

MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES

2009 Summer Internship Program

Artistic Property Commission

Thea Chimento, *St. John's College*

Baltimore Ecosystem Resources Project

Allison Diviney, *Hood College*

Colonial Records Digitization Project –EBOOKS

Christian Skipper, *St. Mary's College*

LOIS JONES – MARYLAND COLONIAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL INTERNSHIP

IT

Ashley Dyjack, *University of Maryland Baltimore County*

Patrick Ngugi, *Glen Burnie High School*

Library/Publications Conservation

Rachel Bartgis, *St. John's College*

Allison Rein, *University of Maryland, College Park*

Poplar Grove Collection

James Bigwood, *Washington College*

Nathaniel Miller, *Salisbury University*

Reference Volunteers

Lauren Coughlin, *Southern High School*

Robert Graham, *Salisbury University*

Michelle Kenner, *Harford Community College*

Cassie Kilroy Thompson, *University of Maryland Baltimore County*

State House Research

Adam Baig, *University of Richmond*

Justin Gore, *University of Maryland Baltimore County*

Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland

Antuan Bradford, *Morgan State University*

Natalia Cuadra-Saez, *University of Maryland, College Park*

Women's Hall of Fame Research Project

Stephanie Berger, *Williams College*

Summary of Internship, August 2009—Artistic Properties Commission

Since I was working with the registrar of the state art collection, my projects for the summer were focused on collections management and directed towards two major goals: to make the art that we steward more accessible to the public, and to help maintain our collections.

Working with the website

As part of the first goal, my chief project this summer was to work with the APC website, which allows visitors to browse through the art collections and read biographies of the artists, sitters, and histories of the objects. It also provides basic information on the objects themselves, such as the media, the date made, and the dimensions.

The purpose of the APC website is to provide an educational tool and an effective vehicle to showcase as much of the collection as possible, even when not all of it available for display or easily accessible to the public. When I began working on the website, many of the images of the works of art were of poor quality. Some were missing altogether. Though the images are grouped by artist and by subject, many needed their own page. Some works of art were listed in one group but not the other. The website thus needed to have a more consistent format, and it needed more information available in order to make the website a more useful tool for online visitors.

I searched the APC records for good-quality images of the artwork and added them to pages which had none. I replaced images of poor quality or fixed them in Photoshop. I also made sure that each work of art had its own page and that it was included on the page of the artist who made it. I kept track of the changes on an Excel spreadsheet, and made lists of the images and information that still need to be added to the website. As more information becomes available, it can be easily added to the page. In total, I added or changed approximately 500 images and pages on the website.

There are still some images that need to be added—about 25 or 30 in all. As better quality pictures become available, some of the images currently on view should be replaced, but this is not a high priority. I do think it is important that missing biographies of sitters be added, particularly in the Annapolis Collection, because it is largely comprised of portraits of state officials, and it would be useful for online visitors to see what contribution the sitters made to the history of the state. Biographies of artists, particularly of ones that are noteworthy in and of themselves or of ones that have special importance for the Annapolis and Peabody collections, should be added to the site as well. In addition, I think it would be helpful to add links to other places on the Archives site—for example, to the State House Website, to the Maryland Manual, or a link to, say, George Washington's resignation speech or letters from Charles Willson Peale to the sitters whose portraits he painted. This isn't of course strictly necessary, but it might be a nice project for someone who is willing to undertake it. It would probably increase traffic on the APC site as well as the Archives site. It seems to me that a casual browser who wants to see what the State's art collection consists of would be more likely to poke around if the links are available, and a visitor who is looking for specific information will probably appreciate having some of the links available already. This would also have the additional benefit of introducing more online visitors to what is available at the Archives, especially if they were previously unaware of the kind of information we have online. As I was searching through the site, I particularly enjoyed finding more information that made the sitters in each portrait "come alive"—for example, a toast that Governor Nice made to his wife on the occasion of their anniversary, which can be found online on her biography page.

In addition to working with the Annapolis and Peabody Collections, Chris asked me to work with the Peabody Works on Paper collection site. The goal is to have the website eventually display over 1000 works of art. Right now, visitors can only access the collection via a page organized by the artist or school, which is not very conducive to browsing. In addition, if a visitor wants to find a specific piece, but does not know the name of the artist, they must browse through several hundred pages until they do find it.

To date, I have added a subject page for the Works on Paper collection, which covers the ten major categories of the collection. Each category page has a list of artwork, sorted by title, which corresponds roughly to the category. This artwork is also sorted under smaller headings to make it easier for the visitor to find what they need more quickly. Ultimately, each smaller heading should have its own page with a list of the works and their images. However, the website is laid out in such a way that it will take a lot of time to complete this work—judging from the time I spent this summer on the Annapolis and Peabody Collections, 40-50 hours at least—and it is complicated by the fact that I was only able to sort the lists by title, so that as we begin matching images to their proper pages, more of the titles will have to be moved around. (For example, if a page is titled “A Woman,” it may belong in Nudes, Studies, or Portraiture, but until I have seen the image, it will be impossible for me to tell.)

Another possibility, which would make the collection a great deal easier to search, would be to create a simple database search function, possibly in SQL or a similar program. This would, however, require attaching descriptive tags to each piece, and while the greater ease of searching would make the project worthwhile, it would also take many hours to complete.

Public Displays and Exhibitions

In addition to making the artwork available online, I also helped to present and hang artwork. One of the largest projects I undertook this summer was with fellow intern Justin Gore—we hung 46 panels from a former exhibit, “Maryland Time Exposures” in various places around the Archives. I also helped to hang pictures in the Court of Appeals and in the Governor’s Office, and attended a reception at the Comptroller’s office, where Sasha and Chris had hung some of the State’s artwork, to meet with other members of museums and arts councils and help promote the arts and artists in Maryland.

In June, I helped to set up display cases in the State House which exhibited materials related to the restoration of the House of Delegates Chamber and the history of the Maryland and United States flags. The exhibit was intended to let visitors know what was being planned in the upcoming restoration of the House of Delegates Chamber, and as a supplement to the Flag Day celebration where the new John Shaw flag was unveiled.

Working with the Collections

Working with the collections comprised much of the day-to-day work during my internship. There were three major aspects to the job: working with the public access and reproduction rights; working with the information about the collections; and maintaining the collections.

My role in working with the public was quite small—it mostly consisted of helping to maintain loan records and rights and reproduction requests in their proper files. I was also responsible for finding information stored in various files in the Archives stacks and making sure that all the important information was stored in folders directly relating to the objects. It did,

however, help me to see more aspects of the registrar's job and what is involved when an artwork goes on loan to somewhere other than the Archives.

Part of maintaining the collections involved doing condition reports on objects which we received from storage or from museums. For example, in June, we received 17 paintings from Security Moving and Storage which needed condition reports; in July, we received Col. Nathan Towson's sword from the Winterthur Museum. We also transferred several chairs, a table, and a clock from the Executive Department to the MSA inventory, and all of these also needed documentation and reporting.

In addition to condition reporting, we also did a non-capitalized inventory (which includes objects under a certain value). This had not been done for several years, and so we checked to make sure that nothing was missing or broken and reported on the new locations of the pieces in the Archives' collection.

We also added thick foam to the stack shelves in order to cushion the artwork and minimize any damage that the pieces might sustain from moving the stacks. We also attached tags to the pieces so that they would be more easily identifiable when trying to find them on the shelves. Justin and I also measured, inventoried and catalogued all the frames belonging to APC, so that the department would know what resources were available for future exhibitions.

Chris and I also occasionally did damage control for pieces in the collection. During inventory, we found a painting whose frame had pieces of gilding coming loose. We had to remove the loose pieces and box them separately, as well as carefully repack the frame to minimize further losses.

One of the most exciting parts of the maintenance of the collection was cleaning an old desk which used to be in the House of Delegates. Sasha and Chris had picked it up early in June from a member of the Randall family, and it had to be treated for mold. After the desk had been frozen and vacuumed by the conservation staff, I treated it with mineral spirits as a further measure to abate the mold before it was conserved by a professional conservator. I really enjoyed the chance to work on a piece in the collection directly.

Even though it was not strictly my department, I also spent a good deal of time in Conservation. Chris and I frequently had to borrow the lab facilities to examine paintings and repair them, and so I got to talk to Vicki and Jenn and learn about their work as well. Towards the end of the internship, Rachel Bartgis showed me how to make a book wraparound and how to make wet tissue mends, which was very exciting as well.

Research

I was assigned some smaller research projects for pieces in our collection. Sometimes these were to clear up issues relating to the state collections. For example, when our guides give tours in the State House and they give a talk about the Edwin White painting of George Washington resigning his commission, visitors frequently ask if the artist John Trumbull painted himself into his version (which hangs in the Capitol.) I was asked to research this question, and found the answer (he did not), as well as a possible explanation for the confusion.

I also did some research on the chairs designed by Lawrence Hall Fowler at the time the old Hall of Records was built. APC wanted to get an idea of their current value for appraisal purposes. I was also assigned smaller research projects on the provenance of particular pieces, or the history of their style.

I really enjoyed working with the Commission, and I am very glad that I got an opportunity to learn so much about collections management, planning, and art handling and preservation! I'm looking forward to using the skills that I have learned here once I return to my regular job at St. John's, and I really appreciate the kindness, generosity and helpfulness of the whole department, and everyone's willingness to accommodate an intern for the summer. It was a wonderful opportunity and I feel so fortunate that I was able to take advantage of it.

Project Summary

My project was to gather information about the history and property of the people whose land was condemned for Baltimore City's expansion of the Loch Raven Reservoir in the 1920s. The original document I was given to work with came from the Ronald E. Parks collection, which the archives acquired in February. It consisted part of the report from the Baltimore City Water Board's Valuation Commission, the group of men who examined the necessary land and estimate purchase prices. In the last three weeks or so of the program, we've acquired additional useful documents from the Baltimore City Archives.

In the beginning, I was given many broad questions to look into, which I summarized for myself in the first several weeks:

1. Who were the people? What were their lives like? How did they interact with the environment?
2. How did the condemnation of the land disrupt/change people's lives? Where did they end up after their properties were condemned?
3. What does this ultimately say about the public claiming of private land (eminent domain)?

I worked primarily with the first and second questions. Initially it was suggested I approach the people from a biographical perspective, but ultimately that proved to be too time-consuming and detailed. As I discovered more and more sources of information, the list of people whose land was condemned kept increasing exponentially. Thus I slowly learned the full scale of the questions I was being asked, and realized my project should mainly be about testing the waters for further research. I was mostly left to my own devices to come up with the best way to organize my raw information usefully.

Thus what I've done these last few weeks is compile some of the biographical information I'd researched this summer into a spreadsheet, in order to look at the demographics of the landowners and their families. From this table I can see things like whether or not they moved to a different area after their land was bought, what their occupations were, if they had any children living with them at the time, and when they first bought the condemned land and when they sold it to the city. Information like this can be used to determine the extent of the potential human cost to the reservoir project.

I've managed to gather full or partial information for around 50 landowners on this spreadsheet, and calculate some demographic data about them.

One of the things I learned is that the average age of the landowners in 1920 (the year the act to expand Loch Raven was passed) was about 58. The youngest I've encountered is 34. For those who have children, the average number of children is 4.7. Despite the older average age of the landowners, 58.3% of households in 1920 included children under the age of 18, including servants or children not directly related to the landowners themselves.

Based on 33 of these landowners, the average lifespan was 77.6. By comparison, according to the CDC, the average U.S. lifespan in 2006 was 77.7. Why were the landowners of Dulaney Valley apparently so long-lived? Is this some kind of statistical fluke? Once someone makes it past 58 (the average age of the landowners), are they then more likely to get another 20 years? Is it simply that they were more financially well-off, and thus healthier than the general population? The reason is unclear, but in any case, over half of them lived to be over 80 years old.

Out of 40 of these landowners, the most common jobs were "none," and jobs related to farming, either farm laborers or farmers. Approximately 22.5% had no occupation (likely due to age), 22.5% were farmers, and 17.5% had a job directly connected to the Warren cotton mill. Interestingly, 17.5% were in some kind of management position, and 7.5% were lawyers.

Out of 36 landowners, in 1920 at least 9 were not living on their land that would soon be condemned. This 25% are those who lived in Baltimore City, and thus, probably had tenants on the land they owned in the county. Out of those who did live in the county, over half (52.8%) lived in District 8, 11.1% lived in District 9, 8.3% lived in District 10, and 2.8% lived in District 11.

Based on 30 of these landowners, most of them were able to stay in the same district after the reservoir's expansion. Overall, even if they did relocate, 56.7% managed to stay in the same district as before. A smaller number, about 23.3%, moved from a district of Baltimore county to the city. The remaining 20% moved from one district to another, usually an adjacent one.

Another interesting set of information concerns marriages, or lack thereof. There were at least two women living in the area who divorced their husbands, one for neglect and abuse, one for infidelity. There were also at least six women who never married at all, and simply managed their land by themselves. It seems that history textbooks generalize too much regarding the role of women in society in this time period – these women all lived much of their lives before they were even allowed to vote, yet many of them were clearly formidable and independent individuals who were successful in society.

The most interesting aspect of this research has occurred at the level of individuals. I've been able to analyze the lives of several fascinating people. One was a woman who married at least three times, the third time to her former brother-in-law, who divorced her sister and married her two months later. In one set of city solicitor files, one official cautions another that she is an "attractive widow," and this may influence a jury if she

were to take matters to court (she was 44 at the time). One landowner was the uncle of the famous (and infamous) Duchess of Windsor, and the duke and duchess once paid him a high-profile visit at his farm. There was the family of an Orphan's Court judge, whose 17-year-old son committed suicide about a year after his father died, allegedly to avoid the WWI draft. There were the four Cockey sisters, all over 60 and unmarried, who managed the farm they grew up on together. There is the tragic story of Glen Ellen castle, a beautiful gothic mansion owned by Henry L. Brack, that fell into disrepair, was bought by the city, and torn down completely in the 1930s. It is these stories that give the truest sense of the human cost; the disruption, major or minor, that took place at Loch Raven.

There are many potential areas for future work, aside from completing the spreadsheet I started as best as can be done (some information is simply missing – like people disappearing from the censuses during a critical year). One of most important, in my opinion, is tracking down the tenants of the landowners. Since so many landowners lived in Baltimore City in 1920, they were not the ones working the land, and thus it is their tenants that would have been most impacted by the land's condemnation, not them. Unfortunately, there is no official list of tenants, and the only reason I know about some at all is that my sources from the Ronald E. Parks collection and the city archives mention them in an offhand sort of way.

Another project area that I dabbled in briefly myself could be determining what crops were grown and what animals raised in the Loch Raven watershed. There are the descriptions and photographs that the city's Valuation Commission took of the different properties, and there are wills and inventories that may list crops and animals. Occasionally references to the properties mention things like runoff from animal waste, and periodic problems with flooding. Knowing what the farmers were actually farming could help with estimating the environmental impact that humans were having on the watershed.

Ideally, samples from the bottom of the reservoir could be analyzed to see exactly what impact the condemnation had on the health of the ecosystem. I would expect that in such samples, when the dam was raised and the land flooded could be clearly seen (indicated by a dramatic temporary increase in soil and debris), and that there would also be a noticeable reduction in harmful chemicals and excess nitrogen in the decades after the condemnation.

Another project could be focused purely around Warren and/or Phoenix – entire towns built around textile mills that were bought out and flooded. While many of the farmers outside of town had enough local property that they didn't have to move, or enough money that it seems they just bought land in an adjacent district, I don't know if this would be the case for the lowest-tier workers at the mills.

A final project suggestion involves investigating land speculation in the area at this time. The city solicitor files include a newspaper clipping from the Baltimore Sun advertising "good speculation" around Loch Raven, because the city had to buy the land. One of the

landowners informed an official in a correspondence that speculators have tried to make her offers for her land. The extent to which this occurred is unclear.

Overall someone could probably write several theses on the various aspects of the 1922 Loch Raven expansion. As far as I can tell, this topic has not been extensively explored in academia before, though it has a great deal of potential.

Assignment Overview:

- Create hyperlinks between corresponding Brown Book abstract entries and the 1946 microfilm images assembled in e-book format online.
- Create hyperlinks for the units of the 256 items comprising series TE1 (the 1946 microfilm reels recovered from California).
- Link the Finding Guide at the back of the Brown Books (a kind of chronological index) to corresponding entries.

Accomplished:

- The two above tasks were accomplished very quickly using Zotero. This note-taking program became its own miniature project for me, as I used its capabilities to set up shortcuts and efficient, almost automated methods of increasing the efficiency of hyperlinking pages. This allowed me to complete the aforementioned tasks in a significantly shorter time than expected.
- This left me, however, without a defined task to continue working on. I moved on to assess the accessibility of these files and attempt to improve upon that aspect of the TE1 series.
- I did so by creating, within the Brown Books series units, a hyperlinked index of subjects which had already been provided in text form by the original editor of this material. Using the Zotero techniques I'd developed, this was largely a matter of cutting and pasting various links into HTML shortcuts and templates. The index, therefore, was accomplished by the fifth week or so.
- From here I expanded my perspective to indexing more generally, and as several of my peers were hard at work on the Poplar Grove papers I wondered if I could work on that promising initiative. Maria and Ed directed me to the hodge-podge that is Series 13, and I have since that point been at work transcribing these and compiling an index using Zotero in order to render a somewhat direction-less series into a searchable database. Despite setbacks largely involving the incomprehensibility of the handwriting, I have been able to transcribe and index roughly 200 pages.

Direction for the future:

- Accessibility – this is an initiative that I am very interested in. Making the resources available on the Archives website easily accessible to the public is a challenge. Creating indexes, in which a patron may find the name of a person or place he or she was looking for, and directly linking to the appropriate e-book, is one step in this direction. The staff here recently redesigned the search function, and that is an outstanding achievement, but the nature of e-books keeps transcriptions out of those search results. There is no effective way around this at the moment, as the E-books are stored on a separate website. Indexes with links found somewhere on the central Archives website seem the most immediate method to increase the accessibility of these precious primary source documents.
- The Maryland Papers – My favorite aspect of the summer's internship; this series, which I spent most of my time on, is a comparatively untapped resource at the Archives due to its being out of circulation for some time. Rendering it digital and searchable in e-books format is a worthwhile goal, and we are well on our way to doing just that. I would estimate that, if one person was dedicated to this task using Zotero, the entire Maryland Papers Rainbow Series (Brown Books, Black Books, Red Books, Blue Books) would be indexed and properly hyperlinked within roughly eight to nine weeks. These are currently accessible in the Guide to Government

Records, and following the example of the Brown Books could be searched by subject or chronology once this process is complete.

- The Poplar Grove Index Project – Given the popularity of the finds at Poplar Grove, this may be the most profitable or at least noteworthy pursuit that I have taken part in. The process of indexing and rendering these documents searchable will be a longer term process, if we choose to move ahead in the E-books format. It involves scanning, at which Jim and Nathan have been working very hard, as well as transcribing and writing an index, eventually finding some conspicuous place on the website to host these Zotero-based indexes. Even so, it is most certainly worth the work, especially if there is a strategy to the order in which the plethora of available documents are digitized and opened to the public on our website.

Highlights:

- Zotero – What seemed to be a program that I could not figure out how to integrate into my work quickly became the tool that dramatically increased my efficiency. Using multiple windows and an strategy of adapting a copy-and-paste, HTML shortcut system to each task allowed me to very quickly set up almost automated processes once I had established certain templates in Zotero. Figuring out how to use this program was very rewarding, and I imagine that it has even more uses for other aspects of our online work here at the Archives.
- Finishing the Maryland Papers – This was exciting, as I had finished it much quicker than I had expected. Exponentially speeding up due to improving the methods I employed, I was very proud to have added a link to every Brown Book abstract entry and corresponding microfilm image within three weeks or so. The accomplishment of this goal made me aware how realistic the possibility of doing the same to the rest of the Rainbow Series in 2009. It also made me aware, however, that I had only scratched the surface of this collection; I realized that despite my success, that creating indexes for the entirety of TE1, much of which does not contain a convenient abstract format, will involve developing other inventive techniques.

PROGRESS REPORT

Intern Rachel Bartgis

July 17, 2009

Six weeks into my summer internship I have been working steadily on the [Willman Spawn Collection](#), with 18 items out of an estimated 50 completely cataloged, photographed, and uploaded to the Special Collections website. In the last two weeks I have begun to progress much faster since my system for note-taking, entry coding, filing, and photographing is now fully developed. Deciding how to approach this project initially was the most time-consuming part. I consulted extensively with other staff members to make sure that my project would be set up correctly with the Archives' web infrastructure to benefit the public the most and to learn how to store and label the items correctly to assist future staff members. Staff members from numerous departments also helped me acquire software licenses and editing permissions.



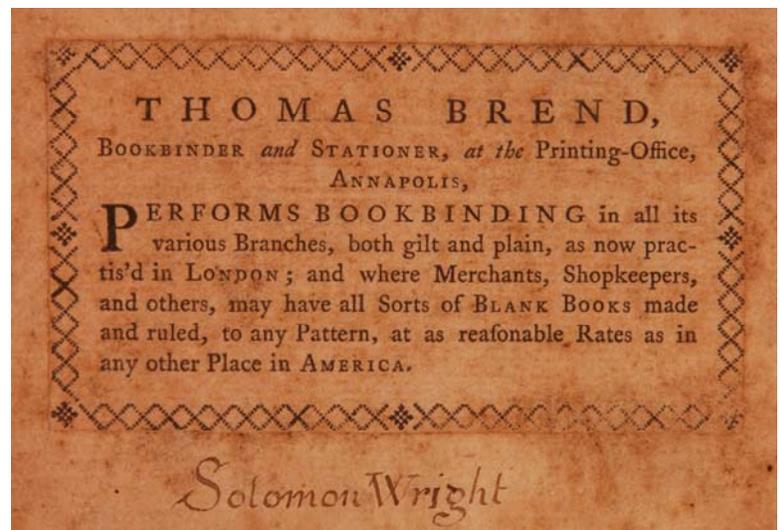
I consulted with Vicki Lee and Jenn Cruickshank in the conservation lab on how to store the cataloged bindings in the collection. They recommended wrapping the bindings in Tyvek and labeling each one, and showed me how to construct Coroplast boxes to store the collection. Another staff member showed me the correct way to make labels and printed them for me.

The visit of Mr. Spawn on June 26th yielded several items of interest, and over the last week I have photographed and researched three bindings of particular interest, [MSA SC 5797-1-16](#), [MSA 5797-1-17](#), and [MSA 5797-1-18](#).

MSA SC 5797-1-16 is the 1780-1785 ledger report from the Auditor General. Although nearly identical in size, construction, and decoration to several other items in the collection such as [MSA SC 5797-1-3](#), this vellum-bound record book is unique for having a binder's ticket still pasted on top of the front endsheet. Some research on the internet led me to [The Exeter Working Papers in British Book Trade History](#), where I found a transcribed copy of the 1977 book [The London Book Trades 1775-1800](#). Listed was an entry for Samuel Goadby, stationer:

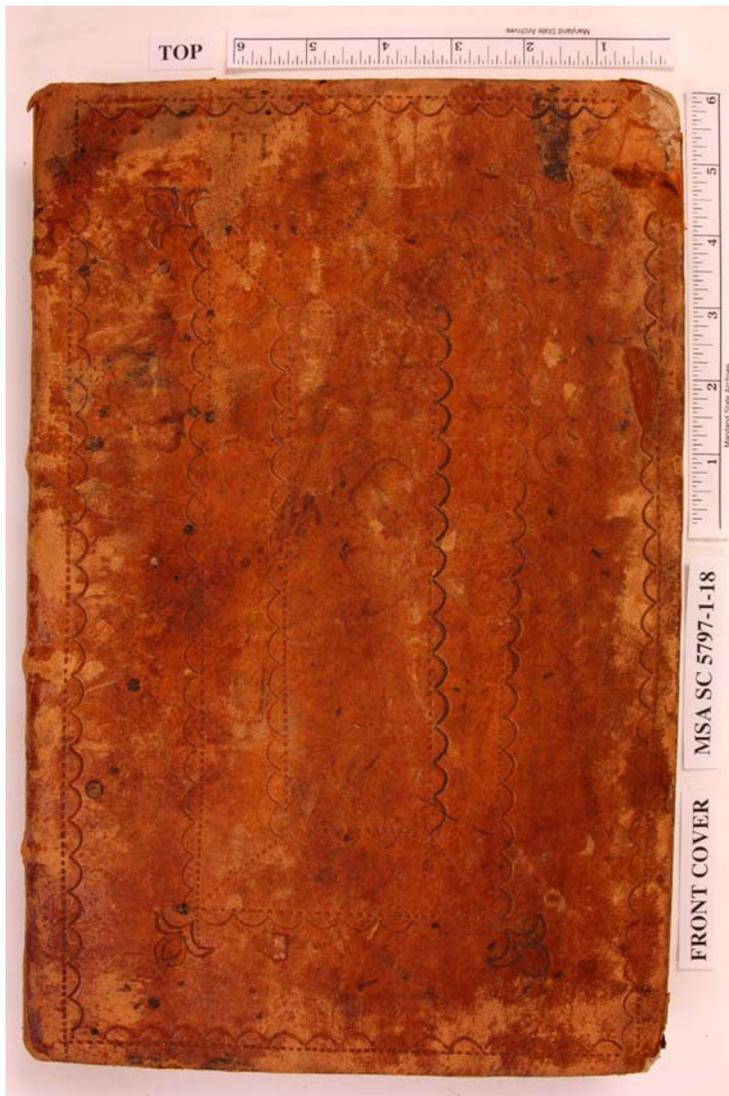
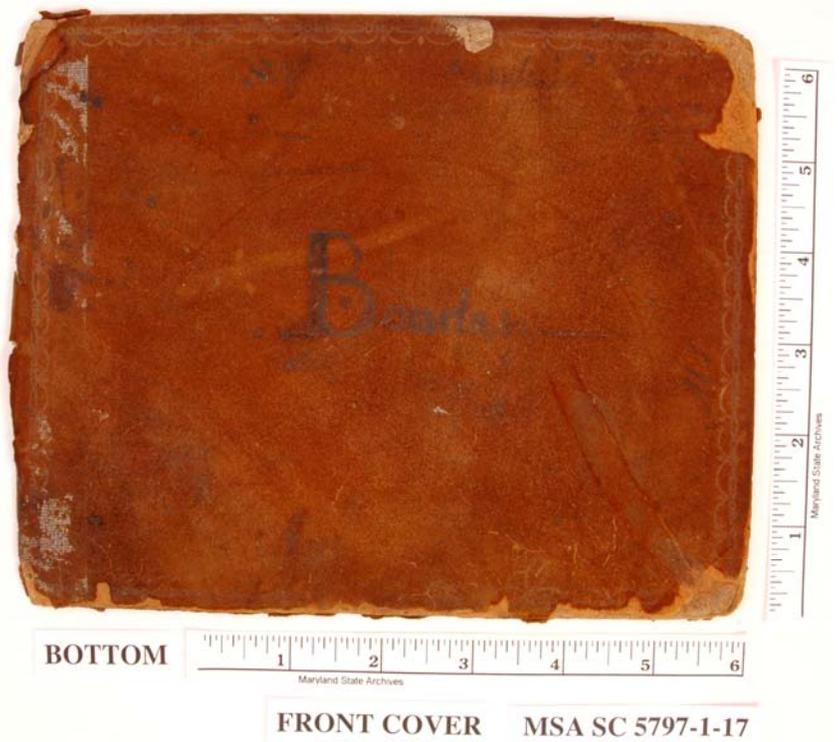
Sweetings Alley, Cornhill, 1754K-1763M; 18, Sweetings Alley 1767K-1804P. Trading: alone 1754K-1772K; as Goadby and Berry 1774K-1804P. B. 20 Sept. 1719, s. of Samuel G.; d. 22 June 1808, bur. Bunhill Fields. App. Virtue, stationer, Royal Exchange, livery Drapers' Co. by 1792. On the death of his master Goadby was taken into partnership by his widow. He supported her for 11 years and then married her. One of the founders of the Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge and also active in many other charitable fields. A dissenter...

I have found several [other references](#) to American works with Goadby's tickets in them, and emailed the author of the Exeter Working Papers site with a thank you and a request for suggestions for additional resources. It would be extremely useful if any other records could be found showing how this volume passed from Goadby's shop to America, be they Goadby's ledgers, ship records, or the purchase record for the auditor general



From MSA SC 5797-3-17

I discovered a particularly exciting record while cataloging small bindings stored in a cardboard box in the Spawn Collection. This small leather-bound volume from 1778 contains oaths of allegiance, census records, and lists of bonds in its text block, stored at [msa c1365-1](#). The spine of the volume is missing but the surviving covers are blind-tooled with two decorative rolls and “Bonds” written on the front of the volume in iron gall ink. The watermark is a variation on the Pro Patria. The front endpaper has a binder’s ticket that marks it as the work of Thomas Brend. I haven’t researched Brend’s time in Annapolis extensively, but Mr. Spawn’s book *Bookbinding In Early America* mentions that he was “a binder of Jefferson’s collection of the early laws of Virginia” (Spawn 153). [The Bookbinder in Eighteenth Century Williamsburg](#) (the Archives’ library also owns a copy) states that “Brend emigrated from England to Annapolis in 1764 and set up in trade there. It seems probable that he moved to Williamsburg with William Rind in 1766 or arrived shortly afterward” (Williamsburg 25).



Under the ticket is the name Solomon Wright. According to [Colonial Families and Their Descendents](#), Wright “was the judge, member of the colonial convention of 1775, member of the Association of Freeman, and progenitor of the “Blakeford” Wrights. He married Ann Sidmarsh, and was one of the first judges of the Court of Appeals, in 1778... Judge Solomon Wright and Nathaniel Turbutt Wright were two of the four delegates from Queen Anne’s County who were appointed to meet delegates at Annapolis from the other counties to form a constitution for the State.” In this one binding we have a definite example of the work of an Annapolis binder, proof that courts were buying ready-made record books locally when available, and the name of the official who used it to perform his office.



Detail of MSA SC 5797-1-18

The third volume, MSA SC 5797-1-18, is the volume Mr. Spawn determined to be locally made on the Eastern Shore. Although I haven’t begun any further research on the origin of this remarkable volume, it has been photographed and placed online. The rustic nature of the volume is more apparent with further inspection; for example, the dotted roll has been done twice in several places where the first time was particularly crooked, and few parts of the tooling are square or straight. It is still, however, a charming and fascinating volume.

This report is a conclusion to my mid-project progress report, currently located at N:\Rachel B\Spawn Collection Files\Progress report Rachel Bartgis

This summer I worked on the [Willman Spawn Collection](#), with the twin goals of cataloging the collection to establish what it contains and photographing it to begin a study on the history of watermarks and bookbinding in the court records of Colonial Maryland.

My main hurdle for the summer was developing a system for note-taking, entry coding, filing, photographing, and storing the collection and the information I gleaned from it. I consulted extensively with other staff members to make sure that my project would be set up correctly with the Archives' web infrastructure to benefit the public the most and to learn how to store and label the items correctly to assist future staff members.

By the end of the regular internship program I completely cataloged, stored, photographed, and uploaded 20 volumes to the Willman Spawn Collection. This process included

- choosing the bindings (including several bound volumes of interest in other collections)
- creating entries for the bindings and the photographs of the bindings and their watermarks
- finding the disbound contents of the bindings in the stacks
- linking the bindings to their contents through the Guide to Government Records
- photographing the bindings and their watermarks
- processing the photographs into PDFs and uploading the photographs to the website
- wrapping the bindings in Tyvek, labeling them, and storing them in labeled Coroplast boxes for safe, long-term storage and retrieval, and
- keeping detailed records of watermark and binding types and my research on them to facilitate further research into the origins of 18th century Maryland court record books.

I also cataloged, processed, and stored more than 100 bindings – most of them vellum – from the estimated 300 of the Spawn Collection. The 100+ finished records are all available for viewing online through the Special Collections website for members of the staff and the public.

I will continue to catalog the Spawn Collection during the coming year until all of its bindings are cataloged online and the physical items stored and labeled.

Rachel Bartgis

Allison Rein

In addition to my regular Conservation Lab and Library duties I have had three main projects this summer. The first, creating an external website for the Conservation Lab, documenting what conservation is and what kind of projects we have done, is still in progress. I am still working on citing the documents that appear in photos on various pages as well as finding scans of finished documents (if they're available) to link to. I'm also still working on creating a few pages, but for the most part I have finished the basic website structure. Of the unfinished pages, the emergency preparedness page needs the most work.

My other two projects were in cooperation with the Library. The first was an assignment from Dr. Papenfuse to disbind and organize the Archives' collection of Maryland Historical Magazines so they can be scanned and put online. Each volume was disbound into issues, rehoused in acid-free folders, and labeled with a special collections number. I also worked with Christine to make sure that once online, the magazine would be as consistent as possible; to do that we had to use duplicate copies to substitute the missing cover pages. This project is mostly finished, the boxes have been assigned locations in the stacks, and all that remains is to finish scanning them. However, this project will continue as the Maryland Historical Society publishes more magazines in the future.

Lastly, I worked on disbinding and cataloging some mysterious Land Office volumes from the Library. This project was similar to the Maryland Historical Magazine project, except when these volumes were disbound, their covers were kept in their boxes with the documents. Additionally, both Library accession numbers and Special Collections numbers were assigned. Dr. Papenfuse had requested that we scan several rare documents after they were disbound. Many of the documents were rare or important to the Archives and none of them had ever been cataloged before. The George Swearingen murder case was particularly interesting, but there were numerous others that were almost as interesting. One article was an epic poem written in three cantos, like Dante's Divine Comedy, about an alien descending from a comet to visit Baltimore during the Civil War. This project finished and is in its location in the stacks.

James Goldsborough Bigwood
August 9, 2009 — Poplar Grove
Maryland State Archives Internship

Project Summary

When the Internship started back in early June, my partner Nathan and I were given the task of transcribing a series of documents. However — this wasn't just any series. The group of papers that we were asked to sift through was none other than Series 13. It was a rather broad cross-section of the entire Poplar Grove collection that had been assembled by Dr. Papenfuse during last year's internship.

The basic idea behind this initial task was to try and compile a list of any *and every* document that pertained to the topic of slavery. At the start of the internship, Ed knew of two documents in this series that fit those specifications. Despite this, within a matter of a day, we had found thirteen more — bringing the total up to the staggering number of fifteen! This was quite the discovery, considering that it dramatically increased the number of documents that were related to slavery. If the collection's cross-section had increased its relevance to the history of slavery in Maryland, then surely the collection holds much more slavery related items than we currently know of. That was quite an exciting way to start out the program!

When we moved into the job of scanning, we were each given our own specific series. I started on Series 9, The John Tilghman papers. There were six clamshells (654 folders) ranging from the late eighteenth century through the mid nineteenth century. Interestingly enough, the materials covered a very wide spectrum of papers, going anywhere from wills, to letters and even large battalion returns from the 1820s.

Some of the more interesting documents that I came across:

(1794) Anne Tilghman's Will — this was the first document that I scanned. Unfortunately, there was some residue that was holding the two pieces of paper together and the document required a trip to the conservation lab. Luckily, the papers were able to be separated, and were scanned accordingly! [Scans 1 through 4]

(1824) Proceedings from a Court Martial on September 11th — these proceedings took place at the house of Mr. John Beard, with such people in attendance as Commandant John Tilghman and William B. Paca. Most of the cases had to do with things as small as missing routine drills. I find it rather interesting that something as inconsequential as a missed drill could warrant a court martial. [Scans 129 through 132]

(1825) Return of the 1st Battalion — most of the military returns that I came across were in poor condition. The papers were very large and cumbersome making them hard to fit onto a scanning bed. And to make matters worse, the middle of the pages were eaten away by insects and rodents! [Scans 179 through 182]

(1829) Louisiana Law — undoubtedly one of the stranger things that I ran across throughout the entire collection, I presume this section was at one time part of a law book. Interestingly enough, some of the pages had not yet been cut! I suppose the owner didn't care that much about the

laws, or else they would have been separated so the book could be read. It's a good thing the conservation lab was able to do the job, and now people can read these freshly cut pages!
[Scans 380 through 387]

The next series that I worked on was Series 8, The Albert T. Emory papers. This was a smaller series with only one clamshell (33 folders in total). The date ranged slightly over thirty years, from 1833 to 1865.

Seeing as there were so few items in this series, there was only one that I thought stood out from the rest:

(1839-41) Albert Emory's Dickinson Report Cards — these documents were quite interesting to look at. Apparently back in the mid nineteenth century, colleges used to send monthly reports.
[Scans 13 through 20]

Following Series 8, I moved onto Series 12, The Lloyd Tilghman papers. Although only one clam shell, this was by far the most intensive period of scanning that I endured! Within the confines of that one box, I found what appeared to be Lloyd Tilghman's lifetime collection of receipts. Each and every one had its own character. Some were as simple as a small piece of paper with some numbers written on it, while others were quite detailed and colorful. Despite all of these receipts, there were some other assorted documents spread throughout the container. After finishing this container, it became nearly impossible to fit the contents back within the box, so we had to separate it into another clam shell! This resulted in sort of an odd finish, as I started with one clamshell and ended up with two.

Some of the more interesting items found:

(1850) Dorsey's Exchange Hotel Receipt — for food? Champagne? The reason I'm drawn to this receipt is it has a fabulous image of the old Baltimore Exchange & Custom House. This was a beautiful old Benjamin Latrobe building that was built in 1819 and razed around 1901/2. It holds quite a place in the history of Baltimore as Abraham Lincoln lay in state under its dome shortly after being assassinated.
[Scans 752 through 753]

(1860) Kimberly Brothers Provisions Packers Receipt — receipt for food. It advertises for "Barrel Beef, Pork, Lard, Hams, Smoked & Dried Beef, Pickled & Smoked Tongues, Pigs Feet, Tripe, &c." The thing that made this receipt so amazing was how visually pleasing it is to the eye! The red ink looks like it could have been printed on April 5, 2009 much less April 5, 1860. This is probably the most well preserved piece that I have seen thus far!
[Scans 459 through 460]

(1863) Lloyd Tilghman's Lawyer's License — oddly enough, this document was only valid for less than one year. Possibly this had something to do with the Civil War effort?
[Scans 151 through 152]

(1866) Lloyd Tilghman Check — this magnificent piece is from January 30, 1866. It's written to A.W. Thompson for the sum of \$122.65 (quite an amount of money for its day and age!)
[Scans 728 through 729]

The final series in which I scanned documents was Series 7, Land Records Related to the Family. This had a variety of things ranging from massive early nineteenth century plats to late seventeenth century indentures. This series was a little more spread out than the previous three with 137 folders spread over three boxes. With such a nice spread, it was much easier to maneuver through and luckily, I was able to finish on my last day.

The most interesting documents that I came across in this series were:

(1664) Surveyed Lands along the Wye River — dated April 16, 1664, this document is of the utmost importance to the Poplar Grove collection, as it predates what was previously thought to be the oldest document in the collection by over a year!
[Scans 1 through 4]

(1673) Indenture — dated December 9, 1673, this document was of great interest to me simply because it was held together by a small pin. It is a prime example of how two papers could be attached to one another in the colonial era, without using a type of staple or wax seal.
[Scans 7 through 13]

All in all, the Summer 2009 Internship Program was quite a fruitful endeavor I believe, for both the Maryland State Archives, and myself. When my cohort Nathaniel and I were assigned our series in the beginning of the summer, it was hoped that we would each be able to scan two full series before the end of the internship. I am proud to say that as of now, we have each eclipsed that mark, with my four completed series and Nathan currently on his fourth.

Seeing that we accomplished more than what was originally expected, I was (and still am) quite happy with the way things turned out. Nathan was a great partner to work with and I feel confident saying that we got along quite well. Maria was a caring and attentive boss, giving us both just the right advice at the right time. Happily, I didn't encounter too many problems at all. The only things that caused the slightest bit of worry were the lack of disk space on the N: drive initially allocated to us, and the varying conditions of the documents. Whenever we ran into a conservation problem though, the people in the laboratory were more than helpful in getting them taken care of.

Throughout the summer, I completed 3191 total scans, and 4 series. Because I was able to finish the last clam shell of my final assigned series on my last day, I'm happy to say that there is nothing that I was assigned that I didn't do! Hopefully anyone continuing work on the Poplar Grove Project will have an easier time not having to pick up scanning in the middle of a series. And if I'm lucky, I'll be the future person to have that luxury!

I had an absolute blast this summer and look forward to getting the opportunity to come back. Many Thanks!

Nathaniel Miller Summary Report

My internship project dealt with working on the Poplar Grove Project in the Special Collections division under supervisor Maria Day and I worked with fellow intern James Bigwood on this project. The three main areas we worked on during our internship were searching and transcribing documents found in series 13 dealing with slaves, scanning as many series as we could and write a few blog reports on the Poplar Grove Project Blog about things we've found. We also went on two field trips to the Josiah Henson house, also called Uncle Tom's Cabin, and to the Button Farm, which is a recreation of an 18th century plantation. These trips helped me to better understand slave life and the Poplar Grove plantation. I will now go into further detail about my work in each area and tell of my findings, what I accomplished and learned and what may be left to do.

For the first two weeks of my internship, I along with James, were assigned with searching series 13 of the Poplar Grove collection for anything dealing with slaves and transcribing the documents we found. We were also to report our findings to Maria and Dr. Papenfuse. This was assigned so as to get used to reading the kind of handwriting we would be seeing in documents we would be scanning in the future. Between the two of us we found around 15 documents in series 13 dealing with slaves. I transcribed 8 documents that dealt with fugitive slaves, a petition to regulate the sale of liquor to slaves, a petition about what to do with slaves towards the end of slavery, a house slave rental, lists of slaves and letters dealing with slaves and asking about slaves. We then presented our findings in a project progress report meeting with other interns to Dr.

Papenfuse. We also met with Chris Haley to tell him about the kinds of things we had found. Through searching and transcribing these slave documents I came to learn more about slave life, like the fear of being sold and being caught if you ran away and the daily hardships of there life. The two field trips that we went on also helped put a picture to the lives slaves were living and certainly helped me connect more with how life really was for a slave and how plantations were actually like. As for anything possibly being left to do, I believe that me and James found most of the documents in series 13 dealing with slaves, but a couple more may be found if the series is searched with a fine tooth comb.

Scanning was the majority of my internship project because most of the Poplar Grove Collection had not been scanned and therefore was not saved digitally. I was assigned to scan series 4, 5 and 14. Series 4 dealt with Thomas Emory's papers, series 5 with John Emory and series 14 was a collection of miscellaneous documents. With each series I learned something new about Poplar Grove and the family that lived there.

I picked up series 4 where the last intern left off and started with scan 1,620 and completed the series with scan 3,125. Through scanning this series I learned a lot about Thomas Emory and his dream of creating the Eastern Shore Rail Road. Almost all of the documents dealt with the Eastern Shore Rail Road Company in some fashion.

Documents, such as, a survey of a rail line from Rice Creek to the Green Swamps and a bill draft from the 1830's trying to set the footwork for the railroad like how it would be funded and controlled. Resolutions were also found of the Eastern Shore Rail Road concerning the importance of the railroad to the Eastern Shore and how stocks were to be used to pay for the railroad. I also found a couple of seals for the Eastern Shore Rail Road Company from 1836, which are believed to actually be from 1836 after I consorted with a

member of the B&O Railroad museum. I also found a ticket in prime condition for the Queen Anne's & Kent Rail Road from 1871. I found myself so excited and interested with all this information that I decided to post a blog report on the Poplar Grove Project Blog with pictures and information about my finds. James and I also had a meeting with Dr. Papenfuse to report some of our findings and I presented my Poplar Grove Project Blog about the Eastern Shore Rail Road.

Series 5, John Emory's series, was a shorter series that I completed and consisted of 649 scans. This series provides, I believe, a good look into army life since most of the documents dealt with John R. Emory and the B Company, 6th regiment infantry of which he commanded. In this series I found many ordinances dealing with John and his company, as well as, lists telling of the kind of clothes, camp gear and equipment that were ordered and used along with a Baltimore Sun newspaper telling of the proposed evacuation of Fort Sumter in 1861. One other interesting find was that of a land deed called Brampton going to John Emory. I found this interesting since Brampton is the area of Chestertown.

Series 14 was by far the biggest series that I had been assigned, being 10 clamshells, many of which were filled with receipts, books, journals and logs, some of which had wax pages. This series I unfortunately have not finished, I am currently half way through clamshell 8 of 10. I have done over 2,500 scans alone in series 14, which indicates the size of this series. I found this series to be very interesting because it dealt with many different people such as, Matthew Tilghman, William Hemsley, Ezekiel Chambers, William Stevens and Lloyd Emory Tilghman, just to name a few. It also dealt with many topics as you might imagine, like a long court case over a piece of Ezekiel

Chambers' estate, Lloyd Emory Tilghman's education and military career, Hemsley, Tilghman and Emory genealogies and businesses in Baltimore. Much was also found dealing with the Pennsylvania railroad and the engineering that goes into railroads. Note that there are 2 1/2 clamshells that still need to be done from this series.

Now that I have gone into some detail about what I have accomplished, found and what is left to do I would quickly like to mention some raw numbers. I have completed series 4 and 5 and most of series 14 to a combined number of 14 clamshells and over 4,600 scans. I have enjoyed my time here at the archives and have loved working with Maria and James as well as the other interns and staff. Maria has been a great supervisor to both James and me and I am grateful to have had the chance to work with her and learn from her and everyone else here at the archives. I just learned yesterday that my internship has been extended through September and was ecstatic when I heard this news since I had hoped to continue to work here. Lastly I just want to thank the Maryland State Archives for this opportunity and great experience that this internship has given me.

Justin Gore
August 6, 2009

Internship Summary

The internship program I participated in at the Maryland State Archives was under the supervision of the Artistic Properties Commission with my immediate supervisors being Sasha Lourie and Elaine Bachmann. During the course of the program I was assigned many different tasks that mainly dealt with the history and interpretation of the Maryland State House. Having background knowledge about the State House before starting the internship, through my employment with Watermark Tours, I was designated to work half a day at the State House and the other half at the Archives. Through my split time schedule, I was able to accomplish many different tasks and projects both at the Archives and the State House.

The main project I was assigned was to write a tour manual for the interpretation of the Maryland State House for new docents learning the history of the building. The main emphasis of the manual is to point out the four centuries of history within the State House spanning from the 17th century through the 20th century. The manual is split up into six sections including the introduction, overview, 18th century, 19th century, 20th century, and the appendix. New docents in training should be able to use this manual as a comprehensive guide for the history and interpretation of the State House including all of the art within. The manual will also be distributed to other tour companies in Annapolis, including Watermark Tours and Capital Colonials Tours. The manual is in the final stages of edits and changes so it is very close to completion.

As one of my early projects I created a scavenger hunt for the State House. The idea was to create a handout for children coming into the State House in order to get them

interested in the history in a more accessible and fun way. I took pictures of various items throughout the building, including plaques, statues, flags and notable places and organized the pictures on six different sheets. When children come in to the State House that do not want to participate in a public tour, they can take a scavenger hunt and find the historic items and tell the significance of each. If they complete the hunt, they receive a Maryland state flag sticker. The scavenger hunt has been very well received by the visitors of the State House. The total number of hunts handed out for the month of July was 174.

Other tasks that I worked on, and completed, throughout the program included hanging the Maryland Time Exposure pictures throughout the Archives building with fellow intern Thea, creating a graphic design sign to display and advertise the scavenger hunt in the State House, electronically backing up the log books and calendars at the State House by creating Excel spreadsheets, training the State House staff in using computer systems including the Excel log sheets and the State Archives VPN and helping the State House staff in giving public tours of the building. On average, during the half of the day I was at the State House, I would give 3-5 public tours. The spreadsheets I created for the State House include the foreign visitors log sheet, the daily tour log sheet, the state residence log sheet, and the calendars for writing down scheduled tours and appointments. All of these spreadsheets go through the end of the year 2009 and I also made blank templates to be used in 2010. I also tried to streamline the training of these spreadsheets by creating cheat sheet manuals with pictures to help explain how to use and update the spreadsheets. I was also a “jack of all trades” for any other task that needed

assistance including taking inventory of the time exposure pictures, taking an inventory of picture frames and helping APC staff with moving things.

Finally, a side project that was assigned to me involved the website mdstatehouse. I was tasked with reading through articles from newspaper spanning from the late 19th century to present day, summarizing those articles for the mdstatehouse database and creating a link to the scanned pdf of the article. This project was good for when there was down time between manual edits and public tours. There are, however, still quite a few articles to be added to the database but I feel that I helped further the usefulness of the mdstatehouse database.

These projects were entertaining, interesting, and very educational. Even though I came in with a large knowledge base of the Maryland State House and its history, I learned an abundance of information that I would have never gotten otherwise. I believe that the information that I obtained will help give my Annapolis interpretation career a helpful boost in accurate facts. I hope that the manual will be put to good use throughout Annapolis and that the master-plan of the State House is implemented within the near future to help spread the rich history of the building to visitors throughout the world.

Preserving the Black Past: Linking Archival Documents with African American History

The conservation and preservation of evidentiary documents serves many purposes, especially in the world of historical archival research. On one hand, these documents serve as the primary records for a variety of institutions, organizations, historical societies, charitable foundations, courthouse judicial records, etc. On the other hand, these documents have aided in the preservation and interpretation of history with most recent respect given to the preservation of African American history. James Oliver Horton, Professor of American Studies and History at George Washington University, and Spencer R. Crew, Professor of American, African American and Public History at George Mason University, have provided a framework for the reasoning and understanding for the preservation of African American history in museums and historic sites in the United States. Horton and Crew suggest in their article, "Afro-Americans and Museums: Towards a Policy of Inclusion", written for the book *History Museums in the United States* this framework by stating that

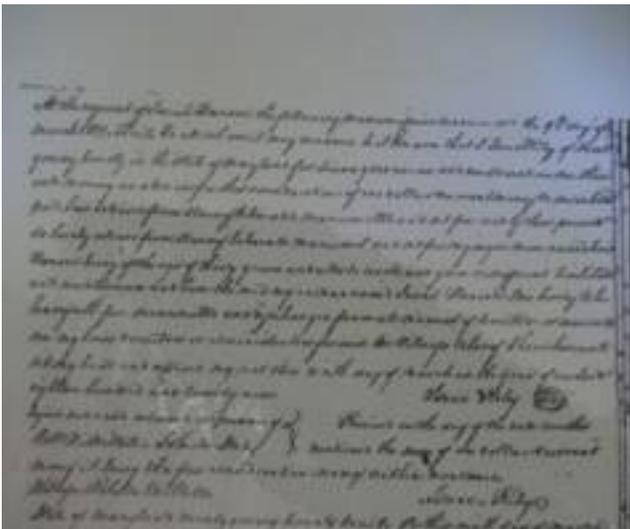
...the contributions and experiences of black people still are often excluded from the public presentation of our nation's history. Yet the renaissance in black history in the 1960s has made the historic reality of the Afro-American experience more difficult to ignore totally...museums, historic sites, and historic-theme presentations have wrestled with the decisions or how, or sometimes whether, to integrate their

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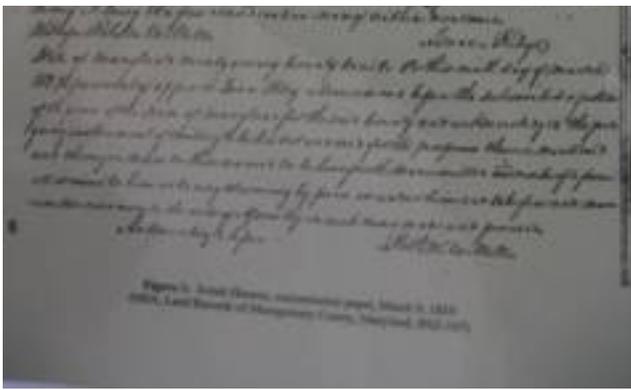
exhibitions.

This historical assertion could not hold any ground, whatsoever, without the archival evidentiary documents that give account of the accomplishments, activities and circumstances of African Americans. In speaking personally regarding archival research, sometimes I did not make a connection of documentary information such as census records, manumission records, inventory documents, etc. to that of tangible work done to recreate the African American experience. In working on the "Beneath the Underground Railroad" project and also visiting sites in Montgomery County, Maryland that ventured to recreate and revitalize a plantation home and slave labor, the restoration of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at the Josiah Henson historic site and even venturing to Abraham Lincoln's cabin in Washington, DC, I have gained a tremendous understanding of the connectivity of these documents, maps, etc. in the preservation and restoration of history. In viewing some of the historic sites of Montgomery County such as the Button Farm Living History Center and the Josiah Henson Site, as well as viewing the Beneath The Underground project of the Maryland State Archives, we can begin to understand and appreciate the efforts to bring these archival documents, maps, illustrations, etc. to life for the world to truly appreciate their value to the realm of American history.

[Beneath The Underground Project](#)



Beneath The Underground: The Flight to Freedom is a project started by the Maryland State Archives that looks to educate and enlighten people that wish to understand and go more in-depth about the journey of slaves on their flight to freedom. Equipped with land maps, census information, slave statistics, runaway ads, etc. and other archival documents, this project looks to provide more concrete evidence to the Underground Railroad and also tell the stories of the unknown, unnoticed and unsung heroes during the slaves journey to freedom.



One of the main features of the project is the case studies that are created for the counties in the state of Maryland. These case studies are created for both slave holders, slaves, fugitives and freedmen and they consist of any background information obtain from archival documents such as census information, newspaper clippings, runaway ads that provide accurate descriptions of slaves, domestic traffic ads, jail dockets and any other information that can provide information for the descriptions of these individuals that were involved in the history of slavery throughout the state of Maryland. These case studies also provide information for those that aided in assisting slaves throughout the Underground Railroad. By piecing together certain records and information obtained from evidentiary documents, one can reasonably conclude that certain families and certain individuals provided aid and support for slaves traveling north to Canada on their way to freedom. For example, the case study of [Emily Edmonson](#) provides information about her that has been gained from numerous sources that have been compiled and analyzed to create a working biography. From this information, researchers and other professionals are able to create an analysis of other family members, projection of life in Maryland and other pertinent information that would aid in such endeavors as recreating historical sites, museum exhibits, etc. This project has also sought to map out the sites of homes and plantations that housed both slaves and free blacks during the antebellum time period and some time after the Civil War. These interactive maps give accurate depictions of landowners' property and those that dwelled within from the landowner to the slaves and free blacks that lived in the house.

Lastly, this project features a database that provides information to researchers, genealogists and historians regarding specific people during the antebellum period. These databases provide census records, slave schedules, jail dockets, runaway ads, domestic traffic ads, pardon records, inventories, etc. that would aid in the research and scholarship. These records are very beneficial to scholars researching this time period in Maryland and provides for less efforts to find information and more of an avenue to discover information that researchers may not have known existed.

[Button Farm Living History Center](#)





The Button Farm Living History Center, which is a part of the [Menare Foundation, Inc.](#), was established for the purpose of the depiction of plantation life of slaves during the 19th century. The Button Farm is also the home of the Underground Railroad Immersion Experience, which provides visitors with a real to life simulation of what slaves endured as they escaped and ventured to find their freedom. The main house on the Button Farm itself was, however, built around the turn of the Twentieth Century and is typical of most rural farming areas of that time. From this site we begin to see the use of archival documentation to reconstruct the life of the slaves, slave owners, overseers, etc. that resided on this farm, as well as gain a thorough understanding of conditions faced by these residents. In viewing the interior of the house, there is an attempt to preserve the house according to specifications of houses built during the beginning of the Twentieth century. This house provides visual evidence of the rural dwellings that existed during the time period along with the understanding of how Montgomery County changed and began to take shape over the years.

The exterior of the farm is probably the most intriguing part of this farm because of the project of recreating the vegetation of the colonial era in the Museum Garden located on the property. This was done to enhance the concept of immersing visitors into the life of slaves on the plantation and providing a very practical and hands-on approach to the understanding of slavery and slave labor. The barn, which is dated during the Civil War era, provides an aesthetic indication of the structural patterns and also offers an opportunity to enhance the endeavor of the Button Farm to reenact and reinterpret the colonial slave civilization in Montgomery County and in Maryland.



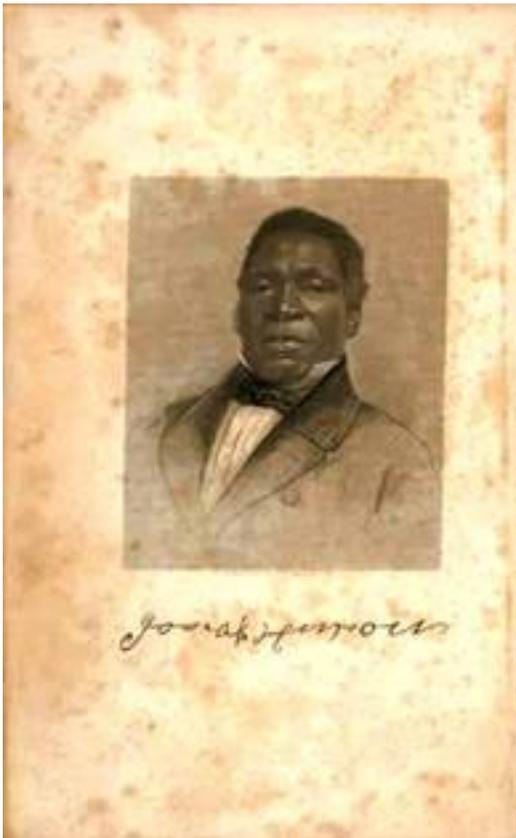
In conceptualizing the Button Farm Living History Center, there was often the use of historical accounts and documentation of the conditions that were prevalent during the colonial time period. This documentation of inventory records and research regarding the vegetation and living conditions were vehemently put to use to construct a plantation that provided the reality of what slaves endured, their common living conditions, and colonial farm practices that were put to use. Not only does this history

center provide a realization

of slave life and labor, but there is also an indication of the many trials of slave owners and overseers and the managing of slaves and the inherent responsibility involved in running and maintaining a Southern plantation and crops on a consistent basis.

In exploring the research and documentation that was used to enhance the Button Farm Living History Center, there is much investment in the recreation of the Underground Railroad and its benefits to history and scholarship. The use of such documents as the [Arnold Gragston](#) narrative and other slave narratives from [Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-1938](#) and [The Underground Railroad](#) by William Still are used as backdrops to parallels of our present day understanding of slavery and the Underground Railroad to first hand accounts of slaves that lived and survived to tell all. Other contributors to this knowledge and efforts at preservation from the documentation of the time are the [Ohio Historical Society](#), the [National Underground Railroad: Network to Freedom](#) and the [Flight to Freedom: Slavery and the Underground Railroad](#) in Maryland project of the Maryland State Archives because of the wealth of knowledge possessed by these organizations, as well as the understanding and use of archival materials.

[The Josiah Henson Site \(Uncle Tom's Cabin\)](#)



The Josiah Henson Site was established and inspired from the life of Josiah Henson, a slave that was said to have been the inspiration for Harriet Beecher Stowe's famous novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin". Formerly called the Riley Farm, this land was owned by Isaac Riley who was the owner of Josiah Henson during his days as a slave. The cabin, noted as "Uncle Tom's Cabin", was not the actual cabin that Henson resided in, but is suggested that it is quite similar to the cabin he would have actually lived in. The cabin is actually dated after Henson left the farm and is thought to have actually been used as a kitchen to the main house, but has many of the same elements that other cabins on the farm would have had. Inventory documentation has helped to reconstruct the house to somewhat of its original form from when Henson was a resident of the plantation though there have been many additions to the house by previous owners. In viewing the website, there is provided an understanding of the goals of this endeavor which suggests:

The goal for the interpretation of the Josiah Henson Site is to accurately portray Henson's life and the Maryland slave experience as well as to explore the impact of Stowe's novel. The realization of this goal will

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have a permanent educational benefit.

The understanding of the layout of the cabin and the thought that this cabin was quite similar to that of which Josiah Henson resided came from the description that Henson provided of his living quarters from his autobiography. As thoroughly as Henson describes his quarters, the cabin on the Josiah Henson site was made to fit the details of the description. Henson describes these living conditions very graphically stating that:



We lodged in log huts, and on the bare ground. Wooden floors were an unknown luxury. In a single room were huddled, like cattle, ten or a dozen persons, men, women and children. All ideas of refinement and decency were, of course, out of the question. There were neither bedsteads, nor furniture of any description. Our beds were collections of straw and old rags, thrown down in the corners and boxed in with boards; a single blanket the only covering. Our favorite way of sleeping, however, was on a plank, our heads raised on an old jacket and our feet toasting before the smouldering fire. The wind whistled and the rain and snow blew in through the cracks, and the damp earth soaked in the moisture till the floor was miry as a pig-sty. Such were our houses. In these wretched hovels were we penned at night, and fed by day; here were the children born and the sick--
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neglected.

As we see the illustration, we can begin to imagine how this was accomplished and we can then envision some of the trials and circumstances endured by Henson and the slaves from this plantation and those on similar plantations in Maryland.

The Riley house at this site is important because of the familiarity and understanding that you gain from



knowing the inner workings of the Riley household. In reading the autobiography of Josiah Henson, we see the personality, character, strengths and flaws of Isaac Riley in how he ran his household and how he ran the plantation. Henson describes some of the habits of his master, Isaac Riley, illustrating some of the duties which he was chosen for and this also illustrates some of the background information regarding that of Isaac Riley. Henson states that:

My master's habits were such as were common enough among the

dissipated planters of the neighborhood; and one of their frequent practices was to assemble on Saturday or Sunday, which were their holidays, and gamble, run horses, or fight game-cocks, discuss politics, and drink whiskey and brandy and water all day long. Perfectly aware that they would not be able to find their own way home at night, each one ordered his body-servant to come after him and help him home. I was chosen for this confidential duty by my master; and many is the time I have held him on his horse, when he could not hold himself in the saddle, and walked by his side in darkness and mud from the tavern to his house... To tell the truth, this was a part of my business for which I felt no reluctance. I was young, remarkably athletic and self-relying, and in such affrays I carried it with a high hand, and would elbow my way among the whites,--whom it would have been almost death for me to strike,--seize my master and drag him out, mount him on his horse, or crowd him into his buggy, with the ease with which I would handle a bag of corn. I knew that I was doing for him what he could not do for himself, and showing my superiority to others, and

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acquiring their respect in some degree, at the same time.

With this description, we can begin to piece together some idea of who exactly Isaac Riley was and some of the habits that he possessed. Henson also begins to discuss Riley's family in the household and the marriage to Matilda Middleton. With this information we can construct a semblance of interactions within the Riley household and visualize life as it would have been on the Riley farm. Other archival documents, such as census records, aerial photography and maps of the farm, archeological artifacts from excavation, vegetation, as well as many other interesting discoveries on the property not only gives context to the Riley farm during the time Henson resided there, but they also could provide context of exactly what the community was like during that same time period.

Understanding that the creation of these historic sites, museums, exhibits, etc. all have relied completely on the preservation of archival documents to bring this history into some kind of context of the present day. These documents allow for historians, genealogists, students and scholars to examine, elaborate and interpret the history that has been seemingly untold and misrepresented to some point. Though there has been a major advancement

in the field of African American history and historical research, there is still much more research and work that needs to be done to continue to tell the story of our existence in the United States and abroad.

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Leon, Warren and Roy Rosenzweig. *History Museums in the United States: A Critical Assessment*. (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1989): p. 215-216

[ii]

“Josiah Henson Site ('Uncle Tom's Cabin'),” Montgomery Parks MNCPPC, http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Cultural_Resources_Stewardship/heritage/uncle_toms_cabin.shtm (accessed August 5, 2009).

[iii]

Henson, Josiah. *Truth Stranger Than Fiction: Father Henson's Story of His Own Life*. (Boston: John P. Jewett, 1858) p. 18. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/neh/henson58/henson58.html>. © This work is the property of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It may be used freely by individuals for research, teaching and personal use as long as this statement of availability is included in the text.

[iv]

Ibid., p. 31-33.

- I. Menare Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Underground Railroad history, historic sites and environments and to the creation of associated educational programs. Through assistance and training, Menare works with individuals and organizations to preserve the Underground Railroad legacy using history as a resource for community revitalization, race dialogue and cultural growth. www.menare.org
- II. Maryland Historic Trust. www.mdihp.net
- III. Maryland State Archives: Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland – Beyond the Underground: The Flight to Freedom Project. <http://www.mdslavery.net/ugrr.html>
- IV. University of North Carolina University Library: Documenting the American South. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/index.html>

Stories behind the Numbers:
Connecting the Depiction of Black Life in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* to the Decline of Slavery
in Maryland

By Natalia Cuadra-Sáez

Legend has it that when Harriet Beecher Stowe met Abraham Lincoln he remarked, “So you’re the little woman who wrote the book that made this great war!” (Stowe 203). Regardless of whether or not such words were ever spoken, there is no denying the profound impact that Stowe’s novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* had on American society in the decade prior to the Civil War. Stowe’s work, which became the best-selling novel of the 19th century (Weinstein 2), gave many readers their first glimpse into the daily realities of life for a slave in the United States. While by no means a perfect depiction of such realities, Stowe’s novel is grounded in true accounts,



observations, and statistics, as confirmed in her 1853 publication of *A Key to Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. According to this book, at least two of the real-life stories that influenced *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* came from Montgomery County, Maryland. One was the story of Josiah Henson who was born into slavery, escaped, and later wrote his auto-biography. He is said to have been the inspiration for the character of Tom in Stowe’s novel. Another was the story of the Edmonson sisters, whose participation in the attempted slave escape on the ship the *Pearl* made headlines. Both Josiah Henson and the Edmonson sisters had been slaves in Montgomery County. Their experiences were shaped by Maryland’s unique position as a border state and by Montgomery County’s position as a southern county. Their stories can be found not only in historical accounts and records but also in the voices of Stowe’s fictional characters. They serve as an example of the stories behind the numbers.

Census and other demographic records from Maryland between 1790 and 1860 provide ample information about slave and free black populations in the state. The numbers show how these populations changed over time and how they related to each other and to the white population. But in addition to supplying facts, these statistics also leave us with many questions about the reasons behind these shifting demographics and how they affected everyday life for blacks in Maryland. This paper will explore the questions behind the numbers by analyzing the



demographics of Maryland as a whole and then taking a closer look at Montgomery County, home to several farms and personalities that inspired much of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The following questions will be addressed: Why did slavery decline? Where did the slave population go? What happened to the slaves that remained? The data we collected this summer as interns in the Legacy of Slavery department will be cited in the context of these themes. And in an attempt to connect this data to the black experience, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* will be used as an example of the dramas of slave life read through the fictionalization of, as it was for many, a reality.

“Planters, who have money to make by it, —clergymen, who have planters to please— politicians who want to rule by it, —may warp and bend language and ethics to a degree that shall astonish the world at their ingenuity” (220)
 - St. Clare in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

As St. Clare, the reluctant slave owner, observes in this comment, slave societies came up with ingenious ways to defend and hold on to the institution of slavery. Maryland was such a society with a class of slaveholders who were determined to keep their slaves even if it defied economic and cultural trends. As a slave state on the eve of the Civil War, Maryland was unique in its demography. Three characteristics of Maryland that made it an outlier at this time were: its dwindling slave population, its three distinct regions, and its large free black population. Unlike other slave states, its slave population had been steadily decreasing since the 1790s. During the American Revolution many had even predicted that slavery would gradually disappear on its own in Maryland due to changing economic realities and ideologies. In 1790 slaves made up 1/3 of Maryland's total population and by 1850 they made up only 1/6 of the population. The slave population declined not only proportionally, but in absolute numbers as well. According to historian Barbara Fields, Montgomery County's slave population went from 6,030 in 1790 to 5,114 in 1850 (Fields 13). It should be noted that these figures are not entirely consistent with the data we collected this summer which concluded that there were 8,700 slaves in Montgomery County in 1840. Despite the overall decline, the institution of slavery remained deeply entrenched in the politics and culture of the state.

Additionally, slave demographics in the state varied widely depending on the



region. Maryland was divided into three distinct regions: northern Maryland, southern Maryland, and the Eastern Shore. By 1850 northern Maryland had “the most prosperous and up-to-date agriculture in the state” (18). Northern Maryland also had Baltimore which became a center for the processing

and exporting of agricultural products (17). The industrial nature of Baltimore's growing

urban economy often meant that slavery was less advantageous than wage labor. The orchards that began to spring up around Baltimore also were not ideal for slave labor. Meanwhile, the Eastern Shore became a region for cereal crops while southern Maryland remained a staple-producing region (19). Unlike staple crops, such as tobacco, cereal crops did not require a year-round labor force and, therefore, the switch from staple to cereal crops turned slaves into an inconvenience for many landowners. Montgomery County is an example of a southern county whose continued dependence on staple crops and slow pace at adopting the agricultural improvements of the north led to a poor economy and a persistent use of slave labor. According to our data gathered from the federal census, there were 8,700 slaves and 1,968 free blacks residing in Montgomery County in 1840. This makes the proportion of slaves to free blacks approximately 9:2, which is much higher than that of any Eastern Shore or northern county (Fields 13).

Maryland was also unique in that it had the largest free black population of any state from 1810 until the Civil War (Fields 1). In 1850 free blacks made up 45.3% of the total black population in Maryland. In the majority of other slave states at this time free blacks made up less than 5% of the total black population (2). The total impact and reasons behind these numbers will be discussed further in a later section.

“Just begin and thoroughly educate one generation, and the whole thing would be blown sky high. If we did not give them liberty, they would take it” (230)

-St. Clare in Uncle Tom’s Cabin

The decline of slavery all over the state can be attributed to various factors, including powerful economic ones. Maryland went from an agricultural production that was 90% tobacco in 1747 to 14% in 1859. “The switch from tobacco monoculture to mixed farming, already well advanced at the end of the revolutionary era, continued apace. Small grain production, cattle raising, dairying, and truck farming became the dominant forms of agricultural enterprise” (Berlin 211). Although slave labor continued to be employed for all of these economic activities, the transition also led to a declining profitability of slave labor. In the Lower South, slave labor remained profitable thanks to the plantations that dominated much of the landscape. Our data work on the 1840 census reveals that in Montgomery County the average slaveholder owned about 7 slaves, hardly plantation size. Other changes in the border state, such as “Soil exhaustion, competition from the west, and fluctuating world markets” (209) devastated many planters. As slaveholders adjusted their lives in response to these changes, slave lives were altered as well.

“And promise me, dear father, that Tom shall have his freedom as soon as—I am gone!” (274)

-Eva in Uncle Tom’s Cabin

As the statistics reveal the decline of slave populations all over the state, the question becomes: where did these slaves go and how did life change for those who remained enslaved? As it was becoming less economically advantageous to own slaves, slaveholders came up with different ways of dealing with this situation. Historians

believe that the largest contributor to the decline in slaves was manumission. Estimates say that slaveholders manumitted about 50,000 slaves over the course of Maryland's history. This theory is supported by manumission documents as well as by the significant increase in the free black population. One of the effects of this on slave life is that slave lives became intertwined with free blacks' lives. These two populations married each other and worked side by side with each other. In Montgomery County we see the high numbers of free blacks and we see that often they are even listed as living in the same household as slaves. Another effect was harsher laws. The ever-increasing free black population was a source of great concern for the state government. Section 1 of an act passed in 1831 states simply: "No free black shall immigrate and settle in Maryland." Other acts were passed encouraging blacks to leave the state and even to settle in Liberia.

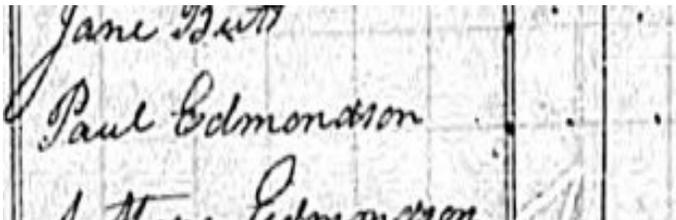
"Other folks hires out der niggers and makes money on 'em! Don't keep sich a tribe eatin' 'em out of house and home." (252)

-Aunt Chloe to Mrs. Shelby

As this passage demonstrates, slaves were often seen as a burden that needed to be sheltered and fed. One way that slaveholders dealt with this burden was by hiring them out. The common practice of hiring out slaves might have actually been one of the reasons why slavery never fully disappeared in Maryland. According to Barbara Fields it was more common for a slave to be hired out than to be sold (Fields 27). The effect that hiring out had on slave life has been the topic of some controversy. Historians have debated whether hiring out improved or worsened slave lives in terms of autonomy, family ties, and probability of sale. Two characters in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* may help us to understand the arguments made on both sides. One of them, Aunt Chloe, is hired out to Louisville so that she can earn some money to buy her husband back to Kentucky. On the one hand, it is her idea and she is able to earn some money that her master lets her spend on what she wants. On the other hand, it means that she will be miles away from her own children and other relations. George Harris is another slave in the book who is hired out. On the one hand, he is very successful and fairly content at his job, but on the other hand all the credit and reward for his accomplishments go to his master. At the end of the day a hired out slave is still a slave. George's master sums it up perfectly when he says, "It's a free country, sir; the man's *mine*, and I do what I please with him, — that's it!" (15)

"Will you wait to be toted down river, where they kill niggers with hard work and starving? I'd a heap rather die than go there, any day!" (39)

-Aunt Chloe to Uncle Tom



Jane Dett
Paul Edmondson
A. H. Edmondson

Perhaps the most dramatic way for a slaveholder to deal with an excess of slave labor was to sell slaves south. It is this prospect that sets in motion the plot for Stowe's novel. And, perhaps, being sold south was a border state slave's biggest fear. Frederick Douglass talks about it in his autobiography and when the Edmonson sisters try to escape on the Pearl their punishment is to be sold down to New Orleans. The fate of the Edmonson sisters, who are accounted for in Montgomery County's 1840 census, must not have been a unique one. Estimates suggest that 18,500 slaves moved further South between 1830 and 1860 either because they were sold or moved with their owners. Intrastate sale was also very common and slaves lived with the constant fear of being sold

away from their home and family. The death of an owner, financial misfortune, and misbehavior were all reasons for a slave to be sold away.



*"I'm running away—Uncle Tom and Aunt Chloe—
carrying off my child—Master sold him!"* (38)
-Eliza

Runaways also contributed slightly to Maryland's losses in slave population. The official number of escapes from Maryland in 1850 was 279 (Fields 16), the highest of all the slave states. The appeal of escaping to freedom was a more important part of black life in Maryland than the numbers may suggest. Slaves as well as free blacks and whites were involved in escape attempts and in the consequences of failed attempts. Also, it is important to consider that when one slave was either successful or unsuccessful in fleeing, it affected the

morale of the entire community.

The unique characteristics of Maryland and its different regions along with the reasons behind the decline of slavery across the state combine to make Montgomery County the perfect setting in which to tell the story of slavery. Harriet Beecher Stowe found much inspiration in the experiences of this county's slaves as she gave voice to the characters of her most influential novel. As a southern county of a border state Montgomery County was home to many story-like contradictions: slaveholders and Quakers, slaves and free blacks, prosperity and decline. These contradictions, which are affirmed in the records of the time, shaped the experiences of thousands of slaves and free blacks whose lives were riddled by the lure of the free north, a dread of the unforgiving south, and the uncertainty of life on the middle ground.

http://www.authentichistory.com/antebellum/manifest/1852_Uncle_Toms_Cabin_Ad.html

<http://visitalexandriava.com/about-alexandria/favorite-sons-and-daughters/edmonson-sisters/>

http://wagecc.gwumc.edu/images/md_map_824.gif

Stephanie Berger
Women's Hall of Fame Internship
August 11, 2009

Internship Report

I was assigned to the Women's Hall of Fame for my internship. Under this project, I wrote researched, detailed, biographies on inductees of the Women's Hall of Fame. This involved using databases, books, records, and the Archives' and various other libraries, including the Law and Department of Natural Resources libraries. I was expected to complete biographies on the five women inducted in 2009 and then continue writing biographies on any women who have not already been written about on the website. I completed the 2009 inductees before the end of July and wrote three additional biographies. This totaled my summer work to eight biographies written on Ilia Fehrer, Diane Griffin, M.D., Ph.D., Harriet Legum, Brig. Gen. Allyson Solomon, Anne St. Clair Wright, Euphemia Willson, Constance Beims, and Sadie Miller.

This ongoing project, which has clearly been an internship project for a number of years, will certainly not run out of tasks for future interns anytime soon. As expected, there will be new inductees for interns to write about, and there are still plenty of past inductees with biographies that still need to be written. There are also short biographies and biographies extracted from other sources on past inductees, which could be supplemented with intern written biographies if an intern is interested in the woman or if all other biographies are completed. I also imagine, that if years from now all of the women are complete, biographies written on contemporary women can be updated, as these women will surely continue to impact Maryland life after their induction to the Hall of Fame.

The best thing about this project is that it allows interns to write on women and subjects that interest them as they chose their biographies beyond their year's inductees. My highlights were certainly working with women who peaked my interest in the military. My favorite biography was on Euphemia Mary Goldsborough Willson, a Confederate smuggler and nurse. What was so exciting about her, was that her 1995 induction to the Women's Hall of Fame highlighted her more "politically correct" work, focusing on her aid of soldiers and nursing both Union and Confederate soldiers at Gettysburg. But after doing research, I learned that her work was *far* more Southern orientated. She did more extensive smuggling work than suggested, only aided Union soldiers at Gettysburg because she was required to by law, and held extremely harsh opinions towards the Union saying things like, "I just hate the very air they breathe and would like to kill every one I see."¹ Her surprising sentiments and somewhat flirtatious letters were very interesting to read about.

I was also excited to write about Brigadier General Allyson Solomon, the first female and African American to head the Maryland Air National Guard. While writing about her, I found a small issue for contemporary military women in the Hall of Fame. These women are addressed by their rank in the military and if they continue to serve, their ranking may change numerous times, making their name/title in previously written

¹ E.F. Conklin, *Exile to Sweet Dixie: The Story of Euphemia Goldsborough, Confederate Nurse and Smuggler*. (Gettysburg: Thomas Publications, 1998), 110.

biographies quickly outdated, which was the case with General Deener, inducted into the Hall as a Colonel in 2007. Luckily, both military women in the Hall of Fame have obtained the rank of General. While they may still be promoted (Lieutenant General, Major General, etc.) they are still verbally addressed as simply “General” and their biographies can just use that title, eliminating further editing. Also, because they are both Guardsmen, it would be unusual if they were promoted beyond Brigadier General, as the highest National Guard position in Maryland is at the rank of Brigadier General. Hopefully, further military women inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame will either already be Generals or Admirals, or quickly get to that ranking, so further editing will not be necessary.

My summer internship project proved very interesting and I consider myself privileged to be tasked with writing biographies that are published on the Archives website. The job far surpassed the expectations I had of my first office internship and I believe that is a reflection on the manner in which all interns are treated at the Archives and the large number of employees who began their career at the Archives with an internship.