

**NHPRC Project #NAR10-RP-50031-10: Salvaging the Records of Baltimore City
Year End Report, July 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011**

We continue to make progress in our efforts to describe and catalog the existing holdings as well as new transfers of material. Staff attrition, however, must be factored in to the current results. It was necessary to replace several catalogers. Recruiting commenced in September and three replacement staff members were hired in during October. At this time we have a total of six employees (not including three Maryland State Archives administrative staff members) and three volunteers working on various Baltimore City Archives descriptive projects. We have assisted fifteen researchers, many of whom made multiple visits, with the archival resources that we placed online recently.

Cataloging Activities

Our staff, supplemented by volunteers, continues to pursue the main goal of inputting descriptions of Baltimore City Archives material into a publicly accessible database. Some notable achievements to date:

- Completed keyboarding of the Historical Records Survey entries for up to 1830
- Continued cataloging of BRG 16 series 1 (Baltimore City Council Administrative Files)
- Continued cataloging of BRG 16 series 4 (Baltimore City Council Files)
- Continued cataloging of BRG 9 Series 42 (Papers of Mayor William Donald Schaefer)
- Continued cataloging of BRG 12 (Cartographic Records)
- Continued cataloging of BRG 4 (Tax Records)
- Continued preliminary inventory of Record Center
- Initiated the cataloging of BRG 41 Series 2 (Miscellaneous Administrative Records)

Records Management Activities

Gerald Roberts, the City Records Manager, continues to build solid working relationships as he identifies key contacts within the various city agencies. The agencies are gaining greater confidence in our services as evidenced by our activities to date:

- Transferred in 1095 cu. ft. of records for storage
- Destroyed 3,000 cu. ft. of records that had been on retention
- Performed 8 appraisal visits; three to existing agencies and two to new agencies
- Reviewed sixteen retention schedules and revised four
- Wrote 7 new retention schedules
- Negotiated with the City Law Department to transfer its case files from a private storage corporation to the Baltimore City Archives
- Negotiated with the City Liquor Board to transfer their records to the Baltimore City Archives; in contract negotiation with us to pursue three scanning projects.

- Continued the bar-coding inventory program within the record center; all incoming transfers are now being bar-coded before being placed on the shelves.

Interns Amy James and Julia Pflager have also assisted in the transfer of city records and provided field appraisal support.

Outreach Activities

Amy James and Nancy Bramucci Sheads continue to upgrade of our general website with an emphasis on making it both more informative and user-friendly.

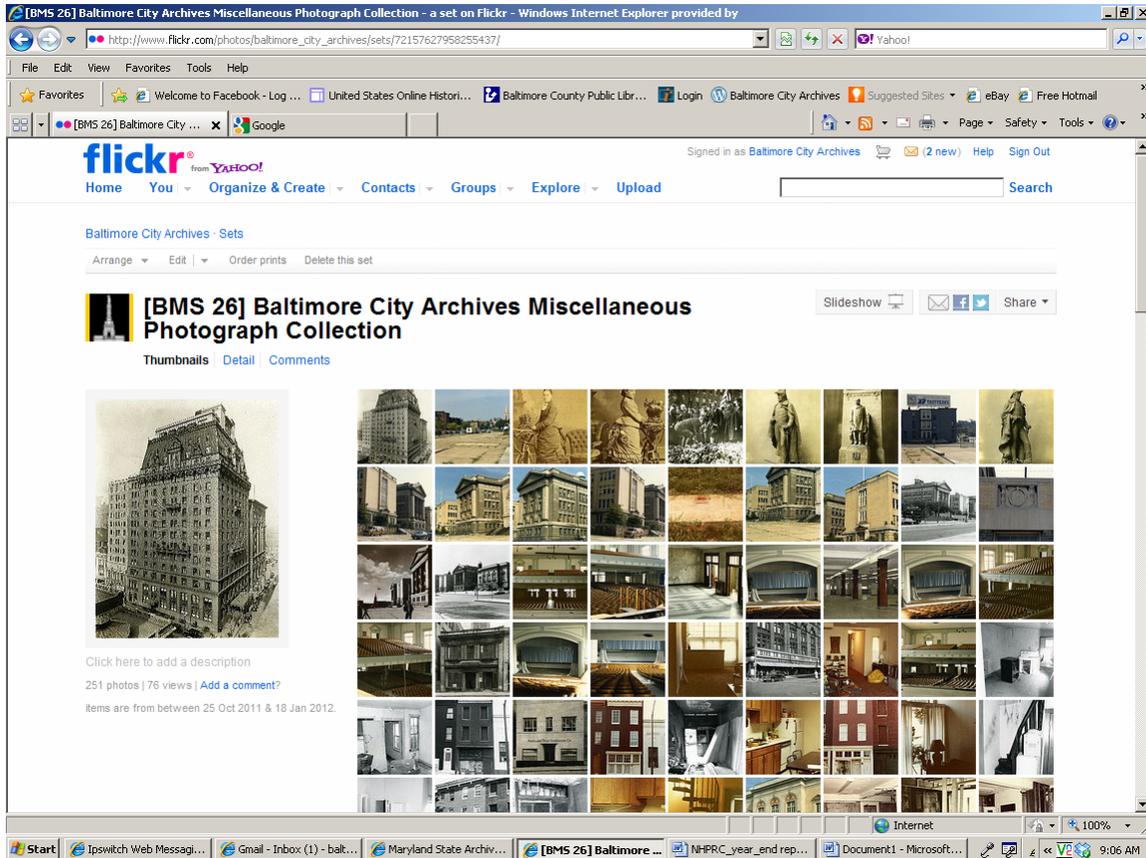
On Saturday, the 12th of November, Robert Schoeberlein gave a PowerPoint presentation on the family history resources available at the Baltimore City Archives as part of the Maryland Genealogical Society Fall Seminar in Frederick, Maryland. He spoke for an hour and fielded questions for an additional twenty minutes as part of the day long program entitled "Underutilized Genealogical Resources in Maryland." This presentation attracted the notice of the wider community and Dr. Schoeberlein has been subsequently invited to speak again on this topic at another venue in the upcoming months.

Other activities include:

- Created a Baltimore City Archives Facebook account in August as the means to communicate with more diverse audience:

The screenshot shows a Windows Internet Explorer browser window displaying the Baltimore City Archives Facebook page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Baltimore-City-Archives/232818446765274>. The Facebook page header includes the "facebook" logo, a "Sign Up" button, and a navigation bar with "Wall", "Info", and "Photos" options. The main content area features the Baltimore City Archives profile picture, a "Like" button, and a "Create a Page" button. Below this, there are several posts: a "Wall" section with a "Write something..." text box, a post from "Baltimore City Archives" titled "We made the Sun!!! Great article written by Edward Gunts" with a link to www.baltmoresun.com, and a post from "Stephanie Town" titled "Great News!". The right sidebar contains a "Want to like or comment on this page?" section with a "Sign Up" button. The bottom of the browser window shows the Windows taskbar with various open applications and the system clock displaying 8:56 AM.

- Continued to digitize photographs and add images our Flickr website:



Internships

During this past six months we have had two interns working on projects to make city-related records more accessible. A Washington College (Chestertown, Maryland) IT major has developed the model, using standard equipment, to transfer audio tapes into digital format files. The Archives now features an area devoted to basic audio transfer projects. Our second intern, a student from Morgan State University, has assisted in describing photographs and placing them into an on-line database.

Publicity

On the 1st of December, Edward Gunts, a reporter for the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper, visited the Baltimore City Archives to interview Dr. Papenfuse and Timothy Baker (Deputy Archivist, Maryland State Archives), to meet with various staff and to tour the facility. A *Sun* photographer was given access to all areas to photo document our current operations. We are pleased to report that a very complimentary article appeared in print on the 3rd of January 2012. We received lead article status that day. Here is a copy of the front page:

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

THE BALTIMORE SUN

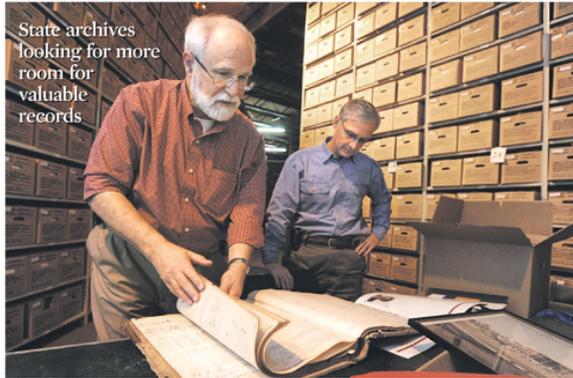
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TUESDAY
January 3, 2012

LEWIS AND REED LIABILITIES?

It's time for Harbaugh to make some difficult changes, Mike Preston writes **SPORTS**

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ALGERINA PERINA/BALTIMORE SUN PHOTOS
Archivists Edward C. Piszefus, left, and Robert W. Schoeberlein look over records from President Hospital; the records are among the documents moved to a climate-controlled East Baltimore building after the state temporarily took over the city's archives.

Finding the space to store Maryland's past

By EDWARD GUNTS | The Baltimore Sun

Baltimore was in danger of losing many of its most precious documents several years ago. A rented building near Druid Hill Park that was used to house the city's historic archives failed to meet even minimal standards for proper records storage. It was damp and moldy. It lacked air conditioning. The roof leaked. Water got onto the floor. Snakes crawled around the building. Few of the documents were available online, and there was no equipment to scan them in. But the state stepped in, and the city's valuable papers, maps and photos have been moved to a stately, climate-controlled storage facility in East Baltimore. And people are coming to use them — students, genealogists, writers, researchers of all kinds. The takeover of the city archives is part of a broader effort by state archivists to take all steps necessary to protect valuable Maryland records before they are lost forever.



This 1865 map in the city archives shows Maryland and the District of Columbia.

"It's come a long way," Judith Arnold, president of the Baltimore City Historical Society, said of the city archives. The Maryland State Archives, an agency charged with ensuring the records are safe, said.

See **ARCHIVES**, page 8

WILLIAM P. CAREY 1930-2012

Entrepreneur donated more than \$100 million to Md. schools

By MARY CAROLE MCCAULEY
The Baltimore Sun

Business entrepreneur and philanthropist William Polk Carey, who donated more than \$100 million to Maryland schools and universities, spent most of his life outside the state, but he never stopped thinking of himself as a Baltimorean.

Mr. Carey, 81, died Monday at a West Palm Beach, Fla., hospital. But he left a legacy here.

He maintained a strong interest in state politics and the Baltimore Orioles. He was proud of the six generations that his family spent in Baltimore, relatives and friends said, and the influence they've had on the city. He worried about the city's declining population. And more than a half-century after he left Baltimore, the city native spoke as though he still lived here.

See **CAREY**, page 9

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS



READY, SET, IOWA.

After months of campaigning and ever-changing polls, the GOP presidential race starts for real today in Iowa, where Republicans caucus over which candidate should challenge President Barack Obama in November's general election.

COVERAGE, NEWS 7

MARYLAND

CLEANING BAY MEANS JOBS, GROUP SAYS: In a report to be released today, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation says federal regulations to clean up the Chesapeake Bay will create hundreds of thousands of jobs. The report comes amid a debate over whether environmental and other regulations hinder or help the economy. **NEWS PG 2**

ALMOND POISED TO HEAD BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL: Councilwoman Vicki Almond is expected to be picked as chair of the Baltimore County Council today, marking the first time in nearly three decades that the panel will be headed by a woman. **NEWS PG 2**

MARYLAND BUSINESS

ASSURANCES FOR BGE'S POOREST: The Maryland Office of People's Counsel wants Exelon to aid energy assistance and efficiency plans as part of the merger with Constellation Energy. **MD BUSINESS, PG 1**

TODAY'S WEATHER

WINDY AND COLD

32 **18**
HIGH LOW
Cloudy and cold Wednesday **SPORTS PG 6**

Bernstein has new crime strategy

Prosecutors will be divided among city neighborhoods

By TRICIA BISHOP
The Baltimore Sun

On a cold December evening, Baltimore's top prosecutor stood before a roomful of city residents, most of whom would have given anything to be somewhere else. They had all lost a loved one to violence and were assembled to remember the dead.

"Although I've only been the state's attorney for just about a year, it is something that I am single-minded about," Gregg L. Bernstein told the audience. "We are working harder and harder every day in an effort to reduce violence."

Being there was part of his plan. Bernstein believes that connecting with the community is key to making the city safer — so much so, that he's overhauling his office to do so. Today, the first anniversary of his official swearing-in, Bernstein will launch a "community prosecution" concept. It's his biggest initiative to date, and it will alter the way the city handles serious crimes.

"It's a sea-change," Bernstein said in an interview.

Community prosecution is an umbrella term used to describe a range of programs that connect prosecutors with residents.

Baltimore had a version of it under Bernstein's predecessor, Patricia C. Jessamy, who stationed "community coordinators" at the city's nine police districts and charged them with acting as liaisons between law enforcement agents and city residents. But budget restraints led to the end of those outreach positions this past spring.

See **PROSECUTION**, page 8



KENNETH K. LAM/BALTIMORE SUN PHOTO
State's Attorney Gregg L. Bernstein says people are "starting to come around" to his community prosecution initiative.

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Building and Infrastructure Matters

Additional stack space continues to be added in our main records center portion of the building. Approximately one-half of the area now features fourteen level high shelving.

Signage was placed on the building exterior in December 2011:

