

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—Mar. 1, 2026



President's Message

As we settle into the year 2026, we shouldn't forget to make those all important New Year's resolutions. You can join me in a few:

- We resolve to pay our BCGS dues for 2026 if we haven't already done so.
- We resolve to break through at least two of our personal genealogical brick walls.
- We resolve to assist the BCGS with at least one volunteer hour to help with refreshments at our monthly meetings (see schedule later in this newsletter).
- We resolve to assist with an indexing project to help future generations of genealogists.



President Dave Powell

Won't you really feel better if you accomplished all those resolutions this year?

We are proud to announce that since the last newsletter and thanks to numerous excellent volunteers we have added three more years to our Baltimore City birth certificate index. The index now covers 1875-1911 and 1914. We are working on 1912, 1913, and 1915 years. The death certificate indexing project and the cemetery indexing projects also have made significant progress over the past weeks. You will see those updates in the coming weeks.

Come join us at the library either on research days or at our regular Sunday meetings, we would love to see you. Enjoy a wonderful 2026! Thanks as always to our many volunteers, without whose efforts the BCGS would not exist.

Spotlight On...Cemetery Coordinator Lance McPherson



Cemetery Coordinator
Lance McPherson

Lance McPherson is the most recent addition to the BCGS board and serves as our Cemetery Coordinator. He has been a member of the BCGS for over 15 years, and like many of us from the Baltimore area, is a distant cousin of Greg Burton

Lance grew up in the New Northwood section of Baltimore City and attended Northwood Elementary, Hamilton Junior High School, and the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, graduating in 1976. Thanks to "A" course at Poly, he was able to complete his degree from UMBC in 1979. After graduation he worked for UMBC managing a CO-ED dormitory with 250 students and the many diverse problems that they could create. From there, he began his career with the Defense Investigative Service at the former Ft. Holabird. He spent 35 years conducting and managing the security clearance process for all Department of Defense employees. Later, following the consolidation of investigative agencies, he retired from Federal service from the OPM, Federal Investigative Service in 2015.

Since retirement he has many interests that keep him occupied. During daylight hours you'll find him on the golf course once or twice a week, boating on the Bay or working on one of several antique vehicles in his holdings. When the sun goes down, he's likely working on genealogy in 200+ trees that he has created for friends and other researchers.

He initially began work expanding access to memorials on Findagrave by researching dormant cemeteries like Mount Olivet on Frederick Road in Baltimore. There were 200 graves documented when he started, and now there are over 38,000 memorials. He works throughout Maryland helping to document memorials that assist other researchers. His own family tree has grown from his small circle of immediate family to over 11,000 names stretching back to Scotland and Viking settlements in the Inner Hebrides.

Lance raised four children in Fallston and now enjoys watching two grandsons grow up in Harford County when he's not traveling with love of his life, Karen.

Maryland Land Records Website

On November 17, 2025, an updated version of the Maryland Land Records website was released, along with a new URL : <https://landrec.msa.maryland.gov>

After the launch of the new site, the old URL, <https://mdlandrec.net> will redirect users to the new site for a short period. However, the Archives encourages users to bookmark and begin using the new URL.

All users will need to create a new account, as previous accounts will no longer be active and cannot be migrated.

The login process has been modified to now require two-factor authentication with a valid email address. When a user enters their username and password to login, a security code will also be required to complete this process. This code will be sent to the email associated with the account.

Users can only be logged into the site on one device at a time.

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming 2026 monthly meetings will be at 2 p.m. on the following Sundays:

March 22 General Meeting—speaker **Cecilia Wright** of the Irish American Museum

April 26 General Meeting—speaker **Andrew Kinslow** about Family Stories of Military Service

May 24 General Meeting—Speaker TBD.

The library 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.

Murphy's Law— Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.

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Refreshments

Vacant

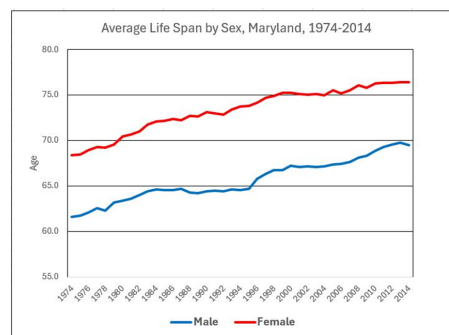
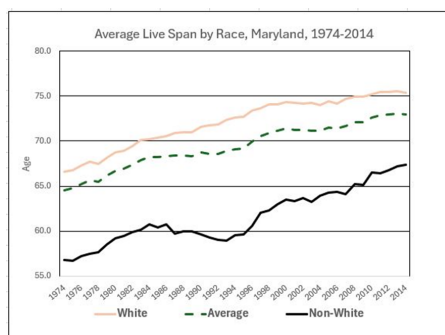
Maryland Statewide Average Lifespans, 1974-2014

By Greg Burton and Dan Phelan

Greg Burton did a compilation of life-span statistics based on data from the Maryland death certificate indexing project for the years 1974-2014. He compared life spans for Men vs Women, and Whites vs Non-Whites. Because the index categories do not differentiate between African Americans, Orientals, Spanish, Arabian, or other subsets of races, unfortunately the only comparison that can be done is between Whites and Non-Whites. Two graphs are shown below that illustrate the obvious differences in life span for those groups. Life spans for Whites were noticeably higher than Non-whites, and Women's lifespans were noticeably higher than for Men.

The total number of deaths per year in the statistics increased from roughly 31,000 to 46,000 between the beginning and end between 1974 and 2014.

Regarding the significant difference between the lifespans of Women and Men, it was humorously described by the comedian Alan King. Alan died in 2016 and was survived by his wife. To watch and hear his interpretation, go to Youtube.com and search for "Alan King-- Survived by his wife". Or try <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoGgbxX8iko>



NEW MEMBER NAME

SURNAMES BEING RESEARCHED

LAST	FIRST				
Arnold	Stacey	Holland	Brauer	Lake	Haake
Ayres 3rd	William	Ayres	Wehner		
	Cathy & Calvin	Bon	Murray	Brandt	
Brandt	David				
Busby	Tim	Callender	Lears	Duley	Callahan
Callender	Joseph				
Coale	Patricia				
Freeburg	Christopher				
Holan	Dale E	Nelson	Sellman	Brashear	Key
Jacobi	Diane	Lasek	Burns	Baughner	McDaniel
Lasek	Maria				
Lederer	Robert	Langenfelter	Kraus	Freund	Bock
Militello	John Charles				
Morrison	James	Wagner	Lewis	Lutz	Winkler

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**.

Upcoming Speakers—Don't Miss Out!



Cecilia outside 918 Lemmon Street for the Annual Irish Wake Program, 2025

March 22nd—Cecelia Wright Speaker **Cecilia Wright** is from the Irish American Museum, Baltimore, formerly known as the Irish Railroad Workers Museum.

Cecilia's program is "Meet the Feeley Family." James and Sarah Feeley lived in 918 Lemmon Street from the 1860's into the 1880's. Over 20 years ago, the founders of the Irish American Museum were delighted to begin learning about the family that lived in the house that they saved from demolition, and planned to turn into a museum. Ever since then, they have been working to discover the family's story. This presentation follows that journey from early finds, to humorous surprises and recent discoveries through many types of historic documents. Maybe you can find some hints to help in your own research through what we have learned about this typical Irish working-class family.

The museum is located one short block directly north of Baltimore's B&O Railroad Museum. Many of the Irish and other immigrant families that lived in that neighborhood were the laborers that built the early railroads. The Irish American Museum centers on the connections between those laborers and the railroad.

Cecilia Wright is a teacher, and has been volunteering for the Irish American Museum for over ten years. She has also served as President of the Board for the last three years. She enjoys historic and genealogy research and has developed the museum's annual Irish Wake program, programs on the history of Irish Immigration to America, and the history of working on the railroad. Most recently her genealogy research of her own family has led her to joining the DAR.



April 11th—Armand Kinslow Our April speaker, **Armand Kinslow**, is a member of the Howard County Genealogy Society. He will be speaking about topics covered in his book **'They Will Not Be Forgotten: One Family's Stories of Military Service from Independence to Vietnam'**.

The book, **'They Will Not Be Forgotten'**, was written with three goals in mind: to inspire and motivate others to explore their past, to educate readers by lighting some of the darker corners of history that may be unknown to many of us, and to honor those veterans who have served through telling their stories of service, beginning with the War of Independence through the Vietnam conflict period.

Armand Kinslow joined the USMC as an infantry officer. He later served as an intelligence officer during the Cold War, the Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Between his military and government service, Kinslow spent four decades working in intelligence gathering and analysis. He is an avid history buff, particularly of America's military campaigns.

Thank You February Speaker, Pamela R. Ellis

Our thanks go out to Pamela Ellis for her great talk on breaking genealogical brick walls using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Her book—**The Brick Wall, Breaking Genealogy Barriers with AI**, and her accompanying talk, focused on learning how to use AI as a powerful research assistant and as a tool to tackle more complex genealogical problems. Many of us are looking forward to trying out these methods.

Murphy's Law— When at last after much hard work you have solved the mystery that you have been working on for two years, your aunt says, "I could have told you that."

Genealogy Classes offered by the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC)

CCBC will be offering three genealogy classes during the spring semester in their Senior Adventures in Learning (SAIL) program. All three classes will be held at their Hunt Valley extension campus at 11101 McCormick Rd.

Find Your Family Roots – Beyond Beginners – Course # 73713

This course teaches more advanced techniques for doing genealogy research on the computer. Students will learn how to do complex searches on multiple web sites to further their genealogical research. Techniques for storing and organizing genealogical data on a computer will be discussed. Tuesdays from 4/14/2026 for eight weeks at 1:00 to 2:30pm.

Understanding Genealogy Research – Course # 73714

Enhance your genealogy research by understanding the information within the records you find. Special emphasis on student's individual records will be made. Explore new approaches to finding records. Fridays from 5/1/2026 for four weeks at 10:00am to Noon.

Family History Research using FamilySearch.org – Course # 73721

Discover the power of *Familysearch.org* for your family history journey. Learn to leverage its vast resources for storing and expanding your genealogical research. Thursdays from 4/16/2026 for eight weeks at 1:00 to 2:30pm

All three classes are being taught by **David Powell**, the President of the Baltimore County Genealogy Society and a Maryland Genealogy Society Board Member.

Register for the course(s) by calling 443-840-222 or visit this website:

<https://www.ccbcmd.edu/Admission-and-Registration/Register-for-Classes/Continuing-Education/Registration-and-Payment.html>

Speaker?

*One of the highlights of our meetings is exposure to new information and techniques that broaden our genealogy research skills and knowledge. Toward that end, we are always looking for speakers for our meetings to help with that. If you have an expertise to share, or know of someone who might be interested in speaking to our group for an hour, please contact Vice President **Jim Cross**.*

New Refreshment Schedule

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, D	January & May
E, F, G, H	February & June
I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R	March & October
S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z,	April & September
Everyone	November



Lunch & Learn: The American Revolution and the Fate of the World

By **Enoch Pratt Free Library**

Follow

Online event

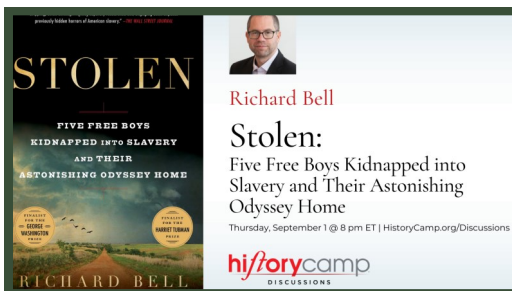
Mar 12 from 1pm to 2pm EDT

Overview

Richard Bell invites audiences to rediscover the Revolution as a world war that unleashed chaos, opportunity, and transformation.



When we think of the American Revolution, we often picture thirteen colonies squaring off against the British Crown in a spirited bid for independence. But this is only half the truth—and perhaps not even the most interesting half. In this riveting program, historian and author **Richard Bell** invites audiences to rediscover the Revolution as a world war that unleashed chaos, opportunity, and transformation across six continents. Participants will encounter a Native matriarch struggling to preserve a transatlantic military alliance, a Prussian officer reinventing himself in a foreign army, and a Boston schoolteacher shipwrecked thousands of miles from home. This is the American Revolution as you've never seen it before: complex, global, and astonishingly relevant to the modern world.



Richard Bell is Professor of History at the University of Maryland and author of the book *Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and their Astonishing Odyssey Home* which was a finalist for the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. He has held major research fellowships at Yale, Cambridge, and the Library of Congress and is the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities Public Scholar award and the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. His new book, ***The American Revolution and the Fate of the World***, was published by Penguin in November 2025. He maintains a list of upcoming events at Richard-Bell.com.

To join virtually visit the Enoch Pratt Free Library's [Facebook](#) or [Youtube](#) page. ASL interpretation will be available for attendees.

Presented in partnership with [The Maryland State Archives](#) and [The Maryland Four Centuries Project](#).

Reminder—Membership Renewal Due Now!

Our memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. Please renew your membership for 2026.

Dues remain **\$15 for an individual or \$20 for a family**. You can renew on-line via PayPal here:

<https://www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/membership>

OR

Mail a check to: BCGS P.O. Box 10085, Towson, MD 21285-0085

OR

Pay by cash or check at one of our monthly meetings or research days.

Murphy's Law — The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead end has been lost due to fire, flood or war.