

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.

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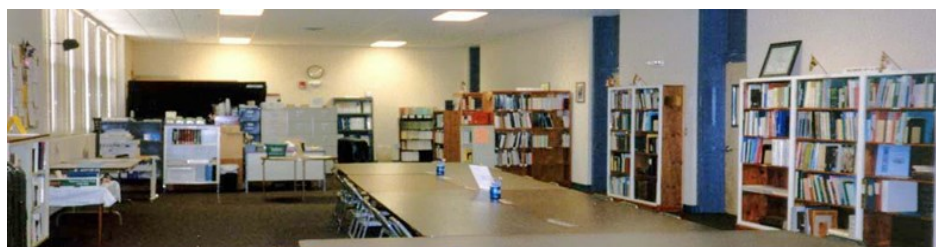
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Baltimore County Genealogical Society

Covering the Baltimore Metro Area and the State of Maryland

Quarterly Newsletter—March 1, 2025



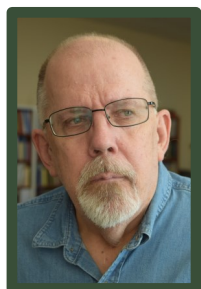
President's Message

Grow Our Genealogy Society Together!

Let's work together to expand our wonderful genealogy society and invite new members, especially young people! Sharing our passion for family history is incredibly rewarding. Inviting friends, family, and anyone interested in discovering their roots can:

- **Increase our membership:** A larger society means more resources, diverse perspectives, and a stronger community.
 - **Introduce new ideas and skills:** New members bring fresh insights and unique research approaches that can benefit everyone.
 - **Preserve family history:** By welcoming new members, we're helping to ensure that the stories of our ancestors are preserved and passed on to future generations.
- We especially encourage young people to join! Family history can be a powerful tool for:
- **Connecting with their heritage:** Discovering their roots can help young people understand their identity and connect with their ancestors.
 - **Developing important skills:** Genealogical research involves critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills that are valuable in many areas of life.

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President Greg Burton

President's Message

(Continued from P. 1)

- **Learning about history:** Family history provides a unique and engaging way to learn about the past and understand how it shapes the present.

Here are a few simple ways to invite new members:

- **Word-of-mouth:** Talk to your friends, family, and colleagues about our society and what we do.
- **Social media:** Share our society's information on your social media platforms.
- **Local events:** Attend local history fairs, community events, and library programs to spread the word.
- **Outreach to schools:** Consider partnering with local schools to offer presentations or workshops on family history.
- **Guest speakers:** Invite potential members, including young people, to attend a society meeting as guest speakers or to learn about a specific research topic.

Let's make this year the year we grow our genealogy society and create an even more vibrant and supportive community for all, especially the next generation of family historians. The benefits of membership in our society are many. The Baltimore County Genealogical Society, founded in 1977, educates members in tracing their family ancestry, collects and publishes genealogical material, and encourages the open exchange of genealogical ideas and experiences. Our library's collection includes over 5,000 books, microfilm, and digital collections. We have gathered records from churches and cemeteries around the Baltimore area. We offer scanning services for records of genealogical interest. Our Sunday meetings provide a time to research or socialize with fellow genealogists.

Spotlight On...

Librarian Lorraine Gordon



Secretary
Lorraine Gordon

Lorraine Gordon (nee Hess) joined the Baltimore County Genealogical Society (BCGS) in 1995. She became a lifetime member in 2003 after receiving the Edna Agnes Kanely Award. She has been our Librarian since 1997.

Her paternal grandparents immigrated in the early 1800's, and her maternal ancestors arrived in Anne Arundel County in the early 1700's, with her mother's grandfather moving to Washington D.C. Her mother was born in Laurel, Prince George's County and is still living at the age of 101! Her father passed away in 2017 at the age of 93.

Lorraine has one sister, is married, and has one son and four grandchildren. Born in Baltimore, she has lived in the Hamilton/Parkville area and has connections in the Perry Hall/Overlea/Fullerton areas. Lorraine became interested in genealogy when her mother's cousin contacted her about family mysteries that needed answers. She then attended genealogy classes at Baltimore County Adult Education Centers. This led to her discovery of the BCGS and the relatives that she searched for. She enjoyed going on the tours directed by Diane Stenzel and eventually taught the genealogy classes and even coordinated a few of the bus tours.

In between learning about her ancestors, Lorraine held a full-time job with a freight forwarding company, then with the pension department of the International Longshoremen Association, worked part time in retail, and then got her college degree 30 years after graduating from high school. She also enjoys boating, crabbing, and fishing and spending time at her vacation home in Ocean City. Now that she retired in 2019, she still enjoys the mysteries of genealogy and devoting her time between Baltimore and Anne Arundel County.

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Refreshments

Vacant

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**.

Status of Projects

Death Certificate Index

Our Maryland Death Certificate Indexing project led by **Greg Burton** continues to make great progress. Thanks to a dedicated team of over 20 volunteers, over 2,894,073 death certificates have been indexed!! The Baltimore City Index is 99% complete. In the surrounding counties partial index records for 1898-1903 (A-L, Mc, N, P-S, U-W, Z) are available, and indexed records for 1969-2014 are complete. If you would like to help with this project, contact **Greg**. Maryland death certificates are now available up to 2014. To search the index visit: baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/resources/maryland-death-index/

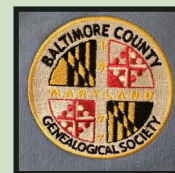
Baltimore City Birth Certificate Index

Our Baltimore City Birth Certificate Index project, led by **Dave Powell**, greatly assisted by **Gail Bresnan**, is making great progress. However, **more volunteers are needed!** We currently have three indexers and have now completed 287,497 records for Baltimore City from 1875-1902, 1904, 1905, 1907, and 1910. Our next step is transcribing the Index records from 1906-1972. The good news about working with this project is that you don't have to read handwriting; the records are typed. Contact **Dave** if you'd like to help. To search the index visit: baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/resources/maryland-birth-index/

Reminder



Don't forget! We have designed an embroidered collared polo shirt for members of the society. Members may order the shirt for \$50.00. We will also have T-Shirts available for \$20.00. The minimum order for us is 10 for the embroidered shirt and 20 for the T-Shirts, so orders will be placed when we reach those minimum number of orders. See **Greg** to place an order.



NEW MEMBER NAME

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED

LAST	FIRST				
Bulgrin	Terry & Keith	Hill	Grieb	Kiefer	Bulgrin
Burton	Pilar				
Foe	Sheila	White	Hamilton		
Hunter	Dave & Barb				
LaBathe	Emily	LeBatte	Wabasha	Webb	
Masemore	Betty				
Norris	Kathleen	Garvey	Flannery	Holbein	Carrico
Sautbaugh	Anne	Butler	Smith	Doyle	Quigley

March 23 Speaker—Lara Diamond

Jewish and Non-Jewish Ancestry from Eastern and Central Europe



Lara Diamond

Jewish-specific sites such as *JewishGen*, *JRI-Poland*, and *Gesher Galicia* can be very powerful for genealogical research—including for those researching non-Jewish ancestry from Eastern and Central Europe. Learn about the breadth and depth of information available on these sites and how they can aid in your research at our March meeting!

Lara Diamond began researching her own family around 1989. She has traced all branches of her family multiple generations back in Eastern Europe using Russian Empire-era and Austria-Hungarian Empire records. Most of her personal research is in modern-day Ukraine, with a smattering of Belarus and Poland. She has done client research leading to their ancestors in many parts of the former USSR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, and more. She is president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland and is JewishGen's Subcarpathia Research Director. She has lectured around the country and internationally on Jewish and Eastern European genealogy research as well as genetic genealogy. She also runs multiple district- and town-focused projects to collect documentation to assist all those researching ancestors from common towns. Lara blogs about her Eastern European and Jewish research at larasgenealogy.blogspot.com.

Calendar of Conference Events 2025

Courtesy of Barbara Jones

The National Genealogical Society Family History Conference is a premier annual event for family historians, professional genealogists, hobbyists, and history buffs. There are also special events planned for organizations: societies, libraries, archives, and museums. The NGS 2025 Family History Conference, **Tales and Trails**, will be held in **Louisville, KY. on May 23-26, 2025**. Attendees can choose from dozens of new lectures for family history researchers at all levels by the nation's premier genealogical speakers. See: conference.ngsgenealogy.org

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming 2025 monthly meetings will be at 2 p.m. on the following Sundays. The speaker begins at 3:00 p.m.

March 23—Speaker
Lara Diamond

April 27—Speaker TBA

May 25—Speaker TBA

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 a.m.-2 p.m. for research.

The International German Genealogy Partnership International Conference

is being hosted this year by the Palatines to American German Genealogy Society. It is being held in **Columbus, Ohio, June 12-15, 2025**, and early-bird registration is now open! The first confirmed Connections sessions are:

- Austria, Christina Kaul
- Bavaria, Teresa McMillin
- Bohemia, Moravia, Austrian-Silesia, Christina Kaul
- East Prussia/West Prussia, Ute Brandenburg
- Baden-Württemberg, Debra A. Hoffman

Don't miss out! For more information and registration go to: iggp.org

Visit Barbara Jones' Genealogy Calendar

Barbara (Smeton) Jones is a local genealogist who maintains a great online calendar for many genealogy events. Check out her calendar at: localendar.com/public/GenealogyCalendar

Visit Baltimore Heritage 5-Minute Histories!

Founded in 1960, Baltimore Heritage, Inc. is Baltimore's nonprofit historic and architectural preservation organization. With a small staff, 33 volunteer board members, and a host of volunteers, they work to preserve and promote Baltimore's historic buildings and neighborhoods. Their mission is to amplify Baltimore's diverse cultural heritage through collaboration, advocacy, and education.

The group has developed over **300 highly-interesting five-minute videos** of many historical places, buildings, and cemeteries in the Baltimore area. They are well worth your time! Please visit this site to view their catalog of videos. youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-CyC5gtGbTuzcnrh_IQmc1JUJudSH_AQ

Most, if not all, are narrated by Johns Hopkins, the executive director of Baltimore Heritage. Be sure to visit their home page at: baltimoreheritage.org/about/

BCGS 2025 Election Update

BCGS elections take place at the April Meeting, but the process begins now. A Nominating committee has been formed and consists of **Greg Burton** and **Dave Powell**. The officers being elected include:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Corresponding Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Recording Secretary**

If you are interested in filling one of these officer positions, would like to nominate someone else who you think would be good for one of these positions, or would like more information about the duties involved in any position, please speak to **Greg** or **Dave** as soon as possible. The slate of officer candidates will be presented at the March meeting and will be voted on at the April Meeting.

Also, we are in need of a **Refreshments Chair**. If you are interested in assisting the BCGS in this area, please also contact **Greg** or **Jim**.

Thank You Speaker

A big thank-you goes out to our February speaker on Maryland immigration and naturalization resources-- **Debra A. Hoffman**! Debra is a professional genealogist and an author who specializes in all topics relating to immigration and passenger lists, especially German, who came through the Port of Baltimore and other ports on the East Coast.

Refreshment Reminder

To help ensure an ample supply of refreshments for our meetings, we request that members contribute munchies and snacks by adhering to the schedule below. Please take home your leftovers, and be sure to collect your container if it is reusable.

Directions: Members with a last name beginning with the letters on the left are asked to bring a refreshment item to share for the months indicated.

Member Last Name Initial	Monthly Meeting
A, B, C	May & January
D, E, F, G, I, J, K, N, O, T, V, Y, Z	April & November
H, L, M, U, X	September & February
P, Q, R, S, W	October & March
Everyone	June

Ha Ha! Definition of mythology: genealogy without documentation.