

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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Baltimore County Genealogical Society

Covering the Baltimore Metro Area and the State of Maryland

Quarterly Newsletter—June 1, 2025



President's Message



President Greg Burton

My term as President is coming to an end. As I look back at our accomplishments, one thing is certain—we are a success because of our members who help with our society. Please thank our Officers and Chairmen, Chairwomen, and Librarians. **Jim Cross**, our Vice-President, arranges our guest speakers for seven meetings a year. I have served as Vice-President in the past and know how difficult finding guest speakers is. **David Powell** has been our Treasurer, and keeping track of our Membership. **Lorrie Erdman** is our Recording Secretary. **Ken Zimmerman** is our Corresponding Secretary.

Our Committee Chairs—**Lorraine Gordon** with Assistant Librarian **Carol Porter**, have maintained our library, keeping track of our collection and reviewing donations for acquisition. Our library is an excellent resource for genealogists, not only for Baltimore County, but we also have collections that can help researchers for the entire state of Maryland. **Dan & Liz Phelan** have stepped up to be the Newsletter & Notebook Editors. They have made improvements and have managed to fill each issue with useful articles. **Barbara Henry** is maintaining our Vertical File, updating the index as new folders are added. We have added so many files we need to add a fourth filing cabinet. **Herb Frantz** has maintained our Computer Network and every expanding collection of scanned and electronic collections. **Ann Wieliczko** leads our Eastern European Interest Group.

In July, I will switch to the Treasurer's position. I will also be in the library on research days helping our visitors. We will continue to improve our birth and death indexes and seek to add to our digital collections. We also have a goal of indexing our scanned collection and adding to the cemetery database.

Spotlight On...

Historian & Assistant Librarian Carol Porter



Carol Porter

Carol Porter is a lifelong resident of Baltimore County and attended all three local Parkville schools, grades 1 through 12. She is the only child of Marion Hayden Porter and Mary Ella Grimmel. Many of her teenage years were spent traveling with her parents visiting America's National Parks from coast to coast as well as touring parts of Canada and Mexico.

She was employed for many years in the accounting departments of Shell Oil Company and later Exxon/Mobil in Towson. As the family caregiver, she heard first hand stories about her family history. These were all treasured times to cherish.

Carol's interest in genealogy began in the bicentennial year after attending a presentation by **Robert Barnes**, the founder of the BCGS. Her mother's Grimmel ancestors immigrated in 1850 from Schonstadt Germany to Baltimore. A Civil War pension record at NARA broke down the brick wall for this family.

Her great-grandfather James Collier was a mariner from Reading, Berkshire, England. FamilySearch.com was very helpful with parish records for this family. Progenitor Thomas Porter arrived in Baltimore in 1725 as an indentured servant with later generations moving to Carroll and Frederick Counties and Loudon County, Virginia.

Carol joined the BCGS in 1993 and has been an active member of the library staff for 32 years. She has also volunteered on other committees when needed, especially for the cemetery and bible records. Today she still enjoys assisting library patrons when they visit to use our wonderful collection. In 1999 she received the **Edna Agatha Kanely Award** with a lifetime membership. Carol has also compiled the following two publications for sale with all proceeds going to the BCGS:

Index of Baltimore County, Maryland Wills, 1851-1919

Heirs and Orphans of Baltimore City and County, Maryland, 1825-1904, abstracted from 'Annual Valuations', coauthored with Pat Czerniewski.

Last year Carol moved from her Putty Hill home of 81 years and is still busy sorting through files and boxes.

Mark Your Calendar!

There are no regular Sunday meetings during the summer. The regular June meeting date is a research day with scanners available. Bring a USB stick with you if you want anything scanned.

June 29—Research Day
(12—4)

July 27—Library closed

August 24—Library closed

The Library is still open for research on the 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month & the 2nd Sat. of the month from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. throughout the summer.

New Work on St. Stephen's Catholic Cemetery, Bradshaw, Baltimore County

On May 3, **Greg Burton** and **Dan Phelan** met with Catherine Fleury Jones about cemetery records for St. Stephen's Cemetery, Bradshaw, MD. Catherine is a volunteer for the parish who has been researching and organizing the cemetery records there. She will be combining forces with the BCGS to make the very limited cemetery records better organized and more useful. If anyone has relatives buried in that cemetery, please contact Greg or Dan.

Ha Ha! "I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand."

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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**.

Baltimore City Death Index Update

By Greg Burton

An indexer's job is never done. Our team of indexers finally finished indexing Baltimore City death records 1875 – 1972. But WAIT, there's more! During our review of the index, we noted what needed improvement. We used the many original index files from the Maryland State Archives when we began the project. We began with 1903 data because the index was typed and easy to read. Our indexers used an Excel template with fields for the information available in the index, which only had Name, Date of Death & Certificate Number. Other years had more information. When the actual death certificates became available, our indexers transcribed the data, adding more information to the index.

We needed a review process for the years done by transcribing the old indexes. The review process began to find missing records and errors. We set up an Excel template for each file of death certificate numbers, and sorted it out by certificate number. That allowed us to find duplicate or missing numbers. Checking the numbers revealed some keying errors by both our indexers and the original indexers. We corrected the numbers and re-sorted the data. The year 1911 had many errors and omitted names. Our team is reviewing 1911 and we will post the corrections soon.

Our indexers have since been adding Race, Sex, Age, and Cemetery (the cemetery information is available only in our library), and adding the file and page number. Yes, there is more. Once we finish reviewing the Baltimore City death certificates, we will begin adding the Maryland county death certificate numbers to our online index. There are 812,568 county death index cards for 1898 – 1968. Yes, we still need help with this project!



NEW MEMBER NAME SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED

LAST	FIRST				
Buchal	Buchal	Gottschalk	Williams	Mollath	
Conelius	Michael	Conelius	Connolly	Poisal	Brushmiller
Cray	Sally	Glover	Todd	Dorsey	Baseman/ Bausman
Darsch	Jesse	Darsch	Dolphin/ Dolphon	Bruce	Jones
Eisenhauer	Cheryl	Meyers	Stocksdales	Dampman	Hunt
Kidd	Katherine	Phillips	Cox	Lamartina	Kidd
Medlin	Deanna	Medlin	Loosemore	Waldmann	Hennessey
Muhler	Sharon				
O'Toole	John	O'Toole	Dougherty	Malone	
	George & Rose Jackson				
Plitt		Plitt	Romaniello		
Wagner	Amy	Krause	Jankowski	Young	Jarzynski

New Officers

The election of officers occurred at our March 23rd meeting. The following individuals will be taking over the respective posts on July 1, 2025 for a term of two years:

David Powell--President

Jim Cross--Vice President

Greg Burton--Treasurer

Lorrie Erdman--Recording Secretary

Ken Zimmermann--Corresponding Secretary

Thank you Speakers!

Thank you to our March Speaker, Lara Diamond.

At our March meeting, Lara Diamond gave a very interesting talk on researching both Jewish and Non-Jewish people in Eastern Europe using websites such as Jewishgen.org, JRI-Poland.org, and geshergalicia.org/families/. Her examples showed how transient those populations were, and the frequent re-naming of towns and regions as borders changed over the last 200 years or so. She also showed how to reach the Holocaust Survivor database. Even attendees that had no Jewish people in their families found the talk to be very enlightening.

Thank you to our April Speaker, David Powell

A big thanks goes out to our own David Powell for his great talk on different sources for using newspapers to find stories and obituaries that can be used to document our families. Some were the typical pay sites, while others were free. One free source is ProQuest newspapers available through the Baltimore County Public Library system.

Thank you to our May Speaker, Jack Burkett

At our May meeting, Jack Burkett spoke on the immigration of different cultures to Baltimore, and the opportunities and issues that awaited the immigrants. Jack has a degree in history and education from the University of Maryland, is a part-time educator at the Baltimore Museum of Industry, and the author of 'Twentieth Century Baltimore—A Native Son's Casual History of the City on the Patapsco'.

Handouts supplied by our speakers can be found on the BCGS website at: baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/program-of-speakers/speakers-handouts/ if you missed any of the talks.



Update on Mdlandrec.net

Many of our members have successfully used mdlandrec.net for researching the history of a property through the Maryland State Archives.

Unfortunately, in May 2025, the Maryland State Archives implemented a new fee structure for accessing land records online. Users will be charged \$0.20 per page to view or download modern records (less than 100 years old). Historical records over 100 years old will remain free to access. In addition to the online access fee, other land record fees may apply.

Access to these land records at the Maryland State Archives Search Room in Annapolis and in the local Circuit Courts will remain unchanged and free.

Looking for Past Employees of the Glenn L. Martin Company

by Nancy Zellinger

Do you have a relative, or know of a person, who worked for The Glenn L. Martin Company? There are no personnel records remaining, but The Glenn L. Martin Maryland Aviation Museum is collecting information about the former employees of the company.



The Glenn L. Martin Company was an American aircraft manufacturing company founded by Mr. Glenn L. Martin in Santa Ana, California in 1912. In 1929, the company began operations in Middle River in Baltimore County. Mr. Martin choose this area because he wanted to be near the water, the railroad, and closer to Washington D.C. In 1961, The Glenn L. Martin Company merged with the American Marietta Corporation and the company became known as Martin-Marietta. Finally, in 1995, Martin-Marietta merged with aerospace giant Lockheed to form the Lockheed Martin Corporation.

If you know of anyone who worked for The Martin Company, please send us the information. A form to submit your information can be found on the website of the Museum at this link: mdair-museum.org/m. To download the form, click **Martin Company Employee Information Form**. Also, forms are available in the Welcome Center of the Museum at Martin State Airport, at 701 Wilson Point Road, Hangar Five, Suite 531. To mail your form, please send to GLMMAM, P.O. 5024, Middle River, MD 21220.

Also, to download a list of the names of the employees already submitted, click, **Name of Employees whose forms have been submitted**.

The original Employee Forms are maintained in the archives of the Museum for future generations, but copies are on display in the Museum. Some completed forms include a picture and a biography of the employee. To see the book of Martin Company Employee Forms, or for information about the history of aerospace in this area, please plan a visit. The Museum is open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Admission is \$8.00 for adults, and \$3 for children under 12.

Some DNA definitions

STR – short tandem repeats

SNP – single nucleotide polymorphism

IBD – Identical by descent without recombination

MRCA – Most recent common ancestor

Allele – single gene form that defines a specific trait such as eye color. Different form of same gene – one for blue eyes, one for brown, etc.

Chromosome – a molecular package carrying a number of genes

Centimorgan – a unit of recombinant frequency – when two genes recomb – think of it as a unit of “likeness”

rCRS – revised Cambridge Reference Sequence – one woman’s complete DNA sequence used for MtDNA

RSRS – reconstructed Sapiens Reference Sample – used for MtDNA

