



Historical Society of Baltimore County - 350th Chronology
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- 1659 First historical record of an entity entitled “Baltimore County.”
- 1661 Maryland Governor meets with residents to discuss fighting between settlers and the local Susquehannough tribe.
- County seat established at Old Baltimore on Bush River. Failed to flourish.
- 1663 Baltimore County residents sign peace accord with Susquehannoughs while under attack by Senecas.
- 1666 Maryland legislature requires all counties to construct roads passable by horse or foot.
- 1674 First mention of Baltimore County boundaries. Cecil County created from Baltimore County land.
- 1683 Thomas Lyfoot appointed chief of rangers to protect County residents.
- 1691 County seat set up at Gunpowder Town on east bank of Gunpowder River near present Jones Road. Failed to flourish.
- 1692 Slaves owned by 19 of 196 households (roughly 10%) counted in Baltimore County
- 1693 Fort Garrison, oldest fort in Maryland, built near modern day Stevenson, MD.
- St Johns Church of England (modern day Episcopal) Parish established near Elk Neck
- 1712 Joppa made County seat
- 1715 Forced out of Virginia by the religious intolerance of the Church of England, a congregation of Presbyterians founds the first Presbyterian church in the county. Known originally as the Patapsco Presbyterian Congregation, the church met at Todd’s Inheritance in North Point. Later, the congregation moved northwest and founded the Soldiers Delight Presbyterian Congregation. In 1841, they reorganized and renamed themselves the Mt. Paren Presbyterian Church. The congregation still meets on the outskirts of Randallstown.
- 1726 Baltimore County loses territory to what is now current Howard County.
- 1731 Benjamin Banneker born a free black man in Oella in the western County. He is destined for fame due to his knowledge of mathematics, architecture, surveying, and science.
- 1733 Baltimore Company begins production of iron; the first *locally* owned and operated ironworks in Maryland. An earlier ironworks, formed in 1720, was owned by English investors and was named the Principio Company.
- 1737 Road from Baltimore City reaches Peach Bottom on the Susquehanna River.
- 1739 Friends (Quakers) organize monthly religious meetings in Baltimore County
- 1740 Old trails developed by Native Americans become basis for current Old Court Road connecting the Patapsco to Joppa while wagon trails used by colonists form the route of current Reisterstown Road. The Reisterstown Road as we know it is the straightened out version of the twisty and meandering Conewago Road from 1737.
- 1742 Sater’s Baptist Church formed on Falls Road--First Baptist Church in Maryland
- 1743 George Haile opens a “public house” which marks the beginning of what is now Towson.

- Road from York, PA to the Patapsco (York Road) reported open and in use.
- St. Thomas in Garrison Forest established. A chapel of the established Church of England, it would later evolve as an Episcopal church after the American Revolution.
- 1745 St Thomas' Church of England (later Episcopal) Parish established.
- 1747 Cradock School for Boys opened by rector for St. Thomas' Church at Garrison Forest.
- 1759 Northampton Furnace built by Charles Ridgely (the Elder) of Hampton and two sons. The iron foundry operated for 70 years and furnished cannon and shot for the Revolution as well as other supplies. "Premature discharge" of cannon tested in 1780 during the American Revolution killed Captain John Fulford and "dreadfully wounded" others. The furnace stack is now submerged in Loch Raven Reservoir.
- 1761 John Reister establishes a tavern at the Conewago and Pipe Creek crossroads--site of modern Reisterstown.
- 1763 Joshua Johnson, the famous African American portrait artist was born a slave in North Baltimore County.
- 1765 Mason-Dixon Survey marks or establishes the northern boundary of the county.
- Methodist societies operating in several locations in Baltimore county
- Violent demonstrations against the British Stamp Act begin to take place in the county
- 1766 Sons of Liberty organization formed to advance colonists' interests against British rule
- 1768 Baltimore City named County seat
- 1770 St James Anglican (Episcopal) Parish established
- 1772 Ellicott Brothers found mill on the Patapsco River. Its location is in the current Howard County but the former Baltimore County.
- 1773 Harford County created out of Baltimore County
- Merchants from Baltimore town disguise themselves and tar and feather two British customs officials
- 1774 Colonial patriots form a Baltimore Committee of Correspondence to spread word against British actions
- Legislation for non-importation of British goods takes effect
- 1775 Legislation against exports to Britain takes effect
- County freemen age 16 to 50 begin to form militia units
- 1776 Baltimore County delegates join unanimous vote in Maryland legislature for independence from Britain
- Fighting breaks out between patriots and British Loyalists throughout Maryland
- Maryland soldiers under command of Baltimore County's Mordecai Gist save Washington's army from defeat and capture at the Battle of Long Island.
- 1777 The upper county rises in insurrection against patriot government and seeks aid from the British

- 1778 Count Kasimir Pulaski forms the Pulaski Legion in the lower county as part of the Continental Army
- 1780 Maryland Assembly votes to seize and sell all British property in the state.
- 1781 Armies of Washington & Lafayette pass through the county on their way to Yorktown. That decisive victory by our Continental Army led directly to the defeat of British attempts to smash the American Revolution.
- 1783 Maryland bans importation of slaves
- 1788 County elects an Anti-Federalist delegation to the Maryland Assembly
- Maryland ratifies the U.S. Constitution and its Federalist ideas
- Statute allows convicts to build and maintain roads for the County.
- 1796 Baltimore City incorporated, mayor installed.
- 1798 County divided into seven election districts
- 1800 Bellona Gun Powder Mill established in the vicinity of Lake Roland.
- 1802 Sharp Street United Methodist Church building acquired for use by African-Americans for worship purposes in current City of Baltimore. Then a part of Baltimore County, parishioners had first formed the church in 1787 and a day school for African-American children in 1797.
- 1804 Legislature allows companies to start raising money to operate turnpikes along the routes of the York, Reisterstown, and Frederick highways.
- Commercial lime burning begins in Texas (now Cockeysville), MD.
- 1806 Falls Turnpike Road developed
- 1807 First tollgate of the Baltimore-Fredericktown Turnpike opens.
- 1809 865-acre mill site used for textile manufacturing by the Union Manufacturing Company goes into operation and after re-surveying is nicknamed "Oella."
- Powhattan Cotton Factory established along the Gwynns Falls to manufacture velveteen and corduroy.
- Washington Factory on Jones Falls at present Mt. Washington goes into production.
- 1810 Free blacks disenfranchised throughout Maryland
- Baltimore-York Turnpike completed. Half-Way House and Toll House built as an inn to mark the halfway point between York, PA and Baltimore. Built along the current York Road, near Parkton, the inn was much larger than similar structures along the route.
- 1813 Aetna Gunpowder Mill established near Gwynns Falls
- 1814 British invade Baltimore County and engage in battle at North Point
- Dr. James Smith purchases land along Reisterstown Turnpike and names it Pikesville after the famous American soldier and explorer Zebulon Pike. Pike had died the year before.

- 1816 Warren Manufacturing Company (near modern Cockeysville) begins operations as a cotton cloth manufacturing plant. By the 1820s, the plant was producing more cloth than any other in the county and had given rise to a community numbering between 600-900 people.
- 1817 Aquilla Randall Monument (North Point Battle Monument) erected in North Point only 3 years after the battle it commemorates.
- 1818 Baltimore-Fredericktown Turnpike connects to National Road through other Maryland turnpikes. Commerce opened from Baltimore to St. Louis.
- 1819 US Arsenal built in Pikesville.
- 1820 Joppa Iron Works opened in order to manufacture nails at a rate of 34,000 kegs per year.
- Explosion at Bellona gunpowder mills produces shockwaves felt as far away as Washington, D.C.
- US Census records slaves as 20% of the county population and free blacks as 6.4% of population.
- 1822 St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church founded in 1822. The first Roman Catholic church founded in present Baltimore County. Destroyed by fire in 1855.
- 1826 Maryland Legislature passes a bill which allows Jews to hold public office without taking a Christian oath.
- 1827 Chromite, from which chrome is made, is discovered and mined at Soldiers Delight
- Baltimore & Ohio [B & O] Rail Road chartered by the Maryland legislature
- 1828 Baltimore & Susquehanna [B & S] RR chartered
- 1829 Charles Carnan Ridgely dies and ensures that most of his 300 slaves are eventually set free.
- 1830 B & O's inaugural trip, from Baltimore through Baltimore County via Relay to Ellicott City. Regular service began 24 May, making this the first common-carrier railroad in the western hemisphere and the second in the entire world. The line remains in daily service. Initially, horses used to pull rail cars and Relay, MD was the place where fresh horses were provided, hence, the name Relay.
- US Census records slaves as 16.2% of the county population and free blacks as 7.2% of population.
- 1832 Greenspring Valley Branch of the Baltimore & Susquehanna Railroad (Northern Central) built. The Brooklandville House, now Valley Inn, was built to support that railroad's operations as well as traffic along Falls Road.
- 1835 B & O begins service from Baltimore to Washington. The Thomas Viaduct, located on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line at the point where it crosses the Patapsco River, is the world's oldest multiple stone arched railroad bridge. This line now carries the oldest continuously-operated passenger service in the western hemisphere and forms part of the main freight railroad route from New York to the South. It is now a National Historic Landmark since it is the world's oldest multiple arched stone railroad bridge still in existence.
- 1837 Carroll County created from Baltimore County land
- First of three iron furnaces constructed in Ashland by Christian Geiger.
- 1838 Baltimore and Susquehanna (Northern Central) Railroad begins operations to York, PA.

- 1840 US Census records slaves as 13.7% of the county population and free blacks as 10.8% of population.
- 1844 Through a wire strung alongside the B & O RR, Samuel Morse transmits, from Washington to Baltimore, the world's first message using a practical, long distance, telegraph: "What hath God wrought"
- Locust Grove ironworks provides a new iron furnace for production in the county.
- 1847 Last major cotton mill built in Baltimore county starts operations in Phoenix. A late-comer in the cotton mill business, the Phoenix Mill bolsters cotton cloth production already taking place in the Woodberry-Jones Falls corridor of the county.
- 1848 Oregon iron furnace constructed and brought into operation within present day Oregon Ridge Park.
- 1850 US Census records slaves as 9% of the county population and free blacks as 8.6% of population.
- 1851 Baltimore City and County are separated by act of legislation
- Baltimore County budget includes money to relocate "people of color," a euphemism for helping return blacks to Africa as colonists to Liberia and the colony of Maryland in Liberia.
- William Parker, former slave from Anne Arundel County, resisted efforts of Edward Gorsuch of Baltimore County to recapture fugitive slaves at Christiana, Pennsylvania.
- 1852 Lutherville developed as a planned Lutheran community.
- Mount de Sales Chapel built in Catonsville. It is the oldest surviving Roman Catholic worship place in the county.
- 1853 County mill workers engage in a "walk out" in support of a 10-hour workday.
- 1854 County residents select Towson as county seat and foundation is laid for County courthouse
- 1860 US Census records slaves as 5.8 % of the county population and free blacks as 7.8% of population.
- In the election for President involving four candidates, the county voters split between pro-Union and pro-Southern candidates. Abraham Lincoln, however, receives only one-half-of-one-percent of the vote.
- 1861 Civil War begins in April.
- With the urging of Baltimore City's Pro-Confederate mayor and police commissioner, Maryland forces destroy NCRR railroad bridges cross the Susquehanna, the Gunpowder, and locations in Cockeysville, and Relay. At the same time, pro-Confederate militia from Baltimore County destroy bridges in the county's north. John Merryman, a county resident, is later arrested without a warrant for his activities and held at the Union fortress of Fort McHenry without charges being filed against him. The US Supreme Court case of *Ex Parte Merryman* examined the right of President Lincoln to take such an action and found it illegal and unconstitutional.
- Fearing an insurrection, federal officials have several delegates arrested as the Maryland legislature meets. Among those are three Baltimore County residents.
- 1863 Horse powered rail service begins operation between Baltimore and Towson.
- 1864 Slaves freed under a new Maryland Constitution.
- Confederate forces raid Cockeysville, Towson, Greenspring Valley, and Owings Mills

- 1865 Jericho Covered Bridge built to cross Little Gunpowder Falls; it remains the last surviving covered bridge in the county.
- Shrouded heavily in black, a train carries the casket of the slain President Lincoln slowly past mourners along the Northern Central on the first leg of its journey to Springfield, Illinois.
- 1867 Towson starts its first school for blacks and opens for 29 pupils.
- 1868 Glyndon formed as a Methodist campground. The first structure, the Emory Grove Hotel, was built in 1887.
- Lutherville becomes the first incorporated town in the county.
- 1870 Black men allowed to vote once more as a result of the Fifteenth Amendment. In Towson, Elijah Quigley casts the first vote by a black man in Maryland since 1802.
- 1873 State Senator T. Sturgis Davis of Baltimore County successfully sponsors legislation to limit children under 16 years of age from working more than 10 hours a day.
- 1874 Baltimore County Police Department established
- 1879 Timonium fairgrounds open.
- 1881 Original Loch Raven Dam built
- Baltimore County Fire Department founded
- 1882 First rail link between Baltimore and Towson opened by the Baltimore and Delta Railway.
- 1885 Howard Cooper, a Towson black man, was seized and removed from the Towson jail and lynched
- 1887 Blast furnace built at Sparrows Point by Pennsylvania Steel
- 1888 17 square miles of Baltimore County annexed by Baltimore City
- US Arsenal in Pikesville turned over for use as a home for invalid and elderly Confederate veterans
- 1889 Renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead designs Sudbrook Park in Pikesville.
- 1891 Roland Park established as a posh suburb of Baltimore City.
- 1892 First suburban electrical rail service established between Baltimore and Pikesville.
- 1893 First electric trolley service to Towson
- 1894 First running of the Maryland Hunt Cup
- 1898 First running of the Grand National Steeplechase
- 1899 Demonstration roads built near Timonium Fairgrounds to showcase new construction techniques.
- 1901 B & L and York Southern Railroad merge to form the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad – technically identified as the M & P but widely and affectionately known as the “Ma and Pa.”

- 1902 First running of My Lady's Manor Point-to-Point Race
- 1914 Loch Raven Dam improvements complete.
- 1915 Towson chosen as the new home for the Maryland State Normal School--now known as Towson State University.
- 1916 Bethlehem Steel takes over operation of Sparrows Point steel manufacturing operations. At that time, the steel complex covered 300 acres, employed 4,000 people, and produced 627,000 tons of steel per year.
- 1917 Black & Decker manufacturing begins in Towson
- 1918 40 square miles of Baltimore County annexed by Baltimore City
- Nearly 500 men enlist and fight in WWI--they experience a fatality rate of approximately 20%
- 1919 The planned community of St Helena, MD., adjacent to modern Dundalk, and its 296 homes is put up for sale by the United States Shipping Board.
- US Navy dirigible "C-8" explodes at Camp Holabird injuring approximately 80 adults and children who were watching it land. Windows in homes a mile away were shattered by the blast.
- 1929: Construction of Glenn L. Martin plant, Middle River
- 1934 The Glenn L. Martin B-10 was the first all-metal monoplane (single wing) bomber to go into regular use by the United States Army Air Corps.
- 1935 Glenn L. Martin builds the seaplane called the China Clipper. It becomes the first aircraft to initiate trans-Pacific commercial air service.
- The current Baltimore County Public Library System begins operation as a single branch with 100 books
- 1937 Glenn L. Martin plant expands by 33%
- 1938 The Oblate Sisters of Providence relocated to Gun Road in Catonsville. The religious order is the world's first congregation of women religious of African descent. Established originally in Baltimore City in 1929.
- 1939 Baltimore County Schools expand curriculum and allow African Americans to attend and graduate from County schools without having to go to the City of Baltimore for high school.
- Employment at Glenn L. Martin 4,100
- Passage of Royal Train of King George VI and the presidential train of FDR over the Northern Central Railroad.
- 1940 US Army Quartermaster Corps tests an all-terrain vehicle at Camp Holabird. The Jeep is born.
- Employment at Glenn L. Martin 13,000
- 1941 US fleet at Pearl Harbor attacked by the Japanese. Japan and Germany declare war against the U.S.
- National Guard soldiers begin security operations at the Towson and Pikesville armories.
- Air raid warden training begins at Towson, Catonsville, and Dundalk high schools. By the end of the year, 10,000 residents volunteer for civil defense duties.

- 1942 Glenn L. Martin builds the B-26, Maulaader, bomber for the US Army Air Corps. It served in almost every major theater of operations during WWII.
- Glenn L. Martin employment soars to 53,000
- Sparrows Point steel and shipyard operations employ 25,000
- 1944 Many county men participate in the “D-Day” invasion of Normandy as members of the 29th Division.
- 1945 The Glenn L. Martin “Mars,” the largest seaplane ever to enter commercial production, begins service with the US Navy.
- 1954 Ma & Pa RR discontinues all passenger service.
- 1955 The county’s 14 all-black schools begin to integrate as a result of the Supreme Court decision of Brown vs Board of Education.
- 1956 Baltimore-Harrisburg expressway (I-83) dedicated.
- Home Rule Charter for Baltimore County approved by the voters
- 1957 First County Council elected (eliminating the Board of County Commissioners)
- 1959 Celebration of Baltimore County’s 300th anniversary--Historical Society of Baltimore County is formed
- 1960 Social Security Administration opens offices in Woodlawn. By 1977 it would employ 22,000 workers.
- After producing 12,400 airplanes, Martin delivers its last airplane to the US Navy. It announces it will stay in business as a missile and avionics manufacturer as well as a developer of technology for nuclear devices and space exploration.
- 1962 Baltimore Beltway completed--first in the nation.
- 1965 Greater Baltimore Medical Center moves to Towson
- 1966 University of Maryland opens Baltimore County campus (UMBC).
- 1968 In an event which gained international recognition, nine Roman Catholic activists break-in to the Catonsville area draft board, seize the records of 378 individuals, and burn them in a demonstration against the Vietnam War. The federal trial of the nine leads to their nickname, “The Catonsville Nine.”
- 1969 Franklin Square Medical Center moves to Baltimore County
- 1972 Hurricane Agnes destroys much of the Northern Central railway in the county,
- 1975 Martin State Airport opens in Middle River
- 1977 Francis Scott Key Bridge dedicated.
- Glenn L. Martin employment falls to 800
- 1981 Whitemarsh Mall opens
- 1982 Hunt Valley Mall opens

- 1984 NCR Trail opens
- At 2:00 AM on March 29th, the Colts secretly empty their training facility in Owings Mills (now site of Stevenson University's Owings Mills Campus) into 15 Mayflower Van Line moving trucks and depart for Indianapolis. It will be another 12 years until Baltimore gets another NFL franchise.
- 1986 All female Goucher College admits men
- 1987 Train crash in Chase, MD takes 17 lives
- 1989 McCormick & Company moves from the City of Baltimore to Hunt Valley.
- 1992 MTA Light Rail opens and connects Timonium to Glenn Burnie
- 1996 Baltimore County dedicates its Vietnam remembrance memorial, 21-years after the U.S. terminates that conflict. The rectangular stone stands 6 feet high. One side bears 141 names of countians who died in the Vietnam War. The other side reads, "Vietnam Veterans Memorial, dedicated to the citizens of Baltimore County who served their country in Southeast Asia, 1957-1975."
- 1997 Light Rail extended north to Hunt Valley
- F-117 Stealth Fighter crashes while demonstrating its capabilities at the Chesapeake Air Show at Martin Field, Middle River, MD.
- 1998 Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum opened
- Adrienne Jones, the first known native-born Baltimore County African American elected to public office.
- 1999 National Guard troops prepare for possible "Y2K" disruption of electronic services as the world gets ready to celebrate the new millennium.
- 2000 Dr. Joe A. Hairston, first African American Baltimore County Schools Superintendent
- 2002 Kenneth N. Oliver, first African American elected to Baltimore County Council.
- 2003 Tropical Storm Isabel
- 2007 Congress bestows the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award for civilians that Congress can give, on the Tuskegee Airmen veterans of WWII. Dr. Cyril O. Byron, Sr. of Baltimore County is a recipient.
- 2008 The Historic Winters Lane community in Catonsville became the first African American community in Baltimore County to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Michael Phelps wins 8 gold medals in the Olympics
- Louis S. Diggs completes publication of 8 books documenting the history of the forty designated historic African American communities in Baltimore County after fifteen years of research.
- 2009 Baltimore County celebrates its 350th anniversary.

