



## Children's Lives at Colonial London Town: The Stories of Three Families

### The Legacy of London Town: Centuries of Providing for Others

*You may wonder what happened to London Town after its colonial heyday. In fact, London Town served an important role in the care of the underprivileged. Read on to discover how London Town transitioned from an early, important tobacco port into something completely different.*

The colonies did not have the means to care for the growing number of citizens who were poor, mentally or physically impaired, and, in some instances, those who were orphaned. Read the following “Act for the Relief of the Poor” from 1768:

The preamble (introduction) to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1768 colonial law reads:

An Act for the Relief of the Poor within the several Counties therein mentioned Whereas the Necessity Number and continual increase of the poor within this province is very great and exceedingly burthensome which might be greatly lessened by a due Regulation and Employment of them.

Excerpts of the law read:

Be it therefore enacted by the Right Honorable the Lord Proprietary by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordships Governor and the upper and lower houses of assembly . . .

. . . that there shall be an alms and work-house erected built and set up in the several counties herein after named at convenient places . . .

. . . and that the justices of the said county courts . . . are hereby authorized. . . to assess and levy on the taxable inhabitants of each county at the time of laying their respective county levy a quantity not exceeding fifteen pounds of tobacco. . .

. . . together with the sherrifs salary of five per cent for collecting the same. . .

. . . And be it further enacted that for the time being the five several persons hereafter named for each county be and are hereby nominated, appointed, and named trustees for the poor within their several counties. . . Ann Arundel. . . Prince Georges . . . Worcester County . . . Frederick County. . . Charles County. . .

. . . Making such laws, order, and rules for the better relieving, regulating, and setting the poor to work and punishing vagrants, beggars, vagabonds, and other offenders. . .

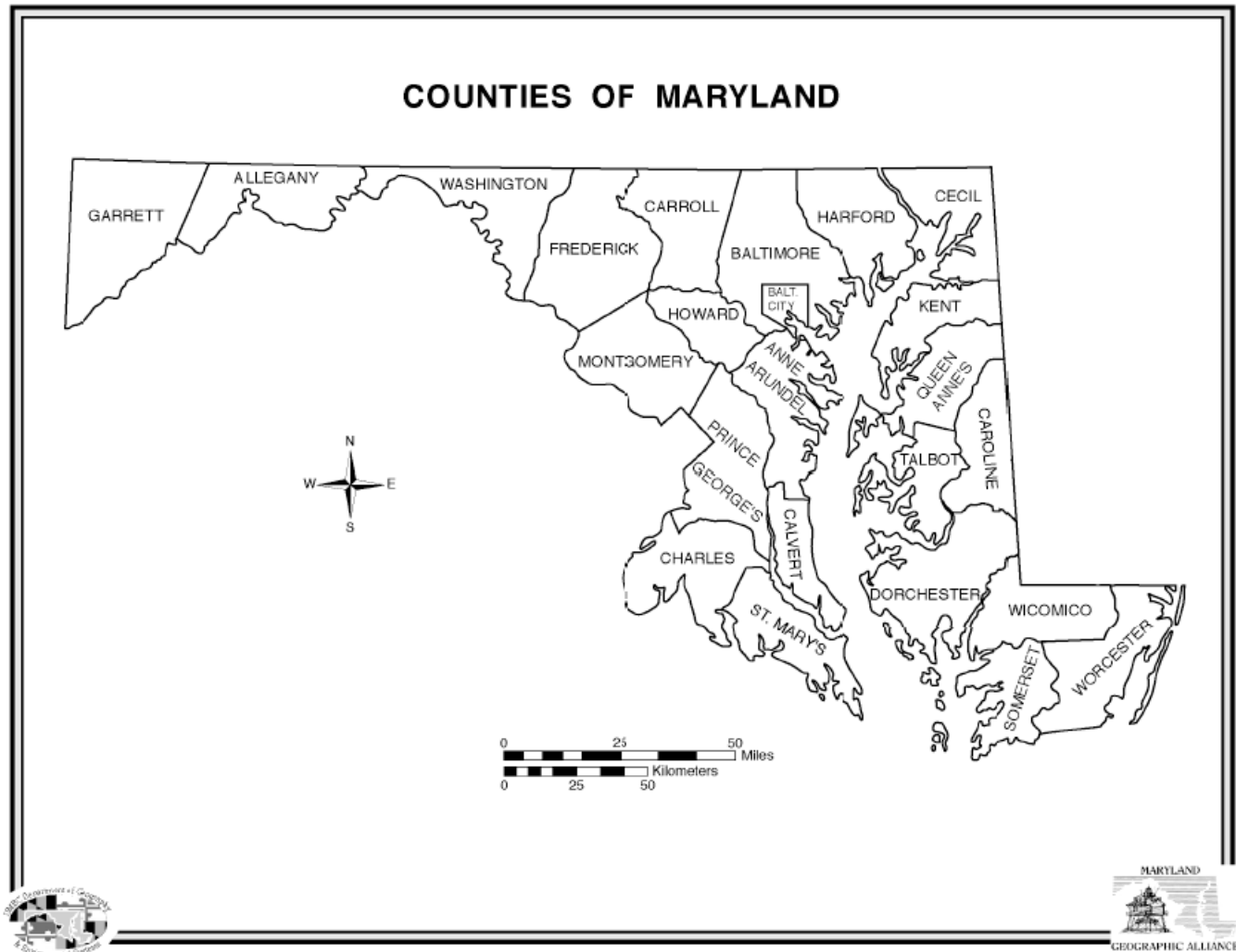
Source: *Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, 1766-1768(Vol. 61)*

<http://aomol.net/000001/000061/html/am61--421.html>



## Children's Lives at Colonial London Town: The Stories of Three Families

Although this is a modern map of Maryland (several counties were not created until after 1768 and the passage of the Act for the Relief of the Poor) you can still identify the counties that were selected as the locations for almshouses and draw conclusions about why these specific counties were selected.



*Anne Arundel, Prince George's, Worcester, Frederick, and Charles County were the counties selected to build almshouses.*

Source: Maryland Geographic Alliance

The location of the first almshouse in Anne Arundel County was near Annapolis. After a fire in 1800, it was re-established at another site in Annapolis known as Strawberry Hill, where the Naval Academy stands today. The Brown House in London Town became the county almshouse in 1823 but after 1906, it was referred to as the County Home since legislation changed the name and purpose of the institution. The Brown House was used from 1823 until the passage of the Social Security Act Amendments in 1965 (commonly known as the Medicare Bill); a component of President Johnson's vision for a Great Society.



## Children's Lives at Colonial London Town: The Stories of Three Families

The Social Security Act Amendments created Medicare, a health insurance program for the elderly and Medicaid, a health insurance program for the poor. Following their implementation, Anne Arundel County no longer needed a County Home for the underprivileged, because the new federal programs were designed to address their needs. A transcript of the act is below. Review the information and identify several key benefits of this act.

### Transcript of Social Security Act Amendments (1965)

AN ACT

To provide a hospital insurance program for the aged under the Social Security Act with a supplementary medical benefits program and an extended program of medical assistance, to increase benefits under the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance System, to improve the Federal-State public assistance programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act, with the following table of contents, may be cited as the "Social Security Amendments of 1965".

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS

##### TITLE I—HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE AGED AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

SEC. 100. Short title.

##### PART I—HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR THE AGED

SEC. 101. Entitlement to hospital insurance benefits.

SEC. 102. Hospital insurance benefits and supplementary medical insurance benefits.

##### TITLE XVIII—HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE AGED

SEC. 1801. Prohibition against any Federal interference.

SEC. 1802. Free choice by patient guaranteed.

SEC. 1808. Option to individuals to obtain other health insurance protection.

##### PART A—HOSPITAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR THE AGED

SEC. 1811. Description of program.

SEC. 1812. Scope of benefits.

SEC. 1818. Deductibles and coinsurance.

SEC. 1814. Conditions of and limitations on payment for services.

(a) Requirement of requests and certifications.

(b) Reasonable cost of services.

(c) No payments to Federal providers of services.

(d) Payments for emergency hospital services.

(e) Payment for inpatient hospital services prior to notification of noneligibility.

(f) Payment for certain emergency hospital services furnished outside the United States.

SEC. 1815. Payment to providers of services

SEC. 1816. Use of public agencies or private organizations to facilitate payment to providers of services.

SEC. 1817. Federal hospital insurance trust fund.

##### PART B—SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR THE AGED

SEC. 1831. Establishment of supplementary medical insurance program for the aged.

SEC. 1832. Scope of benefits.

SEC. 1838. Payment of benefits.

SEC. 1834. Limitation on home health services.

SEC. 1885. Procedure for payment of claims of providers of services.

SEC. 1886. Eligible individuals.

*Children's Lives at Colonial London Town* is a Teaching American History grant partnership program between Anne Arundel County Public Schools, the UMBC Center for History Education, and Historic London Town and Gardens. Materials may be reproduced under educational fair-use guidelines.



## Children's Lives at Colonial London Town: The Stories of Three Families

SEC. 1887. Enrollment periods.

SEC. 1888. Coverage period.

SEC. 1889. Amounts of premiums.

SEC. 1840. Payment of premiums.

SEC. 1841. Federal supplementary medical insurance trust fund.

SEC. 1842. Use of carriers for administration of benefits.

SEC. 1848. State agreements for coverage of eligible individuals who are receiving money payments under public assistance programs.

SEC. 1844. Appropriations to cover Government contributions and contingency reserve.

...

### TITLE I—HEALTH INSURANCE FOR THE AGED AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

#### SHORT TITLE

SEC. 100. This title may be cited as the "Health Insurance for the Aged Act".

#### PART I—HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR THE AGED

##### ENTITLEMENT TO HOSPITAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

SEC. 101. Title II of the Social Security Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

##### "ENTITLEMENT TO HOSPITAL INSURANCE BENEFITS

"SEC. 226. (a) Every individual who—

" (1) has attained the age of 65, and

" (2) is entitled to monthly insurance benefits under section 202 or is a qualified railroad retirement beneficiary, shall be entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII for each month for which he meets the condition specified in paragraph (2), beginning with the first month after June 1966 for which he meets the conditions specified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

"(b) For purposes of subsection (a)—

"(1) entitlement of an individual to hospital insurance benefits for a month shall consist of entitlement to have payment made under, and subject to the limitations in, part A of title XVIII on his behalf for inpatient hospital services, post-hospital extended care services, post-hospital home health services, and outpatient hospital diagnostic services (as such terms are defined in part C of title XVIII) furnished him in the United States (or outside the United States in the case of inpatient hospital services furnished under the conditions described in section 1814(f) ) during such months except that (A) no such payment may be made for post-hospital extended care services furnished before January 1967, and (B) no such payment may be made for post-hospital extended care services or post-hospital home health services unless the discharge from the hospital required to qualify such services for payment under part A of title XVIII occurred after June 30, 1966, or on or after the first day of the month in which he attains age 65, whichever is later; and

"(2) an individual shall be deemed entitled to monthly insurance benefits under section 202, or to be a qualified railroad retirement beneficiary, for the month in which he died if he would have been entitled to such benefits, or would have been a qualified railroad retirement beneficiary , for such month had he died in the next month.

" (c) For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified railroad retirement beneficiary' means an individual whose name has been certified to the Secretary by the Railroad Retirement Board under section 21of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937. An individual shall cease to be a qualified railroad retirement beneficiary at the close of the month preceding the month which is certified by the...

(The first page of the act is provided. For the remainder see "Social Security Amendments of 1965" (PL 89-97, 30 July 1965), 79 United States Statutes at Large, pp. 286-423.)

Source: National Archives at <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=99&page=transcript>



## Children's Lives at Colonial London Town: The Stories of Three Families

### Discuss:

*How did the Social Security Act of 1965 change how the poor, elderly, and others were cared for?*

*What did this change mean for county governments?*

*Do you and your family members think this change was for the positive? Why or why not?*

*If London Town served as the site of the almshouse/County Home in Anne Arundel County from 1823 to 1965, what historical, social, and political events most likely influenced the almshouse/County Home?*

### **A Logo for London Town**

Now that you've read about the colonial history of London Town and how London Town provided for those in need, consider how you can communicate this aspect of the past. Businesses often create a logo that communicates what they represent, sell, or provide in an image and/or phrase. Create a logo that best communicates the rich and varied story of London Town. What is London Town's legacy?

Share your logo with London Town electronically or take your logo to London Town on your next visit.

### Closure:

Visit the London Town website. Can you locate the logo that is currently used by London Town? Perhaps they will have a logo month when they display some of their top picks of alternate logos.

Website: <http://www.historiclondontown.com/>