

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
WORKSHOP SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS**

James Amemasor, Ph.D.

Dr. James Amemasor currently serves as a Research Specialist at the New Jersey Historical Society—the oldest, largest, and privately-held archives of New Jersey materials in the world. He uses the Society's collections and public databases to provide personalized assistance to a wide range of researchers. He has served in this role since 2007.

James received a Ph.D. in Global Affairs/International Relations from Rutgers University, an M.A. in History from Illinois State University, and a B.A. in History from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana. In addition to his work at the New Jersey Historical Society, Amemasor serves as an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall University's School of Diplomacy and International Relations. He previously taught in the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University-Newark, and in the Federated Department of History at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Prior to his graduate studies, he served as an education officer at the Cape Coast Castle Museum (a former slave-dungeon and UNESCO World Heritage site) in Ghana. He has presented research papers at national and international conferences and was featured in *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*—a documentary film retracing the role of the DeWolf family of New England in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade (initial release in 2008)—and *Insurance: Putting Newark on the Map* (2016), a documentary celebrating the 350th anniversary of Newark's founding.

Eugene “Gene” Armstead, Jr.

Great-grandson of Hiter Armstead (1855) and Harriett Fortune (1855) of Bowling Green, VA & the Great-grandson of Samuel Miller (1868) and Flora Williams (1867) of Blackstone VA. Current President of the AAHGS NJC has been researching his genealogy since 1998. Like many adults he regrets not being more attentive and inquisitive while his elders were available.

Gene was awarded a basketball scholarship, which allowed him to fulfill his father's dream of having his children graduate from college. Gene missed his undergraduate ceremony because he was playing basketball for the USA AAU team in Brazil, but got to see his father's smile when he earned his MBA.

Gene married his college sweetheart and that union produced a daughter and two sons as well as a grandson. Armstead's research has always combined both his wife's and his own ancestors. He often refers to his efforts being “Our Children's Tree.” He initially populated the tree with 42 names, birth, wedding and death dates his mother provided off the top of her head. Of that information, only two dates were incorrect. The genealogy hook was set: when armed with a name, age, ports of departure and arrival and a date, Gene found the ship's manifest that recorded his wife's Great grandmother's arrival in America. Later Gene found newspaper articles that corrected family lore about her Great grandfather's arrest.

Sharon (Elaine) Buck

Elaine, as she prefers to be called, is Church Clerk, Second Calvary Baptist Church, Hopewell, Assistant Secretary of the Stoutsburg Cemetery Association, and a founding Trustee of the Stoutsburg Surland African American Museum (SSAAM). She is instrumental in ensuring that the Stoutsburg Cemetery, the resting place of many local African Americans, remains undisturbed. She is the fourth generation to live

in Hopewell borough. She is co-authoring a book with her research partner, Beverly Mills. The book, entitled "If These Stones Could Talk, will be published through Wild River Publishing and should be available by end of 2017 or the beginning of 2018.

John B. Buck

John B. Buck serves as current President of the Stoutsburg Cemetery Association located in Hopewell Township and he also serves as President of the upcoming Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum (SSAAM) located in Skillman, NJ.

He has been a lifelong resident of Hopewell Borough. He is retired from Princeton University Civil Engineering Department where he worked for 17 years; he also is a member of Heavy and General Laborer's Local 172 for the past 37 years. John proudly serves as President to such a distinguished group of African Americans who rose from slavery to being men and women of valor who are now lying in their final resting place at Stoutsburg.

Ian Charles Burrow, Ph.D., RPA, FSA

Ian Burrow has been an archaeological and cultural resource management professional since 1975, firstly in England and, since 1988, in the United States. In 2015 he founded BurrowIntoHistory, LLC, a company whose mission is to improve the preservation, management and public enjoyment of historic cultural resources in the United States and beyond. For the previous 27 years he worked with Richard Hunter as Vice President and Principal Archaeologist at Hunter Research, Inc., a well-respected cultural resource management company based in Trenton, New Jersey. Prior to that he held several positions in England, including Director of the Oxford Archaeological Unit (1986-88).

His archaeological career in the U.S. has included the investigation of numerous archaeological sites of the 18th and 19th centuries. Among these have been places associated with the American Revolution such as the Old Barracks National Historic Landmark in Trenton, the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment in Somerset County, New Jersey, the Charles Carroll House in Annapolis, and Princeton Battlefield. He has also directed major investigations on 18th century urban sites in Philadelphia, Trenton and Jersey City.

He has been active at the national level in advocating for archaeology, cultural resource management and historic preservation, serving terms as President of the Register of Professional Archaeologists and of the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA). From 2012 to 2016 he was also the Vice President for Government Relations for ACRA, a position involving interaction with the national historic preservation community, federal agencies, and Capitol Hill. He has taught at Drew, Rutgers (where he is Associate Member of the Graduate Faculty, Department of Art History, Program in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies [CHAPS]) and Rider Universities, and at the University of Delaware.

Ian has also created several successful school programs in archaeology, and also makes frequent presentations to local libraries and historical groups, chiefly through the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. He is a regular contributor at local, regional and national archaeological conferences, and has also presented papers at meetings in the United Kingdom and Norway.

Linda J. Caldwell Epps, Ph.D.

Linda Caldwell Epps is President and CEO of 1804 Consultants, an organization dedicated to the advancement of educational and cultural organizations. Most recently she has served as a resource to historical societies, libraries, and museums. Linda has more than 40 years of experience working with educational and cultural institutions, including the New Jersey Historical Society, a statewide museum,

library, and educational facility, where she served as President and CEO, and New Jersey Network Television and Radio where she served as Vice President for Institutional Relations.

Over a 28 year period, Linda held various positions at Bloomfield College including Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students capped by her role as Vice President for College Relations. She has also served as a Ford Foundation-funded consultants to several institutions of higher learning – including Keene College in New Hampshire, Union College in Ohio and the College of St. Elizabeth in New Jersey – on issues of diversity and equity in higher education.

Linda currently serves on several boards of directors. Among them are The New Jersey Performing Arts Center Theater Square Development Company LLC Board of Managers, the History Advocates of NJ Executive Board, The Newark Archives Project Board, and the Executive Board of the Newark History Society.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree from Rutgers University's Douglass College, a Master's Degree from Seton Hall University, and a Doctorate from Drew University. She completed the Institute for Higher Education Management program at Harvard University, the American Association of Colleges and Universities Diversity Institute, at Georgetown University, and is a Leadership New Jersey Fellow, Class of 1992. She has lectured widely on issues of diversity and the importance of the diverse narrative in the study and interpretation of US history and culture.

Regina Fitzpatrick

Regina Fitzpatrick is Genealogy Librarian at the NJ State Library. In addition to the Genealogy Collection, a non-circulating 18,000 plus item collection, she also oversees the Map and Atlas Collection, and the New Jersey State Library Archives collection. Prior to working at the Library, Regina worked for the New Jersey State Archives, where she became an expert on New Jersey Genealogical Collections and helping to conduct family history research as well as in reading 17th and 18th Century handwriting while indexing and abstracting Colonial Deeds. At the State Library, Regina currently provides general Reference Services, in addition to specific Genealogy assistance, and teaches classes on conducting New Jersey Genealogy research.

Joseph A. Grabas, CTP, NTP

Joseph Grabas is an expert in Land Title Research, having examined over 100,000 land titles in 5 States and all 21 Counties in New Jersey since 1978. He has been recognized by the NJLTA as a *Certified Title Professional* and by the ALTA as a *National Title Professional*. He is a pioneer in the field of interpretive land records research and has been qualified as an Expert in real property matters by the Superior Court of NJ, providing testimony in various title litigation. Joe has been certified by the NJDOBI as a Title Instructor and has been authorized by the NJDOBI, NJ RE Commission and the NJ Supreme Court to teach continuing education to insurance producers, realtors and lawyers. Joe is a Commissioner on the Monmouth County Historical Commission and a member of the NJ Tidelands Resource Council. His historical research focuses on Historic Land Titles, the history of the NJ Land Recording System, Free African American communities, Colonial & State Boundary development and the Colonial and Antebellum history of New Jersey. He is the award-winning author of *Owning New Jersey: Historic Tales of War, Property Disputes and the Pursuit of Happiness* (History Press, 2014).

Christine A. Lutz

Christie Lutz is New Jersey Regional Studies Librarian and Head of Public Services in Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries where she acquires materials for and provides reference, instruction and outreach using the Sinclair New Jersey Collection, the largest, most comprehensive collection of New Jersey materials in the state and one of the finest collections of state and local history in the country. Prior to joining Rutgers in 2014, she was Assistant University Archivist for Public Services at the Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University.

A New Jersey native, she holds a B.A. in English from the University of Georgia (1995), a Master of Library Science from Rutgers (1999) and an M.A. in American Studies (2005), with emphasis on material culture studies and intersections of libraries, museums and archives, from the University of Maryland. Following her graduate work at Maryland she was a National Historical Publications and Records Commission Fellow in Archival Administration at the George Meany Memorial Archives at the AFL-CIO's former National Labor College. She co-founded the New Brunswick Music Scene Archive at Rutgers Special Collections in 2015, and her current research focuses on music in New Jersey. Most recently, her article "Cabin in the Pines: Albert Music Hall and Constructions of a Pine Barrens Musical Tradition" was published in the journal *New Jersey Studies*.

Christie serves on the boards or is an active member of a number of organizations that promote and protect New Jersey history and culture, including the Advocates for New Jersey History, the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance and the Highland Park, NJ Historical Society.

Kate McGuire

Kate is retired from the State of New Jersey and lives in Trenton, NJ. Her great-great grandfather immigrated to Trenton from Northern Ireland in 1815 and her family has lived in Mercer County ever since. She received her degree in Library and Information Science in 2006 from Rutgers University and since that time has been involved in family and local history research as well as archival processing. She is a former board member of the Trenton Historical Society and the Friends of the Trenton Public Library and served as an Advisory Committee member during the creation of the NJ Digital Highway. She is currently working on a processing project in the Trentoniana collection of the Trenton Public Library in addition to several individual family history projects.

Catherine Medich

Catherine Stearns Medich is a Reference Archivist with the New Jersey State Archives with close to 20 years of public service. She is integral in managing the reference section of the Archives, and assisting users with the many, varied collections maintained at the State Archives. Catherine has particular knowledge of the military collections, including the State's Civil War collections, and the New Jersey State Militia records, which she was also responsible for processing and organizing. She is a frequent guest speaker at local genealogical conferences and clubs, where she reviews and explains the types of records held at the New Jersey State Archives, and how to access them.

Catherine is a graduate of Dickinson University with a Bachelor's Degree in History, and holds two Master's Degrees from Rutgers University, in Art History and Library Service.

Deborah Mercer

Deborah Mercer is the New Jersey Collections Librarian at the New Jersey State Library where she oversees the New Jersey Government Documents, Jerseyana, and Rare Books collections. She is the

administrator of the State Library's digital library, was a member of the New Jersey Digital Highway's steering committee and a member of the 350th Committee. She currently serves as the State Librarian's representative to the New Jersey Historical Commission, is a member of the National Digital Newspaper Preservation Committee for New Jersey and is on the steering committee for New Jersey's application to join the Digital Public Library of America. She is also Chair of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Author Awards Committee where she gets to read lots of books on New Jersey history and culture. She was the 2015 recipient of the New Jersey Library Association's Susan Swartzburg award for preservation

Beverly Mills

Beverly Mills is retired from her position as Workforce Development Director for Mercer County. Through over a decade of research with Elaine Buck, Beverly has traced her ancestry to enslaved African Americans in the Hopewell Township/Pennington areas prior to the Revolutionary War. She currently lives in her ancestral home in Pennington, which was purchased by her great grandfather 106 years ago. She is Councilwoman for the Pennington Borough being recently elected as the first African American woman to hold an elected position in the Borough since its formation. Her other past and present affiliations include Ellarslie, the Hopewell Valley Historical Society, Friends of the Trenton Public Library, and the Trustee Board of the First Baptist Church of Pennington. Beverly is co-authoring "If These Stones Could Talk, with research partner, Elaine Buck. The book will be published through Wild River Publishing and should be available by end of 2017 or the beginning of 2018.

David G. Orr, Ph.D.

Dave Orr is a resident of Delaware City Delaware where he lives in an 1826 Federal Town House. He has recently retired twice: first from the National Park Service in 2006 and then from the Anthropology Department of Temple University in 2014. He has taught at the University of Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware. He has received grants from the NEH and has won the Rome Prize in Classical Archaeology at the American Academy in Rome. He has published widely in archaeology and history with many forays into vernacular architecture, popular culture, folklore, and oral history. His current interests range from African American communities and cemeteries to Battlefield Archaeology and maritime material culture. He is at present working on a "memoir" of his childhood from the age of six to twelve called "Some Things of Value: Confronting the Objects of My Past."

Gary Garrido Schneider

Gary Garrido Schneider is an artist, educator and museum administrator who currently serves as the Executive Director of Grounds For Sculpture. Prior to that appointment, for 12 years he held various senior leadership roles at the Montclair Art Museum serving as the Director of the Yard School of Art, Director of Education and then as the Deputy Director. He has over 20 years' experience and commitment to making the visual arts accessible to a broad range of audiences through his work in museums, universities and community non-profits including Studio in a School, Brooklyn Museum, The Drawing Center, Parsons School of Design and the Associated Blind. He has a B.F.A from Parsons School of Design and K-12 Art Education Certification through Bank Street College.

Gary is a graduate of the prestigious Getty Museum Leadership Institute at Claremont Graduate School and the Teacher Institute in Museum Education (TIME) at the Art Institute of Chicago. As an active voice within the museum field he regularly presents at national conferences and serves as a peer reviewer for the American Alliance of Museums and as a grant panelist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. In 2012 he was a guest of the US Embassy and el Museo del Oro in Colombia to deliver a series of lectures on museums and community engagement.

He currently serves as a trustee for ArtPride NJ a statewide arts advocacy organization and Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce. Previous board service includes treasurer for the New York City Museum Educators Roundtable (2007-2013), treasurer for the Montclair CSA (2004-present), and advisory committee for Arts High School in Newark NJ.

Gretchen Sullivan Sorin, Ph.D.

Gretchen Sullivan Sorin is Director and Distinguished Service Professor of the Cooperstown Graduate Program, a training program for museum curators, educators, and directors co-sponsored by the State University of New York College at Oneonta. She is also a Fellow of the New York Academy of historians. Gretchen holds a B.A. degree from Rutgers University in American Studies, an M.A. in Museum Studies from the Cooperstown Graduate Program and a Ph.D. from the University at Albany in American history.

Gretchen has more than thirty years of experience in the museum profession working for more than 250 museums as a museum exhibition, education, programming, and interpretive planning and strategic planning consultant. She has served as a guest curator for many exhibitions. Major exhibition include, *Through the Eyes of Others: African Americans and Identity in American Art*; the nationally acclaimed traveling exhibition, *Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews* for the Jewish Museum in New York; the award-winning *Wilderness Cure: Tuberculosis and the Adirondacks* for the Adirondack Museum, *It All Happened at the Audubon, A History of the Audubon Ballroom* for Columbia Presbyterian and *Dvorak: Culture and Society in the 19th Century*, for the Bard College Center for Curatorial Studies and Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center.

Active in the museum community Gretchen has served on the boards or governing councils of organizations including The New York Folklore Society, The American Association for State and Local History, the 1772 Foundation, The Historic House Trust, The Seward House Foundation and the American Association of Museums Committee on Museum Professional Training. She is currently the President of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, a New York State Parks Commissioner and a member of The New York State Records Advisory Board.

Gretchen is the recipient of the Thurgood Marshall Unity Award from the Oneonta NAACP, the Philip Jones National Ephemera Society Fellowship Research Award, the State University of New York Chancellor's Research Award, and the Chancellor's Award for Research and Creative Activities. She writes and lectures frequently on museum practice, diversity and inclusion, and African American history. Her books include *Touring Historic Harlem, Four Walks in Northern Manhattan* with architectural historian Andrew Dolkart, *In the Spirit of Martin: The Living Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* for the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, *Through the Eyes of Others: African Americans and Identity in American Art*, and *Case Studies in Cultural Entrepreneurship: How to Create Relevant and Sustainable Institutions*. She is currently working with Steeplechase Films and filmmaker Rice Burns on a documentary film to be shown on PBS entitled, *Driving While Black: African Americans on the Road in the Era of Jim Crow*.

Carolyn Stetson

Although born in New England, Carolyn Stetson has made Trenton her home for more than forty years. A retired educator from the West Windsor-Plainsboro Schools, she has always believed in giving back to the community in which she lives. In her retirement, she has turned volunteering for various Trenton organizations into a full-time job. Carolyn is a lover of history and is starting her second term as

president of the Trent House Association, working to make Trentonians more aware of their important history and proud of the city where they live.

In addition, Carolyn has served numerous terms as an officer of the Cadwalader Heights Civic Association, including as president during the neighborhood's 100th anniversary year. She has served, since the early 1980s, many terms as a trustee of the Trenton Museum Society, including 4 terms as president. She also served on the Artworks Board of Trustees, setting the stage for Artworks to become the vibrant organization it is today. She is an original member of City Arts, a consortium of Trenton arts organizations that provide arts programming for children, meeting monthly since 2008. She also serves as a steering committee member of the Trenton Cultural Resource Network, a consortium of artists, patrons and arts and history organizations that meets to share ideas and focus on common opportunities and challenges. Carolyn co-chaired with former Artworks Director Lynn Lemyre Mayor Eric Jackson's Transition Team on Arts, History and Culture and leads a quarterly round table discussion with the mayor as an advocate for Trenton Arts, History and Culture as an economic stimulus for the City of Trenton.

Guy Weston, MA

Guy Weston has been engaged in genealogy research for 25 years, focusing primarily on his maternal ancestors in Timbuctoo, NJ, where his fourth great-grandfather bought his family's plot in 1829 for \$30. He describes this fascinating story in an article entitled "Finding Free African Americans during the Antebellum Period," which appeared in the Magazine of the National Genealogical Society in 2015. He is currently engaged in a collaboration with the history department at Rutgers University entitled *Global Timbuktu: Meanings and Narratives of Resistance in Africa and the Americas*, which brings together scholars from Timbuctoo, NY, Timbuctoo, NJ, and Timbuktu, Mali, to explore commonalities on themes of resistance and self-determination between Timbuktu, Mali and US communities bearing this name. Other activities include research to complete the rigorous application package to nominate Timbuctoo on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places, and various research and public history initiatives to raise the profile of antebellum free African Americans in New Jersey history. He maintains a website on Timbuctoo, New Jersey which can be found at www.timbuctoonj.com. Guy has a Master's Degree in Bilingual-Bicultural Studies from LaSalle University in Philadelphia, and is currently studying for the Professional Genealogist certification exam.

Junius W. Williams, J.D.

Junius W. Williams, Esquire, is Director of the Abbott Leadership Institute at Rutgers University, Newark. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Amherst College and a Juris Doctorate from Yale University Law School. A noted attorney, educator, musician, and community advocate, Junius is the author of *Unfinished Agenda: Urban Politics in the Era of Black Power*, a political memoir from the 1950s to the present day. He is an accomplished musician and, as a writer and producer, has created multi-media productions performed before local and national audiences. He is the producer of the new website, 'The North: Civil Rights and Beyond in Urban America,' located at www.riseupnorth.com.