

Publication Notes

The BCGS issues a two-part publication each quarter. The first part is the **Newsletter**, which contains news, activities, acquisitions, events, and information of general interest and assistance to members. Part two is the **Notebook**, which focuses specifically on genealogy research.

In this Issue...

President's Message	1
Spotlight On	2
Vertical file expansion.....	3
Thank you Greeters.....	3
New Members	3
Leadership Opportunities....	4
New 2025-2026 Officers.....	4
September Speaker.....	4
Tips for Searching for WW II Casualties	5
Tip for Newspaper Search....	6
BCGS at the Irish Festival.....	6

Board of Directors Elected Officers

President

David A. Powell
410-627-0980

dapowell54@gmail.com

Vice-President

Jim Cross
301-706-9543

jcross3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gregory Burton
410-591-7407

gburton.mobile@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
Vacant

Corresponding Secretary

Ken Zimmerman
410-750-9315

ken@familythreadsgenealogy.com

Baltimore County Genealogical Society

Covering the Baltimore Metro Area and the State of Maryland

Quarterly Newsletter—Sept. 1, 2025



President's Message

Effective on July 1, 2025, I have the honor of becoming the President of the Baltimore County Genealogical Society once again. I will endeavor to continue the excellent leadership that we have experienced in the last four years from **Greg Burton**. His leadership is evident in so many ways. He deserves our deep appreciation and thanks for all his efforts.



President Dave Powell

We continue to operate a very successful society, an excellent library, and ongoing learning experiences of all types for our membership. The library continues to grow with new books on a regular basis with the excellent management by **Lorriane Gordon** and **Carol Porter**. If you haven't had a chance to visit the library please do so, you will be amazed.

We will continue to organize and present various speakers over the course of the year arranged by **Jim Cross**, our Vice-President. Keep an eye on our website for announcements of these events.

Greg Burton will continue his service to the BCGS by taking over the treasurer's position.

Also continuing will be the publishing of a quarterly newsletter as well as our publication *The Notebook*. This is a huge task ably edited by **Dan** and **Liz Phelan** and distributed by **Jim Cross**. As always articles for the newsletter and notebook are very welcome.

(Continued on p. 2)

Ann Wieliczko continues to lead our Eastern European Interest Group with lively discussions and presentations at most of our regular monthly meetings. **Steve Connor, Herb Franz, Ken Zimmerman, and Barbara Henry** continue to help the society immensely with their efforts on the web site, Facebook page, computers, corresponding secretary and vertical files.

We are looking for volunteers to help with refreshments at our meetings and to be recording secretary. If you are interested in either of these positions please contact myself or **Greg Burton**. Remember we are successful because of your efforts – Thank You.

Spotlight On...Vertical Files Manager Barb Henry



Vertical Files Manager
Barb Henry

Barb Henry joined the Baltimore County Genealogical Society in 2014 following an impromptu visit to the library. She couldn't believe how much information she found on multiple lines in her family EVERYWHERE in the library, but the findings in the vertical file were gold! So, joining BCGS was a no brainer.

She then volunteered to manage the Vertical File in 2017. The BCGS Vertical File contains over 3,600 indexed surname folders, bible records, member ancestor charts, cemetery and church information, as well as other miscellany.

Barb has a long ancestral history in Maryland, with several lines confirmed in Maryland since the early 1700s. Most of her Maryland ancestors settled in Baltimore City, northern Baltimore County, and what is now Harford County. Her latest immigrant ancestors were a set of maternal 2nd great-grandparents who arrived as children from Germany (2nd great-grandmother) and Italy (2nd great-grandfather) in the early 1850s.

Although she loved listening to family stories and looking at every old photo album as a kid, she didn't start actually researching until the early 2000s. Luckily her direct ancestors did not move around often, so much of her research is in Maryland and Pennsylvania. She loves visiting cemeteries and sharing research finds with a paternal cousin. One of Barb's favorite "cousin projects" was trying to locate their 2nd great grandparents' headstones in Mt. Carmel cemetery in Baltimore City. Overlaying old aerial images and Mt. Carmel section maps (available in the BCGS library) onto Google Earth allowed her to see exactly where the graves should be. Unfortunately, that location is currently under a dirt road that leads to the upper part of the cemetery. Next was a visit where they then started searching in the heavily overgrown area nearby and found the displaced stones of their 2nd great grandparents and 4 of their children. Although an exciting find, as anyone searching their ancestors at Mt. Carmel knows, there was also sadness that their final resting place is under a dirt road.

Barb has presented multiple genealogy topics for several Maryland genealogical and historical societies and library programs. Her favorite presentations to give are on Sanborn maps and land records.

When not researching Barb is employed at JMT, an engineering and architecture firm. As the Corporate CADD Manager, she assists the engineers with design and drafting software. Being in the civil engineering field BC (before computers) she started out as a drafter, ironically drafting site plans for several residential developments on land once owned by her ancestors. Barb's other interests are golf, traveling with friends, and visiting her family in Florida. Barb is a very welcome member of our society.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming 2025 monthly meetings will be at 2 p.m. on the following Sundays:

September 28—Ken Zimmerman on using maps for genealogy

October 6—Speaker TBD

November 23—Speaker TBD

The Library is open for research at noon before all meetings. Scanners are available. It is also open on the 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month & the 2nd Sat. of the month from 10-12 noon for research.

Ha Ha! A pack rat is hard to live with, but makes a mighty fine ancestor.

Committee Chairs

Librarian

Lorraine Gordon
lgordon0557@verizon.net

Assistant Librarian & Historian

Carol L. Porter
410-665-8769

Newsletter & Notebook Editors

Dan & Liz Phelan
410-377-9001
djpphelan@gmail.com

Publications and Sales

Elaine Obbink Zimmerman
410-750-9315
elaine@familythreadsgenealogy.com

Old Defenders Project

George A. Bausman Jr.
410-661-0538
gabjrl@msn.com

Cemetery Records

Lance McPherson
lcmpherson@hotmail.com

Circulation Manager

Jim Cross
Phone: 301-706-9543
jcross3@gmail.com

Vertical File

Barbara Henry
blhfamilly@gmail.com

Computer Users

Herb Frantz
Phone: 410-236-3103
hrfrantz3@gmail.com

Eastern European Interest Group

Ann Wieliczko wieliczav@yahoo.com

Web page & Facebook Manager

Stephen A. Conner
info@baltimoregenealogysociety.org

Refreshments

Vacant

Vertical Files Expansion

The Vertical File Cabinets in our Library were over-stuffed, and we were not able to add new folders. The Board voted to add a new 5-drawer cabinet to expand the available space. **Lance McPherson** found three, four-drawer cabinets, picked them up, and delivered them to the library on Monday, July 14, 2025. On Thursday, July 17, 2025, **Barb Henry, Lorraine Gordon, and Carol Porter** began the task of rearranging the files. This expansion will provide ample space for the expansion of this valuable collection. The File collection contains Bible Records, church, and cemetery records, tax lists, family folders by surname, and more. A link to the list of folders in the vertical file is located on our website: baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/library/



New Vertical File Storage



Original Vertical File Storage

Copies of the files can be made in the library at 25¢ a page. Copies of complete folders can also be scanned and sent as a PDF by email for \$5.00 per folder up to 10 pages, and 50¢ per page above 10 pages. An additional \$5.00 fee for printing a file can be sent by mail.

Thank you Greeters!

We give a big 'Thank You' to the following members who volunteered to be greeters this past season. It is because of you that we are able to access the lobby entrance and the elevator during our Sunday meeting days.

Rosemary Bronzert, Bill Eidman, Herb Franz, Barb Henry, Bev Parsons, Joan Persing, Dan Phelan, Carol Porter, Mary Wilson, and Anne Wieliczko

At the September meeting, we will be passing around the schedule for next season. We have 18 time slots to fill. Listed members signed up for more than once. NOW IT IS YOUR TURN!

Please consider volunteering for just one hour a year to your society so that we may continue to have access to the elevator. Baltimore County requires us to have an attendant in the lobby whenever those doors are unlocked. Thank you.

New Members

The BCGS welcomes the following new members listed here with the family surnames they are researching. If you need to contact a member regarding any surnames being researched, contact our librarian, **Lorraine Gordon**.

NEW MEMBER NAME SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED

LAST	FIRST				
Busky	Lois C	Miller	Busky	Schwartz	
Spearman-Isip	Natasha				
Greenhood	Johanna				
Snyder	Kelly	Ensor			
Arildson	Sandy	Bankhead	Wilson		
Hamed	Mary M.	Seth	Hamed	Marsiglia	Mull

Leadership Opportunities!

Our organization is successful because of the efforts of its members. We are currently in need of a few people to step up and volunteer for a few vacant positions. If you haven't been active in leadership roles up until now, please consider volunteering for the following open positions:



Recording secretary—Take minutes at meetings and report appropriately.

Refreshment Chairperson—

- Keep inventory of cups, plates, napkins, plastic ware, and sodas. Replenish as necessary (You will be reimbursed.)
- Lead the set up of tables for drinks and snacks before meetings (others will help). Snacks are provided by members.
- Lead the clean-up of the tables after the meeting. (Others will help.)

Marketing Chairperson—This is a new position that you can make your own! What ideas do you have? How can we get the good news about our organization out to the public? Our 50th anniversary is coming up in two years and we will want to celebrate! Please consider joining the leadership team!

Meeting Greeters—Sit at the desk downstairs for one hour before meetings, greeting members who come in that way to use the elevator. There is free wi-fi in the lobby.

If interested, speak to **Dave Powell**. We could really use YOUR help!

New 2025-2026 Officers!

We are delighted to welcome a new slate of officers for the 2025-2026 year. They are:

President— **Dave Powell**

Vice President—**Jim Cross**

Recording Secretary—Vacant

Corresponding Secretary—**Ken Zimmerman**

Treasurer—**Greg Burton**

We are very grateful to them for their commitment to our organization!

September Speaker—Using Maps for Genealogy



Join us on **September 28**, at **3 p.m.** for an interesting take on genealogy research.—Maps. Maps not only provide clues as to where your ancestors lived, but they can also help you track down important documents. In addition to being a professional genealogist, **Ken Zimmerman** is a Maryland antique map collector. He will share some of his collection of maps and atlases and talk about how they can be used in genealogy.

Murphy's Law *The microfilm that you have diligently searched page-by-page will have an index at the end.*

Easy Searching for Information on World War II Casualties

by Dan Phelan

Many of us have relatives that were killed in the Services during World War II. There is an easy search engine for several states to locate their names, some military service details, and burial places. Databases have been developed by Russ Pickett of Kent County, Delaware who so far has compiled data for Maryland, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Wyoming. Data for Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and the District of Columbia are still 'under construction'. To see pages for any of those states, go to: russpickett.com and scroll about two-thirds down the web page to find the link to each state. Be sure to check out the many other links to his WWII military history projects on that site.

To view the list of Maryland servicemen, including the Merchant Mariners, go to: russpickett.com/history/mdwwii.htm Names are grouped by County and Baltimore City, then alphabetically. Due to the high number of casualties from Baltimore City (because of higher population), the city data are split into two halves. After selecting the desired county, there is a column on the right side with links to their respective Findagrave.com memorial pages.

Many of these memorial pages have links to parents or other family members. Multiple military researchers have been adding information to these pages that often was not available to family members during and after the war due to secrecy issues during those times. Russ and others are continuing to research each person's Findagrave memorial pages to add links to family members. Help is always appreciated for this effort.

For those servicemen who were lost in the Atlantic during WWII, their names are on the East Coast Memorial which is located in Battery Park in Manhattan. The memorial has names of 4,601 men across two sides of eight separate monoliths. Names are sorted by the Service they served in, then alphabetically. Each of those names has their own individual Findagrave memorial page, with at least one photo of their name on the monument, and details about how they were lost. Unfortunately, this memorial site does not list the names of the Merchant Mariners who were lost at sea.



Four of eight monoliths in Battery Park



Close-up of names on one monolith

The list for each of the 4,601 names on the monument can be searched at the memorial's Findagrave.com page at: findagrave.com/cemetery/1989909/east-coast-memorial. There are similar memorials for the Pacific at the Honolulu Memorial at: findagrave.com/cemetery/1990395 and also at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial at: findagrave.com/cemetery/1976551/manila-american-cemetery-and-memorial

Murphy's Law — Ink fades and paper deteriorates at a rate proportion to the value of the data recorded.

Tip When Researching Newspapers — Case Study

By Dan Phelan

When doing newspaper searches for death notices or stories of family members, expand your search! Search by the person's nickname when he/she was a child, and look all the way back to when they were born.

By doing that, I found that my father (at age 8, nicknamed "Jack") was

Youth Saves Drowning Boy And Spoils New Suit Doing It

David Dudley, 19, Dives In Fully Clothed—Jack Phelan's Only Injury Is A Broken Nose, Sustained In Forced Landing.

Jack Phelan, 8 years old, got his nose broken when he was rescued from drowning in a Gwynns Falls quarry hole, and David Dudley, 19, who did the rescuing late yesterday ruined a brand new suit of clothes getting Jack out.

Jack, who lives at 508 Poplar Grove street, had gone to the falls with Billy Headwig, a 10-year-old playmate, who lives at 502 Poplar Grove street. Billy did a little fishing, and Jack offered what he thought were some helpful suggestions.

Tussled On Banks.

Some slight differences of opinion resulted in a tussle on the bank. Jack lost his footing and tumbled into the water. He isn't much of a swimmer, and in some places the quarry hole runs as deep as a hundred feet.

Up at the Gwynns Falls High School,

Dudley, an instructor in the Playground Athletic League, had arranged to meet a group of youngsters who were going with him to Carroll Park for a track meet. As usual, they were late.

Dives In With Clothes On.

Dudley grew impatient. Maybe, he thought, his party had got sidetracked at the quarry hole. He started in that direction. When he was still a good distance away, he heard a shrill scream. He surmised what had happened.

Once as he ran toward the quarry hole Dudley slipped and fell. When he reached the brink Jack was beneath the surface of the water. Dudley didn't wait to undress. He dived into the water with all his clothes on.

Both Go Down Twenty Feet.

Jack was a bit frantic when he came to the surface. Dudley grabbed for him and missed. Jack grabbed for Dudley and caught. Then the youngster started to kick. And before Dudley got him

[Continued On Page 8, Column 4]

saved from drowning in a quarry lake by a young man who happened to be on the hill above the site. Read both parts of the

two attached news articles for the full story.

The man who saved my father was buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery in 1980, but the cemetery records for that time period have not been located. The hero's Findagrave page is:

The Evening Sun, August 11, 1927

findagrave.com/memorial/274536673/david_i_dudley

SAVES CHILD IN WATER, BUT RUINS HIS SUIT

Youth Brings Boy Out With Nothing But A Broken Nose.

[Continued from Page 40.]

under control they went down twenty feet and touched the bottom of the hole.

Back at the surface Dudley struck out for the shore. As he neared the bank his strength began to fail. He had to give Jack something of a toss in order to land him. That's when Jack broke his nose. He didn't know it then, because he was almost unconscious.

Uses Artificial Respiration.

His rescuer climbed out of the water behind him and began to apply artificial respiration. He also found time to take Billy to task for engaging in wrestling matches on the brink of dangerous precipices. Billy said he'd certainly never do it again.

After Jack had been turned over to his family, Dudley sent to his own home, 421 North Collington avenue, for a dry suit of clothes. The suit in which he had gone swimming was a brand-new one. It was sopping wet and somewhat damaged.

And Dudley took his crew to the field meet, notwithstanding the swim. He said there was nothing remarkable about his feat. He's good enough swimmer to be planning to swim the Chesapeake Bay some time this summer.

Dudley was graduated from Calvert Hall last June.

BCGS at the Irish Festival Again!



Last year, members of the BCGS, along with representatives from the Irish Shrine and Railroad Workers, the Friends of St. Vincent Cemetery, the New Cathedral, St. Mary's Govans, and the Holy Cross Cemeteries, grouped together for a combined exhibit called the "Genealogy Pavilion". This year St. Peter's Cemetery will join the group.

Each group is there to help visitors learn how they could research and discover their Irish heritage. We were all invited back this year, and we could use some members to help staff our tables throughout the weekend. The event will be November 7 from 6-11 p.m., November 8 from noon to 11 p.m., and November 9 from noon to 6 p.m. There is no entrance fee for the volunteer who staff these tables. To sign up, please contact Dan Phelan at djpphelan@gmail.com

That moment you realize your parents share a common ancestor on Ancestry.com

...and you don't tell a soul

your eCards
somecards.com



Murphy's Law — The will you need is in the safe on the Titanic.