

## **The Registrar and Historiographer's Report to the 229th Convention**

Part of my responsibility as registrar is to maintain a thorough inventory the holdings and records of the Diocese of New Jersey. That has become, paradoxically, both easier and harder, because a vast number of books and materials connected to the diocese are now available online at no cost, digitized through the 'Google books' initiative primarily, but other digital initiatives as well, such as HathiTrust.

Amongst those digitized holding are all the Journals of Convention, from 1785 (the first convention) through 1920. I have compiled a roster of all the digitized journals in chronological order, with a note of the dates of the convention, the place, and the number of the convention. You can find the roster here: [newjersey.anglican.org/Diocese/Archives/DioNJConvJournals.html](http://newjersey.anglican.org/Diocese/Archives/DioNJConvJournals.html)

The number of books related to the Diocese of New Jersey — parish histories, biographies, and so on — that have been digitized is also growing exponentially. Finding ways to ensure that we have permanent access to those materials is important, and often something of a conundrum. The solution isn't to download and print the materials! By this time in technological history, we can presume that Internet availability and access can be taken for granted, like electricity and running water. Because of this, it's important to consider ways of seamlessly integrating the tangible and the digital. To that end, this past year we upgraded the primary computer and flat-bed scanner in the Archives. The computer itself was more than six years old and the scanner was not of the quality required for digitising some of our most important — and awkwardly sized — historic materials. The two new pieces of equipment will hold us in good stead for at least five years.

I am writing this report during my sabbatical from 1 January to 31 March 2012, during which I'm completing the first draft of a long-planned biography of the Right Reverend George Washington Doane, second bishop of New Jersey. It is my hope that at the end of my sabbatical, I shall be well on the way to completing and publishing a book that I have been researching for more than 18 years. Bishop Doane was an important figure in American church history and a fascinating person in his own right. I hope I can do him justice.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Cynthia McFarland

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