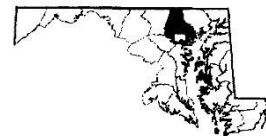


# The Baltimore County Genealogical Society



## THE NOTEBOOK



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## Research Tips of the Quarter

### Family DNA Testing

by Ken Zimmerman and Lisa Lisson

The five Best DNA Test Kits for 2024 are:

- Ancestry
- My HeritageDNA
- FamilyTreeDNA
- 23andMe
- LivingDNA

Discover your ethnic breakdown, build your family tree, and find relatives with the best ancestry DNA test kits. Each DNA test has different strengths and weaknesses. Finding the right DNA test kit really depends on your specific needs. DNA companies will not provide a Family Tree or your genealogy.

You may need to test your DNA with more than one company. DNA testing companies compare your DNA to other people who have tested with *their* company. You need to test male and female family and can get different test results or matches.

Genetic testing has been known to bring numerous secrets to life. You can never unsee or unlearn what the DNA reports tell you. Some of these secrets hidden in our DNA can be very devastating. Prepare yourself as much as possible for what the test may reveal.

It can be very frustrating when you use an Ancestry.com DNA kit. The following match results are examples of problems:

- No Family trees
- Private Tree Link
- When you contact a match you get no response to your inquiry.
- When you do get a response to an inquiry you get no pertinent information.
- Unlinked Tree
- Public Tree only shows three people

The more people who have used that ancestry DNA test kit, the more accurate the results, because there is more information in the database.

### The Frugal Researcher

This is a favorite frugal genealogy tip! The Big 3 [*Ancestry.com*, *MyHeritage*, *FindMyPast*] and other subscription databases will sometimes open a particular record collection for a limited time to the public for free around holidays. For example, around the 4th of July [Fold3](#) will often open up their Revolutionary War records to the public for a limited time.

This is a great way to save money while researching, and also to try out a subscription site you may be interested in. You'll get a chance to research and evaluate whether or not you want a full subscription.

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# Heraldry and Coats of Arms

*Below is an article regarding use of families' coats of arms, and it is condensed from communications between Ken Zimmerman and the Lancaster Herald, The College of Arms, London, England in May of 2024.*

It may be helpful to start by clarifying how coats of arms are granted and inherited. Arms are granted not to a surname, but to an individual person, and the right to bear the arms is passed down along the grantee's legitimate male-line descendants: their sons, grandsons, great-grandsons, and so on, just as a British surname traditionally travels.



*A grant of arms and crest by letters patent to Brian Arundel*

As the number of grantees has grown over the centuries, inevitably many of them have shared a common surname despite not being related to, or at least descended from, one another. It follows that there can be many different coats of arms and crests all pertaining to separate families with the same surname. Nonetheless, most people still do

not have a right to arms, and so the reverse is also true—it is common for a family without arms to adopt and bear a coat which they believe to be theirs, when in fact it belongs to an unrelated family with the same surname.

In order to establish whether you may have inherited a right to arms, you would first need to conduct genealogical research into your family history, working backwards from the present time and confirming each generation's connection to the last with contemporary documentary evidence, in the hope of finding a direct male-line ancestor who is on record at the College as having borne arms. Such forms of evidence might include, among others: census returns, certificates of birth, marriage or death, old parish records, wills, title deeds, and legal records. Narrative family history books are not generally accepted by the College of Arms as genealogical evidence in their own right, though if their primary sources are properly referenced, they can point the way towards more acceptable evidence.

Once you have begun to build up a picture of your ancestry, it may be possible for the College to undertake a search of their records in an effort to discover whether any of the individuals in your pedigree are on record here as having borne arms. For more information on the College of Arms, see: [www.college-of-arms.gov.uk](http://www.college-of-arms.gov.uk)



*The College of Arms was founded in 1484. It has nothing to do with weapons. It is the official body that regulates the use of coats of arms and other heraldic emblems. The College is housed in a building that replaced its earlier home that was destroyed by the Great Fire of London in 1666.*



*Arms of Jerome de Salis*

## More Than Five Million Maryland Records Now Online

From the [reclaimtherecords.org](http://reclaimtherecords.org) web site: We at Reclaim The Records (RTR) are so proud to finally announce one of our largest record acquisitions to date: **millions of vital records spanning over one hundred years of history for the state of Maryland.** These records have *never* previously been publicly available online anywhere else — not on *FamilySearch* and not on *Ancestry* and not on *MyHeritage*—except for some records that had only been available at the Maryland State Archives' *internal* website, if you happened to be sitting in their building in Annapolis and using their in-house computers, or on their *external* website, but only if those records were more than a hundred years old.

This announcement is groundbreaking for us at RTR. Not only is this an unusually large cache of materials for one of our records projects, but this time, our acquisition was not limited to a basic name and date index — although we did get those, too! — but in addition to the decades of vital records indices, **we also got the digital images of the actual birth, marriage, and death certificates for the state of Maryland.** Yep, the real certificates. And now we've put them online, free!

## Closing of the Cemetery at Mount Hope/ Seton Institute Cemetery, Baltimore, 1971

Baltimore-area genealogists may have come across listings of burials at a cemetery named either Mount Hope or Seton Institute. The two names describe the same cemetery that was located on the grounds of what is now called the Seton Business Park on Northern Parkway, between Liberty Road and Wabash Avenue. The city/county line bisected the cemetery.

Mount Hope Retreat, also known as the Seton Institute, was a psychiatric hospital that was relocated to

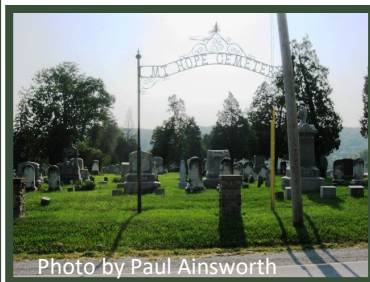
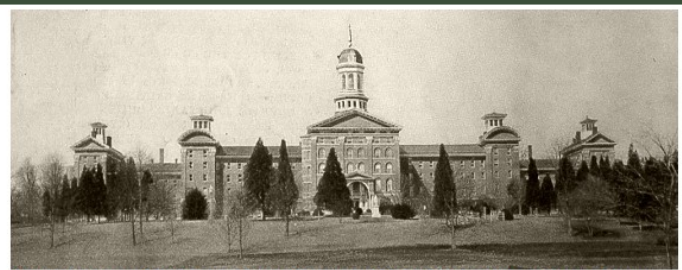


Photo by Paul Ainsworth

that site in 1863. It was staffed by the Daughters of Charity of Emmittsburg, MD. The cemetery on the grounds was the final resting places for both patients

and nuns. When the hospital closed and the property sold, the Daughters of Charity made plans to transfer all human remains for reburial elsewhere in 1971.

Remains of approximately 264 nuns were reinterred to the Sacred Heart Cemetery located at the Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmittsburg, Maryland. Remains of the remaining 86 graves were reinterred to New Cathedral Cemetery in Section I, Lot 1a. A single monument was erected on this lot to the memory of the Mount Hope patients. Source for most of the details: Personal communication, Office of the Archivist at Saint Joseph's Provincial House.



Mount Hope Retreat- Catholic run mental institution. Mt Hope Ave., south of Wabash Ave. Formed in 1840, various locations in the city. This building opened 1860. on a 365 acres, farmed by the inmates.- 1946 renamed Seton Institute. Closed & abandoned late 20th century, slowly decayed & demolished. On nearby grounds, owned by the same group, St Vincent institution & infant Asylum.



Photo by South Bay Native

## A Developer's Sudden Death Puts a Mount Vernon Landmark Back in limbo

By Lillian Reed



The pulpit in the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church sanctuary is photographed on July 8, 2024. (Ronica Edwards/The Baltimore Banner)

A 150-year-old church overlooking Mount Vernon's Washington Monument is for sale this month after the death of the developer behind a controversial plan for the building. **Joseph Novoseller** of the New Jersey-based Aria Legacy Group had been under contract since 2019 to pay \$1 million for Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist Church, as well as the adjacent Asbury House, a historic mansion that shares a stairwell with the worship site. Real estate brokers **Stephen Ferrandi** and **Barb Bindon** confirmed this week that Novoseller suffered a heart attack and died during a trip to Israel in the spring.

The developer's death places both buildings — which together frame the northeast corner of one of Baltimore's most recognizable public spaces — back in play after community members and preservationists fiercely opposed Novoseller's plans to flip the five-story mansion for a profit and to use the sanctuary as an event space.

Trustees for the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church are now looking to offload the church for \$1.32 million, which includes a provision for its tiny congregation to continue leasing space in the building for another 20 years. Asbury House will be placed on the market

(Continued on p. 4)

## Mt. Vernon Methodist Church

(Continued from page 3)

later for an unspecified amount, but not before trustees close on the church building, Ferrandi and Bindon said. In a statement provided by the property brokers, conference treasurer **Paul Eichelberger** said the church was built in 1872 as a “Cathedral to Methodism” and has become one of Baltimore’s best-known landmarks. Its green-hued stone facade and Norman-Gothic architecture for years served as a backdrop to annual Flower Marts, neighborhood history tours and engagement photo shoots.



*The Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church sanctuary is seen on July 8, 2024. (Ronica Edwards/The Baltimore Banner)*

“It’s really critical that the city finds a way preserve it or restore it,” Hopkins said of the church in particular. “Baltimore has another opportunity to find a buyer that will be a good steward for the building.”

Hopkins and others took issue with the development plan, which they feared would exacerbate parking issues and said failed to prioritize historic preservation. “It was a concern that [the buildings] would sit there and rot,” he said.

A Baltimore circuit court judge ruled in favor of Novoseller and the Baltimore City Planning Commission’s decision to subdivide the church and mansion despite a legal challenge filed by the Mount Vernon-Belvedere Association. The association leadership did not immediately



*A chapel found within the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church is photographed on July 8, 2024. (Ronica Edwards/The Baltimore Banner)*

“It is heartening to know that the congregation, which has been the heart of Mt Vernon Place UMC for the last 152 years, will remain as a tenant after the property is sold,” Eichelberger said in the statement.

Still, the sale could spell trouble for a small day care, the Mt. Vernon Place Early Learning Center, that is operating out of the church. New ownership would prevent the center from being grandfathered into modern building code requirements for Maryland preschools, Bindon and Ferrandi said. Administrators did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday.

To **Henry Hopkins**, president of the Mount Vernon Place Conservancy, the church and mansion represent great architectural gems of Baltimore. Hopkins was among the group of locals who objected to the developer’s plans and said he was unaware of Novoseller’s death until he was contacted by a Baltimore Banner reporter.



*An intricate ceiling painting is photographed on July 8, 2024 within a room on the second floor of the Ashbury House. (Ronica Edwards/The Baltimore Banner)*

The church’s proximity to the Peabody Institute and Baltimore School for the Arts could make it a great performance space for local institutions, Hopkins said. The building contains a full auditorium, chapel and sanctuary that the property brokers estimate holds 900 people, though some of the hand-carved pews have been removed. Hopkins acknowledged the building will likely be expensive to maintain. He pledged the conservancy is going to be “very involved” in the issue of finding a new owner.

“It is part of the fabric of the neighborhood, part of the character,” he said. “It must be saved.”

# MyHeritage Adds 200 Million Historical Records in June 2024

Jul 8th 2024, Posted on Dick Eastman Weekly Newsletter - Permission granted to reprint

## MyHeritage

In June 2024, *MyHeritage* published 200 million historical records from 13 collections. The newly added records are from the United States, Canada, Australia, and Norway. They include birth records, marriage and divorce records, death and burial records, census records, obituary records, parish baptisms and marriages, prisoner albums, alien immigration case files, and more. Some of the collections also include images. Search them to discover a family treasure!

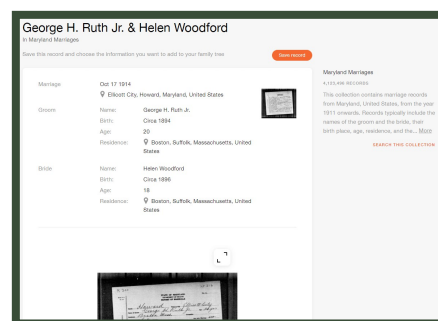
## Maryland Marriages

This collection contains marriage records from Maryland from the year 1911 onwards. Records typically include the names of the groom and the bride, their birth place, age, residence, and the date and place of marriage.

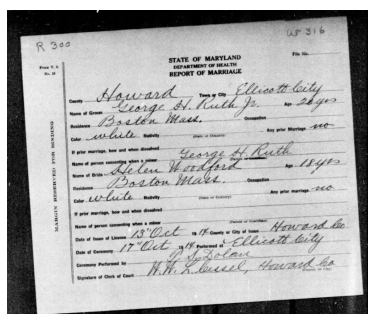
The index of this collection was produced by *MyHeritage* from scanned images of the original documents and is unique to *MyHeritage*. The 4,123,496 images from this collection, announced on July 8, 2024, have been obtained through the outstanding work and efforts of Reclaim the Records.

## The Following Example Illustrates How the Records Can Be Used:

In the newly added Maryland Marriages collection to *MyHeritage*, you can find the marriage record of George H. Ruth Jr. and Helen Woodford. George H. Ruth Jr., better known as "Babe" Ruth, married Helen Woodford on October 17, 1914, in Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. Babe Ruth, an iconic figure in American sports history, was a professional baseball player whose Major League Baseball career spanned 22 seasons from 1914 to 1935. Known as "the Bambino" and "the Sultan of Swat," Ruth initially gained fame as a star pitcher for the Boston Red Sox and later achieved legendary status as a slugging outfielder for the New York Yankees. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest sports heroes in American culture and one of the greatest baseball players of all time.



Marriage record of George Ruth & Helen Woodford (including Marriage certificate)



Marriage Certificate of George Ruth & Helen Woodford

The detailed records from the Maryland Department of Health provide a wealth of information, including the country and town of marriage, names and ages of the bride and groom, their residences, their colors, the date of license issuance, the date and location of the ceremony, and the person who performed the ceremony, along with the signature of the clerk of court.

## Summary

We hope these valuable collections help you make new discoveries in your family history research. Searching the collections on *MyHeritage* is free. To view the records or to save records to your family tree, you'll need a Data, Complete, or Omni plan. If you have a family tree on *MyHeritage*, our Record Matching technology will notify you automatically if records from these collections match your relatives. You'll then be able to review the record and decide if you'd like to add the new information to your family tree. More details about each of the collections added in June may be found in a long, long list of newly-added records in the MyHeritage Blog at: <https://bit.ly/4cVESnB>.

*Baltimore County Genealogical Society*

*PO Box 10085*

*Towson, MD 21285-0085*

## **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.