



Port of Baltimore c. 1875.

Baltimore:

The Golden Door for Immigrants©

DEBRA A. HOFFMAN

Hoffman Genealogical Services
PO Box 755, New Windsor, MD 21776
dalhoffman@gmail.com

Overview

The purpose of this beginning-level lecture is to convey the importance of Baltimore as a port of immigration. An overview of pertinent resources will be provided as well as providing coverage of useful Internet sites.

Brief History:

- By 1821, Customs Department began recording international arrivals
- In 1828, Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad established
- After 1850, immigrants arrived at Locust Point instead of Fell's Point
- Between 1790-1860, Baltimore's population increased from 13,503 to 212,418
- In 1867, B&O signed agreement with the German Lloyd Steamship Line
- After 1914, immigrants primarily entered through New York

Information to Get Started:

- Know full original name including variations and nicknames
- Age at arrival
- Date of arrival
- Relatives of the passenger
- Traveling companions

Next Steps:

- Review available indexes
- Locate the original passenger lists

Passenger Lists:

Passenger Lists Prior to 1820

- Handled at the local level
- May no longer be extant
- Most have been published
- Information varies

Passenger Lists After 1820

- May be microfilmed
- May be found online
- Customs Passenger Lists (1820-ca. 1891)
- Immigration Passenger Lists (1891-1957)

Bibliography:

Beginning Genealogy

Croom, Emily Ann. *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy*. Cincinnati, OH: Betterway Books, 1995.

Greenwood, Val D. *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*. 4th ed. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 2017.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis and Sandra Hargreaves Luebking. *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy*. Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2006.

Maryland Research

Schweitzer, George Keene. *Maryland Genealogical Research*. [n.p.]: G. K. Schweitzer, 1991.

Shawker, Patricia O'Brien. *Research in Maryland*. Arlington, VA: National Genealogical Society, 2007.

Barnes, Robert Williams. *Guide to Research in Baltimore City and County*. Westminster, MD: Family Line Publications, 1989.

The information in this handout is representative of the types of sources available and should not be considered all inclusive. Internet sites checked on 23 February 2018.

Rev. February 2018

National References

National Archives Trust Fund Board. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, rev. ed. Washington, D.C.: NATFR, 2000

_____. *Immigrant and Passenger Arrivals: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications*, rev. ed. Washington, D.C.: NATF, 1991.

Tepper, Michael H. *American Passenger Arrival Records: A Guide to the Records of Immigrants Arriving at American Ports by Sail and Steam*, rev. ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993.

Locality References

Eichholz, Alice, editor. *Redbook: American State, County and Town Sources*. 3rd ed. Provo, UT: Ancestry, 2004.

The Handybook for Genealogists. Logan, UT: Everton Publishers, 2006.

Immigration Publications:

Anuta, Michael J. *Ships of Our Ancestors*. Menominee, Mich.: Ships of our Ancestors, Inc., 1983.

Bangerter, Lawrence B. *The Compass: A Concise and Factual Compilation of All Vessels and Sources Listed, with Reference Made of All of Their Voyages and Some Dates of Registration*. 2 vols. Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1983-90. Vol. 1 contains ships arriving at Baltimore, 1820-1891.

Bentley, Elizabeth P., and Michael H. Tepper. *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Baltimore, 1820-1834: From Customs Passenger Lists*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982.

Bolino, August C. *The Ellis Island Source Book*. Washington, D.C.: Historical Press, 1985.

Burgert, Annette K. *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America*. Breinigsville, Pa.: Pennsylvania German Society, 1983 (vol. 16) and 1985 (vol. 19).

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *Discovering Your Immigrant and Ethnic Ancestors*. Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2000.

Coldham, Peter Wilson. *Bonded Passengers to America*. 9 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983-85.

_____. *Settlers of Maryland, 1679-1750*. 3 vols. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995-96.

Colletta, John P. *They Came In Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 2002.

Culver, Henry B., and Gordon Grant. *The Book of Old Ships*. Garden City, N.Y.: Garden City Publishing Co., Inc., 1924.

Filby, P. William. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography, 1538-1900: Being a Guide to Published Lists of Arrivals in the United States and Canada*, 2nd ed. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1988.

Filby, P. William, et al., eds. *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index: A Guide to Published Arrival Records of More Than 3,806,000 Passengers Who Came to the New World between the Sixteenth and the Twentieth Centuries*. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1981-present.

Gibb, Carson. *A Supplement to The Early Settlers of Maryland: 8,680 Entries Correcting Omissions and Errors in Gust Skordas's The Early Settlers of Maryland*. Annapolis, Md.: Maryland State

Glazier, Ira A. and P. William Filby, eds. *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1988-present.

Glazier, Ira A. *Italians to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1880-1899*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1992-present.

Schaefer, Christina K. *Guide to Naturalization Records of the United States*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997.

Schenk, Trudy, Ruth Froelke, and Inge Bork, comps. *The Wuerttemberg Emigration Index*. 7 vols. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, Inc., 1986-93.

Szucs, Loretto Dennis. *Ellis Island, Gateway to America*, rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, Inc., 2000.

National Resources

Family History Library
http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlc/frameset_fhlc.asp

*Microfilm accessed through local

Family History Centers (FHCs)

*Free access to subscription databases

Frederick Family History Center

199 North Pl

Frederick, MD

Hampstead Family History Center

4117 Lower Beckleysville Road

Hampstead, MD

National Archives and Records Administration

Pennsylvania Avenue at Eighth Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20408

<http://www.archives.gov/>

*Immigration records

United States Research Outline

[http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-](http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/US/US.pdf)

[library/research-outlines/US/US.pdf](http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/US/US.pdf)

Regional Resources

National Archives—Mid-Atlantic Region

5000 Wissahickon Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19107

<http://www.archives.gov/philadelphia/>

*Naturalization records

Maryland State Archives

350 Rowe Boulevard

Annapolis, MD 21401

<http://www.msa.md.gov/>

*Immigration and naturalization records

Maryland Historical Society and Maryland

Genealogical Society

201 West Monument Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

<http://www.mdhs.org/>

*Immigration records

*Headright Grants database

Baltimore City Archives

211 East Pleasant Street, Room 201

Baltimore, MD 21202

<http://baltimorecityhistory.net/>

*Immigration records

Enoch Pratt Free Library

400 Cathedral Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

<http://www.prattlibrary.org/>

*Maryland Room

Johns Hopkins University

George Peabody Library

17 East Mount Vernon Place

Baltimore, MD 21202

<http://peabodyevents.library.jhu.edu/>

**Register of Provincial Families*

*Maps and atlases

B&O Railroad Museum

901 West Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21223

[http://www.borail.org/Hays-T-Watkins-](http://www.borail.org/Hays-T-Watkins-Archives.aspx)

[Archives.aspx](http://www.borail.org/Hays-T-Watkins-Archives.aspx)

*B&O Railroad archives

Maryland Research Outline

[http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-](http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/US/Maryland.pdf)

[library/research-outlines/US/Maryland.pdf](http://files.lib.byu.edu/family-history-library/research-outlines/US/Maryland.pdf)

Local Resources

Baltimore Immigration Museum

1308 Beason Street, Baltimore, MD

<http://www.immigrationbaltimore.org>

*Opened May 2016

Kueth Library Historical & Genealogical Research Center

5 Crain Highway, SE

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

<http://www.aagensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=9>

*Contains holdings of Ann Arrundell County

Historical Society and Anne Arundel Genealogical

Society

*More than 4,000 volumes

*Manuscripts

*Maps

*Photographs

*Vertical files

C. Burr Artz Public Library, FCPL

110 E. Patrick Street

Frederick, MD 21701

[http://www.fcpl.org/departments/maryland-](http://www.fcpl.org/departments/maryland-room)

[room](http://www.fcpl.org/departments/maryland-room)

*Local history collection

*Special emphasis on Frederick County & City

Carroll County Public Library

<https://library.carr.org>

*Basic genealogy guides & books like the ones listed in the Beginner's Bibliography above

*Dedicated Genealogy section

*Interlibrary Loan

Harford County Public Library

<https://www.hcplonline.org/#research>

*Maryland Room of the Bel Air Branch

Internet Sites - Subscription

Ancestry: <http://www.ancestry.com>

*Immigration & Travel Records

Genealogy Bank: <http://www.genealogybank.com>

*Historic newspapers

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild:

<http://www.immigrantships.net>

*Transcribed passenger arrival records

Internet Sites - Free

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation:

<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>

Baltimore Passenger Lists Quick Guide, 1820-1950s by Joe Beine:

<http://www.genesearch.com/baltimore/quickguide.html>

Bremen Passenger Lists, 1920-1939:

<http://www.passengerlists.de>

Cyndi's List: <http://www.cyndislist.com>

*Reference site covering many genealogical topics

*Information about ships, passenger lists, and crew lists

German Roots

<http://www.germanroots.com/passengers.html>

*Finding Passenger Lists & Immigration Records, 1820-1940s by Joe Beine

*Finding U.S. Naturalization Records: A Genealogy Guide

*Ships

Hamburg Emigration Lists, 1850-1934:

www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm

Morton Allan Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals:

www.cimorelli.com/safe/shipmenu.htm

Steamship Historical Society of America,

Baltimore, Md.:

<http://sshsa.org/research/index.html>

FamilySearch: <http://www.familysearch.org>

*Federal censuses

*Baltimore City probate records

*Records being uploaded daily

FamilySearch Wiki:

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page

USGenWeb: <http://www.usgenweb.com>

Roots-L: <http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l>

Rootsweb Maryland Resources:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/USA/md.html>

Archive.org: <http://www.archive.org>

*Immigration records

National Archives Microfilm

M255, *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, Md., 1820-1891* (50 rolls)

M326, *Index (Soundex) to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, Md. (City Passenger Lists), 1833-1866* (22 rolls)

M327, *Index (Soundex) to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, Md., 1820-1897* (121 rolls)

M334, *A Supplemental Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Atlantic and Gulf Coast Ports (Excluding New York), 1820-1874* (188 Rolls)

M596, *Quarterly Abstracts of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, Md., 1820-1869* (6 rolls)

T844, *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Baltimore, Md., 1891 to 1948* (150 rolls)

T1219, *State Department Transcripts of Passenger Lists, ca. October 1819-ca. December 1832* (2 rolls)