

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 4, Folder 2

Spring 2023

Community Collections

Each year the Maryland State Archives receives physical and digital records from government agencies. These records range from meeting minutes to land records, to vital records and annual reports; all of which have been deemed to have permanent value by the creating agency. Transferring records to the Archives ensures safe storage so that these records will be accessible to current and future generations.

While archiving government records is our legal duty, the Archives is also committed to working with community members to help preserve and archive the records that tell the story of Maryland from their lived experience. Maryland's history can not be fully told without including the diverse ethnicities and memories that collectively make our state what it is. Any record generated that documents the legacy of a community is worth preserving. Records in a community collection can take the form of oral histories, letters, photographs, videos, diaries, scrapbooks or a recipe card.



Over the past few years, outreach from the Archives has grown to include training for collection development, document storage, handling, conservation techniques, and digitization. Our archivists have made site visits to churches, schools, storage facilities and homes to view collections and offer guidance. We have worked with groups whose collections were stored in less than ideal conditions to ensure these records were preserved. We have facilitated partnerships with schools and their students, and through these joint projects we provided aspiring archivists with an opportunity to put archival theory in practice.

We welcome the opportunity to partner with and work alongside you to develop the right plan to preserve your records and ensure access. Every collection has different needs and is in a different stage of development, so I encourage each of you to take advantage of the resources that the Archives can provide. Do not dismiss the importance of your records and their value as a community collection of the Maryland historical record.

On July 17th, the Archives will have our first Community Preservation Day. Pre-registration is required, so staff will be available for all our participants. You can find details about the day and registration on page 4.

I hope to see you there, and if not, feel free to reach out directly.

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The Maryland Commission on Artistic Property - A Definition

The Maryland Commission on Artistic Property (APC) is the official custodian of all valuable paintings and other decorative arts owned by or loaned to the state. The Commission is a unit of the Maryland State Archives which provides for the acquisition, location, proper care, custody, restoration, display, interpretation and preservation of these paintings and decorative arts. The state of Maryland is fortunate to have one of the most historic collections of state-owned art in the nation.

Staff Updates

Welcoming New Staff to the Archives Team



Hannah Lane is the new Research Archivist with the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program. Hannah is a graduate of Goucher College with a degree in History with concentrations in Historic Preservation and Africana Studies. She is a former MSA summer intern, and a recent public services librarian at the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Hannah is also a dancer and a teaching artist in Jazz Dance. We are pleased to have Hannah join us!



Jason Bonsol has joined the Archives as Assistant Director of Information Technology. A graduate of Stevenson University, Jason comes to us with 25 years of professional consultant experience in the private sector. He will be coordinating and directing security and network support at the Archives, and he will manage the maintenance and administration of the MSA local area networks, state-wide intranet connections and Internet access. We are happy to have Jason on the team!

Retirements



We celebrate the retirement of **Erna Henson** after 24 outstanding years of state service at both the Department of General Services and the Archives. Since joining the MSA, Erna played an invaluable role with the team that made innumerable scanned images of microfilm accessible during her years with the Imaging Services Department, furthering our mission of increased public access. Before retiring, also Erna worked as the lobby receptionist for Reference Services, both the staff and the patrons will miss her welcoming presence here at the Archives lobby. Congratulations to Erna!

Honors

In March, State Archivist **Elaine Rice Bachmann** was welcomed as the Ernest W. Lefever Visiting Fellow in Ethics and Culture at Elizabethtown College. We are honored by these opportunities to share our work with the greater community.

State Employee Appreciation Day

On May 8, we celebrated State Employee Appreciation Day. The following employees were honored for their career anniversaries with state service pins. We congratulate them on these significant milestones.

Five Years

Chris Lindsay
John Telan

Fifteen Years

Maria Day
Rachel Frazier

Twenty Years

Marius Cauneac
Tyrone Jones
Owen Lourie
Frank Patnaude

Twenty Five Years

Jenn Cruickshank
Tina Howard
Trey Rowe
Sheila Simms
Dawn Steeley
Wei Yang

Thirty Years

Betsy Bodziak
Ray Connor
Chris Haley
Joyce Riddle

Events and Outreach

National Portrait Gallery Exhibition

The upcoming National Portrait Gallery exhibition, [One Life: Frederick Douglass](#) will feature “Ledger A”, a record from the Maryland State Archives Mary A. Dodge Collection (MSA SC 564-1-94). This volume contains the information closest to a birth record for Frederick Douglass and is on loan for the exhibition which will run June 16, 2023 - April 21, 2024. You won’t want to miss this wonderful exhibition centered on the life and portraiture of one of Maryland’s most celebrated heroes!

The Memory Bank: Community Preservation Day



Caption: Baden Family Thanksgiving Dinner, 1947. (MSA SC 2140-1-456)

The Maryland State Archives will be hosting a Community Preservation Day on July 17th from 10:00am to 2:00pm in Annapolis, MD. Through this program, we invite members of the local community to preserve their documents, photos, and letters through digital imaging. Archivists will work with community members to describe and scan their items, so that they may take home both their original materials in free archival storage containers and receive the resulting digital copies as well. We ask that the participants also share digital copies of their items with the Archives in order to collaboratively create a permanent electronic collection that allows everyone to see themselves in the Archives. The Archives will include these images in a publicly accessible digital series within its Special Collections to document and share community history. Please help us create a community Memory Bank of our shared heritage.

The first Community Preservation Day will be held on Monday, July 17th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Pre-registration is required, so that staff and scanning equipment will be available for all our participants. Space is limited, so we request that guests sign up early and inform us if they need to cancel so that we can accommodate anyone on the waiting list. We will plan other preservation days in the future. To register, [please click here](#).

Treasures of the State Exhibition

On June 24, a collaborative exhibition, co-organized by staff from both the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts and Maryland State Archives, will open in Hagerstown, Maryland. This exhibition features over 90 American and European paintings, sculptures, works on paper, and decorative arts from 1750 to the present. Treasures of State joins works of art from the MFA's and State's collections, establishing a dialogue between them and exploring their connections. Together, both institutions examine these works from a variety of new perspectives and broaden narratives about American identity, history, taste, and the development of each collection.

Notable artists represented in the exhibition include the Peales, John Kensett, George Inness, Jasper Cropsey, Hugh Bolton Jones, Eastman Johnson, Thomas Wilmer Dewing, and Thomas Hovenden. The exhibition focuses on a variety of key themes, including the Colonial and Federal eras, antebellum America and the Civil War, Maryland landscapes, notable Marylanders, scenes of daily life, and the Peabody Collection. It also gives visitors the special chance to view works from the State's collection that are not often on public display. Treasures of State is also accompanied by an illustrated, interpretive catalogue that will be available in hardcopy and electronic versions.

The exhibition runs June 24-October 22, 2023, with a special opening event on Thursday, June 22. For more information including hours and directions, please visit the [Washington County Museum of Fine Arts](#) online.

Special Event at Supreme Court of Maryland

In March, MSA staff members were able to assist the Clerk of the Maryland Supreme Court (formerly Maryland Court of Appeals) with preparations for a one night only exhibition. The clerk of the court requested assistance in ensuring proper display of a test book, which is a permanent record of the state ([S431](#)) signed by [Etta Haynie Maddox](#) when she was sworn in before the Maryland Bar, for an evening event with special guests. Maddox was the first licensed woman lawyer in the state and also a member of the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. Archives' Conservators assisted in the planning of how the test book would be displayed and facilitated the transportation of the volume. This project is an example of the type of assistance that Archives staff can provide to agencies as they work to commemorate important anniversaries and highlight their own history.



Maryland Revolutionary War Soldiers Honored in South Carolina

By Owen Lourie, Research Archivist, Maryland State Archives

Funeral ceremonies were held in South Carolina on April 22, 2023 for thirteen soldiers killed 243 years ago at the Battle of Camden in 1780, during the Revolutionary War. They included twelve American soldiers from Maryland or Delaware, and one British soldier from a Scottish Highlander unit. Another soldier, who has been identified as Native American, will be buried separately in a traditional ceremony. Following the April observances, the soldiers will be formally buried at a later date, in a new national cemetery to be established at the battlefield.

The soldiers' remains were located during archaeological work at the battlefield site. The Battle of Camden was an overwhelming British victory. The fallen Americans were originally buried in shallow graves, just a few inches deep, and some of the graves contained multiple individuals. The original graves were likely dug by American soldiers previously captured during the battle, or by enslaved workers from nearby farms, and were potentially dug by hand. One of the graves appears to have been dug with a soldier's tin cup, which was found nearby.

The ceremony was attended by thousands of visitors, including Revolutionary War reenactors, dignitaries from Maryland, Delaware, South Carolina, and officers from Britain, France, and



Germany. The coffins were carried by the Old Guard, and soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Scotland carried the coffin of the British soldier. So far, the soldiers are all unidentified. It is known the Americans were from Maryland or Delaware based on their position on the battlefield and uniform buttons found in the graves. Historians hope that DNA research will reveal more information about who the soldiers were.



Many of the soldiers who fought at Camden are part of the Maryland State Archives' [Maryland 400 project](#), which studies men who enlisted in 1776, at the very beginning of the Revolutionary War. The Archives' was fortunate to have an opportunity to participate in the event and to have Owen Loure speak as part of the weekend. He gave a talk about some of the soldiers who fought at the battle, helping to share their stories and commemorate their lives.

To read more about the burials, see here: [American Battlefield Trust](#)

To learn more about the Battle of Camden, see here: [“Gate’s Defeat”: The Battle of Camden](#)

Collection Highlights

Eyes on New Artwork in MSA Collections

This eye-catching portrait of Maryland abolitionist Harriet Tubman is one of several newly acquired artistic works given to the Maryland State Archives by artist William Krawczewicz. Mr. Krawczewicz of Severna Park donated his hand-framed, charcoal portrait of Tubman on vellum measuring 34” W by 41” H inches. This new gift to the people of Maryland was awarded First Prize by the Laurel Art Guild at their 52nd Art Exhibit in 2021. The Laurel Art Guild judges’ comments describe the powerful impact of Tubman’s likeness:

“This charcoal captivates your attention on many levels. Starting with the sheer size of this portrait it is hard to ignore its strong presence. In addition, William has overcome two issues that give most artists that work in charcoal difficulty, keeping the charcoal off of areas that you want to remain white and creating a large area of an even value. The attention to detail is exhibited throughout this drawing especially in the handling of the hair. Working with just values from black to white William has created the full range of textures from smooth to rough for the viewer to enjoy. The likeness that has been created is almost an afterthought. As a portrait it is flawless. If all of this is not enough the presentation of this charcoal is perfect. The unique one-of-a-kind frame is totally fitting for this work.”

The artist told our archivists that he found photographs of Tubman inspirational. He said that he hopes viewers are moved by Tubman’s iconic presence as much as he was by seeing studio portraits of her.



Harriet Tubman (2021) Charcoal drawing on vellum in handmade custom frame [also made by the artist]. Award-winning Laurel Art Guild piece. (MSA SC 1545-3538)



Caption: Lt. Governor Aruna Miller and her staff.
Photo Credit: Maryland State Archives

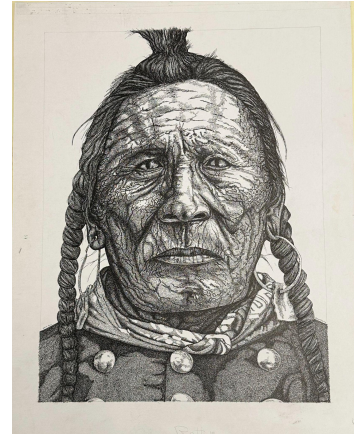
Special Collections and Conservation staff worked to accept the donation in February. The works were then transferred into the Maryland Commission on Artistic Property with the assistance of Curator Christopher Kintzel by agreement with the artist. State Archives conservators worked with imaging technicians using our Scanmaster equipment to create a high resolution digital image of Harriet Tubman’s face. The resulting digital image was then printed and framed for display in Lt. Governor Aruna Miller’s Annapolis office in the Maryland State House.

Other works donated by William Krawczewicz in February 2023:



Old Woman (1995) Pen and Ink on Illustration Board, based upon a nineteenth century photograph of a Native American woman. (MSA SC 1545-3542)

Iron Bull (1999) Pen and Ink on Illustration Board. A Native American man's portrait inspired by a nineteenth-century photograph. (MSA SC 1545-3541)



Woman With a Scarf (2016) Charcoal drawing on vellum, unframed. Preliminary study for the portrait of *Harriet Tubman* featuring model Linda Gunter. (MSA SC 1545-3540)

Underground Railroad (2016) Charcoal drawing on vellum, unframed, featuring Harriet Tubman leading a group of people to freedom. (MSA SC 1545-3539)



Research Reflections

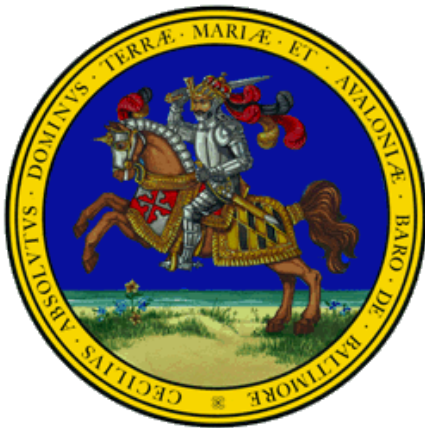
History of Maryland's Seal

By Owen Lourie, Research Archivist, Maryland State Archives

Every state has symbols, physical or intellectual designations that are supposed to in some way represent the state. While a significant portion of state symbols have been established for many years, they can still be added today. In fact during this recent legislative session the Maryland General Assembly adopted a new state symbol. This article will discuss the history of the state seal, one of the most prominent state symbols.

Maryland's seal, along with its motto and flag, is derived from the coat of arms of the Calvert family, who were the colonial proprietors of the colony of Maryland. Although the use of the Calvert symbols ended after the American Revolution, by the middle of the nineteenth century the state began to readopt them.

The current Maryland seal was adopted in 1874. At that date, the seal design was altered to correct the depiction of the Calvert coat of arms in the previous seal, authorized in 1854. Legally, this is the reverse (back) of the seal. In 1959, the obverse of the Calvert arms was adopted as the obverse (back) of the Maryland seal as well; it is not used for official purposes.



Obverse



Reverse

Current Seal of Maryland

The Calvert seal was used throughout the colonial period, and even after the American Revolution. The reverse of the seal shows the Calvert and Crossland (Mynne) arms in the center. Above is an earl's coronet and a full-faced helmet, indicators of George Calvert's rank as Lord Baltimore. The escutcheon, which looks like a shield in the center of the seal, is supported on one side by a farmer and on the other by a fisherman, symbolizing the chief products of Lord Baltimore's two estates: tobacco from Maryland, and fish from Avalon in Newfoundland, Canada. The Calvert family motto "Fatti Maschii, Parole Femine" appears as the inscription around the escutcheon. The precise meaning has been debated by scholars over the years, and has shifted from the traditional translation "Manly deeds, womanly words," to the more current understanding of "Strong deeds, Gentle words." The obverse of the seal shows Lord Baltimore as a knight in full armor. The inscription is translated as

“Cecilius, Absolute Lord of Maryland and Avalon, Baron of Baltimore” (Cecil Calvert was George Calvert’s son).

The state’s revolutionary constitution of 1776 allowed use of the colonial seal, and the Governor and Council in 1777 said the government would use it until “a new one can be devised and executed, which cannot be done for immediate service.”

Not until 1794 did the state finally adopt a new seal, which was designed by famed artist, and Marylander, Charles Willson Peale. It was full of republican imagery befitting the newly established United States. The obverse showed an image of Justice, while the reverse had sheaves of wheat, a sailing ship, tobacco leaves atop a hogshead (barrel), and a cornucopia, representing Maryland agriculture and trade. Around the outside ran the motto “Industry the Means and Plenty the Result.”



1794 Seal of Maryland

That seal remained in use until 1817. One author has speculated the seal was changed because the 1794 one was quite large, and designed for making wax impressions, not for embossing paper, and was thus inconvenient to use. The 1817 seal showed a fairly generic Federal-style eagle. It was used until the seal press began to wear out.



1817 Seal of Maryland



1854 Seal of Maryland

In the 1850s, when the government contemplated purchasing a new seal die, it decided to return to the state’s colonial past. Governor Enoch Lewis Lowe called for the new seal “to consist of the arms of

the state, and not of a device which has no significant relation to its local history.”

The resulting seal, introduced in 1854, reverted to a version of the Calvert coat of arms, with the motto “Crescite et Multiplicamini,” or “Increase and Multiply.” The motto had appeared on coins minted by the province of Maryland in 1659.

Although the current seal was authorized in 1874, it was not put into use until 1879 or 1880, as historians researched the true design of the original Calvert seal. It was ultimately modeled on the seal brought to Maryland in 1648 (a replacement after the previous seal was destroyed during a rebellion in 1646, though it was likely the same design).

Sources:

“Maryland State Flag,” Maryland Manual Online.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/symbols/flag.html>

“Maryland State Seal,” Maryland Manual Online.

<https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/symbols/seal.html>



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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