

## BIO FOR NICHOLAS FESSENDEN

Nicholas Fessenden earned a B.A. in History at Yale, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in 1972 from Columbia University, also in History. He taught History in the Upper School at Friends School of Baltimore (1972-2010), as well as History at Maryland Institute of Art (1981-2000) as an adjunct. Since retirement in 2010, he has taught at CCBC/Owings Mills and at the Osher Institute at Towson University. He serves on the board of the Baltimore Immigration Memorial, which opened a museum in Locust Point two years ago, chronicling Baltimore's immigration's history. We at the museum have welcomed visitors from the public at large, as well as from schools, colleges, retirement communities, and genealogical societies.

### Description of the talk

It is a little known fact that during the Great Wave of Immigration from 1830 to 1914s, 1.5 million immigrants landed in Baltimore, America's third largest port of entry. Nicholas Fessenden will describe the stories of the major groups who came to Baltimore, Germans, Irish, and Jews, as well as Poles, Lithuanians, Czechs, and Italians. He will discuss why the immigrants left their homelands, how they crossed the Ocean, and how they fashioned new lives in their adopted country.

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## SYLLABUS FOR THE LECTURE ON 9/23/18

### PART I: LOGISTICS

- 1830 marks the beginning of mass immigration. For Baltimore, the port of Bremen in Germany was the main port of debarkation. Before the Civil War, sailing ships carried the immigrants.
- In 1868, the B&O Railroad partnered with the North German Lloyd of Bremen to build an immigration pier in Locust Point, which became the principal landing site for the much faster steamships.
- Push and Pull factors for immigration

### PART II: WHO WERE THESE IMMIGRANTS?

- The GERMAN presence in Baltimore dates back to the 1750s. They were the largest group of immigrants during 1830-90 and came from all social classes.
- IRISH, that is, Protestants from Northern Ireland, also came to Baltimore in the 1700s. Catholics from the rest of Ireland began to arrive in large numbers especially during the potato famine years of the 1840s and early 1850s
- JEWS came in two waves, first from Germany during 1830-60, and second from Eastern Europe, in much larger numbers during 1880-1914.
- NEW IMMIGRANTS, as they were called, became the largest group after 1890. In Baltimore, they established distinct neighborhoods, including POLES, LITHUANIANS, CZECHS, AND ITALIANS.

### PART III: CLOSING THE DOORS

- In 1891, the Federal Government established inspections that all immigrants had to pass; for Baltimore, 99% did so.
- Anti-immigrant feeling peaked in the 1920s, and Congress passed restrictive laws, which reduced immigration to 1/5 of the levels from before 1914. This legislation remained in effect until 1965.