



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014-3539

March 2012

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, March 18, 2012** Time: **2:00 PM**

Place: **Historical Society of Harford County HQ, 143 N. Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014**

Research at the D.A.R. Library: There and From Home

An overview of resources at the DAR Library and Seimes Microfilm Center plus what is available on-line from the comforts of home. The Library organization discussion will include book call system, catalog, Genealogical Records Committee Index, and available on-line databases. The Seimes microfilm collection description will include access to DAR applications and proof documents.

Our speaker JULIA COLDREN-WALKER began her personal genealogical research in 1967 with sporadic activity until 1987 when it became continuous. She began using internet for genealogical research in 1990 with CompuServe's Genealogy Forum. Attended NGS, FGS, & New England Regional Genealogy Conferences. Served as Registrar for Toaping Castle Chapter, NSDAR. Began genealogical lecturing in 1999. Lectured at the Baltimore Stake (Essex) Family History Conference every year since 2000.



THE D.A.R. LIBRARY

REMINDER

2012 Membership Dues

For those who have not yet paid their 2012 Membership Dues, please do so promptly. Enclosed is our 2012 Membership Application and Renewal form for those 2011 members who's Dues have not yet been received. Additional forms are available on our website.

We are always interested in speakers, program topics, and off-site venues for meetings. Please jot down your ideas in the SUGGESTIONS section. Your support allows the Society to publish research works, bring you interesting speakers at our general meetings, and this Newsletter.

MEETING SCHEDULE: March, May, July, September, & November

We hold five meetings per year, usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month. The March, July, September and November meetings begin at 2:00 PM at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc., 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014. The May meeting is a box lunch held at various historical locations in the county.

2011-2012 HCGS DIRECTORY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another researcher resource and our 2012 elections ...

If you have been a member of our society for more than a year, you will recall that our Genealogical Society makes a yearly donation to the Harford County Historical Society to enhance the research tools available to our membership, and to thank them for allowing us to hold our programs and board meetings in their headquarters building. In the past, we have donated equipment, software, and/or cash. No doubt the single biggest enhancement for our members, both local and remote, is web access to the Historical Society's *PastPerfect*[®] on-line catalog and database indices.

For 2011, be it a little tardy, the Society's donation was a purchase from the Maryland State Archives of nine CDs with images from several Harford County Register of Wills record books covering the years 1774 to 1866. Be sure to take a look during your next visit to headquarters. We recognize that an abstract or index of this new resource could make it more useful for our membership, and might be the subject of a future Special Publication.

You will also recall that every two years our society holds its election of officers and board members at large. For 2011-2012, we have been fortunate to have three people who have never held a position on our board before and another who has not served on the board recently. These folks have provided several fresh ideas for programs, publications, and new ways of advertising. One of these folks, Kathy Glackin, is not even a resident of Harford County, or for that matter Maryland, and has been making her contributions via conference calls. Even though it was my idea to ask her, I must say that it has been a success, and I believe other officers and board members would agree. The point is, that you do not have to reside here to contribute to our society. If you are willing to participate in publication preparation, program planning, or serving on the Board, let us know via E-mail or snail-mail. *Doug Washburn*

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Analyze Your Research While Still Gathering Data

A researcher may pull piles and piles of data or material on a family or community while reading old records. Avoid the pitfall of saving the work for later analysis. Write clues to yourself, to indicate families of interest and other research targets. True, you may have to hold-off on doing a complete extraction and analysis until later, but try doing some quick reading and evaluation while still actively researching; you may find clues to additional names and records worth pursuing. Wait too long, especially when doing research out in the field, and you may miss opportunities. Remember, the individual pieces of research may only be pieces of the puzzle. Only after pulling them together may a picture be formed.

Source: McDonald, David; Ten Top Tips for Concluding a Genealogical Project; *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* Vol. 37, No. 4 (October-December 2011); pp. 22-24.

Don't Be Blinded by Excitement

I was off on a search for the family of my grandmother's in-laws living at the turn of the century. Stories claimed that this family went west to California after 1912, that the mother-in-law was seen in Baltimore in the early forties, and that my grandmother visited those family members in Arizona or New Mexico or California in the sixties. Where those visited by my grandmother her husband's nieces and nephews?

Often, I had searched 1910 and 1920 census records in the southwest without success. After the 1930 records became available I found my grandmother's "mother-in-law" in Baltimore living with an unrelated family (unrelated because no relationship to the head of household was mentioned). At this point I began to doubt that the whole family ever went west, and decided to try and locate each of the mother-in-law's children.

Well, the 1900 census yielded the family with all seven children living in Baltimore City. Eureka! Now I had the parent's full names, along with all the children, including the son that was eventually married to my grandmother in 1906. From there I searched the subsequent census records for the parents with no avail. I went back to the 1900 records (not my notes and copies) to review all of the family data and guess what I found? There was a second census record listing the whole family, but not in Baltimore City. They were enumerated in Pikesville two days later in June 1900!

After sleeping on this conundrum, I compared the two records again and found a key difference. One record stated that the mother had 9 children, and 7 were living, but the other stated 7 children with 7 living. My theory is that the father gave the census taker the 7/7 data and the mother provided the 9/7 data because the mother was the one who suffered through 9 pregnancies. As a result, I now believe that the father and mother must not have been living together in 1900. More evidence that they were separated was found in the 1910 census.

So what happened? First, the Surname was BROWN, and there are a lot of people with this surname, causing searches to yield a high number of hits. Second, I found an entry in a list of search results that led me to a census record, with the right family, the right members, of the right ages, close to the location where they should have been, and my celebration dance began. In all of the excitement of this first find, I stopped looking for the same name. If I had read my search results closer, I would have seen that my search for the Head of Household, which yielded many similar name hits, resulted in more than one 1900 census record for the Head-Of-Household. Did I recognize that the microfilm roll numbers, page numbers, and line numbers were different? –NO.

Don't Be Blinded by Excitement. After the music stops, re-examine the search results, and be certain that what is ignored or discarded is absolutely unrelated to the search. It's also best to write short notes on your research log as to why each search hit was un-related. *Rich Appel*

Born in Virginia? Are you sure?

As you critique your research findings, keep the time frame in mind. Here is a sample chart that could help when reference is made to a person's having been born in Virginia as early as 1728 or as late as 1850, that person could have been born in any of the following:

IL 1781-1818	MD 1775-1792	TN 176?-1803
IN 1787-1775	NC 1728-1779	WV 1769-1853
KY 1775-1792	OH 1778-1803	

When a person is said to have been born in Maryland we need to check PA and VA, especially before 1750. Each state has a different time line, so you might need to look elsewhere to find your person.

Source: *News 'n' Notes* February 1996, St. Louis Genealogical Society, St. Louis, MO.

The Laws of Genealogy author unknown

- The document containing evidence of the missing link in your research invariably will be lost due to fire, flood, or war.
- The keeper of the vital records you need will have just been insulted by another genealogist.
- Your great-great grandfather's obituary states that he died, having no issue of record.
- The town clerk you wrote to in desperation, and finally convinced to give you the information you need, can't write legibly, and doesn't have a copying machine.
- The will you need is in the safe on board the "Titanic."
- The spelling of your European ancestor's name bears no relationship to its current spelling or pronunciation.
- That ancient photograph of four relatives, one of whom is your progenitor, only carries the names of the other three.
- Copies of old newspapers have holes which occur only on last names.
- No one in your family ever did anything noteworthy, always rented property, was never sued, and was never named in wills.
- You learned that Great Aunt Matilda's executor just sold her life's collection of family genealogical materials to a flea market dealer "somewhere in New York City."
- Yours is the only last name not found among the 3 billion in the world famous Mormon Archives in Salt Lake City.
- Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate inversely proportional to the value of the data recorded.
- The 37 volume, sixteen thousand page history of your country of origin isn't indexed. The critical link in your family tree is named "Smith."

A Field Guide for Genealogists

Imagine a book part encyclopedia, part dictionary, part facts and figures, and part pocket reference guide and you have [A Field Guide for Genealogists](#). This book is as fun as it is valuable to any family historian. The



knowledge areas covered are extensive and rarely found with such detail in other research guides. Take for example the chapter on photographs. Yes, Jacobson covers the different types of photographs made over the years. And, yes, she provides practical ways to identify and roughly date a photograph. But, she goes much further. For example, pages 96–101 provide ways to identify time periods and individuals by hairstyle. Year ranges and style details are given for both men and women. There is even a practical guide to gender identification for children, especially prior to 1900. Prior to 1900 many young children would be dressed similarly. Skirts and short hair were the norm for both boys and girls. However, did you know that girls often parted their hair in the middle and boys did not? Jacobson did, and she explains this and many other interesting facts in the book.

Reading through the pages of the Field Guide, the reader will find lists for major U.S. epidemics by year; sources of surnames and their meanings; less common occupations; French, Spanish, and Russian measurement conversions; resources to look for in museums; and much more. If you are a facts and figures person, or you love top 10 lists, or if you have ever Googled a topic just to see what everyone is talking about, then you will have a tough time putting this book down. This book fills in the gaps left behind by other resource guides and research how-to books.

Jacobson, Judy; **A Field Guide for Genealogists**, 2nd Ed; Clearfield Co./Genealogical Pub; 2003; 316pp. ISBN 978-0-8063-5219-0; HCPL Call# 929.1 J

Source: Meitzler, Leland; GenealogyBlog Book Reviews; <http://www.genealogyblog.com/> Feb2012.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

Reginald F. Lewis Museum - Genealogy Series

Date: **24 March 2012** (Sat) 2:30 PM

Place: **Reginald F. Lewis Museum**, 830 E. Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21202, Hours: 10:00 AM-5:00 PM

Registration: call 443-263-1816 Fee: Museum Admission \$8 for non-members. Parking available across the street in the Dodge PMI Garage, 815 E. Pratt St. \$6 validated parking is available. For more information see: <http://www.africanamericanculture.org>

Program: **African Ancestry: Trace Your DNA, Find Your Roots.** African Ancestry, Inc. can trace your genetic ancestry through its African lineage database, the largest of its kind, which draws from over 30 countries and 200 ethnic groups. Join Gina Paige of African Ancestry to explore the cultural and scientific importance of DNA testing in the global African community. Founded in 2003 by Dr. Rick Kittles and Gina Paige, this Washington D.C. based company has today helped over an estimated 100,000 people re-connect with the roots of their family tree.

Virginia Genealogical Society 2012 -Spring Conference

Date: **20-21 April 2012** Fri Library of VA Tour 10am-4:00pm & Sat Conference 9:00am-4:00pm

Place: **Virginia Historical Society**, 428 North Blvd, Richmond, VA.

Registration: see flyer <http://www.vgs.org/stories/events/2012-spring-vgs-brochure.pdf> for details & form.
Fee \$60, or \$50 before 06Apr2012 for non-VGS members. Lunch included.

Programs: Fri- Guided Research and Tours at the **Library of Virginia**, 800 E Broad St, Richmond, VA.

Sat- **The War of 1812 in Virginia** Four sessions: **Resources and Treasures of the Virginia Historical Society**, Bankruptcy to Equity: **Using Federal Court Records**, **The War of 1812 in Virginia**: Did anything happen here?, & **Researching Your 1812 Veteran**.

Washington DC Family History Center -Workshops

Date: **05 May 2012** (Sat) 9:00 am - 3:15 pm

Place: **Washington DC Family History Center**, 10000 Stoneybrook Dr, Kensington, MD 20895

Registration: FREE. Register on-line <http://www.wdcfhc.org/conf2012/index.php> or call the Family History Center at 301-587-0042 during regular business hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:30 am-4:30 pm & 7:00 pm-9:30 pm; Friday: 9:30 am-1:00 pm; & Saturday: 9:30 am-4:30 pm.

Seminar descriptions on-line at <http://www.wdcfhc.org/conf2012/descriptions.php>

Program: **Digging into Our Roots Using 21st Century Tools** this conference is free of charge with 17 classes from beginning to advanced genealogy. The keynote speaker will be popular Teacher, Author, Blogger, and Webinar Host, DearMYRTLE, who will also present two other classes.

National Genealogical Society 2012 -Family History Conference

Date: **09-12 May 2012** (Wed-Sat)

Place: **Duke Energy Convention Center**, 525 Elm St, Cincinnati, OH.

Registration: see 16 page brochure

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2012_Conference_Registration_Brochure.pdf

Conf. Fee \$210, or **\$175** before 11Mar2011 if NGS member. Lodging, Luncheons and Social Events are extra. The drive from Bel Air is ~530 miles by taking I-70 to Columbus, OH, then south on I-71. I recommend staying away from the downtown Hyatt, Hilton, & Millennium for lower lodging costs.

Program: **The Ohio River, Gateway to the Western Frontier** This four-day conference will include more than fifty national speakers providing over one hundred lectures including: genealogical skill building, research methods, military records, working with photographs, ethnic records, migration patterns,; religious records; technology updates; and much, much more. Your days can be filled from 8:00am to 8:00pm. See NGS Flyer for details. Hosted by the Ohio Genealogical Society, and its Hamilton County Chapter.

The 2013 NGS Conference will be in Las Vegas, NV.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2012 ConferenceDate: **29 Aug-01 Sep 2012** (Wed-Sat) Wed= Librarian's Day Reg: +\$10Place: **Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex**,
2100 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd, Birmingham, AL 35203Registration: see website for details, <http://www.fgs.org/2012conference/>Download 16 page brochure: <http://fgs2012media.weebly.com/fgs-2012-conference-brochure.html>Conference Fee: \$245, or **\$195** before 01July2012. Lodging(varies), Luncheons(<\$25) and Social Events (<\$30) are extra.

Program: **Indians, Squatters, Settlers, and Soldiers** This year's FGS conference offers an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in researching their family history. Over 175 educational sessions and 13 luncheons are designed to balance the needs of genealogists at all levels, exploring a variety of records, strategies, and other tools available to those interested in researching their family history. Special sessions include a wide variety targeting members and leaders of genealogical and historical societies. In addition, special events, such as the Alabama Genealogical Society Opening Social at the Alabama Theater, the FGS Evening Social at the historic Sloss Furnaces, Spotlight on Societies, and daily sponsored lectures provide an excellent environment to meet and network with others interested in family history and genealogy.

KEEPING IN TOUCHSee our **HCGS** website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/ for the latest information.

“Like” our  at “**Harford County Genealogical Society**” (Or specifically: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989>)

We also post our upcoming events on the **BelAirPatch** (www.BelAir.Patch.com/events/)

And on  (www.DaggerPress.com)

HCGS 2012 Special Publication

Special Publication #44 titled **Harford County Land Records Vol. A.L.G. 1777-1778**, has been completed by Jon Livezey and is going to press. This Publication will be distributed to our 2012 Society members of record at during our March and May meetings.

MAY MEETING

Our Society has tentative plans for an off-site meeting on **Sunday, May 20, 2012** at **Grace United Methodist Church in Aberdeen** at **2:00 PM**. Grace, once known as Baker Church, was the ultimate successor to the 1769 / 1842 Bush Forest Chapel, the second oldest Methodist Meeting house in America. Please save the date, mark your calendars, and bring a friend.
