

STAFF PROFILE

Lois Green Carr

Although very much a part of the Archives, Lois is actually employed by Historic St. Mary's City Commission as its ^{or co-author} Historian. The author of four books, editor of two more books and noted 17th century historian, Lois recently was awarded the Alice Hanson Jones Prize by the Economic History Association for the book *Robert Cole's World* which she coauthored with Lorena Walsh and Russell R. Menard.



A native of Holyoke, Massachusetts, Lois was a founding student of Putney School in Vermont, after which she took a degree in History at Swarthmore College. She then went to Radcliffe for her AM in History and her PhD at Harvard, where she was in the first class of Radcliffe women to take classes at Harvard.

After finishing her course work at Harvard, Lois went to New York where she taught for a semester at the Julliard School of Music and then to Alfred A. Knopf as an editor of history textbooks, a job which she says taught her a great deal about writing history. From there she moved to the D.C. area and then to Annapolis where, in 1956, she joined the Archives as a Junior Archivist. She edited the 1956/57 and 1958/59 editions of the *Maryland Manual*, worked on the revision to the *Guide to the Old Line State* and worked in the search room.

Her career as an Archives' employee ended in 1964, when Dr. Radoff would not let her have a leave of absence to finish the doctoral dissertation that Harvard had been inquiring politely after since 1956. She spent the next 3 1/2 years working on the dissertation which was a study of county government in Maryland from 1689 - 1709. She used Prince George's County to do a sociological study of how the county government worked, who participated in it and who didn't, and how the social structure was affected by it. When Lois went to work for Historic St. Mary's City, she set up a research strategy for studying St. Mary's County, a much more difficult task because almost all of the yearly county records had been destroyed.

Lois is especially interested now in the archeological work that is going on at St. Mary's City and in what archeology can tell us that historical records can't, such as diet and nutrition. She finds working with the archaeologists very exciting because they can do a much better job of recreating past life and culture. She says

that she finds teaching through museums, exhibits, cultural programs and living history much more enjoyable than classroom teaching.

Outside of the Archives, Lois loves her vegetable garden and takes great pride in the fact it is so productive that she and her husband, Jack Ladd Carr, whom she married in 1963, can eat out of it all year round. And we are all very grateful for the beautiful herbs she brings around every Christmas.