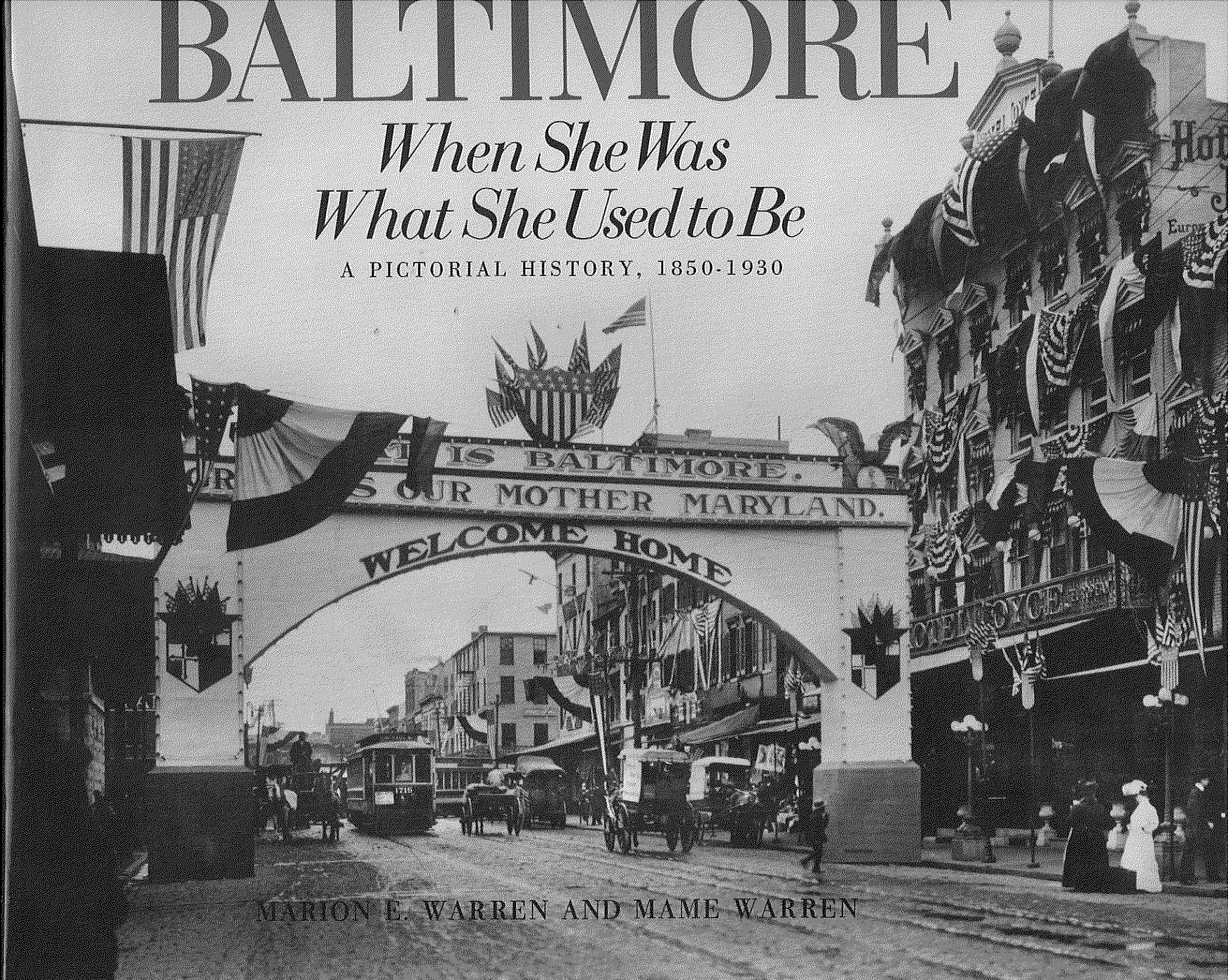


BALTIMORE

When She Was What She Used to Be

A PICTORIAL HISTORY, 1850-1930



MARION E. WARREN AND MAME WARREN



City Hall was completed 18 October 1876

THE CENTENNIAL FOURTH

ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATION'S BIRTH

Adornments of Public and Private Buildings
—The Shipping—Patriotic Emblems—
General Illuminations

CENTENNIAL EVE IN BALTIMORE

The advent of the centennial anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence has been welcomed throughout the entire country with extraordinary fervor and enthusiasm. In Baltimore for several days past all have seemed to be animated by this general patriotic feeling, and as if by a single impulse the national ensign, entwined with evergreen, flowers, portraits of Washington and others of Revolutionary fame, and many patriotic devices and legends were displayed from public, business and private dwelling places. Yesterday morning the principal decorations were described, but before last evening their number was considerably augmented, and there were but few houses in this city from which there was not some display in commemoration of this great epoch in the nation's history. The day was a legal holiday in this state by legislative enactment, but it was not fully observed. The markets were open until 11 o'clock, and more or less business was transacted generally throughout the city. Many persons left the city to spend the Fourth elsewhere, and all the trains during the day, in every direction, were crowded with passengers, some seeking the excitement of the great display at Philadelphia, while others were seeking the quiet of the country for a day of rational rest and pleasure. Five hundred guns were fired at Stowman's Hill in the afternoon by the democracy of South Baltimore, both in honor of Tilden and Hendricks and the national anniversary, thus combining their politics with patriotism. The harbor presented a beautiful appearance. The numerous vessels lying at their berths were decorated with numerous vari-colored flags, and were hierarchically covered from stem to stern with bunting. The effort was grand in the extreme, and the water front of Baltimore never before bore a more gala day appearance. The ships of all nations vied with each other to do honor to the natal day of the nation in whose waters they were moored. During the day many persons visited the wharves and docks and viewed the spectacle, which was much enhanced by the fact that a fine breeze blowing unfurled to every advantage in the bright sunlight each gaily colored flag and signal. At night large crowds filled the principal streets and witnessed the illumination and the display of calcium lights, and though the weather was unfavorable for any great personal exertion, the people cheered loudly with every change of the color in the light displayed. The great centres of attraction seemed to be the vicinity of Baltimore and South streets, and the vicinity of the Concordia Opera House. For several hours there was a dense throng of people filling the streets and all was bustle and animation until about 11 P. M. when the streets here their usual wonted quiet appearance. The stillness of the night, however, was broken when at midnight, from the dome of the city hall, "Big Sam" rang forth a peal of welcome to "the glorious Fourth," while from every section came the ring of anniversary bells and the thunder of cannon and the rattling of small arms. The law against the firing of crackers and fireworks in the city was rigidly enforced, but from the suburbs the rockets red glare at frequent intervals lighted up the darkness of the night.

4 July 1876