

Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings
Central Jersey Genealogical Club
<https://www.cjcnj.com>

by Carole Flatley, Jody Lutter, Mary-Jo Solomon & Marianne Totaro



On January 28, 2021, the Special Projects Group met virtually with the officers of the Central Jersey Genealogical Club: Suzanne Chludzinski, Chris Tracy, Lisa Siko, Nancy Whalen, Kathy Herity and Maureen Winski. Casey Zahn, Carol Schaeffer and Nancy Nelson members of this Club have given presentations at MAGS meetings.

The Society, founded in 1994, has about 60 members. From 30 - 40 members or guests attend meetings usually held in the Hamilton Library. The CJGC is such a warm, friendly and helpful group that many members had regularly driven over an hour to attend meetings. Currently the Club meetings are on the Zoom platform. Usually, the society doesn't meet in January or February, but thanks to Zoom the society has been adding meetings in those months.

The website was redesigned and launched in February 2020. *Diggin' for Roots* on this site has well over 150 links to local, state, national and ethnic and special websites. The website has an interesting collection of rotating photos which were contributed by members from their private collections. Club members have participated in indexing Bible and Rotary records for the Trenton Library, which are available on the Trenton Library website. (trentonlib.org/trentoniana/bible-records) There are six historical societies in Mercer County with extensive archives.

The CJGS has a Facebook page with regular posts from many different sources. The lectures offered at the General meetings have a variety of topics. The program chairperson, Vice President Chris Tracy explained that prior to him scheduling any programs, he polled the membership to discover what topics interested them or would be helpful in doing their family research. As the club was founded on joining together to help one another, before some of the meetings there is a 'pre-meeting' where members teach each other various genealogy skills, an example being, "How to Create a Family Genealogy Book".

In October, which is National Family History Month, a popular meeting is Your Favorite Ancestor Night. Members are invited to share stories about a favorite ancestor. Some even dress up like that ancestor, while others show photos or items from their relative. At the December meeting the members bring special dishes reflecting their families' cultural background. There is a Family Round Table where the members meet in groups of five to share and help each other with their family research.

The CJGS newsletter, "News, Notes, and Tips" is published six times a year. It's sent electronically to all members, as well as, to local Mercer County libraries and the Allen County Genealogy Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Members email research questions to other members who have expertise in specific areas.

"The Trenton Times", "The Trentonian" and the "Princeton Packet" are some of the newspapers that are useful for looking up your ancestors from this area.

The CJGC belongs to the Greater Philadelphia Consortium of genealogy and historical societies, including the Bucks County GS, Valley Forge GS and others that had met quarterly to offer joint programs and share ideas.

This close knit group has done field trips to the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton, the Mormon Temple in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and to local cemeteries.



CJGC officers and committee chairs for 2018-2019 (left to right):
Ida McKeown, Reggie Butterer, Pat Steinkerchner, Nancy Whalen, Lisa Siko,
Maureen Winski, Kathy Herity, Greg Kutch, Suzanne Chludzinski, Chris Tracy.

*CJGC is a member of The National Genealogical Society and
The Federation of Genealogical Societies.*

The Special Projects Group (SPG) members have been visiting local repositories to learn what genealogy related materials might be available for review by our members in researching their ancestors and/or gaining historical context to enhance their stories. In the series of articles, we share the main features of our interviews with repository members spotlighting the information, collections and features available for research at each location. Visit the *Special Projects* page at <https://mags-public.weebly.com/> to read the nineteen previous spotlight articles and to view the compiled inventories.