



# Gateway Family Historian

A PUBLICATION OF THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY



What do you want to know?

Vol. 11, No. 1, 2011

## ETHNIC SPOTLIGHT—

### Free Blacks in Antebellum Maryland

**S**lavery was not formal law when the colony of Maryland was first settled in 1634. There were some slaves, but most black people were indentured servants who were contracted to an employer for a specified time, after which they were considered free men and women. As the demand for tobacco rose, the need for slaves also increased and the institution of slavery was codified into the legal system. A 1664 law made black people and their children "servants for life." Under the law, slaves were considered property and could be bought and sold like any other commodity. Slaves had very few avenues of legal redress in cases of abuse.



Sadly, life in Maryland was not much easier for free blacks. In Prince George's County, African Americans were considered free men and women *only* if they were:

1. Born free
2. Manumitted by their owners
3. Purchased by a free family member
4. Freed by order of a judge/court

Free black men and women in Maryland had to carry legal proof of their free status or risk being sold into slavery. In Prince George's County, they also had to carry proof that they were employed and had to obtain a license to sell any goods they produced. If they could not produce such documents on demand, they could be jailed and/or sold into slavery. Visits by black relatives or friends from outside the county were limited to ten days. If a black resident left Maryland for more than thirty days without first informing local authorities, he or she was not allowed to return.

The children of a free black man who married a slave woman were born slaves, while the children of a free black woman and a male slave were born free. Any child of a free black couple had to find employment as soon as possible or risk being apprenticed to a master chosen by the Maryland Orphan's Court.

Visit *The Legacy of Slavery in Maryland* at [www.mdslavavery.net/](http://www.mdslavavery.net/).



Welcome to the twenty-ninth issue of the *Gateway Family Historian*. This issue's focus is a state that furnished many immigrants to Missouri – Maryland.

PLEASE NOTE: *Gateway Family Historian* is now a bi-annual publication.

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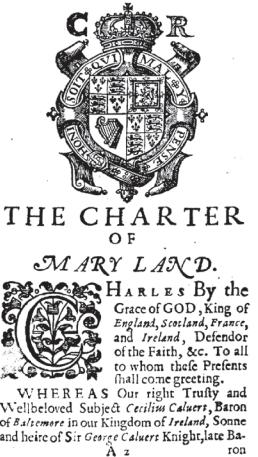
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# Venerated Ancestors



1. Barnes, Robert W. ***British Roots of Maryland Families.*** 2 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1999. H/G 929.3752.

Under each surname, the author notes the original location of the family in Great Britain plus the source where the information was uncovered. A brief genealogy of the immigrant ancestor and his descendants is provided along with a description of any progenitor's coat-of-arms. Tracts of surveyed land belonging to family members in Maryland are described by property name. Over 500 families are covered in Volume I; an additional 203 families (plus additions and corrections to the first volume) are found in Volume II.

2. Barnes, Robert W. ***Maryland Marriages, 1634-1777.*** Also, ***Maryland Marriages, 1778-1800;*** and ***Maryland Marriages, 1801-1820.*** 3 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1975, 1993, and 1978. All located in H/G 929.3752.

Contains compilations of marriages abstracted from church records found at Baltimore's Maryland Historical Society or Annapolis'

The St. Louis Public Library's genealogical collections provide researchers with a wide variety of published records, histories, indexes, and more covering the state of Maryland, its 27 counties, and the independent city of Baltimore. Here is a sampling:

Maryland Hall of Records. Also includes records on file from some county courts and individual ministers' registers. Listings are alphabetical by groom (with a bride's index by surname in the back of each volume).

3. Coldham, Peter Wilson. ***Settlers of Maryland, 1679-1783.*** 5 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1966 and 1995. H/G 929.3752.

The author has abstracted and indexed land grants recorded at the Maryland Land Office. The calendars of the Maryland Land Registers are virtually complete from the earliest years of the province and provide a clear picture of its settlement. In 1680, the headright system was

done away with; thereafter, land was usually obtained only by purchase or as an award from the Proprietor. Each volume lists landowners alphabetically by surname; county where property was located; name of property; number of acres; date surveyed or patented; and reference. Marylanders usually named their property. For example, tracts belonging to Mr. Thomas Holliday have names such as "Holliday's Choice" and "Tewksbury." This custom generally makes the tracing of a particular piece of property much easier and can also give clues to the person's background and European origins. Notes regarding transported persons, guardianship, subsequent marriages, or other legal matters are often included.

4. Cotton, Jane Baldwin. ***Maryland Calendar of Wills.*** 16 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1968-1995. H/G 929.3752.

Contains abstracts of Maryland wills from the Prerogative Courts (1635-1777). An every-name index is included in the back of each volume. Special attention was given to the disposition of properties, including the names of properties, acreage, and

situation whenever possible (names of properties can also be obtained from bibliography items 1 and 3 above).

#### 5. ***Maryland Historical Magazine.***

Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1 vol. 1906-current. ST-P. The Library owns a complete run of this magazine, which contains genealogical and historical information. It is indexed by PERSI (Periodical Source Index) and can be accessed via the HERITAGEQUEST database. The Library also owns the Maryland Genealogical Society's *Bulletin* (Baltimore: The Society, Vol. 6, 1965-current), which is also indexed in PERSI.

6. McIntire, Robert Harry. ***Annapolis, Maryland Families.*** 2 vols. Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1980. H/G 929.3752.

Contains information abstracted from thousands of birth and marriage records; records from churches of several denominations; plus cemetery, newspaper, and military records from the Annapolis area. Families are listed alphabetically by progenitor with an every-name index in each volume.

7. O'Rourke, Timothy J. ***Maryland Catholics on the Frontier: The Missouri and Texas Settlements.*** Parsons, KS: Brefney Press, 1973. H/G 929.3752.

Although most pioneer families mentioned in this book settled in Perry County, Missouri, and various areas in Texas, all trace their colonial roots to southern Maryland. Genealogies of over 15,000 Catholic settlers are included, which traces the families back to Maryland, where they first sought refuge from religious persecution in England.

## Venerated Ancestors

continued from page 2

8. Skordas, Gust. ***The Early Settlers of Maryland: An Index to Names of Immigrants Compiled From Records of Land Patents, 1633-1680, in the Maryland Hall of Records.*** Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968. H/G 929.3752.

Immigrants are listed alphabetically by surname with the source and year of immigration provided along with an indication of whether the person was involuntarily transported or paid his or her way. Notes sometimes indicate the county of origin in England and the county of settlement in Maryland. Occupation, reason for immigration, and relationship to other immigrants may also be provided.

10. Society of the Ark and the Dove. ***The Ark and the Dove Adventurers.*** Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005. H/G 929.3752.

In 1632, Catholic King Charles I of England granted George Calvert (a Catholic convert) a huge tract of land in Virginia. Upon George's

sudden death in 1632, his son, Cecil, inherited the land and charter for the settlement of "Maria Terra," or Maryland (named for Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I). Cecil thus became the colony's Lord Proprietor and the second Lord Baltimore. He offered free land and religious freedom to persons who would help settle his colony (they had to be Christians, but didn't need to be Catholic). A passenger list of these first settlers of Maryland arriving on the ship *Ark and the Dove* in 1634 has been reconstructed in this work. Genealogies of their descendants to the fifth generation (if any) are also included.



## Did You Know? }

### Maryland Death Records

Availability varies widely by county. The Maryland State Archives (MSA)



has some burial records for early Maryland counties from 1654-1720 and some church death and burial indexes from 1686-1958.

Maryland experimented with an attempt to record deaths and burials by county between 1865 and 1884. Compliance was poor, but MSA has a copy of the records that were compiled. MSA also has copies of Baltimore City Death Records from 1875-1972. Some of those records now exist only as a microfilm copy; the original paper records were destroyed after filming.

The Maryland General Assembly mandated the keeping of death records at the county level in 1898. Unfortunately, initial compliance was poor, so records are spotty in some counties as late as 1914. MSA

has copies of these records from 1898-1972.

The State Department of Vital Records consolidated the recording of city and county death records for Maryland in 1972. MSA has copies of these records from 1972-2001.

The Guide to Government Records is the aid created by the MSA to assist users in their quest to find specific records. It describes record series that have been created by state agencies, whether at the state, county, or municipal level. You can browse record listings by series, agency, or record type. If you choose record type, you can then search the county agency series (arranged by county of interest). Visit the Guide to Government Records at <http://guide.mdsa.net/>.



# Site Seeing



**Cyndi's List**

[www.cyndislist.com/md.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/md.htm)

Includes an extensive categories list plus a list of related categories, all of which may prove useful to those researching ancestors from the Cavalier State. Categories include how-to; libraries, archives & museums; maps, gazetteers & geographical information; mailing lists, news groups & chat; military; and more.

## Cyndi's List-Maryland

[www.cyndislist.com/md.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/md.htm)

Includes an extensive categories list plus a list of related categories, all of which may prove useful to those researching ancestors from the Cavalier State. Categories include how-to; libraries, archives & museums; maps, gazetteers & geographical information; mailing lists, news groups & chat; military; and more.

## City Directories of the United States – Maryland

[www.uscitydirectories.com/md.htm](http://www.uscitydirectories.com/md.htm)

List of repositories that hold directories for various Maryland cities.

## University of Baltimore Collection Holdings List

<http://archives.ubalt.edu/collectlist.htm>

Finding aids for genealogical/historical materials held by the Special Collections Department.

## Guide to Ethnic Research in Maryland

<http://guide.mdsu.net/viewer.cfm?page=ethnicresearch>

Lengthy bibliography with book, periodical, and URL listings.

## Jewish Museum of Maryland

[www.jbsm.org/](http://www.jbsm.org/)

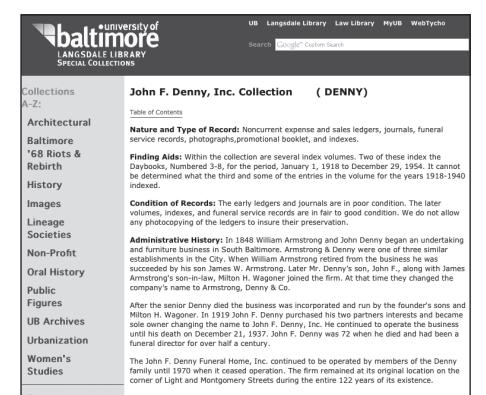
America's leading museum of regional Jewish history, culture, and community. Collections include works of art, historical photographs, clothing, ceremonial items, rare books, everyday objects, documents, oral histories, and memorabilia.



## John F. Denny, Inc. Collection

<http://archives.ubalt.edu/denny/intro.htm>

Records of a mortuary that operated in Baltimore for 122 years.



## Maryland Casualties – Korean War

[www.archives.gov/research/military/korean-war/casualty-lists/md-alpha.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/research/military/korean-war/casualty-lists/md-alpha.pdf)

Provides name, service, rank, birth date, home of record, death date, and remains recovered (Y/N).

## Maryland Cemetery Records

[www.interment.net/us/md/index.htm](http://www.interment.net/us/md/index.htm)

A list of records arranged by county available on the *Interment.net* website.

## Maryland Census Indexes at the Maryland State Archives

[www.msa.md.gov/msa/refserv/html/censussearch.html](http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/refserv/html/censussearch.html)

Searchable indexes for the years 1776, 1778, 1870, and 1880.



## Maryland Genealogy Search Engines

[www.searchforancestors.com/locality/us/maryland.html](http://www.searchforancestors.com/locality/us/maryland.html)

A directory of free, searchable databases.

## Maryland Union Army Regiments

[www.civilwararchive.com/unionmd.htm](http://www.civilwararchive.com/unionmd.htm)

Dyer's Compendium section for Maryland Union Army regiments.

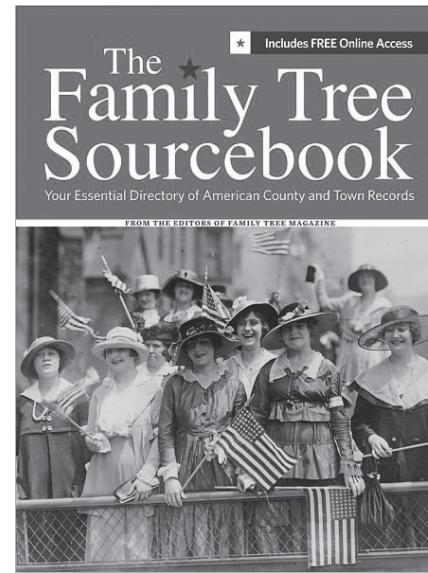
## United States Resources – Maryland

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/roots-l/usa/md.html](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/roots-l/usa/md.html)

RootsWeb.com directory of Maryland resources available online.

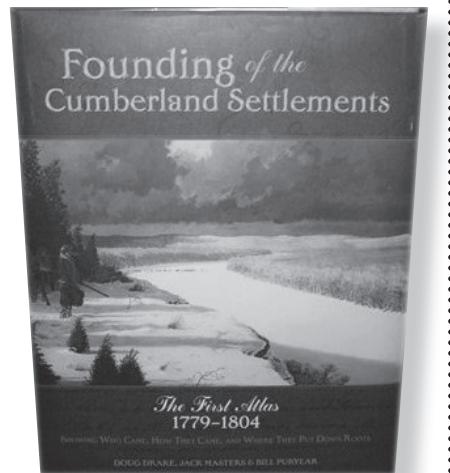
# New Arrivals

Here are some recent additions to the History & Genealogy Department collection.



1. Drake, Douglas. *Founding of the Cumberland Settlements: The First Atlas, 1779–1804, Showing Who Came, How They Came, and Where They Put Down Roots*. Gallatin, TN: Warioto Press, 2009. H/G Oversize 912.768.

This beautifully illustrated book tells the story of the Cumberland Compact, its



2. *The Family Tree Sourcebook: Your Essential Directory of American County and Town Records*.

Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Magazine, 2010. H/G 929.1. Similar to (but more recent than) *The Handybook for Genealogists* or the *Genealogist's Address Book*, this directory provides state-by-state listings of archives, libraries, and societies, and spells out where to find county records in every state.

Addresses and websites for every county courthouse are provided, plus a summary of types of records each one houses, scope and content of the records, and which office to contact to procure each type of record. Also includes research summaries, tips and techniques, and state maps.

3. *Manual to Online Public Records: A Researcher's Tool to Using Online Resources of Public Record and Public Information*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Tempe, AZ: Facts on Demand Press, 2010. H/G 352.3870973.

Shows researchers how to access online vital and court records;

explains how to find information in both free and fee-based databases including occupational licensing boards, drivers license records, vehicle registration, voter registration, criminal and prison records, tax records; and much more. There are also chapters covering the use of information vendors and social networks such as Myspace and Twitter.

4. Smith, Edith and Vivian Lehman. *No Land... Only Slaves*. 18 vols. Balch Springs, TX: Authors, 2001-. H/G 929.376.

Includes slave conveyances and other records abstracted from the deeds of counties in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.

5. *St. Louis Obituary Index, 2010*. Keith B. Zimmer, comp. St. Louis Public Library: 2011. H/G 071.7866.

Lists names from death notices and obituary listings in the 2010 *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

Arranged alphabetically by name of deceased and provides date of the obituary or death notice's appearance. Copies of the full entry can be ordered by e-mailing [kzimmer@spl.org](mailto:kzimmer@spl.org). Now includes coverage from 1880–1930; the WWII years of 1942–1945; 1960–1970; 1975–1976; and 1992–2010.







# Gateway Family Historian

Co-editors:

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A co-publication of the History & Genealogy  
and Special Collections Departments.



What do you want to know?

[www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org)

St. Louis Public Library  
1415 Olive Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
314-539-0385  
Fax: 314-539-0393

E-mail: [tpearson@spl.org](mailto:tpearson@spl.org) or [webref@spl.org](mailto:webref@spl.org)

## Contact!

**NOW OPEN!**  
**Compton Library/Research Facility**  
1624 Locust Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-1802  
M-F: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
First Saturday of the Month:  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**FREE** onsite parking.

Compton Library is home to our Government Documents Collection as well as genealogy and local history materials. Items from Special Collections are not stored at Compton, but most can be delivered there upon request.

Compton's focus is on the needs of researchers. It is not a full-service Branch, so only patrons requiring access to its specialized materials and subject specialists can be

accommodated. *Seating is limited.* Please call in advance so we can have your materials ready and a place for you to study when you arrive. *To reserve your space, call 314-539-0385.*

You may send requests for obituary and other newspaper copies to [kzimmer@spl.org](mailto:kzimmer@spl.org). Requests for copies from genealogy books and periodicals can be made to [cmillar@spl.org](mailto:cmillar@spl.org).

The St. Louis Public Library's website is [spl.org](http://spl.org). It contains our online catalog, events calendar, special indexes for St. Louis historical and biographical materials, an index of selected *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper obituaries, death notices, burial permits, and an archive of past issues of this newsletter.

The History & Genealogy Department's blog is located at <http://hgdept.blogspot.com/>.



## Our Town— Events at the St. Louis Public Library

Check the St. Louis Public Library Events Calendar ([www.spl.org/events/calendar.asp](http://www.spl.org/events/calendar.asp)) to find up-to-the-minute listings of what's happening at all St. Louis Public Library locations!

During Central Library's restoration and renewal, genealogy and military history programs are being held at the Buder Branch.

Buder Branch  
4401 Hampton  
St. Louis, MO 63109-2237  
314-352-2900

It's also easy to be added to our program notification list. Simply e-mail [tpearson@spl.org](mailto:tpearson@spl.org) and use NOTIFY in the subject line.

