

## Research Around the States: Maryland

By Olivia Millunzi, DAR Library; November 14, 2024

### **Indigenous Marylanders**

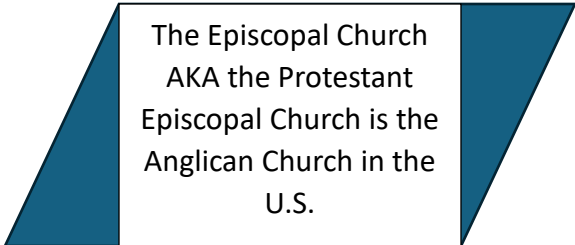
- No federally recognized tribes
- 3 state recognized tribes
  - Accohnnock
  - Piscataway-Conoy
  - Piscataway
- General committee at state level to interact with non-recognized state tribal groups
- <http://www.indigenoussmd.info/>

### **Birth Records**

- Earliest records 1640
- 1654-1776- Episcopal Vestry's clerks required to record all births, regardless of parents' religion
- 1800-1864- didn't require recording of any birth information. Churches continue to record births & baptisms
- 1865-1884- records recorded at county level only, assigned to circuit court
- 1898-1972- state requires registration of all births at county, 1914 on high compliance
- 1973 on- state records all births

### **Marriage Records**

- Earliest records 1640
- 1640-1776- clergy required to post banns & keep marriage registers
- 1695- Episcopal Church mandated to record all marriages
- 1777-1864- clerk of court required to record licenses [not actual marriages]
- 1865-1885- county clerk required to record all vital events, including marriages
- 1886-1913- marriage license applications required
- 1914 on- state records all marriage records
- 1989-2004- SSNs on marriage records, each one must be requested & redacted individually
- Common places to elope: Elkton, Cecil County, MD; Howard County, MD (DC Residents)
  - MD Residents go to: Manassas, Prince William Co, VA; West Alexander, Washington Co, PA; Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co, PA



The Episcopal Church  
AKA the Protestant  
Episcopal Church is the  
Anglican Church in the  
U.S.

## Death Records

- Earliest records 1640
- 1654-1694- burials recorded by churches, usually include date of death. County court records include deaths ONLY for Charles, Somerset, Talbot counties.
- 1695-1864- Episcopal Church records all deaths; only churches record deaths
- 1865-1884- county circuit courts record deaths, low compliance levels
- 1898-1972- state requires county death records, Baltimore city keeps their own records
- 1972 on- state records all death records at Division of Vital Records

## Adoption Records

- All adoptions from before June 1, 1947, are considered “OPEN” unless sealed by adoptee
- All adoptions after this date are sealed, Need court-appointed intermediary/ court order
- To request record, you need county/city and date of adoption from Equity Indexes, see <https://guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/viewer.aspx?page=adoption>
- <https://adopteerightslaw.com/faq-adoptee-original-birth-certificates/>

## Military Records (MD-Specific, also check federal records)

1. Colonial Wars (1689-1763)
  - a. *Maryland Muster Rolls, Fort Cumberland, 1757-58*
  - b. *Colonial Soldiers of the South 1732-1774* by Murtie June Clark
  - c. *Marylanders and Delawareans in French & Indian War, 1756-1763* by Henry C. Peden Jr
    - i. Use as finding aid, make sure to check original sources
  - d. State archives has original military records
2. Revolutionary War (1775-1783)
  - a. *Maryland Militia in the Revolutionary War* by Clements & Wright
  - b. *Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War Vol 2* by Murtie June Clark
  - c. *Orderly Book of the “Maryland Loyalists Regiment”*
  - d. Archives of MD “Red Books” 1748-1827
    - i. Recommendations, petitions, requests, military intelligence reports, commissions, resolutions
    - ii. Correspondence within state
  - e. Archives of MD “Blue Books” 1706-1821
    - i. Oaths of fidelity, accounts of property taken by the British, military supplies, petitions requesting exemption from military service, and resolutions concerning state payments
    - ii. Correspondence to Congress
  - f. MD 400- <https://msamaryland400.com/>
  - g. Use Peden as finding aids, then go to original sources
    - i. Included people refusing to serve, deserters, secondary sources
  - h. Betty Carothers’ *9000 Men Who Took the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to Maryland During the Revolution* is OK for residence, not service
    - i. Includes men who refused to sign oath

3. War of 1812 (1812-1815)
  - a. *The British Invasion of Maryland 1812-1815* by William M. Marine
  - b. *Maryland Militia, War of 1812* by F. Edward Wright
  - c. *Citizen Soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry*
4. Mexican War (1846-1848)
  - a. *Maryland and District of Columbia Volunteers in the Mexican War* by Charles J. Wells
5. Civil War (1862-1865)
  - a. Marylanders on both sides of war; check federal service records
  - b. Union
    - i. Archives of Maryland, Volumes 367 [Part 1] and 365 [Part 2]
      1. Part 1- Army, Cavalry, Artillery
      2. Part 2- Navy, Marines, Colored Troops
      3. NPS Soldiers and Sailors Database:  
<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-soldiers.htm>
  - c. Confederate
    - i. FindmyPast- Records of Confederate POWs

### Immigration Trends & Records

- Ports with records: Annapolis, Baltimore, Havre de Grace, Piney Point
- MD Emigration to NC, SC, KY, OH, IN, TN
- Check court & land records for indentures & lists of convicts transported
- *The New Early Settlers of Maryland* by Dr. Carson Gibb;  
<https://earlysettlers.msa.maryland.gov/>
- *The King's Passengers to Maryland and Virginia* by Peter Wilson Coldham
- *The Maryland Gazette, 1727-1761* by Karen Mauer Green

### Slavery & Manumission Records

- MD Slavery Commission:  
<https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/html/commission.html>
- MSA Legacy of Slavery in Maryland: <https://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/>
- Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery: <https://informationwanted.org/>
- UMD Genealogy Guide: <https://lib.guides.umd.edu/c.php?g=326980&p=2197585>
- Enoch Pratt Library Guide: <https://www.prattlibrary.org/research/guides/african-american-genealogy>

### Land Records

- Proprietary Deeds (Pre-1783)
  - *Early Settlers of Maryland* by Gust Skordas
  - *Supplement to "Early Settlers of Maryland"* by Carson Gibb

- *Settlers of Maryland* [5 vols] by Peter Wilson Coldham
- Military Deeds
  - *Westward of Fort Cumberland Military Lots Set Off for Maryland's Revolutionary Soldiers* by Mary K. Meyer
  - *History of Western Maryland* [2 vols] by John T. Scharf
- Land post-1783
  - [www.mdlandrec.net](http://www.mdlandrec.net)

## **Taxes**

- 1658/59, 1700-1724, 1753-1762: Calvert Family Papers
- For all Rev. War- era taxes: <https://www.mdssar.org/1783taxlist.html>
- 1790-1805: federal-level records put DC as part of MD

## **Record Losses**

Allegany- Marriages 1791-1847; Naturalizations 1892-1893

Anne Arundel- Nearly every court record pre-1704; deeds pre-1699 (some re-recorded)

Calvert- almost all court records pre-1882; some deeds 1840-1882 re-recorded, abstracts 1784-1882 in Annapolis

Caroline- 1790 census

Carroll- most "early" papers- see Frederick Co for coverage

Cecil & Charles- many "early" court records

Dorchester- assorted pre-1852 gaps

Frederick- 1783 tax list

Harford- some pre-1858 records

Kent- some pre-1720 records

Montgomery & Prince George's- 1830 census

Somerset- 1790, 1830 censuses

St. Mary's- most deeds pre-1831 (some abstracts in Annapolis); 1830 census. Overall substantial record loss

Talbot- many court records

Washington- some pre-1871 court records

Worcester- some pre-1893 records

## **Always check**

1. *Maryland Records: Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church from Original Sources*; by Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh.
2. *History Of Maryland From The Earliest Period To The Present Day In Three Volumes* by John Thomas Scharf
3. *History of Western Maryland in Two Volumes* by John Thomas Scharf