



NEWSLETTER

of the

HARFORD COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

November 2013

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

Date:

Spring 2014

Place:

An off-site Harford County venue is in the planning process.

Program:

TBD

Look for upcoming details, and invite friends to join in the experience.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our September 21 seminar was our best attended event in quite some time. While we were disappointed that we did not attract very many “people off the street,” we did get one returning and three new members that we are glad to have. Welcome.

Our seminar questionnaire results lead us to believe that this is the correct approach for our future presentations. The all-day event made it worthwhile for some of our semi-remote membership to travel to Bel Air.

Additionally, if we can work our way thru the technical piece, we hope to have a webinar for next year’s program. This will allow our remote members (about 2/3 of our membership lives more than two hours away) with a computer and high-speed internet connection to view the presentations and hear the speakers in real-time. We are obtaining the software in the near future and hope to have the bugs worked out for the fall of 2014 program.

Our October board meeting also seemed to be more productive than we sometimes are. I am pleased to report that we have our eye on an interesting site for our “spring outing.” You may recall that we decided to eliminate the box-lunch aspect of this event, so this will just be a visit to a local site of historical and genealogical interest. One of our board members is doing recon and we will keep you posted on the progress.

*** I am also pleased to report that we will be providing a second “included” Special Publication for 2013 and reasonably confident that you will also be receiving two Special Publications for 2014. ***

Lastly, we are changing our 2014 membership dues structure. We have not increased our dues for several years, and we are choosing to implement a two-tier system. IF you are willing to take an e-mail version of the newsletter, the dues will be \$12 per household per year (a \$3 reduction), but IF you still want the paper version, the dues are \$19. This price difference represents our cost to print and mail six yearly newsletters. Special Publications will continue to be printed and mailed.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. Travel safe. - Doug

MEETING SCHEDULE: Spring & Fall

We hold two program meetings per year, one at an offsite venue, and one at The Historical Society of Harford County Inc., 143 North Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014.

GENEALOGY HAPPENINGS

GENEALOGY CIRCLE at State Library Resource Center -Upcoming events

Date: **09 Nov 2013** (Sat) 10:00am-12noon

Place: **Enoch Pratt Central Library: [400 Cathedral St, Baltimore, MD](#)**

2nd floor, POE Room **No Fees** For information call library's

Contact: Pratt's Maryland Dept **410-396-5468** or e-mail: mdx@prattlibrary.org



Program: **Brick Wall Session**

Ancestors you just can't find? Where do you look when your research seems to have come to a standstill? Attend our brick wall session, for those who have genealogy searches that have them stumped. Learn from fellow genealogist's research. Discuss your challenges or help others solve them by sharing your successful strategies and favorite tools. The more who attend, the more likely we are to find solutions.

2014 National Genealogical Society Conference

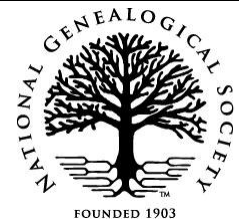
Date: **7-10 May 2014** (Wed-Sat) +Bus tour on Tuesday May 6th

Place: **Greater Richmond Convention Center and Marriott Hotel,**

[403 N Third St, Richmond VA 23219](#). Hotels are selling out now.

Registration: online begins 01 Dec 2013 at: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

Contact: conference@ngsgenealogy.org or 1-800-473-0060



Program: **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 (a colonial American improved trail transiting the Great Appalachian Valley from Pennsylvania through Maryland along I-81 to North Carolina, and from there to Georgia.), over the Appalachian Mountains, and across the south to Texas and beyond. The program will feature ten tracks per day covering a broad array of topics including records for Virginia and its neighboring states; migration into and out of the region; military records; state and federal records; ethnic groups including African Americans, Germans, Irish, and Ulster-Scots; methodology; analysis and problem solving; and the use of technology including genetics, mobile devices, and apps useful in genealogical research. Save the date! See Program brochure at:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014 Announcement Brochure.pdf](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/galleries/new-gallery/2014%20Announcement%20Brochure.pdf).

2013-2014 HCGS DIRECTORY

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GENEALOGY FEATURE

Family History Center Genealogy Workshop



Again the LDS FHC Genealogy Workshop in Essex, MD, hosted a wonderful set of 54 one-hour genealogy related seminars held in 12 classrooms for over 300 attendees in October. Handouts from all seminars are posted online as pdf files for downloading at <http://www.baltimorefamilyhistoryworkshop.org/Classes.html>

I attended the keynote address by DearMyrtle, plus five seminars presented by MacInnes, Singhal, and McGhie (3). Speakers Koford, Coldren-Walker, and Barnes, who have spoken at HCGS programs in the past, were also among the 28 lecturers. Furthermore, there were a dozen experts available all day long for individual consultations.

DearMyrtle (blog.dearmyrtle.com), in her opening address, “**Digging Into Our Roots, Using 21st Century Tools**” reminded us that we cannot do all of our research online for two reasons: most data is not there, and what is there is susceptible to errors! She also promoted the benefits of the Flip-Pal[®] Mobile Scanner (\$150 and up) for all books, and off-site scanning. Volunteering or giving-back was encouraged with recommendations such as: FamilySearch.org Indexing, Find-A-Grave.com, and USGenWeb (www.mdgenweb.org). She asked us to consider spending time at the Maryland State Archives helping with processing records, and keyboarding data, or some other task. And she urged us to improve our skills, techniques, and knowledge by visiting sites like FamilySearch.org/wiki/, RootsTech.org, and blog.GeneaWebinars.com.

Angela McGhie’s first seminar titled “**Discovering Historic Newspapers,**” revealed over 20 URL’s for specific newspapers and indexes for groups of newspapers. She spent time discussing newspaper research hints and tips, plus an inventory of typical genealogical information that could be found. Obviously, the first step is to uncover the newspapers that were available at the places and times of your research subject/ancestor. For the USA from 1690 to present, the Library of Congress’s Chronicling America project should be your first stop (http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/search_directory_advanced.html).



Sharon MacInnes talked about tax records, one of our most overlooked resources, in her presentation “**Nothing’s Sure but Death and Taxes: Using Tax Records in Genealogy.**” Not only did she cover many different types of tax records, she also spanned the time from early 1700’s to 1918. One excellent point was that we need to search all of the years that our subject/ancestor lived in a particular area –tax evasion was a game played from the get-go. Some of the genealogical data that can be uncovered in tax records are: birth-marriage-death years, changes of residence, family groups, occupation, economic status, who lived near who, and slave information. Places to look for tax records include:

<http://FamilySearch.org/catalog-search/>

<http://search.Ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=142> (Tax Lists), and

<http://search.Ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1264> (U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918).

For information limited to Harford County, MD try HSHC <http://hshccatalog.org/index.htm> and search for “tax lists” or individual surnames.

Angela McGhie’s second seminar titled “**The FamilySearch.org Research WIKI**” revealed how you can learn to do genealogical research in general and specifically on FamilySearch.org (https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page). The term “Wiki” describes a website that allows collaborative editing of its content and structure by its users. In this case users submit

Research Wiki

articles for consideration and posting that are focused on helping others doing genealogical research, both on FamilySearch and elsewhere. Searching on this site is not by SURNAMENES, but keywords and geographic locations. There are 400+ self-paced How To Research Courses, many of which are in video clip format (10-60 minutes). All of you are encouraged to explore this Wiki, not only for your own benefit, but to share your experiences with your Society colleagues. Send articles to HaCoGenSoc@verizon.net c/o Editor, for distribution or publication.

Cheryl Singhal presented two sessions on Brick Walls (aka situations that stymie your research progress), with the first being “**Brick Walls: They Can Come Down**” and the other being a panel discussion of actual problems previously submitted by workshop registrants. In the first session she concentrated on generic suggestions for making progress: be flexible, do not trust dates, be imaginative, be creative, think outside of the box, do not focus on linear thinking, and re-look at all of your notes and documents, because we often miss the obvious. Of the premier suggestions, creating a Chronology (list of the subject’s life events) and a Timeline (visual portrayal of world events integrated with the subject’s life events). Consider how many of us forget that our subject/ancestor’s life coincided with the Mexican American War, the War of 1812, the great depression, or the formation of new counties.



Angela McGhie’s third seminar titled “**Creating an Effective Research Plan**” may have hit the mark for many of you. She presented elements of a research process, a super simple informal Research Plan, and a simplistic approach to capturing source reference details. The basic elements of a plan are: **Research Objective/Question** (what do you specifically want to find about ONE person or family), **Known Facts** (whatever details you know about the individual, and what records have already been searched), pausing to **Study the Locality** (if unfamiliar), **Sources** (select the relevant records for a “reasonably exhaustive” search), **Access** (determine where to locate those sources, then sort them in ease of access and probability of meeting your objective sequence), and **Evaluate** (determine if your objective was met, and if it was, then select a new objective, if not circle back to Sources and seek additional records). A key tenet of a plan is to STOP when you come to a fork in the road (aka tangent path opportunity), add this distraction to this or a different plan, and then return to your original plan. The shotgun (hit everything) approach to research is not linear and will slow your progress. A Brick Wall might be the place for the “hit everything” approach, but it also means you are out of reasonable options. To help define a reasonable search, an Original Records [Selection] Table is available as a jpg file that cross-references information to most likely records) at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/images/9/99/Record_Selection_Table.jpg . Her online “Research Plan & Log” form was a simple form consisting of a 2-row heading for Subject/ancestor’s name, and Objective statement, followed by a table of 3 columns: Question, Citation & Date accessed, Details/Comments, with separate rows for each question. MS Word and MS Excel are good programs to use for your log. Setup pages in landscape orientation, put the filename, and page numbers in the footer so that sheets can be kept together. Copy and Paste citations into your log, ignoring formal syntax structure –just capture the source citation as presented. Capture findings into your log using Copy & Paste to avoid spelling and typing errors. Work in the program NOT ON PAPER so that the rows dynamically expand in height to accept your data, and Save your work often. In summary, keep your plan simple, specific, sequential, short, and stay focused.

Richard Appel

Please consider helping our Society by becoming an Advisor at Large and volunteering to assist us with providing programs and projects valuable to our members.

-Contact Doug Washburn, President.

GENEALOGY TIDBITS

Website Samplings

CyndisList.com A card catalog of over 327,000 online resource links for genealogists by Cyndi Ingle Howells that is updated daily. Use it to find record locations to conduct your research.

FultonHistory.com What started with postcards has grown into a major source of digitized Newspapers by Tom Tryniski. There are Old Fulton documents and lists, but it touts a collection of over 22,000,000 pages of mostly New York newspapers.

FamilySearch.org/learn/wiki Get research advice, or learn where to find record collections in over 75,304 articles. We all need to set aside 25 minutes each week to complete one or two lessons.

DNA-Testing-Adviser.com/DNA-Testing-Guide.html A 12 page guide titled "How To Identify Ancestors And Confirm Relationships Through DNA Testing," 2009, by Richard Hill.

Veterans Administration Cemetery Index of burial locations of veterans and their family members in over 350 VA National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries, various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries, and for some veterans buried in private cemeteries where the grave was marked after 1997 with a government grave marker. Go to the Veterans Administration website:

<http://gravelocator.com.va.gov/index.html> The following sample is for the 13 cemeteries in Maryland.

Aberdeen Proving Ground Cemetery
Annapolis National Cemetery
Antietam National Battlefield Site
Baltimore National Cemetery
Cheltenham Veterans Cemetery
Crownsville Veterans Cemetery
Eastern Shore Veterans Cemetery

Edgewood National Cemetery
Garrison Forest Veterans Cemetery
Loudon Park National Cemetery
Point Lookout Confederate Cemetery
Rocky Gap Veterans Cemetery
US Naval Academy

Random sample of data for one burial:

MARCKINI, JOSEPH S/O RICHARD E

DATE OF BIRTH: 08/10/1966

DATE OF DEATH: 08/10/1966 [infant son of veteran]

BURIED AT: SECTION D SITE 3X

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND CEMETERY

COMMANDER, APG SUPPORT ACTIVITY ATTN: STEP-SB (TRANS OFFICER) GUNPOWDER, MD 21010

UNKNOWN RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN

SP5 ARMY

Note: The Arlington National Cemetery provides information on service members buried there. The American Battle Monuments Commission provides information on service members buried in overseas cemeteries.

FamilySearch RECORDS for Maryland Historical Record Collections

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list> Filter by "MARYLAND" (accessed Oct 2013)

Baltimore Passenger Lists, 1820-1948 Browse Images 25 Jun 2012

Baltimore, Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels and Airplanes, 1954-1957 16,952 28 Aug 2013

Births and Christenings, 1650-1995 199,433 10 Mar 2012

Civil War Service Records of Confederate Soldiers, 1861-1865 43,508 21 Apr 2012

Civil War Service Records of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865 642,857 16 May 2012

Deaths and Burials, 1877-1992 3,709 26 Feb 2013

Marriages, 1666-1970 256,134 05 Mar 2012

Naturalization Indexes, 1797-1951 85,222 07 Mar 2013

Naturalization Petitions, 1906-1931 45,165 07 Mar 2013

Probate Estate and Guardianship Files, 1796-1940 89,727 09 Apr 2013

Register of Wills Books, 1629-1999 Browse Images 14 Jun 2013

Enoch Pratt Library Website resources

[A Guide to Genealogical Research in the Maryland Department](#) - A guide that will help you get started on your own genealogical research. Includes information about genealogical resources in the Maryland Department Collection, useful websites, and how the Maryland Department can help you with your genealogical research.



[A Guide to Genealogical Research in the Periodicals Department](#)

[Indexes to Death and Marriages in Maryland Newspapers](#)

[Newspapers](#) - current and historical newspapers maintained by the Periodicals Department.



[Other Genealogical Resources in the Periodicals Department](#)

[African American Genealogy](#) - includes information on how African American genealogy differs from genealogy for other ethnic backgrounds, information on how to find records and documents and where to go to get started.

[Determining Soundex Codes](#) (1:16 min. tutorial) - Use this video tutorial to determine the soundex code for last names.

[Locating Passenger Arrival Information at the Port of Baltimore](#) (3:50 min. tutorial) - This video tutorial will provide you with basic instruction in finding immigrant arrival information at the Port of Baltimore using microfilm held in the Maryland Department.

[Preserving Your Family History](#) - The photographs, letters, documents, and newspaper clippings that you cherish today could be even more valuable for generations to come. Handling them correctly now will help preserve your family history for the future.

Did You Know

- Early immigrants listed on a ship's departure manifest often failed to arrive at their destination, because about a third of the initial passengers died of disease or drowning, and frequently ships sank in-route. Look closely at arrival list remarks, but if there is no arrival list, search for catastrophes by ship name.
- Not all of our ancestors who became citizens filed a Declaration of Intent to become naturalized. An 1862 law allowed honorably discharged Army veterans of any war to Petition for naturalization after only 1 year of residence in the United States, and without previously having filed a Declaration of Intent. An 1894 law extended the same no-previous-declaration-filing privilege to honorably discharged 5-year veterans of the Navy or Marine Corps. Later over 192,000 aliens were naturalized between May 9, 1918, and June 30, 1919, under an act of 1918, that allowed aliens serving in the U.S. armed forces during "the present war" to Petition the courts for naturalization without making a Declaration of Intent or proving 5 years of residence.

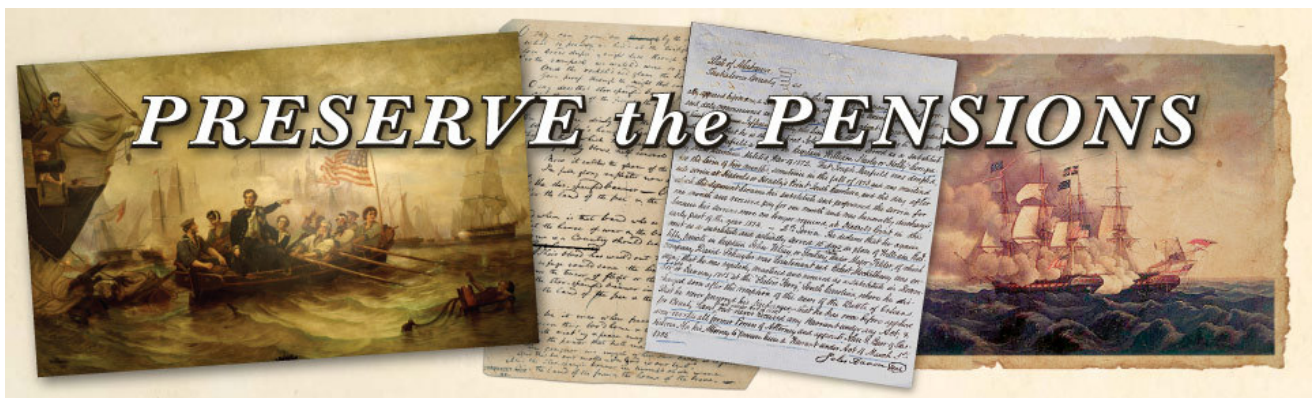


Ref: NARA Naturalization Records "Exceptions to the General Rule -Third major exception" online at <http://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/naturalization.html> : accessed October 2013.

- Y-DNA comparison tests are widely proclaimed for uniting participating contemporary (tested and living) relatives so that relationships described in each family tree version can be corroborated. A complete 111-marker test (~\$360) will yield a large number of contemporaries with multiple (12-marker or more) matches and eventually a likely common ancestor within 30 generations. If you have not created an extensive tree portraying more than 4 generations, then you are really casting a net for extensive results by a *more successful* genealogist not confirmations. Filtering with a large number of marker regions generates a very large quantity of low-count marker matches and may not be cost effective, so start with a less expensive 37-marker (~\$170) or 12-marker (~\$50) sample. The number of those contemporaries with matches of 37-markers (any relative within 8 generations) or 12-markers will be sizeable, and require you to examine all of their unlikely extensive trees (GEDCOM files usually not posted) for a possible common ancestor. If this effort becomes overwhelming or non-productive, then consider upgrading the results for your on-file sample to 67, or 111-marker reference sample. It has been over two years since I purchased a 67-marker (~\$270) Y-DNA test sample from FamilyTreeDNA (different than AncestryDNA, Genebased Systems, DNA Consultants, Oxford Ancestors, etc.) and so far it has identified fifty-six contemporaries matching in the 12-marker region, but only three of those matching in the expanded 25-marker region, none of the 25-marker matches have yet to be proven to be members of my known five generation tree. If you have a success or failure story, please share it with fellow society members.



by: Richard Appel



War of 1812 Pension Digitization Project

The Pension Records from the War of 1812 are among the most requested documents at the National Archives. Unfortunately, **these fragile documents are in urgent need of digitization**. In support of this monumental task of **digitizing 7.2 million pages**, Ancestry.com has provided a dollar-for-dollar matching grant, so every dollar contributed will make four more pages accessible, indexed, and **free to everyone**.

DONATE NOW

Or mail your tax deductible contributions payable to:

FGS-War of 1812
PO BOX 200940,
AUSTIN TX 78720-0940

2014 Membership Dues

Enclosed is our 2014 Membership Application and Renewal form for your convenience. Payment is requested before **February 15, 2014**. Additional forms are available on our [website](#). We are always interested in your thoughts for improving our Society. Please jot down your ideas in the SUGGESTIONS section of the form.

Your support allows the Society to continue to publish research works, share information, help improve your research skills, and distribute this Newsletter.

2014 DUES with **USPS** Delivered Newsletters are: **\$19.00** per household

2014 DUES with **e-Mail** Delivered Newsletters are: **\$12.00** per household

KEEPING IN TOUCH

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

FUTURE HCGS MEETING

Our Society is planning a Sunday afternoon event at an offsite location in Harford County for its Spring Meeting. Please look for additional information, and plan on attending with a few friends.

See our Newsletters, our website www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdhcg/meetings.htm or other online venues, Facebook, BelairPatch, The_Dagger, and our HaCoGenSoc YAHOO!Group, for the latest information.
