procures many articles of New Jersey interest by her colleagues and friends in the U.S. genealogical community.

Pamelyn P. Bush, Chair
GMNJ Editorial Committee

Annual Report of the GSNJ Manuscript Committee
20 October 2021

Activities of the Manuscript Committee Chairman for the 2020-2021 year have been curtailed since 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 when the Alexander library re-opens. 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

Annual Report of the GSNJ Gravestone Committee
20 October 2021

In 2021, 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 pairs of volunteers rechecking the gravestones one last time. They 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.

Although GSNJ hoped to have one excursion in the fall of 2021, it did not occur for two reasons. First, pairs of volunteers working together to record and check the headstones were not readily available. Second, the GSNJ cemetery collection of field notes and previously recorded inscriptions is closed until Special Collections and University Archives, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, re- to the public.

Serial publication of Vincent Methodist Cemetery in Nutley started in the September 2021 issue of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* and will continue in the January and May 2022 issues. In the meantime, this committee will continue 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) by volunteers using the "user-id" of GSNJ Tombstone Hounds.

Pamelyn P. Bush
Gravestone Committee Chair

Annual GSNJ Membership / Circulation Report
20 October 2021

Members	
Annual	473
Family	38
Supporting	6
Contributing	7
Life	<u>43</u>
	567
Subscriptions	
Complimentary	4
Subscriber - Individual	27
Subscriber - Service	<u>52</u>
	83
Total Circulation for 2019 (Less ½ Family Members):	631

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan M. Lowry, Chair

In Memoriam:

GSNJ regrettably announces the passing of several members reported since the 99th Annual Meeting:

Rodney Armstrong of Boston, MA, a member since 1957, died April 2021;
Edward J. Raser of Monroe Township, NJ, a member since 1951,
Trustee Emeritus since 1990, died January 2021;
Stephen P. Newsome of Hackettstown, NJ, a member since 2005, died December 2020;
Jean A. Rinehart of Long Valley, NJ, a member since 1984, died November 2020;
Audrey H. Sperling of Robbinsville, NJ, a member since 1982, died August 2020.

Welcome to our new members who joined GSNJ in 2021:

Judi Aldrovandi, Odessa, FL	Jo Ann Lawrence, Delran, NJ
Linda Templer Alexander, Fairport, NY	Sarah Lee, New Brunswick, NJ
Jules Anderson, Wilmington, NC	Mary Letson, Lemont, IL
Diane Arnett, Milpitas, CA	Mary Liber, Hamburg, PA
Susan Avery, Winston-Salem, NC	Edward Lowe, Bayville, NJ
J Wesley Baker, Springfield, OH	Lis Lutz, Seattle, WA
Deborah Barber, Sunnyside, NY	Kathleen Mack, Aberdeen, NJ
Cindy Beatty Hendrix, Carlsbad, CA	Marie Mahler, Wanaque, NJ
Stephen Beck, New York, NY	Mary Mancuso, Hackettstown, NJ
Debra Bergen-Koster, New York, NY	Paula Manning, Sparta, NJ
Holly Bird, Palm Harbor, FL	Rochelle Markee, Hamilton Twp, NJ
Elizabeth Brokaw, Toms River, NJ	Rita McClellan, Cherry Hill, NJ
Susan Brydon, Shelbyville, TN	Ruth McCreery, Yokohama, Kanagawa, Japan
Anthony Burdge, Whiting, NJ	Janet Messer, St. Augustine, FL
Maria Capaldi, Levittown, PA	Robert Moody, Denver, CO
Lisa Carle, Kailua, HI	Edward Morrison, Columbia, SC
Kathleen Chase, Philadelphia, PA	Piper Oneto, Hedgesville, WV
Jill M D'Andrea, Olney, MD	Amber Orley, Medina, OH
Deborah Davenport, Woodland Hills, CA	Donna Ovidia, Loveland, OH
Ann Davidson, West Palm Beach, FL	Ann Victoria Paras, Knoxville, TN
Marie De Leon, Brick, NJ	Jane Peppler, Chapel Hill, NC
Chris Deiner-Karr, Edmonds, WA	Susan Petriano, Long Valley, NJ
Suzy Del Mage, Matawan, NJ	Kelley Piper, Odenton, MD
Marilyn Denman, Dover, NH	Constance L. Ray, Seminole, FL
Charmaine Dersham, Poestenkill, NY	Linda Reed, Lancaster, WI
Robert Doremus, Clifton, NJ	Elaine Riddle, Provo, UT
Byron Druss, Evesham, NJ	Nancy Ronning, Marlboro, NJ
Carolyn Dyess Bales, Garland, TX	Stephanie Sanford, Westport, MA
Susan Eldridge, Ellington, CT	Sylvia Schneider, Culpeper, VA
Karen Ellingson, Willow Grove, PA	Dennis Shawn, Oak Grove, OR
Peter Flannery, Haddonfield, NJ	MaryBeth Stansfield, Hazlet, NJ
Sally Friedland, Pleasant Lake, MI	Violet Stebner, Westminster, MD
Cheryl Fritz, Cary, NC	Louise Svehla, Plainfield, IL
Doris Gainer, Alexandria, VA	Robert Swain, Alexandria, VA
Janice Gilyard, Summit, NJ	Carol Swinehart, Tiverton, RI
Arthur Golder, Port Washington, NY	Liz Tait, Austin, TX
Sharon Griggs, Harrisburg, PA	Goline Doremus Vanderhoof, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Elizabeth Hacke, Seal Beach, CA	Doreen Valentine, Princeton, NJ
Sherel Hersch, Summit, NJ	Elizabeth Murray Vargas, Miami, FL
Linda Holmes, Melbourne, FL	Ellis Vliet, Ponchatoula, LA
Ellen Holzhauer, Millburn, NJ	David Walsh, Barnegat, NJ
Jennifer Hooper, Virginia Beach, VA	David B Wiant, Clinton, NJ
Derrick Johnstone, Edinburgh, UK	Kathleen Williams, League City, TX
Betty Ann Kane, Washington, DC	Dennis Yates, Kingston, TN
Kathryn Hirons Kesterson, Muncie, IN	Stanley Yon, Atlanta, GA
Kimberly Kissel, Phoenix, AZ	Lois Young, Luverne, MN
Sue Kozel, Cream Ridge, NJ	
Sandra Larson, Minnetonka, MN	

Annual Report of the GSNJ Corresponding Secretary
20 October 2021

The primary responsibility of this officer is to reply to requests for research information. From November 2020 through August 2021, sixty-two 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 (SC/UA), and thence to me. Some 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, most requests received have not yet been completed. Requestors were notified that the Rutgers Library where the GSNJ collections are held has been closed and the collections cannot be searched nor can Bible records be photocopied.

Requests for articles from the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* have been completed, and some Bible record requests have been scanned by SC/UA staff. However, others are on a very lengthy to-do list that will be addressed when the library re-opens.

Janet Riemer,
Corresponding Secretary

Annual Report of the GSNJ Program Committee
20 October 2021

GSNJ hosted two programs in the past year, the 2020 GSNJ Annual Meeting and the 2021 GSNJ Spring Genealogy Conference.

The 99th GSNJ Annual Meeting was held virtually on Saturday, November 14th 2020. 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: Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Laura Cubbage-Draper, Alexander D. Everitt, Jr. Scott A. Holmes and Janet T. Riemer. The Feature Presentation was delivered by Carol Simon Levin, who spoke on the topic, "Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey's Central Role in the Fight for Women's Suffrage." Surveys about the speaker and the event were collected from attendees.

The 2021 GSNJ Spring Program was held on Saturday, May 8th, 2021 as a virtual program. There were eighty-five attendees, and eight lectures were provided. The program consisted of lectures on Italian Genealogy, records in the New Jersey State Archives, Academic Records, Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy, Sports-Related Ties in Family History, Genealogical Timelines, African American Research and Loose Records. Door prizes were awarded. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

The GSNJ Webinar Series was introduced in January 2021. Webinars are scheduled monthly with various topics including New Jersey's Early Laws, Preserving Family Photographs, Using Historical Newspapers, New Jersey Quakers, New Jersey State Censuses and North Jersey Population Movements. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Murphy, Chair

Genealogical Society of New Jersey
Annual Report of the Treasurer
07/01/2020 - 06/30/2021

	Total		
	GSNJ	Land Records	Total
Income			
Membership dues	\$27,965.16		\$27,965.16
Publication sales	\$2,845.53		\$2,845.53
Program registrations	\$3,916.61		\$3,916.61
Interest Income	\$326.62		\$326.62
NJHC General Operating Support Grant	\$6,444.00		\$6,444.00
Donations	\$1,843.70	\$45,192.00	\$47,035.70
Subtotal of income	\$43,341.62	\$45,192.00	\$88,533.62
Expense			
Printing of <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$5,241.23		\$5,241.23
Editor fees for <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$9,000.00		\$9,000.00
Other printing	\$1,258.51		\$1,258.51
Postage	\$3,289.03		\$3,289.03
Accounting	\$1,775.00		\$1,775.00
Mail-out services	\$2,575.26		\$2,575.26
Advertising	\$80.35		\$80.35
Software	\$434.96		\$434.96
Web Site Domain/Hosting/Maintenance	\$1,030.45		\$1,030.45
Supplies	\$322.28		\$322.28
Program/meeting catering and food expenses	\$2,615.50		\$2,615.50
Other non-personnel expenses	\$14.20		\$14.20
Storage rental	\$2,917.00		\$2,917.00
Insurance	\$630.00		\$630.00
Organizational dues	\$278.00		\$278.00
Corporate filing fees	\$30.50		\$30.50
Bank fees	\$686.27		\$686.27
Program speaker fees & expenses	\$8,161.57		\$8,161.57
Misc. operational expenses (PO Box)	\$350.00		\$350.00
Land Records data entry services		\$30,338.00	\$30,338.00
Land Records payroll expenses		\$1,418.14	\$1,418.14
Subtotal of expenses	\$40,690.11	\$31,756.14	\$72,446.25
Net Income	\$2,651.51	\$13,435.86	\$16,087.37
Monetary Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Checking Account(s)	\$17,459.90		\$17,459.90
Land Records Account		\$43,649.76	\$43,649.76
Paypal Account	\$1,823.56		\$1,823.56
Savings Account	\$33,758.76		\$33,758.76
Savings CDs (3)	\$63,341.99		\$63,341.99
Life Members CD	\$0.00		\$0.00
Publication Fund CDs (3)	\$57,613.28		\$57,613.28
Total investments	\$173,997.49	\$43,649.76	\$217,647.25
Endowments			
Mildred Meeker Franklin Bequest	\$6,080.07		\$6,080.07
Total endowments	\$6,080.07		\$6,080.07
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, 2020*	\$180,077.56	\$43,649.76	\$223,727.32

* Includes only monetary assets

Joan E. Betancourt, Treasurer