

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY



ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

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

www.gsnj.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

16 November 2022

As GSNJ entered its second century as an organization, the Society has been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated and enthusiastic group of trustees and officers. These volunteers continuously donate their time and efforts toward furthering GSNJ's mission to discover, procure, preserve, and publish information pertaining to families and individuals associated with New Jersey. GSNJ's volunteers are the lifeblood of the society, ensuring that activities and services continue moving forward, even in the face of challenges, as we've experienced through the past several years of the pandemic.

In 2022, the New Jersey State Archives graciously offered to house some of GSNJ's most widely-used collections. GSNJ's collections, held at Rutgers University's Special Collections and University Archives in New Brunswick, had been inaccessible since early 2020. The GSNJ Bible and Family Records Collection is now accessible to researchers at the New Jersey State Archives. The remainder of GSNJ's collections remain at Special Collections and University Archives, where library staff can bring requested material to patrons with an appointment.

To further the educational opportunities available to our membership, GSNJ launched a series of members-only events in 2022. "Office Hours with GSNJ" allows members to ask questions to GSNJ Trustees, while "Noontime Knowledge," includes discussions on topics related to New Jersey genealogy. The two programs have been rotating from month to month since February, and have been well-received by members. Additionally, GSNJ's annual conference has continued to be a success, even given the pandemic, which restricted us from meeting in person again. The conference included two tracks and was attended by nearly 100 registrants.

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 of this year, 74,857 land records have been indexed in the database, creating nearly 375,000 name entries.

GSNJ was once again fortunate to receive grant funding in the amount of \$7,411 from the New Jersey Historical Commission for the 2022 fiscal year, a 15% increase from 2021. GSNJ continues to use these funds to maintain low costs for educational programs, and member and subscriber dues. The grant funds have also played a role in allowing GSNJ to expand its existing virtual programming to include monthly members-only events, and also to manage the rising costs of publishing and distributing the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*.

We are very much looking forward to having our first in-person program in three years, as we prepare to host the society's 2023 spring conference. We hope to see you all there. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to GSNJ via president@gsnj.org with comments, suggestions and feedback. We look forward to hearing from you.

Melissa A. Johnson
President

**Minutes of the 100th Annual Meeting of the
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY
20 October 2021**

The one-hundredth Annual Meeting of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey was held virtually on Wednesday, 20 October 2021, using the Zoom platform. President C. Arthur Lawton welcomed attendees to the second virtual annual meeting and introduced Vice President Christine Murphy who instructed attendees on using 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 7:34 p.m. The minutes of the annual meeting of 2020 were read by President Lawton. 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 2024. They are:

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

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate of nominated trustees for the term ending 2024 was elected.

Old Business: There was no old business carried over from 2020.

New Business: President Lawton announced a live presentation on November 13, 2021, with keynote speaker Thomas W. Jones to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. Trustee Joseph R. Klett will speak about the history of the Society since its founding in 1921. The Society’s website, www.gsnj.org contains more information on the event and its location.

A motion to adjourn was presented by Ruth Huntington and seconded by William Cramer. All approved. The business meeting adjourned at 7:44 A.M.

Approximately 82 persons participated in the annual meeting including 15 GSNJ Trustees. Approximately 113 persons attended the October webinar.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush, 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 2025:

Pamelyn P. Bush, Northampton Co., PA
Melissa A. Johnson, Monmouth Co., NJ
J. Elizabeth Pellicane, Hunterdon Co., NJ
Mary Ellen Rogan, Middlesex Co., NJ
Albert C. King, Somerset Co., NJ

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ellen Rogan, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Bible Record Committee

This year, access to the GSNJ Bible and Family Records Collection was greatly improved by the offer of the New Jersey State Archives (NJSA) to temporarily house the collection. Both the bound volumes and the records received since the last binding were moved, with the bound volumes made available for research in the NJSA Manuscript Room. Veronica Calder, staff member at NJSA, has 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 two were received this year, the backlog from the past is now being addressed. Collectively, these additional records bring the collection's total to 6226:

6211 Oliver Goltry Bible
6212 Bible Record of the Blanchard Family
6213 Bible Record of James I. Todd
6214 Bible Record of Charles Tindall
6215 Hannah Hall Sampler
6216 Bible Record of David Harris
6217 Familien – Register, Friedrich Scheele (in German)
6218 Bible Record of Samuel and Hannah Craft
6219 Bible Record of Jacob & Isabel Ridgway
6220 Bible Record of the Reeder Family
6221 Children of Richard and Sarah (Smith) Clark
6222 Bible Records of Mr. & Mrs. John G. van Horne
6223 Wilson Family Bible Record
6224 Compton Family Bible Record
6225 Breece Family Bibles
6226 Daniel Kelly Bible Record

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

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

Volume 97 of the *Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* includes genealogical articles on New Jersey families of Essex, Gloucester, Hudson, Hunterdon, Monmouth, and Somerset counties, spanning the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries. This year, authors contributed years of research on the Clark, DuBois, Capman, Mahon, Hedigan, Dalton, Kearney, Parker, Reading, Ellis, Bate, Hollinshead, Adams, and Malsbury families. Serialized source material includes the concluding records from the New Jersey Court of Oyer and Terminer, 1749–1762, and inscriptions from the Vincent Methodist Cemetery of Nutley.

The editorial committee spends many hours proofreading each final draft of *GMNJ* two or three times while searching for errors. With every issue of *GMNJ*, committee members access online links for validity and check citations for accuracy.

GSNJ members will have noticed the long delay in receiving issues of *GMNJ* this year. This is because the Covid-19 pandemic finally took a toll on our printing company, first with the inability to obtain the paper stock used by *GMNJ* and then with fewer employees willing to return to full-time work. 2023 should see an improvement. Family bereavements suffered by the editors also slowed things down.

Sadly, we lost our longest active committee member with the passing of Fred Sisser III in April 2022. Additionally, the Genealogical Society of New Jersey will soon lose the outstanding services of Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG, our *GMNJ* Editor since 2009. Looking toward the future, Jane hopes to finish some of her own genealogical projects for publication.

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. Many of the collections were moved to the New Jersey Room and others were moved off-site. Recently, 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. The committee chair is now allowed to access the New Jersey Room and may be able to assist. How long this situation will prevail remains unknown. Manuscripts and monographs donated to the Society in normal times are acknowledged, accessioned, and filed. Contributions of family research are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Gravestone Committee

In 2022, the gravestone committee did not conduct any tombstone hound expeditions due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. 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.

Serial publication of Vincent Methodist Cemetery continued in 2022 issues of the Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey. In the meantime, this committee will continue to format older field notes from prior recordings into articles for publication in *GMNJ*.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamelyn P. Bush, Member

Annual Report of the GSNJ Membership Committee

Annual	499
Family	42
Supporting	5
Contributing	5
Life	42
Total Memberships:	593
Complimentary	4
Subscriber - Individual	27
Subscriber - Service	50
Total Subscriptions:	81
Total Circulation (Less ½ Family Members) as of 30 September 2022:	653

In Memoriam

GSNJ regrettably announces the passing of several members reported since the 100th Annual Meeting:

- Fred Sisser III of Brick, NJ, a member since 1972, Trustee Emeritus since 2019, died April 2022;
- James R. Wright of Stockholm, NJ, a Life member since 1990, died October 2021; and
- Frances E. Brewster of Manahawkin, NJ, a member since 2012, died January 2020.

GSNJ welcomes 99 new members who joined in 2022:

Ashley Abruzzo, Yardley, PA
Becky Adamson, Pleasant Grove, UT
Joan Bauer, Langhorne, PA
Margaret Beekman, Freehold, NJ
Richard Boylan, Dunkirk, MD
Kyle Brinster, Trenton, NJ
Jackie Brown, Somerset, NJ
Sarah Brown, Bow, NH
Tracy Burger, Middletown, CT
Martha Callaway, Cold Spring, NY
Beth Cash, Howes Cave, NY
Veronica M. Celeste, Millville, NJ
William Chamberlain, Houston, TX
Diane Chapman-Lada, Pt. Pleas. Beach, NJ
Margaret Cheney, Elyria, OH
Janet Cole, Manchester Twp, NJ
Susan Cramer, Long Beach, NY
Robert Crowley, Millville, NJ
Louise Dewar, Chicago, IL
Elizabeth Dey, Allentown, NJ
Lise Doss, Austin, TX
Barbara Driscoll, Monroe Twp, NJ
Wayne Dunn, Wantage, NJ
Holly Esposito, Rydel, PA
Tiffany Evans, Holiday, FL
Sheri Faulkner, Wilmington, DE
Jennifer Florio, Green Twp, NJ
Maureen Foster, Oceanport, NJ
Daphne Gabb, Middletown, MD
Maureen Gallagher, Jersey City, NJ
Dennis Michael Galvin, Freehold, NJ
Rita Gardner, Zephyrhills, FL
Gary Gittings, Newark, DE
Karyn Greenstreet, Saylorsburg, PA
Susan Gurman, Schwenksville, PA

Diane Sanborn Haversang, Califon, NJ
Susan Hayes, Avondale, AZ
Kathleen Healy, Mountainside, NJ
William Hedges, Peoria, AZ
Ramona Hillier-O'Hara, Frenchtown, NJ
Gerald Hulit, Oradell, NJ
Joe Hunter, Vineland, NJ
Dennis Huyler, Mansfield, NJ
William Jacques, Sandy Springs, GA
Debra Jaeger, Whitehouse Station, NJ
Ashley Emerson Janes, Oshtemo, MI
Kathleen Kopacz, Ormond Beach, FL
Michael Lacopo, Granger, IN
Nancy Little, Fairfield, OH
David Long, Middletown, NJ
Linda Lyons, Alexandria, VA
Diana Matthies, Newton, NJ
Timothy McCorristin, Manchester, NJ
Richard More, Montville, NJ
Carol Morris, Dover, NJ
Shelley Murphy, Palmyra, VA
Marian Murrieta, Lakewood, CA
Sue Neilson, McLean, VA
Thomas Nelson, Lake Oswego, OR
Catherine O'Brien, Jacksonville, FL
Patricia Offner, Feasterville, PA
Timothy O'Rourke, Manalapan, NJ
Allen Peterson, Katy, TX
Annette Polsky, Thompson, CT
Susan Potts, Long Hill, NJ
Randy Rauscher, Holmdel, NJ
Reilly Reagan, Cookeville, TN
Barbara Reed, Philometh, OR
Karen Ricotta, Berkeley Twp, NJ
Jeanie Ritchie-Blaski, Richland, WA

Rhonda Rockwell, Ft Myers, FL
Carolyn Rooney, Boyds, MD
Judith Rossi, Venice, FL
Gary Sanders, Palo Alto, CA
Glen Scholl, Springville, UT
Karen Shanahan, Bowie, MD
Evelyn Short, Abington, PA
Lynne Skead, Oakland, NJ
Carol M Smith, Bellefonte, PA
Dianne Smith, Garnet Valley, PA
Laura Smith, Jack, AL
Nicole Sparks, Waltham, MA
Gene Stephenson, Washington, DC
Meg Sullivan, Bernards, NJ

Sharon S. Swan, Oxnard
Eileen Swanberg, Miller Place, NY
Stella Taylor, Candler, NC
Shannon Terwedo, Shingle Springs, CA
Susan Tierney, Seattle, WA
Scott W. Tilden, Doylestown, PA
Sally Toomey, Houlton, WI
Jane Ullrich, Castro Valley, CA
Jeanne Vloyanetes, Pt Pleasant, NJ
Steven Ware, Ambler, PA
Natalie White, Hackettstown, NJ
Matthew Wilson, Wayne, NJ
Dorothy Wolff, Cedar Grove, NJ
Jenny Wolfson, Brookline, MA

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 2021, through August 2022, 110 items of mail or email were received. This is almost double the number received last year. 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 arrived 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 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.

This year, due to the pandemic and subsequent water damage due to Hurricane Ida, most requests received have not yet been completed. Requestors have been notified about the library situation, and I am now addressing a large to-do list. The Bible and Family Records Collection and the Gravestone Inscriptions Collection have been temporarily moved to the New Jersey State Archives to permit access and increased scanning. This has helped greatly. Requests for

articles from the magazine have been completed, and I am now permitted in the NJ Room one morning per week to search the collections there for requestors. It isn't known yet when the library might recover.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Riemer, Chair

Annual Report of the GSNJ Program Committee

GSNJ hosted two programs in the past year: the 2021 Annual Meeting and the 2022 Spring Conference. GSNJ 100th Annual Meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, 20 October 2021. The event was free and open to the public. 112 people attended the meeting. The Annual Meeting concluded with the slate of the following six trustee candidates being approved by membership vote: Joan E. Betancourt, Janice Platt Hunold, Joseph R. Klett, C. Arthur Lawton, III, Christine Murphy, and Matthew J. Weismantel. The meeting was followed by the monthly webinar series, with speaker Alec Ferretti discussing the Reclaim the Records project. Surveys about the speaker and the event were collected from attendees.

The 2022 GSNJ Spring Conference was held on Saturday, 4 June 2022 as a virtual program. There were ninety-seven registrants, and eight lectures were given. The program consisted of the following lectures: Discovering Your Family's Story Through the U.S. Census, Using Social History and Underused Records to Tell Our Female Ancestors' Stories, New Jersey's Legal Treasures: The State Library's Collections, An Introduction to Jewish Research, Cite That Source When You Find It, Good Deeds: Lessons from the Land, and two New Jersey case studies. Door prizes were awarded. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

The GSNJ Webinar Series – “Your Roots Pursuits” continued in 2022. Webinars were scheduled monthly with various topics including: From Deeds to Dirt: Case Studies in Analyzing Research with Maps, My Favorite Websites for Irish Genealogy, UK Censuses from 1801 to Present, Tips and Tricks to Optimize Your Genealogical Search Net, Trace Your Revolutionary Roots, and Searching for Clues in the Cemetery. Surveys about the speakers and the event were collected from attendees.

Two new members-only virtual programs were implemented in 2022. 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,
Christine Murphy, Chair

Annual Report of the Treasurer 7/1/2021-6/30/2022

	Total		
Income	GSNJ	Land Records	Total
Membership dues	\$24,678.00		\$24,678.00
Publication sales	\$2,017.00		\$2,017.00
Program registrations	\$5,708.00		\$5,708.00
Interest Income	\$54.00		\$54.00
NJHC General Operating Support Grant	\$7,411.00		\$7,411.00
Donations	\$2,412.00	\$26,591.00	\$29,003.00
Subtotal of income	\$42,280.00	\$26,591.00	\$68,871.00
Expense			
Printing of <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$5,585.00		\$5,585.00
Editor fees for <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i>	\$6,750.00		\$6,750.00
Social Media Manager	\$400.00		\$400.00
Graphic Artist	\$811.00		\$811.00
Other printing	\$1,749.00		\$1,749.00
Postage and P.O. Box	\$2,957.00		\$2,957.00
Accounting	\$1,775.00		\$1,775.00
Advertising	\$1,034.00		\$1,034.00
Software	\$547.00		\$547.00
Web Site Domain/Hosting/Maintenance	\$300.00		\$300.00
Supplies	\$1,861.00		\$1,861.00
Program/meeting catering and food expenses	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other non-personnel expenses	\$1,772.00		\$1,772.00
Storage rental	\$3,000.00		\$3,000.00
Insurance	\$630.00		\$630.00
Organizational dues	\$583.00		\$583.00
Corporate filing fees	\$33.00		\$33.00
Bank fees	\$872.00		\$872.00
Program speaker fees & expenses	\$3,152.00		\$3,152.00
Misc. operational expenses	\$1,354.00		\$1,354.00
Land Records data entry services		\$27,799.00	\$27,799.00
Land Records payroll expenses		\$1,483.00	\$1,483.00
Subtotal of expenses	\$35,165.00	\$29,282.00	\$64,447.00
Net Income	\$7,115.00	-\$2,691.00	\$4,424.00
Monetary Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Checking Account(s)	\$28,113.22		\$28,113.22
Land Records Account		\$26,487.98	\$26,487.98
Paypal Account	\$1,644.94		\$1,644.94
Savings Account	\$33,764.94		\$33,764.94
Savings CDs (3)	\$63,359.86		\$63,359.86
Publication Fund CDs (3)	\$57,630.73		\$57,630.73
Total investments	\$184,513.69	\$26,487.98	\$211,001.67
Endowments			
Mildred Meeker Franklin Bequest	\$6,082.61		\$6,082.61
Total endowments	\$6,082.61		\$6,082.61
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*	\$190,596.30	\$26,487.98	\$217,084.28

* Includes only monetary assets

Respectfully submitted,
Joan E. Betancourt, Chair

Annual Report of the Early Land Records Project Committee

During the last year, the Early Land Records Project (a partnership with the New Jersey State Archives) was funded with additional corporate and professional association donations, and other contributions, amounting to nearly \$60,000. GSNJ has expressed its thanks to the following donor organizations in New Jersey's land-title and land-surveying sectors:

Acres Land Title Agency (\$5,000)
Action Title Research (\$2,500)
Atlantic Coast Abstract Co., Inc. (\$500)
Charles Jones, LLC (\$10,000)
Grabas Institute for Continuing Education (\$3,000)
New Dawn Title Agency (\$2,500)
New Jersey Land Title Association (\$10,000)
New Jersey Land Title Association – Agency Section (\$12,000)
Priority Search Services (\$3,333.34)
State Capital Title and Abstract Company (\$3,400)
Taylor, Wiseman and Taylor (\$2,500)
Trident Abstract Title Agency (\$500)
Western Technologies Group (\$3,333)

Additionally, James B. Hankins of Whiting, N.J., made a personal donation in the amount of \$500. The Society and State Archives also extend their thanks to:

- GSNJ member Joseph Grabas for his remarkable fundraising efforts;
- Michelle Novak and the State Archives management for their promotional efforts and completing all requirements of the federal (NHPRC) grant;
- GSNJ Treasurer Joan Betancourt for her management of project funds;
- State Archives staff members Vivian Thiele and Veronica Calder for day-to-day supervision of the project activities; and (last, but absolutely not least)
- Data-entry contractors James Cureton and Jennifer Frasco for their excellent work.

As of 7 October 2022, a total of 74,857 land records have been indexed in the Early Land Records database:

https://wwwnet-dos.state.nj.us/DOS_ArchivesDBPortal/EarlyLandRecords.aspx

This includes: records of the Secretary of State's Office; records of the East and West New Jersey Proprietors; 18th-century county and municipal deeds, mortgages, and surveys; and original land instruments held in smaller collections by the State Archives. The bulk are pre-1785. Nearly 375,000 name entries have been created as a result.

Of the total now indexed by the online database, 6,208 land records descriptions (8%) are now linked to pdf images of the documents. Another 846 pdfs have been created and await links. Some of the earliest records, dating from the 1664-1710 period, are among those digitized.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph R. Klett, Chair