Miltiadis Papadopoulos

Reference Intern

Summer 2019

During my internship this summer I worked on several tasks: pull shifts, floating shifts, covering the reception desk for one hour on Thursdays, Vital Records research, and inputting pull slips into the pull slip database. I worked three pull shifts per week, every day in the afternoon, except Monday and Thursday, and I also covered several other shifts when they needed to be covered, equaling 35 shifts total. I worked my floating shifts on Thursday mornings and had 9 total. In addition to my floating shifts in the morning I also covered the reception desk for an hour each Thursday afternoon. I also covered the reception desk one morning, from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM, one day this summer. Working the reception desk this summer was my first experience with work like that and was an enjoyable challenge.

In the mornings, as well as in between retrieval times, most of my time was dedicated to Vital Records research and inputting pull slips into the pull slip database. During this summer I have completed over 220 Vital Records research requests, and I have input over 3,300 pull slips into the database. I successfully input two full boxes of pull slips and managed to work over halfway through a third box full of pull slips. I thoroughly enjoyed the Vital Records research. It provided me an opportunity to not only see a wide variety of records (births, deaths, and marriages), but also allowed me to see how the organization and record keeping of those records changed over the years. It was also good to work on my research skills. There were often difficulties, such as incomplete databases or errors in the request information, that made finding the correct record difficult and forced me to adapt. In addition to the work that I did, I also enjoyed being able to shadow the reference desk in the search room, as well as learning about Land Records and Probate Records. My one criticism would be that I wish that the opportunity to learn more about Land Records and Probate Records came earlier in the internship, although I understand the difficulties of scheduling. Overall, I had a wonderful time interning here at the Archives this summer and am grateful for the oppurtunity I was given.

MSA Internship 2019 in Review

For ten short weeks this summer, I had the opportunity to work in the Appraisal & Description department of the Maryland State Archives, here in Annapolis, MD, USA. With Kathryn Herberger, I worked on projects with a wide variety of records, but all with the central goal of improving public access to these records. From the colossal Scharf collection in the conservation lab, to the red-rot-covered Montgomery County voter registration books, not to mention smaller projects involving court and police records, there was no shortage of excitement or learning opportunities.

Though I had previously been familiar with the Archives' organizational system thanks to my prior experience here as a volunteer in the Reference department, working in Appraisal allowed me to understand *why* records are categorized into certain series and so on.

One of my personal passions is researching the forgotten small settlements of our state. This is the passion that brought me here to MSA first as a patron, then volunteer, and now as an intern. While working on the 1914-1936 Montgomery County voter registration project, I was able to see the names of the small villages and towns that voters lived in when they registered. It was very exciting, motivating and inspiring to have the opportunity to make a connection between the project and my personal hobby work.

I plan for MSA to be the first of many stops in a long career in the history industry, though I will always remember the things I learned and connections I fostered while here.

Cassy Sottile
Summer 2019
Finding the Maryland 400 Project

This summer, I was one of three summer interns on the Finding the Maryland 400 project with Owen. I have been involved with this project since spring 2018 through one of my classes at Washington College, and I was fortunate enough to continue involvement this summer. During this internship, I researched and wrote biographies for 25 soldiers of the Fourth Independent Company from Talbot County, Maryland. I also edited and published the biography of Alexander Naylor, the Ninth Company soldier I was assigned to research in my class last year. For the remainder of the summer, I researched and wrote biographies for a couple of the regimental staff officers - Paymaster Christopher Richmond and Surgeon's Mate William Augustus Dashiell. Though I was unable to finish it, I conducted additional research on Colonel John Hoskins Stone, who later was governor of Maryland from 1794-1797, to revise his biography. Along with the biographies that I published on the project website, I wrote two blog posts that explored aspects of the soldiers and the Revolutionary War time period.

Throughout the research process, I was able to learn and hone research practices and strategies, techniques which I am able to translate to my college work. In order to discover what happened to each of the soldiers, I dove into to a variety of sources and records that I had not been previously exposed to, such as muster rolls, wills and inventories, troop returns, council proceedings and journals. The records from the 18th century are in remarkably good condition, and just holding the records alone fascinated me. I even was able to take a brief field trip to a Family Search Center in Annapolis for birth and baptism records. I met and spoke with other researchers who laid a lot of the groundwork for information on the Naylor family, and showed them some of my own research, an experience I am grateful to have had.

As part of the internship, I enjoyed getting to visit the other departments to learn more about what an archives does as a whole. The inclusion of visits and information from the other departments helped to give me a better understanding and more holistic idea and glimpse into possible areas of study for graduate school. This internship not only impacted my interest in the fields and inspired me to want to pursue archival studies in grad school, but the specific project I

spent all summer working on will be involved in my undergraduate thesis. Thank you to Owen, the other interns, and all the staff members of the Archives for a wonderful summer internship program.

Erin Pogue
Conservation Intern
Summer 2019

During this summer, I have been fortunate to be able to work on several large projects, as well as doing work on additional projects in the conservation department of the archives.

One of the big projects that I was able to work with was the Bryden Hyde blueprints collection. They had been donated in 2007, but were sitting on a counter in the map room ever since. They were stored in metal or cardboard tubes, that were overstuffed and becoming deformed. My first step was to take out the blueprints, and compare those present with the list that was with them when they were donated. Thankfully, most of them were still there, and some additional building plans were even discovered. From here, I assigned each pages a number, paginated them, and input the information into a spreadsheet. Once this was completed, the pages were separated into series by building, and then either placed into map folders, or on rolls if they were larger. To create these rolls, folders that have become acidic over time were rolled into tubes and then taped shut and covered with a protective layer of Tyvek. A manageable number of blueprints was then rolled around the tube and fastened with a strip of Tyvek banded around the middle. The entire tube was then wrapped in another layer of Tyvek, and a label was put on the outside listing which items were inside. In total there were 25 folders and 33 rolls, which housed 538 pages, from 22 different buildings. Once this was completed, they were moved back into the map room, with the folders being placed in several drawers, and the rolls on a shelf.

After I finished with this collection, my next large project was to begin processing the Zumbrun collection on the Maryland State Forests and Parks. This is a recent acquisition of

Special Collections, and was donated by a forester. My first step was to sort through the boxes and determine what the collection entailed. The collection could be split into a few main categories, which became the basis for the series numbering in the spreadsheet.

Series 1 consists of negatives, which were in deteriorating plasticky sleeves, and jumbled in two folders. I began by removing these from those folders and sorting them by the numbers written on the sleeves. I then removed them from these sleeves and put them into acid free paper envelopes, either four-flap envelopes, or those with an opening on one end. As I put them into these new enclosures, I gave them a new number, and typed in the description from their previous sleeves into the spreadsheet. If there was no information written on the sleeve, I described the image, and put what I could in the item description. There are currently over 400 negatives that have been numbered and rehoused, with a large stack still remaining.

Series 2 contains miscellaneous photographic prints and negatives, which were stored in various envelopes and folders inside the larger box. The process for these was very similar to the previous negatives, as they were removed from their previous enclosure and put into new envelopes fit properly to their dimensions, given a number, and had any description inputted. These photos depicted various State Forests and Parks in Maryland, many specifically highlighting the Conservation Corps Camps found in these parks. There are over 150 photos in this series, some of which will require future conservation from those who have more experience.

Series 3 was used to separate folders which contained items of different types that were meant to belong together, such as papers and photographs, series 4 contains loose paperwork, and series 5 consists of books. There are still some binders of printed material that have yet to be processed, as well as some physical items including stickers and a commemorative watch.

I was also able to assist in the continuation of an ongoing collaboration between Conservation and Special Collections to properly house the flags in the map room. To do this, flags were taken off the racks in the map room and brought into the inner lab. Here the flags were carefully unrolled and removed from their poles. Depending on the size of the flag, they were either folded carefully into a box, or rolled around a large Tyvek covered tube, not dissimilar to those used in the blueprint project. Once they were put in these temporary containers, they were transported to the warehouse in Rolling Run. Here we brought them upstairs and laid them flat on the tables. A step ladder was used to take a photo of the entire flag, with a paper indicating the MSA number and scale of the flag. The natural light and large size of the room allows these photos to be higher quality than those taken in the lab in Annapolis. From here we did a condition report of the flag, using a color coded method to draw the flags and label any damage they currently have, as well as making note of dimensions, inscriptions, tassels, or any other noteworthy facts about the flags. This is essential as knowing the current condition allows future conservators to be able to tell if further damage is taking place. Once this is completed, a cloth label with the number written on it is sewed to the flag, usually on the flag pocket or another easily hidden location. The flag is then transported into its final home, a tray in the flag cabinets that will allow it to lie flat and remain undisturbed.

Another project that mainly took place at Rolling Run was assisting the Commission of Artistic Property in relabeling a silverware collection. The MSA numbers were printed on to sheets of paper, that were cut out using a ruler and scalpel. Then a small layer of B-72 dissolved in toluene was painted onto the surface of the back of the handle of the silverware, the paper labels were placed on there, and a top coat of B-72 dissolved in ethanol was placed on top. Once these all dried the silverware was placed back in the cabinets. It took several attempts to get the

labels just right, but once the proper technique was learned, it made labels that should last for a very long time, and the external paper tags were able to be removed.

Additionally, I assisted in the repair of the Scharf Collection, which is an ongoing project in conjunction with the Appraisal Department. This collection consists of paper documents, that need to have varying levels of repairs done to make them able to be scanned, to prevent them from needing to be pulled out and handled by the public as frequently. The first step in many repairs is to remove the surface grime. These bits of dust and other dirt can be removed by light pressure from a whishab eraser. They work incredibly well and remove the dirt without removing text or damaging the paper. Next any creases, folds, or wrinkles are carefully unfolded and flattened, first by using a micro spatula or tweezers to gently move the paper, and then a tacking iron to smooth it out. The last step is to repair rips, tears, and holes using heat set tissue. First the paper is lined up, often using the text to make sure any removed or shifted segments are in their proper place. After this, strips of tissue are placed over the tears, usually on the back of the document or in out of the way segments and are ironed in place using a taking iron with silicon paper covering all layers. This works well to join the pages together in a quick, easily reversable, durable, and mostly invisible method. There are many more boxes in this collection, so it will remain an ongoing project.

I also helped some in the project to process a collection of negatives from the Carroll County Times. This included numbering and foldering loose negatives, inputting information from photo request slips into the spreadsheet, sorting manila folders by date, and labelling large folders by date. As this project involves many different steps, it was useful to have many different people working on different aspects of the project over the course of the summer.

One project that I began but did not make much progress on was the processing of the Pratt-Corner collection. Part of Special Collections, this collection consists of a series letters addressed to Theodore Corner. I began the processing of the letters from his brother George Washington Corner in 1863. This meant reading the letters, summarizing the key points, names, locations, and themes from them, and inputting that into the spreadsheet. They were then labelled, and placed into acid free folders in a clamshell box. While I only finished about 20 letters, it was still fascinating to follow the life of the brothers that I was able to glimpse from the few months I was able to read, especially as they became aware of the conflict of the Civil War.

In addition to these larger projects, I also assisted with some smaller ones, as well as some that primarily took place prior to the summer, or by other people. One of these was scanning the Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser newspaper from the first half of 1874. This meant disbinding the pages from the book, and transporting them in sets of about a week's worth of pages to the scanning room, and assisting the scanning team to properly flip and switch over the pages. Other projects included using EVA to tack down labels that were peeling out of an index of criminal cases, constructing boxes to house blueprints being returned to St. John's College, learning how to make wheat starch paste, rolling up county maps onto Tyvek rolls, and helping set up a mini exhibit of Florence Barr's works.

I also enjoyed attending several field trips, visiting Washington Grove, the Niels Bohr Library and Archive, Government House, and the State House. On these trips, I have been able to see how other institutions function, as well as how the work done at the archives benefits outside locations.

With my internship coming to a close, I am very grateful to the opportunities I have been able to have during the summer. I have learned a plethora of new skills, as well as strengthening

those acquired from previous experiences. I have enjoyed that work that I have done with the conservation department, as repairs and proper housing are incredibly satisfying, and it has been wonderful to see the impact that these can make on the life of a document or object. Additionally, it has been beneficial to learn about the work of other departments, both through shadowing opportunities, and collaborations on projects. This has allowed me to have a deeper understanding of each departments' role in the organization, and of what jobs I may wish to pursue in the future.

One of my goals at the start of this internship was to determine if archival work was something I would consider as a future job possibility, and I am happy to know that it is something I am both capable of, and truly enjoy doing. Thank you for hosting such an enriching and welcoming internship program. I have found myself astounded to think back at all of the opportunities and different projects that I have been able to work on, as well as the professional skills and confidence I have gained along the way.

James Schmitt
Summer 2019
Finding the Maryland 400 Project

I interned with the Finding the Maryland 400 project with Owen Lourie. I mainly conducted research on members of the Maryland 400, a group of Maryland soldiers who saved the Continental Army from destruction at the Battle of Brooklyn on August 27, 1776. Most of the soldiers I researched originally served in the Fourth Independent Company, which originally enlisted recruits from the Talbot county area. Using information from sources including muster rolls, newspapers, and legislative texts, I wrote biographies for the soldiers, doing my best to humanize a group of people who would otherwise be a list of names. Although some of the soldiers had little available information about their lives, some left prolific records behind. Thomas Buckley, for example, served as a private in the Fourth Independent Company before serving as a sergeant in the Second and First Maryland Regiments. His wife, Elizabeth, petitioned Maryland officials for financial assistance while her husband was away at war; the State Archives still has this petition in its Revolutionary Papers collection. Some soldiers often shared their names with other people, making research difficult. One Jacob Jeffers served in the Fourth Independent and the Second Regiment, while another Jacob Jeffers served in the Seventh Regiment. The latter Jeffers was a free African American who later applied for a pension, something I covered in a blog post.

Perhaps the most interesting series of incidents I covered while interning on the project involved a recurring feud between the Second and Fifth Maryland Regiments in 1777. Two former lieutenants in the Fourth Independent Company, Captains Archibald Anderson and William Frazier, both recruited soldiers from their former company, leading to multiple conflicts over where the soldiers belonged. Private John O'Bryan and drummer James Mead found themselves entangled in the feud. I covered these incidents and others in a set of two blog posts.

I have also researched information on Dr. John Hanson Briscoe and have written a biography for him. Briscoe served as a surgeon for the "Seven Independent Companies" and later became the Second Regiment's surgeon. After becoming involved in disputes between regimental surgeons and the Continental Army's Hospital Department, Briscoe resigned. Briscoe later served in the St. Mary's County militia as a brigadier general and continued to act as medical doctor until his death in 1796.

I will continue interning with the project until October 2019. At the moment, I am currently preparing to write a biography for another member of the Maryland 400, Governor Levin Winder. Winder entered military service at the young age of 18, quickly rising to the rank of captain by 1777. By the war's end, Winder had reached the rank of lieutenant colonel. Winder went on to serve as a major general in the Maryland militia, and successfully ran for public office multiple times before he became the fourteenth governor of Maryland in 1812. Winder served as Maryland's governor until 1816, serving as the state's governor throughout most of the War of 1812. He died in 1819.