

THE ARCHIVIST



A PUBLICATION OF THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF BERGEN COUNTY

VOLUME 50, NUMBER 3, AUGUST 2023

FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

The Co-Presidency

What a unique situation we've completed—that of being co-presidents. Few organizations share the top leadership position. Splitting responsibility can easily weaken authority and dissipate the power of the presidency. There's also the possibility of the two equals slipping into separate and unequal roles—one the leader, the other one going along.

But we can honestly say that didn't happen in our case. Perhaps because we've worked together over many years in the organization, have similar interests, and genuinely like and respect each other, we've found it to be a pleasant partnership.

How did we handle it? Oh, we'd discuss and decide who would do what and then tackle our own particular job. On occasion we each wrote a portion of a message; or, like today, one of us wrote on behalf of both. We also shared presiding at meetings: sometimes we each led a portion of a Board meeting; other times we alternated leading an entire general meeting.

This co-presidency was authorized by the membership for one term only and came about because, for various legitimate reasons, no one from among our very competent officers or board members was able to accept the responsibility of managing this large, complex organization for the 2022–2023 term. And so, the idea of sharing the role was suggested as a method of managing. Only two of us came forward to take the club through this period; interestingly, both of us past presidents.

I must admit that no one wants to be elected to a post just because nobody else wants it, but it's been a surprisingly pleasant task—and, now that it's behind us—we can both say it's been a smooth-going, satisfying collaboration.

Kudos to the Board

If we've been able to manage the organization, it's due to the exceptional leaders our membership continues to elect. Our officers, trustees and trustees-at-large and other chairpersons have done excellent jobs in fulfilling their duties.

Thank you to retiring Board members: Lea Schwarzwalder, who has served as treasurer for four terms—eight years writing our checks and keeping our books; Carol De Witte, who is stepping down as trustee and who did a great job leading our fiftieth anniversary celebration this year; and our first Trustee-at-Large, Christina Post, from New York, who ably represented the interests of out-of-state members.

Special acknowledgement is also extended to Trustee Fred Voss, who, in addition to his Education chairmanship and managing our mid-month GSBC *Extra!* afternoon programs, is in charge of recording programs for the website and handling virtual programming; Trustee Emeritus Peggy Norris, who took over as editor of the GSBC e-News; and Michelle Novak, who has worked tirelessly to update our website and keep the *Archivist* the top-notch magazine it has become under her capable direction.

Moving Toward the Next 50 Years

It has been exceptionally satisfying to be part of GSBC's fiftieth anniversary this year. We wish the Society continued success as it moves forward in providing genealogy information and assistance. For us, it's been a pleasure serving

— Geraldine Mola and Maria (Ree) Pratt Hopper,
GSBC *Co-Presidents*



Current and former GSBC Officers and Trustees at the GSBC's 50th Anniversary Celebration in May (see the May issue of *The Archivist*).

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County, New Jersey

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-2022

Contact the Society and its officers by email at contact@njgsbc.org. Current Officers and Trustees are listed below with Chairperson duties in brackets. Contact us about volunteering to fill vacant positions and other opportunities.

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Maria "Ree" Jean Pratt Hopper
Geraldine Mola, MA [By-Laws; Tribute Cards]

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Lauren Maehrlein, MA [Programs; Seminar]

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gsbc.queries@gmail.com

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gsbc.membership@outlook.com

TREASURER

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Jo Ann Berkenbush

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Theresa Wright (Email Monitor)

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(Vacant, volunteer needed)

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Barry Messner
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Peggy W. Norris, MS, MLIS

GSBC SEMINAR

Lauren Maehrlein, MA

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(Vacant, volunteer needed)

RPL-GSBC LOCK-IN

Sarah Kiefer, MLIS, RPL

WEBSITE TRANSITION

Michelle D. Novak, MI [*The Archivist*]

SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION

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P.O. Box 432, Midland Park, NJ 07432

www.njgsbc.org

www.facebook.com/GenSocBergenCo

GSBC COLLECTIONS + GENEALOGY CONSULTANTS

Bolger Heritage Center for Genealogy and
Local History at the Ridgewood Public Library
125 N. Maple Ave., Ridgewood, NJ, 07450
201-670-5600 x2135

gsbc.queries@gmail.com

GSBC MEETING LOCATION

(Unless noted otherwise)
Ridgewood Public Library Auditorium
125 N. Maple Avenue, Ridgewood, NJ, 07450
201-670-5600

LIBRARY LIAISON

Sarah Kiefer, MLIS, Local History Librarian
Bolger Heritage Center, Ridgewood Public Library
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skiefer@ridgewoodlibrary.org

<https://localhistory.ridgewoodlibrary.org>

SOCIETY MISSION

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County, New Jersey, is an organization of people interested in educating ourselves and others in family and local history preservation. The various ancestral trails of its Members span much of the U.S., Canada, Eastern and Western European countries, as well as other parts of the world. Some Members trace back to this country's first settlers, while others are the children of recent immigrants.

Our purpose is to:

- bring together family researchers for mutual assistance and sharing of research experiences, and
- encourage the preservation of family history by the public through educational programs and classes.

Membership in the Genealogical Society of Bergen County is open to all those interested in genealogy. Our membership year is from 1 November to 31 October. Annual dues are:

- **\$20 Individual**
- **\$25 Family** (two or more individuals of the same family residing in the same household)
- **\$10 Junior** (ages 13–18)

The Genealogical Society of Bergen County is a tax-exempt organization as described in sections 501(c) (3) and 509(a) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers or gifts to the Society are deductible for federal income, estate, and gift tax purposes as provided by the IRS.

GSBC Members are encouraged to submit content for this publication. You can write an article recapping a GSBC event or reflecting on a presentation topic, write an educational piece about a specific research topic, or write your own family research experience and/or local history. Email us at contact@njgsbc.org for information.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

GSBC General Meetings are held at the Ridgewood Public Library Auditorium and/or online at 7pm on the fourth Monday of the month—except when the day falls on a holiday; no meetings in May, and December. The GSBC General Meeting consists of a brief business meeting, announcements, and a presentation on a topic of interest to researchers.

The GSBC also offers additional presentations, seminars, classes, workshops, and special events throughout the year. For up-to-date information on all these events, see www.njgsbc.org.

VOLUNTEER WITH THE GSBC!

The GSBC is an all-volunteer organization and volunteers are the lifeblood of our Society.

If you have a passion for family history—why not volunteer with the Society? Volunteers are always needed for special projects, indexing, or helping out with events. You can also help write, edit, and proofread this publication as well as our ever-growing website and collections.

In volunteering with the Society you will receive much more than you give—in the form of building skills and knowledge, and in making connections with other researchers.

THE ARCHIVIST

The Archivist is published four times a year as a PDF electronic document. Double issues may also be created. A link to PDF issue on our website is sent to current GSBC Members.

Recent issues of *The Archivist*, which are available to GSBC Members' only, can be found at www.njgsbc.org/members-area/archivist

Editorial Committee

Lauren Maehrlein, Ree Hopper, Steve Gabai, Geri Mola; Michelle D. Novak, Editor.

Articles and photos without a byline are by the Committee/Editor. The Committee/Editor reserves the right to edit submissions so that they may better serve the specific interests of our readers and the genealogical community and/or reject submissions for any reason.

While we strive for accuracy, the Society assumes no responsibility for typos, errors of fact, or opinions expressed or implied by contributors or the Committee/Editor. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected in the PDF version of the issue and/or noted in a subsequent issue.

The GSBC or *The Archivist* does not endorse any services or products that may be mentioned in this publication. Submitted articles with the sole purpose of promoting a product or service will not be published.

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New Milford's French Cemetery

I BRAKE FOR
CEMETERIES

TALKDEATH.COM



TalkDeath.com

By Lauren Maehrlein, MA

As genealogists, upon seeing a car with an “I brake for cemeteries” bumper sticker, we understand that at least one of those in that car is also a genealogist.

Wandering through ancient headstones, communing with long-deceased relatives, is a pleasurable and often rewarding experience for family historians. Even those graveyards that have no connection to your research seem to have a pull on those of us who seek the dead.

The New Milford Historic Preservation Commission recently opened up the 350-year-old French Cemetery for a guided tour of the history of those interred, the area, and the evolution of headstone production, “Stories from the French Burying Ground.”

Commission President Nancy Varettoni led a group of about two dozen of the committed, or just curious, in an engrossing program. She discussed Marie Sohier des Marest (Demarest), probably the first to have been buried there, a French Huguenot who arrived on the shore of the Hackensack River with her husband, David, and their children in 1677. Tradition has it that Marie died shortly before (or just after) they landed at what would be their new home and was buried on a nearby knoll. There is no stone marking Marie's final resting place. If there ever was one, it's long been lost to time.



The historic marker placed in the French Burying Ground, also known as the Huguenot Cemetery.

As might be expected, the cemetery is rife with Demarests and many other early Bergen County families: Ackermann, Banta, Bogert, Conklin, Westervelt, Zabriskie, and more. Burials continued until 1928 when another Demarest by marriage, Martha Gustafson, was interred.

Many of the gravestones are in poor condition, but a couple are pristine, including those for

Revolutionary War veterans Uzal Meeker and Peter Demarest, which are replacement stones from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Another newish stone is a mystery. Bertha Reetz, née Krüger, 1868–1949, is inscribed on a flat stone. Bertha was not buried in the French Cemetery, but her marker was found by DPW workers several years ago near River Road. A search of both Ancestry and Find a Grave turned up no information on Bertha. Perhaps a researcher willing to do a deeper dive into the records will be able to find out where Bertha belongs?

Nancy pointed out the nearby site of the original French church, now the location of a bank. The approximate site of where the Demarests' first home stood, where the Little League field now is, was the first European settlement in



The French Burying Ground, pictured ca. 1935. [New Jersey State Archives RG: Work Projects Administration (WPA); Historic American Building Survey; Photographs of New Jersey Sites; Bergen County. (Photo by Michelle D. Novak.)] The house shown in the photo was relocated to the Bergen County Historical Society's New Bridge Landing. Learn more about the history of this home at www.bergencountyhistory.org/demarest-house-museum.

what became Bergen County, giving New Milford its claim to “birthplace of Bergen County.”

Master stone carver and conservator, Robert Carpenter, provided a running commentary on the stones, describing traditional carving and lettering techniques (which apparently haven’t changed too much over the centuries) and

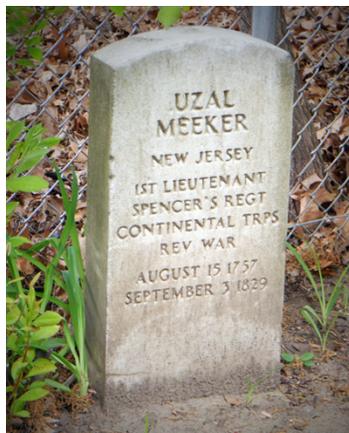
styles of gravestones. An added bonus was the opportunity to chisel our initials into a slab of marble using Robert’s tools.

Much was learned during the visit to this peaceful little cemetery. As with all cemeteries, old and new, the stories are waiting for us to find.

Selected Resources

Watch “New Milford, ‘The Birthplace’ of Bergen County,” a 2022 presentation to the GSBC by Nancy Varettoni, available on the GSBC Members website, www.njgsbc.org/new-milford-the-birthplace-of-bergen-county. The video player page also contains links to PDFs produced by the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission.

Explore interment and gravestone inventories and maps of the French Burying Ground at the Bergen County Historical Society’s website, www.bergencountyhistory.org/research-pdfs (scroll to the bottom of the page and look for the links under “French Huguenot–Demarest Cemetery”).



TOP-ROW (L-R): Nancy Varettoni, President of the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission.

Master stone carver and conservator, Robert Carpenter shows some wood and stone carving tools and techniques.

Participant Tom Dietrich has a try at incising a letter on a block of marble.

MIDDLE ROW: Some military headstones in the cemetery (originals and replacements).

BOTTOM ROW; Gravestones in the French Burying Ground contain many familiar Bergen County family names, including Ackerman, Bogert, Christie, Demarest, Lozier, Meeker, and Zabriskie, among many others.



BELOW: A stone with the name Bertha Reetz was unearthed by the DPW near River Road. Reetz is not buried in the French Burying Ground and no interment record for a person with that name and dates has yet been found. (Photos by the author.)





Two views of the Demarest home and French Burying Ground. **TOP:** An artist's rendition of the Old Demarest House, French Burying Ground, and French Church as they might once have appeared. [New Milford Historic Preservation Commission (2022).] **ABOVE:** The Demarest home and French Burying Ground, pictured ca. 1935. [New Jersey State Archives RG: Work Projects Administration (WPA); Historic American Building Survey; Photographs of New Jersey Sites; Bergen County. (Photo by Michelle D. Novak.)] The house shown in the photo was relocated to the nearby Bergen County Historical Society's New Bridge Landing and has been restored.

The French Burying Ground

[Excerpt from *The French Burying Ground New Milford's Historic Huguenot Cemetery*, produced by the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission (2022).]

During the 18th and 19th centuries, it was a common practice among landowners to set aside a portion of their property for a family burial ground. In the case of the French Burying Ground, many members of prominent French-Huguenot and Dutch families who moved to Bergen County during the 18th and 19th centuries are buried here. They include more than four dozen descendants of the Demarest family, as well as nine Revolutionary War soldiers and one Civil War soldier

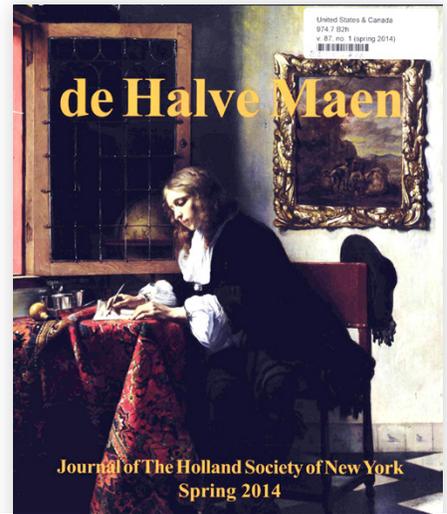
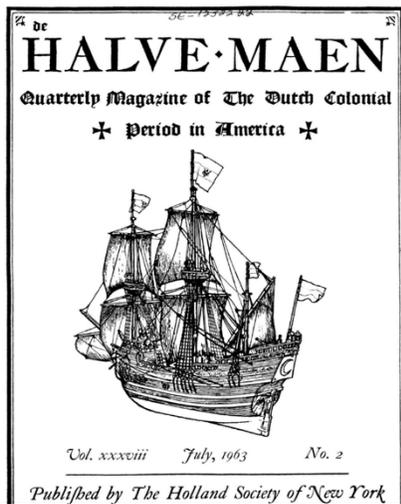
In 1902, John Neafie, a genealogist and member of the Holland Society, recorded the names and inscriptions on markers for approximately 160 persons. According to this inventory, the oldest surviving gravestone was dated 1721. Few burials took place until the Revolution, when circumstances may have made it difficult to conduct burials in local churchyards. An undated map commissioned by the

New Milford American Legion Post 217 marks many of these graves.

More than 100 years later, New Milford Girl Scout Troop 52 conducted another survey. A number of the gravestones inventoried by Neafie were no longer in existence. Some inscriptions had worn away over the years. In addition, five gravestones had been replaced with Veterans Administration markers. The Girls Scouts also noted that Martha Gustafson Demarest was the last to be buried in the cemetery, in 1928.

In June 2018, the Demarest family foundation transferred ownership of the burying ground to the Borough of New Milford. In 2019, the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission, which oversees the cemetery, authorized a ground-penetrating radar survey to confirm the existence of probable gravesites in areas where tombstones are no longer visible.





NEW RESOURCES

de Halve Maen Cheat-Sheet

Researcher Marie-Pierre Lessard has published, and made available to the GSBC, a new cheat-sheet for the contents of *de Halve Maen*¹, the journal of the Holland Society of New York. Published quarterly since 1922, this publication focuses on the Dutch Colonial period in America and publishes new research illuminating the Dutch contribution to American history as well as aspects of New Netherland culture.

In the introduction to the cheat-sheet, Lessard writes: “I compiled this list because no single source, to my knowledge, provided a complete overview of these articles. At least one list provided by the Holland Society of New York (HSNY) contains errors. (Some articles are said to be in one issue when they are in another.) PERSI is incomplete. Like PERSI, the Ebscohost site doesn’t list every issue in the online index, even though the issues themselves should all be accessible through Ebscohost (available in libraries).

... some page ranges are missing or not complete, and the least interesting articles (the editorials, the society pages, etc.) are largely not included. ... [Lessard later adds, “Perfect is the enemy of good.”]

The notes are my own reflections on the contents of the articles rather than summaries...”

As Lessard notes, existing indexes are either incomplete, contain errors, or are spread across many locations so this should prove to be an excellent resource for those searching for New Netherland information. And for those issues which are available online—including the Holland Society of New York website, Archive.org, FamilySearch Library, issuu.com, and others—Lessard includes hyperlinks to the collections.

Recently, the Holland Society also opened all its online archives to the public where issues up to 2001 (some years missing) are available. (See Resources, below.) Additionally,

back-issues of *de Halve Maen* are available at the Bolger Heritage Center.

We thank Ms. Lessard for compiling this extensive index and to GSBC Trustee Emeritus Peggy W. Norris, MS, MLIS, for securing permission from Ms. Lessard to share it with you via the GSBC website!

Selected Resources

- View the *de Halve Maen* cheat-sheet on the GSBC website at www.njgsbc.org/gsbc-research-resources/de-halve-maen-cheat-sheet
- Learn more about the Holland Society of New York and their online Magazine and Archives (hollandsociety.org/magazine-and-archives)—or jump-into searching the online collections where back-issues of *de Halve Maen* up to about 2001 have been digitized (<https://hsny.localarchives.net>).
- View issues available on the FamilySearch Library, <https://libcat.familysearch.org/Record/38601/Home>
- View Holland Society publications at Archive.org

Marie-Pierre Lessard is the author of *Hendrick Hendricksen Obe, the Drummer: A Biography with Critical Notes on the Dally, Hoppe, Kip, and Grevenraet Genealogies; Also Discussing Hendrick Hendricksen van Eerlant and Aeltje Claes of Kingston, New York* (Denmark: Marie-Pierre Lessard, 2020).

1 *de Halve Maen*, or Half-Moon, was named for the Dutch East India Company (VOC) *jacht* that sailed into what is now New York Harbor in September 1609.

Of note...

By Michelle D. Novak, MI, Editor

Some interesting news and links to resources from around the web and my in-box.

Palatine German Immigration to Ireland and U.S., 1654–1878

The works of Hank Z Jones, FGBS, was recently digitized by Ancestry. Many of the titles are out of print or hard to find and the digitized copies are fully searchable.

The digitized materials are browsable and the database searches across numerous volumes, including:

- *The Palatine Families of New York* (Volumes I and II)
- *The Palatine Families of New York-1710: A Supplement*
- *More Palatine Families*

- *Even More Palatine Families* (Volume I, II, and III)
- *The Palatine Families of Ireland*, 2nd Edition
- *Some German Origins of The Irish Palatines*
- *Westerwald* [Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany] *to America*

Explore the entire collection at www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62327.

GSBC Drop-In Genealogy

Starting in October, the GSBC began offering Drop-In Genealogy sessions before in-person General Meetings, where GSBC Member(s) will be available to answer questions and make suggestions for furthering your research. If your questions require specialist or in-depth help, we'll help you make a plan for getting an answer with a GSBC Genealogy Consultant. No RSVP is needed.

All are welcome—we hope you'll drop-in to see us!

Drop-In Genealogy

Bolger Heritage Center (2nd Floor)

Ridgewood Public Library, Ridgewood, New Jersey

6:00–6:45 pm on evenings of In-Person GBSC events

(see the GSBC calendar for months with in-person meetings, www.njgsbc.org/upcoming-events)

No RSVP needed—just “drop-in”!

Bolger Heritage Center Resources

Online Subscription Research Databases

Did you know you can access numerous subscription research databases from the Bolger Heritage Center at the Ridgewood Public Library? Online access includes:

- **Ancestry Library Edition** (includes world records) and **HeritageQuest**.
- **ProQuest Historical New Jersey Collection** of digitized newspapers, including the *Asbury Park Press* (1905–Present); *Bergen Record* (Hackensack, 1895–Present), *Courier News* (Bridgewater, 1961–Present); *Courier-Post* (Cherry Hill, 1950–Present); *The Daily Journal* (Vineland, 1925–Present); *Daily Record* (Morristown, 1974–Present), *Home News Tribune* (East Brunswick, 1903–Present); and *North Jersey Herald News* (Passaic)
- *Ridgewood News* (1891–present) via **Newspapers.com**.
- **The New York Times Historical collection** (1851–2019).
- In addition, the RPL is a **FamilySearch Affiliate Library**—which allows access to some restricted record sets and digitized microfilm (restricted materials are marked with a key over the camera .

Learn more at about the available subscription databases and titles at localhistory.ridgewoodlibrary.org/research-databases.

Local History Center

The Bolger holds a vast collection of local history publications, yearbooks, pamphlets, periodicals and journals, and commercially-published resources; microfilm and microfiche; photographs, postcards, and maps; family files, archival collections, and GSBC indexes. Many of these items are locally-produced materials and/or one-of-a-kind.

Explore the online Heritage CATalog, which includes information on library holdings, archival items, photos, and objects in the Bolger collection, at <https://ridgewood.pastperfectonline.com>.

GSBC Genealogy Consultants

And, if you cannot travel to the Bolger in-person, contact the GSBC Genealogy Consultants to inquire about lookups and help with resources and your research. Learn more at www.njgsbc.org/library/gsbc-genealogy-consultants.

Old Cemetery, now demolished in Western part of Saddle River Twp. on Alyea property, River Road, near Wosal Bridge, near residence of the late John N. Van Ripen

	Birth or Age	Death
Gerrit Garrison, son Cornelius and Peggy Van Ripen	2. 5.11	Nov 13 1814
Eliza Alyea, wife John N. Van Ripen	28. 1.27	Sep 4 1852
Nicholas Van Ripen	12.10. 4	Dec 1 1834
Jane, dau Simon & Getty Van Ripen	5. 21	Dec 21 1823
Jerry Van Ripen	65. 7. 0	Jan 23 1824
Rechel Mead, widow of Jerry Van Ripen-81.	7.22	Mar 8 1848
Anna Vreeland, wife Jerry Van Ripen and dau, Nicholas & Anna Vreeland	31 yrs	Feb 28 1796
Jerry Van Ripen	26. 1.23	Jan 4 1853
Benjamin, son Stephen & Sophia Van Ripen	1. 1. 5	Nov 4 1886
Jacob J. Zabriskie-stone broken	43. 9. 5	Mar 8 1832
Anna Marinus, his wife		
John Henry, son Jacob & Anna		
Gabriele	10. 0. 0	May 12 1865?
Thomas, son same	16. 8.20	Jul 5 1827
Rechel, dau same	18.11.15	Jun 27 1827
Margaret Ann, dau same	1. 9. 0	Sep 16 1821
Josiah, son same	4. 4.22	Jan 28 1838
Abraham T. Cadmus	51.11. 2	Sep 12 1853
Andrew Cadmus	66. 4. 8	Jul 29 1820
Penslope, his wife	82. 7. 0	Mar 1 1844
Jane, dau Andrew & Pine Cadmus	6. 3.19	Aug 19 1808
Sophie Cadmus	84 yrs	Feb 1 1869
Henry Cadmus	69 yrs	Jul 18 1857
Margaret Van Horn, widow Abram Cadmus-72.	7. 9	Aug 10 1881
John Marinus	79. 6. 2	Sep 12 1855
Rechel, wife of James Terhune	23. 8.10	Aug 6 1846
Jacob Terhune) children Simon and	7. 2. 0	Oct 17 1844
Jemima) Margaret Garrison	- 1	Jul 17 1843
Gerrit De Witt son same	18. 4.19	Aug 30 1851
Margaret, wife Simon G. Garrison	45 yrs	Jan 21 1854
Gerrit G. Garrison	85 yrs	Mar 26 1785?
Mary Dorems, his wife	92 yrs	Sep 6 1864
Gerrit I. Garrison	72 yrs	Jun 14 1852
Mary, his wife	76. 7.11	May 17 1870
Ann Garrison	77 yrs	Sep 11 1848
John P. Garrison	78. 7. 3	Dec 3 1824
Charity, his wife	33. 6. 4	Dec 22 1841
John I. Garrison	68.10.12	Feb 6 1838
John, son Gerrit & Mary Gerretson	6. 2. 8	Sep 14 1819
Gerrit P. Van Waggenan	68. 5.25	May 1 1806
Merritthe Blenkerhoff, wife		
Helmaegh Van Wegener	86. 4.21	Jul 21 1793
John R. Jeralemson (grandson John I. Berden)	20. 8. 5	Oct 5 1858

Anno 1781 is geboren Abraham Rappelye met Antie Brunschiff den 13 May
 1732 is geboren Jacob Rappelye den 15 February
 1722 is geboren Abraham Rappelye den 1 December
 1708 is geboren Daniel Rappelye den 20 May
 En is overleden den 19 Augustus met Antie Schuur
 1726 is geboren Daniel Rappelye den 28 Juny
 1733 is geboren Antie Rappelye den 12 Februarus
 1740 is geboren Angelietje Rappelye den 21 April
 1740 is overleden Daniel Rappelye den 11 October
 1742 is geboren Sara Rappelye den 3 April
 1744 is geboren Gannetie Rappelye den 2 Julij
 1748 is geboren Daniel Rappelye den 24 mei
 1749 is geboren Jacob Rappelye den 5 february
 1750 is geboren Altie Rappelye den 2 Junij
 1752 is geboren Jacob Rappelye den 17 October nu stil
 1754 is geboren Susanna Rappelye den 17 mey
 1768 is overleden Gannetie Rappelye den 29 Julij
 1769 is overleden Antie Rappelye den 21 Augustus
 1768 is overleden Sara Rappelye den 3 november
 1776 is overleden onse moeder Antie Rappelye den 3 october
 1776 is overleden Abraham Rappelye den 8 Desember
 1776 is overleden Susanna Rappelye den 22 february

Holland Society Family Bible Records Online!

Over the past few years the Holland Society of New York has been digitizing its collections and publications and making them available to researchers.

The online collection includes more than 70 digitized sheets—most of them transcriptions from originals with a few original manuscripts—with the final dozen or so family

names coming soon. Most of the pages contain information from the 1800s, and a few dip into the late 1700s. The collection is free to use with citation.

Explore the digitized materials at hollandsociety.org/magazine-and-archives/family-bible-records.

ABOVE: Two pages from the online Family Bible Record collection of the Holland Society of New York. The left page, for the Van Ripen family, is a typescript transcription from an original and is typical of most of the collection. The right page, containing information about the Rapelje/Rapalje/Rappelye family, is one of the rare original manuscripts in the collection.

Rumsey Map Center Launches Text-Searchable Maps

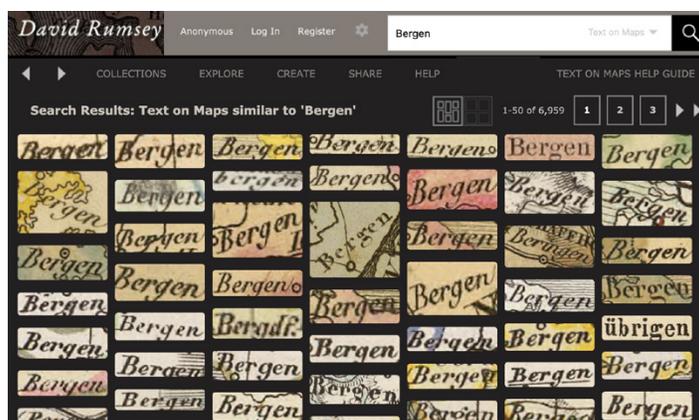
The David Rumsey Map Collection, which contains more than 200,000 maps, recently launched a new search interface where all the maps can now be searched by text.

Rumsey is using an AI-powered tool called mapKurator to read the, often minute, “Text on Maps” and the collection can be searched by the text on the map (currently limited to one-word searches) as well as traditional key-entered catalog data and metadata (e.g. titles, authors, dates). The Advanced Search will search across *both* the traditional data and the AI Text on Map data, limit your search

to one or the other, or allow you to add more words to the Text on Map search. (Note that results can be slow to load as the AI scans the vast map collection.) The platform also allows registered users to correct the AI-generated text.

Note that it is recommended to get familiar with the

User Guide (<https://machines-reading-maps.github.io/rumsey/>) before searching the maps and then give it a try at www.davidrumsey.com.



LEFT: Using the Rumsey “Text on maps” simple search, a search for “Bergen” (which could be in the U.S., Norway, Belgium, Germany, or a dozen other countries—not just New Jersey) returned nearly 7,000 hits. Use the “Advanced Search” to add other parameters and focus results.

Garretson Family Researcher(s) Needed

Do you have Garretsons in your family tree? Can you trace your roots back to the early New Jersey Garretsons? If so, we need your help!

The Garretson Forge & Farm Museum (www.garretsonfarm.org) is a historic house museum owned by the County of Bergen with the homestead and collections managed by the members of Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, Inc. (GFFR).

The Borough of Fair Lawn describes the Garretson as: “Probably the oldest structure standing in Fair Lawn is the Garreston-Brocker home, now known as the Garretson Forge and Farm Restoration, on River Road, south of Morlot Avenue. The west wing, the kitchen, was the original building built some time between 1708–1730. The main wing was built before 1800 but the gambrel roof, dormer and porch were added in 1903. The property, known at its purchase in 1719 as the Sloterdam Patent, was originally a huge plantation stretching between the Passaic and Saddle Rivers. The Garreston household had as many as 18 slaves.

Garretson Forge and Farm, listed on the National and New Jersey State Historic Registry, is one of the oldest historic sites in Bergen County, New Jersey. This homestead remains a rare surviving example of a simple farming life that was prevalent in the 1700s and 1800s.”

On a visit there this spring, I spoke with a GFFR trustee about the family and a genealogy displayed on the museum wall. They said that they would welcome someone to review what they have and update and/or add to it.

Coincidentally, few months earlier I acquired two early deeds relating to the family on behalf of the New Jersey



Some of the family history information, period and family artifacts, and photos on display at the museum.

State Archives. The two, possibly unrecorded, land records are for parcels located in Bergen, Bergen County (now Jersey City, Hudson County) and have been scanned and transcribed:

- J. Cornelius Stenwick and Garrett Garritson [*sic*], Bergen, Bergen County, New Jersey, February 1679/80
- Claes Arentson Toors to John Gerritson [*sic*], Bergen, Bergen County, New Jersey, 10 April 1711

Garretson Family Researchers Needed

Volunteers are needed to work on updating and expanding the Garretson family

research for the museum. Ideally, this research would include those named in the two deeds, confirm and source the information the museum has in its collections and on display, and provide new stories for educational materials.

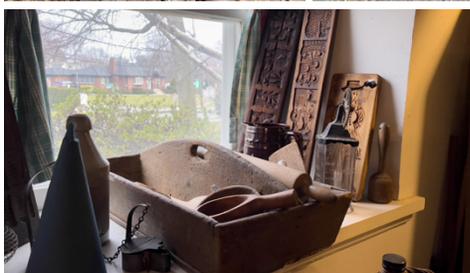
If you have an interest in this area and this family, please consider helping out with some research for the museum. There is a lot of information out there on this family to sort through and multiple volunteers can divide up the research tasks.

There is no compensation (besides credit) but if this is your family, you will have access to new materials which can help your research. This museum is a popular site with K-12 students, so any additions to the Garretson family story, and Bergen County’s early history, are most welcome!

If interested, please contact *Archivist* Editor Michelle D. Novak at mnovakdesign@me.com.



The Garretson Forge & Farm Museum (image by KForce). A Golden dairy delivery wagon and various farm wagons on display in the barns; a selection of 18th and 19th century kitchen implements including ceramics and gingerbread molds; the open hearth in the original part of the building (left side in above photo), built about 1708–1730 (image by visitingmuseum.com). (Other images by Michelle D. Novak.)



This Old (Bergen County) House

Spotted on the Vintage Bergen County Facebook group was this great photo and family information supplied by Susan Pulis. Tim Adriance, a GSBC presenter and noted local historian, posted it to the page, adding:

“This is a c.1892 image of the Winters–Courter House (831 Circle Ave., Franklin Lakes). It is a stone and wood frame house. Peter and Margaret Pulis Winters owned this house at the time of their daughter Susan’s birth in 1833, and they likely altered and enlarged what was an earlier house in the Greek Revival style.

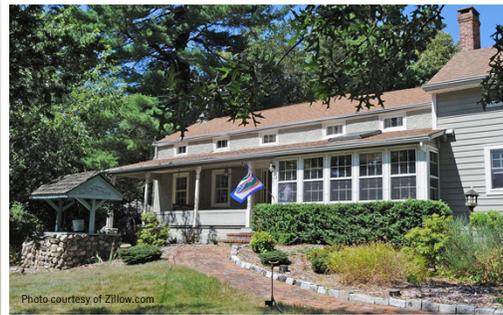
By 1861 it was owned by J. Winters, and then in 1876 it was the home of William M. Courter. “Uncle Willie,” (as William was known) served in the Civil War and was one of the few residents of Bergen County to receive a bayonet wound. How that happened is unclear as he served in Bergen County’s 22nd Regiment—which never engaged the enemy in actual combat. William M. Courter’s 1928 obituary states he was a “pioneer settler of Campgaw” (which technically isn’t true, as he was born in 1846).

There are many details in this photo! The stone section is on the left. The eye-brow windows above the porch roof, and the doorway speak Greek Revival design. On the right is a later wood frame addition, which may have been a summer kitchen (or workspace). The woman

holding the baby is Eleanor Branford Courter (1856–1924), and the child is Elliott Ransley Courter (1889–1893). (Note there is a scratch across the image. It is not a wire.) Do you see the children’s wagons? Can you find the cat? Can you spot the clothesline (hint, why go off the porch to hang up clothes). Do you see the potted plant (it is in a wood container). Under the far-left window on the first floor is a dark rectangle on the wall—that is part of a cellar access. What else do you see?”

A quick jump onto Google Maps revealed that Circle Avenue was bisected when Route 287 was built, and the house is not visible from the Google Street View. But Adriance added a recent photo into the comments which shows the house little altered. Except for stucco replacing the clapboard (which was originally over the stone), an addition, and enclosing some of the porch, the original farmhouse is, surprisingly, intact. Even the well is still there!

A fantastic photo showing a slice of everyday life in Bergen County 131 years ago.



The Genealogical Society of Bergen County, NJ (GSBC) Membership Form

The GSBC Membership year runs 1 November–31 October.

Sign-up or renew using a credit card at www.njgsbc.org/store

Make checks payable to “GSBC” and mail to: Genealogical Society of Bergen County, P.O. Box 432, Midland Park, NJ 07432

Membership Level (\$US dollars; select one): Individual \$20 Family \$25 Junior \$10 (Ages 13–18 only)

Membership Type (select one): New Membership Renewal

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E-mail
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The GSBC is a registered tax exempt organization as described in sections 501(a) and 509 (a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues are deductible for federal income tax purposes as provided by the IRS.

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