The Baltimore County Genealogical Society

# THE NOTEBOOK

Volume 40 Issue 4 (No. 178) P.O. Box 10085 – Towson, MD 21285-0085 December 1, 2024

# Research Tips of the Quarter

## Untapped Resource: Apprenticeship Records

*by Ken Zimmerman and Lisa Lisson*

As Alan N. Miller reminds us in the Introduction to his book, East Tennessee's Forgotten Children: Apprentices from 1778 to 1911, the practice of apprenticeship "spread to the colonies along with other English customs but gradually became less of a method of training in the professions and crafts, developing instead into a system whereby children who were or were likely to become indigent could be supported without cost to the local government." In Tennessee, in fact, the term "orphan" was broadened to include not only fatherless children but also "any child as bindable whose father had abandoned him or utterly failed and refused to support him."

Since apprentices were separated from their families at an early age, if your ancestor was apprenticed, his/her record could serve as the "missing link" to generations of elusive ancestors. It is sometimes possible to find a county's records of indenture in the original; however, as in Mr. Miller's case, even when those records have disappeared, you can reconstruct them by combing through the original court minutes of the pertinent counties themselves.

Apprenticeship records ordinarily provide the date of the record, name of the apprentice, his/her age, and the master's name; however, on occasion, they also furnish a parent's name, the trade, date of birth, and other useful details. If you have lost the trail of an ancestor but have not considered apprenticeship records as a source, you may wish to make them the next item on your research agenda. (*Genealogical.com August 28, 2024)*

**Further Resources:**

Maryland Genealogical Society Journal Vol. 49, no. 1, 2008, "Maryland Apprenticeship Records" by Allender Sybert

Myers, Margaret E. "Frederick County Indentures [1794-1808]." Western Maryland Genealogy 4 (July 1988) through 6 (October 1990).

Peden, Henry C., Jr. "Orphans and Indentured Children of Baltimore County, Maryland, 1777-1797". Lewes, Del.: Colonial Roots, 2005.

Peden, Henry C., Jr. "Children of Harford County, Indentures and Guardianships, 1801-1830". Westminster, Md.: Family Line Publications, 1994.

**Note**—Member research contributions to the *Notebook* are always welcome!

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# Tips of the Quarter *(continued from p.1)*

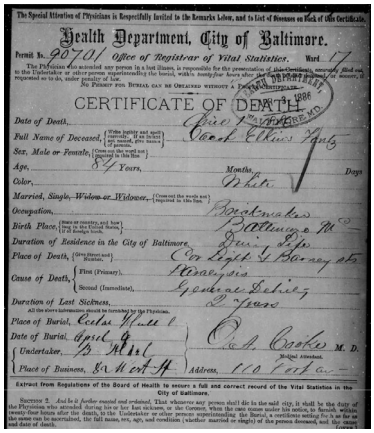
*By Kenn Zimmerman*

The cemetery tombstone date is not always correct. You should validate with other primary sources such as the newspaper obituary and a death certificate. For example, Jacob Elkins Fontz's tombstone, located at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Brooklyn, Maryland displays his death date as April 1, **1888.**

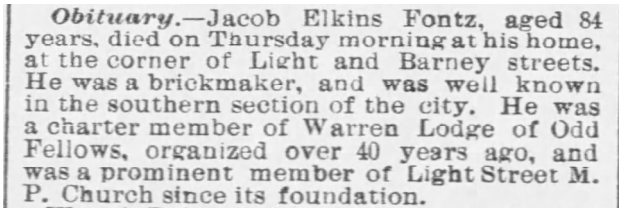
Photo by Michael Minnich

The tombstone is not always accurate. In this case it is off by two years.

His death certificates shows April 1, **1886** .




His April 3, **1886** obituary in the Baltimore Sun **.**



*Obituary.*—Jacob Elkins Fontz, aged 84 years, died on Thursday morning at his home, at the corner of Light and Barney streets. He was a brickmaker, and was well known in the southern section of the city. He was a charter member of Warren Lodge of Odd Fellows, organized over 40 years ago, and was a prominent member of Light Street M. P. Church since its foundation.

## OldNews.com by MyHeritage

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The Maryland newspapers you can search are the following:

- Evening Capital and Maryland Gazette
- The Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser
- Maryland Independent
- The Maryland Herald
- Maryland Suffrage News
- Il Risorgimento Italiano Nel Maryland
- Maryland Free Press
- Maryland Women's News
- Maryland Suffrage News

Newspapers on this site have been found from the 1600's to 2023. Many of these newspapers are not found in other online newspaper search engines.

# Four French WWI Sailors Buried at Saint Mary's (Govans) Cemetery Honored Annually

*by Dan Phelan*

*Mevel's Ship "Amarel Cicile"*

During WWI, French navy sailing ships visited Baltimore to load supplies for the Allied war effort. One of those ships was the *Amarel Cicile* in August 1918. While in port, one sailor, Chief Gunner **Joseph Mevel**, who had two years of service including one year at the German front, drowned while swimming at Port Covington.

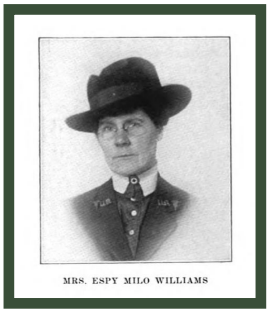
In October 1918, several French Navy ships came into the port of Baltimore with crews suffering from the Spanish Flu. Most recovered, but three sailors were hospitalized at the Baltimore Marine Hospital but despite best efforts, all three died. **Pierre Chetodal** and **Louis Gouger** of the ship *Thiers* died in October 1918. **Louis Brazzard** of the ship *Almandral* also died that October.

*Chetodal and Gouger's Ship "Theirs"*

*Brazzard's Ship "Almandral"*

Since no next of kin for these four men could be located, their remains had to stay in this country and were buried at St. Mary's of the Assumption Cemetery on Homeland Avenue by **Father Hartwell**. The sailors were given a military funeral courtesy of the Senior Naval Officer in charge of the port at the time.

These graves are protected under Articles 224 and 226 of the Treaty of Versailles which ended World War I. The American Legion has guardianship over these graves under the auspices of the Treaty.



MRS. ESPY MILO WILLIAMS

Shortly after the burials, Mrs. **Emily Raine Williams**, while visiting the grave of Miss **Marie Moss**, the first Maryland Army nurse to die in service to her country in WWI, came across the four sailors' graves that became known as "The Four Frenchman." Emily, herself a WWI nurse, began an annual remembrance of the four graves by placing a French flag and wildflowers on the graves. Word spread of her determination to remember and honor these sailors, and other people, mostly parishioners of St. Mary's, began joining her during her annual visit.

For years the graves were personally tended by Emily. In the mid-1920's she approached the **Baltimore Council of the American Legion** who agreed to accept permanent responsibility of the care and annual memorialization of these four allies.

Each year on the first Saturday in November at 11 a.m. – the French Memorial Day – the American Legion Posts #20 and #137, in cooperation with the Parish of St. Mary's of the Assumption, hold a memorial ceremony at the graves of the French Sailors. It is often attended by representatives of the French Embassy as well as French Officers stationed at the U.S. Naval Academy. Not only is it a moving tribute to our allies, but also one that recalls the many WWI and WWII American casualties buried in France, who are also honored annually by the French nation.

Brazzard and Chetodal share a headstone. There are individual headstones for Gouger and Mevel. There is also a central monument supplied by France with all four names listed on it. Photos of the markers are shown on their individual memorial pages on Findagrave.com.

# Recovering My Late Mother's DNA

*By Beverly Parsons*

It was 2015, when I started writing to turn family history facts into stories about my ancestors. I wrote my first story about my maternal grandmother, Marianna Buck (nee Gorecki). I spread my research findings on the dining room table: a baptismal record from Łabiszyn, Poland, a death certificate, and a folder of notes from conversations with my aunts about their early years growing up in East Baltimore. I had also gathered documents and notes about my grandfather's birth family "Boch" later spelled "Buck" after emigrating from Germany to America in 1853.

I enjoyed listening to interviews on the radio program, *This American Life*, about a man searching for the truth about whether his uncle was really his biological father. Some years before his father died, his uncle told Lennard Davis he had a secret to tell him but couldn't do so until his father died. It took Lennard twenty years after receiving this news to verify that his uncle was indeed his father. Lennard was able to get his late father's DNA analyzed using a tissue sample at the hospital pathology lab where his father had undergone surgery. Apparently, many hospital pathology labs preserve tissue samples in paraffin wax.

*Elsie Parsons nee Buck*

I had been researching my family history for some years now. I was inspired by a chart I found in my parents' house sent to my father by a cousin in 1995, asking him to fill in our birth family names and dates of birth, marriage, and death. But the family history that has most caught my attention is about the ancestors in my mother's paternal line. Many of them lived in Fells Point and Highlandtown after their arrival from Germany. My second great-grandfather, Heinrich Wilhelm Buck was identified as a tailor in the Baltimore City Directories and two of his sons, John and Louis, were saloon keepers over many years. I spent late nights at the computer searching on Newspapers.com, hoping to find the names of their saloons and any activity that might have taken place in those neighborhoods. My mother didn't tell me much about her father's Buck family, only that my grandfather and his brother were coopers and made whiskey barrels. Until I began researching their past, I didn't even know they were German. I wanted to know as much as I could about them. Learning about Lennard Davis' experience I wondered if I could get my late mother's DNA analyzed for ethnicity. Maybe I could eventually find shared matches with whom I could share family stories and learn more about this family line. It hadn't occurred to me to ask my mother about testing her DNA when she was alive.

My mother had surgery at a Baltimore hospital several years before she died in 2016. Would their pathology lab have a tissue sample from that surgery? The lab staff were very friendly, but they could not test the DNA sample at their lab. They said I would have to find an outside DNA lab and they would be happy to send it there for processing. I searched for DNA testing companies but could only locate the ones that processed DNA in living people. I held out for the possibility someone in the world of DNA testing could help me.

In 2019, I attended the largest genealogy conference in the world, *Roots Tech*, in Salt Lake City, Utah. It was there I met Joscelyn McBain at the exhibition booth for her Australian company, *totheletterDNA.* She agreed to help me except she would have to find a U.S. based company because a tissue sample from the lab would not hold up after mailing it overseas.

Months passed and not all companies Joscelyn identified were able to process the sample given its preservation as formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) tissue, which makes DNA more challenging to process. Through a series of emails between the DNA processing lab, Joscelyn, the hospital lab, and myself, my mother's DNA was now in a raw data set.

The next challenge proved to be submitting the data to a public DNA company so I could view my mother's ethnicity and begin to look for matches. Joscelyn uploaded the data to GEDmatch, an online service to compare autosomal DNA data files from different testing companies. The most obvious finding was that I am my mother's daughter, but I wanted

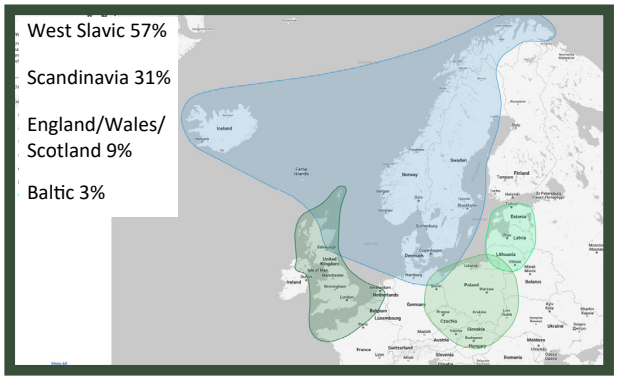
# Recovering My Late Mother's DNA

*(Continued from p. 4)*

her ethnicity estimate on a colorful map image which GEDmatch did not provide at the time. Could we find another company who could provide this illustration? One that I could then share with my family.

Joscelyn approached Family Tree DNA, a commercial genetic testing company known for more detailed ethnicity maps to see if they would help. However, it was not typical for them to accept raw data from an outside lab. Joscelyn sent me the file with the raw DNA data and suggested I see if I could find someone who might be able to convert it to an acceptable format that one of the online genealogical research sites would accept such as 23andMe or MyHeritage. I wracked my brain for who else could help me and identified two friends who are a couple. One is a biostatistician and the other a computer engineer. They gave it a go but couldn't manage to convert the data to an acceptable format for the companies despite trying many times to upload it to their sites.

Finally, I received the good news from Joscelyn in 2023, after months of negotiation, that *FamilyTree DNA* agreed to accept the DNA data from an outside company. This was very good news because now I could see the breakdown of my mother's ethnicity and where my mother's ancestors lived. Especially enlightening to discover was her Scandinavian ancestry, which we did not share.




*Distribution of Mother's Ancestry*

Getting my mother's DNA processed was a long journey but well worth the effort. This genealogy task involved teamwork and people who were willing to take a risk and push some envelopes. I'm truly grateful to Joscelyn, the DNA companies and to the hospital pathology lab for the time and effort they put into this. I've been taking classes to understand more about using DNA and how to use the LEEDS method to identify the common ancestors of shared matches. I've found a few distant cousins, but no one close enough to share stories with yet. My mother told me she had secrets she would never tell anyone. I wonder if one of them has to do with her Scandinavian ethnicity?

# A Great Resource to Find Your Irish Roots!

*Fair Day, Waterford, (Likely 1902-1914)*

The free website irishgenealogy.ie is dedicated to helping in the search for Irish family history records. The website is home to the historic records of Births, Marriages and Deaths of the General Register Office. These records join the Indexes to the historic records of Births, Marriages, and Deaths that were already available on the website. The site has concentrated on the development of search functionality by way of providing a portal or search facility for digital genealogy records.

Visitors will be able to search records from a number of on-line sources including the historic Registers and Indexes to the Civil Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Church Records, the 1901 and 1911 Census, and Soldiers wills, among others. The robust site includes links to: Civil Records, Church Records, Census Records, Property Records, Migration Records, Graveyards, Military And Police Records, The Irish Abroad, and Geography. It also includes the following helpful researching hints: How-To; Discussion Groups, Blogs & Mailing Lists; Commissioning Research; and Irish Genealogical Research - Getting Started. An amazing resource! Thanks to **Tom Redmond** for the tip!

# Richard Rhodes Family of Baltimore County

*By Robert W. Barnes*

**1. Richard Rhodes (Roads), Sr.,** was born c1683 & died by June 1768. He was aged about 79 years, deposed on 22 June 1762 that about 40 years ago he was in company with Simon Pearson on a tract of land surveyed for Michael James; he mentioned Thomas Shard & James Dennis (BALR B#M:136). He married by Nov. 1747 Magdalena [-?-].

On 19 November 1747 Richard Rhodes and wife Magdalena, and James Amos and his wife Hannah, conveyed 100 a. *Necessity* to Robert Collins (BALR TB#E: 601). On 2 November 1748 Richard Rhodes and James Amos conveyed 100 a. of *Necessity* to Robert Collins (BALR TR#C: 107).

Richard and Magdalena were the parents of: *(SJSG*: 5, 6, 14, 17, 27, 95): **2. Richard,** b. 1 December 1713; **3. Mary,** b**.** 5 February 1715, m. John Elledge on 4 September 1733; **4. Ann,** b. 22 April 1722 **5. Rebecca,** b. 6 March 1723**; 6**. **William,** b. September 1726, d. September 1729; **7. Benjamin,** b. and d. November 1729; and **8. Elizabeth,** b. 10 July 1730, m. Richard Cosley on 7 July 1752.

**2. Richard Rhodes (Rhoads), Jr.,** son of Richard (1) and Magdalena, was born about 1713. He was aged 49, when he deposed on 22 June 1762 that about 30 years ago he had been riding with Simon Pearson, who said he was an old man and what he was about to relate might have been of service to the heir of Low's land; that James Dennis had cut a stump down (BALR B#M:135).

Richard Rhodes and Sarah Whitaker were married on 9 February 1740 (*SJSG:* 111). However, on 18 October 1760 Sarah was named as a daughter of Alexander McComas (BAWB 2:352; MDAD 47:447). On 26 April 1762, Richard Rhodes was paid for his wife by Thomas and Hannah Miles [Hannah was the widow of Alexander McComas] (BAAD 4:365).

Richard and Sarah Prosper were married on 16 April 1769 (*SJSG:* 258). 29 June 1747 Joseph Elledge and wife Mary conveyed 100 a. *Cobb's Necessity* to James Amos and Richard Rhodes (BALR TB#E: 650). On 2 March 1750 *John's Forest* was surveyed for Richard Rhodes, Jr. (BALR C:18: cites BA Unpat. Cert. 811).

Rhodes (Roads) died leaving a will dated 27 February 1767 and proved 13 June 1768. Son John was to have *Poor Man's Purchase,* and part of *Rhoades Last Shift,* adjacent *Luck* and *Poor Man's Purchase.* Son Thomas was to have *Rhoades Necessity* laid out at the head of Little Falls and 15 a. *John's Forest* adjoining. Sons Richard Rhoads and Alexander McComas Rhoads were to have the rest of *John's Forest.* Son Aquila was to have 55 a. *James' Delight.* Son William was to have the residue of *Rhoads Last Shift,* and 78 a. lying between that tract and land of Timothy Nave. His wife Sarah was named executrix, and was to have one-third of all lands for life. The rest of his estate was to go to his wife Sarah and daughters Sarah, Prisiclla, and Martha. Henry Wilson, Quaker, Thos. Simmonds and Prisciall Wilson witnessed the will (BAWB 3:90).

Richard Rhodes died by 21 June 1768 when Sarah (x) Rhodes, his administratrix with will attached, with John (x) Rhodes and Rich. Rhodes as sureties posted a bond worth £500 (BAAB 5:231). On 3 July 1769 Sarah Rhodes his executrix, filed an account of his estate (BAAD 7:12; MDAD 61:150). She filed another account on 13 April 1772 and stated the deceased left nine children (BAAD 7:158; MDAD 66:326).

Richard and Sarah (Whitaker) were the parents of *(SJSG:* 60, 69, 134)*:* **9. Hannah,** b. 2 May 1741; **10. John,** b. 20 December 1743, m. Sarah Standiford on 25 October 1768; **11. Richard,** "the first born twin," b. 30 November 1745; **12. Alexander McComas,** the second born twin, b. 30 November 1745; **13. Thomas,** b. 1 March 1747; **14, Aquila; 15. William; 16. Sarah, 17. Priscilla;** and **18. Martha.**

**11. Richard Rhodes,** "the first born twin" son of Richard (2) and Sarah, was born 30 November 1745. In 1782 Richard Rhodes was involved in the evaluation of confiscated property in Baltimore Co. (*RPBA:*224). In 1782 he was listed in Mine Run Hundred as owning part of *Grimm Garden* and *Charles Chance,* 222 a. His household consisted of 3 white males and 8 white inhabitants, Carothers, *1783 Tax List of Baltimore Co.*:68).

# Richard Rhodes Family of Baltimore County

*(Continued from p. 6)*

**UNPLACED:**

**Rhodes, [-?-],** m. by Nov 1756 Ann, mother of Thomas Robuck, who was bound to Aquila McComas (BAMI 1757-1759).

**Abraham Rhodes** and Roxa [Roxana] Standiford were married on 6 August 1772 (*SJSG:* 141).

**Anthony Rhodes** died by 29 July 1761 when Clare (x) Rhodes, his administratrix, with Wm. Lyon and Thos. Sligh as sureties, posted a bond worth £3000 (BAAB 5:242). On 5 February 1763 his estate was administered by Clare Rhodes. The account named Mary Rhodes and her sisters, heirs of the deceased (BAAD 6: 42; MDAD 49:21). Clare Rhodes filed an account on 29 August 1763 (MDAD 49:407). She filed another account on 29 August 1773 and stated that he left no children, but had some relatives in Great Britain (BAAD 6:29).

**Christian Roades,** with six whites in his household, was listed as a pauper in Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred (Carothers, *1783 Tax List of Baltimore Co.:* 62).

**Christopher Roads** of Baltimore Co. did not take the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 (*RPBA:*229).

**James Rhodes** was aged 7 "last April" In November 1737 when he was bound to Jonathan and Jane Hughes (BACP HWS#1A:133).

**John Rhodes,** from Hampshire, England, ran away from the Baltimore Iron Works some time before December 1756 (Richard J, Cox, "Maryland Runaway Convict Servants," *NGSQ* 69:210).

**Joseph Rhodes,** in June 1725 married Anne Polson *(SJSG*: 36). In June 1734 Ann Rhodes bound her daughter Sophia, aged 9 "last 26 May,' to Theophilus Jones. (BACP HWS#9:354) Joseph and Ann were the parents of (*SJSG*): Sophia, b. 26 May 1725, m. Joseph Hely on 23 December 1744 *(SJSG:* 86).

**Lewis Rhoad [*sic*]:** of Baltimore Co., did not take the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 (*RPBA:*224).

**Margaret Rhodes** and William Railey were married on 17 September 1759 (*SJSG:*104).

**Mary Rhodes** married John Hely on 23 December 1734.

**Mary Rhoads,** age 50, was listed in the 1776 Census of Bush River Lower Hundred. Living with her were Thomas, 19; Magdaline, 15; Martha 13; Hannah, 8; and Mary, 6 (Carothers, *1776 Census of Maryland:* 89).

**Richard Rhodes** married Mary [-?-]. They were the parents of (*SJSG:* 23, 98): **Thomas,** b.15 March 1717/8; and **John,** b. 28 March 1720, m. Mary Keen on 17 October 1754.

**Susan Rhodes** and Robert Lyon were married on 31 October 1765 (*SJSG:*113).

**Thomas Rhodes** and Margaret Allen were married on 23 June 1743 (Reamy & Reamy, *St. George's Parish Register:* 68).

**William Rhodes,** married Mary Matthews on 17 January 1717 *(*SJSG 5). She was a daughter of Henry Matthews as Rhodes signed Matthews' inventory on 2 November 1726. On 24 November 1731 William 'Rhoades' and wife Mary, daughter of Henry Matthews, conveyed one-half of *Matthews Double Purchase* to William Smith (BALR IS#L: 185). On 5 June 1734 Thomas Cross, with consent of his wife Sarah, conveyed 10 a. out of the 50 a. (part of 150 a.) of *Chance,* to which he is entitled, to William Rhodes (BALR HWS#M: 67).On 8 August 1734 William Rhodes conveyed 60 a.*Chance* to Theophilus Jones and wife Elizabeth Rhodes had bought 50 a. from Thomas League (who bought it from Patrick Whayland and wife Catherine, who had inherited it from her father Henry [Matthews]; and 10 a. from Thomas Cross who married. Sarah, daughter of said Henry [Matthews]. Rhodes' wife Mary consented (BALR HWS#M:90). William and Mary were the parents of: (Reamy and Reamy, *St. George's Parish Register:* 60;SJSG: 26): **Mary,** b. 2 March 1719; **Elizabeth,** b. 30 August 1721; and **John,** b. 20 September 1738.

*Baltimore County Genealogical Society*

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# Baltimore County Genealogy Society

**Located in the Parkville Senior Center**

8601 Harford Rd, Parkville MD 21234

3rd Floor, Room 308 (Elevator Available)

**Monthly Meetings:**

4th Sunday of the month

- Eastern European Group—11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- General Meeting—2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Speaker—3 p.m.  to 4 p.m.
- Library open 12 noon to 2 p.m. for research before meeting

**Our Research Days are:**

2nd Thursday of the Month—10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the Month—10 a.m. 2 p.m.

4th Thursday of the Month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.