



The Genealogical Society of New Jersey | www.gsnj.org

2023 Spring Conference

Saturday, 22 April 2023

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Mercer County Community College Conference Center

1200 Old Trenton Road

West Windsor, New Jersey 08550

We are pleased to announce the return of GSNJ's annual **IN-PERSON** genealogy conference. We missed you! It's been 1,421 days or 3 years, 10 months, 21 days since we last met in-person!

Our 2023 Spring Conference features two nationally known speakers - **Blaine Bettinger**, a world-renowned Genetic Genealogy expert, and **Sydney F. Cruice**, an expert in Mid-Atlantic genealogy. The dual-track event features four sessions on Genetic Genealogy/DNA along with four sessions on military records, probate records, church & cemetery records and land platting.

Schedule (All times are Eastern Daylight Time)

8:30 am	Registration and Light Refreshments
9:00 am	Opening Remarks: Melissa Johnson, CG®, GSNJ President
9:15 am	Session 1A: Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries
	Session 1B: The Miracles and Sins of Church and Cemetery Records
10:15 am	BREAK
10:30 am	Session 2A: Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches?
	Session 2B: Using Probate and Estate Records to Raise the Dead
11:30 am	Buffet Lunch and Door Prizes
1:00 pm	Session 3A: The Danger of Distant Matches
	Session 3B: Learn How to Find and Plat Your Ancestor's Land
2:00 pm	BREAK
2:15 pm	Session 4A: The Helen Marley Story
	Session 4B: Finding Treasures in Military Records
3:30 pm	END

Registration deadline: Wednesday, 19 April 2023 **Questions? Email programs@gsnj.org**

Registration includes catered breakfast and buffet lunch, syllabus and door prizes. The GSNJ Bookstore will be open. Syllabus provided in digital format. Printed syllabus can be purchased at time of registration.

This is an in-person event. There will be no recordings.

COVID Precautions: Masks are optional. Hand sanitizer will be placed throughout the common area and presentation rooms for your protection.

Each presentation is forty-five (45) minutes followed by fifteen (15) minute Q&A, with a fifteen (15) minute break between presentations.

The schedule and speakers are subject to change. See www.gsnj.org for updates.

Presentations and Speakers

SESSION 1A: Using Autosomal DNA for 18th and 19th Century Mysteries, Blaine Bettinger

Even though our 18th and 19th century ancestors have been dead for decades, their DNA still survives in their descendants. Learn how to use autosomal DNA to attack and potentially solve genealogical mysteries and brick walls for ancestors who were born or lived in the 1800's, 1700's, and beyond.

SESSION 1B: The Miracles and Sins of Church and Cemetery Records, Sydney F. Cruice

Church and cemetery records are the top resource for vital record information for family research. They exceed state and municipal records since churches and cemeteries started collecting this information long before our government agencies. However, trying to access these records can be difficult and very frustrating. We will discuss how you can examine many of these records without involving their religious creators, and we will explore the best strategies when you do have to go through the religious organizations to examine these valuable materials.

SESSION 2A: Are You Doing Everything to Identify Your DNA Matches?, Blaine Bettinger

In this lecture, we will examine numerous ways you can use a match's profile to identify who they might be. We will also examine ways to use the In Common With tool and the Shared Matches tool to estimate how that elusive match is related to you.

SESSION 2B: Using Probate and Estate Records to Raise the Dead, Sydney F. Cruice

Probate and Estate records are one of the most important record groups when conducting family research. They often reveal clues to the previous generations, and they include names of the current heirs. They can provide the names of married daughters, as well as siblings and nieces and nephews. A full investigation of probate records can lead to other valuable genealogy sources like land records, guardianship records and tax records. We will explore where to find these records and how to interpret all of their valuable clues. We will discuss how to use these records with other record groups and solve your most difficult family mysteries.

SESSION 3A: The Danger of Distant Matches, Blaine Bettinger

Those distant genetic matches are exciting, but they can be dangerous! Evidence shows that distant matches sharing a small amount of DNA are often false positives and fail to match either of our parents. Together will examine the problems that can arise when reviewing distant genetic matches at your testing company. We will also examine ways to evaluate these matches and use them in ways that avoid these potential issues.

SESSION 3B: How to Find and Plat Your Ancestor's Land, Sydney F. Cruice

Land records are one of the most valuable record groups for genealogy research. We will explore where to find them and go through the different parts of a deed with special attention to the land description. We will also learn how to plat a Metes and Bounds land description and discuss ways of anchoring the land plat to historic maps.

SESSION 4A: The Helen Marley Story, Blaine Bettinger

Set against the backdrop of Civil War Era New Jersey, an altercation on a sleepy street in Woodbridge, New Jersey would result in the murder of the Presenter's 3rd great-grandfather, Robert Gillis. This lecture will recount the unearthed tale, unknown to descendants for almost 150 years, and discuss the genealogy records and collections that revealed the circumstances of Robert's death and its lasting effect on his family.

SESSION 4B: Finding Treasures in Military Records, Sydney F. Cruice

In this course you will learn the who, what, where, when, why and how of researching your ancestor's military service and histories. The lecture covers and explains the benefits, and how to navigate some of the difficulties of researching at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Blaine Bettinger, Ph.D., J.D., is a professional genealogist specializing in DNA evidence. He is the author of the long-running blog, *The Genetic Genealogist* (www.thegeneticgenealogist.com), and frequently gives presentations and webinars to educate others about the use of DNA to explore their ancestry.

Sydney F. Cruice, is a professional genealogy researcher, educator and international lecturer with over 25 years of experience. She has served as a faculty member for the Salt Lake City Genealogy Institute of the Utah Genealogical Society, the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies Conference, the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research of the Georgia Genealogy Society and the Researching Family in Pennsylvania Institute of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. For the past seven years, she developed the curriculum and taught the Foundations of Genealogy courses at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. She also served as the President of the Association of Professional Genealogists for the Greater Philadelphia Area Chapter for the past 6 years.

GSNJ 2023 Spring Conference Registration

Register online at www.gsnj.org Or mail your registration form and payment to:

GSNJ 2023 Spring Conference
c/o Joan E. Betancourt, GSNJ Treasurer
10 Lincoln Place, Freehold, NJ 07728

Syllabus is provided in digital format. Check box in Registration section to purchase Printed Syllabus.

Complete a separate form for each registration. Additional forms may be printed from www.gsnj.org.

Questions? Email programs@gsnj.org

Registration deadline: Wednesday, 19 April 2023

Name

Street Address

City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Country

Phone Number **(Required)**

E-mail **(Required for conference notices and delivery of digital syllabus)**

Registration:

- GSNJ Members: **\$75**
- Non-Members: **\$90**
- Register and Join GSNJ: **\$115**
(Savings of \$15 over purchasing a Non-Member registration (\$90) & 1 year Membership (\$40) separately)
- Printed Syllabus **\$10 (Remember to add to your total if paying by check)**

Payment (or pay online with your credit card at www.gsnj.org)

- Check—Payable to “Genealogical Society of New Jersey”
- Credit/Debit

Name of Card Holder [As it appears on card]

Credit Card Number

Expiration Date

Billing Zip Code

3-or4-Digit Security Code

Directions & Parking

Use directions below or enter "Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ" in your GPS.

Free parking is available in the Conference Center Lots and Lots 1 & 2.

From North or South via U.S. 1

- Exit onto Quakerbridge Road / South 533.
- After 2 miles (through 4 traffic lights), turn left at the Youngs Road traffic light.
- At the end of Youngs Road, turn right onto Hughes Drive and follow past Mercer County Park entrance.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the left.
- Make second right. 1st right is a parking lot. Follow the road around the curve. The Conference Center and parking are on the left.

From Route 206 North or South

- From 206 South, turn left onto Province Line Road (at traffic light).
- From 206 North, turn right onto Province Line Road.
- Follow Province Line Road through the next traffic light (Princeton Pike), continue to the next traffic light and turn right onto Quakerbridge Road / South 533.
- On Quakerbridge Road, follow directions from Route 1 (see above).

From North or South via Interstate 95/295

- Take Interstate 95 (which becomes Interstate 295) to Exit 65A: Sloan Ave. East
- Continue straight on Sloan Ave. East (becomes Flock Road) to the end.
- Turn left at traffic light, onto Edinburg Road
- Continue straight through one traffic light (becomes Old Trenton Road).
- Take right jug handle that leads to the MCCC campus entrance.
- Turn left at the stop sign. The Conference Center and parking are on the right.

From East

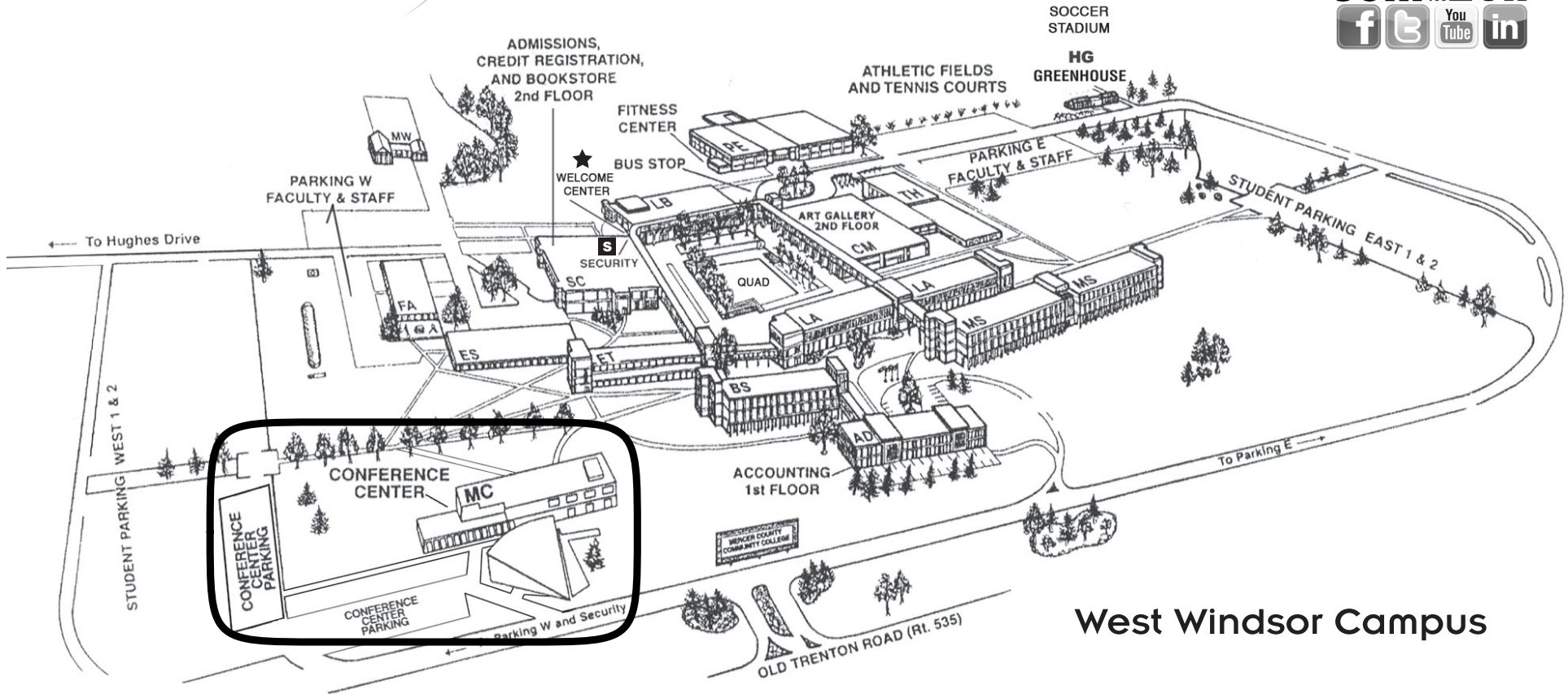
- Follow Route 33 West until you see signs for Route 133 West (the new bypass route).
- Turn right onto Route 133 West.
- Take Route 133 West to the end and exit immediately onto Route 571 West (Princeton-Hightstown Road).
- Move immediately to the far-left turning lane and turn left onto Route 535 / Old Trenton Road.
- Follow Route 535 / Old Trenton Rd for approximately 5 miles.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the right.
- Turn left at the stop sign. The Conference Center and parking are on the right.

From North via NJ Turnpike

- Take Turnpike Exit 8 at Hightstown onto Route 33 West.
- Follow signs onto Route 133 West (the new bypass).
- Turn right onto Route 571 West (Princeton-Hightstown Road).
- Move immediately to the far-left turning lane and turn left onto Route 535 / Old Trenton Road.
- Follow Route 535 / Old Trenton Road for approximately 5 miles.
- MCCC campus entrance is on the right.
- Turn left at the stop sign. The Conference Center and parking are on the right.

From South via NJ Turnpike

- Take Turnpike Exit 7A.
 - Go West on I-195 to Exit 5B (first exit off I-195).
 - North on Route 130, proceed to the second traffic light and turn left onto Robbinsville-Allentown Road (526 West).
 - Go through traffic light and make immediate right onto Robbinsville-Edinburg Road (526 West).
 - At the end of Robbinsville-Edinburg Road (526 West), turn left onto Old Trenton Road (535).
 - Follow Old Trenton Road for 2 miles to campus entrance on right, after Mercer County Park.
 - Turn left at the stop sign. The Conference Center and parking are on the right.
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West Windsor Campus

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| ★ | Welcome Center | FA | Fine Arts | MW | Maintenance |
| AD | Administration Building | HG | Horticulture Greenhouse | PE | Physical Education |
| BS | Business | LA | Liberal Arts | S | Security |
| CM | Communications Center | LB | Library | SC | Student Center |
| ES | Engineering Systems | MC | Conference Center | TH | Kelsey Theatre |
| ET | Engineering & Technology | MS | Science/Allied Health | | |