

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 4, Folder 3

Summer 2023

Letter from the State Archivist

The term 'outreach' suggests going beyond ourselves, or in the case of an institution, beyond its walls, to connect with others. Outreach has been inherent to the mission of the Archives since its creation. In collecting, making accessible, and interpreting the records, special collections, art and artifacts of Maryland's history, we are in continuous partnership not only with our fellow state agencies, but with historical and cultural institutions as well as individuals and organizations. These relationships are critical for identifying and cataloging our collections, and also enrich our understanding of the context and historical value of our holdings—particularly as we seek to preserve and acknowledge the perspective of the creators.



First Lady Dawn Moore meets with MSA staff, interns, and AFRO archivists on June 12 at the Rolling Run facility.
Photo credit: Governor's Press Office, Patrick Seibert

This outreach extends to sharing our resources with other organizations, offering staff assistance, access to equipment, and providing critical storage space to ensure the preservation of collections. The Archives facility in Woodlawn has become a venue for multiple outreach efforts, and we were delighted to welcome First Lady Dawn Moore for a visit there in June. In addition to viewing portions of the state-owned art collection, the First Lady saw firsthand the work of the AFRO Archives staff, with whom we are collaborating on a digitization initiative to make this important collection of photographs, letters, and newspapers accessible to the public. The AFRO Archives are temporarily housed at this facility as they await the completion of their new home at Upton Mansion in Baltimore.

Outreach extends to individuals too, and there's no better example of the Archives commitment to mentorship and career development than the annual Internship program featured in this edition. As you'll read, the contributions of these talented individuals is significant, and their presence among our staff is truly mutually beneficial.

Handwritten signature of Elaine Rice Bachmann.

Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist

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Field Study - A Definition

A field study is a hands-on method of education and research that entails making observations and collecting data in a specific setting. A field study participant typically watches, interviews, and engages with the chosen environment, which can be a workplace, community, or natural habitat. The Maryland State Archives hosts field studies for students in Information Studies, Library Sciences, Museum Studies, Art/Art History, American Studies Information Technology and History programs where students work side by side with our archival professionals, typically for a semester during a graduate course of study.

Staff Updates

Welcoming New Staff to the Archives Team

Andrew Kay, has joined the staff as the newest member of the Constituent and Interagency Services team. He completed a field study at the MSA in Reference Services last Fall and recently finished his MLIS degree at University of Maryland College Park. When he's not archiving, you can find him hiking, reading, watching bad action movies and sharing pictures of his cats.



Morgan Miller, previously an intern in the Special Collections Department, joined the staff as a Reference Archivist in Reference Services. Morgan has a M.A. in Historical Studies from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. She also has a background in advising students on challenging research projects at the Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

Drew Shuptar-Rayvis, Pekatawas MaKaTaWai’U, Black Corn, has been hired into a new position as an Oral Historian and Research Consultant for the MSA Indigenous Peoples’ Program through a grant with the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. Drew is a Cultural Ambassador of the Pocomoke Indian Nation in the lower Eastern Shore and known throughout the Mid-Atlantic region as a living historian of the 17th and 18th centuries. In his living history work he embodies an



Algonkian warrior, educating museum audiences about traditional lifeways. He holds a certificate in Archaeology from Norwalk Community College and a B.A. in Anthropology and Sociology from Western Connecticut State University. Drew has written that, “The sharing of oral history involves knowing intimately the people, place, landscape and waters, cultural sites, traditions, dates, including the fundamental history with the colony and now state of Maryland that has shaped us since the 17th century.” The Maryland State Archives will benefit from Drew’s perspectives as he works to record the Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples in Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. The interviews will also document today’s diaspora of Eastern Shore Woodlands communities in present-day Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.



Ian Smith, who previously interned with the IT development team last summer, has joined the IT department as Webmaster Trainee. Ian graduated in May from Towson University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Computer Science. Ian comes to the Archives with ten years of programming experience, including HTML, JS and CSS.

Events and Outreach

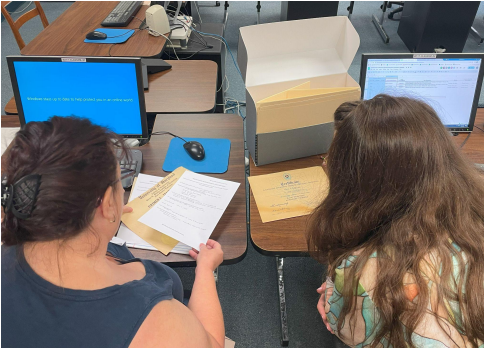
Treasures of State Exhibit

On June 22, staff attended a preview of the new exhibition *Treasures of State: Maryland’s Art Collection* at the [Washington County Museum of Fine Arts](#). State Archivist Elaine Rice Bachmann gave stirring opening remarks about the depth of Maryland’s incredible art collection and how it provides a significant archival record of our shared history. Director of Artistic Property Chris Kintzel shared his keen knowledge of each piece with the capacity crowd of guests. While each work individually is striking, *Treasures of State* is truly not to be missed as this is the



first time in history that these pieces have been brought together for public display. The exhibition opened on June 24, and runs through October 22, 2023. Please join us in celebrating our shared heritage through art through this unique and inspiring installation. For more information and hours of operation for the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, please visit their [website](#).

Archives' Memory Bank: Community Preservation Day



On July 17th, we hosted the first in a series of Community Preservation Day events where members of the public made appointments to meet with Archives staff to share items from their personal collections. Each visitor was allowed to bring in three flat file items, such as photographs, documents, letters, drawings, and they sat with an Archivist to learn inventorying and metadata techniques. Once the items were documented, and approved by the conservator on hand, the visitor took their collections to the imaging offices where they were digitized. A copy of the digital

images was sent to the owner and another copy was placed in a new public special collection [[MSA SC 6229](#)]. We plan to host more of these events throughout the year in order to build our community collections, allowing everyone the opportunity to be part of the Archives. Look for a Save the Date notice coming soon for our fall event and please share your thoughts about the Community Preservation program in the following survey (<https://forms.gle/eZ5A25i9dAk7byBCA>).

Professional Development Workshop for Educators

In early August, the Maryland State Archives hosted a four-day professional development workshop for educators on the Eastern Shore. This event was part of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grant received by the MSA and produced in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Education in support of the [Mayis](#) Indigenous Peoples' Program of the Archives. The workshop included presentations by leaders from the Pocomoke Indian Nation and Nause-waiwash Band of Indians, and other community partners, as well as trips to several significant sites including Chicone Village and the Blackwater Wildlife Refuge. The educators also had a chance to work on curriculum and lesson plans together to incorporate the information gained during the workshop. Project Co-Directors, Megan Craynon and Maria Day, hope to schedule this workshop again in additional regions of the state so that more teachers can have the opportunity to participate.



Class of 2023 Summer Interns

On May 31st, nineteen students came to the Archives to work directly with staff mentors on assignments such as cataloging and description, providing public access to collections, imaging

services, order fulfillment, computer programming, document conservation and historical research. As summer 2023 winds down, we are excited to share the interns' accomplishments with you in this issue. We appreciate the privilege of being a stepping stone on their career journey and we thank them for their contributions to the Archives this summer. Please enjoy the following articles submitted by our students. We hope these reports give a glimpse into our 40 plus year tradition and the many projects to which the students contributed. If you know a student who would be a good fit in next summer's internship, please have them watch our website for an announcement about the 2024 summer program in January. We also host students for academic and community service credit year round.

Project Reports

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Baltimore City Archives

[Everything, Everywhere, All at Once: Surveying Baltimore City's Annual Reports](#)

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Reference Services

[One Role in a Researcher's Journey](#)

Special Collections

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The Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland

[Case Study of Crime in 1919-1930: Maryland Penitentiary Records](#)

[Freedom Seekers: Examining Flights from Slavery in Revolutionary America](#)

APPRAISAL DEPARTMENT

What I Found in the Appraisal Department

Anna Dayton from St. John's College

Access to original documents from the 1700s is a beautiful privilege, and one that I was very fortunate to have through the summer internship program with Maryland State Archives. At the beginning of the summer, I was unaware of the diverse roles that working in an archive could entail. With the help of my colleagues and manager, I am glad to say I now have a sufficient understanding of what it takes to keep a successful state archive flowing.

During my summer with the Appraisal Department, I worked on a handful of varied projects, some far more enjoyable than others, but all with the common goal of improving accessibility for future researchers. For example, one of the projects involved uploading CDs of government publications and converting them to digital online files. The files would then be uploaded to the common MSA network. This process is to prevent information loss caused by CD erosion, and to shorten the search for specific recordings and documents to a click. Another project involved re-labelling legal briefings from the 1950s, making research less confusing for potential legal scholars and families looking for information.

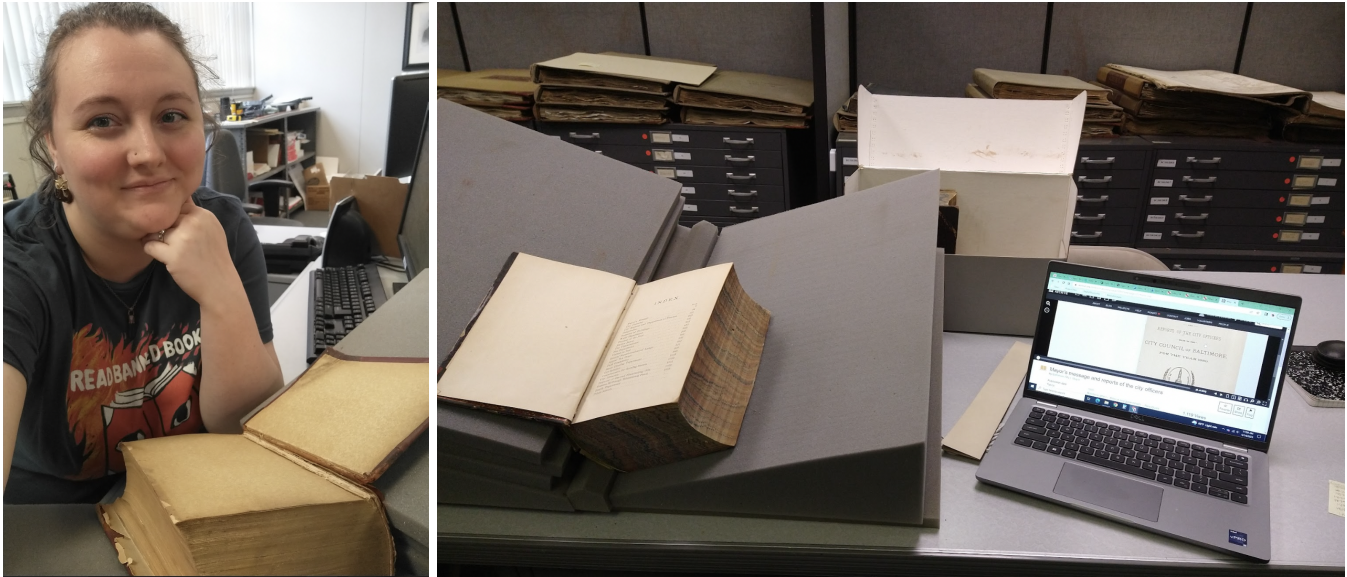
My favorite project involved reading through legal documents from the General and Chancery (now Equity) courts and compiling notable names and dates which could hold relevance. I read through cases handled by the infamously raucous signer of the Declaration of Independence, Samuel "Old Bacon Face" Chase, and petitions made by enslaved people fighting for emancipation. Some other gems included immigration (naturalization) requests, and disgruntled tenants suing their landlords and vice versa. Through this, I learned a surprising amount about socioeconomic struggles experienced by Colonial Americans and the shifts in the development of America's legal system.



Everything, Everywhere, All at Once: Surveying Baltimore City's Annual Reports

Laura Swangin from Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

This summer I worked at the Baltimore City Archives (BCA) to survey its disparate holdings of city annual reports, creating a research guide to aid access and discovery of these materials while providing data to help the city's archivists plan for future digitization of these records. This project has given me the opportunity to learn and apply skills in description, research, and preservation. Meanwhile, working with the BCA archivists has given me new insight into providing reference services and running a small archives.



Annual reports from city officers and agencies are concentrated in a few record groups but can exist in many separate BCA collections. Searching for specific editions and retrieving them from numerous locations for patron requests takes a lot of time and effort. Many of these publications are also more than 100 years old, so their physical condition may not be ideal for frequent use. For these reasons, having an adequate description to determine each volume's usefulness to a researcher before it is pulled is important – as well as using digital copies when available to avoid unnecessary handling.

To help address these issues, I started by surveying the “Annual Reports of Municipal Government Agencies” collection [\[BRG75-1\]](#), which included 65 bound volumes of various reports issued from 1848-1919. The primary phase of my project involved retrieving and reviewing each volume to document each individual report inside. This step provided additional discovery terms and enhanced description for the [Guide to Government Records](#). At the same time, I noted each volume's condition and made basic preservation suggestions. Since the completion of the survey, I have had a chance to create protective wrappings (also known as phase folders) for many of the volumes and place loose pages in protective pockets to avoid additional damage during storage and use.



In addition to enhancing descriptions, knowing which specific reports were represented in the volumes helped guide my search for similar reports in other Baltimore City Archives collections. Differences in descriptions sometimes made it unclear if the reports present were annual – those addressed directly to the mayor and city council at the end of a fiscal year – or of any other type that would be out of the scope of this current project. To confirm this information before adding them into my research guide, I made quite a few trips into records storage to retrieve and check additional materials. These items came primarily from the record groups “Agency Reports and Publications” [BRG68] and the Department of Legislative Reference library materials series [BRG29-10], but some reports were housed with their original associated departmental record groups, or in manuscript form as correspondence between different arms of city government. This stage of the project was useful in determining the archives’ holdings pre-1848 and post-1919, and for the small gaps in between.

Searching for digital copies of each book was an equally important step that I performed simultaneously. During the period when the city was creating these large volumes of published reports, they were also sending out or exchanging them with other cities and institutions to share information and learn how other cities were addressing developing municipal issues. Due to this widespread dispersal, many of the reports that are held by the BCA (and some that are not) have already been digitized by external organizations, like the University of Maryland or the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, and made available through services like the Internet Archive or Google Books. With this added data, BCA staff can determine which volumes to prioritize in their future digitization initiatives.

I documented this work in both a detailed staff guide and a simplified public research guide. The guides will significantly reduce the amount of time spent searching for materials by allowing users to navigate the vast array of city reports by year and by department, city officer, or commission with links directly to the relevant Guide to Government Records listing or digital copy. Creating these guides gave me the chance to dive into the history and evolution of Baltimore city government, learning about changing position titles, researching the functions of some of the more obscure offices that no longer exist, and piecing together when functions were transferred to a different department (and sometimes back again). As a whole, this project has given me an appreciation for the immense amount of work that goes into increasing the accessibility and visibility of archival materials to the public.



CONSERVATION & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENTS

The Multitudes of Archiving

Irene M. Lewis from University of Maryland College Park

Preservation and accessibility are two important guiding principles of archival work. As one of the interns in the Conservation Lab at the Maryland State Archives (MSA), I strived to follow these

guiding principles in the various projects I completed. Throughout this summer, I assisted with processing recent donations of Special Collection material, which included arranging, inventorying, and describing collections to make them available to the public; preservation and conservation activities such as document repair, rehousing records; and working with my fellow Lab intern, Ella Williams, to survey, assess, and organize the Map and Plat Room.

Special Collections that I processed include [MSA SC 6317](#): Thomas V. “Mike” Miller Collection, [MSA SC 6366](#): Jimmy Clark Collection, [MSA SC 6371](#): Evelyn Tretbar Snowden Collection, [MSA SC 6375](#): Sharie Valerio Collection and [MSA SC 6377](#): Glenn Moore Collection. I enjoyed processing these collections and seeing the variety of records people create throughout their life, careers, and impactful historical events. The types of materials and events I encountered include Maryland Senate President Miller’s collection of signed sports memorabilia, newspaper articles that tracked Mr. Clark’s golfing career as he played in numerous professional golf tournaments, paper documents illustrating Ms. Snowden’s extensive work with the Maryland Women’s Clubs, photo slides of Mr. Moore’s road trip through Old Route 40 and Ms. Valerio’s play scripts for the Charles Carroll House and its Living History program.



MSA SC 6317 Part of Thomas V. “Mike” Miller Collection

Each collection is unique in its subject matter and the materials it contains. Careful thought, research, and questioning were essential processes to determine the best way to arrange and describe each collection to make them easily findable in the [Guide to Special Collections](#). Thoughtful processing ensures that these unique collections are available for future researchers. Working with these collections provided the opportunity to indulge my love of learning new things. I learned about diverse activities and subject matter that I do not often encounter in my daily life through the eyes of people who enjoyed and were dedicated to the work they did. History comes alive through these records, which makes it all the more interesting to learn.

I found the preservation and conservation work of repairing documents and rehousing materials a fun challenge. Sometimes paper documents such as maps, architectural drawings, or marriage certificates will need repair work prior to digitization and handling. These documents can have small holes and tears or be in pieces depending on the type of material, how it is stored, and how often it is handled. Paper repair is done through the process of heat set tissue repair, which as it sounds, uses heat from an ironing tool to adhere archival set tissue to the torn document and bind the

pieces together. It requires careful handling and patience to ensure the document is repaired properly. Rehousing materials, whether in new boxes, wrapping items in Tyvek paper, or foldering items, requires thoughtful decision-making to determine the best housing method for an item. We want to ensure its longevity while allowing for easy access for potential researcher requests for the item or digitization.



Maps are rolled on a tube for stabilization, and tissue is placed between the map and tube and then wrapped in Tyvek for protection.

The main project I worked on with my fellow intern, Ella, involved assessing the Map and Plat Room, which houses Special Collections and Government materials. For the project, we surveyed and documented on a spreadsheet what items are in the drawers and shelves and any current issues that need to be addressed, such as the records conditions and amount of space available. In addition, we labeled all the drawers to create a consistent numbering system and to help staff locate items more efficiently. Using a label printer, we numbered around 1,600 drawers in total ([see the Instagram video of us labeling](#)). Some of the legacy issues we addressed include proper drawer spacing, upgraded housing, clarifying accession numbers, and enhanced labeling.



Left: Irene (L) and Ella (R) cutting labels for drawers



Right: Shelf after wrapping, organizing, and labeling

We resolved some of these issues, labeling and wrapping the items, and noting items that need rehousing or to be moved from drawers to make space, but this project will certainly take longer

than we have this summer. Nevertheless, I learned a lot from the Map and Plat Room project as it illustrated the importance of interdepartmental communication, documentation, and defining clear goals and tasks that are obtainable with the time and resources available at present.

This internship was a great experience as I gained new knowledge and skills from all the amazing staff at the archives, specifically, those I directly worked with Camille, Jenn, Maria, and Megan. They provided a variety of activities that gave us practical hands-on skills for archival preservation and conservation and shared their knowledge and experiences about developing a career in the archival field. I also greatly appreciate the opportunity to shadow and learn from other departments, such as Appraisal and Imaging. Everyone at the MSA was welcoming and open to sharing their experiences. Not only are there stories waiting to be discovered in the records at MSA, but also in the staff who work there. Thank you for allowing me to share mine with you!

CONSERVATION & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENTS

Conservation Work at the Maryland State Archives

Ella Williams from University of Maryland

This past summer I worked as an intern in the Conservation Department and have had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects. The main projects I worked on included paper conservation, rehousing of objects and the Map and Plat Room.

The first paper conservation project I worked on was the Sandy Point State Park Collection ([MSA SC 6361](#)), finishing the process of mending and flattening large blueprints. The state park is found on the Chesapeake Bay. I used a tacking iron and heat-set tissue paper to fix small rips and tears in the paper; I even attached two pieces that had completely come apart, aligning the edges with small weights and carefully applying the tissue to the document. Upon completion, my fellow Conservation intern Irene Lewis and I were able to assist in the scanning of the documents in the Imaging Services Department.



I also worked to re/house and catalog several collections, working closely with the Special Collections department. Some collection items, such as the Giddings Collection ([MSA SC 5508](#)) and *Reflections of Severna Park* manuscript, had previously been processed and only required the pages

of a manuscript to be refoldered and stored in a different way than how they were received. Other collections, such as the President Thomas V. “Mike” Miller collection ([MSA SC 6317](#)) required processing, cataloging, and housing.

Finally, the largest project Irene and I worked on was the Map and Plat Room. This room serves as storage for oversized maps and plats, and we have found some interesting ones. We worked to assess 1342 drawers and labeled around 1600, while starting to organize the shelving space. Working in this room can be overwhelming due to the sheer amount of material and the process to understand the organization and cataloging system, but it has also been rewarding, as you are never sure what you might find. I was able to locate a 1930 map of my hometown and we even found a large diorama of Annapolis!



Map and Plat room storage sections and drawers



Diorama of Annapolis

I am very appreciative of the time I have spent at the Maryland State Archives and the experience I have gained from a wide exposure to a variety of material. I have learned about the archival process, been introduced to the field of conservation, and gained countless other valuable skills that I will take with me for the rest of my education and professional career. Thank you to the Maryland State Archives for having me this summer!

The Maryland Manual

Rylee Bain from St. John's College

This summer I had the opportunity to intern for the [Maryland Manual](#). As a non-native to Maryland, I had very minimal exposure to the Manual prior to this experience. I have since learned that the Maryland Manual provides historical and current information about government in Maryland. I have greatly appreciated this internship for not only teaching me about the wonderful things that are under the purview of the State Archives, but also for making me feel a greater connection to the state of Maryland.

My primary responsibilities on the team focused on describing county government. Each county has an executive branch, a judicial branch with a variety of courts, and a legislative branch with either a County Council or a Board of County Commissioners. My first assignment was to perform general housekeeping for these pages relating to each county's executive, legislative, and judicial branches. I found updated contact information for County Commissioners, Councilmembers, and Sheriff's Office leaders, I corrected the lists of boards and commissions for each county, and also added information on county-sponsored programs. My second project was focused on finding recent reports from County agencies, and after that I transitioned to updating the biographies of current County Commissioners and Councilmembers.

My most recent project was slightly different than my previous ones. For each county, the Manual has two different sites, one called the Organizational structure which primarily contains contact information, and one called the Origin and Functions page. This new project was focused on the Origin and Functions page for each county. By using the Archive Library, I would read various histories of each county and try to identify the origins of county agencies and important buildings like courthouses and hospitals.

Overall, my experience with the Maryland Manual has been incredibly informative. I have strong ties to local government in my home state of Minnesota, so it was such a pleasure to become more familiar with the process in Maryland. My work was rewarding and not only did I learn about the particulars of county formation and the work of each county, I also gained various technical skills including proofreaders marks, navigating governmental databases, and understanding state and local legislative documents. As a bonus, I can also now list all twenty-three Maryland counties & Baltimore City in alphabetical order!

I am grateful for the ten weeks I was able to spend here and am thankful to Diane Evarrt and James Bigwood on the Manual team, Emily Oland Squires for overseeing this program, and everyone at the Archives for being welcoming and encouraging throughout this experience.

Pouring Some Good into the Bay: The Blacks of the Chesapeake Collection

Rhys Burns from University of Maryland, College Park



This summer I worked with the Blacks of the Chesapeake collection ([MSA SC 6250](#)), which is a collection of paper records (personal notes, correspondences, and projects), photographs, film negatives, 35mm slides, and other various forms of media collected by Mr. Vincent Leggett. Some of the records in the collection are original materials created and used by Mr. Leggett in his environmental and social justice work with the Chesapeake Bay. Other pieces of the collection are copies of originals, such as reproductions of black and white photographs taken by M.E. Warren and Thomas Baden Jr. The primary task during my internship was to go through the collection of 50 boxes seeking relevant material on Black Watermen and Waterwomen’s impacts on the maritime industry around the Chesapeake Bay and the long lasting influences of Carr’s and Sparrows Beaches on the African American communities in and around Annapolis.

That said, I would search through the inventory sheet of the collection, via a keyword search, to find any records that match the focus. Once I found matches, I would retrieve them from their unique locations in the stacks, and then evaluate them for their significance and importance to the collection. If I felt that a record had substantial information relating to the focus, I would pull it from the shelf for digitization. From there the object would be digitized by our Imaging Services Department and sent to me for the creation of metadata. As I created the metadata for each image or record, I was in close contact with our partners, [Digital Maryland Online](#). This team of individuals worked with me to upload the images and metadata into the Blacks of the Chesapeake Collection website hosted by the Enoch Pratt Free Library Digitization and metadata makes the collection more accessible to researchers and interested individuals from the general public.

The secondary task that I completed during my internship was connecting with local institutions to transfer various objects and artifacts from the collection which do not fit the Maryland State

Archives collecting scope. At the Archives' off site storage facility, there were four pallets of objects that needed to be relocated as soon as possible. I worked with my Archives supervisor and Mr. Leggett to create a plan that outlined the aspirations and hopes in the usage of the items from the collection. These objects included artifacts from the lives of Black Watermen like Harold Holland and original Blacks of the Chesapeake exhibit boards and images. Many of the objects were able to be rehomed and are currently being prepared for display at locations such as the Annapolis Maritime Museum and the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

A tertiary task that I worked on, in tandem with digitization and metadata creation, was working to tidy the processing and inventorying of the collection. In my spare time I would reformat the inventory spreadsheet to be more accessible for State Archives employees and interns to use. This work included correcting spelling and grammar errors, confirming file naming conventions, relabeling file folders, and reprocessing boxes so the inventory sheet matched the physical box of records.

My time as an intern at the Maryland State Archives has given me a more holistic view of archives and what their purposes are. Prior to this experience, I had never visited an archives building and frankly had never thought about doing so. This work experience refined my organizational and multitasking skills, as they were the two main components of success when working with such a diverse group of record material. My favorite part of this internship was being able to flip through the histories of underrepresented peoples knowing that my work was bringing their names and families to the forefront of history in the state of Maryland.

IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Imaging Services Department

Robert Gasperino from University of South Florida

Over the summer I have had the pleasure to work alongside Raymond Connor and assist him with plats and the [Plats.net](#) Project. Plats are architectural drawings that describe how a plot of land intends to be used, whether that be a new neighborhood, a condominium, or a simple boundary survey. Each month, every circuit court within Maryland's 24 jurisdictions will send in at least one roll of plats, followed by an assortment of plats from the State Highway Administration. Plats.net is a MSA run database and website that allows users to search for any recorded plat across the state and find its description, archival series number, and its images for free.

Each plat is printed three times at minimum: one copy stays with the circuit court after it is filed, another copy is sent to the MSA, and the third copy is sent to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. When the state copy arrives, we do our best to open, record, and scan these plats same-day. The plats will arrive rolled up or folded in anywhere from one to 50 plat bundles. We will then unroll them to find and record important information. We look for anything that could help describe the plat and make it easier for someone to locate online, such as the name of the subdivision or condominium, the numbers of any lots or parcels thereon, etc. After all this is entered, we record the owner/developer of the land, assign the plat its series unit number, and assign it its "P number." A P, or Plat, number is the automatically assigned filename for each plat that generates

whenever a new image is allocated space on the database. The P numbers are sequential, so they are a great way to keep track of all the work done so far. When I started, the last P number entered was 254421, whereas at the time of writing, it is 256327.

After working with everything on the database side, we write the P number, series unit number, and the location of its storage box at the off site storage facility on the plat and bring it to the Böwe Bell + Howell scanner. We scan all plats in binary at 300 DPI, unless the plat has any graphs or maps that use color in their legends. The scanner automatically sends everything to a server where we can retrieve it and use Adobe Photoshop to touch it up. To properly capture everything with a scan, we digitize the translucent plats over a large white paper sheet, creating a clear distinction between black and white for the binary camera. However, due to the sheet being much larger than the plats, we must use Photoshop to crop out the extra blank sheet and deskew the image if the capture was crooked. Finally, as our signature, we add in a MSA branded ruler which we use for both scale and to watermark our work

Throughout this summer, Raymond Connor and I have worked together to record, scan, quality-assure, quality-control, Photoshop, and upload almost 2,000 plats to plats.net. The plats we work with, alongside the work for mdlandrec.net, are a vital part of Maryland's real estate industry. It has been a truly invaluable experience to work on something so important with Raymond Connor and James Watson, whose excellent mentoring will propel me further into my academic life and career.

IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Digital Acquisition, Publication and Processing Summer Internship

Gabriel Morrison from University of Maryland Baltimore County

Hello! I'm Gabriel Morrison and this summer I have been working as an intern at the Maryland State Archives digitization department on a variety of projects. I learned a lot about the digitization of archival materials, specifically working on the before, during, and after process of scanning documents, books, and film reels so that they can be accessed by a wider portion of the population.

The main project that I worked on had me finding microfilms that were going through a process of deterioration called vinegar syndrome. Vinegar syndrome is a process in which a microfilm becomes brittle and flakey, making the affected film difficult to work with if left for long enough. One of the earliest signs of vinegar syndrome is a strong smell of vinegar – hence the name – so along with keeping a lookout for brittle film and warped images, I was mainly focusing on how a reel smelled. During the project, I was able to go through a few thousand reels of microfilm, and despite going through such a large amount, I only found a few that had early onset vinegar syndrome. Either way, it was important to find what reels had been affected, because if left long enough to fester, vinegar syndrome has the possibility to jump to other reels of film, leading to more deterioration and fewer films that are able to be used. I only barely made a dent in the number of microfilms that need to be looked at, but the next step in the project is to take the microfilms that have been identified as having

vinegar syndrome, and digitize them, so that we can have a record of the information contained on the microfilms, hopefully before the vinegar syndrome becomes too serious.

Along with working on the microfilm project I was also able to help with scanning several different types of documents. Whether that was marriage certificates, land records, or court documents, I was able to learn how to use multiple scanners in order to best digitize a variety of different documents. I mainly worked with Kodak scanners and Scan Master X machines, learning how their programs worked and how to properly clean and take care of them, so that I could get the best quality scans out of what was being digitized.

Between working with the microfilms and the various scanning jobs, I worked on smaller projects that related to the digitization department, but were not necessarily scanning. For instance, one of the projects I worked on was to check the quality of scans, and report on what needed to be rescanned, whether that be from overlapping documents, weirdly cropped images, or just a general poor quality. I also organized documents prior to them being scanned, and alphabetized physical marriage records so that individual records could be found more easily once they had been digitized.

Over the course of this summer I worked on a bunch of projects, and it was through working on those projects that I was able to learn a lot more about the archival industry than I knew coming into this internship. I am sure that I will take what I learned this summer and apply it to my future.

IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Final Internship Report: Imaging and Digitizing Intern at the Maryland State Archives

Kanishk Srivastava from University of Maryland College Park

As an Imaging and Digitizing Intern at the Maryland State Archives, I had the privilege of contributing to various projects aimed at preserving and digitizing historical records. This report outlines the types of material I interacted with, the equipment I utilized, and a general overview of the valuable experiences and knowledge I gained during this internship.

During my internship, I had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of historical collections, including marriage records, photographs, manuscripts, and government documents. Some notable projects I was involved in include digitizing marriage records from the mid-1900s, preserving aging photographs of prominent state events, and creating digital archives for important legislative records.

As part of my responsibilities, I utilized state-of-the-art imaging equipment to capture high-resolution images of historical documents and artifacts, to archival and digital preservation standards. I worked with specialized scanners, cameras, and conservation-grade lighting to ensure the delicate items were handled with care. Additionally, I became proficient in using industry-leading

software for image processing and metadata management, ensuring the digitized materials were easily accessible and searchable.

Through my efforts, I contributed to the creation of an extensive digital collection that will serve as a valuable resource for historians, researchers, and the public alike. The digitized materials are now accessible on the Maryland State Archives website, providing open access and reaching a broad audience through the agency newsletter, *The Clamshell*.

Throughout my internship, I gained invaluable insights into archival practices, preservation techniques, and the importance of digital access for historical materials. I developed a deep appreciation for the role of government agencies in safeguarding the state's cultural heritage. Moreover, collaborating with seasoned archivists and historians allowed me to enhance my research and communication skills significantly.

My time as an Imaging and Digitizing Intern at the Maryland State Archives was a transformative experience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to preserving Maryland's history and making it accessible to the public. The skills and knowledge I acquired during this internship will undoubtedly shape my future endeavors, and I am eager to apply them in my career pursuits.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Maryland State Archives team for their guidance and support throughout this internship. I look forward to sharing my experiences contributing to the broader understanding of our state's rich history with future employers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

A Mountain Climbed – IT Internship at the Archives

Amber Melton from University of Maryland College Park

My time as an intern within the Archives' Information Technology department had something of a rough start – with technical login troubles on day 1 and a power outage the next – but quickly ramped up in pace as fellow IT intern, Hashem, and I dove into our assigned projects headfirst.

Our first project was an introductory one; “Early Settlers” it was called, and it consisted of a desktop application and a webpage. The application was intended to allow staff to view the early settlers database ([MSA SC 4341](#)) and make changes – editing existing entries or adding new ones entirely. The ASPX webpage was a more forward-facing task, meant to (in theory) be a public site that people could use to search the early settlers of Maryland by name, description, and other details.

Once finished with the introductory project, we each waited for a second project to be assigned to us – a real project, not a “starter” project – with great anticipation. I was tasked with adding a simple feature to the MSA Portal Directory Editor application: I was to have the application save each record after it has been updated by the user automatically. And I made it do just that – no more losing data from forgetting to press the “Update” button! I was worried, however, by the prospect that

unintentional changes may now be saved without being noticed. To remedy this, I took it upon myself to add a pop-up confirmation window, which would appear if the user tried to navigate away from an entry without saving, as well as a “Settings” window where this pop-up could be disabled, should it prove too onerous.

After submitting my changes to Nikki Schultz – the lead programmer & analyst (and also my direct supervisor) – we swiftly noticed a stream of bugs and inconveniences with the program during testing that existed before I even touched it, and decided they needed to be resolved. An inexplicably simple task suddenly became fix after fix. By the time I was finished, it was no longer a minor update that had been made – it was a complete overhaul.

My next project was no less daunting. I was assigned an application that had gone untouched since 2010 to make it functional for file transfers. After combing through line after line of code, file after file, I quickly came to the unfortunate conclusion that the task was beyond me. The result of voicing that conclusion? A new responsibility: to build the application, myself, from scratch, with an all-new set of requirements.

I believe that I can proudly say that I lived up to the task. Never in my life have I had not just the opportunity, but responsibility, to build something so completely from start to finish like this. The AoM File Browser is not only something that I impressed myself with by completing, but it is, quite frankly, the most organized code that I have ever written. It allows internal files to be placed in a holding buffer and then securely placed over the firewall for public access in our Guide to Government Records.

I cannot express with words how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to work as an intern here at the Archives this summer. My experience in the IT department has helped me not only feel more prepared for the future, but also deepen my love for programming to a new degree. I am overwhelmed by the impact that this summer experience has had on me, and I give my thanks to everyone here at the Archives for contributing to that.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

IT Internship

Hashem Wahed from University of Maryland College Park

When I first started this internship, I did not know what to expect at all because this was my first internship, programming and IT is just a huge field. I wanted to hit the ground running, and after I got my first project I felt like I succeeded. I helped in fixing and updating current websites that the Maryland State Archives maintains. I have also learned an incredible amount, and I have created functionality which I never knew how to create and wrote code which before this internship was completely unknown to me. As an IT intern here at the Maryland State Archives, I played a part in creating/updating the websites for our users and I became familiar with a practice which was entirely unfamiliar to me before.

Before this internship I knew nothing about web development but that changed pretty quickly. Our first project was making an application and recreating an MSA website, the project guidelines were instrumental in giving me the general skills I needed for the rest of the internship. I then got my first live project which was changing search functionality in the MSA staff portal. I removed the search button and replaced it with updated results as the user typed. I also fixed several emailing errors, and edited the user display. Afterward, in my next project I had to fix and add functionality to how a user searches for digitized microfilm reels in the search room or on staff computers. After I fixed some issues I added a way for the user to search in a range of pages rather than getting the entire collection at once.

Finally, and for the largest project, I am recreating the [HistPics website](#) which allows the user to search online for photos in some of our digitized collections. The old website was outdated and had to be remade. After my updates I received really good reviews from the staff who use the site as being much more straightforward and user friendly. This was ultimately my favorite project and part of the internship because I really put a lot of effort into it. Although it might not be a finished product until after my internship ends, as there are a lot of loose ends, much of the progress is already complete.

As for what I learned from the internship, I do not think that a ten page paper could address this. From databases to basic guidelines in web programming, I learned a huge variety of topics. I have never programmed in Visual Basic before, although it was not so bad, it was still a new language to me that I had to learn as I went. I also never knew what ASPX was before, and ASP is what we use to create the sites in the first place. I learned many lessons in how to make websites clean and look great with CSS and Javascript while using HTML. I also learned how to communicate and get information from SQL databases and show it to the user. I learned about the relationship between what the user sees on their screen and what is actually happening on the server side code. Every single thing which I just mentioned deserves its own paragraph and this is only really brushing the surface. To say I learned a lot from this internship is an understatement.

In conclusion, I contributed to projects at the Maryland State Archives and what I took away from them was a world of knowledge. All around it was a very important experience of my life.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Rainbow Books Internship

Marshall Cooperman from St. John's College

My name is Marshall Cooperman, and I am a rising senior at St. John's College in Annapolis. This summer, I was an intern in the research department at the Maryland State Archives. My main task was to help catalog a series of documents called the Rainbow Books. These are large, color-coded volumes containing the correspondence of Maryland's executive branch from the 1760s through the 1810s. The majority of the documents are from the Revolutionary War era. Taken together, they represent an incredible source for any researcher seeking to understand Maryland during the Revolution and the Early Republic period. I added a short description for each item in the books. All the Rainbow Books are in the process of being scanned, and when they are complete the

images will be linked to my item-level descriptions in the Guide to Government Records. Along with my fellow intern Alex Trabold, we were able to catalog some 34 books and more than 3,000 individual items.

There were some significant challenges that had to be overcome along the way. The first is that the collection is very poorly organized. It has been cataloged multiple times, and none of these attempts have made the structure of the collection any more logical. But by simply working through the collection it became easier to follow them, if not to understand the reasoning behind the previous methods of organization. A more substantial and enduring difficulty was reading the documents, the vast majority of which are written in eighteenth-century cursive. Though a few of the letters were clearly written by professional clerks, who had excellent handwriting, the rest ranged from the difficult to read to almost illegible. Ironically, the letters written in the best hand were all in French, which I do not know. A substantial amount of my time had to be spent trying to parse out what exactly the authors had written. Another major challenge was how to condense the description of the letters, since the letters could be as long as seven or eight pages. A lot of thought had to go into what should be included or left out in the description of every document.

Besides cataloging, my other main task was to do individual research on something that I found interesting in the documents. I focused at first on the case of James Bosely and Vincent Trapnall. Bosely was a militia captain in Baltimore County who was appointed as collector of fines and Trapnall was a Loyalist who refused to pay the fine for non-enrollment in the militia. When Bosely attempted to collect the fine, Trapnall beat him with a large stick. From my research into this case, I became aware of a broader pattern of political violence in Baltimore, committed both by Loyalists and by Patriots. The Whig Club, a Patriot vigilante organization in Baltimore, engaged in a campaign of extralegal threats and terror that grew so egregious that the pro-Independence state government was forced to suppress the club. Before my research, I had no inkling of the degree of internal strife in Maryland during the Revolution, nor of the class, racial, religious, and even personal tensions which suffused and often exacerbated it.

In addition to my work on the Rainbow Books and on my individual research, I also shadowed on the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Project. I worked through a collection of thousands of pages of governor's correspondence from 1906-1907 and 1898, looking for any papers related to two lynchings. The first, of [Henry Davis](#), a seventeen year-old, murdered in December 1906 by a mob for allegedly assaulting a white woman. The second, the lynching of [Garfield King](#), an eighteen year-old, killed by a mob after shooting and wounding a white man. Unfortunately, I was not able to find any documents related to the Davis case though I did find several letters between the governor's office and the Pinkerton Detective Agency regarding the investigation of the King Case.

From these two collections as a whole, I was able to learn a lot about Maryland at the turn of the century. In both this project and the Rainbow Books collection, I was reading through the governor's correspondence. It was a surprise to read letters written in 1907 to the governor about a lot of the same things as letters written in 1787. The main difference was that most of the responses from the governor in 1907 directed the writer to the appropriate administrative office, whereas in 1787, there was no office to direct them to. It was fascinating to see the development and

formalization of the institutions of government, which judging by the letters seemed to have happened without the average citizen registering it.

In my time at the Archives, I have greatly expanded my historical research and writing skills, learned how to use archival search and cataloging systems, and had the opportunity to see how an active research archive works. I know that the skills that I have gained here will serve me in good stead in my future career. But most importantly, I have come away from this internship totally convinced that I want to be a historian.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Processing the Rainbow Books

Alex Trabold from Washington College

During my time at the Maryland State Archives in summer 2023, I worked with the research department, alongside my fellow intern Marshall Cooperman, cataloging the Rainbow Books. The Rainbow Books are a set of Revolutionary War era papers, with each document pasted into bindings in an almost scrapbook-like style. The books are in the process of being digitized by MSA in partnership with the Society of the Cincinnati. They are named because of their color-coded bindings, each color in theory signifying a different category of document. Red Books, for example, are letters to the governor, Brown Books are military records, Blue Books are “Executive Miscellanea,” and Black Books are colonial records. The reality is that because the government of revolutionary Maryland was so small, essentially consisting only of the governor, these categories overlap broadly and contain no significant organization.

The documents within the Rainbow Books roughly span from 1760 to 1820. There are multiple volumes of each different color book. There are six Blue books, eleven Black Books, eleven Brown Books, and fifty Red Books. Overall, the volumes contain over 7,800 documents ranging from muster rolls to personal correspondence, military intelligence reports and prisoner of war escape notices, to merchant ship inventories and invoices from Maryland craftsmen. It’s a wide range of interesting materials to be sure.

When the documents were originally pasted into books in the mid-nineteenth century, they were done so with little organization. The [calendars to the Maryland State Papers](#) were created in the mid-twentieth century and were an attempt to make the records more easily searchable. They record the date, sender, and receiver of the document, as well as a detailed description. The calendars contain a complete register of the documents in the Rainbow Books, but the accession numbers within are outdated. Another source is the [Maryland State Papers Index](#). The index is a more recent source which compiles entries from the calendars into a single book and contains abbreviated descriptions from the calendars. The State Papers Index is searchable online, but the original work is incomplete and records after 1789 were never included.

Our job consisted of cataloging the fifty-five books not in the State Papers Index, so that they can be made searchable in the Guide to Government Records. Aided by the calendars, we read

through each individual document in the Rainbow Books and saved relevant information, such as author and recipient, date, and the calendar description. We also added the MSA and MdHR numbers to help make items easier to locate. Our descriptions will eventually be linked to digitized scans of their respective documents in the Guide.

Over the course of our internship, Marshall and I collectively completed 34 of 55 Red, Blue, and Brown Books, around 3,000 individual items in total; Black Books will be cataloged later. Additionally, I conducted research on Loyalist and British prisoners during the American Revolution and wrote a short article using some of the documents I cataloged as sources. The article examines the dysfunctional nature of Maryland courts and the links between this dysfunction and the frequent breakouts of prisoners. I found that the courts often ignored the rights of *habeas corpus* leading accused men to languish in jail for months without trial and because guards were hard to come by and paid little, breakouts were frequent.

Throughout the entire process I learned how to properly conduct archival research, find items within an archive, and how to use guides for archival collections. I learned to more effectively read 18th century script and piece together sentences through context. I improved my time management skills: it is difficult to properly pace yourself with such a massive amount of work to do and there is a real risk of experiencing burnout. From reading through the Rainbow Books, I also gained an appreciation for how important good organizational practices are for an archive. It can be very difficult and confusing for someone unfamiliar with a collection to navigate and find what they need if cataloging was done in a haphazard way. My time at the Maryland State Archives gave me valuable experiences that I will carry with me to future jobs in the history profession.

REFERENCE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

One Role in a Researcher's Journey

Suzanna Codd from Hood College

The mission of the Reference Department at the Maryland State Archives is to make our records accessible to the public. By circulating the state's historical records, helping patrons understand how to use our database, answering researcher's questions, and providing friendly customer service, the department facilitates the record's interactions with our eager patrons. As a reference intern, I assisted the archivists with these various tasks.

One of my duties was to complete uncertified orders of vital records. When patrons desired a copy of a birth, marriage, or death record, some chose to request uncertified digital copies. I located these records using our Guide to Government Records database and emailed each patron a copy of their requested record. Over the summer, I completed about 220 uncertified



orders, the majority of them being for death records. I found this task enjoyable because it provided me with a sense of fulfillment to know that I had the ability to help our researchers obtain records that would assist them in continuing their research.

Another task of mine was to cover lobby shifts. I spent around 70 hours in the lobby during this summer. I directed patrons by signing them in and out of the search room. In the lobby, I answered general questions about our services and the institution. I realized the reality of the range of reasons people come to the archives. Some come out of necessity or as part of a hobby. For various reasons, some patrons arrive frustrated, while others have an eagerness to find new information. I learned that a patron's reasons for visiting an archive can vary, but no matter what, our priority is to help them with what they need and to make records and information accessible.

Additionally, I retrieved and returned many records to and from the stacks. This task involved problem solving when a record could not be easily located. Patrons walking into the archives without an appointment would request records to be pulled, and I would find their records in the stacks and pull them before taking them to the search room for them to view. This is an important part of circulation, because if the wrong record is pulled, the patron will not have the record they need for their research. Returning records correctly is also vital because if misplaced, the record may not be able to be located in the future. During my summer internship I pulled an estimate of 40 carts of records and returned an estimate of 60 carts of records.

During my internship, I also had the opportunity to shadow the Conservation Department. This experience taught me some of the basics regarding proper care of records, such as how they should be stored. Overall, as a history student and researcher myself, it was exciting to see what happens behind the scenes in an archival space. This internship has allowed me to apply what I have learned in my undergrad classes about archives to the real world. From carrying out delivery of historical documents to understanding the process of researching, I have learned so much about the field of public history. I appreciate all those who answered my questions and helped me make the most out of this experience!

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Indigenous Peoples Program

Autumn Powell from University of Maryland Baltimore County

As a graduate student at University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC), the Maryland State Archives (MSA) Indigenous Peoples Program aligned with my thesis work, *Indigenous Invisibility in Maryland's Environmental Planning and Societal Conversations*. My purpose for working on this comes from my upbringing in the Western United States and perspective on recently living in Baltimore. Coming from the Western United States Indigenous resiliency looks like partnering with academic and professional institutions, primary schools on reservations, the existence of Tribal Colleges/Universities (TCUs), and Indigenous fashion and artwork. Any decision making whether environmental, economic, political, or affecting the law, there is a committee of Indigenous People involved in those conversations. So, it's impossible to say that 21st century Indigenous peoples do not exist. However, after settling into Baltimore there was little to no Indigenous representation in either

academic or professional settings. I want to investigate whether local restoration and conservation programs are including Eastern Shore and Woodland Tribal peoples in their environmental planning. This is what motivated me to apply to be an intern at the Maryland State Archives.

The Maryland State Archives Indigenous Peoples Program is part of the Special Collections Department and co-directed by Megan Craynon and Maria Day. Both directors have been attentively working on the [Mayis Indigenous Records website](#) that is dedicated to highlighting Maryland's Indigenous Eastern Shore and Woodlands Peoples in the Chesapeake Bay region. The purpose of *Mayis* is to improve access to historical records of Indigenous Eastern Shore and Woodlands People's histories, perspectives, and their interactions with white settlers, by providing a browsable, searchable index across record groups. Currently, the project is also working to record oral histories with Indigenous community members and leaders. The staff will receive consent from tribal people(s) to share the information publicly for educational purposes as well as to support 21st century Indigenous peoples in the foundation of modern-day U.S. including politics, laws, and establishments.

My work is contributing to updating the *Mayis* website. The work I've been doing is reviewing past work on historical documents, finding additional Indigenous names, tribe/community, places, events, etc. that are all related to Indigenous peoples. Since I am not a Marylander myself, I bring my Indigenous insights and perspectives on how to present Indigenous information to the public, to share general Indigenous knowledge and histories, to promote Indigenous scholars, and to learn about Delmarva's Tribal people's past, present, and future using the information they wish to share. I mainly did a lot of online work, transferring any Indigenous words found on land record documents, into excel spreadsheets.

I attended two educator professional development workshops on the theme of learning about Maryland's Indigenous People's histories, in Baltimore City and at Salisbury University. I was able to discuss Indigenous general histories, explain their functionality in the 21st century to educators, and shed light on parts of history that are not currently shared. This was extremely helpful because I learned firsthand knowledge from Eastern Shore Indigenous Peoples regarding their histories, priorities, concerns, and future plans. This advocacy work is something I'm proud to be part of.

THE STUDY OF THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

Case Study of Crime in 1919-1930: Maryland Penitentiary Records

Roshawna Brinkley from University of Maryland College Park

As a part of the Legacy of Slavery: Maryland Penitentiary Project assigned by Christopher Haley, I am attempting to uncover arrest patterns by asking *why* are these young African Americans getting arrested, if the environment is provoking them to commit these crimes, and if they are receiving unfair jail sentences. By utilizing the Maryland penitentiary's 1919-1930 records ([MSA S275-5](#)), I can delve deeper into injustices from that period.

The eleven year span covered by this volume encapsulated three significant events: World War I, the roaring twenties, and the Great Depression which changed America drastically. World War I left

America in debt, led to mass Black urbanization, and caused an overall culture shift.¹ The roaring twenties led to the foundation of credit and lay-a-way systems which weakened our economic structure. And lastly, the Great Depression was a complete collapse of our economy through 1939. These fluctuations highlight the trouble that minorities face in America, such as securing legal work, living in inadequate housing, and economic insecurity that sometimes lead individuals to undertake illegal activities to survive.

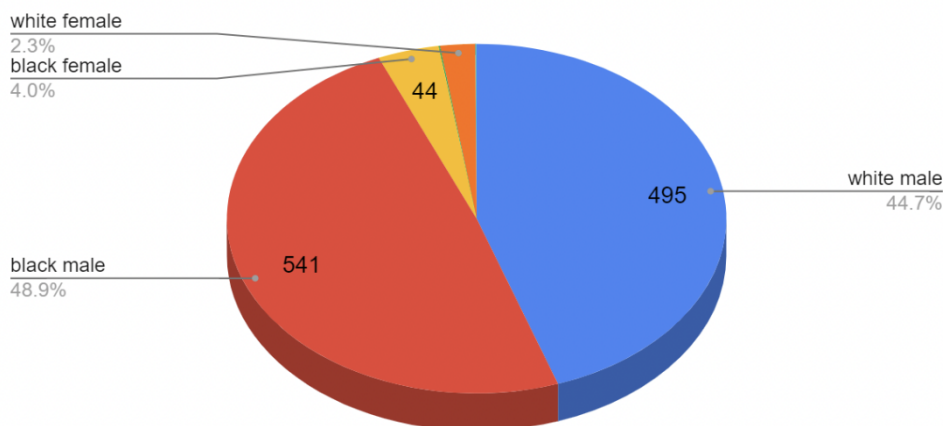
For my case study, I examined eight inmates from the penitentiary book. The names and charges of the inmates are as follows:

- Neal Mckennon: Murder 1st degree
- Beatrice Green: Robbery
- Bertha Manley: Robbery
- William Gempp: Larceny, 2 cases
- Edward King: Murder 1st degree
- William Richardson: Rogue and Vagabond, 2 cases
- Leo Clark: Murder 2nd degree
- John Freeman: Forgery, 2 cases

In my findings from the Maryland penitentiary records of 1919 to 1930, I have found sufficient evidence that there have been examples of unfair jail sentencing and a link between crime and race. In this study, I will be examining the statistics further.

I extracted 1,135 entries based on race and sex from 1919 until 1922 and formed a pie chart. From the pie chart, there is a clear imbalance. Black males accounted for 48.9% of the Maryland penitentiary's population in comparison with only 44.7% of white males. Also, Black females made up 4% of the population while white females only counted for 2.3%. This chart signifies a disproportionate representation of Black men and women in incarceration statistics.

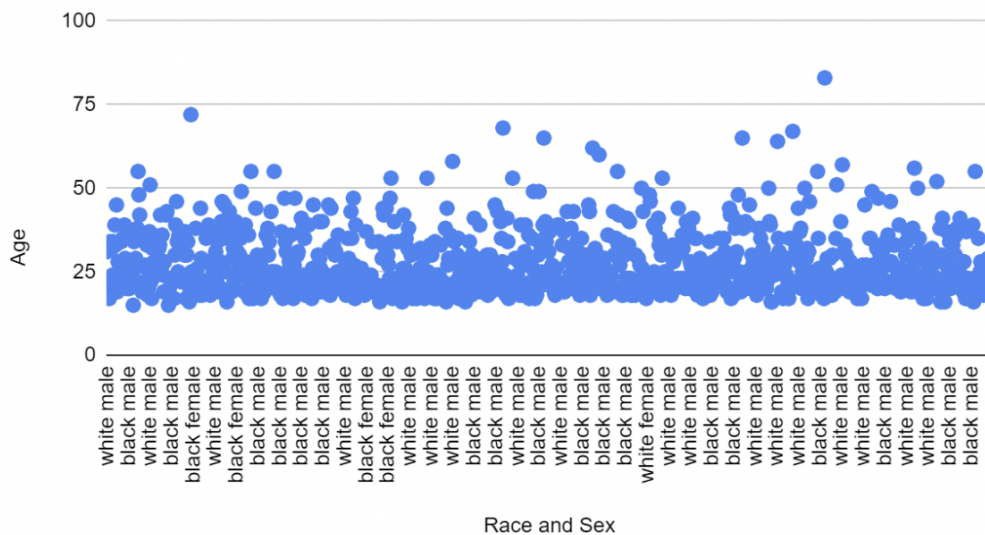
Count of Race & Sex



¹ Darden, Joe. Darden, Joe T. "The Effect of World War I on Black Occupational and Residential Segregation: The Case of Pittsburgh." *Journal of Black Studies* 18, no. 3 (1988), 302.

Again, using the 1,135 entries from 1919 to 1922, but comparing race and sex with age, there is a clear distinction that young Black teens are also getting arrested at a higher rate than white teens or adults. From the entries, the youngest Black teen was 15 years old while the youngest White teen was 16 years of age. Although this is only a 1-year difference, there were more Black teens aged 15-18 getting arrested than White teens respectively. From the X axis on the graph, it's clear that the term Black male was repeated the most, and the circular blue indicator was below the 25 age mark on the Y axis for Black males. This is an early example of mass incarceration because of over-policing.

Race and Sex Vs. Age



There are a few limitations to this study. Because of the limited time of my internship, this data doesn't encompass 1919 until 1930, rather it only includes the first three years in the volume of the Maryland penitentiary records. In those three years, there is a clear indication that Black incarceration rates and sentencing are disproportionate to those of other ethnicities. I have found sufficient evidence to support my hypothesis. Between 1919 and 1930, the United States witnessed a sudden spike in crimes such as theft, larceny, and burglary among Black individuals due to a confluence of historical challenges. This period featured significant racial tensions, economic disparities, and institutional discrimination that disproportionately affected the Black community. The Maryland penitentiary experienced a significant increase in Black male inmates, primarily due to deeply entrenched racial discrimination, systemic legal oppression, and the prevalence of "legal lynchings."

During this period, African Americans faced systemic racism and discrimination in all aspects of life, including the criminal justice system. They were often targeted by law enforcement and faced biased treatment during arrests, trials, and sentencing. Many Black individuals were subjected to unjust convictions and harsher punishments compared to their White counterparts for similar offenses. The over-policing of Black neighborhoods exacerbated this situation. Law enforcement practices, driven by racial bias, subjected Black communities to intense scrutiny, leading to frequent arrests for minor

offenses. This over-policing not only strained community relations but also created a cycle of criminalization and incarceration, further widening the racial divide.²

The concept of "Black criminality"³ prevailed, perpetuating the stereotype that black people were inherently prone to criminal behavior. The authorities used minor infractions and petty offenses to target Black individuals, leading to a disproportionately high number of convictions and incarceration as we saw from the Maryland penitentiary records. Additionally, Black defendants often faced all-white juries, severely limiting their chances of a fair trial.

The term "legal lynchings" refer to the extrajudicial killings of Black people by mobs, often with the complicity of law enforcement. These brutal acts were fueled by racial hatred and a desire to maintain white supremacy. Such events created an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, making it challenging for Black individuals to assert their rights or seek justice through the legal system. Like the lynching of George Armwood in 1933, Armwood was a Black man that was lynched on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and had his body hung from a telephone pole. All of these acts of violence culminated in Maryland around this time.⁴

In conclusion, the large influx of Black male inmates found in the Maryland penitentiary records can be attributed to the intersection of legal oppression, racial discrimination, and "legal lynchings." The deeply ingrained racism and systemic injustices of the era led to a skewed criminal justice system that targeted and marginalized Black communities, perpetuating a cycle of incarceration and exploitation. Understanding this historical context is essential for acknowledging the injustices faced by Black individuals. The combination of economic hardships, racial discrimination, over-policing, and biased judicial practices contributed to the surge in crimes among Black individuals during the 1919-1930 period. These historical challenges not only fostered an environment of criminality but also laid the groundwork for mass incarceration that would persist and worsen over the decades, perpetuating the systemic disadvantages faced by Black communities in the United States.

² Ghandnoosh, Nazgol. "Race and Punishment: Racial Perceptions of Crime and Support for Punitive Policies." *The Sentencing Project*, 2014., 2-7

³ Welch, Kelly. "Black Criminal Stereotypes and Racial Profiling." *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice* 23, no. 3 (2007): 280-281.

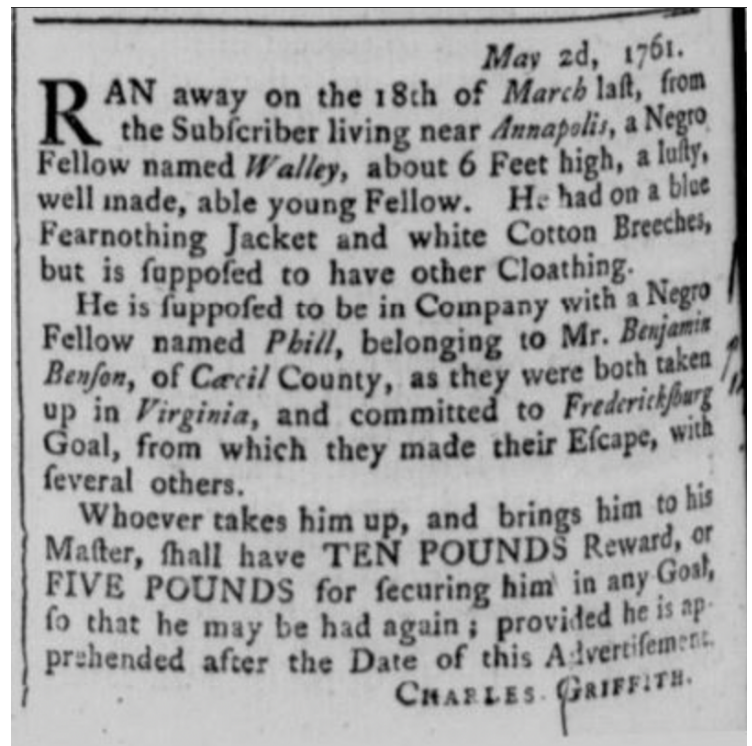
⁴ Ifill, Sherrilyn A., and Bryan Stevenson. *On the Courthouse Lawn: Confronting the Legacy of Lynching in the Twenty-First Century*. (Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2018), 60-65.

Freedom Seekers: Examining Flights from Slavery in Revolutionary America

Kyle Vermette from Bowie State University

Through a partnership with Bowie State's Du Bois Center for the Study of the Black Experience, I utilized my summer internship with the Maryland State Archives to study attempts to escape enslavement in colonial, revolutionary, and post-colonial America. Working with Chris Haley, Director, Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, and his team in the Archives Research Department, I catalogued runaway advertisements for enslaved individuals from Maryland newspapers published between 1745 and 1800. Initially, I combed the Archives' digital [database](#) of runaway notices, identifying approximately 1200 freedom seekers within Maryland during my period of review. Then, I reviewed each weekly *Maryland Gazette* publication from 1745 to 1765, recording roughly another 500 runaway enslaved individuals within that twenty-year period. Around 26% of the 1700 freedom seekers I documented fled enslavement during the American War of Independence, including a spike of 201 runaways in the final three years of the war. Additionally, nearly 50% of the entire grouping of fugitives I catalogued fled from Anne Arundel or Baltimore counties, approximately 90% were men, and the overall average age was around 26 years old. I compiled my research into a spreadsheet that will be added to the Archives' Legacy of Slavery [database](#) and also retained for future usage by the Du Bois Center.

My research was split into two parts. After I finished cataloging freedom seekers, I began researching several particular examples as case studies. One of the incidents I researched more closely was the case of Capt. Charles Griffith, an Anne Arundel planter, Maryland "gentleman," and vestryman for St. Ann's Parish, seeking the return of the "likely country-born Negro Man named Walley." Walley's case is noteworthy because Griffith published more advertisements seeking Walley's return than any other owner seeking the return of a single escapee during my period of study. Normally, the authors of runaway notices posted some identifying characteristics or prominent skills to help facilitate the desired recapture of their runaway human chattel. While nothing contained in the language of Griffith's advertisements suggests why he valued Walley so highly, the persistence with which Griffith pursued Walley over the lengthy period of sixteen weeks suggests Walley was of some importance to his owner. Griffith's will, which I obtained from the Archives, confirms that the Anne Arundel planter succeeded in recapturing Walley and gifted him to his son John as inherited property. Using this research, I wrote a case study regarding Charles Griffith and



Walley containing the entirety of my findings on the two individuals which will be published on the Archives' Legacy of Slavery website.

Aside from the digitized eighteenth-century newspapers, I extensively searched the [Archives of Maryland Online](#) for both background information and crucial amplifying detail for the case studies I conducted. Additionally, I obtained other critical background information for my study by utilizing online publications authored by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, and several scholarly journals. Through this research, I drew several key conclusions and observations. The individuals posting these runaway advertisements—the purported “owners” of other people—presented a potent contradiction when seeking the return of their human chattel while concurrently exhibiting powerful praise and respect for the freedom seeker through discussing the escapee’s professional skills and positive personal qualities. Mentioning these facts almost certainly served a pragmatic and self-serving purpose since it helped facilitate the recapture of the sought after individual, the language nevertheless strongly humanizes the same individual the author claimed as mere chattel. Also quite powerfully, the position of these advertisements in the section of the newspaper where all property sales (land, animal, human) were discussed provides a chilling juxtaposition that cannot escape notice. Finally, the language displayed in these advertisements when referencing female enslaved individuals provides an empirical record of the patriarchal tendencies extant in eighteenth-century America. The authors of these notices almost exclusively referred to female escapees as “wench[es],” while a male escapee was often just identified as a “fellow” or a “negro man.” Thus, even within the sub-stratum of enslaved property, these runaway notices clearly suggest the positions that eighteenth-century Marylanders thought men and women occupied in their social hierarchy.



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