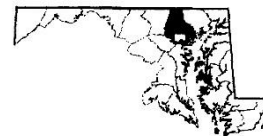


The Baltimore County Genealogical Society



THE NOTEBOOK



Volume 41 Issue 2 (No. 180)

P.O. Box 10085 – Towson, MD 21285-0085

June 1, 2025

Research Tips of the Quarter

Submitted by Ken Zimmerman

Cemetery Research

Sites such as [findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) and [billiongraves.com](https://www.billiongraves.com) are a great source for researching cemetery information such as tombstone photos. If you can visit the cemetery, go to the cemetery office first. Request genealogical research and ask if you can view the cemetery folder or the plot book for the grave. One of these should have a page that shows who and where one is buried in what plot, and when. Oftentimes there are burials that do not have a tombstone. The record should also show who purchased the plot and when, and who has a marker/monument and who does not. You may also find other paperwork such as a burial permit or obituary notice. Some cemeteries charge a research fee—which is almost always a wise choice to purchase. The cemetery staff can provide directions to the cemetery plot with a map. Visit the site as you may find tombstone markers that are not on either findagrave.com or billiongraves.com. Additionally, you may often find a monument on the family plot for which there is no burial record. Often the inscription on that monument begins “In Memory of” and the person may not actually be buried there.



Genealogy Gems

This past Saturday I had the pleasure of being one of the presenters for 5th Annual Arizona Genealogy Day. The organizers did a terrific job arranging the day and marketing the event. Nearly four hundred individuals enjoyed five virtual presentations. As I was asked to speak on a topic that I really enjoy, and additionally one that I believe is quite important, I wanted to share it in this column.

Increasing numbers of benefits can be realized by paying more attention to our methods of doing historical and genealogical research, to our processes of finding our families' stories. If doing the same activities continually leads us to brick walls, we need to change our activities and our strategies. We need to explore for records we don't typically use, we need to search repositories (actual and virtual) that we don't typically search, and we need to deploy technology we typically haven't deployed. If we are committed to finding all of our families' stories, then we must be committed to the very best of our ability to find all the records. And, to quote the CEO of FamilySearch, Steve Rockwood, at his RootsTech 2024 keynote, “All means all.”

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

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Genealogy Gems

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Let's quickly explore the five points of the Genealogical Proof Standard.

1. Reasonably exhaustive research has been conducted.

If we truly embrace that key concept, it means we have a lot of work to do as there are exponentially increasing data silos and online repositories of books and records. If we do embrace this concept, though, it means we **will** find more data, build robust contexts for our research, and run into far fewer dead ends.

Conducting reasonably exhaustive research means that we have thoroughly explored some significant sites with millions upon millions of records and images. A few are listed in the following:

- Internet Archive—[Archive.org](https://archive.org) 4,023,495 items from American libraries
- FamilySearch Digital Library—familysearch.org/library/books Over 630,000 items
- Digital Public Library of America—dp.la 52,987,011 items from across the United States
- Chronicling America—chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ 21,442,705 free newspaper pages available at the Library of Congress
- Newspaper databases of all kinds and coverage
- Library of Congress—loc.gov
- State Memory Projects
- National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections—loc.gov/coll/nucmc
- ArchiveGrid—researchworks.oclc.org/archivegrid/
- National Archives & Records—Administration—archives.gov
- Federal Government Documents—govinfo.gov It's really amazing to use AI to assist one in plumbing the depths of these mega sites. Recently I asked ChatGPT to find references to Englert (one of my collateral lines) in the Digital Public Library of America. I had previously discovered many of the resources it listed for me but not all of them. Thoroughly researching the specific geographic location of an ancestor or potential ancestor is so very critical. Truly all history is local, so exploring local public libraries and state libraries, local and state archives, and university special collections can net many sources.



2. Each statement of fact has a complete and accurate source citation.

Not only is this best practice to clarify and resolve conflicting pieces of data, deploying the tactic of citation analysis (exploring for, and thoroughly using, the footnotes, endnotes, and bibliographies) can bring to light records, resources, and repositories you may not have yet used in your research. Citation analysis can assist you in building a library of resources to continue finding threads of your families' stories.

3. The evidence is reliable and has been skillfully correlated and interpreted.

This necessarily means that one's research has been appropriately reviewed and understood. And that means we are more than "hunters and gatherers," we are actually researchers who read and comprehend what is being stated in a record or on a document and what is not being stated. Assumptions are not considered.

Genealogy Gems

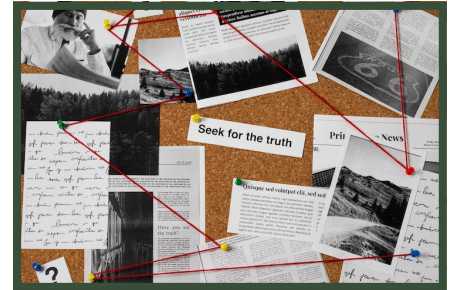
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4. Any contradictory evidence has been resolved.

This necessarily means that conclusions are based on clearly constructed statements of fact. And how do we get to those statements of fact? Read, think, write! Further, these statements of fact are arranged logically and are easily understood by even casual readers. And how do we do that? Again, read, think, write.

5. The conclusion has been soundly reasoned and coherently written.

If we aren't writing-up our research, we aren't serious about finding our families' stories. And so many are simply gathering materials with no reading, analysis, and writing being done. Oftentimes the very process of gathering and compiling what one has found as well as the process of writing or keying collected data into a narrative can show one where a proof is weak, where data is "thin" or missing, and even enlighten one about the true stories of our families.



Publishing Note

This electronic newsletter is published by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, and is intended to enlighten readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library. We welcome the wide distribution of this newsletter and encourage readers to forward it to their friends and societies. All precautions have been made to avoid errors. However, the publisher does not assume any liability to any party for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions, no matter the cause. www.GenealogyCenter.org.

MD Genealogical Society Journal Article on William Petticoart

Submitted by Ken Zimmerman

"William Petticoart, 1666 Immigrant to Anne Arundel County, and his Probable Descendants" by Lee Garlock, JD; Volume 64 Number 3 2023 pages 341-387.

"Much of the published data on the Peddicord family derives from the attention given to Sarah Dorsey, daughter of Colonel Edward Dorsey, who married first John Norwood and second John Petticoart in Anne Arundel County. The purpose of this article is to examine the factual data for the family progenitor and to address various claims that have become widespread on several web-based platforms, including *Ancestry.com* and *FamilySearch*, some of which can be proven to be erroneous and based on false claims." Page 341

The above article has source documentations with 204 footnotes. If searching the Peddicord, Peddicord and Peddicord family, the article is a must read.

The Maryland Genealogical Society and Lee Garlock has granted Baltimore County Genealogy Society permission to reprint this article as it copyrighted.

The Harvey Family of Baltimore County

By Robert W. Barnes

1. **William Harvey** died in Baltimore County by January 1774. He married Margaret Norman on 2 February 1726 in All Hallow's Parish, Anne Arundel Co. (AACR:41). He may be the William Harvey, son of William, who was bapt. 12 November [year not given] in St. Anne's Parish with James Wooton and Bartholomew Atkinson as godfathers (AACR:76). Harvey was paid for squirrel heads in the 1737 Levy Papers. He was also paid an allowance in the 1739 Levy Papers. (IBCW:29, 32).

On 17 September 1745 Charles Carroll of Annapolis, leased 117 a., part of Ely O'Carroll, to William Harvey for lives of said William Harvey, Margaret Harvey, and Thomas Harvey (BALR TB#D: 340).

In 1750 Harvey owned 40 a. Port Royal (Baltimore Co. Debt Book:15). William Harvey was a Vestryman of St. Thomas Parish in 1756-1757, and a warden in 1760 (Reamy and Reamy, St. Thomas Parish Register Vestry Proceedings:50).

Harvey died leaving a will dated 17 January 1764 and proved 14 January 1774. His son William was to have the 180 a. on which the testator now dwelt. Son John was to have 53 a. Wife Margaret was to have her legal rights and personalty and \$20.00. The personalty which sons Thomas and William now have as to be considered part of their share. The residue of his estate was to be equally divided among all his living children. His wife Margaret and son William were to be executors. Geo. Risteau, Wm. Isgrig and Neal Lamont witnessed the will (BAWB 2:288).

William Harvey, executor, posted an administration bond of £1000 on 14 January 1774. Geo. Risteau and Wm. Coale (Cole) were sureties (BAAB 3:334). William Harvey filed an account of his father's estate on 3 January 1775 (BAAD 6:342). Harvey filed a second account on 8 June 1790 naming Margaret, John, Priscilla, Margaret wife of Charles Gorsuch, Rachel, Abarilla, Mary wife of Joshua Jones, Sarah wife of William Coale, Thomas Harvey, and to himself (BAAD 10:386).

Margaret Harvey died leaving a will dated 27 January 1786 and proved 24 November 1789. She left personalty to her daughters Priscilla, Abarilla, and Rachel, and the residue of her estate was to be divided among the three daughters. She directed that there was to be no administration on her estate, but her son William Harvey and friend Edward Cockey were to see that the terms were carried out. Edward Cockey, David Isgrig, and Darby Burk witnessed the will (BAWB 4:389.).

William and Margaret were the parents of (Reamy and Reamy, St Paul's Parish Register: 8, 12): **2. Thomas**, b. 19 March 1727; **3. Elizabeth**, b. 4 April 1729; **4. Mary**, b. 10 January 1731, m. Joshua Jones; **5. Margaret**, b. 11 December 1733, m. Charles Gorsuch; **6. William**, b. 12 January 1736; **7. John**; **8. Priscilla**, d. by 28 June 1790; **9. Rachel**; **10. Avarilla**, and **11. Sarah**, m. William Cole.

2. Thomas Harvey, son of William (1) and Margaret, was born 19 March 1727. He married Cassandra Gott on 16 January 1757 in St. Thomas Parish (Reamy and Reamy, St. Thomas Parish Register: 35) Thomas Harvey was a warden of St. Thomas Parish in 1760. On 14 April 1761 Thomas Harvey's account for serving communion for the year was approved. He was a Vestryman from 1784 to 1787 and from 1792 to 1793 (Reamy and Reamy, Vestry Proceedings in St. Thomas Parish Register: 50, 51, 57). Harvey took the Oath of Allegiance before the Hon. William Lux, in 1778 (BARP: 124).

Thomas and Cassandra were the parents of children, most of whom were born in St. Thomas Parish (Reamy and Reamy, St. Thomas Parish Register: 13): **12. Nicholas Norman**, b. 26 November 1757; **13. Margaret**, b. 13 June 1759; **14. Sarah**, b. 5 January 1761; **15. Thomas**, b. 24 May 1762; **16. William**, b. 22 December 1764; **17. Cassandra**, b. 12 February 1767; **18. Richard**, b. 24 September 1770; and **19. Elizabeth**, b. 17 March 1772.

The Harvey Family of Baltimore County

(Continued from p. 5)

6. **William Harvey**, son of William (1) and Margaret, was born 12 January 1736. In 1763 William Harvey, Jr., was taxed as a bachelor in St. Thomas Parish (IBCW: 80). His account for serving communion in 1764 was accepted (Reamy and Reamy, St. Thomas Parish Register; Vestry Proceedings: 58). He took the Oath of Allegiance in 1778, before the Hon. William Lux (BARP: 124). He is probably the William Harvey who was a 2nd Lieutenant in Capt. E. Cockey's Company No. 2, Upper Gunpowder Battalion on 26 August 1776 and was made a 1st Lieutenant on 20 December 1776, and Captain on 30 August 1777 (BARP: 124). William Harvey was listed in the 1783 Assessment List of Middle River Upper and Back River Upper Hundred, Baltimore Co., as owning 112 a., part of Nicholson's Manor, 60 a. part of Price's Good Will, and 15 a. Beddeton [?]. There were four white inhabitants in his household (Carothers, 1783 Tax List of Baltimore Co.:55).
7. **John Harvey**, son of William (1) and Margaret, took the Oath of Allegiance before the Hon. William Lux in 1778 (BARP 123).
8. **Priscilla Harvey**, daughter of William (1) and Margaret, died by 28 June 1790 when Nicholas N. Harvey, the administrator, filed an account of her estate (BAAD 10:167). He filed a second account on 16 June 1791 and paid a legacy of £5.19.2½ to the wife of Joshua Jones. Equal shares of the estate were paid to Margaret Harvey, Abarilla Harvey, William Harvey, and John Harvey, and Charles Gorsuch and his wife Margaret, William Coale and his wife Sarah, and Rachel Harvey (BAAD 10:386).
12. **Nicholas Norman**, Harvey, son of Thomas (2) and Cassandra. Was born 26 November 1757. Nicholas Norman Harvey took the Oath of Allegiance in 1778 (BARP: 123). In August 1792 Joshua Jones, son of John and Esther, chose Nicholas N. Harvey as his guardian (BAOC 1792-1798:7).

Unplaced:

- David Harvey** died by 27 August 1768 when Robert Pattison or Patterson, administrator, posted an administration bond. Thomas Harris and George McCandless were sureties (BAAB 3:277). Robert Patterson filed an administration account on 1 May 1771 (BAAD 7:100).
- Joshua Harvey**, merchant, was married last evening by Rev. Mr. Willis, to Miss Eliza Patrick, both of this city (BFG 22 April 1797; The Baltimore Weekly Museum 30 April 1797 gives the groom's name as Joshua Harney).
- Robert Harvey** died by 28 February 1778 when Charles Stansbury filed an administration account (BAAD 7:356). Robert Harvey died by 15 January 1787, leaving minor children Elizabeth, Mary, and Ann; Charles Stansbury, guardian, filed an account (BAGA 1:11, 12).
- William Harvey** married Mary Sherbert in All Hallows on 2 March 1730. Mary was baptized the same day (AACR: 41, 45).
- William Mordant** of Prince George's Co. died leaving a will dated 31 March 1741 and proved 20 April 1741. He named his granddaughter Elizabeth Burgess and left Sarah Harvie personalty belonging to his deceased wife. He left the residue of his estate to Jonathan and David Lewis and Sarah Harvie. Ignatius Digges was named executor. John Osborne, Robert Riddell, and Peter Parker witnessed the will (MWB 22:351). William and Mary were the parents of four children, whose births were recorded in All Hallows (AACR:170): Sarah, b. 20 July 1737; John, b. 20 June 1741; Elizabeth, 19 March 1750/1; and Ann, b. 2 March 1751/2.

The Harvey Family of Baltimore County

(Continued from p.6)

William Harvey: On 11 October 1787 Thomas Cockey Deye Ford sold him 100 a. Benjamin's Beginning 50 a. of Benjamin's Addition, and one undivided half of the land Archibald Buchanan bought from Benjamin Ford and his wife Rachel (BALRWG#AA: 619. William Harvey and Eleanor Jackson were married on 7 June 1788 (Reamy and Reamy, St Paul's Parish Register: 52). William Harvey died by 14 January 1774 when William Harvey, executor, with George Risteau and William Cole as sureties, posted a bond worth £1000 (BAAB 3:334). On 3 January 1775, William Harvey filed an account (BAAD 6:342). Harvey filed a second account on 8 June 1790 naming Margaret, John, Priscilla, Margaret wife of Charles Gorsuch, Rachel, Abarilla, Mary wife of Joshua Jones, Sarah wife of William Coale, Thomas Harvey, and to himself (BAAD 10:386). William Harvey was buried on 5 August 1793 (Reamy and Reamy, St Paul's Parish Register: 71).

William Harvey and Margaret Burns were married on 11 October (or September?) 1797 (Reamy and Reamy, St Paul's Parish Register: 112). William Harvey May be the William Harvey, son of William, who was baptized on 12 November [?] in St. Anne's Parish (AACR:76). He married Mary Sherbert in All Hallows on 2 March 1730. Mary was baptized the same day (AACR: 41, 45). William and Mary were the parents of four children, whose births were recorded in All Hallows (AACR:170): Sarah, b. 20 July 1737; John, b. 20 June 1741; Elizabeth, b. 19 March 1750/1; and Ann, b. 2 March 1751/2.

Using AI for Genealogy Research

By David Powell

This is the second in a series of articles about the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) during your genealogical research. Each article will address one web site or one aspect of using AI.

In the first article published in the March 2025 Notebook, we discussed FamilySearch.org's labs capability to read and search handwritten documents. The good news is that they have increased the number of collections in the labs search area, thus increasing the likelihood that you will find something about your family.

The use of AI for helping with genealogy research has exploded in recent months. AI can help in any aspect of doing your research. One of the things I find compelling is using AI to help with planning your research. Using a "prompt" to almost any AI web-site will give you very helpful hints on how to approach a particular research plan or problem.

Prompts are simply the questions you ask of the AI. There are many prompts that provide you with help with your research. Let's say you are interested in finding the birth record of your great grandmother in the 1850s in Maryland. I would "prompt" the AI with something like this:

"I am an experienced genealogist who is trying to find my great grandmother's birth records in the 1850s in Maryland. Can you please put together a possible approach to finding this record."

The AI will suggest a research plan based on this information. The more detailed the request the more detailed the result.

There are numerous AI assistants that you can use for this type of prompt. Among them are:

- ChatGPT – openai.com
- Claude – claude.ai
- Perplexity – perplexity.ai
- Gemini – gemini.google.com
- Copilot – copilot.microsoft.com

Using an AI to suggest a research plan may find new possible approaches that you had not considered.



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 (Excluding July, August, and December)

- Eastern European Group—11:45 a.m. to 1 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.