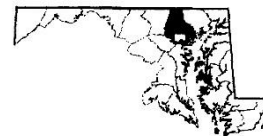


The Baltimore County Genealogical Society



THE NOTEBOOK



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Research Tips of the Quarter

by Michael John Neill

Diminutives, Nick Names, and Spelling Errors

A diminutive is usually a shortened version of a name and one that, while not official, is commonly used for a specific name. Sally for Sarah and Peggy for Margaret are good examples of diminutives, and diminutives are usually based on the actual name. Nick names are usually an alternate name for a person and are often based on something other than the name—hair color, size, or some other characteristic. Spelling errors are renderings of the name based on clerical error, how the name was said, or how the name was heard. They aren't a different name, just an incorrect or variant spelling. Diminutives and nick names are different from the name and usually do not sound exactly like the original name.

<https://genealogytipoftheday.com/>

Note: Phonetical sound of a name can be more easily recognizable. But the variation in spelling makes our genealogy research challenging and interesting.

MARYLAND MORTALITY SCHEDULES 1850 & 1860

By Ruth T. Dryden

At the same time the seventh census of the United States of America was taken in 1850, the enumerator also recorded all the deaths in his district for the previous year. This mortality schedule listed the name of the deceased; age; sex; color; whether free or a slave; married or single; place of birth; month of death; cause of death and number of days ill.

Note: Kenneth Zimmerman with BCGS is working on indexing the Maryland Mortality Schedule for 1880 for Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

Pub. 1980, reprinted 2023, 234 pages, soft cover, ISBN #978-1-63914-142-5.

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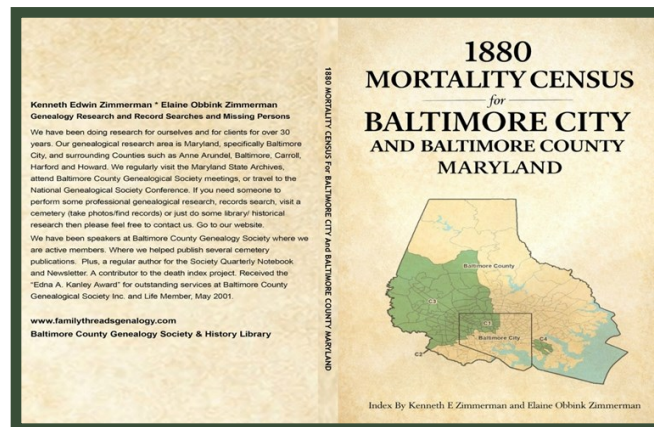
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1880 Mortality Census for Baltimore City & Baltimore County

By: Kenneth E Zimmerman and Elaine Obbink Zimmerman Pub. 2026, , 210 pages, soft cover, 8.5" x 11".

At the same time, the tenth census of the United States of America was taken in June 1880, the enumerator also recorded all the deaths in his district for the previous year. Person died during the year ending May 31, 1880. This mortality schedule lists the Line number; Number of the family as given in Column number, 2 Schedule 1; Name of the deceased; Age; sex; color; married or single; Place of birth; Father/Mother birthplace; Profession, Occupation, or Trade; Month of death; Disease or cause of death; How long residence of this county? Place of Death; and Name of Attending Physician.

The publication provides an index to the Mortality Census for Baltimore City and Baltimore County Maryland. **Maryland death certificates began statewide registration in 1898.** However, Baltimore City had earlier records dating back to the mid-19th century. For genealogical research, death certificates from 1875 for Baltimore City and 1898 for the counties are available online.



United States Census Mortality Schedule 1880

What is in This Collection?

The collection consists of images of mortality schedules listing inhabitants of the United States for Maryland-Baltimore City and Baltimore County who died between June 1, 1879, and May 31, 1890. This mortality schedule was included with the general population census schedule.

Mortality schedules are a national-level file of state-by-state death registers for the year prior to the federal census. Census enumerators requested information from the head of household about deaths that had occurred in the year prior to the census. In 1880 a supplemental report from attending physicians was added.

In the absence of vital registration in many states, mortality schedules provided nationwide death statistics for one year of each decade, 1850–1880. According to the official statistical report for 1870, this was done to assess the death rate for age-groups, sex, race, nationality, and occupation and to “deduc[e] the effect of the various conditions of life upon the duration of life.” Census mortality schedules are usually accurate, but this accuracy depended on the knowledge of the informant and the care of the census enumerator.

Why are Mortality Schedules Important?

Mortality schedules are a valuable resource for several reasons.

- **Filing gaps on death records:** In many states, civil death registration was not mandatory and until the late 1800’s or early 1900’s. Mortality schedules may be the only existing record of an ancestors’ death and supporting details during this period.
- **Genealogical Research:** They can help researchers trace family lineages, particularly for enslaved ancestor whose death might not be documented elsewhere.
- **Public:** The data collected in these schedules provides insights into mortality patterns, cause of death, and the health status of communities in the past.
- **Clues for further research:** Information found in mortality schedules can lead researchers to other sources, such as obituaries, cemetery records, or probate records.

(Continued on p.3)

Using Mortality Schedules:

- Mortality schedules are generally organized by year, then by county.
- Searches can be done by using the name of the deceased, but it is important to consider variations in spelling and potential omissions.
- Researchers may also choose to browse the schedules for a particular county or locality to get a better overview of the available record.

Limitations Using Mortality Schedules:

- Incompleteness: Not all deaths were recorded, and some data may be missing or inaccurate.
- Transcription and indexing errors. Spelling errors and incomplete information can hinder searching.
- Focus on deaths within the year prior to the census only.
- Despite these limitations, census mortality schedules remain an invaluable tool for researchers and genealogists seeking to understand the lives and deaths of individuals in the 19th century in the United States.

Where to Find Original Copies of Mortality Schedules:

- Maryland State Archives has downloadable copies online: guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/item.aspx?ID=SM61-347
- Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center has microfilm copies
- Maryland State Law Library in Annapolis Maryland has microfilm copies
- Ancestry.com (required payment) mortality schedules to download
- Familysearch.org has schedules to download for free
- Baltimore County Genealogy Society has schedules on the library computers.
- Beware, not all Mortality Census have been indexed for online use. e.g.- Maryland not available for index on line.

What Can These Records Tell Me? Baltimore City:

The following information may be found in these records:

- Family Number
- Name of the [person deceased]
- Age, gender, and color of deceased
- Deceased Status: Single, Married, Widowed/Divorced
- Birthplace (state, territory, or country)
- Last Residence: Street Number, Street name
- Profession, Occupation or Trade
- Month in which the Person Died
- Disease or Cause of death
- How long residence of the country?
- Name of attending Physician
- Note the pages are in sequence by Month died

What Can These Records Tell Me? Baltimore County:

The following information may be found in these records:

- Family Number
- Name of the [person deceased]
- Age, gender, and color of deceased
- Deceased Status: Single, Married, Widowed/Divorced
- Birthplace (state, territory, or country)
- Where was the father born?
- Where was the mother born?
- Profession, Occupation or Trade
- Month in which the Person Died
- Disease or Cause of death
- How long residence of the country?
- Name of attending Physician
- Note the pages are in sequence by Supervisor District and Enumeration District

NOTE: Contact Kenneth Zimmerman via ken@familythreadsgenealogy.com if interested in purchasing this publication.

\$30.00 plus MD sales tax & shipping cost.

Marriages are Made in Heaven—But Where Are They Recorded?

Part Three: Marriage Laws

by the late Robert Barnes

NOTES: The first part of this article focused on Direct Records of Marriage, such as Marriage Bonds, Parish Registers, etc. Part Two treated Indirect Records of Marriage, such as probate records, newspaper entries, and so forth.

This concluding segment of my essay on researching marriage records explains why it is important for researchers to familiarize themselves with the specific marriage laws of the state or country they are exploring. For instance, in England, in 1653, under the Cromwell Protectorate, marriage was a civil contract performed by a Justice of the Peace. With the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, marriage was once more a sacrament of the Church. The only legal marriages were those performed in parish churches, and the only burials were in parish churchyards, so many Catholics had their marriages recorded in Church of England church records.

In Maryland, with whose marriage statutes I am most familiar, there were a number of laws pertaining to marriage and the recording of marriages.



In October 1640 the Assembly of Maryland enacted a law stating that no one could be married unless the banns had been published three days earlier in a chapel or some other public place (Archives of Maryland [hereafter ARMD] 1:97).

In the 1650s the General Assembly of Maryland passed several laws requiring the clerks of the various county courts to keep registers of births, marriages, and deaths. Only a few of these registers--from Charles, Kent, Talbot, and Somerset counties--have come down to us.

In April 1658 the Lord Proprietary ordered, "by and with the consent of this present General Assembly," that the clerks of each county court were to keep a register of all persons born, married, or died, and any person who waited more than two months to register such an event should be fined 20 pounds of tobacco. The act was to continue in effect for three years. Another act of the same session said that any persons desiring to be married should publish their intentions at any session of court, church, chapel, or meeting house at a time when the meeting was full (ARMD 1:373, 374). At the session ending May 1666 the Assembly described the form the marriage ceremony should take (ARMD 2:148).

At a meeting of the Council held in September 1685, it was ordered that "anyone, magistrate, priest, or minister, qualified to marry or join in matrimony should not perform such a ceremony to any persons, strangers from Virginia or elsewhere, without a license or certificate from some Magistrate or other person within this Province thereunto legally authorized and empowered of having past due Examination, and that the parties desiring the same may lawfully be joined together" (ARMD 17:399).

At the session ending June 1692 it was enacted that all persons intending to marry could apply to a minister, pastor, or magistrate. Clerks were to keep a register of births, marriages, and burials in a fair and legible hand (ARMD 13:450, 530).

(Continued on p. 5)

(Continued from p. 4)

On a more somber note at that session, the Assembly enacted a law directing that if "any freeborn English or white woman should marry with any Negro or other Slave or any free Negro she should lose her freedom and become a servant during the term of seven years to the use and benefit of the Ministry or the Poor of the same Parish at the discretion of the Vestry men of the Parish to which the said Woman at the time of Marriage did belong, and if the man was a free Negro, he should forfeit his freedom and become a Servant to the use aforesaid during his natural life" (ARMD 13:547).

On 12 June 1694 Thomas Lawrence, Secretary of the Province, announcing an Act of Assembly "to keep records of all births, marriages and deaths," wrote the following to Mr. John West, Clerk of Somerset County, to be read in Court June next:

"Whereas according to an Act of Assembly of this Province entitled an Act for the Registering of Births, Marriages & Burials, it is enacted that within two months after the birth of any Child, person married or the death of any person within this Province, that the Birth of the Child born by the Parents & the time of the marriage of any Person married, & the time of the death of any person dying by the Extr or Admr be entered upon Record by the Clerk of the County Court. And whereas the inhabitants of the several & respective Counties are very slack & negligent in entering the same according to the tenour of sd act these are to will and require the inhabitants of the several and respective Counties to bring in a just & true account of the Children born, the persons married and the persons deceased and to enter the same upon record with the Clerk of the County Court in which they doe inhabit & dwell & for the future to enter the same within the time limited as by the sd act is required whereof they are not to fail under the penalty in the sd Act mentioned & for default to be prosecuted accordingly whereof every person by their Ma'ties Special Command are to take notice. Given under [my?] hand this eleventh day of May Anno Domini 1694" (SOJU LD:97).

In July 1696 it was enacted by the "Authority aforesaid by and with the Advice and Consent aforesaid That if any Minister priest or Magistrate shall join in Marriage any persons Contrary to the Table of Marriages by this Act appointed to be Set up in every parish Church within this Province he or they shall forfeit the sum of five Thousand pounds of tobacco" (ARMD 19:430).

By May 1704 the registrars of the parish were to keep a register of all births, marriages, and burials within the parish (ARMD 24:268).

Again, in Maryland until well into the 20th century, marriages had to be performed by an ordained clergyman. Nowadays, clerks of the county courts may perform civil marriages.

Editor's Note: Robert Barnes was one of Maryland's leading genealogists and an expert on marriage records. He is the author of a three-volume series on Maryland marriage records spanning the period 1634 to 1820.

His most recent publications include:

MARYLAND MARRIAGE EVIDENCES, 1634-1718

COLONIAL FAMILIES OF MARYLAND: Bound and Determined to Succeed

MISSING RELATIVES AND LOST FRIENDS

Maryland Marriages, 1634-1777

Maryland Marriages, 1801-1820

Maryland Marriages, 1801-1820

Marriages and Deaths from Baltimore Newspapers, 1796-1816

Marriages and Deaths from the "Maryland Gazette," 1727-1839

Baltimore County Marriage Evidences and Family Relationships, 1659-1800

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. January & June are research days 12-4 p.m.

- 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
- No monthly meetings in July, August, and December.

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.