

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 2, Folder 4

Fall 2021

Letter from the State Archivist

In April 1995, less than a year after I joined the Archives as curator of artistic property, Governor Parris Glendening called for the portrait of Spiro Agnew, long held in storage, to be placed on public view in the Governor's Reception Room of the State House, the traditional location for portraits of governors of Maryland. In calling for the return of Agnew, governor from 1966 to 1969, who as vice president under Richard Nixon was forced to resign in 1973 when faced with corruption charges, Glendening said, "History is good and history is bad; we learn from history warts and all."

The "warts" of American history are many, some so insidious they've left scars that continue to impact us today. Colonial settlement, the enslavement of generations of people, and the legacy of social injustice have shaped society, and consequently, the historical record as well. In this issue, the Archives is highlighting our efforts to address the shortcomings in our collections in terms of accessibility and inclusivity.

In recognizing that inherent bias exists in archival records, the Archives is joining institutions across the country in committing ourselves to examining our cataloguing practices, as well as our collections, to ensure that public records are equitably described and accessible. The newly-adopted "Inclusiveness in Cataloging" statement is shared in this issue.

We are also seeking to expand upon the representation of all Marylanders--from the earliest inhabitants to the people of today--through collaborative research tools to better access records, and through thoughtful acquisition of private collections and works of art.

It is the responsibility of the Archives to document and make accessible all aspects of Maryland's history-- good and bad. I am proud of the efforts we are making to broaden and make more accurate the historical record, which will result in a better understanding of our past, and better practices as we collect for the future.



Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist



Agnew Revival in Maryland

Gov. Parris Glendening of Maryland wants to return a portrait of former Gov. Spiro Agnew to the walls of the State House. Elaine Rice, a curator for the State

Hall of Records, and Edward Papenfuss, the state archivist, cleaned the portrait's frame yesterday after it was removed from storage in Annapolis.

The New York Times, February 10, 1995

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MSA Archive - A definition

An archive is a place in which public records or private collections are preserved and made accessible. Archives can be public or private institutions, and can specialize in many different types of materials such as documents, photographs, art, unpublished or published manuscripts, newspapers, digital files, film, furnishings, sound recordings, textiles, or three dimensional historical artifacts. Materials in an archive are deemed to have long term value as documentary resources and are often historically significant. While they can be formally loaned to museums or other organizations for exhibit, unlike a library, archival materials are not able to be checked out by individuals for home use. Instead, collections are used carefully on site in secure locations because the materials are historic, original and singular, and they do not exist in copy like a library book does.

The Maryland State Archives specifically serves as the repository for permanent government records and its holdings are primarily paper documents dating from the founding of Maryland in 1634 to the modern day. However, the agency does also have Special Collections, Artistic Properties, as well a Library specializing in Maryland history and a Government Reports and Publications division which include all of the other diverse media types listed above. The mission of the Maryland State Archives is to preserve, clearly organize and securely store these permanently valuable materials, and make them available for public use.

Staff Activities

Catherine Rogers Arthur named “Heritage Professional of the Year”



Catherine Rogers Arthur, Director of Artistic Property, and senior curator of the state-owned art collection, has been named “Heritage Professional of the Year” by the Four Rivers Heritage Area. Catherine was nominated by Historic Annapolis, with support from the Archives, as well as the staff of David R. Rubenstein, in recognition of her extraordinary effort in making possible the exhibition, *Founding Freedoms: The Essential American Documents* in the Maryland State House.

Prior to joining the Archives staff, Catherine spent two decades as curator and director of Historic Homewood, the Carroll family home on the campus of Johns Hopkins University. In the supporting letter, State Archivist Elaine Rice Bachmann said, “Catherine’s innate curiosity and depth of knowledge of Maryland history, along with her network of professional relationships with curators, conservators, collectors, dealers and craftspeople, has benefited the state’s art collection, and the Archives, immeasurably. Her natural inclination to collaborate with others inspires a sharing of resources so essential to the success of cultural institutions, and fosters community between museums which are at the heart of historic Annapolis.”

Catherine was presented with the award at a ceremony on November 4, held at Historic London Town and Gardens.

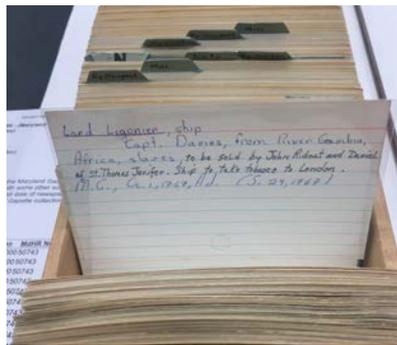
Chris Haley wins an 2021 Annie Award

Chris Haley received the 2021 Anne Arundel County Arts Council Award for Excellence in the Literary Arts. The “Annies,” as they are affectionately called, recognize individuals who have made a lasting, significant, and inspiring contribution to an art form, an arts organization, and the wider community of Anne Arundel County. Chris was lauded for his significant body of poetry, including his most recent publication, *Until the Right One Comes Along*, which has achieved praise from fellow writers, as well as the general public. Congratulations Chris!



Chris Haley with Jessica Daigl, Board President (left) and April Nyman, Executive Director (right), Arts Council of Anne Arundel County.

Alex Haley 100th Birthday Commemorations



August 11, 2021 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Alex Haley, renowned author and acknowledged father of modern genealogy due to his groundbreaking work *Roots, The Saga of an American Family*. In honor of this milestone, a year of commemorations have been planned globally, with many events here in Maryland, to recognize the significant role that Annapolis plays in his family story. The Archives has always been proud of the role our collections played in supporting Alex Haley's genealogical research. Archivist Phebe Jacobsen (1922-2000) worked closely with Haley and it was their partnership that led to the discovery of the vital connection between his family's oral history and the documentation of the ship *Lord Ligonier* carrying a cargo of enslaved Africans from The Gambia in 1767, including his ancestor Kunte Kinte. While the period documentation for this is from the *Maryland Gazette*, it was a 3x5 card in the index of the *Maryland Gazette* that led Haley to the original newspaper account. It is a testament to the importance of archival work, and the diligence of archivists and librarians who catalogue original source material. The Archives is also proud of the incredible work that Chris Haley, Alex's nephew, has done at the Archives for twenty-eight years, most recently as the Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland.

To celebrate the Haley legacy, Chris planned and participated in a number of virtual and in-person events. On August 11, he gave a free online lecture on family history in partnership with Historic Annapolis. On August 18, the City of Annapolis proclaimed *Alex Haley Day* and Mayor Gavin Buckley presented Chris the key to the city. This proclamation and key has been donated to the Maryland State Archives and become part of the Haley Centennial Collection [MSA SC 6305]. On September 18, Chris organized a genealogical workshop in partnership with Lyndra Pratt-Marshall of the Alex Haley-Kunta Kinte Foundation hosted by the Banneker-Douglass Museum as part of the museum's grand re-opening. September 24th, the Archives hosted a small exhibit and reunion of Jacobsen and Haley family members that included viewing of correspondence

and artifacts related to the research conducted at the MSA for *Roots*. Afterwards, the Calvary United Methodist Church held an Alex Haley Legacy Roundtable Panel Discussion including members of the Haley family and dignitaries from The Gambia. And finally on Saturday, September 25th, the annual Kunta Kinte Festival held at City Dock and Susan Campbell Park highlighted the centennial anniversary.

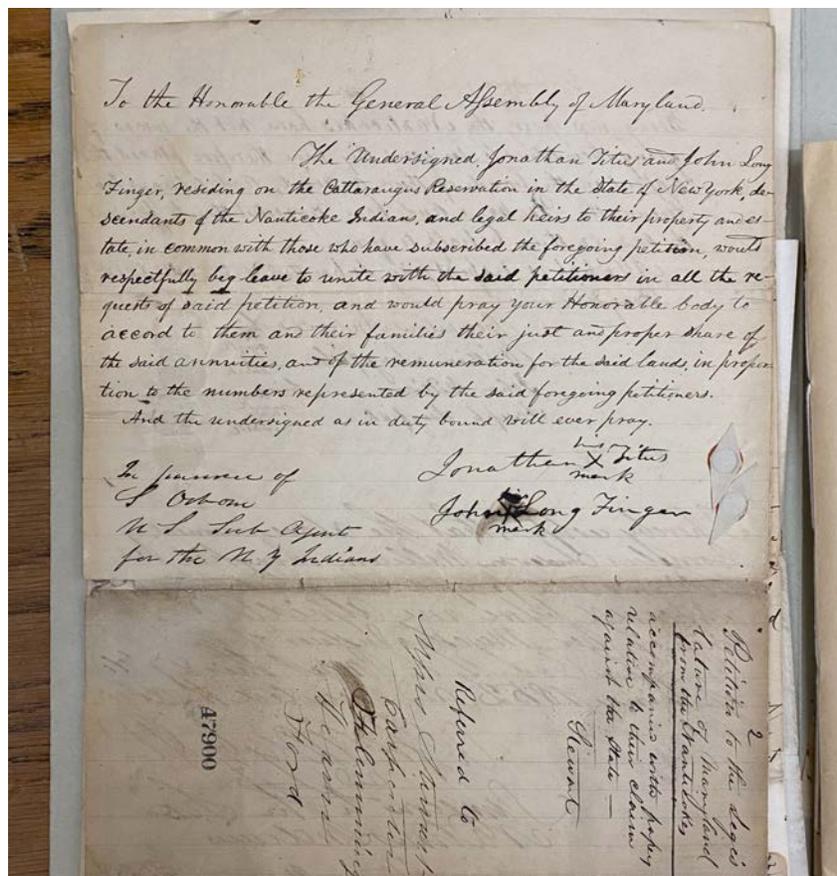
As this commemorative year continues, the Archives staff will continue to support and promote these celebrations and recognize the importance that family history and genealogical research plays in our shared heritage.

Inclusiveness in Cataloging

Recent conversations about social inequality have prompted the Maryland State Archives to re-examine our role as custodians of records and interpreters of history. We acknowledge that past cataloguing practices have failed to include the entire range of diverse people that comprise our stakeholders over Maryland's long history. As such, we have written and published a ["Statement on Inclusiveness in Cataloging"](#). This is our first step in addressing the shortcomings of historic records descriptions, findings aids, and naming conventions. We want to open the door to conversation with users and stakeholders in order to identify areas of weakness and develop and implement best practices regarding racial, gender, and sexual identity in our catalogs, finding aids, and descriptive information. We see this as an ongoing process to continually improve access to all records for all users. Best practices are constantly evolving and we will strive to keep pace with the highest standards for cataloguing. The Maryland State Archives is committed to on-going development and self-reflection, and we invite you to join us in this process. Comments and suggestions can be submitted [via web form](#).

Researching Indigenous People in Maryland Records

By Maria Day, Director of Special Collections and Conservation



Nanticoke Petition, MSA S1005-126-66

It takes time and effort for archivists to connect with and understand the needs of various communities. A team from Special Collections has been laying the foundations for increased access to Indigenous records within Maryland State Archives (MSA) holdings. In 2018, our department received a research inquiry from an Indigenous historian who was looking for a Maryland Public Television recording of a tribal dance performed on Maryland Day 1989 for Governor Schaefer and other public officials. We were able to locate a VHS videotaped copy of the recording and enlisted our partners at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving Image Archive to digitize a segment of the recording.



While the quality of the images from our videotape recording off of a television was rather low, *[pictured above]* the information confirmed to the historian that his tribal group (including him as a younger man) were indeed featured on the recording. We connected him with archivists at the University of Maryland Special Collections to obtain a high resolution version for his community's cultural center.



The historian returned several months later with additional research questions; this time his community asked for our help to locate seventeenth-century treaties. Fortunately for us, long-time archivist Phebe Robinson Jacobsen (1922-2000) *[pictured at left]* was a specialist in genealogy and Indigenous history, among many other subjects. She left future archivists her meticulously-organized files about Native Americans in the Chesapeake region when she retired from MSA in 1990. As our staff members Megan Craynon and Maya Davis began preliminary research, they recognized that not only does the *Archives of Maryland Online* have a wealth of records pertaining to contact and conflict between English colonists and Native peoples, but the records also are tricky to find even for archivists and scholars.

Our team began to meet regularly with Keith Colston, Director, Ethnic Commissions from Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), to keep the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs apprised of our plans to create a web portal that will enable anyone to search *Archives of Maryland Online* records for references to specific tribes, communities, individuals, and geographic references focusing on Native Americans who inhabited the land we now call Maryland.

We are further educating ourselves about Native history and culture as we continue to communicate with Indigenous scholars, Indian Affairs Commissioners, and others who are passionate about this topic. While we may not have the expertise that Phebe Jacobsen had, we are adept at organizing data

and providing tools for the person who might want to find records in a database. A team of graduate students from the University of Maryland, College Park (C. S. Treadwell, William Frederick, Theana Kastens, Rachael Kirschenmann) and a recent graduate of Smith College (Iris Afantchao) worked remotely during the pandemic to populate the data. These aspiring archivists combed through forty English government record volumes to find data in legislative and judicial records from 1636 to 1770. For an eighteenth-century perspective, the team also researched Governor Horatio Sharpe's papers, 1753-1771.

The project is currently in the hands of MSA's Information Technology and database specialists who are creating a search tool and web portal to aid researchers including Native students who want to know more about their ancestors; tribal elders searching for treaty documents; and scholars seeking specific geographic locations and individual histories. A demonstration version of the new searchable database tool will be ready later this year, with an aim for the public debut during Summer 2022. To that end, Maria Day, Director of Special Collections and Conservation, is building the project's outreach components. She is communicating with individuals from the many Indigenous communities and the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs to solicit community feedback on our designs. She is also a liaison with state agencies, cultural heritage, and academic institutions to build educational resources that will be useful to teachers and students around the region. She is a member of a multi-agency Indigenous curriculum working group, which includes representatives from the Maryland State Arts Council's Maryland Traditions program and Maryland State Department of Education.

This deep-dive into MSA's holdings is to ensure that more people can see themselves in our records. Our work with Commissioners from the Governor's Ethnic Commissions and GOCI has created good partnerships with tangible resources. The State's Ethnic Commissions represent communities who account for more than 40% of Maryland's population.¹ While our archive has distinguished itself as a leader in research on African American history for 20 years, the story of our work with Indigenous communities is less well known. As we continue working hard on these initiatives, we are directing our collection development and public access to spotlight more of Maryland's communities.

For more information, see: [Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs](#)

¹ "Over 100 commissioners represent more than 40% of the total population in Maryland and have the unique ability to engage with the 18% of the total population of Maryland who are multilingual, bilingual, and non-English and limited-English speakers." Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, accessed 20 October 2021.

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Update

The Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission was authorized by the General Assembly ([Chapter 41, Acts of 2019](#)) in June 2019. Chris Haley serves as the Commissioner representing the Archives.

On June 18, 2021 the Commission held a joint press conference with the Maryland Commission for African American History and Culture announcing their partnership to work toward racial equity and justice. The conference was attended by both Commissions and held at the Banneker-Douglass Museum on the eve of Juneteenth which was formally recognized by both the federal and state government this year.

Over the last two years, the Commissioners have been compiling research, coordinating with local coalitions of stakeholders across the state, and holding open meetings to plan for a series of public hearings in communities where racial terror lynchings took place. The hearings began this fall with the goal of developing recommendations for addressing the legacy of lynching rooted in restorative justice. At the hearings, members of the public, including the descendants of victims, witnesses, and perpetrators, have the opportunity to offer testimony about how these murders have impacted their lives and their communities in addition to allowing them the opportunity to make recommendations for achieving racial healing. Members of the public will be able to submit written testimony. The hearings will also provide an opportunity to identify and bring to light possible cases of racial terror lynching that are remembered in families and communities but for which there is little or no documentation.

The first public hearing was held on Saturday, October 2, 2021 and was co-hosted by the Commission and the Allegany County Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Committee (ACLTRC). While it was hoped that all hearings could be conducted in person, to ensure the safety of the public and to minimize the spread of COVID-19 the hearing was held online. The community came together online to hear the story of [Robert Hughes, aka William Burns](#), lynched in Cumberland Maryland on October 6, 1907. Testimony was provided by two descendants to Robert Hughes (aka William Burns), a descendant of Jesse Page who was with Robert Hughes at time of arrest, an administrator from the Equal Justice Initiative, the President of the Allegany County NAACP, a reporter from the Cumberland Times, and the current Chief of the Cumberland Police Force.

For more information and to register to attend any meeting or hearing, please use the [Commission website](#), maintained by the Maryland State Archives.

Founding Freedoms Exhibition at the Maryland State House

On September 9th, the Maryland State Archives, in partnership with Historic Annapolis and the State House Trust, celebrated the opening of *Founding Freedoms: The Essential American Documents*. This exhibition brought together the four most important founding documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and George Washington's original handwritten speech resigning his commission as the commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

Washington's speech was acquired from a private collection by the Maryland State Archives in 2007. The other documents were on loan from Maryland native David M. Rubenstein. In his remarks at the opening, Rubenstein singled out the phrase "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," as the central belief and aspiration of our country, later cited by Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King, Jr. in their famous speeches.

In her welcome address, Maryland State Archivist, Elaine Rice Bachmann noted, "While we call this exhibition 'the essential documents' of the period of our founding, we all know that the ideals expressed in them were not then, and have not yet been, realized for all Americans. What we can acknowledge, and what we should appreciate, is that these documents here before us are the building blocks from which all later, more expansive, freedoms were built--though they were hard-won through war, protests, legal battles, and untold human suffering and sacrifice. Let us appreciate the history and majesty of these rare survivals, and let us be inspired, as were those citizens who first read them centuries ago, to act on the promises they make."



During the exhibit run staff members from the Artistic Properties Commission of the Archives co-hosted many tours of the State House for area schools and visitors in partnership with Historic Annapolis staff. While the *Founding Freedoms* exhibition will close on November 28, 2021, the Washington Resignation speech is on permanent display and remains available for viewing. The State House is open to the public every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except Christmas and New Years Day.

regional collections and is an important addition to the state-owned art collection. Once framed, these works will be displayed at the Maryland State Archives. Acquisitions such as these demonstrate the Archives' commitment to diversifying its collections to be more inclusive and representative of all Marylanders. These works were purchased by the Friends of the Maryland State Archives through the generous support of donors to this initiative.



Maryland Crab Feast, 1994, (Edition of 195)
Gift of Eileen McGuckian and Phil Cantelon
MSA SC 1545-3522



It is through generous donors that the Archives has been able to acquire and preserve many treasures of Maryland's history. Donations support our mission to preserve and make accessible the historic records of Maryland, as well as supporting the professional development of our staff. To donate to the Friends [click here](#).

The Friends of the Maryland State Archives is a 501(c)3 organization and donations to it are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



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