

# THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 3, Folder 3

Summer 2022

## In the Summertime . . .

Summer in Maryland brings us many things to enjoy including extra-long, sunny days, meals with local farmstand corn, and thoughts of escaping to the Eastern shore beaches or Western mountains. Here at the Archives, we are especially pleased that summertime always brings us a new cohort of talented student interns. After two years of remote internships, this summer we enthusiastically welcomed the Class of 2022 back to our traditional, on-site program.

For more than forty years, we have hosted a group of students during the summer ranging from high school through post-graduate programs across departments for hands-on experience and professional development. It is hard to believe that this is the twenty-eighth group of interns that I personally have had the honor of working with at the Archives. Having been an intern myself, and watching many other colleagues come up through the program and move forward into successful careers both in this agency and elsewhere, we understand that this is a crucial time for up-and-coming professionals and are acutely aware of how beneficial an internship can be to future employment. Often, an internship can help you decide what is the right job for you, and likewise what is the wrong path to pursue— both conclusions are equally valuable. We strive to offer not only a summer job, although the students certainly do a substantial amount of mission critical work, but also a multidimensional educational experience. Along those lines we offer networking opportunities throughout the summer with other archives professionals, shadowing opportunities between departments, guest speakers from different disciplines, and even field trips. Supervisors take a great deal of pride in these ten weeks each summer and are serious about giving students a real taste of what it is like to be an archivist. We are rewarded by the new perspectives, enthusiasm and fresh education that each intern brings to the program.



We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and learning about our incredible summer interns,

Emily Oland Squires

Maryland State Archives Intern, Class of 1995

and

Director of Research, Reference, Education and Outreach

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## Mentor - A definition

A mentor is an experienced and trusted advisor who trains someone in their area of expertise. At the Maryland State Archives, we have a staff full of mentors who regularly share their professional knowledge and life experience with our student interns. Year after year these outstanding mentors go above and beyond expectations to create career opportunities and a network of support that extends far beyond the formal ten week internship program. We thank them for their generosity, guidance and hard work without which the summer internship program would not be possible.

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## Staff Updates

### New MHAA Grant Award

We are thrilled to announce that the agency has received a \$50,000 state grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority to continue our Indigenous Archive Project. This grant will allow us to partner with the Heart of the Chesapeake and Beach to Bay Heritage Areas and to expand our program to work with Indigenous people on the Eastern Shore. Please look for more information about the launch of our website in the fall issue of *The Clamshell*.

### Welcoming New Staff to the Archives Team



**Trevaughn Booker** has joined the Archives as an Archivist Trainee with Constituent and Interagency Services. He graduated from Morgan State University with a major in Sociology and minor in criminal justice and comes to us with previous work experience from both the Maryland Judiciary and the Baltimore County Department of Social Services. Trevaughn is already immersed in learning the operations of the Archives' Help Desk where he will be serving on the front line of supporting patron requests in Constituent and Interagency Services. He also will be working on courier services and file transfer work with other state agencies.



**Raymond Chan** has joined the Development Group of the IT Department as Programmer. He graduated with a Computer Science degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and has worked on academic projects involving encryption, cyber security, mobile applications, search engines and other specialized search techniques.



**Yuhang Chen** is a UMBC student who is expected to graduate in December of 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Data Science Track. He has joined the IT Department as a Programmer. Yuhang's previous internships included processing data from radiosondes that are carried into the air by latex weather balloons at the national climate monitoring site at Beltsville, MD and working with a technology startup that provided global services for the world's most popular esports game, League of Legends, by turning data into smarter insights for fans and gamers.



**Sherida Gault** has joined the Archives as an Archivist Trainee with Constituent and Interagency Services. She comes to us from Pennsylvania State University and Capital College in Middletown, Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Sherida began as an Archival Trainee in June and is currently working at our offsite location supporting Constituent and Interagency Services by retrieving and refiling records and scanning collections for both patron and agency requests.



**John Telan** has joined the Archives as the Deputy Director of Administration. John will fill the vital role as the Archives' accountant having received his Bachelor's degree in Accountancy from Far Eastern University in Manila, Philippines. He also brings years of experience and expertise with him from his service with the State of Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

# Class of 2022 Summer Interns

Starting in early June, seventeen 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 2022 winds to a close, we are excited to share their accomplishments with you in this issue. We appreciate the privilege of being a small part of their career journey and we thank them for their hard work.

Please enjoy the following articles submitted by our students and their staff mentors. We hope these reports give a glimpse into our longstanding summer program 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 2023 summer program in January.

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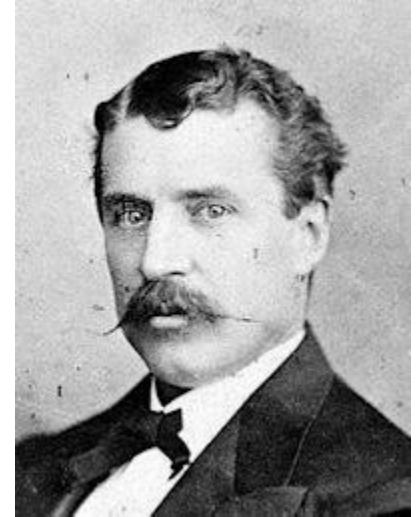
## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

### The Scharf Collection

Natalie Guingrich from University of Maryland Baltimore County and  
Zion LeSueur from Anne Arundel Community College

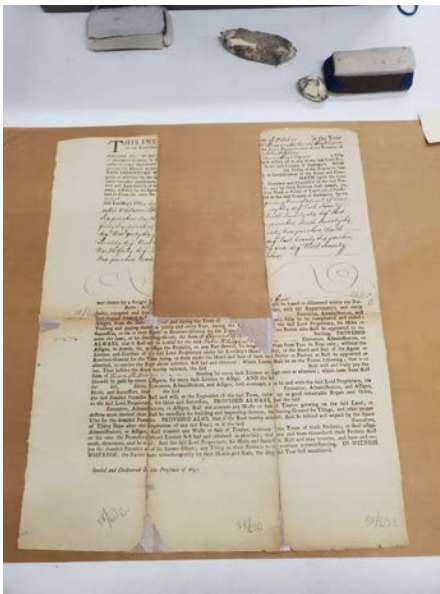
#### Overview

Over the course of this summer, we have had the opportunity to assist with the conservation and digitization of the Scharf Collection [MSA S1005]. The Scharf Collection is a collection of over 18,000 government records divided into military, court, financial, economic, trade, tax, land, estate, legal, and vital records. These records were compiled by John Thomas Scharf, pictured to the right, and have passed through several organizations before being accessioned by the Maryland State Archives in 1975. The primary source documents in the collection span approximately 200 years from the mid-17th century through the mid-19th century.



#### Conservation

In the Conservation Lab, the staff encounter a lot of different types of documents that need preservation and treatment, including different papers (in this time period we were looking at rag, straw, manila, and wood pulp papers) and also parchment (made from animal skins). For this internship, we learned how to assess, conserve, and process Scharf Collection documents. Each document needed to be assessed individually and needed different levels of conservation. Some documents just needed cleaning and careful handling, while other documents needed careful handling, cleaning, ironing, a second round of cleaning, then lots and lots of repairs. Cleaning consisted of using Wishab, a vulcanized rubber product that is used outside of conservation to clean wallpaper, to get rid of the dirt and grime on the papers. Repairs consisted of ironing out parts of the papers, then using homemade heat-set or commercial heat-set tissue to reattach pieces of the documents. To process each document we wrote the full MSA S1005 collection number, series number and item number (for example: MSA S1005-124-5). After assessing, conserving, and processing, we returned the documents to their respective boxes and sent them off for further appraisal, then on to digitization.



#### Digitization

We were also trained on various parts of the digitization process. We were initially trained to remotely operate a camera system so that we could partner with staff at Archives' off-site storage location and capture images from Annapolis. On an average day, we would capture approximately 300 images per hour. We also assisted with the quality control and quality assurance processes. At various stages of uploading images to [The Guide to Government Records](#) an Archives' website, the

images needed to be checked to ensure that they were the correct orientation, legible, and were not cut off from cropping errors. We also ensured that the final images that were uploaded to the Guide to Government Records were able to be accessed by the public.

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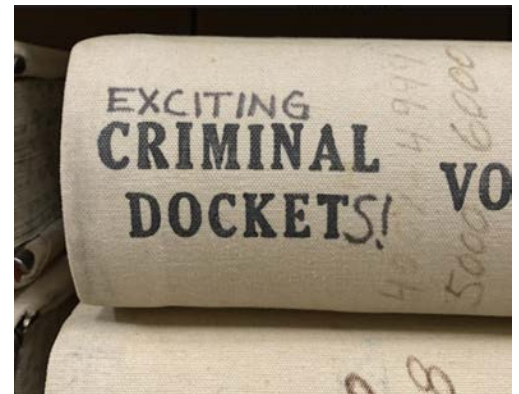
## CONSTITUENT SERVICES & CONSERVATION DEPARTMENTS

### **Criminally Interned: My Time at the Maryland State Archives**

Liz Dowdy from St. John's College

This past summer I worked as an intern for both the Court Records Research Project and the Conservation Department. I enjoyed being able to learn about the different aspects of the Archives and gain experience in and knowledge of various subjects. At the beginning of the summer, I was unaware of all of the diverse roles the Archives play, but now I have been able to contribute to a few of them myself.

In the Court Records Research Project, I worked on completing research requested by other government agencies. There are multiple local and federal organizations which rely upon the Archives in order to gain access to information about criminal records needed to complete background checks, which is crucial in improving our state's safety. My research mostly consisted of being given a name and a charge (along with a few other tidbits such as location and/or date) and then searching for a matching court case. Depending on a couple of factors, I



was searching either through the Judiciary's Case Search system online, the Archives' Guide to Government Records, or in the stacks at the original criminal dockets. After finding a matching case, I would search through a different database to find the digitized microfilm of the case to provide to my supervisor. Being able to find an exact match for a case was very fulfilling, although it occasionally happened that no case could be found in the records — which I think should be outlawed.

My time in the Conservation Department consisted of working on various projects, including the Scharf Collection [MSA S1005], where I was taught how to properly clean and repair documents. I also spent some time processing and organizing items for the Hollis Thoms Collection [MSA SC 6072] about an Annapolis-born musician. Finally, I finished out the summer working on the T. Henry Randall Collection of photographs from the early 19th century [MSA SC 6318], by cleaning and identifying the locations, buildings, and objects in the images.

On the whole, I enjoyed my internship and I am grateful for the experience I was able to gain over the ten weeks I spent with the Archives. The time I spent here and the knowledge I gained is invaluable to me and would not have been possible without everyone who helped me along the way!

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## Charting Plats

Charlotte Conant from University of Maryland College Park

This summer I helped the Imaging Services Department with the input of data for the Archives' online [plats website](#). A plat is a plan or map for the development of a property or subdivision. Every month the Maryland State Archives receives at least one set of plats from each of the twenty-four Maryland jurisdictions, as well as from the State Highway Administration. A set of plats ranges from one single plat to at most forty pages, meaning that hundreds of plats need to be inputted into the database, scanned, image quality controlled and then uploaded to the online system before they can be seen by the public. Every single plat will have three numbers associated with it: one from the county; one to tell us where it is in our database; and a last one to tell us what number it is among all the plats we have ever received. However, many counties have specific guidelines for the handling of their plats in addition to the general processing rules. Some counties require their plat titles be typed exactly how the state copy has it written.

Some counties are too large to be able to process them at the same time as any other counties which can stall the system, so they have to be done independently. This means that in addition to needing to input the plats quickly, they need to be inputted carefully with great attention to detail. This process is difficult when there is standardization of the information on a plat, but not where or how the information is necessarily recorded on it. While plats are all required to have the same information printed on them, the location on the document where that information is remains completely up to the designer. So each plat is a unique document that has to be read carefully in order to find the correct information.



Once this has been entered into the database, we assign our accession numbers to the plat and write those numbers on the plat itself. Then, we run the server to upload the information to the website. We have to do this before we can upload any images, because the information is uploaded overnight. Then we can scan the plats, which is typically something we do in large batches on the oversized scanner which takes a great deal of care. After that, the documents are opened in photoshop, cropped, rotated and a ruler is put on them. Then, once all of them have been processed the images can be uploaded to the system and linked to the descriptions. After a day, the images are online for the public to access.

I worked with Raymond Connor to help enter the data and get plats ready for scanning, and occasionally post processing them after they had been scanned by performing quality control and assurance. Our team is also in charge of printing out any plats that patrons order. Overall the experience has been enlightening, I have learned a lot and it has been an amazing chance to apply the theories I have learned about to actual archive practices. Over the summer I have helped upload over 2,000 plats for public access.

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IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**Microfilm and Scanning Projects**

Lee Dorsey from Capital Technology University



Left: backlit reel of microfilm showing the layers.



Right: preparing boxes for scanning at the off-site storage location.

During the time I have spent working in the Maryland State Archives, I have had the opportunity to work on a few different projects. My initial project was to examine reels of microfilm and assess their condition. Over time, if the film was not properly washed during the development process the chemicals left on the film will start to break it down. As the film deteriorates, it releases acidic vapors which can infect other films stored nearby. This condition is known as vinegar syndrome due to the strong vinegar odor of the vapors. Vinegar syndrome also possesses other symptoms apart from its distinctive smell: the film can warp, curl at the ends, and have changes in texture. Another intern and I were tasked with identifying and recording these changes in condition. However, after finding multiple boxes of affected reels, we had to adjust our workflow. The microfilm project was transferred to the offsite storage location where this film could be examined on the loading dock with consistent air circulation, rather than an enclosed room of solely microfilm reels. After shifting the project to Rolling Run, I started noticing less and less infected microfilm. The ones that were found, however, were then isolated away from the unaffected reels. As of July, there have been just under 1300 reels inspected and documented. While this quantity does not come near the sheer volume of reels in the collection, the work has made a dent in jumpstarting the process for further documentation.

My other projects have been heavily involved in image scanning and post processing. I have worked closely with the other interns in the Imaging Department. Primarily switching between marriage certificates from 1941 to 1951 [MSA S1772] and Baltimore County marriage indexes from



1777 to 1851 [MSA S1399]. The MSA S1772 digitization project involves batch scanning marriage certificates from 1941 to 1951. It is a multistep process that includes alphabetizing certificates by county and the groom's surname, then scanning these certificates in order. These certificates must be renamed before uploading, to be available for public access. The MSA S1399 project entails digitizing the contents of the card catalog drawers in the search room. The index cards within these drawers tend to be very brittle and do not lend themselves to being scanned in large groups. With batch scanners like the Kodak used for these two projects, it can be difficult to know if any papers were skipped. I have found that feeding an exact number of cards through the scanner can help alleviate this issue and better keep track of any missed documents. By the end of July, Elsa Risgin and I had managed to scan over 92,000 certificates for MSA S1772. Alongside this, I completed scanning 31 card catalog drawers, which is about 32,000 index cards, finishing out MSA S1399.

My secondary project at the offsite storage facility was to take inventory of legislative history boxes [MSA S1993], House and Senate bills dated from 2000 to 2002. In all, there were 157 boxes of bill drafts that I was to sift through and record if any were missing. The Department of Legislative Services inventory had me well versed in running around the stacks trying to locate full boxes of bills. Also notable, I have been working adjacent to the interns in the Conservation Department on the Scharf project. I was trained on the Scanmaster to aid in digitizing these records, most of which date from the mid 1700s to early 1800s. This has been a delicate process due to the age of these records, not wanting to further damage them. It has been refreshing to have a variety of jobs over the time spent here at the Archives. I have gained experience in digitization, image processing, and conservation of film. I have also listened to, perhaps, too many audiobooks over the duration of this internship.

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## IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### **Special Collections: Blacks of the Chesapeake & Digitalization**

Kelli Kazmarek from University of Maryland College Park

Over the course of this summer, I worked in the digitalization department within the Archives. My focus was working with my supervisor and the founder of the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, Vincent Leggett, to finalize and work toward uploading many of the images from the Blacks of the Chesapeake collection [MSA SC 6250] to [Digital Maryland Online](#). There was some other work that was required before processing the images. One of my first tasks at the Archives was to check the inventory of each box within the special collection. It was important to make sure that what contents were in the boxes matched the records that we had been keeping in the inventory. This included going into the stacks, figuring out how many boxes there were in total, and then bringing them up to my desk one by one to check the inventory within each box to make sure it matched the sheet.

The second part of this process was to go through unlabelled boxes. This task was a bit more demanding in the sense that there was no record of what was in the boxes. For this, I would set up a meeting with Mr. Leggett and we would go through the box together. He would be able to sit down with me for an hour or so and let me know what each item in the unlabelled box was. I would enter

information including the type of material, the date in which the item was from or created, a title or description of the item, etc. Once this was done, we would assign a new number to the box and make it official within the collection on the sheet. In some of the unlabelled boxes, there would be only photographs, which are the focus of the next step including uploading them to Digital Maryland Online. This is where my project transitioned from one task to another. Once Mr. Leggett and I went through a few of the unlabelled boxes, I organized all of the boxes within the collection in the stacks and then put them in numerical order. The unlabelled boxes that we went through which had images ended up going to the scanning department and the images were uploaded to our google drive. On Mondays and Fridays, Mr. Leggett and I would meet virtually where we would go through the images within the drive and he would help me to draft descriptions and titles for each photograph. Once this was finalized, I would transfer the metadata over to a different spreadsheet where members from the Digital Maryland Online would be able to access the information and upload it to their site.

I learned a lot about media and library sciences throughout this internship. In my experience, I have never done many of these processes or understood them. I believe that through what I have done in my time over this summer, I have a more holistic understanding of archives and what their purpose is. Skills like organization and good communication were key to being successful in my work within the archives this summer, and I believe that these have become routine skills for me now. I felt like being able to go through the special collection's inventory was the most fascinating part of this experience because I felt as though I was handling history itself, which is one of my biggest interests. Because Black maritime history is not a very prominent field, it was very interesting to be able to learn more about it than I ever have by working at the Maryland State Archives.

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## IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### **So Many Images, So Little Time - My Summer as a Maryland State Archives Intern**

Elsa Risgin from St. John's College

During my ten short weeks interning at the Maryland State Archives, I have had the pleasure of working with the Imaging Department on a variety of different projects. I have gotten insider knowledge of how much work and how many steps go into making records available to the public, as well as gained a greater appreciation for the people working behind the scenes. The ultimate goal of preserving historical materials is so that they can be accessible to the human population, and this is a more complicated task than one might assume. Digitizing physical material is vital not just in case of a second Library of Alexandria catastrophe, but also for the ease and convenience of accessing our state's past.

Though my experience at the Archives got off to somewhat of an unexpected start, the team was flexible and managed to supply us with alternate opportunities. I, and a partner, were



Working on the Bready Postcard Project

assigned to go through the large collection of microfilm, inspecting the condition of each reel and cataloging their contents as we went. We were aware there was going to be some amount of damage from vinegar syndrome, but the large number of damaged reels meant our project quickly got moved outside, then to the off site storage facility for our safety and for senior staff to address at a higher level. While my ability to work with the physical reels ended, I was still able to stay involved with the project through image post-processing. Each scanned image needed some level of re-cropping and editing to make as much of the text visible as possible. This task is tedious and requires high attention to detail, but altogether we managed to get through over 230,000 images.

The other projects I was assigned were the scanning of 1941 to 1951 marriage certificates [MSA S1772], sub-unit cataloging and cross-checking for legislative history files [MSA SM314], and the Town of Somerset scanning project, as well as a few patron scan requests. These were all straightforward and I was pleasantly surprised how quickly I could get into a rhythm while scanning, allowing me to get through more material than anticipated. I'm so glad that I could help the Archives this summer, and I learned many skills including how to adapt quickly to new challenges. I've also learned how to use several new computer programs as well as how the different cataloging methods work. My final project involved assisting the Special Collections Department in cataloging a large collection of postcards into a spreadsheet, and beginning the intake process of an even larger collection of photographs, research notes, and multi-media visuals to be fully archived in the future.

Though I have discovered that I lean more toward cataloging and the preparing of physical documents more than digital ones, it has definitely not put me off pursuing a career in archiving. I have gained a better understanding of how all the pieces of the MSA fit together, and an appreciation for every little step along the way. Thanks so much to each person who taught me a little bit about their job, and I hope to someday join you!

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## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

### **MDLandRec Shielding Manager Project**

David Medrano from Prince George's Community College

Being an Information Technology Department intern during the summer of 2022 at the Maryland State Archives has been an enriching experience, both personally and academically. I had the great opportunity to work with the IT Department staff. To start off, I loved how they gradually increased the complexity of the assignments after completing them. They prepared different projects for us in which we had to create and implement our own programming, as well as projects that were more tailored to fixing bugs in existing applications. All of the interns were assigned the Early Settlers Project [MSA SC 4341] at the beginning of the internship to introduce the type of work we should expect throughout the summer.



Frank Patnaude, the Director of IT Development always explained everything in detail, and has always been attentive and answered my internship related questions as well as those pertaining to the ongoing projects. Nikki Schultz, the Lead IT Programmer Analyst, always made sure to give an insightful overview of each project before sharing the project requirements with me. She regularly checked with us to see how our projects were coming along. Senior Database Specialists Chris Lindsay and Mike James were also really helpful listening to our database concerns.

The biggest project I worked on was the MDLandRec Shielding Manager. An application designed to facilitate the “shielding” or “masking” of the identities of individuals participating in the Office of the Secretary of State’s Safe at Home Address Confidentiality Program (ACP). This program is designed to assist victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking protect their identity information within public records. Whenever a ticket is submitted to the Archives the current Director of Appraisal, Kathryn Baringer, makes a request to the IT department staff to shield the identity of the victim as part of the Home Address Confidentiality Program. Luckily, the Shielding Manager application fixes the issue of manually checking and updating every database required to mask the participant’s personal information, as well as their land record images.

The MDLandRec Shielding Manager project was such an important project to work with, especially since I had to design both the graphical aspects as well as the logic of the program. Figuring out a solution can be a bit tricky sometimes, but it is the satisfaction of having completed it that makes it worth it at the end. Another good reason why I enjoyed this project is how it has helped hone my programming skills, emphasizing the good balance between design and back-end code. It is also worth mentioning that there are always challenges during development, and MDLandRec Shielding Manager was not the exception, however, a bit of communication with the database team was enough to overcome them.

Other projects I worked on were the File Checker program which is an application that is meant to check the integrity of files stored at MSA. I was also tasked with fixing bugs in the IT Administrator Application, which included modifying the File Hasher program as well as making minor changes to the Archives of Maryland File Control Direct Scan and Microfilm Scan programs.

Besides working on IT projects, I also enjoyed going out on field trips learning about the history of Annapolis and by extension, Maryland’s history. In summary, I enjoyed being an intern at the Maryland State Archives. I consider this a very important experience for my academic career as well as my personal life. Being an IT intern at Maryland State Archives was a truly memorable experience (and that’s an understatement).

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## My Information Technology Internship

Ian Smith from Community College of Baltimore County

As I reach the end of my internship as a Student Technical Assistant (Programmer) with the Maryland State Archives Information Technology Department, I feel incredibly proud of what I have accomplished. Before coming here, I did not know how to be a software development team member. But now, I can confidently say that the folks in Archives' IT have taught me everything I need to know to succeed in the future. They helped me learn to discuss issues, solve problems, brainstorm ideas, and become confident in unfamiliar topics, from project conception to deployment. This summer, I worked on four projects connected to multiple Maryland State Archives' departments which pushed my skills to new heights.

The first project's goal was simple: become familiar with the tools and languages used in Archives' IT programs. In the first part, I had to create an application that allows users to search the list of names and other information from "The New Early Settlers of Maryland" by Carson Gibb [MSA SC 4341]. The collection catalogs the details of the individual settlers named in Maryland land patent volumes from 1633 through 1683 and also lists the people who came with them. After making the application, my next task was to turn it into a website that performs the same functions. I finished this project around the end of the second week, and I was assigned my second project: updating the website for the Maryland Historical Magazine's archived copies.

In the past, the Maryland Historical Society (now the Maryland Center for History and Culture) required anyone wanting to view archived copies of their magazine to log in. However, as social media became more widespread and mainstream, the MCHC wanted to share and highlight specific articles. Because of the log-in restriction, those looking to read the article or magazine issue by clicking a social media link are instead shown a login window. Thus, it was my job to remove the restriction so that the users could view the files unhindered. This project didn't take long, only about a week; However, the next one would take far longer.

Project three, focused on FileViewer and was about fixing a problem in the Guide to Government Records. The project's primary function was to handle the files from the Guide, download them to a temporary location, and provide them to users on a file-by-file basis. I learned that the solution that looks the simplest is the one to use, which is a lesson I needed to apply to this project.

Being a prominent public official, the Governor of Maryland has no shortage of events and publicity to juggle. Because of this, the Governor's Office needs a place to store the photos taken by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the First Lady. Currently, the Maryland State Archives



manages these images through its GovPics website. The website groups the photographs by event and then by date; However, on days when the Governor has multiple events, groups of images are shown in the order they are uploaded. For example: if there are two events on the same day, one in the evening and one in the morning, and the evening one gets posted first, the sorting will be out of order with the nighttime event appearing before the daytime one. For my fourth project, it was my job to have the application access the events' time and compare them to one another. In addition, I needed to ensure that uploaded, to-be-uploaded, and edited events have a valid time value so that the program could compare them.

I enjoyed myself here at the Archives. I made friends, visited important historical sites, and honed my teamwork and programming skills. I'd like to thank Frank Patnaude, Nikki Schultz, Chris Lindsay, Mike James, Ashleigh Kern and the rest of the development team for supporting me this summer and being the awesome people they are.

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## REFERENCE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### **Reference Services and Beyond**

Danielle Smith from University of Maryland Baltimore County

While working and observing in the Reference Services Department, I got to experience the pride that reference archivists take in assisting patrons by retrieving records for in-person visits, guiding guests through the collections catalogs online, and answering questions any patron might have no matter how big or small. Working in the Reference Services Department is intriguing because it is very multifaceted. Not only do the reference archivists provide in-person customer service, but they also do great research investigations as well. The patrons of the



Maryland State Archives can not always find what they are looking for, and others do not come into our search rooms for assistance. In the case a patron is unable to come into the search room in person, they may order or inquire about a record online. Vital records such as death, birth, marriage, and divorces are the most requested. When the Reference Services Department receives the order, they work to send patrons at home the accurate information in a timely manner, all while simultaneously serving the patrons in person that deserve the same service.



This summer I assisted the Reference Services Department by retrieving records from the stacks, processing online orders, and helping patrons navigate our catalogs in various ways. Nearly perfecting my navigation skills in the stacks, I have retrieved and put back approximately 730 original records for our guests to view on site. For online orders, I was tasked with completing uncertified birth, marriage, death certificates. In this case, the patron provides us index information including names, dates and locations and

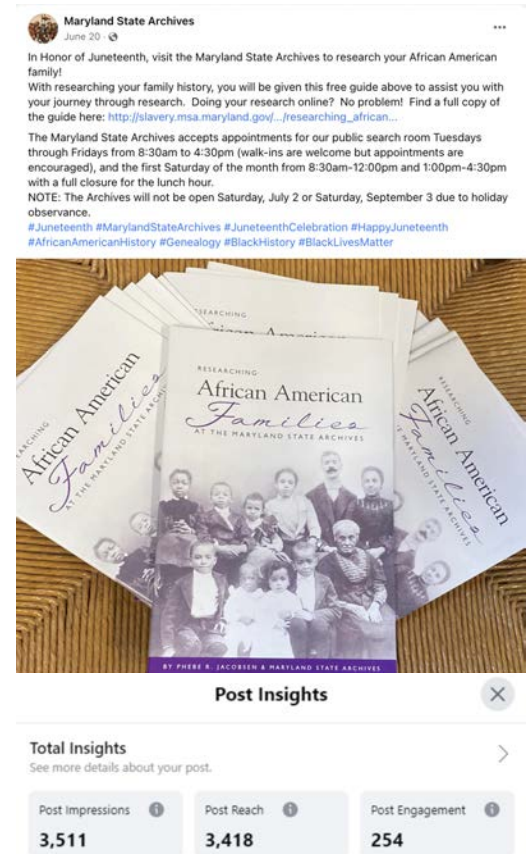
certificate numbers in their order, and I find the certificate requested. I was able to complete an estimated 200 uncertified death orders, eleven uncertified marriage orders, and twenty uncertified birth orders, by using the Guide to Government Records catalog.

I also assisted patrons that reached out for research help both in the search room and in the lobby during their visit with us. I was pleased to help both first time and returning patrons. In addition, I entered 159 pull slips for the year 2021 into the circulation database, creating tracking data on what kind of records are requested by patrons. Over this summer, I also participated in the social media team during my internship. My first social media post was promoting our *Researching African American Families at the Maryland State Archives* pamphlet for Juneteenth. The second one is forthcoming, but it will be a “Then Vs. Now” post using a picture from Thomas Baden Collection [MSA SC 3544]. Stay tuned.

This summer as one of the Maryland State Archives Summer interns of 2022, I had the opportunity to meet and talk to many different people and learn about the multiple moving parts of the Archives. These moving parts contribute to the MSA’s overall success. To protect a record we circulate to our patrons we have to know how to care for the record, and if the record needs special handling, the Reference Services Department calls on Conservation. If the record is a part of Special Collections and it has restrictions, we consult with the Special Collections staff on its accessibility. In order to physically locate and also find descriptions of our collections, we depend on the Appraisal department.

The Appraisal department is our connection to other agencies when it comes to preparing for a new transfer of materials to the Maryland State Archives. On June 21st, I was able to travel with members of the Appraisal team to the Kent County Courthouse in Chestertown, MD to help label records at the courthouse in preparation for transfer to the State Archives.

I also learned about the library at the Archives, and that the books held here piqued the interest of many of our patrons (considering the number of library books I have retrieved this summer). This mixture of moving parts such as appraisal, imaging, conservation, reference and information technology is what makes the Archives run as a whole. Thank you to the staff for all your hard work and thank you for my wonderful experience this summer at the Maryland State Archives.



## Special Collections: Unearthing and Amplifying Hidden Histories

Rasha Dakheel from University of Maryland College Park

During my internship in the Special Collections Department at the Maryland State Archives (MSA), I was able to work with a variety of historic materials from different, dynamic periods of American history, from the colonial era to the modern era, showcasing the depth and breadth of the collections contained at the MSA. I was fortunate enough to begin my direct experience with archival material by working on the description and arrangement of the Phebe Robinson Jacobsen Research Collection [MSA SC 5865], a collection of research materials of prominent reference archivist Phebe R. Jacobsen (1922- 2000), featuring both her official and independent research projects while she worked at the Maryland State Archives. Jacobsen was a key figure in the development of African-American author Alex Haley's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, assisting Haley in conducting genealogical research on his family. It was Jacobsen who discovered the name of the ship that transported Haley's enslaved ancestor, Kunta Kinte, to Annapolis. Jacobsen's collection reflects the inner workings of a figure highly trained in archival theory and methodology emphasizing the experiences and histories of marginalized groups in America. Jacobsen's research notes were a useful exercise in gleaning the workings of the archive, and the process of historical research itself through her keen observations and writings on her experiences as an archivist. There was clear crafting of archival original order with a variety of curated historical materials of both primary and secondary resources many researchers would find effective and valuable. Jacobsen placed importance upon imparting and recording information in a way that would be useful for future scholars, researchers, and the general public. Jacobsen has been quoted as saying "No record is worth a cent if it can't be used." Her clarity of thought, organizational

structure, and curation of useful historical materials can be utilized by anyone with an interest in studying American history, the history of Maryland, or archival theory.

I was also able to work on archival description and rehousing of American colonial paper currency for the Mumford Collection [MSA SC 6244]. I was previously unfamiliar with the field of numismatics, but my experience with this material led me to discover the rich field of monetary history. Currency can reflect historical norms and concerns of a particular period and in the case of colonial currency, the historical events surrounding the transition of America from a British colony to an independent economic entity. In carefully studying the information presented on the currency, I was particularly struck to discover much of the currency from Maryland was printed by one "A.C. Green", who I





later learned was Anne Catharine Green (1720- 1775), one of the first female printers in the colonies. Anne Catharine was the wife of Jonas Green, a prominent figure in Maryland colonial history known for establishing the printing press that Anne Catharine would continue to use after his death in 1767 to pay off his large debts. Anne Catharine continued to print Maryland currency and the popular newspaper, *The Maryland Gazette*. She was later recognized by the Governor as the “Printer of the Province” and compensated for her work by the Maryland General Assembly in 1768. I did not go into the project expecting to come across any type of female representation in the printing of colonial currency and was pleasantly surprised to find that a woman played such a prominent role in a field dominated by men. Anne Catharine certainly went against the grain of colonial societal norms yet still managed to flourish, making her mark on United States history by breaking into a business that was difficult to access for a woman, engraving her name prominently on each piece of currency she printed.

I’ve learned first-hand the archive contains many hidden histories that can be unearthed by careful looking and thoughtful observation, leading to the development of new and more nuanced narratives. Each of these histories has the potential to contribute to the way we understand our past and current realities. Something as small as a printed signature on a piece of currency can lead to a new telling of history that honors the accomplishments of the marginalized. I’ve come to deeply admire the important work of archivists such as Phebe Jacobsen and others, who use their skills to instruct and reveal new modes of interpretation while preserving the legacies of the past. After my experience at the Maryland State Archives, I am excited to see where my understanding and gained skills in the archival field will take me in my career. I will continue to cultivate the natural curiosity and attention to detail that an archivist must maintain. I also appreciate archivists being cognizant of their role in the preservation and documentation of history through records, which demands a responsibility to highlight the experiences of those whose voices might be suppressed or lost as history unfolds.

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## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

### **A Glimpse into the Stacks: My Summer Internship and the Indigenous Peoples Project**

Kitri Post from Washington College

Upon acquiring my Bachelors Degree in History and English from Washington College in May 2022, I knew only minutely what I wanted to do with my life. I knew that I loved to learn, to communicate and create pathways for others to learn, and I loved to help other people find what they are looking for. My internship at the Maryland State Archives, through Washington College’s Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, has allowed me to do all of these things and more.

As a Special Collections Intern, I learned that the role of an archive is to collect and to preserve, but most importantly, to teach. Supervised by Maria Day, Director of Special Collections and Conservation at the Maryland State Archives, I delved into the rich history of the Chesapeake Bay, reading government records from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth



centuries, both digitized and otherwise, in search of records pertaining to the Indigenous peoples of the Chesapeake. A history I was only adjacently aware of through my research of the Wabanaki Confederacy's role in the American Revolution for my undergraduate thesis, the Indigenous Peoples Project allowed me a greater look into the history of the Chesapeake.



The main purpose of this project was to provide better access to documents concerning Indigenous peoples, and my contribution to this project included the categorization of previously indexed volumes, transcribing non digitized manuscripts, reviewing land records, provincial, judicial, criminal, probate, military, and other types of records for relevancy. I also cross-referenced materials available online with the physical documents stored at the archives for clarity, and searched through a myriad of government agencies' papers for any reference to the Indigenous peoples of the Chesapeake. These research endeavors will

allow future scholars, teachers, and interested parties to search for information and documentation concerning Indigenous peoples available through the Maryland State Archives with more ease. People, places, tribes and communities, events, and actions, will be previously identified and accessible through in-depth keyword systems and cross-referencing programs, done by previous archivists and interns, such as myself.



The Indigenous Peoples Project has re-ignited in me a passion for learning about Indigenous peoples throughout the United States and beyond. I want to learn about the relationship between the Piscataway and other Algonquin speaking peoples, to understand the history of the Oyeti Sakowin in the west, the alliances and rivalries of the Cherokee and the Creek, the culture of the Ojibwe in and around the Great Lakes, and all the other unique cultures and histories that serve as the foundation of the United States of today. This internship has inspired me to keep

looking and learning and asking questions, and I look forward to pursuing my graduate degree next year so that I can continue to learn in a professional setting.

As I became more acquainted with the archives, through maneuvering the website and the physical space, I was able to shadow several departments, including Reference Services, Appraisal, and Conservation, and to the staff of those departments all I am very grateful. I am most appreciative of my supervisor, Maria, for introducing me to archival work, for mirroring my excitement for the unknown and encouraging me to look through those last fifty pages, because there may be a list of signatures sitting at the bottom. I also thank the Maryland State Archives, Washington College, and the Starr Center, without whom any of this would have been possible, and most importantly, to my dear Professor Ken Miller, for being there at the beginning, the end, and all the points in between.



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## THE STUDY OF THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

### Lynching and Riots: Mob Violence in Queen Anne's County and the Navassa Island Riot

Matthew Novick from University of Maryland Baltimore County

This summer I worked with Chris Haley, Director of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program, and fellow intern Zoe Smith on two major projects: transcription of the Maryland Penitentiary records for inclusion into a searchable database and creation of case studies of Maryland lynchings using original record research from archival stacks.

This internship was a continuation of my Summer 2021 virtual internship and volunteer work with the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program. Similarly, I have been contributing to the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission's investigation into Maryland lynchings since Fall 2020 when I created a report with two other graduate students on the lynchings of Anne Arundel County.

In this internship I specifically focused on transcribing the penitentiary record set from 1862-1869. These records offer valuable insights into slavery prior to and during the Civil War in Maryland and are particularly important for listing the identity of slave owners when describing enslaved persons. I found that those "aiding and assisting slaves to escape" appeared to have become more active in the Civil War as numerous people were being imprisoned. In addition to transcribing, we also worked to create case studies of notable persons. One such case study is an earlier entry in 1817 for Stephen Barnes, a forty-one year old free African American man from St. Mary's County who was accused of participating in a riot or slave revolt on Easter Sunday. He was arrested for insurrection, received ten years in prison, and died after the third year.

In addition, I also delved deeper into the stories of lynchings in Queen Anne's County. Using physical records in the Archive's stacks and local newspapers, I was able to uncover the story of John Fields, an enslaved man who was lynched in 1863 for having "criminal intimacy" with a seventeen-year-old white woman. She became pregnant and the community, in its outrage, would go on to murder Fields. Most interesting is that the newspapers did not describe it as "rape" or "outrage," but as "criminal intimacy" and "seduction." This gives credence to the belief that this was a consenting relationship, which sadly resulted in his death. The fate of the woman and her child is unknown.

**A WHITE GIRL SEDUCED BY A SLAVE.**  
*The Negro Hang.*—The Denton (Md.) Union, of the 23d instant, contains the following:

A negro man, the slave of Mr. James Stevens, residing on Kent Island, Queen Ann's county, was hung near Queenstown on Friday night. He had had illicit connection with the daughter of a highly respected farmer living near that place, and she proving to be enceinte, the outraged parent demanded to know who was the fiend in human shape who had thus invaded his domestic circle and blasted his fond hopes and ruined his child. The young lady, who is about seventeen, and withal rather handsome, confessed her guilt and laid the charge to the negro. The father desired further information, sent for the negro's master and communicated the facts to him. The master sent for his slave, and in his presence he acknowledged he was the guilty party. The negro, according to the best evidence that could be obtained, was believed to be guilty, and was hung, as before stated, on Friday night, on the roadside, about a half mile from Queenstown.

I also had the opportunity to enhance my customer service skills by coordinating and meeting with former State Archivist Dr. Edward Papenfuse and another researcher on the materials at the

MSA related to the Navassa Riot in 1889. I located and examined all available records which correlated to the Navassa Riot and had the materials scanned and prepared for researchers. Using a mixture of original records and newspapers, I was able to find out the history of the riot and provide the researchers information on archives outside the MSA which would have additional materials on the participants.

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" 99	Jacob Hazard	"	"
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" 61	John H. Hall	"	"
" 02	Chas. Tracy	"	"
" 03	John King	"	"
" 04	Thomas Brown	"	"
" 05	Richard Thompson	"	"
" 06	Chas. <sup>camp</sup> Henshall <sup>Handson</sup>	"	"
" 07	Henry Dennis	"	"
" 08	Chas. Stephney	Basket Making	"

Researching original records from the Penitentiary, House of Corrections, courts, newspapers, and justices of the peace allowed me to track the history and stories of individuals and events that are important to be shared. As a result of my internship, I have gained a greater understanding of the internal workings of an archive and how the departments collaborate to conduct meaningful research and preservation. I found it very rewarding to work on a research project such as this which required utilizing troves of primary source materials to capture history with such accuracy and detail, the vastness of historical resources at the archive's disposal is incredible. I am grateful for all that I have learned and I am confident that the skills I developed will aid me in my future career within an archive. Thank you, Chris, and to everyone at the Maryland State Archives for a valuable experience.

## THE STUDY OF THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

### The Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Internship

Zoe Smith from University of Maryland Baltimore County

This summer I have been working on three main projects for the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program with the director Chris Haley and fellow intern Matthew Novick. This first was transcribing records from the Maryland Penitentiary from 1826 through 1844 and further examining records from that time period and beyond. Each record included the prisoner's name, age, complexion, usual residence, crime, date of sentence, length of sentence, date discharged, and more. While many of the categories stayed the same through the years, some changed. Around 1830, the records stopped including whether the prisoner was free, enslaved, or a servant. Around 1840, officials began to collect specific sociological information, such as how educated the prisoners were, whether they were married, and whether they regularly drank alcohol.

The second project I worked on was drafting a brief biography of John Jones, a victim of lynching in Cecil County on July 29, 1872. To find information about John Jones and his lynching, I examined newspaper articles and census records. Jones was lynched by a group of disguised men after allegedly setting fire to the home of his former employer in Kent County. This was part of a larger project that has been ongoing for several years to document case studies of all victims of lynching in Maryland.



My final project was researching the District of Columbia (DC) Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862 and transcribing petitions filed regarding the act. This act freed all enslaved persons and abolished slavery within the District. Additionally, it appropriated \$1 million to be distributed among enslavers within the District as compensation for the loss of those they enslaved at an average rate of \$300 per enslaved person. In the end, over 3,200 enslaved persons were freed with compensation provided for nearly 2,900 of them. Although the vast majority of petitioners were white, there were a few Black petitioners that were awarded money for those in enslavement, who were generally family members that they had purchased in years past. There were also many connections to Maryland. Many Washingtonians enslaved those that were purchased or inherited from family members in Maryland. Some Marylanders also enslaved people that lived with family members or were hired out to work in the District. Throughout this summer, I was able to transcribe roughly half of all of the petitions filed. Of those, roughly 9% of petitioners were from Maryland and roughly 30% of enslaved persons had a clear connection to Maryland in their petition.

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