

Maryland History in a Crabshell

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SPEAKERS

Announcer, Alex Lowenstein, Ashley Biggs

Announcer 00:01

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Ashley Biggs 00:21

Hi, everyone, this is Ashley things with the Maryland State Library for the Blind and print disabled, coming to you with another lbpd Guest hour. Today, we have the fortunate opportunity to have Alex Lowenstein, from the Maryland Center for history and culture. And for those who don't know, they are literally a block and a half from us in our Baltimore office, and they are one of the cultural hotspots in the state. If you haven't had a chance to go and look through their collection, or arrange time for a quick audio tour, they are the people that are the I consider the keepers of Maryland history. And as Alex will get into they they've got some very impressive knowledge. I am very grateful to Alex for coming today, especially on such short notice I only contacted him like two weeks ago. And this wonderful gentleman was like, Yes, I will do this. And I'm like, Okay, can you do it? Like soon? And he's like, Yeah, sure. So Alex, you have my my gratitude for being so quick and responsive. I know you've got a lot of responsibilities over the MD history. Just to note, everyone, their website is MD history.org. And right now they've got the people, places and events exhibit going on. And it's, I can't wait to go over and see it myself and finally be able to put a real human face to a name. So without further ado, I'm going to turn it over to Alex. And just once again, thank you so much for being here.

Alex Lowenstein 02:13

Yeah, of course, I'm glad to be here. So again, my name is Alex, I'm the museum logic manager and associate curator at the Maryland Center for history and culture. You know, I'm just going to talk a little bit about, you know, the history of Maryland. And, you know, there's, there's 400 years of history. So you know, I'm not going to go into in depth details. But you know, I do want to kind of talk about, you know, the history of Maryland and some some moments and you know, one of the things that we've been doing a lot at the mountain center Christian culture, and MC HC is looking more at like who Marylanders are what is the story of Maryland? And also, how can the story you know, how can we focus on everyone's story, make sure everyone is feeling, you know, everyone's voices are heard and that that, you know, the stories are are inclusive and know one of the best places to start with that is by looking at the people who inhabited the Chesapeake region before Maryland even existed. And so I want to start by looking at the indigenous people in the Chesapeake region. And know what's really interesting is one of the things that we think that we that we believe is that the first humans occupy the Chesapeake region around 10,000 BCE. So the Ice Age ended and it actually made this region more inhabitable. And so we believe indigenous populations started moving down to this region. But what's fascinating is that the initial indigenous populations were nomadic Hunter, Hunter Gatherer and groups, who then around 2000 BCE to 500 BCE, they started producing pottery and settling down which in that pottery indicates that they were settling down into these communities. So we think the first communities are in what would become Maryland, started around 1000 BCE to 500 BCE. And one of the things that we have that kind of shows this shift and it's on display in our discover Maryland exhibition is called the Pope's Creek vessel. And so it's about a three to four feet tall, brownish tan vessel, it has a tapered base. It's got these really intricate designs on the outside that we believe are made from nets. It was shaped in a net and we believe the nets kind of gave this very square like pattern. It was a coil clay made so coils wrapped around each other and it was smoothed out and then dried in this kind of nip. What was really interesting is a tapered bother bottom, allow for the vessel to be placed in the ground and keep nuts, berries and all sorts of other different goods, kind of making it a early kind of cold storage facility item. But around you know 1000 BCE to 500 BCE, agriculture and fishing became the primary way of gathering food. And unfortunately most of the records that we know of are from European is coming over. So that's, you know, that's where a lot of records of early or later, you know, pre like right before pre colonial indigenous records come from us from the European European perspective. But around the 1600s Europeans indicated that the indigenous peoples heavily fished oysters, but what's really fascinating is that the oysters that they talk about, they claim that the oysters can feed to people. And we look at we, you know, we look at the oysters today, and we examine the oysters today, and they're very small, but apparently the size of the oysters in the 1600s was about the size of a forearm. So it could actually feed to people because it hadn't been over overfished yet. But the people who live in this region are members of the Algonquin speaking people in the major nations are going to be the Piscataway nation who would be in what would become Southern Maryland, near the eastern flank of the Potomac, the Susquehanna folks who would be near kind of Northeast Maryland today. And then the Tuscarora, who are going to the Tuscarora we're going to be on the Delmarva Peninsula, and then the Nanticoke are going to be in the southern Delmarva Peninsula. So to kind of get an idea of where these indigenous nations are located. But interestingly, the Piscataway nations lived in relatively small communities, but it was a very densely populated region. But to give you an idea of what these communities would have looked like, they would have been about Share, share long houses, and wigwams, which are going to be kind of smaller share huts, which would have been

surrounded by wooden Palisades and large fences, outside of it would have been farmed with beans, corn and squash, that would have been tended to by a lot of children, adults, mostly, a lot of people would have done the farming. To give you an idea of what members of the scattering nation who are going to be the first nation that the colonists interact with, they're probably going to be wearing more kind of clad in leather, tan clothing, because they would have used all aspects of an animal that they would have hunted.

Alex Lowenstein 07:06

But it's worth noting that the indigenous nations in this region were fairly large when the first colonists arrived in the region. And the relationship between the Piscataway and the Comicon nations were supportive of these colonists, that you komikko, I should say, are part of the Piscataway Nation. I'm just a different, smaller kind of village. It is worth noting, though, that even though they were supportive of front, displacement would commence. And so when we talk about the founding of Maryland, you know, the best place to start is in England, where where Maryland, the idea of Maryland comes from. George Calvert is Catholic in the 1600s. It's, it's against the law to be Catholic in England. And so George Calvert, who's the first Baron of Baltimore, that's where the name Baltimore comes from, he goes to the king and he asks, you know, for, you know, land where he can practice, you know, Catholicism, and the king grants in the land. But before, you know, the he can, he can bring people over, he dies, which convert dies, so as some Leonard and Cecil takeover, Cecil Calvert receives the charter from the King. And then Leonard in 17, Catholic gentlemen and about 200. Others who are mostly indentured servants leave the aisle of right on November 22 1633. And they leave on two ships called the ark and the Dove, the Ark is going to be the larger ship, and it's going to have about the square footage of about a four bedroom house. It had about three masts. It kind of curved up towards the back of the ship. And it carried all economists and their supplies. And one of the things I like to joke about is, you know, it was the size of a four bedroom house, but really having two people in your four bedroom house for, you know, five to six months is probably not the most fun. On the other hand, that dove was much smaller. It was about a two masted ship of a similar design. But what its job wasn't to carry colonist. Its job was to be used in the shallow, shallow waters of the Chesapeake Bay when they got here. About a week into the journey, the two ships get separated, which is not something you want right when you're starting a six month five to six month journey across the ocean. But they they meet back up in the Caribbean, and then they arrive on St. Clements island on March 25 1634. March 25 is now called Maryland Day. Father Andrew white leaves first mass under mulberry tree and they create this makeshift cross. But what's really interesting is that they the St. John's Island was found to be uninhabitable to the colonists. So they actually purchased land from the Comicon nation and established St. Mary's. And I should note that, you know, they work with the Komen Foundation, the cocoa nation sends them up to the Piscataway type, which is also going to be TYC is another word for Chief. And they make that part just up there, and they settle in what would become St. Mary City, Maryland I should I should note comes from the term of Mary's land or what we believe to be Queen Mary's land named after Queen Mary. But what's interesting is one of the passengers on the the trip over is a man named Matthias de Souza. And so D'souza was Maryland's first black resident. He initially was an indentured servant to jazz Jesuit priest, but he later gained his freedom. And he actually worked on a trade ship and took part in the political process in the Maryland General Assembly, so

early on black residents to have a say, in the Maryland General Assembly, but that's going to change later on. And I'll and I'll kind of kind of address that. But what's really interesting is early on that relationship between Maryland colonists and the indigenous people is fairly calm and helpful. The indigenous people actually use the colonists as a form of protection. The Susquehanna ik tribe in the Piscataway nations and I shouldn't say tribe, which they the Susquehanna nation, and the scattered nation actually have a lot of conflict with one another. But the Piscataway nation actually uses the Europeans as a form of defense to help them. But conflict begins to grow in the 1660s when the English began encroaching on the Piscataway villages, and this colonial expansion led to the first established treaty in 1666.

Alex Lowenstein 11:30

And then a number of trees would follow after that, but all were eventually broken by the expansion of the colonists. And the result was the loss of Piscataway homeland with many the Piscataway nation moving north and joining the Iroquois nation in 1744. So by 1744, most of the indigenous population of this region has gone and the Maryland colony is growing. And so the Maryland colony grows fairly quickly. You know, there is some conflict actually fairly interesting. In the 1600s. In the in the late 1600s. There is the English Civil War between the Protestants and Catholics. And that actually spills over into Virginia and Maryland, Virginia is a practicing colony, Maryland is a Catholic colony. And there's actually physical violence between the two colonies, with a known battle being called the Battle of the seventh. And in this time, the capital moves from St. Mary's to Annapolis. The reason is because St. Mary's is a Catholic city, and the Protestant start kind of getting more power in Maryland. And so they moved the column they have the capital to Annapolis, a Protestant capital. And so Maryland, you know, at the beginning of this conflict, the Maryland colonies fairly small but starts to boom. And one of the reason of booms is because of tobacco. Tobacco has grown in this region, it was Maryland's cash crop, it was very hard to plant, but also very lucrative, they would ship it over to to England,

Alex Lowenstein 13:02

they would make a lot of money off of it, and the colony starts growing more and more. And early on the the earliest workers were going to be indentured servants. indentures were periods of voluntary servitude. It was a way for poor English to move to the state of it, I should say, the province of Maryland. And what's interesting about indentures is that they would give a time limit for work so and adventures. So for example, one one we have on display is Sarah Radford, and she is an adventurer, two men named James Russell and she decides to work with for him for for about five years. And veterans could range from four to seven years, generally not too long of time, but enough to kind of work off the boundary. But what's interesting is in return James Russell, he paid for Sarah's transportation over provided Sara with the clothes, food, lodging and other necessities during and after her indenture period. So he's providing all these resources, but in return, Sarah is going to work for him for about five years. And what's really interesting about some of these indentures is not all of them are willing to come over. Maryland has actually turned into an convict colony for England. So later on, we know how Australia was kind of formed as a convict colony, Maryland, before the American Revolution

is the convict colony for England. So a lot of convicts are being sent to England, and sent from England to Maryland to work off their prison sentences. It's worth noting though, at this time, enslavement is starting to grow. And but indentured servitude is still kind of the major thing. And what's fascinating is at this time, indentured servants are men, women, white, black, and they are working off their time. The idea of enslavement isn't you know, the idea of racial enslavement, I should say, is not taking hold in Maryland. But under Charles Calvert, the fifth Lord Baron of Baltimore, so all the Calvert's, they kind of started passing on family, being the leadership of the colony, they would pass it down with their family. So under Charles Calvert, the fifth or varinder, Baltimore, the colony actually experiences an economic and population boom. And under him as well as when the indigenous people give up their land claims, but also under this economic boom, indentured servants are not coming over because the economy in England is getting better. So by the 1690s, less indentured servants are coming over Maryland plantations, you know, Maryland tobacco farms have grown into plantations. And so Maryland turns to it, a lot of other colonies are turning to, which is forced African enslavement. And so they are forcing Africans to come over to the colonies and work on these plantations. By 1697. There are about 3000 enslaved Africans in Maryland, by 1710, that number jumps up to 8000, which is going to be about 18% of Maryland's population in 1755, enslaved individuals number around 45,000 individuals, or about 30% of Maryland's population. And over time, enslaved Africans are going to replace indentured servants. And so at the same time, once enslavement becomes racialized, where it's no longer white, or black servants, it's now African enslaved individuals, you start to see a lot of laws coming into place about, you know, race based laws. So you see, you cannot marry someone of the opposite race, you cannot give someone of the opposite race, their freedom after you know, or XY and Z, all these laws are starting to come in. So the foundation of racial laws are starting to form in the late 1600s, early 1700s. plantation owners relied on on black and slave labor to grow tobacco, they would force him to work up to 16 hour days, about six days a week. But it was on the backs of enslaved individuals that the economy of Maryland grew. And it shouldn't be known that the economy of the the colonies, all 13 colonies grew as well. In Maryland, enslaved individuals made a colony an immense amount of money. And it led to the emergence of a merchant class, this margin class is going to be the individuals who are buying the tobacco from the plantations and selling it to England for a profit. So people are profit, even if people don't, aren't participating in buying and selling in owning individuals, a lot of who in Maryland are profiting off of the work of enslaved individuals. And so going into the Revolutionary period, Maryland is a fairly strong economy. In the 1750s, the the Great Britain and France are in what's called Seven Years War two global conflict. It's a war that they've been fighting, and it spills over into north into North America.

Alex Lowenstein 18:08

This is going to be called the French and Indian War in North America. What it does is it puts the British, their colonies and their Native American allies against the French, their colonies and their Native American allies. And so these two sides are going to fight. But what's interesting about this conflict is in previous colonial conflicts, the fighting was going to be done by the colonists and the colonists militias. At this point in the French and Indian War. This is the first time the British send over their own soldiers. So they're now sending over soldiers to protect the colonies and fight for the colonies. This is going to put a massive amount of economic strain on the British. Now no major fighting

of the French and Indian War is going to take place in Maryland, there are going to be a couple of forts built a fort Cumberland and Fort Frederick are going to be built as defenses. Marylanders are going to hear about raids on cities and pence on towns in Pennsylvania, and towns in Virginia, and they're going to get fearful and they're gonna start raising militias, but no major fighting in the French Indian war is going to happen in Maryland. However, the effects of the war are going to greatly affect Maryland. So the French and Indian War ends with a British victory the British received on North America, all French North American claims, they start kind of a period of expansion. But at the same time, the British are now having to figure out how to pay for the new, the new military defenses, they're going to have to set up how to protect the boundaries from indigenous conflicts and conflicts with indigenous people. And then they're also going to figure out how to figure out how they're going to pay for all the money that they spent on the war. So they're going to start a period of taxation on the colonies. The colonies the first taxation is going to be the Sugar Act seven Since 64, and it's not really going to affect the colonies very much I should, I should clarify, it's not gonna affect the Maryland colony very much. Because Maryland doesn't rely on sugar, it relies on tobacco. But this isn't going to fix all the problems. And and the colonies are still using their own their own colonial currency. And so Maryland, I mean, the British are going to force the colonies to stop printing colonial money. And that's going to be a problem for Maryland, because Maryland will have last printing money about a decade before. And so they're going to run out of colonial money. This is going to lead to the growing kind of rebellion in the colony against parliament, the British Parliament. And so this is going to lead to people in Frederick are going to start using their own paper, they're going to start using Pennsylvania currency, they're going to start bartering and trading throughout the state. And Maryland is going to go into a major economic crisis. And so what Marilyn is going to do is they're going to print informal money in formal colonial money that can be used to pay off debts in Maryland, but can't be used to pay off debts with the British. And so this is going to stabilize the economy, but it's going to grow the frustration. And so the moment where Maryland starts becoming a little bit more angry and more rebellious is in the Stamp Act, the Stamp Act is going to basically, Ban is going to put a tax on the colonies saying you must pay a tax on commercial legal or other paper documents. Maryland, like I said, as an economic crisis, this is adding more strain on to the economy. And so the Stamp Act is going to lead the colonists to to start to begin to revolt, you're going to have the Sons of Liberty start to form in Frederick, you're going to have people tarring and feathering the tax collector. And to give you an idea of what tarring and feathering is like it's, they would take the tax collector in the middle of the night, pull them out of their house and cover them in hot tar, and then dip them in feathers and carry them around. It was a form of humiliation. Um, so it is a form of protest and humiliation and it could do a lot of damage to a tax collector. And then their body. There are points that are known of tax collectors dying from the wounds not in Maryland, but in other colonies. And so the rebelling starts to grow and grow and the willingness to to rebel in Maryland starts to grow. And it should be worth noting that Maryland is a moderate colony. In New England you have your more rebellious colonies, the ones that are almost in favor of rebelling or fighting against taxation, your Southern colonies are going to be your more conservative planting, you know, stay loyal to the Crown colonies in the Maryland's gonna be right in the middle. And so Maryland is going to

Alex Lowenstein 22:55

slowly start to rebel more and more. And one of the moments when they're going to rebel is in 1770s, following the Townsend duties following the creation of British regiments in the colonies, and in 1776. Maryland allows its four signers to sign the Declaration of Independence. The four signers are Samuel Chase, Thomas Stone, William Paca, and Charles Carroll. These four men are going to be the signers, they're gonna sign a document that says all men are created equal. But at the same time, all four of these men are wealthy white men who are slaveholders. So it begs the question of you know who's being created equal. And that's a debate that's going to happen in Maryland. But Maryland is going to raise soldiers for the for the American Revolution. And a lot of these soldiers are going to be the earliest regiments are going to be rifleman from Frederick Maryland, right. They're hunters, they know how to hunt out there. It's the rural area, they're going to be rifleman, they're going to go up and fight around Boston. Maryland's going to become well known in 1776, with a battle of Long Island or Brooklyn, where they are going to be put out and defending against a British attack. And so I kinda want to build a picture in your head of, you know, the the Maryland troops are on the right flank, they're on the far one of the far sides of the lines. And the British actually attack the lines, they find a path to go around the back in the sides. So they're coming down on the Maryland line from the sides, and Maryland troops and other soldiers who aren't part of the Maryland regiments are retreating. At the same time. This is fairly I believe, fairly early in the morning. The Maryland troops it's like dawn in the Maryland troops are going to be attacked from the side and the front. And Maryland American soldiers are retreating and the Maryland line actually charges we believe about six or seven times at the British line to protect and help American forces get out of some of these defenses back to safer havens. And the Maryland forces are going to lose most of their regiment.

Alex Lowenstein 24:57

But at that moment, Maryland is going to be seen as an elite, the Maryland line, the first Maryland regiment is going to be seen as kind of this elite unit during the American Revolution. Now, no major fighting, no major findings is going to happen in Maryland, troops are going to be passing American colonial I should I should clarify United States soldiers and British soldiers passing through the colony, the state throughout the war, Maryland soldiers is going to fight in New England, they're going to fight in New Jersey, the capital of the United States is actually going to come to Baltimore in 1776 and 1777. As the American forces are retreating from New York, they're going to come to Baltimore they're going to meet at Henry's tavern, which is now where of royal farms arena is. And they're going to, you know, hear about Washington Crossing the Delaware in 1776. When they do that, they're going to want another copy of the Declaration of Independence printed, but this time with their name on it with all of the Senators names. And so they're going to go to a printer and Maryland printer, Baltimore, Mary Katherine Goddard, and they're going to ask her to print it. Now what's really fascinating is we have one of these, we have her printed copy on display. But normally she would print at the bottom printed in Baltimore by MK Goddard, this is the only thing we know of in our collection that says printed in Maryland, printed in Baltimore by Mary Katherine Goddard, she put her full name on it, we believe, knowing the gravity of situation, showing that she was in fact bear, she was the one printing it. So the Maryland the fighting, the American Revolution is going to go on for years. In 1781, British forces in Yorktown are going to surrender. And the American forces it's going to lead to the victory of the

American Revolution is going to lead to the Treaty of Paris, which is where the United States and Great Britain signed the treaty. But one of the issues that comes out of that is the United States is now just lost its entire economy, because it's all based around British. Now as a new nation, we're kind of stuck on our own. And so we started looking the merit economy starts looking at ways to boost its economy. And one of the major industries is going to be shipbuilding. Another major industry is going to be wheat, wheat. Now, wheat is now you know, the new tobacco, it's now a new cash crop. And so Maryland merchants are going to be on ships called schooners, and are going to be sailing all over the world bringing goods back and forth. And so the Maryland economy is going to grow. But it's also worth noting, at this time, there is a struggle in Maryland, of people of color starting to try and fight for their rights. But at the same time, white politicians in Maryland are going to start restricting the rights more of black individuals. And so Maryland merchants are going to be sailing across the seas, they're going to be sailing, there's going to be some conflicts with with European nations. They're going to take part in a quasi war with France in the Caribbean, where where the US Navy achieves its first victory. But in 1812, the United States is going to go to war with Great Britain over the impressment of American sailors. impressing the sailor means that you are stocking their ship looking to see if they are British sailors or if they are American citizens. And if a British sailors, they're going to pull them off of the ship to serve on British naval vessels. But sometimes American sailors will be pulled off. And so we're gonna go to war in 1812 against the British, and a lot of fighting is going to happen in Canada, New York area, but in 1813, the war is going to come to the Chesapeake.

Alex Lowenstein 28:33

With the British raiding towns and lighthouses along the Chesapeake Bay. One of the interesting things are going to do is something called a controlled intimidation, where they're going to attacks towns to try and intimidate them into giving up. Another thing they're going to do is they're going to recruit enslaved individuals to serve as soldiers or to serve as guys. A lot of enslaved individuals saw the British as a chance of freedom. And these individuals are then later going to go to Nova Scotia and settled down there. But in 18, in 1814, the British forces are going to attack and Bladensburg Maryland, it's going to be a route of the American forces. This is going to allow the British forces to march into Washington DC, and burn Washington DC. If you're in Baltimore in 1814, you would actually be able to see the glow of Washington burning Baltimoreans know that Baltimore is next. So they are preparing fences. They're about 15,000 people defending Baltimore. On September 12. A Baltimore defenders and British soldiers meet at the Battle of North Point. This is supposed to be a slow down it's supposed to slow down the British advance, and that's what it does. So the British are making their way towards Baltimore. They face this American line slows them down. The American line then goes back and defends Baltimore. The British reach the British Army reaches Baltimore they can't break through the fences. So what they do is they rely on the British Navy to try and attack the defenses from the inside out. One of the things they do, and in order to do that they have to get past Fort McHenry. So on September 13, the British start a 25 hour long bombardment of Fort McHenry. But as we know, it ends with the Star Spangled Banner, the great Garrison flag being waved above indicating that the fort hadn't given up. Francis Scott Key is going to see this, he's going to be behind the British lines, or behind the British naval lines, he sailed out there to, to defend, or to keep one of his friends and family friends out of prison. And so he's going to have seen where the British Navy so they won't allow him to sail back in

because he had intelligence as he's sailing, and he's gonna see this massive flag. To give you an idea, it's 30 feet tall, 42 feet long. It is a massive, massive flag. He's gonna see this and he's gonna write a poem called the defense of Fort McHenry later is going to become the Star Spangled Banner.

Alex Lowenstein 30:58

So after the War of 1812, is going to end in 1815. With the Treaty of Ghent, this is going to lead to a period of growth after the War of 1812. Baltimore is now the third largest city in the United States. It goes to this major economic, classical, you know, architectural population growth. If you were here in 1815, if you were in Baltimore, at 15, you would hear, you know, the voices of you would hear Spanish being spoken, Italian, German, Irish, you would hear Haitian being spoken, you hear all these different languages, there will be all this classical architecture, there'd be theatres, music, it'd be a very, very lively town. And so Baltimore's going to start growing, and one of the reasons it's going to grow is because of its its economy, in about 1828. So not that far, after the War of 1812, the the economy is going to grow. And one of the things that's going to help it grow, is going to be the emergence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, that's going to be first laid between Baltimore and Ellicott City, it's going to be a horse drawn cart, and it's going to pull between there, but over time, it's going to grow more and more. And then the 1800s, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad is going to be connecting Baltimore to the rest of the United States, to the Ohio Valley, goods are going to be coming in materials are going to be coming in. They're gonna be factories in Baltimore, by 18, by the 1860s, Baltimore, and I should say, kind of the industrial areas in Maryland, are going to be very industrialized, the Eastern Shore still going to be very much focused on agriculture, a lot of enslaved individuals are still going to be out there, Maryland is going to still be a considered a slave state. But Baltimore is going to be kind of an industrial area. And I'll kind of give you an idea of what that would be like after the Civil War. But by 1860, Maryland is one of the most farthest north colonies that still has enslavement, just north of us has Pennsylvania. But what's interesting is Baltimore City is going to have about 25,000, free black individuals living in the city. So there's a very large free population in Baltimore City, but a very large enslaved population throughout the state. And so this is going to create a rare interesting dichotomy leading into civil war. But it's worth noting that because of Maryland's location, right south of Pennsylvania, which is a free state where slavery doesn't exist, the a lot of enslaved individuals are going to try and escape to Pennsylvania on the Underground Railroad. And a couple of these individuals are from Maryland are going to be Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. Frederick Douglass is going to be this amazing feature. He's going to be an abolitionist, he's going to speak out against slavery. He's going to be enslaved on the Eastern Shore, then loaned out to Baltimore where he's going to make his escape. Harriet Tubman is going to be in the eastern shore as well, and she's going to escape on her own, and then come back to try and lead people out of enslavement. But she's really only going to come to the Eastern Shore, she doesn't travel any farther than the eastern shore than Southern Maryland. And so a lot of individuals are going to escape to Pennsylvania for freedom, leading into the Civil War. It's worth noting that Maryland is a very split state, you have a lot of individuals who are pro Union, but you also have a lot of individuals who are pro slavery. And so as the Civil War is booming as a civil war starting to emerge in the 1860s. Maryland is kind of split. And you have abolitionist arguing with people who want to keep enslavement. And things come to a head on April 19 of 1861. When Massachusetts soldiers are passing through Baltimore, they're walking along

Pratt street, and they are because so forth, something a bombardment of Fort Sumter has already happened. The the Abraham Lincoln calls for the, you know, recruitment of soldiers to come in defend, defend Washington, DC in order to that they have the past in Baltimore, and so on April 19 1861, the Massachusetts soldiers are walking long paths here because they have, they have to go from presence station to Camden station and they have to they have to initially take a train or horse drawn carts across. But the horse drawn carts get stopped by items being put in their way. And so they get out and they start marching. And while they're marching, bricks, pavingstones things are being thrown at them. And then shots are fired, no one knows who fired the first shots. But shots are fired, and the Massachusetts soldiers open up and shoot at civilians, and the civilians fire back. And this is going to be called the Pratt street riot. And there's going to be a lot of a decent number of wounded individuals on both sides, the mass US troops are going to make their way to Washington DC to defend. But after that Baltimore is going to in Maryland, I should say it's going to be put under martial law, where it's going to be under military law for most of the war. During the Civil War, you have about 60,000 men who are fighting in total, there are about 40,000, that fight for the Union and about 20,000 That fight for the Confederacy, there's going to be a large military presence in Baltimore, you're also going to have a lot of fighting happening in Maryland, the Battle of Antietam, the Battle of South Mountain they're going to be passing through as they go to the Battle of Gettysburg. There's gonna be a lot of fighting in Maryland, in the Civil War. But one of the interesting things is because of Maryland's large population of free black individuals, and a enslave and enslaved individuals, you're going to have a lot of nasty culture regiments be raised during the Civil War. And these men are going to serve gallantly throughout the war, they're going to be raised in 1863, following the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation, which is going to say that slavery is now illegal in states that are an open rebellion. It's worth noting that didn't make slavery illegal in Maryland, because in Maryland wasn't an open rebelling. But a lot of enslavers are going to monument or free enslaved individuals to join the army. And so the fighting the Civil War is going to take place from 1860 to about 1862 agents 65. And it's going to end with a Union victory. Now, Baltimore will have grown in Maryland, I should say, will have grown during that time, slavery is now outlawed in Maryland, it is made illegal by the 13th 14th and 15th amendments. Following the passage of the 15th Amendment, there's a massive parade throughout Baltimore, led by the United States culture of soldiers, you know, black Masonic organizations. And so these, these groups are going to fight for rights, there's going to be birth of fighting for equal equality. And then you're also going to have the growth of black women fighting for equality as well. But Marilyn, and especially Baltimore, is going to go through an economic industrial boom. If you were in Baltimore in 1869, right. Now, a couple years after the war ended, it would be a disgusting town of being, there's going to be a lot of smoke, a lot of bad smells from factories, you're going to have a lot of fertilizer factories, there's going to be a lot of noise, a lot of horses passing through, um, it's not going to be the greatest, the greatest place, it's going to be very, very compact. And you're going to have a lot of industries very close together. And this is going to lead to a problem in 1904. I'm actually coming ahead, you know, it's also going to be a large population, Baltimore is going to witness in Maryland is going to witness a population boom, former enslaved individuals who just received their freedom are going to begin flocking to the city by the wagon loads. Many of these individuals are going to carry everything they own with them on bring them on wagons are sometimes going to be dressed very raggedly in worn clothing. And they're going to make the first kind of wave of immigration to Baltimore, a lot of people from the rural areas are going to move to Baltimore. And then you're also going to have a German and Irish emigration. And although Germany immigration in Maryland began in 1700s, the

failed German revolution and the Irish famine, and let me get some dates for those the German revolution was 1848 to 1849. And the Irish famine was 1845 to 1849. These are going to lead to significant growth in German Irish migrations, Maryland. And the rise of immigration is going to lead to Maryland opening up a new immigration point at Locust Point. And that's going to be an 1868. And so between 1850 1910 for migration to Maryland is going to boom, and 50% of this is going to be from Germany. These immigrants were coming over on pack steamships with the North Dorchester Lloyd line being the primary passenger line used by German immigrants, and it would take 12 days to journey between Baltimore and Bremen, Germany, which is where most of the trips started from. And to give you a hint like these are going to be immigrants of all walks of life. Some are going to be very poor. Some are going to be very rich, but they're going to be packed into the steamships. It's going to be hot, crowded, probably not the best smelling places either. So many German immigrants are going to look for jobs and fields that they were successful in back in Germany. And for many that was going to be breweries, and so breweries would have offered a taste of home. The idea of brewing, that's a very, that's going to be large in Germany, they're going to make it large in Baltimore, and Maryland. And after 1900, a lot of immigration is going to come from Southern Europe, so Italy, Greece, and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Poland. But it's worth noting that Europeans did not make up all of Maryland's immigrants in the 1870s and 1880s, a lot of Chinese immigration to Maryland begins. And these new immigrants are going to open up shops, work in factories, and ultimately driving Maryland's growing economy. One of the major areas that immigrants are going to work at are textile factories. And so this is a New York story. But there was a fire called the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. And one of the problems is that a lot of the women were very packed into this, this manufacturing This textile manufacturing facility. And in Baltimore, you have a lot of these places, and they're very packed together, it's going to be very hot, very loud. And it's going to be very unpleasant place to work. But by 1902, like I said, Baltimore was large industrial and crowded city. various languages were going to be heard throughout the city smoke from steamships, b&o trains factories would have filled the sky. And as American cities grew as more industrial, as agriculture, moved to the as more agriculture people and farmers moved to the city, they're going to become more tightly packed in narrow streets are going to fill with a variety of shops, homes and businesses. And in 1904, a fire at a in one building is going to lead to almost all of downtown Baltimore being wiped out by the great Baltimore fire of 1904. And it's going to destroy most of downtown Baltimore, but it's going to lead to the emergence of new fire protection laws. And so in Maryland, in the early 1900s, you're going to have also, Maryland gonna be heavily involved in supporting and fighting in over one, Maryland's also gonna be heavily involved in, you're gonna have a lot of women who are fighting for the suffrage movement in the 1920s. But what's really interesting is, is in the 1930s, and 40s, you start to see the emergence of a civil rights movement in Maryland, the NAACP, the citywide young people's form, they start to emerge as a activists fighting for equality and civil rights throughout Maryland. And they're going to lean heavily on the Afro American newspaper, black churches, and community organizations to fight for civil rights. And so in the 1940s and 50s, there's this beginning of protests for black civil rights in Maryland. And this is going to be at least 10 years before it's going to happen in the South. and Maryland, some rights movement is going to start, you know, by protesting, yet forced theater and protesting and fighting for integration of schools. And Baltimore City is actually going to integrate its Polytechnic a school before, before Brown versus Board of Education and actually passed. But in the 1960s and 70s, the civil rights movement is going to transition into a a more young college, upper High School individuals who are going to take part in sittings and protest and become a little bit more militant in their actions. Because in their mind,

their their parents of the 1940s and 50s are not active enough, their tactics don't work. So they're going to try and become a little militant. And you're going to see sit ins, you're going to see protests at Glen Echo Park. And when Oak Park, you're going to see people pushing back and doing taking part in freedom rides. And then in the 1970s, there's going to be in Cambridge, Maryland, there's going to be this emergence of this peaceful action is not good enough, it's not accomplishing what we want. And you're going to have a Cambridge explosion of 1967.

Alex Lowenstein 43:58

And so, you know, that kind of leads to in the 1960s. And by 1968, there's a riot following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. And a lot of policies set into place by, you know, individuals in the state government, you're going to have an anger over the civil rights and lack of justice, you're going to have an explosion in a riot and Baltimore 1968. This is going to lead to the traditional end of the Civil Rights Movement, except for the fact that following that, you're going to have a rise of Black Panther movements, fighting for more black liberation, not not fighting for sake, not fighting against segregation, but fighting for Black Power, black political power, black voices. And so, Maryland, you know, a lot of the a lot of the issues that that face are faced in the 1960s in the 1950s and throughout history, are built on a lot of you know, its foundation in the early 1600s. And so that's how I'm coming to the end of the story of Maryland. So there's a lot more stories to tell, especially with the rise of LG, in the 70s and 80s, the emergence of the fight for LGBTQ rights, the club hippo in Baltimore is gonna be one of the largest LGBTQ clubs in Baltimore. And in the 2000s, you're gonna see kind of this emergence of a new kind of, you know, fight for equality, for gender equity, LGBTQ rights, but also fairly interesting is following 911, you're gonna see a boom of governmental growth in this region. And that's going to lead to a lot of people to move to Maryland, and the government is going to, and that actually happens after World War One, but it grows immensely following 911, as well with more government employees coming to the region. And so with that, I am kind of at the end of, of my very, very brief, deep dive history into into Maryland. I feel like I did, you know, mile a mile long, but but a millimeter deep. So there's a lot more stories to tell. And if you come visit the Maryland Center for history and culture, a lot of these stories are on display. And we're always happy to talk more and, and share more stories of Maryland history.

Ashley Biggs 46:16

That is a lot of history. I was sitting here taking notes. And after a while my brain was like, I really want to pay attention and not just take notes. Especially I'm a revolutionary war person, like I love the colonial period. And so like that really had my attention, like from the founding of Maryland, you know, to the end of the Revolutionary War, which really didn't end until 1812. Let's just be honest. Yeah. Yeah. You know, how they kind of all played together. And then moving on into modern history, acknowledging the faults and the things that, you know, Maryland did well, that, and Maryland kind of didn't do too well, it was was really breathtaking.

Alex Lowenstein 47:09

And I shouldn't, I should know, one of the things that is important to us is that, you know, history is not just seen a lot of people view history as moments, right? Like the Revolutionary War happened, and then there's like a break, and then something else happened. And then there's a break. But everything builds up to what is going to lead to, you know, future events, you know, that the civil rights movement is because slavery was so entrenched in discriminatory policies were so entrenched in the early Maryland, the civil rights movement is going to emerge because of that, hundreds, about 100 or so years later, or more than that, I should say.

Ashley Biggs 47:41

So I guess one of my questions, then, would you say, based on the timeline that you've provided that Maryland was one of the first states to really take a stand and have these civil rights discussion?

Alex Lowenstein 48:00

Yeah, I would say Maryland is, is interesting, our civil rights movement, you see moments of people fighting for equality throughout the throughout history, but because of Maryland's weird dichotomy, and I shouldn't say weird but interesting dichotomy of a very large black population, but also one that's not affected by reconstruction policies, because Maryland didn't get reconstruction because it wasn't part of the Confederacy. Got it. You have a lot of this, these issues that exist that are left on unaddressed. And so that's what's going to lead to in the 30s and 40s, you know, 10 years, or almost 20 years before Martin Luther King Jr. is going to come to the forefront. You have people like Lily, Carol Jackson, and Clarence Mitchell, and M Thurgood Marshall, who are coming to the forefront and are leading the civil rights movement. And are the voices they are our they are our Martin Luther King. Before you know, Martin Luther King became the leading figure, Maryland is going to start addressing these points. And interestingly, a lot of the tactics that happened in Maryland, are going to be used in the South. Maryland's gonna kind of be seen as a testbed sometimes of tactics for the civil rights movement.

Ashley Biggs 49:18

You know, I know that and again, you covered so wearing that, and we've got such a limited time. But a couple of quick questions about the Maryland Center itself and how one how amazing all this knowledge is I mean, that timeline is just you know, snippets I'm sure there's more. Can you tell us what your your favorite historical moment is that you've learned since beginning working at the center like because I'm sure you're exposed to history that we that is almost like, quote, forgotten among mats, you know?

Alex Lowenstein 50:00

I guess one of my favorite things is, is I'm an early American person, I love studying American history. But one of the things I find very interesting is this period between the revolutionary war and war of 1812 in Maryland history, because the colony or the state, I should say, is trying to figure out what to do. But it's also the merchants are sailing out to sea, but are constantly being, you know, European nations constant trying to control it. And, you know, it's also this moment of, of, well, we, we, you know, we sign this deck, we signed this constitution, you know, we get these rights, but it's a moment where people of color and women are like, okay, so what about us, and it's like, this moment of a lot of like, you know, social and the social issues are coming to the forefront, that are going to be the basis of future social issues. But they start to emerge because everyone's questioning, okay, well, well, how does that apply to us here in Maryland? And the unfortunate thing is that, you know, the powers that the the white political powers are going to say, well does it but this like, the, these debates are really fascinating. And then you kind of go into like this early, like I said, the quasi war with France, this like early naval conflict against European against France to try and, you know, say, when we're on economic power, stop trying to influence our nation, that it's this, it's an a lot of Marylanders are going to be involved in that. And the USS Constellation, which is going to be built here in Maryland, that's going to achieve the first victory of the US Navy. So it's kind of this cool, like, moment of, of what of people asking, Well, what about me? Am I included? And then also the US saying, you know, to European nations stop trying to influence us for our own free nation?

Ashley Biggs 51:53

Yeah, that's a that's a tricky time period. Like I said, that's part of the reason why I'm like the Revolutionary War didn't really, right. I haven't been to the senator in about two years, obviously, COVID in things, and I'm looking forward to coming back. If you were to be able to give me like a personal tour, what would be your first stop, like, what would be the first thing that you show me right out of the gate,

Alex Lowenstein 52:24

the first thing I would show you is actually a topographical map of Maryland. And the interesting thing about that is it's not actually collections item, we bought it off of Etsy. But the topographical map lays the foundation for how Maryland is going to be shaped, right, the flat Eastern Shore versus the hilly and mountainous Western Maryland, that is going to shape how Maryland is, is seen. Now the first object I would show would actually be in my head I go towards, and they always start in the centers. But probably the first object I would show would be the Pope St vessel that I talked about earlier. Because one, it's very rare to have it as full as it is. But also, it is, it is the first moment of civilization for this region. And there's so many stories that I want to tell about it. And that surrounded, but unfortunately, those records don't exist. And it makes me always wonder, what would be indigenous people who made that pot? What would they say? What are their stories? What's their history? And so I would probably start with that one because that is where where this region becomes populated.

Ashley Biggs 53:35

That is, that was like the best response I could have ever thought. Just because, again, going back through my notes, I'm like, oh, yeah, that's right. He did mention this. Um, well, I know that we are, we are out of time. And you know, with less than a minute left, I want to thank you again for for being here. And for giving us this wonderful history. I have actually learned so much. I'm a I'm a history person. I love history. I watched the documentaries. But there's never a lecture or a book, a person that I need. Where I can't learn something new. And I think my my absolute favorite, was kind of learning that Maryland kind of turned into a prison colony because I never really expected that. That for me was like, hmm, I never looked at it in that frame of mind. But now I totally see it. And I'm like, Oh, yeah. injustice. So I thank you for opening my eyes to several new facts. And I know that those who are listening are learning a lot through. So on behalf of the Maryland State Library for the Blind and print disabled, the Maryland State library agency. Alex, I want to say a huge thank Thank you for being here and for doing the awesome things.

Alex Lowenstein 55:05

Of course, yeah, I'm so happy that you asked me to join and I'm happy I'm able to share and I should note that if, if people will have questions and they want to email me, my email is ALOTHSTEIN at MD history.org. And you can email me any questions you might have. Or if you want to know more, I'm always happy to answer questions.

Ashley Biggs 55:27

That's awesome. Well, I know you and I have another get together and I can't wait to come over and actually see your face. Fida see all the amazing collections again for the first time in two years. So we'll get together on that. Ladies and gentlemen, if you would like more information, please remember to go to their website nd history.org and click on the Contact Us. And Alex once again. Thank you so much. I know you have to go.

Alex Lowenstein 55:58

You're welcome. Thank you.

Announcer 56:01

This has been a presentation of the Maryland State Library Agency. For links to additional resources provided by today's presenter, please visit the show notes. For more information on msla or the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, visit Marylandlibraries.org