

## Baltimore City, Maryland - Historical Houses of Worship Locator

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This is a companion document for: <http://connergenealogy.com/BaltimoreChurchLocator.html>.

This is a tutorial for a searchable map of Houses of Worship in Baltimore City, Maryland. Each marker on the map lists the years of operation at different locations, notes about the congregation and links to records at the Maryland State Archives and the LDS Family History Library. It is based on the seminal work by Francis P. O'Neill, "A Geographical Guide to Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Baltimore Houses of Worship.", published in four parts in the Maryland Genealogical Society Journal.



Church records fill in the gap missing from government and vital records. For example, pre-1903 Baltimore birth certificates only needed the names of the parents. However, the certificates do not routinely include the name of the child until 1911. Baptism records would provide the name of the child and sponsors, who are probably related. Marriage records might provide the names of the bride and groom's parents and the sponsors may be relatives.

Before automobiles, people walked to the nearest church. Enter a person of interest's address and find the nearest church.

### TUTORIAL - Five Steps

#### 1. ADDRESS.

This is the hardest part. You will need the address of a person of interest and the time when they lived at that address. You can get this with:

- A. 1880 - 1940 census data at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list>.
- B. Baltimore City directories at <http://www.connergenealogy.com/BaltimoreCityDirectories.html>.
- C. Death / marriage notices from old newspapers. Baltimore County Public Library allows you to search the Baltimore Sun from a home computer using your library card and phone number at <http://bcplonline.org/>
- D. Death / birth certificates at the Maryland State Archives may be found at: <http://guide.mdsa.net/viewer.cfm?page=topviewed>.
- E. Other documents handed down in your family.

Make sure that the address is complete. For Example "300 Bond Street" is not complete. There is a North Bond and South Bond streets. If it does not end with "Street", then specify Avenue, Road, Place, Alley, etc.

Note the date associated with the address. If it is from the Baltimore City directory, write down the year for that directory. If it is from a newspaper, birth, death or marriage record, write down the year.

## 2. CONVERT THE ADDRESS

There are three things to consider with an old address:

### A. Is it before 1887 ?

Baltimore streets were renumbered in the autumn of 1886. For example 277 East Biddle Street became 1313 East Biddle Street. A conversion chart for every address was published in 1887 and is available for viewing at

<http://www.connergenealogy.com/BaltimoreCityDirectories.html> .

That site has a link with the title "The 1887 Baltimore Index of Street Numbers". It is a large file (60 MB) and it may be saved on your computer for faster viewing. If you are at a genealogy club, they may have a copy already printed. Just ask.

NOTE: Street number starting points have changed over the years.

1886 to present - numbers start from Baltimore and Charles streets.

1855 to 1886 - numbers started from Baltimore and Calvert streets.

1845 to 1855 - numbers started from Baltimore Street and the Jones Falls.

### B. Has the street name changed?

1) Try the list at <http://www.stephenmorse.com/census/changes/BaltimoreChanges.htm>.

2) Find a copy of the Thomas Bocek book *Baltimore Street Name Changes: 1730 to 2000*.

3) Use the 1900 George McCreary's *Street Index* at

<http://archive.org/details/streetindexindex00mccr>

4) Use the 1993 Rebecca Gunby's *Index of Streets* at

<http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000097/000000/000017/unresctricted/gunby-bc-streets-1993.pdf>.

### C. Trouble finding an old street?

1) Starting around 1860, the city directories have a section where every street is listed along with the streets that intersect. Compare with familiar names found on a modern map and make your best guess.

2) You can try looking at an old map such as the "1887 Gray's New Map" at

<https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/32591>. Click on the map's name or

download it. See all the Sheridan Library maps at

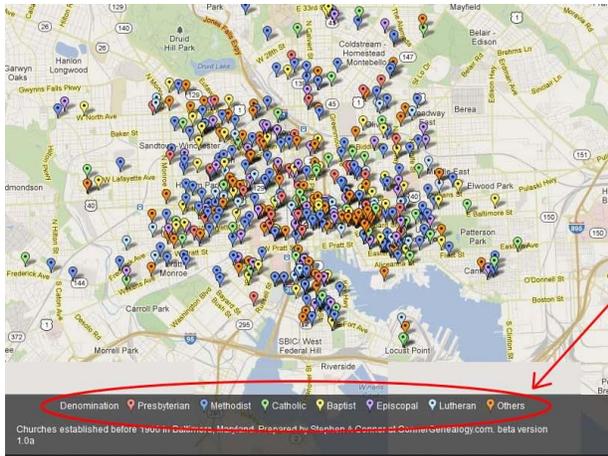
<http://old.library.jhu.edu/collections/specialcollections/maps/baltimore/baltoverview.html>

The address to be used with the map must be a modern day address.

## 3. SELECT A DENOMINATION

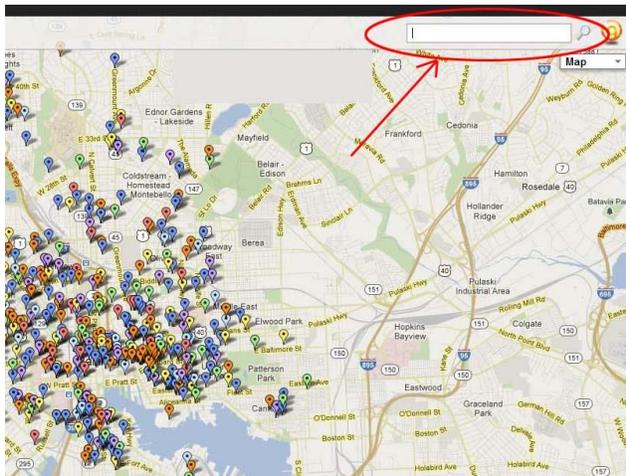
Proceed to the Web Site at <http://connergenealogy.com/BaltimoreChurchLocator.html>

The map has hundreds of markers with 7 colors indicating denominations. Click on the desired denomination marker at the bottom of the Map. The mapping software inserts advertisements and sometimes they push the denomination markers out of the way. If that happens, Refresh / Reload the page and it should appear.



#### 4. ENTER THE ADDRESS

There is a white box in the upper right corner of the map. Click inside the box and enter the address. Be sure to include the city and state - “, Baltimore, Maryland”. Press the ENTER key or click on the “magnifying glass” symbol.

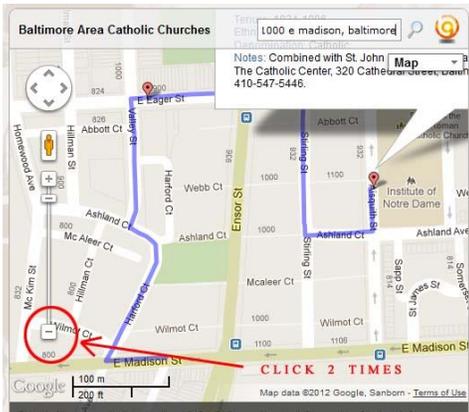


#### 5. EXPLORE THE MAP

If the address is found, it will show a colored line going from that address to the nearest church. The nearest address is determined as a point-to-point straight line. It then calculates the automobile route. Ignore the colored line route.

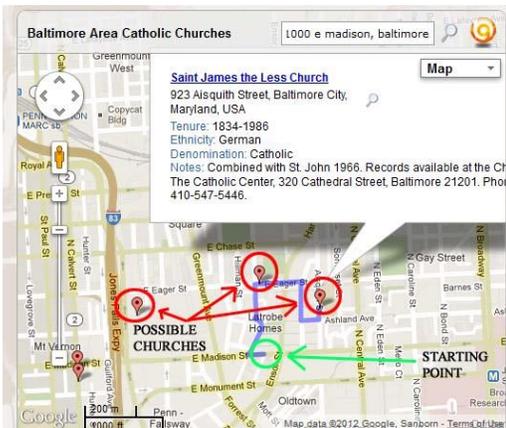
##### A. Click On The Minus Symbol ( - ) Two (2) Times.

On the left side of the map is a legend showing the magnification. There is a bar with a plus on the top and a minus on the bottom. Click on the minus key two (2) times. Move the mouse to the map and while pressing the left button, move the mouse and center the map for best viewing.



B. Determine Likely Churches.

The Starting Point is the address that you entered. It does not have a marker. The nearest church shows a white description box above its marker. It shows the years of operation and sometimes the ethnicity of the congregation. Click on the markers for nearby churches and see if they are more suitable.



C. Jump to the Maryland State Archives (MSA).

If the title of the church in the description box is underlined or highlighted, you can click on it and be taken to the MSA records collection. Then click on the “microfilm inventory” to see what they have. If you mouse-over a microfilm name and it becomes highlighted, you can click on it to view online.

Note: If the MSA asks for a Username / Password, enter the following:

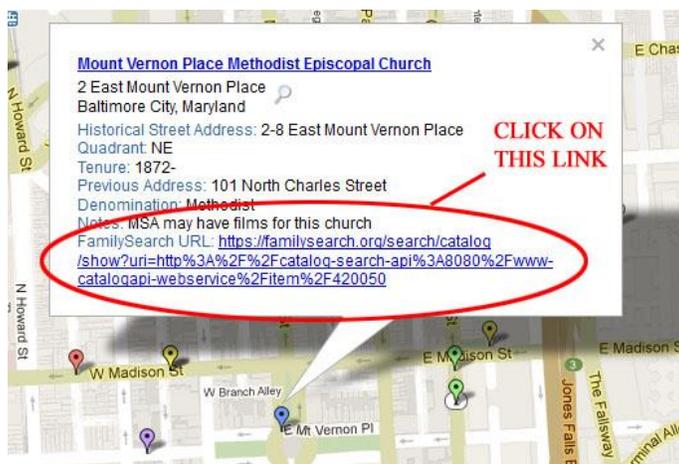
Username: aaco

Password: aaco#



D. Jump to the LDS Family History Library.

If the title “FamilySearch URL:” appears in the description, then you can click on the hyperlink next to it and see what the LDS Family History Library has to offer.



#### E. Same Location - More Than One Church.

Over time more than one congregation may occupy the same location or there are so many churches near each other that only one marker displays. Look at the lower right part of the description box and see if there is an indicator showing more than one congregation (“1 - 2 >”), then click on the “next symbol” ( > ) to see more churches.



END OF TUTORIAL

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**I found a church of interest but it does not have a link to the MSA or the FHL. Where else can I look?**

Check the MSA and FHL sites for new records. Following the Frequently Asked Questions is a section called Further Reading. Online resources are suggested for selected denominations.

**The Maryland State Archives is asking for a Username and Password. What do I enter?**

Enter the following:

Username: aaco

Password: aaco#

**I found a church of interest and I have access to the records but they are in Latin or German. How do I translate this?**

The Maryland State Archives provides a page with translations of common terms at [Understanding Catholic and Lutheran Church Records](#).

**Where on the map is the address that I entered?**

The entered address or starting-point is a colored line that goes to the nearest church. The nearest church has a marker but the starting point does not have a marker. View the colored line going to the nearest church and trace it back until it stops.

**Why is the address not showing up on the map correctly?**

1. Check that the address line ends with Baltimore, Maryland.

2. The mapping software needs a valid modern address. Make sure that you are using the modern address and not one from the mid-1800s.
3. If the street name changed, use [Baltimore Street Name Changes](#) or use the Thomas Bocek book.
4. It is possible that a section of a street is missing or under an institution like the Johns Hopkins Hospital complex. The mapping software may try to place it as close as possible.
5. Compare the address with an old map of Baltimore and make your best guess. One such resource is the "1887 Gray's New Map" at <https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/32591>. Click on the map's name or download it.

NOTE: Street number starting points have changed over the years.

1886 to present - numbers start from Baltimore and Charles streets.

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1845 to 1855 - numbers started from Baltimore Street and the Jones Falls.

For example much of West Biddle Street is missing or has been replaced with Martin Luther King Blvd. If the address 500 West Biddle Street is entered, the mapping software places it at the only part of Biddle Street that has 500. That would be 500 East Biddle Street. That is off by 10 blocks. Also Biddle Street numbers increased the further from Charles Street whereas Martin Luther King Blvd is increasing north from Baltimore Street.

If the mapping software is wrong, discern the address as best as you can and review the nearest churches.



**I clicked on one of the denomination buttons at the bottom of the map but now I want to see different denominations. How do I do that?**

Just click on a different denomination and it will be the only one visible. If you click on the same denomination twice, all of the churches will appear.

**I am not sure about the denomination of my ancestor's church. What do I do?**

Find a marriage or death notice in the newspapers from this period. It may say where services are held. A marriage announcement might only say the name of the minister. Use the Edna Kanely book *Directory of Ministers and Maryland Churches They Served 1634-1990* to find the minister's church. The

Baltimore Sun goes as far back as 1837 and is available at <http://www.proquest.com/en-US/> and it can be accessed for free if you have a Baltimore County library card at: <http://bcplonline.org/>. Another site for newspapers is <http://www.genealogybank.com> but it requires a subscription fee.

### **Baltimore is larger and has more churches than are on the map. Where are the other churches?**

Baltimore's boundaries have grown over the years. Only churches established before 1900 are shown. The 1900 Baltimore map is bounded by East Avenue on the east, the Patapsco River on the south, Gwynns Falls on the west and a line just south of Cold Spring Lane on the north. Modern day Baltimore is divided north and south with Baltimore Street. It is divided east and west with Charles Street.

### **My family is not found at churches near the address I entered. What do I do now?**

Make sure that the address that you started with is indeed accurate. If this is a newly married couple, maybe they are having the children Baptized at the church of the bride's parents. Find the addresses of the couple's parents and search those churches.

If you tried searching by selecting one of the major denominations, try searching by selecting "other". Some congregations are listed under two different headings. For example, in the 1901 Baltimore City directory the Associate Reformed Church (n w c Md av and Preston) is listed under "Congregational" and once again under "Presbyterian".

### **How are the denominations represented?**

There are seven (7) color coded markers representing: Baptist, Catholic, Episcopalian, Evangelical Lutheran, Methodist (all variations), Presbyterian and Other.

There are 17 known grouped under Other: Congregational, Disciples of Christ (The Christian Church), Evangelical Association, Friends, Independent, Jewish, Non-Sectarian, Reformed, Salvation Army, Seventh day Adventist, Swedenborgian, The Saviour's Mission, Union Evangelical, Unitarian, United Brethren, United Evangelical Church, Universalist.

There is 1 unknown: The Branch or Warfield's Church 311 St Paul Street (ca. 1820-1830).

### **I don't know what to do. Where do I begin?**

Read the tutorial.

### **I mean to say that I don't know where to start with my family's history. Where do I begin?**

An online genealogy tutorial is available at <https://familysearch.org/learn>. Contact a genealogy club. They can let you know about classes in the area. A listing of Maryland clubs is at <http://www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/genealogical-historical-societies/>.

## FURTHER READING

- If a church still exists, the records may be there.
- Find the date of the last known location and use the historic Baltimore Sun to find any moving, merging and closings.

### Maryland State Archives (MSA)

A list of MSA Church collections for Baltimore City is at [MSA Baltimore City Houses of Worship](#). If the church of interest has holdings at the Maryland State Archives and they are not available online, you can plan a field trip or contact them at <http://msa.maryland.gov/>.

### Maryland Historical Society (MHS)

The MHS has some collections that the MSA does not have. The Maryland Historical Society has about 200 indexed transcripts of church records and some original records for various denominations. The Society also has the *Norris Harris Church Register File*. This is a card index to many of the births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and other information found in the Church Registers. Search their catalog at: <http://www.mdhs.org/search>.

### Family History Libraries (FHL)

A list of FHL Church collections for Baltimore City is at [FHL Baltimore Churches](#). If you find a film in their catalog, fill out the online form and it will be sent to a nearby family history center for viewing. Shipping fees should be nominal. The libraries are free and open to the public. Find a nearby FHL at <https://familysearch.org/locations>

### Library of Congress Guide to Maryland Resources.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/main/religion/maryland.html>

### Baptist Records

The following records are available at FamilySearch.org: [Baptist Records](#).  
The Maryland Historical Society has [MdHSBaptist Records](#).

### Catholic Records

Baltimore Archdiocese records were microfilmed twice. In 1977 the Maryland State Archives (MSA) microfilmed about half of the parishes in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. These were as complete as possible. In 1954 almost all the parishes were filmed. A starting point of 1875 was used. If a microfilm is not available at MSA, it is likely to be found at St. Mary's.

A list of holdings at MSA and St. Mary's is at the following link: [http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/parishes\\_w\\_microfilm.pdf](http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/parishes_w_microfilm.pdf).

Catholic Parish records are available at  
Associated Archives  
St. Mary's Seminary & University  
5400 Roland Avenue  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
410-864-4074

It is by appointment only and a \$10.00 reading room fee is required.

The online link is: <http://www.stmarys.edu/archives/genealogy/>.

The following records are available at FamilySearch.org: [Catholic Church Records](#).

### Episcopal Records

The Episcopal Archives have books from closed parishes: <http://www.episcopalmaryland.org/>.

The following records are available at FamilySearch.org: [Episcopal Records](#).

Maryland Historical Society is the repository for the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Maryland and has about 70,000 items from 1676 -1900. [MdHS Episcopal Records](#)

### Jewish Records

[Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland Website](#)

FamilySearch.org has the following Baltimore Records: [Jewish Records](#).

The Maryland Historical Society has the following: [MdHS Jewish Records](#).

Maryland and international databases are available at [JewishGen.org](#).

### Lutheran Records

The records for Baltimore may be at the [ECLA Region 8 Archives in Gettysburg, PA](#).

In 1934 the German Reformed Church in the United States merged with the Evangelical Synod of North America. If records are not at a surviving or merged church, then they may be at [E&R Church Archives in Lancaster \(Philipp Schaaf Library\)](#).

The following records are available at FamilySearch.org: [Lutheran Records](#).

The Maryland Historical Society has: [MdHS Lutheran Records](#)

### Methodist Records (Prepared by Wanda Barnes Hall [wanda@clan-hall.com](mailto:wanda@clan-hall.com) - November 2011)

If the church has merged, you need to know the name of the resulting church. If the church is open, the records should be there. If the records are not at the church, MSA or FHL, then try:

- A. Baltimore Washington United Methodist Archives: [www.lovelyanemuseum.org](http://www.lovelyanemuseum.org). Some of the records are from Ames-Sudbrook, Dorguth Memorial, Fort Avenue, Light Street, Lowe Memorial, Monroe Street, Mt. Vernon-Hampden (most records saved from the 2008 fire), Olive Branch,

Parlett, Patterson Memorial, Payson Street, Rogers Memorial, Scott St. -EUB, South Baltimore Station, Southwest Christian Parish (Rogers Memorial, Union Square, Wilkens Ave, Frederick Ave), Strawbridge, Union Square & Monroe Street. (This list is from the July 2011 Newsletter of the Harford County Genealogical Society)

- B. General Commission on Archives and History - Methodist: [www.gcah.org](http://www.gcah.org). There may be a \$5.00 fee to copy a memoir.
- C. Maryland Historical Society: [MdHS Methodist Records](#).
- D. Daughters of the American Revolution: <http://www.dar.org>.

### Methodist Records at FamilySearch

The site Familysearch.org has the following: [Methodist Records](#).

### Presbyterian Records

The National Archives may be found at: <http://history.pcusa.org/>.

The following records are available at FamilySearch.org: [Presbyterian Records](#).

The Maryland Historical Society has the following: [MdHS Presbyterian Records](#).

### Reformed Records

“Reformed” is used by several denominations.

The following records are available at FamilySearch.org: [Reformed Records](#).

The Maryland Historical Society has the following: [MdHS Reformed Records](#).

In 1934 the German Reformed Church in the United States merged with the Evangelical Synod of North America. If records are not at a surviving or merged church, then they may be at [E&R Church Archives in Lancaster \(Philipp Schaaf Library\)](#).

### Other Denominations

For now, the user must search for these. In the future we will publish more information.

## BACKGROUND

Church records fill in the gap missing from government and vital records. For example, pre-1903 Baltimore City birth certificates only needed the names of the parents. However, the certificates do not routinely include the name of the child until 1911. Church records would provide the name of the child and sponsors, who are probably related. Church marriage records might provide the names of the bride and groom's parents.

This project started in the early spring of 2012. It began as a way to organize Catholic Church records for family history research. Most of the records are microfilmed and many are coming online. There was too much information. A way was needed to identify the Church records associated with a person of interest.

We came across an online document listing historical Catholic Churches according to their 1877 Baltimore City Wards. ([http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/1877\\_ward\\_parish\\_list.pdf](http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/1877_ward_parish_list.pdf)). What a great idea! In our research we are made aware of our ancestors' wards from the census data. However, the St. Mary's document could not account for a relative that might live on the edge of a Ward and attend a church in an adjacent Ward. Questions arose as to how the Wards are touching one another and how their boundaries changed over time.

This was inspiration to explore the available mapping software. We then used our copy of **1994-1995 The Catholic Directory of the Archdiocese of Baltimore** and created a spreadsheet of the churches complete with addresses and establishment dates. Before the automobile, people walked to the nearest church. So, churches on this map are limited to ones that were established before 1910. Then we used online copies of Baltimore City directories to map the locations that may have changed from modern day. If there were microfilms for a church at the Maryland State Archives, a hyper-link was included to those holdings.

We now had a map that was ready to be searched and it was published on our Web Site. However, most of the addresses of interest were before 1887. Baltimore Streets were renumbered in that year. If this map was going to be available to other users, we needed a way to convert street numbers. In 2002 we bought an original 1887 directory. The front of the book lists each and every address with the old and new numbers. It was photocopied and may be viewed on the Baltimore Church Locator Web site.

In the late spring, Carol Porter suggested using the Maryland Genealogical Society (MGS) bulletins concerning geographical placement of churches before 1900. She is a librarian at the Baltimore County Genealogical Society. The MGS bulletins were published in four issues and were authored by Francis P O'Neill, Senior Reference Librarian for The Maryland Historical Society. Each issue listed a different quadrant of the city (NE, NW, SE, and SW). The churches were then sorted by the street name followed by the number and direction (N, S, E, and W). In addition, the tenure of the church, the previous address and latter address are noted.

These churches are incorporated into the map. There were churches that had a name of the street but no number. It seems to presume that the address is the same as the previous one. Baltimore City directories were used to find and verify the listings. Most of the time the directory would cite an intersection or say that one street was near another. In some cases the street address no longer existed on a map. It had to be placed using Google Earth's Latitude / Longitude feature. Changes made are included in the "notes" field for each church. If the Church's denomination was not listed, it had to be researched and added. If the ethnic makeup of a congregation was known, it was included as well.

While verifying addresses, we came across some congregations listed on streets that do not appear on modern maps. Carol Porter produced the book by Thomas Bocek on Baltimore Street name changes. It is 144 pages long. The first half of the book alphabetically lists the Old name followed by the New name. The second half of the book lists the New name followed by the Old. It is available at the Baltimore County Genealogical Society and may be at nearby clubs as well. This is a must-have resource and is currently available from the publisher on CD-ROM.

Carol also suggested another MGS Bulletin with an article by James P. Burgess, "Finding the Locations of Baltimore Ancestors - 19<sup>th</sup> Century Street Name Changes". This is a detailed tutorial on how to find

an ancestor's address. It includes nine graphical examples of street name changes in the nineteenth century.

The [Baltimore Houses of Worship Locator Map](#) is available for public use. All the addresses on the church map are converted to modern day street numbers.

#### **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

Carol Porter, Assistant Librarian at the Baltimore County Genealogical Society.  
Francis P. O'Neill, Senior Reference Librarian for the Maryland Historical Society.  
Wanda Barnes Hall.  
Lillian Lee Conner.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

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## RESOURCES

- 1) Francis P. O'Neill. (2008-2010). A Geographical Guide to Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Baltimore Houses of Worship. Quadrants 1-4. *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal*. (Volume 49, no. 3; Volume 50, no. 1; Volume 50, no. 2; Volume 51, no. 1). Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331: Printed by the Sheridan Press for Maryland Genealogical Society, 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.
- 2) Susan M Seilor (Ed.) (1995). *The Catholic Directory of the Archdiocese of Baltimore 1994-1995*. 320 Cathedral street, Baltimore, Maryland 21203: The Catholic Review.
- 3) Associated Archives 1877 Baltimore City wards and Roman Catholic Parishes, and referenced 19 September 2014 at < [http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/1877\\_ward\\_parish\\_list.pdf](http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/1877_ward_parish_list.pdf)>.
- 4) Archives of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Parish Microfilm Collection, and referenced 19 SEPTEMBER 2014, <[http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/parishes\\_w\\_microfilm.pdf](http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/parishes_w_microfilm.pdf)>.
- 5) Archdiocese of Baltimore National Parishes, and referenced 19 SEPTEMBER 2014 at <[http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/natl\\_parishes-1.doc](http://www.stmarys.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/natl_parishes-1.doc)>.
- 6) Archdiocese of Baltimore Closed Parishes, and referenced 19 SEPTEMBER 2014 at <<http://www.archbalt.org/about-us/parishes/closed-parishes.cfm>>.
- 7) Stephen Morse Baltimore Street Name Changes, and referenced 03 AUGUST 2012 at <<http://www.stephenmorse.com/census/changes/BaltimoreChanges.htm>>
- 8) Gray's New Map of Baltimore - 1887, and referenced 16 AUGUST 2012 at <<https://jscholarship.library.jhu.edu/handle/1774.2/32591>>.
- 9) George W. McCreary. (1900). *Street index - An Index to the Ordinances and Resolutions (1797 to Sept. 1900) Affecting ... Streets, Alleys, Lanes, Roads ... Etc., in the City of Baltimore*. Baltimore: Kohn & Pollock. Referenced 24 AUGUST 2012 at <http://archive.org/details/streetindexindex00mccr>
- 10) Rebecca Gunby. (1993). *Index of Streets and Alleys Found in Records, Plats, Atlases and Miscellaneous Drawings at the Baltimore City Archives*. Referenced 23 AUGUST 2012 at <<http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc5300/sc5339/000097/000000/000017/unrestricted/gunby-bc-streets-1993.pdf>>.
- 11) Thomas P. Bocek. (2007). *Baltimore Street Name Changes: 1730 to 2000*. 7 Dendron Court, Baltimore, Maryland 21234: Historyk Press. [ISBN 978-1-887124-42-3].
- 12) J. Thomas Scharf. (1881). *History of Baltimore City and County*. Baltimore, Maryland: Originally published in One Volume, Philadelphia, 1881. Reprinted for Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. (1997).
- 13) James P. Burgess. (2011). "Finding the Locations of Baltimore Ancestors - 19<sup>th</sup> Century Street Name Changes", *Maryland Genealogical Society Journal*. (Volume 52, no. 1). Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331" Printed by the Sheridan Press for Maryland Genealogical Society, 201 West Monument Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.