

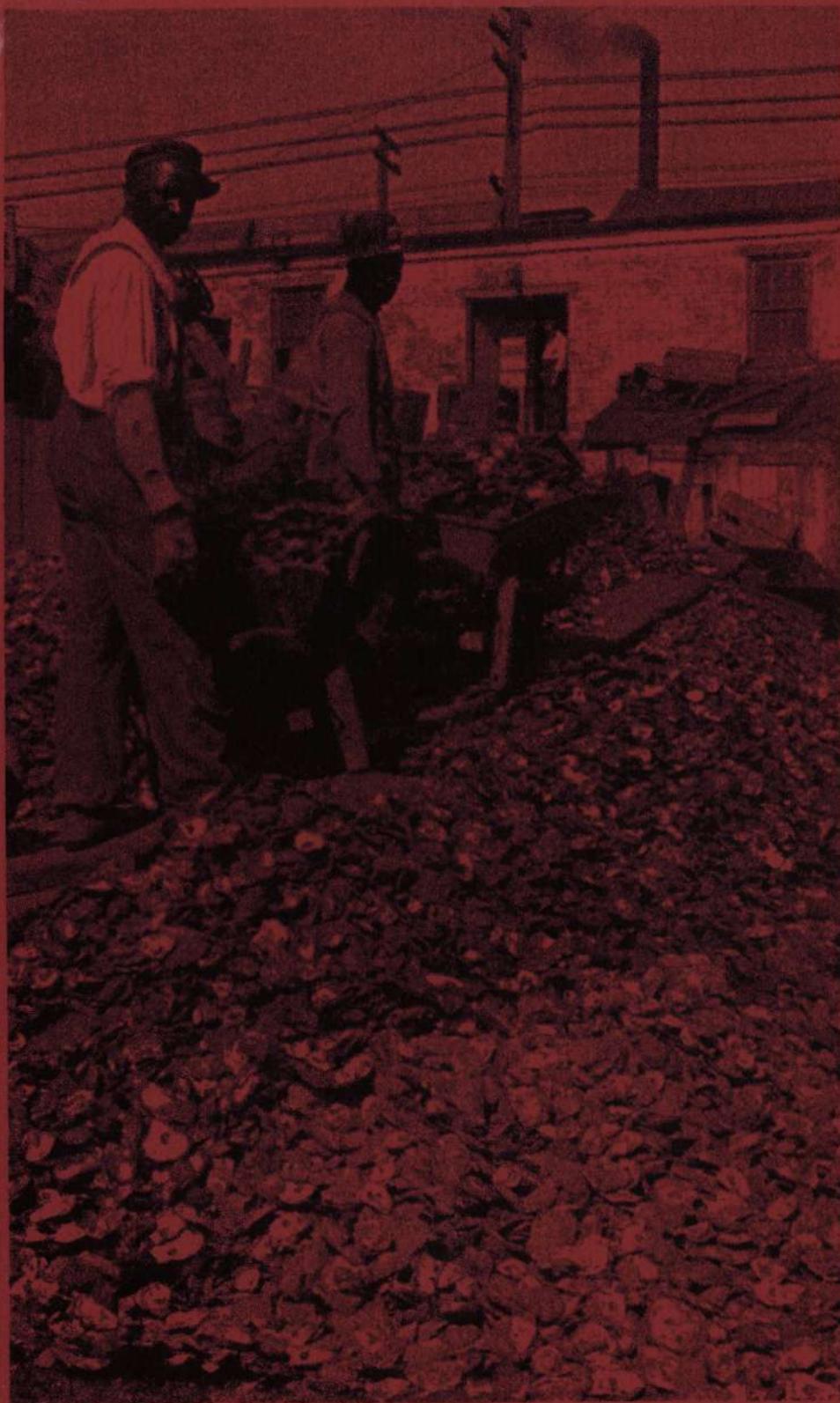
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Researching Black Families at the Maryland Hall of Records

by Phebe R. Jacobsen

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People Researching Black history are particularly fortunate if their families lived in Maryland. A strong tradition of record keeping from the earliest days of settlement has resulted in the preservation of a vast amount of material relevant to black history. This material can be found primarily at the Maryland Hall of Records in Annapolis, where the permanent public records of state, county, and local agencies are conveniently centralized. Records concerning blacks, so long neglected by professional historians and genealogists alike, provide new insights into the black experience in Maryland and disprove long-accepted beliefs regarding blacks in the state.

Shell pilers, Baltimore City Oyster House, before 1906. Robert G. Merrick Photographic Archives, MdHR G1477-4741.

Front cover: Dawson-Curtis-Spriggs family, 1900. Courtesy of C. LeRoy Carroll and the Commission of Afro-American History and Culture.

Names

Most people, for example, have accepted the tradition that black people, when freed, took the surname of their former owner. But an examination of Maryland slave statistics, manumissions, and other records show that blacks took surnames the same way whites had in earlier generations. Freed slaves assumed the name of a respected white family, a beloved clergyman, or an admired black leader; they took a name from their trade, from a physical trait, or from a geograph-

ical feature where they lived. Only in rare instances are names of African origin found. Sometimes, if a white owner acknowledged a relationship to the person freed or if a free black man purchased his enslaved wife and children so he could manumit them, the surname of the father, either white or black, was retained. It is important, however, that the researcher not assume that a white family bearing the same surname as a free black was the family that had formerly held that person, or his ancestor, in bondage. This fact, unfortunately, makes the search for slave

ancestors far more difficult. But in many cases it can be accomplished with patience, time, and disciplined effort.

How to Begin

The genealogy of a black family is begun the same as with a family of any race. Start with your immediate family and go backwards in your search, generation by generation, being certain at every step to document all written proof of family relationships discovered. Write down or tape record remembrances of older relatives. Even though no written record exists, oral tradition may provide valuable clues on how to continue your search.

Blacks for the most part will use the same records as anyone else searching their family history. These records include probate records, land records, military records, court records, federal records, and church records. There are, however, some records that relate specifically to black Marylanders that will be of particular interest and value.

Records Relating Exclusively to Blacks

Six series, or types, of records bear specifically on the lives of Maryland blacks. They are Manumissions, Certificates of Freedom, the Census of 1832, Slave Statistics, Military Records (including those for the United States Colored Troops), and Certificates of Slaves. The first two series of records are present for every Maryland county existing prior to 1864. Military records encompass soldiers from all areas of the state. The other record series are available for only some Maryland counties.

a) Manumissions

A manumission is the legal document freeing a slave. Between 1752 and 1790 manumissions could only be accomplished by deed, so such records were recorded in the county land records. Some manumissions can be found in chattel records. By the end of the eighteenth century certain counties, like Anne Arundel, Harford, and Queen Anne's, kept manumissions in separate books. Except for the period 1752-1790, manumissions also could be made by will.

Manumission of Molly Gibbs, formerly called Poll, slave of Elizabeth Bordley, Anne Arundel County, 1789. MdHR 1675/4.

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BE IT KNOWN, That at the Instance
of my deceased Sister, Elizabeth Bordley, late of
Annapolis, I her Divisee, and Executor of her last
Will and Testament, have manumitted, released and
set Free, and hereby do manumit, release, and for
ever set Free, her late Negro, called ~~Poll~~ ~~the Sister of ~~Tudor~~~~
~~and all her Children~~
(who has assumed the Name of ~~Molly Gibbs~~
_____) from the State of Slavery in
which ~~they~~ have been held hitherto under the Laws of the
Country; and with Wishes that by honest Industry
~~they~~ may thrive and preserve a good Name, I have
hereto set my Hand and Seal, this first Day of
December, 1789.

Signed, sealed and delivered, *Elizabeth Bordley*
in Presence of us
Walter Dulany
W. H. Brown

b) Certificates of Freedom

Certificates of freedom were first issued in 1806. The legislature passed a law that required all free blacks to register at the county court, certifying by what means they were freed and recording physical characteristics such as height, color of eyes, complexion, and hair so that each free black could be identified. These certificates were generally recorded in a separate record series. Some can be found with manumissions, however, and a few will be found among the county land records.

c) Census of 1832

In 1832 a census was authorized by the General Assembly to aid in the effort to resettle recently freed slaves and other free blacks in Africa. The colonization movement in the United States was encouraged by some abolitionists as well as slave owners. In Maryland, colonization was seen as a means of curtailing the growing free black population. But during the decades of the colonization movement, relatively few Maryland blacks actually sailed to Africa, and during the antebellum period Maryland had the largest free black population in the United States. Schedules for the Census of 1832 exist only for Harford, Talbot, and Somerset counties. The schedules give the name of each free black, the person's age, and sex.

d) Slave Statistics

Since Maryland remained in the Union during the Civil War, despite the divided loyalties of her people, Lincoln's emancipation proclamation did not free Maryland slaves. Instead, a new state constitution, enacted by Unionists in 1864, provided for their freedom on November 1 of that year. Hoping that the federal government would repay the state's loyalty and compensate its citizens for the "chattel" lost, the General Assembly ordered that a listing be made of all slave owners and their slaves as of November 1, 1864. The federal government never compensated the owners, but these records, or

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Continued	Males	Females	Age	Color	Total
William Johnson	1		3		748
John Henry Johnson	1		1		749
Thomas Myers	6		70		750
William Isaacs	1	1	65		751
Mary Jones		1	45		752
Susan Jones		1	13		753
Elizabeth Jones		1	10		754
William Jones	8		12		755
Isaac Holland	1	1	51		756
Henry Holland		1	55		757
Perry Holland		1	21		758
Dolly Holland		1	18		759
Fanny Moore		1	25		760
Henry Holland		1	16		761
Isaac Holland	7		16		762
John Holland		1	27		763
Richard Lambdin	1	1	58		764
Elizabeth Lambdin		1	35		765
Richard Lambdin		1	19		766
William Lambdin		1	16		767
Solomon Lambdin		1	12		768
Harrison Lambdin		1	9		769
Elizabeth Lambdin		1	8		770
Dawson Lambdin		1	6		771
Robert Henry Lambdin	9		2		772
Stephen Roberts		1	37		773
Maria Roberts	2		1	38	774
Noah Bayley		1	1	30	775
Minta Bayley		1	1	25	776
Louiza Bayley		1	1	7	777
Sarah Ann Bayley		1	1	3	778
Noah Bayley		1	1	2	779
Stephen Bayley	6		1	1	780
Dolly Brown		1	1	16	781

slave statistics, are the only evidence available of slaves and owners at the time of state emancipation. Besides names of owners and slaves, the lists also give the age of each black and his or her physical condition. Schedules also indicate those slaves who enlisted in the Union Army. Slaves statistics survive for Anne Arundel, Carroll, Dorchester, Frederick, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties.

e) Military Records

Blacks served in Maryland units during the Revolutionary War, especially after 1780 when both free blacks and slaves were eligible for enlistment, but proof of service is difficult to document. Muster rolls frequently fail to indicate race, although sometimes the word "Negro" or "mulatto" appears after a soldier's name. Pension records for Maryland blacks, unlike for white soldiers, are virtually non-existent. After 1793 enrollment in Maryland militia units was restricted to whites. Blacks did help in the defense of Baltimore in 1814, however, and in fact blacks participated in all wars in which Marylanders fought.

But it was during the Civil War that the role of black Marylanders was first heralded and officially recognized in the public record. Six regiments of blacks enlisted from Maryland as part of the United States Colored Troops (USCT), the 4th, 7th, 9th, 19th, 30th, and 39th. During the first years of the war, Maryland blacks who escaped from their owners to join the federal army were usually returned to their owners or incarcerated as "runaways." But by July 1863, despite the protests of Maryland's governor and slave owning Unionists, the federal government began actively recruiting slaves as well as freemen. A compromise was finally legislated whereby the owner of an enlisted slave, who immediately recorded the manumission of the slave, would receive \$100 from the federal government.

Although there was a rush to enroll during mid-1863, enthusiasm among blacks for enlistment dwindled later in the war. Nonetheless, black regiments mustered at Camp Stanton in Benedict and in Baltimore served with distinction in the

Record compiled in 1867 of slaves freed by the State Constitution of 1864, Montgomery County, MdHR 9876.

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RECORD OF SLAVES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

DATE	NAME OF OWNER	NAME OF SLAVE	SEX	AGE	PHYSICAL CONDITION
1867, Aug 25 th	Philip Stone	David	female	68	Healthy
		Elizabeth Briggs	-	16	-
		Charles	male	9	-
-	Robert G. Brandon	Joseph Brown	male	60	severely faulty
		Anna Smith	female	14	Healthy
"	Henry Bennett	John Lee	male	38	Healthy
"	Edmund Davis	Merdy Baker	male	24	Healthy
"	William B. Jeffers	James Briggs	male	20	-
		Rebecca Briggs	female	37	Healthy
		George Jones	male	60	-
"	Stephen B. Jeffers	Ray Briggs	female	25	-
		Louis Briggs	male	35	Healthy
"	Stephen A. Johnson	George Briggs	male	45	Healthy
		Schultz Mason	female	30	-
		Lucy	-	19	-
		Lucy	-	15	-
		Lucy	-	12	-
		Anna	male	10	-
		Ann	-	8	-
		Ann	female	3	-
		Martha Brown	female	22	-
		Rebecca	-	4	-
Brandon Green	-	18	-		
Charles Stephens	male	18	-		

campaigns in the last years of the Civil War and in the southern states after Appomattox. Some regiments were mustered out at Brownsville, Texas, at the end of the war, and veterans then may have joined federal units on the frontier. Many original muster in and descriptive rolls are among the collections at the Hall of Records. These give the name of the soldier, his age, height, color of hair and eyes, complexion, place of birth, dates of enlistment and discharge, and record of service. Records of the Maryland Adjutant General show that blacks also served in cavalry and artillery units and were

sometimes transferred to the Federal Navy. It is important to note that some blacks who enlisted in Maryland military units came from the southern states.

In 1898 the Maryland General Assembly ordered publication of the service record of all who fought for the Union in the Civil War. A two-volume publication entitled *History of the Maryland Volunteers, 1861-1865* was the result, and a copy is available at the Hall of Records. Card index no. 53 in the Hall of Records alcove provides access to each name contained in the records. Soldiers are listed by regiment and company, with dates of

enlistment and discharge. A history of each regiment precedes the schedules of officers and men belonging to it.

Pension records for union service in the Civil War are found at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. One must know the regiment and company to which

the black soldier, sailor, artillery man, or cavalry man belonged before the pension record can be located there. In this respect, the card indexes at the Hall of Records are invaluable, since this information should be located before a request is made for the pension record at the National Ar-

chives.

Another group of records resulting from the Civil War is bounty records. These consist of records kept by the Maryland comptroller's office relating to bounty payments made by the counties and the state to individual enlistees. The

Bounty record of black slaves who with their owners' permission enlisted in the Union Army's U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War, Kent County, ca. 1863. MdHR 3814.

	Negro's Name	Date of First Payment to Slave	Value of Discharge Payment	Owner's Name	Date of Payment to Owner
15	Comely Alexander			Mr. Robin	
16	Nichols Frederick			Mr. State Fishers	
17	Better Samuel			Thomas King	
18	Woodland Lewis			James H. Harris	
19	Loggins Samuel			Charles Mitchell	
20	Brown Winton			Samuel Conroy	
21	Brown William			Paul Harris	
22	Wincin Benjamin			James F. Wick	
23	Bones Levi			Dr. Maxwell	
24	Heller Joseph			Thos Conroy	
25	Murray Adam			Walter Bond	
26	Murray Henry			George Wilson	
27	Phillips James			Angela Brown	
28	Pryor James H.			Alexander Keasler	
29	Purnell Samuel			William Welch	
30	Kinggood Frederick			Bynes Levi	
31	Thompson Lemuel			George Holliday	
32	Thompson Wm. H.			Henry Cannon	
33	Warner John			Joseph Johnson	
34	Wilson Thomas B.			Thomas Perry	
35	Anthony Wm. H.			Dudley Chamber	
36	Booth James W.			Robert Hurst	
37	Blake Alexander			James Richards	
38	Cooper Peter			George Davis	
39	Hayward Jacob H.			Wm. Keasler	
40	Wincin Amos			Samuel Westland	

Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of the Hon^{ble} Daniel Dulany Esq^r of Anne Arundell County in Queen Anne's & Talbot Counties of Virginia in Concomit^{ment} of Maryland April 30th 1754

Regions of our several Plantations on Long Point & at the Plantation called Woodlawn in Talbot County W^o

<i>All Ireland Point Plantation</i>		
<i>Nick</i>	<i>aged 40 or thereabout</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>his wife to Nick</i>		<i>37</i>
<i>Mingo</i>		<i>45</i>
<i>Rachel wife to Mingo</i>		<i>40</i>
<i>Limehouse a boy son of Mingo</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Betha ... a Child of Mingo's</i>	<i>10 months old</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Alla a Woman very Old</i>		<i>2</i>
<i>Kate wife of Nick</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Jenny Daughter of Kate</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Moll Daughter of ditto</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>All Brices Plantation</i>		
<i>Bompy</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Bompy son of Bompy</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Lenny wife of Bompy</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Phyllis Daughter of Bompy</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>Leasing Bay</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Bombay</i>	<i>East Labrang</i>	
<i>Della wife of Bombay</i>	<i>East Labrang</i>	
<i>Frances</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>45</i>
<i>one Daughter of Frances</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Beggy Daughter of Frances</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>All Hoops Neck Plantation</i>		
<i>Carver (son in law)</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Anna wife of Carver</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>7.10.0</i>
<i>Sack</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>sol. son of Sack</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>27.10</i>
<i>one Daughter of Sack</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Della Daughter of ditto</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Bristol</i>	<i>50 Brantson</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Kate wife of Bristol</i>	<i>25 something lame</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Adam son of Bristol</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Nanny Daughter of Bristol</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>All Middle Plantation</i>		
<i>Dick</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Beggy Dick's wife</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Tom</i>	<i>Dick's Child</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>a girl</i>	<i>his Child</i>	<i>2</i>

Carver's Debt

bounty records include twenty-two paper-bound booklets entitled Roll of Slaves, one for each county. The name of the slave appears beside that of his master, and the regiment in which the slave enlisted is also generally given, as well as the date of bounty payments made to the slave and to the owner. Although all counties are represented, there is no index to the contents of the volumes.

f) Certificates of Slaves

A series of records pertinent only to those interested in St. Mary's County blacks is the Certificates of Slaves. These certificates were prepared by slaveholders for the years 1804-1821 and 1831 to be included in returns made to the assessor for personal property. The certificates include the owner's name, the slave's name, and the age and value of the slave. Slaves were often leased out to farms, companies, or individuals needing additional labor, and this information can be found on some certificates as well.

In addition to these record series that specifically relate to blacks, it must be repeated that virtually every other record series in the Maryland archives may be a resource for black genealogy. Some of the most important are described below.

Probate Records

Few free blacks had sufficient property to make wills during the period of slavery, but some men, like John Wheeler and Smith Price, both of Annapolis, accumulated money and property during their lifetimes and wrote wills to direct how their assets were to be distributed after they died. Generally, however, it is in the inventories of estates of slave owning whites that blacks must look for their ancestors kept in bondage. If a black ancestor can be traced back to slavery, and the name of the owner can be determined, the genealogy of the white slave owning family can be followed through the wills and inventories of their estates.

The inventories of personal property owned by slave owners generally list slaves by first name only, followed by the age and value of each. Slaves are some-

Headed	Coloured Male	Blaf	When	Where	When	Where	Remarks
	Henry	Piece	admitted	Kezmond	Apr. 1831	Kezmond	
	Henry	Leathery					
	Thomas	Johnson					
	Samuel	Johnson					
5	Charles	Butler					
	Jacob	Leathery	died in the faith	Kezmond	Apr. 1831	Kezmond	Feb. 24/1831
	Henry	Johnson					
	Timothy	Miller					
	Henry	Miller					
10	William	Samuel					
	Henry	Barns					
	James	Stewart					
	Leeds	Johnson					
	Paul	O. Johnson					
5	Nathan	Puller					
	Henry	Deakins					
	Richard	Johnson					
26-29	Benjamin	Johnson					
33	Benjamin	Johnson					
July 23	Samuel	Johnson					
	Richard	Johnson					

the counties to keep a record of all births and deaths. Duplicate copies of these records, sent to the State Department of Health in Baltimore, are still under their jurisdiction and can be requested at the address given above. The Hall of Records has vital records for the following counties: Births: Calvert, 1910-1923; Cecil, 1898-1927; and Worcester, 1910-1923. Deaths: Anne Arundel, 1899-1930; Calvert, 1898-1932; Cecil, 1898-1931; Harford, 1898-1903; Montgomery, 1898-1947; Prince George's 1919-1931; Somerset, 1912-1931; Talbot, 1930-1969; and Worcester, 1898-1903.

Vital records provide valuable information for the researcher. In the case of birth records, the name of the child is given, as well as names of parents, place of birth, occupation of father, and number of children of the mother. A death certificate gives the name of the parents, birthplace of the deceased, parents' birthplace, marital status, person giving the information, cause of death, and place of burial.

Marriage records were kept by the state beginning in 1777, although generally these were only records of licenses issued to white couples. Some records of licenses issued to "people of color" can be found, however, particularly for Baltimore and Anne Arundel counties. After the Civil War marriage licenses were routinely issued to blacks. Not until 1851 in Baltimore City and 1865 in the counties did the marriage license require more than the names of the bride and groom. Therefore, even if a license is found it may have little information of genealogical interest except the names of the prospective bride and groom.

Church Records

Few churches prior to 1864 had exclusively black congregations, although Sharpe Street and Bethel churches in Baltimore were exceptions. Blacks usually worshipped in the church of their owners, and if records were kept of their baptisms, deaths, or marriages they would be found

among the records of these churches along with records of the white parishioners. Episcopal and Catholic parishes throughout Maryland, such as St. Paul's Baden in Prince George's, St. Peter's in Cambridge, and the early Catholic cathedral records in Baltimore, have many entries in their records for black members. Methodist records until the 1830s also list black members of their congregations on class lists. Generally, however, information on blacks in the records of predominantly white churches are scattered and incomplete. After the Civil War, the number of black churches increased. The records of some of these churches have been preserved on microfilm by the Maryland Hall of Records. Since we are continually adding to our collection of church records on microfilm, you should check the guide to church records for the church you need.

Records of Sharpe Street United Methodist Church and Bethel A.M.E. Church, as well as those of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, constitute our largest holdings of black church records. Bethel records begin about 1815, those for Sharpe Street about ten years later, and the records of St. Francis Xavier begin in 1871.

Summary

This discussion by no means covers all records of use to genealogists investigating black families. Virtually every activity considered worthy of recordation by state or county government contains information on blacks. After exhausting the records discussed above, the researcher can turn to other series, including indentures, bills of sale, coroners' records, mechanics liens, voting records, poll books, and newspapers. All records at the Hall of Records are accessioned for every state agency and county and are available for public use in the search room 8:30-4:30, Monday through Saturday. Request the shelf list of the county or agency you are researching and go through the contents carefully. If you cannot understand a title, ask an archivist to explain the series to you; the staff of the Hall of Records are always ready to help you in your research. Have patience and find your roots!

Guide to Afro-American History in Maryland, 1634-1978

From Colony to State, 1634-1776

- 1634 Maryland settled as a British Colony under a grant made by King Charles I to Cecil Calvert, second Lord Baltimore.
Fewer than 150 settlers arrived on the *Ark* and *Dove*. Most were Protestants. One Portuguese mulatto, Mathias de Sousa, arrived as an indentured servant to the Jesuits. By 1637, de Sousa was a free man.
- 1644 Thomas Cornwalley's of St. Mary's County purchased two black slaves, the first known to have been in Maryland.
- 1664 Blacks and their progeny made slaves for life. Marriages between slaves and white women discouraged; children of such marriages were slaves for life.

Residents of Sherwood, Talbot County, before 1906. Robert G. Merrick Photographic Archives, MdHR G1477-4749.



This *Guide to Afro-American History in Maryland, 1634-1978*, has been compiled by members of the History and Archives Committee of the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture. It is by no means a definitive guide, nor are all significant events enumerated. The hope of the Committee is that it will encourage further study of the people and events that comprise the black experience in Maryland. The *Guide* is printed here with the permission of the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture, Department of Economic and Community Development.

- 1692 Anglican (later Episcopal) Church established as state church of Maryland. Colony administered by a governor appointed by the Crown, 1689-1715.
- 1694 Capital moved from St. Mary's City to Arundel Town (Annapolis).
- 1715 Marriages between white women and black or mulatto men forbidden, and clergy who performed such marriages penalized; children of these unions to serve for a specified number of years. Freedom of movement and activity of blacks restricted.
- 1723 Constables authorized to patrol areas of each county for unauthorized meetings of blacks to prevent riots and insurrections.
- 1752-90 Manumissions could no longer be granted by will, but only by deed.
- 1776 Declaration of Independence signed; Jefferson's condemnation of slavery stricken from it by southern delegates. Maryland's first state constitution permitted voting by all men, including blacks, who met certain property qualifications.

1777-1860, Federal Union

- 1777 Maryland blacks served in Continental and British armies.
Maryland Yearly Meeting directed Quakers to manumit slaves.
- 1780 Free blacks and slaves accepted in Maryland militia and in maritime service.
- 1781 Maryland signed Articles of Confederation. Battle of Yorktown a major victory for American cause.
- 1783 Slave importations no longer allowed in Maryland. Only blacks freed before 1783 could vote for sheriff and delegates to the General Assembly.
- 1784 Ratification of the Treaty of Paris ending the War for Independence occurred while Congress met in Annapolis.
Treaty called for slaves taken by the British to be returned to their masters.
Methodist Episcopal Church organized, strongly opposed slavery.
- 1787 Some black Methodists in Baltimore and Philadelphia left the church because of discrimination and because their lack of education denied blacks the right to ordination as elders. These groups later were the nucleus of the Sharp Street and Bethel congregations.
- 1789 Constitution of the United States took effect. George Washington became first president.
- 1791 Benjamin Banneker aided in survey of the National Capital.
- 1792 First black and white Catholic refugees from revolution in Haiti arrived in Baltimore.

- 1793 Blacks no longer allowed in Maryland military.
- 1802 Congregation that formed Sharp Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore bought land to build church and school.
- 1805 Free blacks ordered to register with the county courts.
- 1810 Free blacks lost the right to vote through an amendment to the State Constitution.
- 1812-15 War of 1812, the second war with Britain, fought over impressment of seamen and U.S. expansionism.
Blacks aided in the defense of Baltimore.
British bombarded Fort McHenry (September 1814); Francis Scott Key inspired to write the "Star-Spangled Banner."
- 1816 African Methodist Episcopal Church founded.
"Mother" Bethel organized in Philadelphia; Bethel Church in Baltimore and an African meeting house in Annapolis, as well as other churches in Maryland, were part of the "connection."
The Society for the Colonization of the Free People of Color in the United States (American Colonization Society) established in Washington by a number of prominent whites, including northerners who wanted to abolish slavery and some Marylanders and others who wanted to rid the South of free blacks by sending them to Africa.
- 1825 Jews in Maryland granted the right to vote and to hold office.
- 1829 Oblate Sisters (Sisters of Providence) established in Baltimore; first order of black Catholics in the United States.
- 1830 Census showed Maryland's population to be about 291,108 whites, 52,938 free blacks, and 102,994 slaves. Maryland had a larger number of free blacks than any state in the Union, with Anne Arundel, Charles, and Prince George's counties having the greatest number of slaves. Thirty percent of the free blacks lived in Baltimore City.
- 1831 Marylanders formed a State Colonization Society in Baltimore.
Nat Turner rebellion in Virginia fomented fear among slaveowners of a similar rebellion in Maryland.
Maryland legislature limited the right of manumission and attempted to regulate slaves and free blacks more closely.
- 1832-50 About 1,200 Maryland blacks sailed to Liberia under the auspices of the State Colonization Society.
- 1835 Suit introduced in Baltimore City Equity Court by opposing factions of the Colored Female Benevolent Society, one of the early beneficial societies established in the state to meet the social and economic needs of blacks.
- 1838 Frederick Douglass fled from slavery to New Bedford, Massachusetts, where he worked as a ship caulker, a trade he had learned in Baltimore.

- 1840-60 "Underground Railroad," a network of hiding places for escaped slaves travelling from the South to Canada or to northern free states, functioned in Maryland. Harriet Tubman of Dorchester County played a major role in these efforts on Maryland's Eastern Shore.
- 1852 Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* published.
- 1857 Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney, a Marylander, delivered the decision in the Dred Scott case, deciding that slaves were not citizens of the United States and therefore had no right to sue in Federal courts.
- 1859 16-18 October: John Brown raided Harper's Ferry, Virginia, from a Maryland farm in the attempt to arouse slaves to revolt.

1861-1900, Civil War and Industrialization

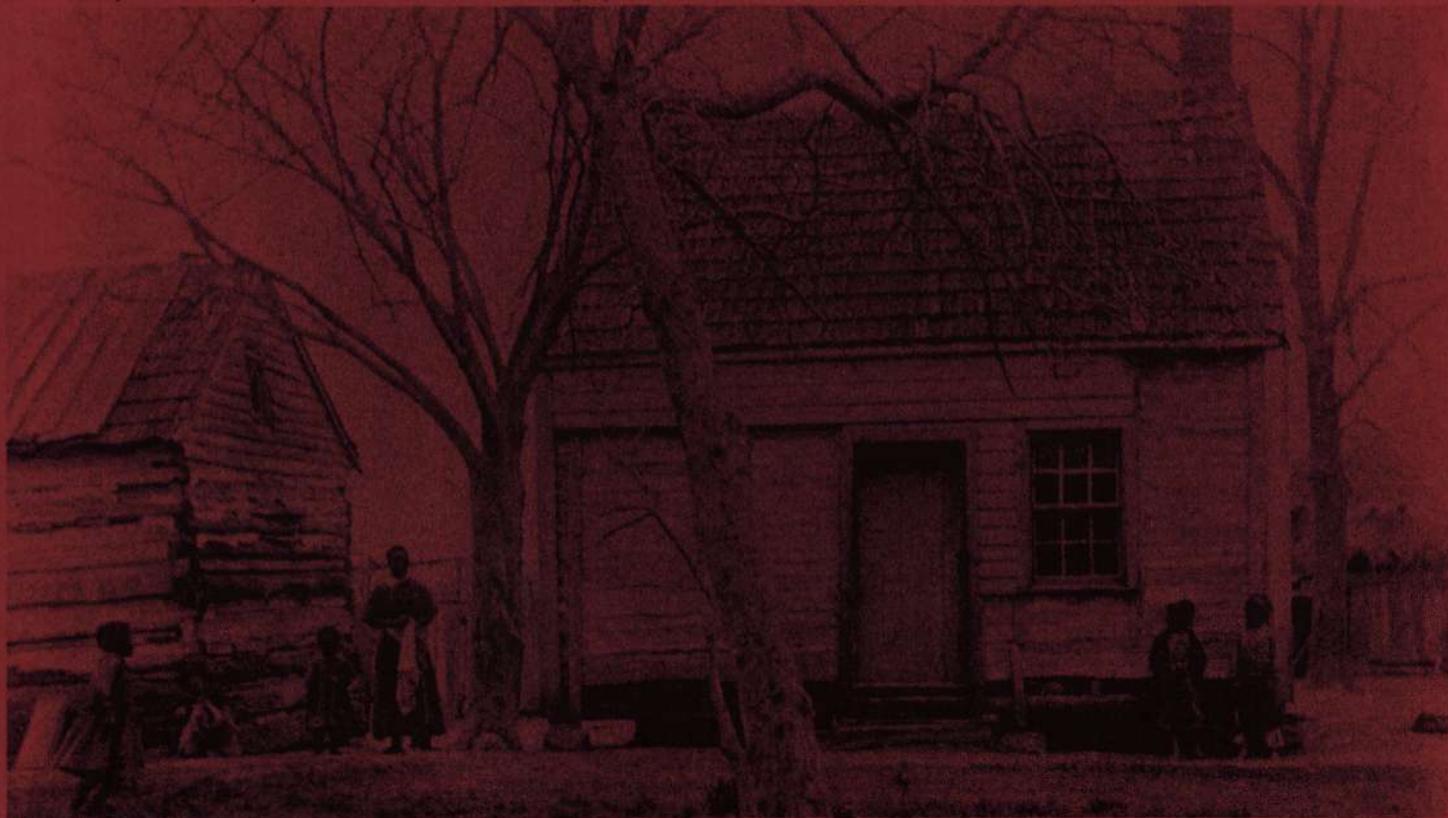
- 1861 4 March: Abraham Lincoln inaugurated as first Republican President of the United States.
9 April: Fort Sumter fell, and the Civil War began.
19 April: Southern sympathizers rioted against Federal troops passing through Baltimore on their way to Washington. Reaction against the riot strengthened Maryland's status in the Union, which Governor Hicks had sworn to protect.

Chief Justice Taney ruled in *Ex Parte Merryman* that the President of the United States had no right to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*.

Throughout the war, though Maryland remained in the Union, it was divided and had all the problems of a border state.

- 1863 1 January: Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in rebelling states but did not apply to Maryland slaves, since Maryland remained in the Union. Federal government recruited free blacks and slaves into the U.S. Colored Troops.
- 1864 1 November: Third Constitution of Maryland went into effect and freed all slaves within the state as of that date. Maryland was the first border state to grant freedom to its blacks.
- 1865 8 April: General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant.
14 April: President Abraham Lincoln assassinated.
- 1865-77 Reconstruction carried out in the southern states.
- 1867 Maryland's fourth constitution ratified; still operational today, with many amendments.
Morgan State College in Baltimore chartered as Centenary Biblical Institute by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Residents of Cecil County, n.d. Robert G. Merrick Photographic Archives. MdHR G1477-5780.



- 1868 9 July: 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ratified, granting citizenship to all male inhabitants of the U.S., excluding Indians.
Maryland law passed renewing tax for public education. Taxes from blacks to be used for black schools. Public schools for blacks established in some counties.
- 1870 Maryland failed to ratify the 15th Amendment granting suffrage to blacks, but the amendment was ratified by a majority of the states and thus became the law in Maryland.
First black voting since 1810 in Maryland took place in local elections held in Towson, Baltimore County.
- 1873 The U.S. Supreme Court differentiated between state and national citizenship in the "Slaughterhouse" cases. Court held that the 14th Amendment only applied to Federal citizenship.
- 1875 Congress passed Civil Rights Act, declaring equal rights in public accommodations.
- 1880 10 February: Colored Equal Rights League formed in Baltimore to get black teachers for black schools, admission of black lawyers to the bar, and inclusion of blacks on juries.
- 1883 Supreme Court held that the Federal government can only protect political rights of citizens; effectively nullified Civil Rights Act of 1875.
- 1888 Maryland Colored Industrial Fair organized in Baltimore.
- 1890 Harry S. Cummings elected to the Baltimore City Council, the first elected black official in Maryland.
- 1892 The *Baltimore Afro-American* newspaper founded by William Murphy.
- 1894 Provident Hospital established in Baltimore by leading black physicians.
- 1896 U.S. Supreme Court in *Plessy vs. Ferguson* upheld a Louisiana law requiring "separate but equal" segregated facilities and accommodations.

1901-1945, Early 20th Century

- 1904 Maryland Legislature passed the Poe Amendment to deprive blacks and other ethnic groups of voting rights.
First "Jim Crow" laws passed in Maryland.
Somerset County restricted black voting in municipal elections.
- 1905 Maryland Suffrage League, a joint venture of all ethnic groups and the Baltimore Reform League, defeated ratification of the Poe Amendment.
Maryland Court of Appeals ruled that interstate commerce cannot be segregated.
- 1907 Republican party in Maryland openly segregated membership.
- 1909 Straus Amendment to disenfranchise blacks defeated by referendum vote.

- 1910 6 April: Matthew A. Henson of Charles County, with Admiral Robert Peary, reached the North Pole.
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) founded in New York City.
U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled unconstitutional attempts by Annapolis to disenfranchise blacks.
- 1911 Final attempt to disenfranchise Maryland blacks defeated.
- 1912 Baltimore passed an ordinance segregating residential areas of the city.
- 1914 World War I began in Europe.
- 1915 Great migration of blacks to northern cities commenced.
- 1917 6 April: U.S. declared war on Germany and the Central Powers.
- 1918 American Expeditionary Force went to France, including two divisions of black troops.
11 November: Armistice Day ended hostilities.
- 1919 U.S. Senate rejected Treaty of Versailles, including the League of Nations.
- 1920 19th Amendment to the Constitution declared the right to vote shall not be abridged on account of sex.
- 1925 The revived Ku Klux Klan in Maryland held large rallies in Baltimore and Hyattsville.
- 1929 The Great Depression began.
- 1933 President Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated an economic reconstruction plan called the "New Deal."
- 1936 The Donald Murray case began desegregation at the University of Maryland School of Law.
The last lynching in Maryland occurred in Salisbury.
- 1938 Federal law prohibited child labor in industry.
Maryland equalized the pay of black and white teachers.
- 1939-45 World War II. Blacks played a major role in all branches of military service around the world.
- 1940 Threat of a nationwide black march on Washington forced President Roosevelt to establish the Fair Employment Practices Commission and to order equal pay in government and defense industries.
- 1942 23 April: Blacks marched on Annapolis to demand an end to police brutality and black representation on the Baltimore School Board.
Governor O'Connor appointed Commission to Study the Problems Affecting the Negro Population.
- 1942-45 U.S. government interned Japanese-Americans in relocation camps.
- 1944 U.S. Supreme Court ruled against exclusion of blacks from party primaries.
- 1945 Atomic bombs exploded at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan.
14 August: World War II ended and the Cold War began.
United Nations formed.

- 1946 Desegregation of Baltimore City golf course began to open public accommodations to blacks.
- 1948 President Harry S. Truman ordered U.S. armed forces to integrate.
St. John's College in Annapolis admitted first black student.
- 1951 Governor Theodore R. McKeldin established Commission on Interracial Problems and Relations.
- 1952 Ford's Theatre in Baltimore desegregated. Civil rights movement in Maryland accelerated under the leadership of Lillie Carroll Jackson.
Segregation of municipal swimming pool in Baltimore outlawed.
- 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional. Desegregation of Baltimore public schools began. Ten Maryland counties soon followed Baltimore's lead.
First blacks, Harry A. Cole, Emory E. Cole, and Truly Hatchett, elected to the General Assembly.
- 1955-56 Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott led by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- 1956 Baltimore passed Fair Employment Ordinance.
- 1960 Sit-in movement began in Greensboro, North Carolina. Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) formed. Sit-ins at lunch counters in Salisbury, Baltimore, and College Park.
- 1961 Sit-ins at restaurants along U.S. Highway 40 by 2,000 white and black college students led by Congress of Racial Equality (CORE).
- 1963 State open accommodations act passed by large margin; extended to entire state in 1964.
March on Washington led to Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964.
Cambridge race riot.
First black woman, Verda Welcome, elected to the State Senate.
- 1965 State passed Fair Employment Act.
Viet Nam War began.
- 1967 Second Cambridge race riot.
Thurgood Marshall became Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1968 Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Riots in Baltimore and other large cities.
State Commission on Interracial Problems reorganized as the Maryland Commission on Human Relations.
- 1968-70 Anti-Viet Nam War demonstrations swept American college campuses.
- 1969 Legislature created the Maryland Commission on Afro-American History and Culture.
- 1968-78 Number of black representatives in the General Assembly of Maryland increased from 10 to 19.

Picking crabs for market, before 1906. Robert G. Merrick Photographic Archives, MdHR G1477-4752.





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