

I worked on several different projects this summer for the IT department of the archives. One of the things I liked about this internship is that all the work I did was relevant and will actually be used by the department. The projects were simply things that needed to be done that would have been assigned to one of the full time software developers (who already have a lot on their plate) but instead could be passed along for an intern to tackle.

Vital Records:

It is a Database that over 400,000 vital records which have been converted from paper to a digital format that needs to be transcribed and stored in the Database as Vital Records.

Each record is currently an image which users must key into the interface I will create which will then save the data into the Vital Records Database. The second part of the project is to have a second user verify that what is put in the Database is correct.

During the first stage the volunteers are only going to have access to the non-verified records, and they will have to fill out the transcription form accordingly, by referencing the image that will automatically be displayed alongside the transcription form. The second stage of verification of the accuracy of the input transcriptions will most likely be handled by MSA staff.

Technical Stuff Learned:

Technologies used to accomplish VB.NET, SQL SERVER 2008, and WINFORM
Things I have learned so far are SQL primarily connecting to the Database and making the Search, and Update.

Problems I have encountered were the fact that the Database was large this induced the effect of having large tables that take up to 50 seconds to load. The clients are not that patient when an application loading for more then 5 seconds. So I had to use a background worker that used a different thread to alleviate the main thread, and will not freeze the application.

Calendar Leave/Event:

This project was fun, because I finally could do some web development and translate a website written in ColdFusion into ASP.net.

My goal was to mimic the Website with zero difference between the new website and the old one.

It was my first time using few of the server controls that would make your life easy if you know how to work with them or arduous otherwise, I have succeeded and got them work after many trials especially the REGEX Functions.

Technologies used to accomplish are VB.NET, ASP.NET, AJAX, REGEX, CSS, and HTML

Access Database:

Is a large Database that was already made in Microsoft Access and needed to be in a windows app more user-friendly and smooth!!

At this stage I have not used the data tables as usual instead I used Table adapters, this last has made my life easier but it is good to have hard time so you can learn more tricks.

I made Access Database more users friendly; you can edit out and alter data easily.

Technologies used to accomplish: VB.NET, TABLE ADAPTERS, ACCESS, SQLSERVER 2008, WINDOWS FORMS, and AJAX.

File System Watcher:

An application that watches the mail spooler in the E-mail sever, that would watch for any file created in it.

This application was necessary, because some E-mails are not delivered and the MSA IT have no news about these E-mails not being delivered to it's recipients, so they resorted to this Idea of having an application that would watch the mail spooler error file for any E-mail dumped into it, and notify the concerned with an E-mail letting him know about the error.

Technologies used to accomplish is VB.NET

Early Settlers Maryland:

This was one of our perquisite projects, where we rewrote the early settler's website from ColdFusion to ASP.NET.

The challenges in the beginning were mainly in using the new technologies such JavaScript, but afterwards everything turned out easy.

Technologies used ASP.NET, AJAX, VB.NET, JAVASCRIPT, CSS, and HTML, AJAX.

E-Delivery Manager:

This application will send automatic E-mail to Patrons, it was challenging because I had to add parts of code to an existing code written by Mathew. My role was to add an other tab that would parse through the presets and send E-mails Automatically.

Technologies used to accomplish are VB.NET, WINDOWSFORMS.

Mega File Application:

This application creates multiple folders in directories, I was asked to make it create two folders at a specific folder name.

The challenge in this Application was to read someone else code and understand the sequence of logic behind the generation of the folders, by doing so I have learned how to test the application and understood the point where to add my own code to make it do the desired task.

Technologies used to accomplish are VB.NET, WINODOWS FORMS

Gov Pub Application:

This is an application that converts a web app into Windows form it allows a user to enter in new government publication Items or modify or delete existing ones., I participated in editing two tabs in it, I have added the ability to search records specified with an access number and it will display the records specified.

Technologies used to accomplish are VB.NET, WINDOWS FORMS, and MSSQL 2008

Summary Report

Maryland State House History Project

Maryland State Archives

August 11, 2014

Prepared By Samir Bharat

I worked on Maryland State House History Project. This project has a huge database of information on State House, which is broken down and arranged by year. Since, the data was arranged by year, people would get information for that whole year even if they were looking for information on a specific date. For example, if people wanted to see information for a particular date 21st January 1995, they would make a search for the year 1995 and would be present with all of the information for the year 1995. Then, they would have to manually look for an entry of 21st January and view related information. So, clearly these data need to be reorganized to improve upon their accessibility.

The whole project involved working back and forth with the database and was divided into three distinct phases. The first phase of the project involved structuring the data and making it more accessible. This objective was achieved by taking information for the whole year, breaking it down and rearranging them by full date where applicable. This process was repeated for all available years. This was the logic behind the first phase of the project.

To parse data, I wrote a parsing program utilizing regular expression, which would look for anything that looked like date. If dates were found, the program would store those date along with the information that were related to those dates. Since, the raw data didn't follow any particular standard date format the initial parsing program had to be modified to accommodate for different date format as they were encountered. The parsed data were then stored in a separate table but in same database as original source.

Due to reasons such as poor structuring of regular expressions, use of poor algorithm and or other technological limitation it is quite possible that some of original data did not get parsed properly. So, in order to make sure all of original data were parsed correctly and to edit any mistakes, next phase of the project was aimed at developing an application that would allow user to check and make corrections on the parsed data. For this purpose, a windows form based application was developed. This application was database driven where data were presented to user via datagrid view by pulling them from database using SQL. For the purpose of data verification, user could select a row and, get original data for that particular row by right clicking mouse and selecting option to get original source. This would bring up another windows form with web browser controls.

The data I was dealing with was html data so web browser control was utilized to present the original data. User could now compare parsed data against original and flag them appropriately by selecting appropriate option from context

menu. If a block of corresponding row could be flagged with same option they could do so with multiple row selection. Besides verifying data, users were also tasked to verify and convert date in the table to AOMDateString. To promote user friendliness, I wrote a function that would take date stored as string from the database and convert it to AOMDateString automatically. Similarly, to aid user to look for particular record a search function based on MSA Accession number was also written. Likewise, to aid user, search for a string they want to look for in the web browser control, a search function based on string input was also implemented.

For third and final phase of the project a web based application or website was built using ASP.net with the goal to present those parsed data to public. The new website was built around original site with added functionality. One of the key features that was added to the website was an ability to perform a search based on keyword, and the searched result could be filtered by another keyword. Users could even move a step further and filter the filtered result by another keyword. So, basically they would be able to perform a search within a search or what we refer to as drilled down search.

Similarly, user could search for data based on full date with year, month and day. Likewise, another search feature that was added, was the ability to search for data based on State House's spaces such as Exterior or New Annex and so on.

Along with different search functions, some filtering capabilities were also added to the site. One of the filtering options that got added was data filtration based on date ranges and these date ranges could be exclusive or inclusive. Unlike previous date search, this date range could accept full date form like year, month, and day or partial date forms like year, month or just year. Users could also filter data by combining both Keyword and Date ranges.

Besides, organizing data in a tabular form the website also has facility to present data in a nice tree view form. The site has a link called Eras which when clicked takes users to Eras page. This page has data that are grouped by different eras. When user click on individual eras, each eras will expand to reveal different years that belong to that era. Further, clicking each year will expand into different dates for that year and finally description for that date will be presented if user clicks on each date.

The end of third phase was more geared towards security. So, I added few security features to the website such as providing a login page. This login page would allow only registered users to login to the website with their credentials. And once

users are logged in, they would be able to see either full or partial data based on their credentials. Beside this, the website also has ability to register new users, allow users to change their password, reset their password, view and edit their profiles and so on.

Likewise, with the view of security in mind I built a custom error page which would be displayed in case of any error or exception that might occur in the website. This would prevent the risk of displaying some critical information, which are normally displayed when error or exceptions occur. In absence of such custom-built error page hackers may take advantage of such critical information displayed on the page and launch attacks against the website.

Similarly, to add another level of security all of the administrative functions that needed to go side by side with the website was decided to be performed locally via windows form application rather than website itself. This approach is beneficial because housing such administrative privileges on website could potentially be risky and dangerous. The admin tool that I am building will help administrator of the website, perform administrative tasks such as adding new users, deleting inactive users, unlocking users accounts that might have been locked due to some reasons, edit user profiles, update their role status, activate inactive accounts, assign roles to users and so on.

Shawn Diviney
IT Programmer Analyst Intern
8/11/2014

2014 MSA Summer Internship Program

My first major accomplishment of the summer was the completion and launch of the new replacement GovPics and HistPics web sites. Both of these sites were written in ColdFusion which is an older, unsupported programming language that the IT staff is trying to slowly phase out. Their new replacements are written in ASP/VB.NET, making them more secure and easier for future IT staff to manage. The sites also received a significant performance overhaul in the form of a new thumbnail caching system.

In the old system, someone would visit an event page with images on it and the old site would serve the visitor full size images and scale them down on the fly to a much smaller “thumbnail size” for viewing many on the same page. This process takes extra time because each of the full resolution images would have to be scaled before they appear on the page. The more time the scaling process takes, the longer the visitor sits with a blank page waiting for a response from the site. With the new system, all of this image resizing takes place ahead of time when the event is first uploaded to the server. The resized thumbnail images are then placed on the server alongside their full size counterparts. Now when a visitor comes to an event page, they are simply served the pre-rendered thumbnail images instead of their full resolution versions and no scaling/resizing has to take place.

The difference is actually quite dramatic when the old/new sites are compared side by side. The old web site would sometimes take 10 seconds or more to simply load another page of images whereas the new site takes about 1 second to load the same page but with two or three times the number images. At the time of writing this, the two sites are currently live and can be accessed here:

<http://govpics.maryland.gov>

<http://histpics.msa.maryland.gov>

Another huge part of what I did this summer was work on the new Case Studies system. The old system needs to be replaced for a couple of reasons. Firstly, when the data is entered now, it isn't also put into the database so searching/filtering on that data is out of the question. The data for each case is instead stored in separate files that are stored on the case studies server. This method is very old fashioned and it would make much more sense to have 1 dynamic page/file that is filled from the database.

There are multiple aspects to this project each of which are essentially a project all their own. The first, and now mostly completed aspect is the application that researchers will use to create a new case study or edit an existing one. We wanted to force some structure into the system by splitting a case into different sections but also give researchers a lot of flexibility to control how their content appears on the page.

I am happy with the application I wrote to accomplish this. While it is still very much in "beta" phase and there are bugs to be found, they will soon be ironed out and we

will be ready to switch over to creating cases with the new system. In addition to the application, there's also the web site side of the new case study system which Lowell developed. It will be very easy now for someone to be in the middle of the process of creating a case study to check to see what their case would look like when it is displayed to the public.

The final aspect of the case study system is the parsing and integration of the existing old case studies into the new system. Much work remains to be done on this aspect of the system. Since the old cases weren't written with lots of universal guidelines in place, they vary greatly in their content and structure. A program needs to be written (which is currently in the works) that will go through all of the old case study pages and attempt to extract information from them to place into the new data layout with all of the different pre-defined sections (education, positions, narrative, etc). Since there is so much variety in the existing case studies, the parser program will most definitely not be perfect. It will occasionally falsely identify parts of existing case studies to be an inappropriate section in the new system or it could miss adding data that should have been a part of a certain section. This is why there will likely have to be human verification involved in this data migration process.

The parser program will first run through all of the existing cases and do its best at placing all the data where it should be. A separate program will be developed to allow researchers to page through the parse results and confirm that the program did the job right or allow them to correct any errors if they are apparent. This parse checking

program will be designed such that multiple people could be performing this verification task at one time since there are so many cases that would need to be looked at.

Internship Summary

Project List:

1. CaseStudyApplication (Source)
2. CensusRemake
3. EarlySettlersWebApp
4. FrontDesk
5. MAAD
6. NetworkWatcher
7. SourceSearch
8. Library
9. Government Publications
10. Introductory Projects

Description of Projects:

- CaseStudyApplication (Source)
 - This was a much larger project that I only worked on a small portion of. Shawn was writing the bulk of the code and I simply made the Source custom control. This control allowed the user to either view an existing source or create their own for the specific case study. If the source was an existing one and contained a url there was a window that allowed the user to see a sample of the webpage as well as a button that would open the webpage in their default browser. The user can also edit an existing source if the information was put in wrong or just needs to be changed.
- CensusRemake
 - This project was for me to take an existing webpage and modify it to look nicer and function better. I was not given the actual running site currently online, I was given a previous interns attempt at remaking the census page. I had to take out code that was no longer needed and add in my own. The concept of the page was very simple, to make a way that the user can search through the census database we have. To do this I just created multiple fields that the user could search on and then looked through the database for matches. The biggest struggle was figuring out what the other interns code did.
- EarlySettlersWebApp
 - This started out as one of the introductory projects but I was asked to modify mine so that it could be used to replace the existing Early Settlers website. This site will allow users to enter search criteria into a variety of fields that the program will then take and display any results that match the criteria.
- FrontDesk
 - This project is to replace the intranet site with a windows application. The program I wrote has all the same functionality as the website. I implemented all of the different pages of the site as tabs in the application. There is a place to do quick searches based on name or MSA number. Another page is to sign

in users. There is a page to sign out users. You can search through all the users on numerous fields. There is a single day report that will show all the visits of a specific day selected. Then there is a monthly report that creates an excel sheet that has all of the users who visited a selected month and has each users visits as well as the visitors total monthly time.

- MAAD
 - This was one my first project after the Introductory Projects. It involved having a list of the users that could be filtered down based on fields that the user could fill. The user could add a user or select a row and either edit, enable, disable, or view the user of that specific row. There were also user-groups that the user could add or edit. Then in a separate tab were the courts in a similar setup to the user's data table. Within the user edit form which came up when a user row is selected and edit is hit. The activity of that particular user could be viewed showing what they have been doing on the system such as logging in and out.
- NetworkWatcher
 - This program will watch the network connection of the SQL5 server and if it loses connection it will incrementally recheck to see if the connection has been restored for a set number of iterations. If it hits the limit of iterations then it will write to a file saying that it lost connection at this specific time and that it will now reboot. It then will shutdown and restarts the server. When the server is restarting there is another program that works with NetworkWatcher that I titled CheckFileLog. This program on startup will check the file location NetworkWatcher saves to too see if any logs of the shutdown exist. If they do then it will take the content of that file and email it to a set of people then delete the file so that no duplicate logs will be sent out.
- SourceSearch
 - This was an addition to the Source control that I made for the CaseStudyApplication. This program allows the user who is creating a case study to search through the existing sources and select one of those to add as a source for their case study.
- Library
 - For this project I was to go through an already existing project and just make sure everything functioned properly. This is more of a program checkup rather than an actual project since I am only making minor changes here and there
- Government Publications
 - This project required me to review the code much like for the Library project. However with this I also had to remake the internal management portion of this program into a windows form. This requires going through the website and figuring out the functionalities of it so that I can mimic those in a windows application
- Introductory Projects
 - There were 3 projects that we did as an introduction. We create the EarlySettlersApp using TableAdapters to get the data from the server. We then made the EarlySetterlsWebApp that I actually would modify later for

release to the public. And finally we remade the EarlySettlersApp using SQL commands instead of TableAdapters to pull data from the servers.

What Each Project Taught Me:

- CaseStudyApplication (Source)
 - This project taught me how to integrate code that I was creating into a much larger project because before this I had been working on my own.
 - This exposed me to making my own custom controls and how to display them in a flow layout panel.
 - I used this knowledge in the FrontDesk application
 - Working with a deadline. Before this project I had not had a definite deadline for any of my code. There were days when Matthew would have like me to be done but this project had to be done on a specific day because it was being presented on a set day.
- CensusRemake
 - This project taught me how to read and figure out what another programmer is doing based on their code
 - I learned the importance of commenting because the code I was given lacked comments so I had to figure everything out for pure code
 - I also figured out when its smart to use what you have and when you should just scrap code and make it again yourself.
 - There were instances were the code I was given just didn't work or did the work in a very strange way that made it difficult to implement new features. So in these instances it is smarter to just make your own code that does the same thing in less time than sitting there trying to decipher and modify bad code
- EarlySettlersWebApp
 - This was the first asp.net project that I had to do while here.
 - I used CSS and JavaScript to make it look nice and function properly
 - To display the results I had to dynamically write html code
 - This involved me writing a template that would be printed with the correct items inside of it in a loop until there were no more results left
- FrontDesk
 - In this project I created my own custom control from scratch, unlike in the CaseStudyApplication where I first worked with custom controls, I did not have other custom controls that I could base mine off of.
 - There was a lot of datetime data type manipulation going on in this project for displaying and generating the reports
 - I had to take information from multiple databases and fill an excel sheet dynamically.
 - Multiple pages and controls relied on each other so each time I modify one id have to refresh all of the others so that they were all matching and there were no discrepancies in the data.
- MAAD
 - Since this project was one of my first real projects I learned a lot from it

- I learned how to join multiple databases in SQL
- I had to add an image column and then display a specific image depending on if the user was active or not.
- Combining multiple rows into one row in SQL
- A lot of the controls I used in this project were new to me so I had to learn all of their characteristics and how to utilize them.
- Error prevention by disabling buttons the user shouldn't be able to click. These buttons would only be enabled when the user has the right to click them and not before eliminating a lot of unneeded error checking.
- NetworkWatcher
 - This program is meant to run on a server so there was no need for any fancy user interfaces so everything had to work on its own without user intervention such as hitting a button or changing a selection like in most codes
 - I learned how to take information from a file and put it into an email and then sending that email
 - I learned how to check to see if the computer/server has a network connection
 - I learned how to shutdown a computer/server programmatically
- SourceSearch
 - This program was pretty much a simple search that would then have the user select a row via a combo box.
 - Most of these features I've done before. This code was good practice of skills I had already learned here at he archives.
- Library
 - This project helped with reading and understanding asp.net code.
 - I had to read through and understand what was going on so that if a change was needed I could quickly add it
- Government Publications
 - This helped with reading code and then porting it over into a new application
 - I had to understand what was going on in the webpage enough that I could reprogram the functionalities into a windows form app
- Introductory Projects
 - I had never done anything with vb, asp, html, sql, or javascript before so these projects gave me an opportunity to learn numerous new languages
 - Since I had no experience with any of the things I was doing here almost everything I did taught me something
 - I only had the programming logic that I had learned from other languages
 - All of the syntax was new (pretty much)

Melissa Caples
Internship Summery

I thoroughly enjoy my time here at the Maryland State Archives. I was able to work on a great variety of fascinating project and learned a great deal. My first project consisted of working on materials from St. Mary's County Court. I created an album for the Tippet Survey Volume I and a wrap around for Volume II. Then I made another large album to hold the plats from both volumes and used the ultrasonic welder to make Mylar sleeves for each plat. I performed Japanese tissue mends on a collection of documents dating from the 18th century. Next, I used heat-set tissue to mend a collection of large plats. I cleaned glass plate negatives with a damp cotton swab. Some of the emulsion was peeling away from the glass, due to improper storage in a basement for many years. For the negatives that were in particularly bad shape, I designed and constructed special trays from corrugated board for housing. I also re-housed Daguerreotypes, Ambrotypes, candlesticks, and the Peabody collection of miniatures. Using corrugated board, corrosion intercept, mirco-chamber folder stock, and matt board, I created a four flap enclosure for each item, constructed trays to hold them, and lined each with tissue. Jen taught me how to humidify documents using a variety of methods. I cleaned an 1864 Civil War battle map and repaired tears on its canvas lining. I did some work on library materials, creating wrap-arounds, covering books, and performing minor repairs. My final project was to learn and perform leather repair on a private collection of books using Lascaux, Klucel G, and leather dye. Having a great interest in photographs, so some of my favorite projects included learning about and working with the glass plate negatives and creating enclosures for the cased photographs. Overall, I had an amazing experience and greatly enjoyed working with the staff at the Maryland State Archives. I would certainly love to come back again.

Conservation Internship Summary 2014

Maryland State Archives

Molly Kirkpatrick

Started out doing mylar library jackets, moved to hinge repair both internal and external. Learned how to dry clean individual documents and pages, Japanese tissue repair for pages and reattaching and reinforcing covers. Flattened plats, repaired with heat-set tissue. Assessed library books for damage and the best ways to treat them, learned spine removal, replacement, and repair. De-framed art and other framed objects and checked for mold, broken glass, and other damage. Re-attached leather on book covers, make four-flap enclosures to protect delicate books. Rehoused and repaired original copies of laws from the 1740's onward, checked them and their old housings for mold and water damage. Made a Coptic-bound notebook and a presentation box to house a damaged book in an attractive manner. Learned several ways of humidifying and flattening documents. Observed the application on a lining to a delicate document. Learned to clean and rehouse glass plate negatives. Learned about how different kinds of ink and paper throughout history interact and deteriorate. Did tape and sticker removal from plats, books, and other documents. Made hinges from Japanese tissue to affix documents to paper, and to affix pages into books. Learned how to tip in pages with glue and reattach loose or broken covers. Greatly enjoyed the experience, and have been able to apply the skills I learned this summer to conserving my own books already.

2014 MSA Summer Internship Summary of Duties: Cynthia Ferguson

My experience this summer as Appraisal Intern at the Maryland State Archives has been invaluable. I've learned so much about Maryland history and gained a behind-the-scenes look at archival practice from many talented and friendly archives professionals in the Appraisal, Conservation, and Digitization Departments. Because the primary duties of my internship spanned so many different departments, I was able to gain a more comprehensive view of the archive's functions and the departmental interaction than is typical, an opportunity for which I am quite grateful.

My initial project for the summer was the disbinding, repair, and digitization of 47 Baltimore City birth record index books, a sum total of 17,615 pages. After this project was completed, I digitized 6 clamshells of Baltimore City marriage certificates from the 1920s. These items were added to the Guide to Government Records in order to better facilitate patron access. In addition to these duties, the Appraisal Department made a special effort to bring me along to observe aspects of their work assisting other agencies. For instance, I accompanied Appraisal staff on a visit to the offices of the State Highway Administration as the agency prepared to compose a retention schedule, and I also observed a presentation that appraisal archivist Christian Skipper gave to the Maryland Organization of Community College Registrars and Admissions Officers about retention schedule preparation for their records. Additionally, in preparation for the upcoming warehouse move, I took part in inventory, deframing, rehousing and consolidation at three of the MSA's warehouse locations (Ordnance Road, Candlewood, and Hammond's Ferry). I also assisted with the APC's annual inventory and the cleaning of the environmental control sensors in the MSA building, which gave me some insight into the diverse responsibilities of archival work. Along the way, I had the opportunity to learn more about conservation techniques including heat-set tissue and Japanese tissue page repair, paper humidification, and the proper storage and housing of documents and books. I even got to make a small Coptic-bound notebook.

I also produced weekly social media posts for the Archives' Facebook and Twitter pages. I particularly enjoyed working on a short Facebook post about the James H. Bready Collection of Maryland Rye Whiskey Bottles and Related Ephemera, an unusual and little-known collection important to the history of Maryland industry. I was excited to take photos of some of the items, with the generous assistance of Maria Day, to share the collection with a wider audience.

Overall my internship experience at the Maryland State Archives this summer has been a particularly rewarding one, a really valuable glimpse into the realities of archival work. I am pleased to report that I will be staying on in the Appraisal Department through the end of December to continue assisting with the warehouse consolidation process.

Sharon Miyagawa
2014 Summer Internship Summary

My 2014 summer internship at the Maryland State Archives was incredibly fulfilling, helping me improve my research skills and also helping me realize my goals for my future as a recent college graduate.

I felt that my research skills had greatly improved throughout my senior year of college because of my thesis, which required me to read many biographies and pour through a letter collection. This internship, however, made me realize that research for my thesis was very simple since while it was very laborious, it did not involve a variety of research materials. Research for my thesis was very concrete. Research for the biographies this summer, however, was very open. Although my main research tool for these biographies was newspapers, I found myself constantly questioning what newspaper would be the best option and yield the most information. *Washington Post* and *Baltimore Sun*, while the most common newspapers I used, were not the only newspapers I looked into in order to gain insight into a certain individual. I learned plenty from local newspapers, teaching me how to make quick (and hopefully logical) progressions about what newspaper would be the most helpful. I have also never heavily used newspapers for research, so going through digital versions of newspapers from up to one hundred years ago was a very unique opportunity. Newspapers certainly have progressed and changed dramatically since 1900. My research for my summer internship also involved using the materials at the Archives, which is obviously something I have never done before. Overall, this internship involved a deviation from the materials I traditionally have relied upon when doing research, which taught me how to use different types of materials and different online databases.

I am truly happy that this internship has helped me improve my research skills, which is so crucial to a history major that does not intend to spend their future as a teacher. Writing my senior thesis made me realize that I enjoy doing research and writing papers, but this internship has solidified that passion. I realized that after I finished cataloging the Madeleine LeMoyne Ellicott letter collection. That was an amazing opportunity and I realize how lucky I was to have the chance to be one of the first to read and hold physical copies of letters from one hundred years ago. Reading those documents made me remember the enthusiasm I felt when reading through the Margaret Sanger Papers when I was researching for my thesis, and I really like that feeling of enthusiasm. I enjoy doing research, looking at physical copies of primary documents, and then writing about them. Soon after I finished cataloging the Ellicott Collection, one of my friends asked me how my internship was going. I proceeded to tell him that it was going great and I just finished cataloging this letter collection. I told him how looking at this collection made me realize how much I love doing research and how I cannot wait to go to graduate school so I can continue to do research and write a thesis. He replied with one word, which was “nerd.” Fair enough.

This internship has taught me that it is completely fine to love researching, and if that is what I want to do with my future, that is perfectly acceptable. I was hoping that this research internship at the Maryland State Archives would help me sort out my future and help me decide what Masters degree I should pursue, and that is exactly what happened. From this research, I have decided that I want to get my Masters in Public

History so I can continue to do research in women's history, a topic I am extremely passionate about. I hope I can apply for my Masters soon and get my degree in time to do research for the 100 year celebration of the 19th Amendment, since this internship has also kindled my interest in the suffrage movement in Maryland and in the nation in general.

Finally, I would like to thank the Archives for giving me this amazing opportunity. I felt extremely honored to be chosen for the Women's Hall of Fame research internship and have immensely enjoyed the work I have done for the project. The women I researched are an inspiration, making me realize that it is never too late in life to create change. Researching the suffragists has also caused me to appreciate my right to vote even more, and I will never in the future squander that right. Once again, thank you for this experience!

Internship Review

Christian Savage

Summer, 2014

This end of this year's internship program marks the conclusion of my fourth summer as a research intern for the Maryland State Archive's Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Project. I once again extremely appreciative for the opportunity to contribute to work of the Archives.

I was assigned three tasks to complete over the course of the internship. Firstly, I was to transcribe census records from 1870, Talbot County, District Three. I successfully completed this assigned and it resulted in 1,760 new individuals being added to our database. I would like to note that pages 122, 123,124,126,127, and 128a were not on the Ancestry so I transcribed them from the MSA microfilm and included them at the end. Additionally, there were a few other pages that were on Ancestry but I mistakenly skipped so I included them at the end as well. The second task I was assigned to complete was transcribing runaway and domestic traffic advertisements from the *Republic Star* from 1830-1832. I completed this task and it resulted in 21 unique ads but most of these ads were reprinted several times of the course of the two-years that I examined. My last task was to write a case study. I wrote a case study of the Rev. Joseph Chain who was a barber, merchant, and preacher in Easton's African-American community. His full bio can be found at <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/speccol/sc5400/sc5496/051900/051924/html/msa51924.html>.

As always, My summer internship experience was greatly enriched by the knowledge, guidance, and kindness of the Legacy of Slavery staff and interns. I am extremely appreciative for them and the opportunity to contribute to the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland.

Taira Sullivan
Summer 2014

Over the course of the summer, I worked with Owen Lourie on the Finding the Maryland 400 project. There is a lot of myth and lore surrounding the existence of the Maryland 400 and one of the goals for this project is in part to delineate between fact and fiction. At the Battle of Brooklyn, the First Maryland Regiment heroically defended the retreat of the Continental Army after the British Army routed the American troops by stealthily flanking their left wing.

In the process of covering the American withdraw, the First Maryland lost a total of about one third of their men, with most of the heavy casualties sustained by the Third, Fourth, Sixth, Seventh Independent, and Ninth Companies who were forced to make a last stand at Old Stone House. The bravery and sacrifice of the First Maryland Regiment at this battle has been greatly romanticized, as shown by their title Maryland 400, which plays off the idyllic 300 of Sparta.

Previous Research conducted by interns at the archive focused on determining who the Maryland 400 was as a group and how they fit into the larger Maryland forces and Continental Army. This summer's research was much more narrowly focused. Within the First Maryland Regiment, there were twelve individual companies raised in different areas of the state. My research dealt specifically with the Fifth Company, which was raised in Baltimore. I company at full strength had a total of 74 men, with the exception of independent companies which has 106 men. In the Fifth Company, we know the names of about 40 men who served at the Battle of Brooklyn. Of these known men, six had biographies when I started my internship this summer.

As a research intern for the Finding the Maryland 400 project, my job was to thoroughly research the lives of those men known to have been in the Fifth Company and produce biographies to be posted on the archives Finding the Maryland 400 webpage for as many of the men as possible. When possible, I tried to identify additional individuals who may have been members of the Fifth Company. Over the course of my ten week internship, I researched and produced biographies on eight soldiers from the Fifth Company. Researching the lives of these individuals required a lot of digging through the archives catalogues, indexes, databases, and stacks.

One of my favorite parts of the research process was hunting through the stacks and delving into the primary source material. A lot of the information I gleaned about the soldiers I researched came from military and land records, tax assessments, censuses, and probate records. Many of these documents were informative, but gave no indication of emotion or personality of the subject. That being said, I came across a few gems during my research that gave wonderful insight into the personal characteristics of some of the men I researched. One instance of this that particularly stands out in my mind was with John Gassaway.

Gassaway was from an affluent family in Anne Arundel County and his tenacity was exemplified through two remarkably telling documents penned by Gassaway himself. When his first application for a military commission was not accepted, Gassaway enlisted as a noncommissioned officer in the First Maryland Regiment. He was not satisfied with this however, and in 1776 he sent a second petition to the Convention citing that he attributed his lack of previous appointment to “being a little stranger to the Majority of the Delegates,” and his consequent “want of friends to mediate on...[his]

behalf.” He went on, rather presumptuously in my opinion, to note that “there are now two vacancies in the Companies here in Baltimore for Promotion. I hope you will Endeavor to put me in one of them.” Gassaway was not above mentioning that “you sir are well acquainted with my father and family and I am sure you can use a great deal of influence with the Council of Safety to promote me,” adding a dramatic “Pray do not forget me,” at the end of his petition.¹

Gassaway’s inability to take no for an answer and his flair for the dramatic, continued through out his life, making its appearance once again in 1787, when he was petitioning for appointment as Anne Arundel County Register of Wills, a position formerly held by his half-brother Thomas Gassaway until his death in 1787. John Gassaway was not even a resident of Anne Arundel County at the time of his brothers death in 1787, by law left him ineligible for the appointment. This however, did not stop him from pursuing the position.

After his initial petition had been rejected on the basis that he was not a county resident, Gassaway responded by sending a second petition stating, “I cannot think myself ineligible when all circumstances come to be fully considered.” Those considerations included how he was applying for the appointment not for his own personal gain, but to support his brothers widow and “six helpless children” whom he intends to support through his income as Register of Wills. Just as in his second petition for a military commission, the closing remark of Gassaway’s letter was very dramatic

¹ MARYLAND STATE PAPERS (Series A) Application for Military Commission, May 6, 1776, MdHR 6636-2-35 [MSA S1004-2-565, 1/7/3/25].

citing, “The bread of the widows and orphans depend on your [the House of Delegates] decision.”²

The detailed life story that emerged for Gassaway was more the acceptance than the rule. Through these letters, I was able to get a small glimpse into Gassaway’s life and personality, something I was not able to attain for all of the soldiers whose biographies I completed. More often, less information was available from which to draw from, as was the case with Edward Sinclair. Sinclair died at the winter encampment in Middlebrook in the winter of 1779, and the only real source of information on his life was in the form of his will which he wrote in 1776 after the Battle of Brooklyn.

In addition to writing biographies on soldiers who fought with the Fifth Company at the Battle of Brooklyn, I was responsible for publishing a weekly post on the Finding the Maryland 400 blog. In these posts I attempted to recreated the retreat at the Battle of Brooklyn through the use of first hand accounts of the battle, introduced the biographies of the soldiers I researched, and made observations on trends that I observed in my research throughout the summer. Writing for the blog was an important aspect of my internship because it allowed me to engage with the public and publicize the research that the archive is conducting through the Finding the Maryland 400 project.

This internship was invaluable in terms of a vastly increased knowledge of Maryland’s Revolutionary War history, improved research skills, and work experience. Prior to this internship I had not worked with Kompozer or Dashboard, both of which I worked with closely and became quite comfortable with. While I have written a number of academic history papers in college, writing for a blog and writing biographies were not

² MARYLAND STATE PAPERS (Red Books) Gassaway to the House of Delegates, November 19, 1787, MdHR 4602 [MSA S989-46, 1/6/4/34].

things that I had much experience with. In addition to learning how to write blogs and biographies, I learned that writing for academia and for the public require slightly different approaches. It took me about two biographies and blog posts to transition from academic writing into writing for public consumption. Being able to change my writing to fit the audience however, is a very important skill to have and I am glad that I was exposed to these different writing styles while at this internship. I thoroughly enjoyed working for the Maryland State Archive this summer and I intend to apply to work her again next summer.