

# THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 3, Folder 4

Fall 2022

## Letter from the State Archivist

I'm very pleased to announce the appointment of two assistant state archivists: Emily Oland Squires and Corey Lewis. Although the title "assistant state archivist" may sound new, in fact that is the position written into the Code of Maryland for the agency.

Since joining the staff as an Intern in 1995, Emily has devoted her career to the Archives serving in a variety of capacities, but always focused on access, education, and outreach to the community. She has mentored generations of interns, as well as staff, led efforts to improve finding aids for our patrons, and developed programs reaching audiences far beyond our public search room. In her new role, Emily will continue these pursuits while serving as supervisor of the Reference, Research, Special Collections, Conservation and Library Services departments.



Corey joined the staff in 1999, working within the scope of imaging and digitization as it has evolved and progressed along with technological advances over the past two decades. Corey's knowledge and technical expertise have been integral to MSA's ability to grow and maintain our electronic archives. Corey will continue to lead the Digitization and Constituent Services department, while also supervising Appraisal and Description and Digital Acquisition, and Processing and Publication. He will also serve as liaison for Information Technology in order to help facilitate collaboration across departments.

Beyond their professional skills, both Emily and Corey have proven to be excellent advocates for the overall archival program and the staff who manage it. In creating this executive leadership team, I am confident that the Archives will meet the challenges ahead with collaboration, creativity, and care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ERB".

Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist

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## Grant - A definition

A grant is a gift of resources given by one institution or organization to another, in order to accomplish a specific task or meet particular needs. Grants often come with requirements, such as open access end products, status reports and matching funds. In archival work, grants can often be used to further particular projects by hiring specialized contractors or consultants, funding the purchase of equipment to perform work, providing resources needed to improve access and other core functions.

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## Staff Updates

### Welcoming New Staff to the Archives Team



Rachel Rabinowitz has degrees from American University, the University of Maryland (College Park), and Johns Hopkins University. Among the professional positions she's held is serving as Collections Manager and Curator at Historic London Town and Gardens, as well as being a Digital Archives Intern at Preservation Maryland.

Rachel is bringing her considerable education and experience to the position of transfer archivist in the Appraisal department. We are so pleased to have her on board and look forward to her contributions in managing one of our agency's core functions.

## Award Received

In October, Dr. Rob Schoeberlein, Acting Baltimore City Archivist, received the Arline Custer Memorial Award for best article published by a Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference member. MARAC includes individuals and institutions in the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the West Virginia area. Rob received this award at the annual MARAC conference held this year at the University of Maryland College Park campus in recognition for his work, "When Harry Met Elsey: Madness, Power, and Justice in Federal-Era Baltimore". It was published in the [Spring/Summer 2021 issue of \*Maryland Historical Magazine\*](#). The article uses archival records to examine the life of Henry Moore, his romance and marriage with Elsey Pearce, and his family's legal battles to retain control over his freedom and his estate. Schoeberlein explores the themes of civil rights and treatment of the mentally ill during a time when the field of psychiatry was in its infancy.



## Article Publication

Archivist Owen Lourie published an article in the most recent volume of the the journal of Southern Jewish History. Owen's article, "Maryland's Jews, Military Service and the American Revolutionary Era: The Case of Elias Pollock," tells the story of Elias Pollock, one of two known Jewish Revolutionary War soldiers from Maryland. After the war, he settled in Baltimore, where he prospered as a businessman. He distinguished himself in the early 1800s by signing his name to legal documents in Hebrew, somehow convincing the court clerks to include the Hebrew characters in the version copied into record volumes. That was unusual by itself, but he did it during the same years that Maryland's Jews were advocating for political rights—at the time, only Christians could hold political office—giving Pollock's action a greater significance. Owen has led the Archives' [Finding the Maryland 400 project](#) for the last 10 years, and you can read this latest work on the Revolutionary History of Maryland in [volume 25 of the October 2022 edition](#) online or by using the print copy in the Archives' library.

## Professional Development Opportunities

This fall many staff members took advantage of professional development opportunities in both in person and hybrid formats. Staff assisted on programming committees, presented at and attended the 50th Anniversary Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in College Park. In addition, staff attend the annual Society of American Archivists Conference, the Baltimore Historic Unconference, and the Best Practices Exchange this fall. We were pleased to have so many staff members collaborating with esteemed professional organizations and bringing back new perspectives and contacts to share with our team.

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# Call for Imaging Services Volunteers!

We are pleased to continue our crowdsourcing effort to digitize collections using the new Bookeye scanner in the public search room and generous volunteer assistance. The goal of the project is to increase online access to the Maryland State Archives records. Off site volunteers have made major contributions to remote crowdsourcing efforts providing transcriptions to MSA records on [From the Page](#) and we are hoping to build on that successful precedent.

Want to volunteer in person at the Archives? MSA staff is looking to further populate our online catalog. How can you contribute? Volunteers will be required to take a records handling class given by our Conservation Department and take digitization training on basic capture methods. Both of these trainings will give volunteers the skills they need to contribute to archival digitization. Once training is completed, volunteers can sign up to work on collections that are selected from our 2021-2023 Digitization Priorities list. This list includes collections such as birth records from 1884 and marriage records from 1914.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up as a volunteer, please contact James Watson (james.watson@maryland.gov). We look forward to the continued partnership and support of our incredible volunteers. Thank you in advance!

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## State House by Candlelight

Don't miss one of Annapolis' favorite holiday traditions for over forty years, *State House by Candlelight* planned for Saturday, December 3rd, 2022, 3:30 – 7:00 pm. Sounds of the season fill the beautiful Maryland State House. Garden clubs from around the state have decorated trees to represent each of the State's twenty-four jurisdictions. Seven student performance groups from around the region include:

3:30-4:00 St. Paul's School for Girls, Brooklandville, MD the Saints and the Ivynotes

4:00-4:30 *The Honors Chorale*, Parkville High School, Parkville, MD

4:30-5:00 Thomas W Pyle Middle School, Bethesda, MD

5:00-5:30 The Perpetual Motion Suzuki Strings, Silver Spring, MD

5:30-6:00. Severna Park High School, Severna Park, MD

6:00-6:30 Severna Park Middle School, Severna Park, MD

6:30-7:00 Annapolis Area Christian School Madrigals, Parole, MD

Government House Holiday Open House is planned for the same day, from 1:00-4:00 p.m.



# Introducing *Mayis* website

The Maryland State Archives launched a [website](#) to provide easier access to its Indigenous records on October 10, 2022. The goal of the site is to spotlight the Indigenous communities, people, place-names, and events currently in MSA collections. The archivists asked for naming submissions from Tribal partners, and selected the word *Mayis*, meaning “path.” The word “mayis” comes from the Renape dialect, one of the Native languages historically spoken on the Delmarva Peninsula.



Homepage of the *Mayis* website

The MSA team listened to the needs of Indigenous community members as they developed the *Mayis* website. Tribal researchers expressed significant challenges to finding records relating Indigenous Peoples because their words were written phonetically and with many different spellings. They also hoped that young people – and especially students with Indigenous heritage – might be able to learn about more people like themselves in Maryland social studies classrooms. Additionally, Tribal representatives spoke of the importance underscoring the survival of Tribal communities today in our resources.

Maria Day and Megan Craynon in Special Collections worked remotely in 2020-2021 with eight intern archivists to collect the data from Archives of Maryland Online volumes. The team collected data from the indices and record volumes, including all spelling variations of Indigenous words and names. Database specialists Chris Lindsay and Ashleigh Kern, supervised by Frank Patnaude, Jr. and Wei Yang, took the team’s requirements and developed browse and search tools that show the indexed words and their spelling variations together in the the results. Webmaster Nicole Saini designed the logo, homepage, featured documents gallery, resources, and the entire look and feel for the new site, highlighting Native flora and fauna of the Chesapeake region. MSA staff working on this project spent many months collaborating on all aspects in support of the launch.

# Indigenous Peoples' Day Pop-up Exhibit and Open House

MSA hosted a public open house event in honor of the Indigenous Peoples' Day and the Mayis website launch on Monday, October 10, 2022 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Over thirty members of the public, educators, and representatives from Tribal communities came to celebrate with us. Archivists demonstrated the features of the website and created a pop-up exhibit of records relating to Tribal Peoples of the region. The exhibit included original record volumes containing Maryland treaties with the Susquehannocks and Piscataway; a land record of Zaccaya and Pangaye Manors; and a 1678 proclamation by officials protecting the Indian town Askiminokonson as Native territory. Visitors also saw John Smith's map, *Virginia* (1612), which preserves some Indigenous place-names throughout the region, and a beaded Maryland flag (2008) by Cherokee artist Bearclaw from the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property.

Staff were especially honored by the visit of Chief Norris Howard, Cheryl Doughty, and Philip Goldsborough of the Pocomoke Indian Nation. The Pocomoke representatives shared stories about their history and research in MSA collections and presented bundles to MSA staff representing their appreciation for our partnership in recent months. The bundles included items traditional to the Pocomoke: corn kernels, beach shell, Turkey feather, and wampum bead tied together in cloth.



Left: State Archivist, Elaine Rice Bachmann and Cheryl Doughty, Pocomoke Indian Nation  
Right: Gift bundle from the Pocomoke Indian Nation representatives

# Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Update



Credit: Commissioner Panel from the Anne Arundel County Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Hearing, October 8, 2022 by Dan Belson / *Capital Gazette*

The Archives continues to serve on and provide support to the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This fall the Commission held three public, regional hearings in Anne Arundel, Wicomico and Somerset Counties which told the stories of eleven incidents of lynching in the state and the life stories of the eleven victims. Each hearing encouraged the participants, both in person and viewing remotely, to say the names of the men in remembrance. They are John Simms, George Brsicoe, Wright Smith, Henry Davis, and King Johnson of Anne Arundel County; Garfield King and Matthew Williams of Wicomico County; and Isaac Kemp, William Andrews, James Reed, and George Armwood of Somerset County. The hearings also included expert witness testimony from law enforcement, records managers, elected officials, and the media, as well as a time for public comment. Narrative biographies for the victims can be accessed on the [Archives' Legacy of Slavery website](#), and the public can view the recordings of the hearings on the [Commission's YouTube page](#). Additional information can be found on the [Commission's website](#) which is maintained by the Archives.

Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland and Commissioner Chris Haley moderated the Anne Arundel County hearing on October 8th, also serving as a liaison between the Commission and the local memorial coalition called Connecting the Dots. Along with many researchers, community leaders, and Commissioners, State Archivist Elaine Rice Bachmann gave testimony at the Anne Arundel County hearing on the vital importance of the archival record. The last known lynching in Maryland of George Armwood occurred in 1933, two years before the Archives was created as a state agency in 1935. Given the paucity of government records documenting lynching cases, the State Archivist emphasized the critical responsibility of the Archives to preserve and make accessible all extant records and the Commission to leave behind records documenting its work and resulting findings for future generations.

# Old Treasury Building Update

The State House Trust has recently approved plans for the stabilization and restoration of the Old Treasury Building, the oldest public building in Annapolis, built in 1735 by Patrick Creagh (1718-1761). The work will prepare the building for potential exhibits to provide an interpretive bridge between the establishment of Maryland's first capital at St. Mary's City in 1634, and the move of the capital to Annapolis in 1695.

The building itself is a tangible link to the earlier state houses built on State Circle, as it is the only extant structure from the earlier configurations of State Circle. The Old Treasury was built when the second State House (constructed in 1709, replacing the first state house which burned down in 1704) was in use, and both buildings can be seen in Charles Willson Peale's "A Front View of the State House &c. at Annapolis the Capitol of Maryland" (1789).



In 2007, the State House Trust adopted a Visitor Experience Master Plan that envisioned a visitor experience that interpreted four centuries of Maryland history utilizing every public space within the building, and including the exterior grounds. Only this 17th-century portion of the master plan, envisioned for the Old Treasury Building, remains to be implemented. The history of the building as a place where money was issued and stored offers an ideal context for describing the origins of the present treasurer's and comptroller's offices.

The larger "Assembly Room" of the Old Treasury is proposed to focus on the original use of the building as the state's Treasury, and will feature replica desks and chests that interpret Maryland's monetary history in the Colonial period and the role of the treasurer and comptroller over time. Additionally, exhibits in this area will discuss the history of the earlier state houses and assembly rooms, their evolving use, and the activities of government and society which took place in them.



The smaller "Treasurer's Office" will feature information about the establishment of the capital at St. Mary's City and the move to Annapolis in 1695. The role of the Lords Baltimore in Maryland's early history will also be introduced, as a preview of the interpretation of the six portraits that are now on view in the rotunda. Early town planning by appointed royal Governor Francis Nicholson will also be explored. After having been governor of Virginia and planning the capital of Williamsburg, he played a similar



role in laying out State and Church Circles and the resulting radial plan, which foreshadowed Pierre L'Enfant's plan for our nation's capital in Washington, D.C.. The window to the right of the fireplace in this room will be replaced with a new ADA compliant entrance door.

The Repository or Vault offers additional opportunities for important interpretation. This room was the most secure space in the building where Maryland money and bills of credit were stored in iron chests each with *“three strong, substantial, and different locks; and that each Commissioner or Trustee, shall keep a Key; to the end that no Bills of Credit, which shall be signed, be taken out, or disposed of, but by or in the Presence of all of the Comissioners or Trustees,”* and that, *“Counter-Parts of the said Bills of Credit, together with all other Books and Papers relating to the said Office, shall be kept and deposited in One other strong Iron Chest. . .”*

In cooperation with the Department of General Services, Artistic Property staff will focus on exhibition planning and implementation.



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## The Scharf Collection Online

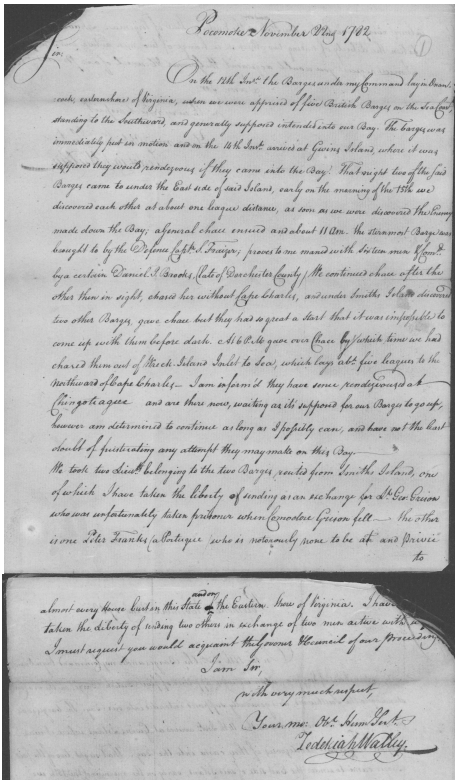
by Joe Leizear, Appraisal Archivist



NATIONAL HISTORICAL  
PUBLICATIONS  
& RECORDS COMMISSION

The Maryland State Archives recently completed a project digitizing and making publicly accessible online the [Maryland State Papers \(Scharf Collection\) MSA S1005](#). The project was funded in 2021 by a \$50,000 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission with matching funds from the MSA. The grant is part of a major initiative of the National Archives to provide access to America's historical records and encourage understanding of our democracy, history, and culture. Representing a cross section of early United States history, the Scharf Collection documents over 250 years of Maryland's

heritage, culture, and people, relating to the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. The bulk of the material is from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, but the collection as a whole spans the years 1650 through 1909. Major records categories include court, executive correspondence, land, marriage, military, expenditures/ financial accounting, tax, trade documents, as well as personal papers of J. Thomas Scharf (1840-1897) who originally compiled the collection. In addition to digitization, the grant supported an improved finding aid at [Maryland State Papers \(Scharf Collection, finding aid\) MSA SE168](#).



MARYLAND STATE PAPERS (Scharf Collection),  
 Capt. Zedekiah Walley, Report on enemy barge  
 movements in the Chesapeake Bay and capture of  
 prisoners, 11/22/1782, MSA S1005-52-444

The Scharf Collection is a component of a larger system of related records titled [Maryland State Papers](#). Like other Maryland State Papers, the collection consists mostly of early government records alienated or removed from the creating government agency, often the result of neglect or inadequate storage space prior to the creation of the Maryland State Archives. The alienation of these records from the state's collections prevented the care and attention afforded many of the other series that were preserved and described. Therefore, the Scharf Collection does not appear in the consolidated indexes created for the Maryland State Papers.

The Hall of Records acquired the majority of the government records portion of the collection in 1975, and it was identified in *The Guide to Government Records* as MSA S1005. The recent grant work to provide enhanced access to this collection required interdepartmental cooperation between the Appraisal, Imaging Services, and Conservation departments. It also included student workers in our summer internship program. The team reviewed over 18,000 documents, provided approximately 2,000 conservation treatments, and produced over 54,000 images which are now linked to updated catalog descriptions and publicly available online. Ultimately, researchers will find value in these records as

they relate to the broader themes of national history, as well as specifically to the Maryland State Papers and other agency records which are now cross linked in the catalog including marriage lists, tax assessments/ lists, and muster rolls among others. Online access will allow researchers to thoroughly search these materials for themselves and to supplement gaps in other available, related record materials.

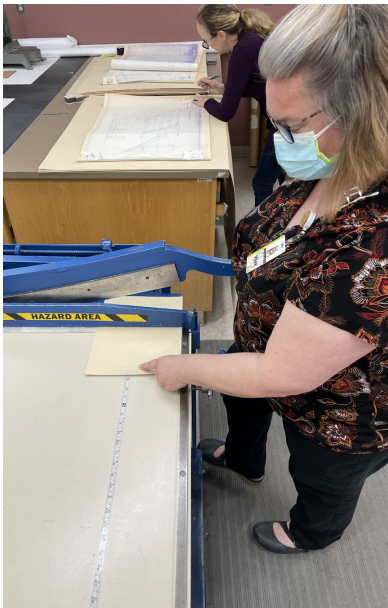
## The McGrain Library at the Maryland State Archives

by Christine Alvey, Librarian

The family of John McGrain, retired Baltimore County historian, donated part of his library and other research materials to the Maryland State Archives according to his wishes. This material was received over the course of the winter of 2021/2022 and complements Mr. McGrain's significant earlier

research donation, the majority of which was given during his lifetime (MSA SC 4300: McGrain Collection).

To honor John McGrain's work as a Maryland historian of note, the Maryland State Archives Library has cataloged his books, pamphlets and brochures at the item level, which is the highest level of library cataloging. So for the McGrain Library each item is described in detail with its own record entry, no matter the depth or the scope of the item. In turn, each catalog record entry includes the facts of publication and subject headings to describe the most important topics covered in a particular piece.



Left: Jenn Cruickshank, Senior Conservator, cutting down a folder for pamphlets.  
Center: Jenn Cruickshank, Senior Conservator, rounding corners for pamphlet folders.  
Right: Natalie Guingrich, Conservation Volunteer, preparing library dust jacket covers.

This in-depth cataloging has special shelving requirements since not all material is suitable for placement directly on a bookcase shelf along with standard size books. So for the McGrain Library, brochures, pamphlets, and booklets were handled the same way as similar material at the State Archives Library using a method previously developed in-house. Two sizes of file folders and boxes are used: smaller items are foldered and then placed in small bankers boxes, which we refer to as pamphlet files. Larger items are foldered and filed in Hollinger boxes, commonly referred to as clamshells because of their hinged lids. To avoid damaging these materials, labels are put on the folders rather than directly onto the brochures, pamphlets, and booklets. The practice at State Archives for organizing Library material is to use the alphanumeric combination of call number and author last name, which we refer to as the label name. For you librarians in the audience, the author's last name is used in place of a Cutter number.

Books without dust jackets are covered with Mylar, a clear polyester film, custom cut to fit by our Conservation Lab staff. Books with dust jackets are covered with purchased covers made especially for books with jackets. It is important to protect dust jackets because they are part of the overall design of the book, making books distinctive one from another and easier to find on the shelf.

John's library reflects his love of local history and includes both Baltimore County and City. His library also reflects his special interest in the architecture and industrial history of Maryland's mills. He collected not only books, but drawings and technical materials that explored mill technology and the natural resources that powered them. (We often added "design and construction" as a free floating element in various of the subject headings.) His appreciation for industrial technology went beyond the United States and also covered the industrial revolution in Europe. In particular he acquired publications about power and energy, most notably wind mills, those in the Netherlands (some publications in Dutch), in addition to those here in the States.

Major topics covered by the McGrain Library expressed as a count of the number of record entries with particular subject headings:

Mills (179)  
Industry (71)  
Windmills (43)  
Bridges (22)  
Conservation (22)  
Industrial archaeology (19)  
Church (19)  
Baltimore County (17)  
Railroads (17)  
Business (12)  
Mines (10)

His library is a testament to a curious mind.



It is through generous donors that the Archives has been able to acquire and preserve many treasures of Maryland's history. Donations support our mission to preserve and make accessible the historic records of Maryland, as well as supporting the professional development of our staff. To donate to the Friends [click here](#).

*The Friends of the Maryland State Archives is a 501(c)3 organization and donations to it are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.*

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### **Editorial Staff:**

Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist  
Emily Oland Squires, Assistant State Archivist  
Megan Craynon, Director, Special Collections & Library Services  
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