



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

July 2011

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Sunday, July 17, 2011** Time: **2:00 PM**

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

Program: **Harford County Railroad Families**



Our Society program for July will be “**Harford County Families Associated with the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad**” presented by Walter Holloway of HSHC. Walter has been photographing and preserving the history of the Maryland & Pennsylvania (aka MA & PA) Railroad for many years, and descends from four generations of railroaders. One of his recent efforts was the assembling of a large historical map poster of railroad tracks and stations in the county. Another of his projects has been researching and compiling the history of the MA & PA Railroad for the HSHC.

The Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad was established in 1901 by the merging of the Baltimore and Lehigh Railway with the York Southern. The railroad traced a meandering seventy-seven mile route across the rolling Maryland hills from Baltimore through Towson, Bel Air, Whiteford, then on to York, two cities only forty-five highway miles apart. The loss of a U.S. Mail contract and the encroachment of the automobile doomed passenger service in 1953, followed by freight operation from Whiteford south in 1958.

As Walter’s research progresses, he continues to gather vignettes of the people and families who made this railroad their occupation, source of income, passion, and way of life for 57 years. Walter has been gathering stories about the employees that made the railroads operate. Family names like Holloway (*no surprises here*), Jones, Emrine, Ramsey, Smith, and McConkey are a few of the surnames that Walter will discuss us. Please join us for an enlightening afternoon, and possibly a clue or bit of information about one of your ancestors.

2011-2012 HCGS DIRECTORY

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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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Thanks to our past president Arch Phillips, the Business Ledgers of the J. C. Taylor Marble Works (1878-1976), have provided our Society with useful Special Publications (SP). With the 2011 distribution of SP-43, "Business Ledgers of the J. C. Taylor Marble Works, Vol. 5," the series comes to a break, at least for the next several years, in order to respect the accepted 75-year "window of privacy." Additional ledger entries exist through 1946 and are scheduled for future publication. Ledgers covering the years 1894-1905, 1907-1924, and 1947-1976 have not been found, but we are hoping that they are being well preserved.

On the horizon is a publication by Jon Harlan Livezey, a well known and respected Harford County researcher, plus author of numerous papers and talks. Jon's publication will be an abstract of the 1777-1778 Harford County Land Records, with index to surnames for all persons mentioned, property names, and other "items of interest". The source documents are in excess of 400 pages and would be very time consuming for any of our members to consume. Jon's abstract will offer a convenient summary in an easily digestible 40 pages (give or take).

Also on the horizon, is a publication by Christopher T. Smithson, also a well known researcher in the county who has published numerous items, singularly or as co-author. The topic of Chris' publication will be the West Harford Methodist Circuit Records from 1860 to 1890.

Other topics that have been suggested to the Board, but not yet committed to publication include:

- Obits for Churchville Presbyterian Interments
- Abstracts of Harford County Wills after 1815
- Index to the "Havre de Grace Republican" newspaper Death Notices
- Abstracts from the records of the Harford County Orphans' Court
(In Harford County, Circuit Court judges sit as Orphans' Court judges)
- Harford County Manumissions

If any of these topics are of particular interest to you, or you would be willing to assist with the "leg-work", let us know at HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net or by snail-mail at: HCGS, 143 N. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014-3539.

These Publications and our Programs are the central focus of our society in its efforts to make genealogical materials available, and to improve the research skills and knowledge of members.

The Board hopes you have an enjoyable summer.

- Doug Washburn

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

PASSENGER SHIPS

Looking for a ship description, passengers, crew, and possible image of a ship that carried your ancestor? www.ShipIndex.org has a large searchable index to resources that mention vessel names. There are over 140,000 citations that are freely accessible, without subscribing or logging-in. For \$9.95, you can gain access to well over a million additional citations, from hundreds of different resources, over a 30 day period.

SLAVERY DOCUMENTS

Bills of Sale, Certificates of Freedom, Emancipations, and Manumissions have been abstracted from documents in the **District of Columbia's Recorder of Deeds Office**, and are available for purchase in three volumes from the compiler. Each volume contains a surname list of Enslaved & Free People of Color, plus a list of Slaveholders. Some of the people mentioned are historical figures.

Rogers, Helen Hoban, **Freedom & Slavery Documents in the District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds**; Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, **Vol. 1** 2007, spans 1792-1806 (250 entries) \$12, **Vol. 2** 2008, spans 1806-1816 (680 entries) \$20, **Vol. 3** 2009, spans 1816-1822 (530 entries) \$44, plus S/H, confirm pricing before payment. Paper format only. Order from: hobanrogers@mindspring.com

METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS

When a church closes its doors, they are obligated to turn over all of their records to the District Superintendent, and then transferred to the Methodist Archives for long term storage. Unfortunately, the **Lovely Lane Museum** has received many sets of closed church records in the past few months. What follows are a list of those churches. If you have any interest in these records, please contact Wanda B. Hall, Assistant Director, to determine what years and which records are available for a particular CLOSED church, plus an appointment to view these archived records.

Ames-Sudbrook, Dorguth Memorial, Fort Avenue, Light Street, Lowe Memorial, Monroe Street, Mt. Verion-Hampden (most records saved from the 2008 fire), Olive Branch, Parlett, Patterson Memorial, Payson Street, Rogers Memorial, Scott St.-EUB, South Baltimore Station, Southwest Christian Parish (Rogers Memorial, Union Square, Wilkens Ave, Frederick Ave), Strawbridge, Union Square & Monroe Street, Browns Chapel-Howard County (minutes of committees). Note: *All records are from Baltimore unless otherwise stated.*

Hall, Wanda B., "Closed Church Records," *Third Century Methodism*, Vol. 50, No. 10 +Spring 2011; Pub. The BW United Methodist Conference Historical Society. Lovely Lane Archives: 410-889-4458 or LovinMus@cavtel.net

ROOTSWEB.COM

You may have noticed that RootsWeb.com is the home of our Society's website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/> but did you know that, with Ancestry.com's support, it remains the oldest and largest free genealogy resource site.

The most successful researchers use all of the great resources on the Web including Ancestry.com and Rootsweb.com. These are the two largest genealogy websites on the Internet, where you can communicate with others, share research, and volunteer your time and skills.

The primary purpose and function of RootsWeb.com is to connect people so that they can help each other and share genealogical research. Most resources on RootsWeb.com are designed to facilitate such connections. The best ways for you to interact with others on RootsWeb.com are to make it easy for others to find you, to ask for help, and to give others help, as follows:

- Submit records you have transcribed for inclusion in their user-contributed databases.
- Upload your family tree to the *WorldConnect Project*, a database of family trees submitted by thousands of RootsWeb.com researchers.
- Post your family surnames on the *Rootsweb Surname List (RSL)*.
- Join a mailing list. Our Society makes use of mdharfor@rootsweb.com managed by Glenn Randers-Pehrson.
- Post a message to a message board.
- Add Post-it® like notes to the *Social Security Death Index (SSDI)*, the *WorldConnect Project*, or to other databases.
- Build your own free genealogy website on RootsWeb.com.
- Add a link to your website.
- Link your website to the relevant surname, county, state, and/or country resource cluster.
- Volunteer to locate, transcribe, and publish genealogical data, or help new users.

To learn more, pickup a copy of *The Official Guide to rootsweb.com*; by Gormley, Myra Vanderpool & Tana Pedersen Lord; Ancestry Pub., 2007, 117pp. pbk. ISBN 978-1-59331-309-8, MSRP \$12.99, or checkout a copy from HCPL.

Most of the materials for this article were taken from RootsWeb.com on 23Jun2011. *Rich Appel*

GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD

The basic sequence used by a researcher is to gather evidence, form a hypothesis, draw conclusions, then make a statement proving why the conclusion is supported by the evidence. This proof statement is a fundamental concept in genealogy. In order to merit confidence, each conclusion about an ancestor must have sufficient credibility to be accepted as "proved." Acceptable conclusions, therefore, meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). Each element contributes to a conclusion's credibility in a different way, as described in the table below, but all of the elements are necessary to establish proof.

GENEALOGICAL PROOF STANDARD

Element of the GPS	Contribution to Credibility
Reasonably exhaustive search	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assumes examination of a wide range of high quality sources Minimizes the probability that undiscovered evidence will overturn a too-hasty conclusion
Complete and accurate citation of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates the extent of the search and the quality of the sources Allows others to replicate the steps taken to reach the conclusion. (Inability to replicate the research casts doubt on the conclusion.)
Analysis and correlation of the collected information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitates sound interpretation of the data contributed by <i>each</i> source Ensures that the conclusion reflects <i>all</i> the evidence.
Resolution of conflicting evidence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantiates the conclusion's credibility. (If conflicting evidence is not resolved, a credible conclusion is not possible.)
Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the possibility that the conclusion is based on bias, preconception, or inadequate appreciation of the evidence Explains how the evidence led to the conclusion.

The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual (2000), Ancestry Pub, 2000, 125p (pbk).

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS**Federation of Genealogical Societies -2011 Conference**

Date: **07-10 September 2011** (Wed-Sat)

Place: **Prairie Capital Convention Center**, 1 Convention Center Plaza, Springfield, IL 62701

Registration: Fee is \$185, with pre-registration ending June 30, 2011. Luncheons, special events, and workshops are not included in the price. For more information visit www.fgs.org/2011conference/ or call 1-888-347-1500.

Program: **Pathways to the Heartland**, hosted by The Illinois State Genealogical Society. Seminar topics include: Focus on Societies (organization, projects, technology, publishing, & programs); In the Heartland -Midwestern topics; Places to research; Technology; Immigration & Migrations; Records; Military; Where They Came From (foreign research); Writing and Sharing; Church records; and Indian research..

Genealogy Conference at Kutztown UniversityDate: **September 10, 2011** (Sat) 8:30 am to 4:00 pmPlace: McFarland Student Union Building, Kutztown University, **Kutztown, PA**
Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center LibraryFor Details: go online to: <http://www.kutztown.edu/hcl> or contact: Lucy Kern, Librarian, at 484-646-4165 or PaGermanLibrary@kutztown.eduProgram: **TBA.**

The Heritage Center Library is open M-F from 10:00am-12noon; & 1:00pm-4:00pm. Fee is \$5.

2011 Baltimore Family History & Genealogy WorkshopDate: **15 October 2011** (Sat)Place: **Baltimore Maryland Stake**, Essex, MDRegistration: Registration for Classes opens late July. **No cost.**Program: Save the date and look for details www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org**GENEALOGY FEATURE****National Genealogical Society Conference 2011**

The NGS held its 2011 conference in Charlotte, SC, May 11-14, and was attended by over 2,200 persons, including me. Besides the ninety vendors in the exhibit hall, daily luncheon and banquet speakers, there were 186 seminars by 100 lecturers, over four days, from 8:00 am to 8:30 pm daily. Seminars lasted about one hour and covered topics such as Board for Certification of Genealogist (BCG) Skills, Methodology & Research, Military Records, Ethnic Research, Records and repositories, Immigration and Migration, Carolina Records, Family History Skills, Genealogical Technologies, ICAP Genealogy, Religious Records, and History & Genealogy. The conference also provided an opportunity to interact with experts like John Colleta, Pamela Sayer, Elizabeth Mills, John Humphrey, Thomas Shawker, and Thomas Jones.

The big vendors were Ancestry.com, Archives.com, FamilySearch.org, and Footnote.com, plus NARA, booksellers, software hustlers, photo restorers, DNA testers, and several genealogical societies. If you wanted to test drive software products, this was the place. There were at least fifty terminals (and 20 sales reps) available, and all lines were connected to live internet sites.



Seminars offered me the learning opportunities, and stimulation that I sought. Sessions on Family History Skills, Skill-building, and German Immigration and Migration were of particular interest. Getting exposed to methods, ideas, and research approaches *in mass* was the reason I was attending. It is imperative for us to continuing

learning and improving our knowledge and skills. We will otherwise stagnate, and lose interest in what was once our passion.

One chance discussion with a fellow attendee resulted in identifying a published genealogy for a family of interest, plus common surnames. Our correspondence has begun. What a great find!

Two of the eighteen seminars that I attended were given by John T. Humphrey, CG who is recognized internationally for his contributions to German genealogy. *Finding Your German Ancestor's Place of Origin* focused on the existence of key German records, especially those related to passports, since church records before emigration were needed to obtain a passport. Once in the Americas, these same church records were used to transfer membership to local churches. Christening, confirmation (boys & girls listed separately), marriage, and funeral records chronicled the life of almost every German immigrant. He also reminded us that Germans were obsessive record keepers. For those that preceded our immigrant ancestors, the search could become more difficult because very poor German families could not afford to record life events. I cannot wait to look at new documents and again at what was glossed-over.

In the other session *German Church Records: the heart and soul of German Genealogy*, the formality, structure, and content of records were emphasized, along with the limited vocabulary that makes them easier to understand. In the 19th century records were tabulated in columns, where earlier records were written in paragraphs, but column headings and paragraph wording were standardized. Humphrey went on to give a glossary of key German words and their English translation (ex. geburt = birth). He also provided a record content summary: Baptism -contains relationships, Marriage -contains maiden name, American church records -contain place of European origin, Burial -minimal value, and Confirmation -possible date & place of birth, but generally of little value and the least used. An important point to remember is that political boundaries changed often, especially 1800-1871, and geographic locations were stated at the time of the event (ex. Alsace was either part of Germany or France depending on the era.). With tools like these I am ready for more challenges.

What is most important to remember is that continuing education improves knowledge and skills, while helping to hone your research techniques. All of us can benefit from these experts and practitioners of genealogical research (those with CG, CGL, AG, FNGS, FASG, FUGA, & FMGS credentials). Please consider attending seminars at local society meetings, like ours, local workshops, or conferences that all provide a great opportunity at an extremely low cost. The national society conferences raise the level and provide a more diverse program, but the costs of travel and accommodations, combined with conference fees, need to be mitigated, *or tax deductible*. In this case, the conference was all fun for me, while my wife enjoyed staying with friends in Charlotte, *before we began our real vacation*.

Conference Presentation Audio Recordings (unedited) on CD ROMs are available for purchase from www.Jamb-lnc.com

Rich Appel

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our **Sunday, September 18, 2011** Society meeting will be held at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 N. MAIN ST, BEL AIR, MD 21014 at **2:00 PM**. Please save the date, mark your calendars, and invite friends.

Look for more details about our program in the September Newsletter and on our website.
