



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

July 2013

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: **Saturday, September 21, 2013** Time: **9:00 AM**
Place: **Historical Society of Harford County HQ, 143 N. Main St, Bel Air, MD 21014**
Program: **GENEALOGICAL SEMINAR**

Our guest speakers are two well-known genealogists from the Maryland area.

The morning session will feature *Rebecca Whitman Koford*.

“RESEARCHING YOUR WAR OF 1812 ANCESTOR plus THE PRESERVE THE PENSIONS PROJECT”
“GRANDMA WHERE ART THOU?”

Rebecca is a professional genealogist in American research with special emphasis in Maryland. Rebecca has been taking clients and lecturing since about 2004. She has spoken for the Banneker-Douglas Museum in Annapolis, Maryland, Kensington Family History Conferences, Baltimore Family History Workshops, the York Family History Conference in Pennsylvania, The Reginald F. Lewis Museum in Baltimore, and for groups in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. You may see her this November 17th at the Maryland State Archives lecture series. Rebecca is a member of DAR, NGS, MDHS, and former Assistant Director of the Columbia Family History Center. She taught Beginning and Advanced Genealogy courses for Howard Community College until her move in 2010. She now volunteers at the Family History Center in Frederick and as Treasurer for the National Capital Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is a coordinator for the 14th online study group known as ProGen and is currently enthusiastic about the Preserve the Pensions: War of 1812 project sponsored by FGS. Rebecca is head genealogist for ReelTributes, a genealogical documentary company, and she invites you to view her monthly blog articles at www.reeltributes.com.

The afternoon session will feature *Julia Coldren-Walker*.

“YOU BETTER WATCH OUT: OMISSIONS, ERRORS & FRAUD” and
“NEWSPAPER RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET.”

Julia began her personal genealogical research in 1967 with sporadic activity until 1987 when it became continuous. She began using the 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. She was also the guest speaker for the Harford County Genealogical Society in March, 2012.

HCGS members: FREE; Non-members: \$20; Students (bring your school ID): \$10. Seating is limited. Bring your own brown-bag lunch. Light refreshments and drinks provided to keep you going and to encourage mingling.

Check our website for any time changes, and a registration form (PDF) at

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg> **REGISTER TO LET US KNOW YOU WANT A SEAT.**

Come learn from the experts, and invite friends to join in the experience.

MEETING SCHEDULE: Spring & Fall

We hold two general program meetings per year, usually at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc.,
143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am disappointed to report that, as of this date, we have a total of twelve (12) people registered to attend our (FREE for members) September 2013 **Genealogical Seminar** with two excellent speakers talking on four interesting subjects. Read between the lines what you may.

- Doug

2013-2014 HCGS DIRECTORY

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Please consider helping our Society by becoming an Advisor at Large and volunteering to assist us with providing valuable programs and projects to our members. -Contact Doug Washburn, President.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

For the latest information see our HCGS website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcgs/	We also post our upcoming events on the BelAirPatch http://BelAir.Patch.com/events
“Like” our  at https://www.facebook.com/pages/Harford-County-Genealogical-Society/181956435224989	And on  www.DaggerPress.com
YAHOO! GROUPS http://groups.yahoo.com	HaCoGenSoc: <i>Join us after receiving your invitation.</i>

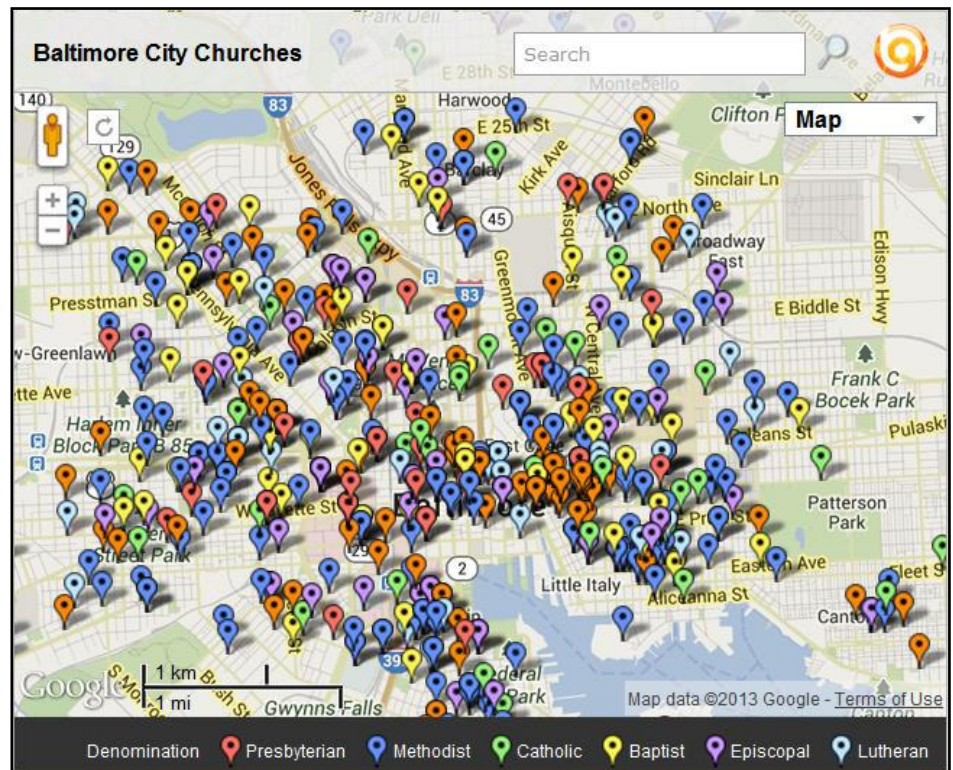
GENEALOGY FEATURE

Baltimore City Historical Church Locator

The Baltimore City Historical Church Locator online search tool provides you with a means to locate churches that were near an ancestor's dwelling. Many of our Harford County families shifted back and forth to Baltimore City. Some would exchange houses with relatives, some would move between jobs. Older folk's might give-up farming and move, and some may have been forced off their homeland for financial reasons. All of these moves provided opportunities to attend churches in Baltimore City, and to have their names recorded during events like membership, marriages, christenings, burials, and transfers.

Normally we would try to guess the name of the church that our ancestors attended then search related repositories, in *hit-or-miss* fashion, for possible family records. With this Locator tool we can quickly locate and identify pre-1900 churches near, usually within walking distance, where our ancestor lived. Before starting you need to know the address of your ancestor's dwelling, as well as the time period of their presence at that address. Knowing the denomination might help narrow the results by filtering-out unlikely churches, but do not discount any denomination. With the dwelling address in hand, you will need to convert it to a modern-day address that can be found by Google Maps Services. The tool starts with an address therefore you need an accurate address and estimated time period, before accessing the Church Locator. An easy to read six-page GUIDE with map images, examples, and useful hyperlinks to online information for converting old addresses is available on the website to help you begin your adventure.

The initial display provided by the Baltimore City Historical Church Locator is a Google Map of the city covered with hundreds of "pins" marking the address/location of pre-1900 churches in the Baltimore City Historical Church address database. You can select a denomination to filter the number of markers displayed to a manageable set of possible targets. Next, the current address of the pre-1900 dwelling is entered, so that Google Maps can generate automobile-route directions to the closest, as a bird flies, church marker. Opening the white "Description box" associated with a pin marker of interest, reveals information about the church plus a hyperlink to the Maryland State



Archives (MdSA) records collection for that church. There may also be a FamilySearch.org hyperlink to LDS Family History Library information for that church. More than one congregation could have been located in that church over time. If so, the white Description box will have page numbers displayed at the bottom right of the box, allowing you to page through the data for each congregation.

Working around the neighborhood of the ancestor's dwelling, and using the map Zoom feature, you will find a few churches that may have served your ancestors, but do not forget to clear the denomination filter and identify all of the possibilities (aka "thorough research"). Often the family attends a church of the mother's denomination affiliation, but that is only a loose rule-of-thumb.

To create this tool for researchers, developer Stephen A. Conner, recently made use of Google Maps API (application programming interface) and the work of Francis P. O'Neill, Senior Reference Librarian, MdHS titled "A Geographical Guide to Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Baltimore Houses of Worship" published in 4-parts in the **Maryland Historical Society Journal** (Vol. 49 No.3, Vol. 50 No.1 Vol. 50 No.2, & Vol. 51 No.1). Data from O'Neill's work was used to populate Conner's Baltimore City Church Locator database, and his API provided the link to Google Maps. All but a few of the churches are located downtown, within 2 miles of Howard & Baltimore Streets. One of our Society's new members, Carol Porter, Assistant Librarian at the Baltimore County Genealogical Society, helped Conner with this project.

Visit <http://ConnerGenealogy.com/BaltimoreChurchLocator.html> and take a test drive. If you have ever used Google Maps to get directions between locations you are already a novice-level operator and will soon be an expert at using this tool.

Please use our HaCoGenSoc Yahoo! Group, eMail, or USPS mail to let us know about your experience so all Society members can learn more about this research tool.

Richard Appel

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Papenfuse Retirement

The Maryland State Archives has announced the retirement of Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents effective November 1, 2013. For more info see: <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/homepage/html/retire.html>



Genealogy Roadshow To Solve Family Mysteries On PBS

PBS has announced that it will add the new series GENEALOGY ROADSHOW to its fall lineup. Part detective story, part emotional journey, GENEALOGY ROADSHOW will combine history and science to uncover the fascinating stories of diverse Americans. Each individual's past will link to a larger community history, revealing the rich cultural tapestry of America. **GENEALOGY ROADSHOW** will air **Mondays, September 23-October 14, 9:00-10:00 p.m. ET**. GENEALOGY ROADSHOW's premiere season will feature participants from four American cities: Nashville, Austin, Detroit and San Francisco, who want to explore unverified genealogical claims, passed down through family history, that may (or may not) connect them to an event or a historical figure. These cities were chosen as American crossroads of culture, diversity, industry, and history, with deep pools of potential participants and stories. After participants are chosen, experts in genealogy, history, and DNA will use family heirlooms, letters, pictures, historical documents, and other clues to hunt down more information. These experts will enlist the help of local historians to add color and context to the investigations, ensuring every artifact and every name becomes a clue in solving the mystery. Residents of Austin, Detroit, Nashville, and San Francisco are invited and encouraged to submit their personal stories as GENEALOGY ROADSHOW will unearth family and community secrets, reveal notable relatives and discover unexpected stories that connect the past to the present. Many answers will be revealed on camera before a local audience, in a historic building relevant to the participating cities' – and the participants' – histories.

Press Release at <http://www.pbs.org/about/news/archive/2013/genealogy-roadshow-natl/> 09 May 2013

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) Is Discontinued

Personal Ancestral File often called PAF, has been a popular and free, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints MS-DOS genealogy program, and later a Windows program, for many years. Beginning July 15, 2013, PAF will be retired and will no longer be available for download or support. Advances in technology, strong alternatives from third parties, and the need to focus on the latest LDS / FamilySearch initiatives have diminished the need for PAF as part of the FamilySearch offering. The past several years have seen Ancestral Quest™, Legacy Family Tree™, and RootsMagic™ introduced as significantly better alternatives to PAF. These products also all have free versions. FamilySearch now recommends all PAF users to move to a more robust modern product. Your PAF database file can easily be imported to many of the FamilySearch applications or the universal GEDCOM (GENealogical Data COMMunication) file, then imported to other third party applications.

Ref: FamilySearch blog at <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/personal-ancestral-file-is-discontinued/>

U.S. Version of "Who Do You Think You Are?"

NBC had a very successful series in "Who Do You Think You Are?" but canceled the television programs after three seasons. Producers Lisa Kudrow and Dan Bucatinsky have since negotiated a deal with TLC Network to air eight one-hour episodes in the new season and now have announced the premiere date: **July 23 at 9 PM Eastern.** Ref: <http://www.TLC.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/about-the-show/about-the-show.htm>

Howard County Marriage Licenses

Many are aware of the once fast, low cost, no waiting period, marriages in Elkton, Cecil County, MD, especially for couples from New Jersey and surrounding areas, but do not forget about Ellicott City, Howard County, MD, and a short B&O RR day trip away from Baltimore City. I found index entries for an uncle's 1931 marriage, and a grandparent's 1914 marriage through the Howard County Historical Society's online database of indices of Licenses (1860-1939), and then ordered a color copy of the actual certificates.

Go to <http://www.HCHSmdSearch.org> then click-on **SEARCH MARRIAGE LICENSES** in the header. At the bottom of the page, enter the SURNAME of interest (groom or bride) then click **SEARCH!** The results are displayed as a numbered list of the couples' names with links to the "index card" containing the places of residence, ages, and date of marriage. A printable Marriage License Order form (pdf) is also available online.

Volunteer Help Wanted in Maryland

FamilySearch.org and the **Maryland State Archives** have begun a joint venture to digitize Will and Probate Records held at the Maryland Archives. This important project will ensure the preservation of these vital records and make them more readily accessible to the public.

Records from Baltimore County, Carroll County and Caroline County will be prepared by local volunteers and digitally imaged by FamilySearch.org. These documents date from the mid-1800's to the mid-1900's.



FamilySearch is currently seeking volunteers to assist with this work. If you have an interest and can contribute a 4 hour shift on a day of your choice at the Maryland State Archives, look for details at <http://fsmav.blogspot.com> (FamilySearch - Maryland Archive Volunteers). This project got underway on June 11, with the first series consisting of 7 boxes of Carroll County Estate Papers prepared, indexed, and ready for digitization by a FamilySearch camera on June 12.

Ref: online at <http://fsmav.blogspot.com/> : accessed 20 June 2012.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

2013 Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference

Date: **21-24 August 2013** (Wed-Sat) +Librarian's Day Tuesday Aug 20th

Place: **Fort Wayne, Indiana**

Registration: See: <http://www.fgs.org> for details.

Early Bird Discounted Registration ends July 1st

see preview flyer at http://www.fgs.org/upload/files/FGS2013_Conference_Flyer.pdf

Program: **Journey Through Generations.** The conference begins by targeting society leaders, volunteers, and anyone who wants to make a difference within a genealogical organization. Other sessions will include basic genealogy skills and sound methodology, and embrace relevant and popular niches on immigration, transportation, genetics and DNA, writing and publishing, technology, military records, and online resources.

PS- Fort Wayne, Indiana, is also home to *The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library*, a HCGS member.



Harford County Genealogical Society -SeminarDate: **21 Sep 2013** (Sat) 9:00 am – 3:30 pmPlace: **The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters**,
143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014Registration: Pre-event-Registration open now. Members FREE, non-members \$20, Students \$10. Seating is limited. See also <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/>Program: Four one-hour seminars. Rebecca Koford- **“RESEARCHING YOUR WAR OF 1812 ANCESTOR & THE PRESERVE THE PENSIONS PROJECT”** and **“GRANDMA WHERE ART THOU?”**.In the afternoon, Julia Coldren-Walker- **“YOU BETTER WATCH OUT: OMISSIONS, ERRORS & FRAUD”** and **“NEWSPAPER RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET.”**

Bring your own brown-bag lunch. Light refreshments and drinks provided.

**2013 Baltimore Family History & Genealogy Workshop**Date: **12 October 2013** (Sat) 8:00 am – 4:00 pmPlace: **Baltimore Maryland Stake**, 120 Stemmers Run Rd, Essex, MD 21221
(nr MD702 & MD150)Registration: Registration for Workshops opens late July. **No cost !**Program: Save the date and look for details www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org in
August**2013 The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Conference**Date: **05 October 2013** (Sat)Place: **Holiday Inn & Conference Center**, 2000 Loucks Rd (PA74 & US30) York, PA 17408Registration: See: <http://www.magsgen.com> for details and flyer *in August*.Program: **New Sources for Mid-Atlantic Germans**

- James Beidler: Searching for a Pennsylvania German Ancestor
- Beth Levitt: Introduction to the National Archives in Philadelphia
- Patrick Connelly: Introduction to the National Archives in New York City
- James Beidler: Finding a European Village of Origin

**2014 National Genealogical Society Conference**Date: **7-10 May 2014** (Wed-Sat) +Bus tour on Tuesday May 6thPlace: **Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel, Richmond VA.**Registration: online later this year at: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>Contact: conference@ngsgenealogy.org or 1-800-473-0060Program: **Virginia: The First Frontier**, will explore the records and history that draw so many back to their roots in the Old Dominion. Lecture topics will also include migration into, within, and out of the region down the Great Wagon Road, over the Appalachian Mountains, and across the south to Texas and beyond. Save the date! See online Program brochure at:http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014_Announcement_Brochure.pdf.**FUTURE HCGS MEETING**Our Society has planed an all-day Genealogical Seminar on **Saturday Sept 21, 2013** from **9:00 am** to 3:30 pm at The Historical Society of Harford County Headquarters, 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

There will be four one-hour seminars given by well known genealogical lecturers that will share some of their expertise and experiences with the audience. Please plan on attending and bring some friends.

See our Newsletters, our website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/ other online venues, Facebook, BelairPatch, The_Dagger, and our HaCoGenSoc Yahoo!_Group, for the latest information.