



# WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

*Where People & Possibilities Meet*



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## A Quick Reference Guide for Genealogy Research

Alice Virginia and David W. Fletcher Branch | 100 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740



# WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

*Where People & Possibilities Meet*

Genealogy is the study of family history and the discovery of one's roots. Tracing your family's ancestry takes basic research skills, patience and time. Start at the beginning - with yourself and your generation - and then just keep working backwards, generation by generation. Working with genealogy involves creating an important record that is fun, educational and leaves a lasting reference for your family.

Washington County Free Library is committed to helping researchers find the historical and genealogical information they are seeking. Genealogy resources are located in the circulating collection and can be found by searching the online catalog. Additional, non-circulating titles can be found in the Genealogy Reference area, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Alice Virginia & David W. Fletcher branch. Finally, researchers should plan to visit the John Clinton Frye Western Maryland Room, also located at the downtown branch. This special collection includes books and documents relating to the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys and Washington, Allegany, and Garrett Counties.

The purpose of this guide is to serve as an introduction to the genealogy resources available through the Washington County Free Library system. For further assistance, we welcome you to speak with a librarian.

*Washington County was formed in 1776 from Frederick County, Maryland. Records prior to that date may be found in documents such as land records, church records, marriage licenses, etc. of Frederick County. In 1789, the western part of Washington County was formed into Allegany County and in 1872, the western part of Allegany County became Garrett County. Many people crossed over county and state lines, so it may be helpful to check records from contiguous counties and states in our collection to find the information you seek.*

## Washington County Free Library Alice Virginia & David W. Fletcher Branch Hours

Monday-Thursday 10:00am-9:00 pm  
Friday 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
Saturday 10:00 am-5:00 pm  
Sunday 1:00 pm-5:00 pm

301-739-3250

## Washington County Free Library John Clinton Frye Western Maryland Room Hours

Tuesday 10:00 am-2:00 pm, 5:00 pm-9:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am-6:00 pm  
Friday 2:00 pm-6:00 pm

301-739-3250  
Press "1". When prompted for a name, say  
"Western Maryland Room."



## Getting Started

If you are new to genealogical research, begin by reading one or more how-to books, or by visiting an online tutorial. Here are some examples to get you started:

### **Helpful Titles** (Available through the WCFL online catalog)

*Family history 101: A Beginner's Guide to Finding Your Ancestors*  
Melnyk, Marcia Yannizze. 2005. 929.1 M

*Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher*  
Smith, Drew. 2017. 929.1 S

*Genealogy Online for Dummies, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*  
Helm, Matthew. 2014. 929.1028 H

*Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com: How to Find Your Family History on the #1 Genealogy Website*  
Hendrickson, Nancy. 2014. 929.10285 H

*The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide: How to Find Your Ancestors in Archived Newspapers*  
Beidler, James M. 2018. 929.1072 B

*Family Treasures: 15 Lessons, Tips and Tricks for Discovering Your Family History*  
Ewell, Barry J. 2012. 929.1072 E

*The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*  
Rose, Christine. 2012. 929.1072 R

*African American Genealogy Research*  
Hait, Michael. 2011. WMR 929.10899 H (Non-circulating)

*A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors: How to Find and Record Your Unique Heritage*  
Smith, Franklin Carter. 2008. WMR 929.10899 S (Non-circulating)

### **Free Online Guides for Beginning Genealogy Research**

Beginners Guides, Hints & Tips: <https://www.cyndislist.com/beginners/beginners-guides-hints-and-tips/>

FamilySearch Beginners Guide: [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/New\\_to\\_Genealogy\\_-\\_Beginners\\_First\\_Step](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/New_to_Genealogy_-_Beginners_First_Step)

How to Begin Tracing Your Family Tree: <https://www.thoughtco.com/how-to-trace-your-family-tree-1420458>

Developing Your Research Skills: <https://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/>

The USGENWEB Project – Free Online Genealogy Help and Resources: <http://usgenweb.org/>

AfriGeneas – African Ancestored Genealogy: <https://afrigeneas.com/>



## WCFL Genealogy Webpage

Available at <https://www.washcolibrary.org/genealogy> or by following the “Genealogy” link located in the top menu of the library’s home page.

Here you can connect directly to several local and state-wide searchable databases including:

Obituary Locator 1790-2023

Historic Newspaper Index, 1790-1890

WHILBR – Western Maryland’s Historical Library

Digital WHILBR

Marriage Records, 1861-1970

Cemetery Records

School Records

Church Records

Land Records

HeritageQuest™

Ancestry Library Edition

[Available on public library computers only]

Sanborn Maps (Library of Congress)

From this page you are also able to follow links to [WHILBR](#), the Western Maryland Room’s webpage, and to submit a Genealogy research request to a trained librarian or archivist.





## Online Databases

Two of the most frequently used online databases are HeritageQuest™ and Ancestry Library Edition. If you need assistance navigating either of these sites, please contact a reference librarian. Both databases can be connected to by following the links on the Library's Genealogy webpage and the most popular search features of each are listed below.

### HeritageQuest Database

(Requires a Maryland library card number)

- U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1950 (searches head of household only - every name for 1880 census; 1830-1850 not indexed; excellent search feature)
- Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files
- Over 22,000 books, keyword searchable, printable and downloadable
- 8,000 genealogies
- Local county, city, and church histories, such as *Jonathan Hager, Founder* by Mary Mish (1937)
- 500 city and business directories
- Works containing birth, marriage, and death records
- Documentary collections such as all nine series of the Pennsylvania Archives
- Military records such as unit histories and battle descriptions

### Ancestry Library Edition

(Available only on Library computers)

*Tip: The best way to search this database is to first click on "all databases" at the bottom of the screen, choose a category from the list on the right, and then enter your target name*

- U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1950 (searches on every name, but not as accurate as HeritageQuest™ searches)
- Military records:
  - Land Bounty records for Revolutionary War soldiers
  - Revolutionary War Muster and Pay Rolls
  - Index to U.S. Invalid Pension Records, 1801-1815
  - American Civil War Soldiers & Regiments, Civil War Service, and Prisoner of War Records, Confederate Service, and Pension Files index Records
  - World War I Draft Registration Cards & Army Enlistment Records
  - World War II Army Enlistment Records
  - World War II and Korean Conflict Veterans Interred Overseas
- Social Security Death Index
- Parish, Probate, and Census records, United Kingdom 1500s-1800s
- Historical maps of Maryland from 1795
- Digitized books such as Cumberland yearbooks, Maryland Marriages 1634-1820, Marriages and Deaths from Maryland Lutheran Newspapers 1831-1865, Maryland Calendar of Wills, and Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly



## Online Maps

Map of Maryland 1855 by J.H. Colton

[http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/mapped\\_images/mapsindex.html](http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/mapped_images/mapsindex.html)

Washington County from Martenet's Atlas of Maryland, 1865

(Click on Individual Districts in Washington County for A Map of Washington County 1859  
by Thomas Taggart)

[http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/mapped\\_images/wamap.html](http://slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/mapped_images/wamap.html)

Sanborn Maps of Boonsboro, Clear Spring, Hagerstown, Hancock,  
Sharpsburg, Smithsburg, Williamsport from 1887-1970

[www.washcolibrary.org](http://www.washcolibrary.org)

Click on [Genealogy](#) and scroll down to the Sanborn Maps (Library of Congress) link.

## Veterans Records

You can request a copy of military personnel records for yourself or a relative from:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

Military personnel records are primarily administrative records and can contain  
information such as:

- enlistment/appointment
- duty stations and assignments
- training, qualifications, performance
- awards and medals
- disciplinary actions
- insurance
- emergency data
- administrative remarks
- separation/discharge/retirement
- and other personnel actions

Detailed information about the veteran's participation in military battles and engagements  
is NOT contained in the record. Most Official Military Personnel Files contain both  
personnel and active duty health records, but this practice was discontinued by the service  
branches beginning in 1992.



## Using WHILBR

### WHILBR Western Maryland's Historical Library

*This website displays digitized Maryland-related historical documents.*

Click on Washington County on the left-hand side of the website to view the collections pertaining to this area. Available records include:

- Sheriff's Records 1804-06
- Court Records 1778-1793
- Hagerstown City Directory 1893
- 1877 Jury List
- 1730-1830 Land Patents
- 1875 Business Directory
- 1877 Atlas with names of landowners
- Antietam Cemetery Payroll 1866-67
- Hagerstown Telephone Directory 1907
- Washington County Taxes 1803-04
- Battle of Antietam newspaper: Sept. 1862
- 1887 Boonsboro Commercial Hotel register

[www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)

The screenshot shows the WHILBR website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with a 'Find it' button and options for 'Quick Search' and 'Advanced Search'. Below the search bar, there is a navigation menu with links for 'Home', 'Links', 'Contact Us', 'Facebook', and 'Digital Whilbr'. The main content area is titled 'Whilbr Home Page' and features a 'Featured Collections' section. The collections listed are: 'Slaves and Free Blacks in Western Maryland', 'World War II veterans, Washington County', and 'Confederate soldiers killed at Antietam'. A blue arrow points to the 'Washington County' link in the left-hand navigation menu.



# Newspapers on Microfilm

## An Index to Hagerstown Newspapers, 1790-1865

Newspaper articles, advertisements, and announcements (marriage and death, etc.) are indexed in print and online by subject of local and regional news published in Hagerstown's weekly and semi-weekly newspapers from 1790 to 1865.

Two microfilm readers with attached printers are available for public use on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Alice Virginia and David W. Fletcher branch. When using the Civil War-era microfilms, you may wish to speak with a reference librarian to help locate a particular issue on the multiple microfilms.

### Historic Newspaper Indexing Project 1790-1890

<https://www.washcolibrary.org/hni>

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## Missing Newspaper Issues

Please note that not all newspapers are in the library's collection. If you don't find an item in the newspaper index, check this list to see if it could have been published in a missing issue. It may, one day, be found.

**1790-1797** ~ *The Washington Spy*: #1-8, 13-15, 19-20, 22, 32, 41, 66-67, 76, 82, 84, 88, 106, 110, 113, 115-116, 132, 145, 149-150, 155, 172, 179, 207-210, 222, 236, 238-240, 242-246, 249, 262, 280, 285, 292, 295, 300, 302, 314, 320, 324, 326-327, 334-336 (example: #9 is 26 Aug 1790, #16 is 14 Oct 1790)

**1797-1804** ~ *The Maryland Herald*: Volume 1 #51, Volume VII #271

**1805-1809** ~ *The Maryland Herald*: 10 Mar 1809, 22 Feb 1805 (missing p. 2-3), 3 May 1809 (missing part of p. 3)  
*The Hagerstown Gazette*: 16 May 1809, 20 Jun 1809 (missing p. 3-4)

**1810-1814** ~ *The Maryland Herald*: 19 Dec 1810 - 9 Jan 1811, 20 Feb 1811-11 Sep 1811, 13 Nov 1811, 4 Dec 1811, 11 Dec 1811, 1 Jan 1812, 8 Jan 1812, 22 Apr 1812, 3 Jun 1812, 24 Jun, 1812 - 29 Jul 1812, 21 Oct 1812 - 3 Feb 1813; Missing pages: 14 Mar 1810, 21 Nov 1810, 18 Sep 1811, 6 Nov 1811, 25 Dec 1811, 26 Feb 1812, 15 Apr 1812, 27 May 1812, 5 Jan 1814, 31 Aug 1814; *The Hagerstown Gazette*: 18 Jun 1811, 25 Aug 1812, 15 Jun 1813 (missing p. 3-4)

**1815-1819** ~ *Torch Light & Public Advertiser*: 1817: 7 Jan, 4 Mar, 15 Apr, 6 May, 27 May, 8 Jul, 15 Jul, 22 Jul, 29 Jul, 5 Aug, 12 Aug; 1818: 6 Jan, 27 Jan, 26 May, 30 Jun, 8 Dec, 29 Dec; 1819: 26 Jan, 23 Feb, 30 Jun, 27 Jul, 11 Aug, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 14 Dec

**1820-1824** ~ *Torch Light & Public Advertiser*: 1820: 22 Feb, 29 Feb, 7 Mar, 14 Mar, 28 Mar, 4 Apr, 23 May, 30 May, 13 Jun; 1821: 2 Jan, 20 Feb, 2 Oct, 16 Oct; *The Maryland Herald*: 29 Jul 1823, 27 Jan 1824, 3 Feb 1824, 17 Feb 1824, 6 Apr 1824

**1825-1834** ~ Various issues, not inventoried

**1835-1839** ~ *The Hagerstown Mail*: June 26, 1835 - October 2, 1835; December 30, 1836; June 16, 1837-December 15, 1837; July 20, 1838

**1840-1844** ~ *Torch Light & Public Advertiser*: 13 Apr 1843, 27 Apr 1843 - 19 Oct 1843, 01 Aug 1844 - 31 Dec 1844; *The Hagerstown Mail*: 01 May 1840 - 15 May 1840, 18 Nov 1842 - 29 Dec 1842, 12 Jan 1843 - 04 Jan 1844

**1855-1859** ~ *Herald of Freedom and Torch Light*: 1859: 24 Aug 16 Nov, 21 Dec and 28 Dec

**1860-1865** ~ *Herald of Freedom & Torchlight*: 1860: 21 Nov, 28 Nov; 21 Aug 1861; 1862: 7 May, 9 Jul, 1 Oct, 29 Oct, 26 Nov, 3 Dec, 10 Dec; 1863: 7 Jan, 14 Jan, 28 Jan, all of Feb, 11 Mar 25 Mar, 13 May, 20 May, 27 May, 12 Aug, 19 Aug, 14 Oct, 28 Oct, 4 Nov, 16 Dec, 23 Dec; *Herald & Torch Light*: 1864: all of Jan, 10 Feb, 17 Feb, 2 Mar, 10 Aug, 31 Aug; 11 Oct 1865; The 6 Jul 1864 issue was interrupted at press and did not resume publication until July 20.; 1865: 11 Oct.; *Maryland Free Press*: Jan 1860-24 Oct 1862; majority of issues 1863-65 are missing; *Hagerstown Mail*: all of 1860; 1861: Jan-Jul, 9 Aug-8 Nov, 22 Nov-27 Dec; all of 1862; majority of 1863-65





## Birth Records

For early birth records, your best avenue of research is to look for baptismal listings in church records. (Birth records in Maryland were not recorded until August 1, 1898.)

### Genealogy Reference Section - Church Records

- 929.2 G Evangelical Congregation of Williamsport, Maryland, 1791-1853...
- 929.2 G Church Records of Clear Spring, Smithsburg, Greensburg, MD and Mercersburg, PA
- 929.2 R Records of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1846-1895 [Burkettsville, MD]
- 929.2 R Register of St. Ann's Episcopal 1882-1899, Smithsburg [Smythsburg]
- 929.2 W Washington County, Maryland Church Records of the 18th Century 1768-1800
- 929.3752 F St. Mary's Catholic Church Records 1818-1900, Hagerstown

### Genealogy Reference Section - Other Resources

- 929.375291 F Washington County Naturalizations Prior to 1880 [records may list birthdate or age]
- 929.375291 F African American Manumissions of Washington Co. [records may list birthdate or age]
- 929.375291 R Obituary Locator 1790-2005 (multi-volume) [obituaries may list age at death]
- 929.3 F Family Bible Records in the Washington County Free Library
- 929.5 M Washington County, Maryland Cemetery Records (vols. 1-7) [gravestones may list birth]
- Census records 1790-1930 on microfilm (bound indexes on shelf), or on HeritageQuest™ and Ancestry Library Edition [public access computers]
- Revolutionary War Pension records on HeritageQuest™ [public access computers]

### Records available only in the Western Maryland Room - Church Records and Other Resources

- 286.5 C The Church in the Valley (Brownsville Church of the Brethren) 1760-1993
- 289.7 L Mennonites of the Washington County & Franklin County (PA) Conference
- 289.73 L History of the Reformed Mennonite Church 1857-1934 (vital records)
- 929.2 B A Brief History of Boonsboro and Salem Lutheran Church (has a separate index)
- 929.2 B Circuit Riders Records, Western Washington Co. 1862-1916
- 929.375287 B Index to the Records of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Burkittsville, Frederick Co., Maryland
- 929.2 B St. Mark's Episcopal Church from 1849 to 1981 (2 vols.)
- 929.2 C Records of Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1856-1912, Williamsport Part 2
- 929.2 C The Church Book 1852-1887, Funkstown
- 929.2 C The Early Church Records of St. Paul's Church
- 929.2 F A Diary and Historical Sketch of the Brownsville Church of the Brethren 1895-1917
- 929.2 F Index to the History of the Church of the Brethren of Brownsville [1895-1917]
- 929.2 G Church and Cemetery Records of Washington County
- 929.2 G Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran in Hagerstown, MD
- 929.2 G Personal Record of Pastor Jacob Goering (Baptisms & Marriages 1791-1792)
- 929.2 M Records of Zion Reformed Church of Hagerstown
- 929.2 R Records of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 1846-1895
- 929.2 R The Register of St. John's Parish, Hagerstown, MD and the Records of the Parish Cemetery
- 929.2 S Early Records of Beard's Lutheran Church (St. Peter's Lutheran)

## Birth Records (Continued)

- 929.3 B The Obstetrical Records of Dr. Augustin A. Biggs of Sharpsburg, 1836 to 1888 [3 volumes]
- 929.3 C 1776 Census of Maryland [census records may list age]
- 929.3748 W Waynesboro Evangelical Lutheran Church Records 1818-1919
- 929.3752 R Waynesboro German Reformed Church 1828-1845
- 929.3752 A Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church Records 1878-1943, Williamsport
- 929.3752 C Cavetown German Reformed Church Records 1828-1916
- 929.3752 C Clear Spring Methodist Episcopal Church Records 1912-1924, Williamsport
- 929.3752 F St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Records 1835-1993, Hancock
- 929.3752 F Beaver Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church 1844-1917
- 929.3752 H 1850 Census of Washington County, Maryland
- 929.3752 M Miscellaneous Records of Washington County, Vol. 1
- 929.3752 M Maryland 1870 Census Index (2 vols.)
- 929.3752 P The Parish Records kept by the Rev. John Alex Adams, St. Paul's Episcopal, Sharpsburg
- 929.3752 R Trinity Lutheran Church Records 1869-1940, Hagerstown
- 929.3752 W Williamsport Methodist Episcopal Church Records 1875-1890, Williamsport
- 929.3752 W Williamsport Methodist Church Records 1891-1911, Williamsport
- 929.3752 W St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Hagerstown 1770-1819
- 929.3752 W Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church...UCC... Hagerstown 1771-1849
- 929.5 B Cemetery, Death & Miscellaneous Records from Hagerstown and Washington County
- 929.5 P Sharpsburg Church Records (has a separate index)
- 929.2 C Church Book of Evangelical Lutheran Church at Weverton, 1848 - 1875
- 929.3752 M shelf Surname Index to Washington County, Maryland Deeds 1776 - 1932 (unbound)

### Other Local Resources

- Church records at the Washington County Historical Society
- Probate records and Orphans Court Minutes & Proceedings at the Washington County Courthouse

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## Birth records in Maryland were never kept at the county level.

For birth records 1898-1972, contact:

Maryland State Archives  
350 Rowe Blvd.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
410-764-3038 or 800-235-4045  
Fax: 410-974-3895  
[ref@mdsa.net](mailto:ref@mdsa.net)  
[www.mdarchives.state.md.us](http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us)

*Birth Records from 1924 to the present are restricted for 100 years and can only be obtained for one's own birth, or by a parent, guardian, or certified representative.*

For births occurring between 1898-1923,  
order from:

Maryland State Archives  
<https://shop.msa.maryland.gov/orders/OrderForms/BirthCertificateLanding.aspx>

For 1924 to the present, order from:

Division of Vital Records  
6764B Reisterstown Road  
Reisterstown Road Plaza  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
410-764-3038  
Website: [Vital Statistics Administration](http://www.vitalstatistics.org)



# Marriage Records

The only existing marriage records for Washington County, prior to 1860, are the listings in the marriage index for 1799-1860. (The marriage licenses themselves have been lost for that time period.) Your best avenue of research is to look for the newspaper announcement of the marriage which may list the groom, bride, and bride's father. The marriage index for 1861-1919 & 1941-1949 is on the library's genealogy webpage. The courthouse has marriage licenses from 1886 to the present.

## Genealogy Reference Section

- 016.05 I An Index to Hagerstown Newspapers [marriage announcements]
- 929.3 M Marriages of Washington County [a listing of the index at the courthouse]
- [Marriage Index 1861-1919 & 1941-1949](#) on the Library's genealogy webpage

## Records available only in the Western Maryland Room

- 929.2 B Marriages & Deaths in The Republican Banner 1830-1837
- 929.2 G Maryland Marriages in Franklin County, Pennsylvania
- 929.2 G Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran in Hagerstown, MD
- 929.2 G Personal Record of Pastor Jacob Goering (Baptisms & Marriages 1791-1792)
- 929.2 M Records of Zion Reformed Church of Hagerstown
- 929.3752 M Miscellaneous Records of Washington County, Vol. 1
- 929.3752 R Washington County, Maryland Marriages 1861-1886, 1886-1903, 1904-1919, 1941-1949 [an index to records at the courthouse]
- 929.3752 W St. John's Evangelical Lutheran, Hagerstown 1770-1819
- 929.3752 W Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church, Hagerstown 1771-1849

## Other Local Resources

- Marriage licenses at the Washington County Courthouse
- Church records at the Washington County Historical Society

Marriage Licenses after 1860 are available at:

**Washington County Courthouse**  
95 W. Washington Street  
Hagerstown, MD  
301-733-8660

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

**Washington County Historical Society**  
135 W. Washington Street  
Hagerstown, MD  
301-797-8782

[www.washcomdhistoricalociety.org](http://www.washcomdhistoricalociety.org)  
[info@washcomdhistoricalociety.org](mailto:info@washcomdhistoricalociety.org)

Tuesday-Saturday 9:00am-4:30pm



## Death Records

For early death records, your best avenue of research is to look for obituaries, cemetery listings, or burial listings in church records. (Death records in Maryland were not recorded until August 1, 1898.)

### Genealogy Reference Section

- 016.05 I An Index to Hagerstown Newspapers 1790-1844, 1860-1865 [obituaries & funerals]
- 929.2 B Marriages & Deaths in The Republican Banner 1830-1837
- 929.2 G Church and Cemetery Records of Washington County
- 929.3 M Wills of Washington County [name index to courthouse records - no vol. or page given]
- 929.3 M Distribution of Estate Accounts, Washington County, MD 1778-1835 [4 volumes]
- 929.375291 R Obituary Locator 1790-2005 (multi-volume)
- 929.5 W Washington County, Maryland Cemetery Records (vols. 1-7)
- Revolutionary War Pension records on HeritageQuest™ [public access computers]
- History of the Antietam National Cemetery, with list of burials on [www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)
- Confederate soldiers killed, & Union soldiers buried, at Antietam on [www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)

### Records available only in the Western Maryland Room

- 286.5 C The Church in the Valley (Brownsville Church of the Brethren)
- 289.7 L Mennonites of the Washington County & Franklin County (PA) Conference
- 929.2 G Records of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran in Hagerstown, MD
- 929.2 H Cemetery Records for Reiff's Mennonite Church
- 929.2 M Records of Zion Reformed Church of Hagerstown
- 929.2 N Cemeteries of Washington County by Norris
- 929.3 D Maryland Mortality Schedules 1850 & 1860
- 929.3 R Register of Deaths in Sharpsburg from the Year 1831 (has a separate index)
- 929.3752 M Miscellaneous Records of Washington County, Vol. 1
- 929.5 B Cemetery, Death & Miscellaneous Records from Hagerstown and Washington County [has a separate index]

### Other Local Resources

- Poorhouse (Almshouse) records and church records at the Washington County Historical Society
- Probate records and Orphans Court Minutes & Proceedings at the Washington County Courthouse (full index to wills and photocopies of wills)

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For death records 1898-2012, send the deceased's name, county, and year of death to:

Maryland State Archives  
350 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, MD 21401

Enclose check, money order, or Visa/MC information: \$25 certified copy

Maryland Counties Death Index 1898-2012 available online at

<http://guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/viewer.aspx?page=death>



## Other Available Resources

### Genealogy Reference Section

- 912 B 1877 Atlas of Washington County, Maryland [lists names of landowners; index attached]
- 929.3 W Washington County Court Minutes & Proceedings 1776 - 1810
- 975.2 S History of Western Maryland
- 975.291 W History of Washington County
- 929.375291 F African American Manumissions of Washington County
- 929.375291 F Washington County Naturalizations Prior to 1880
- 1778-1793 Washington Co. Court Records on [www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)
- 1877 Jury List on [www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)
- 1884-85 Hagerstown & Chambersburg Directory on HeritageQuest™ [public access computers]
- 1893 Hagerstown City Directory on [www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)
- 1907 Hagerstown & Washington Co. Telephone Directory on [www.whilbr.org](http://www.whilbr.org)

### Records available only in the Western Maryland Room

- 380.1 L The Ledger of George W. Otzelberger, merchant of Dargan, Washington County, 1893-1894
- 917.5 S Sheriff & Taylor's Chambersburg & Hagerstown Directory 1884-1885
- 929.2 G Maryland Genealogical Records Taken from DAR Magazine
- 929.2 G Historical Records of Conococheague Chapter, DAR
- 929.3 W 1783 Tax Assessment (in Vols. 8-9 of Western Maryland Genealogy)
- 929.3 W Western Maryland Genealogy Magazine (15 vols.)
- 917.5292 C Telephone and City Directories
- 929.3752 B The 1877-1879 Jury List of Washington County
- 929.3752 K Directory of Maryland Ministers (2 vols.)
- 975.291 B The Letters of Thomas A. Boullt, 1866-1867
- 929.3752 M Miscellaneous Records of Washington County, Vol. 1
- 929.3 B The Obstetrical Records of Dr. Augustin A. Biggs 1836-1888 (3 vols.)
- 929.3 B Index to the Records of Dr. Augustin A. Biggs of Sharpsburg (3 vols.)
- Filing Cabinet Family Files (arranged by surname, alphabetically)

### Other Local Resources

- Digital Sanborn Maps at <https://www.washcolibrary.org/genealogy>.  
Click Sanborn Maps (Library of Congress)
- Early Washington Co. Court Records online at the [Maryland State Archives](http://www.marylandstatearchives.org)
- Volume 2 of Pennsylvania German Pioneers with images of original signatures of immigrants at the Washington County Historical Society



# John Clinton Frye Western Maryland Room

Hours (Subject to Change):  
Tuesday 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
Thursday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Friday 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Phone: 301-739-3250

Press "1". When prompted for a name, say "Western Maryland Room."

Web: <https://www.washcolibrary.org/wmr>

E-mail: [westmdroom@washcolibrary.org](mailto:westmdroom@washcolibrary.org)

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The John Clinton Frye Western Maryland Room is a repository for books, maps and papers for family and historical research relating to Western Maryland. The room contains material covering the Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys, and all of Western Maryland, including Washington County, Allegany County, and Garrett County, plus Frederick County and Carroll County in Central Maryland. Material is also included for all counties adjacent to those five Maryland counties in the three surrounding states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. The Room currently contains over 8,000 volumes and a large vertical file collection.

## General Collection:

- Hagerstown Imprints
- Historical Maps
- Vertical File Collection with Index
- Family Files
- Hagerstown Almanacs
- High School Yearbooks
- Railroad materials
- City Directories (1893 to Present)
- Local histories
- Sports materials
- Local Telephone Books (1906 to Present)
- George Washington Papers series
- Extensive Photograph Collection
- World War I & II materials
- Many manuscripts and rare books
- Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, plus the Supplements

## Civil War Collection:

- Virginia Regimental Histories (full set)
- History of Pennsylvania and Maryland Volunteers
- Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the US (full set)
- Southern Historical Society Papers
- Confederate Veterans Series
- Confederate Military History

## C & O Canal Collection:

- The Cushwa Collection
- The Davies Papers
- William O. Douglas Canal Papers
- Photographs and Original Documents

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**The Washington County Genealogical Society**  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the Western Maryland Room  
from 7:00-8:30 pm. New members are welcome.

For details, contact Catherine Oliver at 301-739-3250.  
Press "1". When prompted for a name, say "Western Maryland Room."  
E-mail: [coliver@washcolibrary.org](mailto:coliver@washcolibrary.org)



## Tips for Visiting Researchers



If you are visiting our library from out-of-town, allow us to welcome you to Washington County!

Hagerstown and the surrounding areas are rich with important historical sites (such as South Mountain State Battlefield & Antietam National Battlefield), great golf courses, upscale and outlet shopping, restaurants, museums, theater, music and many hotel and meeting facilities.



We encourage you to contact the Hagerstown-Washington County Convention and Visitors Bureau to learn more about the events, attractions, and lodging options in our community:

16 Public Square  
301-791-3246  
[www.visithagerstown.com](http://www.visithagerstown.com)

### Local Dining Options

[Bulls and Bears Restaurant](#) ~ 38 S. Potomac Street

[Thai Zap](#) ~ 40 N. Potomac Street

[Schmankerl Stube](#) ~ 58 S. Potomac Street

[District Provision & Supply Co.](#) ~ 6 Rochester Place

[The Broad Axe](#) ~ 28 W. Franklin Street

[Rhubarb House](#) ~ 12 Public Square

[28 South](#) ~ 28 S. Potomac Street

[Rik's Café](#) ~ 1065 Maryland Avenue

This Genealogy Reference Guide was originally created by:  
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