Welcome to the 2020 Annual Report from the Delaware Genealogical Society (DGS). Because of statewide-wide limits on gatherings in due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DGS May Annual Meeting and Social was cancelled.

Pandemic or no pandemic, DGS is determined to share its annual report with you, our members. This presentation with notes comprises the DGS annual report. It includes a summary of accomplishments and changes, reviews proposed by-law changes and the 2020-21 board slate, and recognizes volunteers.

Please review the report. At the end, please take a moment to vote electronically on the by-law changes and board slate.

This is a new approach for us. Although we’re disappointed that we could not meet in person and enjoy all those yummy treats during the social, we’re taking this opportunity to connect with both our local members and those who live at a distance. We hope you like it.

If you have questions or have any comments, please feel free to send me a note at president@delgensoc.org.

Have a wonderful summer!

Irene Heffran Monley
President
This is the agenda for the annual report.

- Impact of COVID-19 on DGS
- 2019-20 accomplishments
- Business agenda:
  - By-laws update
  - Vote on new board members
- Volunteer recognition
- Closing
The greatest impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on DGS was on our Spring programs, which were postponed or cancelled. The May DGS board meeting was conducted on Zoom and was quite successful.

Also, as you may be aware, the Delaware Genealogical Society does not have a physical presence in Delaware. Due to our close ties with the Delaware Historical Society (DHS), going back to our founding 40 years ago, our US Postal Service mail is delivered to DHS’s address at 505 N. Market Street in Wilmington. Because DHS has been closed since March, we haven’t been able to retrieve that mail. We are certain that renewal checks and other transaction items are awaiting pick up.

Life goes on in other areas. Our website, delgensoc.org, has been operational with no interruption. Emailed queries get responses, and online membership renewals are processed as usual.

We’re looking forward to our local world opening up a bit soon. In the meantime the DGS Program Committee will be considering alternatives to hosting our monthly member meetings at the Hockessin Library until 2021. We’ll keep you posted on that.

### Impact of COVID-19

- Between March 12 and April 1, Delaware declared a state of emergency, announced stay-at-home orders, closed all non-essential businesses, and limited gatherings to 10 individuals. The state now is opening gradually.
- At this point, Hockessin Public Library, location for most of DGS member meetings, has indicated that it will not be available for public gatherings until 2021.
- **Impact on DGS:**
  - March and April meetings cancelled and rescheduled later in 2020
  - May annual meeting and social cancelled. Annual report delivered by email to all members
  - May Board of Governors meeting conducted on Zoom
  - DGS Program Committee is investigating alternatives to in-person monthly meetings at the library
  - Website, publications, queries, and online membership renewals continue as usual
DGS has had a good year, despite the pandemic.

The fourth edition of the *Delaware Genealogical Research Guide* was published in January 2020. Marketing of the guide has included a print advertisement in the January-March 2020 issue of the *National Genealogical Society Magazine*, sales at monthly member meetings (in addition to Amazon sales), and distribution of about 1,000 “rack cards” to promote the guide and DGS at local libraries.

The guide also appears as a new publication in two digital catalogs that are used by bookstores, libraries, and institutions.

Marketing will be ongoing.

Royalties will be used to deliver programs, the newsletter, and the DGS website.
Before the pandemic crisis, DGS hosted five monthly member meetings, two open interest discussions, and one holiday social. All were very well attended.

The newsletter, *First State Genealogist*, was published five times. It’s come out like clockwork and has been highly valued by members.

We also published three *DGS Journals* published with transcribed ledgers from the Home for Friendless and Destitute Children, September 1877-August 1882.
In addition to 40 years of newsletters on the website, we now offer 40 years of the *DGS Journal*, and the entire fourth edition of the *Delaware Genealogical Research Guide*. This represents a substantial online repository of Delaware records and resources, all available to DGS members.

The DGS Planning Committee also conducted a member survey to confirm our priorities and recalibrate as needed. The board was pleased to learn that the top three valued member benefits – programs, the newsletter, and the website – are also among our top priorities. We will continue to focus on them as we go forward.
We are pleased to report that DGS’s financial standing is good. We mindfully watch our expenses and ensure that our revenue stream is steady. The new Finance and Audit Committee completed its first year of operation, including its first audit. All went smoothly.

DGS membership numbers are up modestly – just shy of 10% since May 2019. That follows a 10% increase from 2018 to 2019. We welcome our new members and thank those who have been with us for a while.
The short-term planning process that has been underway for two years is complete now. Based on its analysis of our current projects and the results of the member survey, its recommendations include continued focus on programming, the website, and the newsletter. Access to Delaware records also is important. We will continue to keep these items in our line of sight.
At its December 2019 and March 2020 meetings, the DGS board discussed the *Delaware Genealogical Society Journal*. Published since 1980, it has been one of the highlights of our member benefits. Unfortunately, as you know, it’s been challenging for us to meet the publication schedule. With busy schedules and competing priorities, our board members and volunteers have found it difficult to commit to publishing the journal on a regular basis.

Thus, the board voted to cease publication with the final issue. Volume 20, Issue 4, will be published in October 2020 and will be the last issue.

All 79 of the published issues (1980-2020) are available on the DGS website; the final issue will be added later this year. Those issues will continue to be an important resource to genealogists.
In lieu of publishing the journal, DGS will transition to publishing transcribed records and family histories on the DGS website and in the DGS newsletter as they become available.

We welcome your support in this endeavor. Do you have a family bible, business records, or other records, that you are willing to share with fellow genealogists with Delaware roots? Have you written a family history or story that you would like to have published? If so, please let us know. We would like to work with you to make them available to the broader Delaware genealogical community.
Now to some DGS business.

The next few pages are devoted to proposed two amendments to the DGS by-laws and slate for the 2020-21 Board of Governors.

The DGS by-laws require a member vote on these changes. In lieu of a vote during an in-person annual meeting, the vote will take place electronically.

[Note: Only members are eligible to vote on these items. Instructions and a link to the voting form were sent to DGS members on May 22, 2020. The voting deadline is June 5, 2020. Results will be announced in the September issue of *First State Genealogist*, the DGS newsletter.]
These proposed amendments finalize the creation and operation of the Finance and Audit Committee, which last year was assigned the responsibility of conducting the annual financial audit.

The first amendment deletes the last line of Section 4.4, which in its present form conflicts with the Section 4.9 which assigns responsibility of the annual audit to the Finance and Audit Committee. Section 4.9 was amended last year at the recommendation of the outside auditor of the 2018 financial statements, and DGS members approved the change at last year’s annual meeting.
The second amendment adds Section 5.5, which formalizes the creation and responsibilities of the Finance and Audit Committee.

DGS members are asked to vote on the two by-law amendments.

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The deadline is Friday, June 5, 2020, at midnight Eastern.
At the end of the 2019-20 year, four members of the current board will step down.

Each of them has been generous in sharing their time, knowledge, skills, ideas, and guidance. They have contributed greatly to DGS’s success. We will miss them very much.

As you’ll see on the next page, new people have been nominated to take their place.
This year’s nominations include a new slate of officers and five board members, as shown above. Officer nominations include:

• For President, Irene Monley, current president, research guide editor. For a second two-year term.
• For Vice President, Mike Miscoski, current board member, Membership chair, member of the Finance and Audit Committee, popular lecturer. Two-year term.
• For Secretary, Kathleen Leef, current board member, website support. Two-year term.
• For Treasurer, Douglas Johnston, current board member, website and computer support. Two-year term.

Board nominations include four people who will be new to the DGS board. They are:

• Mark Emptage, retired DuPont geneticist who has been researching his family history since he was in his teens. Currently he is working with extended family on a surname project which has taken the family lines back to about 1300 in England! Two-year term.
• Ken Findlayson, native Delawarean, Vietnam War veteran, and retired public housing expert. Has been researching his Irish, Scottish, and English heritage for more than 30 years. Among his many genealogical and research endeavors, he is active in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Wilmington. He also has researched local cemeteries and written biographies and memorials of Civil War veterans. Two-year term.
• Graham Godfrey, Royal Navy veteran and IT professional, currently working as a freelance instructor creating and delivering course content to major companies. He is highly experienced using virtual tools including Zoom. Currently he is researching his maternal grandfather, C.V. Keeble, who served in the great war at Ypres and WW2. Two-year term.
• Beverly Wright, retired from the chemical industry, had her first taste of genealogy as a teen from her maternal grandfather and extensive research from her paternal aunt. A founding member and active supporter of the Bear Library. Two-year term.

Also nominated to the board is Gary Gittings, who will finish his term as Treasurer, for a one-year term to finish Kathy Leef’s second year.

Returning to the board will be: Rosemary Bell, Lynn Fedele, and Marge McNinch. Susan Kirk Ryan will return as Immediate Past President.
The DGS by-laws call for members to vote on the slate of officers and board members for 2020-21.

This year’s election will be conducted electronically.

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The deadline is Friday, June 5, 2020, at midnight Eastern.
Except for the hosting of the DGS website and printing of the *DGS Journal* and research guide, all of the day-to-day management, committee work, and projects are handled by board members and volunteers who support them.

As president, I deeply appreciate the time and energy that the DGS board and committee members devote to DGS business. It goes without saying that our volunteer board members and members make possible all that we enjoy.

In the next few pages, we’d like to recognize the board members and volunteers who helped DGS this past year.
We’ll start briefly with those people who worked to update and expand the *Delaware Genealogical Research Guide*.

The core committee, made up of current and former DGS board members, was invited in late 2018 by Susan Kirk Ryan, then DGS president, to update the third edition of the research guide (published in 2002). Little did they know what a labor of love the endeavor would become. Over the next two years the committee met regularly to research, rewrite, edit, redesign, and finally publish the new guide.

When it came time to ready the guide for publication, two additional people joined us:
- Ed Adams worked with us to fine tune images and photos
- Ellen J. Roberts, a professional copy editor and writer, volunteered to join the committee and proofread and copy edit.

Throughout the project, board members were very encouraging. Reese Robinson drafted the maps chapter, and Mike Miscoski researched and wrote the section on orphanage records. Many others reviewed, commented, and proofread the guide.

We thank everyone for their hard work to deliver this seminal guide for Delaware research.

Note: The asterisk (*) after names denotes people who are not on the current DGS board.
DGS business and projects is handled entirely by volunteers. The list of what these folks do is endless. Let us just say that each person is invaluable. We heartily thank them.

On this and the next few pages, you’ll see the committees and members listed. An asterisk (*) after a name indicates that the person is not a member of the DGS board.
The names of people who are on each committee or project are listed. An asterisk (*) after a name indicates that the person is not a member of the DGS board.

Thank you to everyone!
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We also want to recognize the more than 80 members who responded to our call for volunteer transcribers.

Thank you to everyone!
As we near the end of this report, DGS hopes that after society opens up again that we see you in person at a future event.

Please stay in touch. Drop us a line with ideas and feedback. Send them to me at president@delgensoc.org.

Let us know what you would like to volunteer for.

And thank you for your continued support.
Your action item for today is VOTE on the by-law changes and incoming board for 2020-21.

[Note: Only members are eligible to vote on these items. Instructions and a link to the voting form were sent to DGS members on May 22, 2020. Results will be announced in the September issue of First State Genealogist, the DGS newsletter.]

Follow the simple instructions and click on SUBMIT when you’re ready. The deadline for voting is Friday, June 5, 2020, at midnight Eastern.

If you have questions, please send a note to president@delgensoc.org.

Thank you!