

Guide to Maryland County/Regional Resources at the Maryland Historical Society

What resources are available for specific counties and how do I find them?

Most of the published county resources available at the Maryland Historical Society can be located in section MF187 of the Rhodes Reading Room (the row farthest from the reference desk). Books on specific counties or regions of Maryland are arranged alphabetically by county beginning with Allegany County in the northeast stacks and continuing across the room in the southeast stacks of the Reading Room. Some records are also available on microfilm or in pamphlet form. Patrons may access microfilm and those books on the first floor of the Rhodes Reading Room themselves; however, pamphlets must be retrieved by the staff. Since searching the Library's on-line catalogue by county name would result in too many hits, we have listed below some of the most popular resources for each county. **Please note that this is not an inclusive list**, just an example of the types of records available for each county and where you might find them. If you are interested in a particular type of record, you can search the Library's on-line catalog using specific key words.

DORCHESTER COUNTY (DO) – formed in 1669 from Somerset and Talbot Counties

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I. Published County Histories

- *History of Dorchester County, Maryland*, by Elias Jones (MF187.D6.J76)
- *Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland*, by Elias Jones (MF187.D6.J77)
- *New Revised History of Dorchester County, Maryland*, by Elias Jones (MF187.D6J78)
- *The Dorchester County Fact Book: An Historical Survey of Churches, Mills, Post Offices, Transportation and Revolutionary War Participants*, by Calvin W. Mowbray (PAM 11,518)
- *Early Dorchester* (MF187.D6M936)

II. Published Genealogical Sources and Journals

- *The Early Settlers of Dorchester County and their Lands*, 2 volumes, by Calvin W. Mowbray and Mary I. Mowbray (MF187.D6.M936E)
- *Dorchester County Historical Society Newsletter* (MF187.D6D6)

III. Vital Records – Birth, Death, Marriage

- *Dorchester County Maryland Marriage License Records, 1780-1855*, compiled by Katherine H. Palmer [microform] (Fiche 7) (MF187.D6P17)
- *Dorchester County Marriage Licenses: 1780-1865* (MF187.D6M35)
- *Marriages and Deaths of the Lower Delmarva, 1835-1840: from the Newspapers of Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester Counties, Maryland*, compiled by F. Edward Wright (PAM 11, 108)

IV. Church and Cemetery Records/Histories

- *Register of Births (1743-1770) and Baptisms, Marriages, and Deaths (1819-1853) in Dorchester Parish, Dorchester County, Maryland* (Micro 3231)
- *Register of Births (1791-1802) and Vestry Proceedings (1788-1886) and Index to Vestry Proceedings of Great Choptank, or Christ's Church Parish, Dorchester County, Maryland* (Micro 3209)
- *Register (1743-1903) and Vestry Proceedings (1818-1892) and Index to Register and Vestry Proceedings for Dorchester Parish, Great Choptank, Dorchester County, Maryland* (Micro 3209)
- *Baptisms (1902-1934), Marriages (1903-1984), and Combined Register (1930-1984) of St. Mary Refuge of Sinners Parish, Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland* (Micro 3210)
- *Tombstone inscriptions: Dorchester County, Maryland* (PAM 1738)
- *Tombstone inscriptions, Dorchester County, Maryland: Old Trinity Church, Primitive Baptist Church as Milton* (PAM 1735)
- *Historical Records of Christ Protestant Episcopal Church Cemetery, Cambridge, Maryland*, compiled by Dr. Guy Steele (PAM 1699)
- *Tombstone Records of Dorchester Co., Maryland*, collected by Dr. Elias Jones (PAM 100,074)

- *Dorchester County Maryland Tombstone Records* (MF187.D6M36)
- *Dorchester County Maryland Tombstone Records, 1678-1974* (MF187.D6M361)
- *Dorchester Memorial Park Cemetery* (MF187.D6W383)
- *Great Choptank Parish, 1693-1974* (MF187.D6P95C5G)

V. Land, Deed, Tax, and Other Records

- *Abstracts From the Land Records of Dorchester County, Maryland, 1688-1775*, six volumes compiled by James A. McAllister, Jr. (MF187.D6M37)
- *The Dorchester County Criminal Court Docket*, by Debra Smith Moxey (PAM 11,022)
- *Abstracts of Dorchester County Distributions, 1852-1885, Dorchester County, Maryland*, compiled by Debra Smith Moxey (PAM 10,628)
- *Dorchester County, Maryland, Rent Rolls; abstracts* (F187.D6K4 2001)
- *The 1830 Census of Dorchester County, Maryland*, by Debra Smith Moxey (PAM 11,088)
- *1850 Census of Dorchester County, Maryland*, by Debra Smith Moxey (PAM 11,087 and MF187.D6M937 1984)
- *1860 Census of Dorchester County, Maryland*, by Jackie Molisani (PAM 11,527)
- *The 1870 Census of Dorchester County, Maryland*, compiled by Debra S. Moxey (MF187.D6M937 1870)

VI. Newspapers

- *Before the Fire: Genealogical Gleanings from the Cambridge (MD) Chronicle, 1830-55*, extracted by Walter E. Arps, Jr. (MF180.A77)

VII. Related Manuscript Collections

Family Papers

- *Woodward Collection, 1680-[1914]*; Woodward and related family documents and land surveys in Dorchester Co. (MS1636)
- *Captain Thomas Ennalls Papers, 1744-1817*; deeds and other papers relating to Ennalls and Webb families of Dorchester Co. (MS1270)
- *Nutter Family Papers, 1786-1832*; items relating to land owned by Nutter-Richards families in Dorchester Co. and Sussex Co., DE (MS624)
- *Disharoon Family Genealogical Notes*; notes on Disharoon and related families of Dorchester and Somerset Counties (MS2598)
- *Hicks Family Genealogical Papers*; includes one envelope of Dorchester Co. items (MS1154)
- *Ashcomb Family Genealogical Collection, 1890s-1960s*; records of families settling in Dorchester and Calvert Counties (MS2856); see finding aid at <http://www.mdhs.org/library/mss/ms002856.html>

- *Archer Family Papers*, 18th-20th c.; includes some Dorchester Co. land papers (MS1948); see finding aid at <http://www.mdhs.org/library/mss/ms001948.html>
- *Dr. Elias Jones Collection*, correspondence, abstracts or wills, deeds and other Dorchester County records (G5079)

Business Papers/Accounts

- *John A.L. Radcliffe Microfilm Collection*, 1846-73; includes ledgers of Dorchester Co. shipbuilding business and farm (MS2968)
- *Tobacco Warehouse Book*, 1781-1799; Eastern Shore warehouses, including ones at Vienna and Ennalls in Dorchester Co. (MS1690)
- *Thomas J.H. Eccleston Receipts*, 1807-1891; receipts for goods and services of Dorchester Co. family (MS2461)
- *Levin Richardson Papers*, 1831-65; correspondence of Church Creek, Dorchester Co. shipbuilder and landowner (MS1405)
- *Captain Joseph Ennalls Ledger*, 1729-62; general merchandise ledger of Dorchester Co. (MS937)
- *Joseph W. Brooks Shipbuilding Records*, 1882, 1792-93, 1900-02, 1912-22, 1933-35; located in Madison, Dorchester Co. (MS2273)
- *Rev. Fletcher Elicot Marine Account Books*, 1861-83; includes ledger from when he lived in Dorchester Co. (MS1016.2); see finding aid at http://www.mdhs.org/library/mss/ms1016_2.html

Land/Official Records

- *Jones Collection of Dorchester County Land Papers*, 1721-1926; miscellaneous land papers (MS1744)
- *Dorchester County Land Papers*, 1697-1847, 1914-28; plats and surveys, deeds, wills, bonds (MS1753)
- *Dorchester County Land Records*, 1675-1899 (MS2635); see finding aid at <http://www.mdhs.org/library/mss/ms002635.html>
- *Dorchester County Land Documents*, 1673-1907; surveys, patents, deeds, etc. (MS2640); see finding aid at <http://www.mdhs.org/library/mss/ms002640.html>
- *Dorchester Co., MD (Eccleston) Collection*, 1663-1771: land records of Dorchester County (MS2014)
- *Bennion Dorchester County Papers*, 1774-1893; 8 documents relating to property in Dorchester Co. (MS3049)
- *State and Counties of Maryland Records*, 1663-1852; includes list of county expenses and land records (MS1117)
- *Henry Steele Papers*, 1683-1894; includes small collection of Dorchester Co. land papers (MS1429)

War/Military

- *Dorchester County Loyalist Notes*, ca.1777 (MS308)
- *Revolutionary War Oaths of Fidelity*, 1778; includes Dorchester Co. (MS1586)
- *Thomas H. Hicks Papers*, 1860-65; includes letter about formation of a committee for recruiting in Dorchester County (MS2104)

Religion/Church Records

- *Johns Methodist-Episcopal Church Register*, 1895-1912; founded by members of the black community of Ellwood, Dorchester Co. (MS2572)
- *Rev. John R. Jester Account Books*, 1904-1927; includes business papers as well as birth and death records (MS495)

Miscellaneous

- *Brice John Goldsborough Record Book*, 1856; includes printed lists of Dorchester Co. registered voters in 1882 (MS397)
- *Women's Eastern Shore Society of Maryland, Dorchester Co. Chapter Scrapbook*, 1933-44 (MS948)

VIII. Maps and Atlases

- *An Illustrated Atlas of Talbot and Dorchester Counties, Maryland*, 1877 (MG1271.T2L1)