



THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY (MdHS) & It's COLLECTIONS

“The Maryland Historical Society founded in 1844 is the state’s oldest cultural institution. Including a museum, library, press, and educational programs, the MdHS collects, preserves, and interprets objects and materials reflecting Maryland’s diverse heritage.”

The Museum & the H. Furlong Baldwin Library hours:

Wednesdays thru Saturdays 10:00am – 5:00pm.

**Free Admission to the Museum on the First Thursday of each month.*

Visit us on the web at www.mdhs.org

I. Mission and History

*Mission

The Maryland Historical Society promotes understanding and appreciation of Maryland’s history and culture.

- MdHS engages the people of Maryland, and those interested in Maryland history, through the collection, preservation, and interpretation of comprehensive materials that represent Maryland history.
- MdHS is a steward of a comprehensive library and museum collection that is central to the State’s history, a promoter of scholarship through publications and a provider of educational services at our own campus and throughout the state.

*Vision

Teach the lessons of Maryland’s past to build a better future.

- MdHS seeks to utilize its many resources to create better citizens through history’s lessons.

*History

“In 1844 the founders of the Maryland Historical Society declared their house of history a *temple of Maryland memories and of Maryland fame.*” In January 1844, 28 leaders of Baltimore’s intellectual community met to form a historical society which was chartered by the Maryland State Legislature that spring. The new institution, housed in a former post office on St. Paul Street, began collecting books, records, manuscripts, and objects of local interest for preservation and display. The founders of the Maryland Historical Society knew that these

objects could bring Maryland's past and its role in our nation's history to life—to tell Maryland's story—so that future generations could learn from Maryland and its history.

*Founders

Brown, George W. (1812–1890) lawyer
Brune, Frederick W. Jr. (1813–1878) merchant, director Savings Bank of Baltimore
Campbell, Bernard U. (1796–1855) editor *U.S. Catholic Magazine*, only Catholic founder
Carey, John L. (?–1852) editor *Baltimore American*, Md. House of Delegates 1843
Cohen, Joshua (1804–1870) only Jewish founder, physician
Collins, Stephen (1797–1871) physician
Donaldson, John J. (1788–1866) lawyer
Gilmore, Robert Jr. (1808–1875) merchant, art collector, officer in cultural organizations
Hall, James (1802–1889) physician, governor Cape Palmas, Liberia, 1837–1840
Harris, J. Morrison (1817–1898) lawyer
Kennedy, John Pendleton (1795–1870) lawyer, writer, statesman
Latrobe, John H.B. (1803–1891) lawyer, inventor, state militia
Leslie, Robert Capt. (1793–1872) sea captain, merchant, ship owner
Long, Robert Cary (1810–1849) architect
Lucas, Fielding Jr. (1781–1854) bookseller
Mayer, Brantz (1809–1867) lawyer
Mayer, Charles Francis (1795–1864) lawyer, state senator
McMahon, John V. L. (1800–1871) lawyer, state legislator, wrote a state history in 1831
Smith, John Spear (1787–1866) lawyer, state senator
Streeter, Sebastian F. (1810–1864) teacher, city council, many cultural organizations
Talbot, William A. (1814–1859) lawyer
Wallis, Severn Teackle (1816–1894) lawyer, writer, state legislator

*Highlights from MdHS' History

- 1843: Founders of the society submitted their proposed charter to the state legislature.
- 1844: Maryland Historical Society formed; gathering in the Maryland Colonization Society rooms for the first recorded meeting.
- 1845: The building committees of The Maryland Historical Society and the Library Company of Baltimore voted to adopt the building plan for the Athenaeum as their new home.
- 1847: John Pendleton Kennedy, as state delegate, introduced bill that gave the society's mission more authority and definition. The General Assembly passed a resolution to transfer to the society "all original records relating to Maryland before the Revolution that were in duplicate or in apparent . . . decay."
- 1848: The Maryland Historical Society dedicated the Athenaeum.
- 1848-1907: In addition to the *Fund Publications*, the society continued to publish early state records and worked with the legislature for state funding. The number of artworks in the Gallery of Fine Art increased. Although not part of the original mission, the gallery was a popular attraction.
- 1854: Joshua Cohen chaired a general meeting of the stockholders of the Library Company of Baltimore at which they "approved the union of this company with the Maryland

- Historical Society” on the recommendation of a joint committee of both societies.
- 1867: George Peabody gifted \$20,000, \$10,000 of it to be used for publications. MdHS did not intend to publish materials and this would be the beginning of publications.
- 1876: The Society began an alliance with Johns Hopkins University allowing university students the use of the library and collections and in turn, Hopkins men read their papers at meetings.
- 1883-1972: *Archives of Maryland* series documenting Maryland’s history.
- 1888: The Society acquired the Calvert Papers.
- 1919: The Society relocated to 201 W. Monument Street, the Enoch Pratt House, a gift from Mrs. (Mary Washington) H. Irvine Keyser.
- 1921: The Society’s officers drafted an appeal for a permanent endowment of \$300,000.
- 1922: The Betsy Bonaparte collection was entrusted to the institution by Ellen Channing Day Bonaparte, widow of Betsy’s grandson Charles.
- 1924: Sale of the Athenaeum for \$130,000 (added to the endowment fund).
- 1942: James W. Foster first Director of the Society.
- 1945: The Society formed the War Records Committee through an alliance with the state.
- 1949: The Society bought 209, 211 and 213 West Monument Street
- 1953: Mrs. Thomas C. Jenkins purchased Francis Scott Key’s “Star-Spangled Banner” from the Walters Art Gallery for MdHS.
- 1961: The Society purchased 217, 221, 223, and 225 West Monument Street.
- 1968: The Thomas and Hugg building is completed.
- 1981: The Society added the France-Merrick wing, “a tribute to the Trustees of the Jacob and Annita France Foundation and Robert G. Merrick.”
- 1995: The Heritage Gallery in the former Greyhound Bus garage opened.
- 2003: The newly renovated Maryland Historical Society opened with a new museum building, Beard Pavilion, renovated library and new space for exhibitions and collection storage.

II. Collections

Collections include more than 50,000 museum objects (exclusive of archaeological collections acquired from the Baltimore City for Urban Archeology during the Baltimore City Life Museum acquisition) and 7 million books and documents, ranging from pre-settlement to the present day and representing virtually every aspect of Maryland history and life.

Library Collections

The [H. Furlong Baldwin Library’s](#) collections are both diverse and substantive. The library enables researchers, teachers, and students to see for themselves the records of the past, and to study and learn from its many treasures. The library’s collections include 60,000 books, 800,000 photographs, 5 million manuscripts, 6,500 prints and broadsides, 1 million pieces of printed ephemera, extensive genealogy indexes, and more, reflecting the history of Maryland and its people. These collections are accessible to visitors on-line and at the MdHS campus in Baltimore.

The library of MdHS served 1,682 users on-site during FY 2009 and thousands more via e-mail, telephone and the MdHS website. The library enables researchers, teachers, and students to see for themselves the records of the past, and to study and learn from the many treasures we house. Historians, scholars, journalists, lawyers, legislators, and makers of film and television documentaries come daily to our research rooms or make inquiries by phone, fax, letter, and internet. Our genealogical resources assist Marylanders and others in seeking the historical roots of individuals and families. The library of Maryland history provides resources that enable people throughout the U.S. to review the actions of past citizens, governments, institutions, and organizations. The collection includes:

- **5 million manuscripts:** including Father White's *Relatio Itineris in Marylandiam*, Francis Scott Key's original manuscript of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and significant papers from Marylanders such as the Tilghmans, Lloyds, Ridgelys, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, William Wirt and Betsy Bonaparte
- **1 million pieces of printed ephemera** (printed material of passing interest): early theater, sports, and political materials, even tobacco trading cards, obsolete currency and early wooden cigar boxes
- **800,000 photographs:** ranging from 19th century daguerreotypes to local photographer Morton Tadder's shots of the Beatles to world-renowned photojournalist A. Aubrey Bodine's images of Baltimore
- **60,000 books** including family and local histories, scholarly works, and Baltimore City directories as well as 15,000 rare books on diverse topics ranging from Benjamin Banneker's *Almanac* to Bozman's *A Sketch of the History of Maryland* to the sports, horse and hunting collection in our Symington Memorial Library
- **15,000 musical scores:** including original Eubie Blake ragtime scores
- **6,500 prints and broadsides:** everything from landscape prints to Revolutionary era patriotic tracts to run-away slave ads and anti- and pro-slavery propaganda
- **2,500 maps and plats** (diagrams of sections of city areas): Colonial and Civil War era maps, Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps (containing detailed information regarding town and building information), and plats of early Maryland estates such as Wye Plantation
- **genealogical works:** including genealogy and the Norris Harris Church Register indices to library resources, the Wilkins File index to standard Maryland histories, and the Dielman-Hayward File (biographical entries on 400,000 Marylanders from ca. 1772 to 1992)
- **capsule histories of Maryland structures** (Passano Historic Structures Index) 1650 to the present, with one-third covering Baltimore City

Museum Collections

The [MdHS museum](#) features an incredible collection that celebrates Maryland's rich and diverse history, from 18th- and 19th-century paintings and silver to 20th-century objects of everyday life. Among its more than 350,000 objects, the most significant collection of Maryland cultural artifacts in the world, are over 2,000 paintings including the largest collection of works of art by members of the Peale family, a significant collection of maritime-related artifacts, and important collections of 19th-century Maryland painted and inlaid furniture, silver, quilts, costumes, ceramics, dolls and toys.

The museum of MdHS served 7,811 users on-site during FY 2009 exclusive of school-related programming, and many more via e-mail, telephone and the MdHS website. As the oldest continuously operating cultural institution in the state, MdHS houses the most significant collection of Maryland cultural artifacts. The collection includes:

- **10,750 textiles** including the largest collection of Baltimore Album quilts in the world, 124 samplers and embroideries, women's, men's and children's clothing and accessories ranging from c. 1730 to the present, bed and table linens, one of only three surviving Revolutionary War officer's uniforms in America, an extensive collection of Confederate and Union uniforms, a collection of flags (including 51 Civil War era flags and approximately 50 additional flags from the 18th - the 21 century) and a collection of dresses and accessories designed by Claire McCardell
- **10,000 miscellaneous household, office, and agricultural equipment**, including gentlemen's and women's accoutrements (snuff boxes, card cases, canes, and sewing cases), lamps, washing machines, typewriters, and farming implements
- **8,250 works on paper** including 19th century drawing and sketch books that cover a wide range of Maryland topics including the largest national collection of B. Henry Latrobe sketchbooks featuring 343 pages of sketches from 14 books
- **8,021 fabrication drawings**, primarily from 19th and 20th centuries, including 2,165 architectural drawings for domestic and business architecture from the Baltimore region, 56 plans and drawings from 17 architects for the design competition for the United States Capitol, 3,800 drawings for silver made by Samuel Kirk and Son, and 500 furniture drawings from the Potthast Brothers and 1,500 from the Jenkins Furniture Company
- **4,134 pieces of silver hollowware and flatware** including over 400 objects made by Samuel Kirk and his descendants and a significant collection of English silver with colonial (early Maryland) history
- **2,500 toys, dolls, and games** played with by Maryland children
- **2,200 paintings and miniatures** including portraits of Maryland heroes from the Revolutionary War and War of 1812, 220 works by members of the Peale family, the largest collection in the world; 7 portrait paintings by Joshua Johnson, the first professional African American portrait painter in the United States, and 10 Maryland landscapes by Francis Guy, considered one of the most important English artists to come to the America in the late eighteenth century. Over 1,500 images of MdHS paintings dating from the 17th century to the present are accessible at <http://www.mdhs.org/museum/painting.html>.
- **2,200 Native American prehistoric archeological objects** including projectile points, pottery, and stone tools
- **1,500 ceramic table wares and decorative items** for the home
- **1,000 maritime objects** in many different media including half hulls, ship models, maritime-related navigation tools and trail-boards
- **900 pieces of furniture** including 400 pieces of furniture that were part of the Baltimore City Life Museums collection, strengths include veneered and painted furniture from the early 19th century
- **866 pieces of jewelry** for women and men including a King Charles I commemorative ring of 1649 worn by a Maryland Catholic in the 17th century, and a ruby tiara owned by Betsy Patterson Bonaparte in the 1820s

- **600 glass bottles, drinking glasses, and glass tableware**, and eight stained glass windows from Baltimore buildings
- **350 sculpture and architectural objects** including portrait busts, portrait medallions, and architectural components from Maryland buildings
- **294 woodworking and silversmith tools and scientific instruments**
- **231 muskets, rifles, bayonets, swords, sabers and handguns** from the 18th – 20th centuries, associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, and World Wars I and II, and other weapons used for hunting and ceremonial purposes.

TOTAL MUSEUM ITEMS: 53,796 (plus 300,000 archeological artifacts, primarily historical, held in approximately 800 boxes, from The Center for Urban Archaeology (Baltimore City Life Museum) excavated throughout the city of Baltimore.

Since its founding in 1844, the society has been committed to publishing new scholarship on the state's history and material culture. Through [books](#) and the quarterly [Maryland Historical Magazine](#), MdHS publications provide a forum for Maryland topics of scholarly and general interest. The society sponsors a dynamic schedule of [educational programs](#) and [special events](#) to make Maryland's history come alive for visitors of all ages. Lectures, symposia, living history performances, weekend programs for children, gallery tours, and many other public programs, held both on- and off-site, promote pride and understanding of Maryland's rich history. MdHS [school based programming](#) provides Maryland teachers and their students with important supplemental materials and experiential learning opportunities to augment classroom teaching on Maryland and United States social studies topics.