

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 2, Folder 2

Spring 2021

Letter from the State Archivist

On July 1, I start a new chapter in my life as I retire from state service. I am grateful to be able to leave the agency in incredibly good hands with competent and caring managers and staff. I am confident that I am also leaving the agency in really decent shape from so many other different perspectives. Our fiscal health is good. Our facilities have never been better. We have one of the strongest electronic archives of any state in the country.

There still is something that we will always need: You.

One of the amazing things I have witnessed during my time at the Archives is the incredible growth in the number of volunteers and a great diversification in the types of services they perform in support of the agency and the people we serve. If you were with us before the pandemic, please come back when you feel comfortable.

If you have never volunteered, please consider it. There are so many ways in which you can contribute. We love our Search Room volunteers who provide so much help and support to our patrons, but you do not need to be an Archives expert to help out. [There are many ways to contribute.](#) Explore the possibilities by getting in touch with our volunteer coordinator nate.miller@maryland.gov.

If you would prefer to do something remotely, you can help us transcribe vital records from the comfort of your home. Creating these indexes is easy and will be enormously helpful. If you are interested in this opportunity, send a note to liz.coelho@maryland.gov.

I am looking forward to volunteering myself after July 1. Should you want to get in touch, please send a note to my personal email account: timothy.d.baker@gmail.com.

To all of you who support or use the Maryland State Archives, I wish you nothing but the best and my deepest thanks for all your support.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Baker



Family Search volunteers at work in the Archives Search Room, early 2020 (pre-pandemic)

Timothy D. Baker, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents

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Conservator - A definition

A conservator is a person responsible for the physical well-being of documents, books, photos, works of art, buildings, furniture or other collections of cultural or environmental significance.



Pictured working here are the hands of Conservator, Jennifer Foltz Cruickshank.

These professionals work on site in our own conservation lab to provide expertise in the monitoring of environmental storage conditions, ensuring proper housing and handling of materials, mending of documents and books, designing appropriate records supports for exhibitions, cleaning debris and foreign matter such as tape from papers and preparing original records for digitization.

Welcome to the Summer Interns

On June 2, staff was pleased to welcome the summer intern class of 2021 into our team. This year's talented cohort is composed of students from all across the state and includes high school, undergraduate, and graduate level participants. Many students are joining us to fulfill graduation requirements or to earn academic or community service credit. As part of the agency's educational outreach efforts, the Archives has proudly hosted student interns for over forty years. Many past participants in the program are now current staff members who serve as professional mentors to the incoming students, while other alumni have joined the teams of archival repositories, historic homes, universities, museums, libraries, and esteemed organizations across the country.



The summers of 2020 and 2021 have been anything but typical, but our staff was determined to continue this long-standing program to provide educational experience to up-and-coming professionals. Managers collaborated to design projects that students could complete remotely or with part time on-site work as needed across many departments including Special Collections, Imaging Services, Conservation, Research and Artistic Properties. We are grateful for our partners St. John's College, Washington College, University of Maryland iSchool, the United States Naval Academy and the Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience who have partnered with us to support additional opportunities for students. Thank you to all the students and managers for their determination and hard work to make this program happen, and here's to an amazing summer!

Search Room Appointments



In May, we were thrilled to reestablish public access to our search room by appointment. We appreciate your patience and understanding over the suspension of appointments in November 2020. We are again open by appointment with multiple slots being made available. Please use the simple form posted on our [homepage](#) to [make an appointment](#) for your in-person visit. After submitting the form, you will be contacted directly by one of our archivists who will provide a confirmed appointment time and any

necessary research assistance to identify the materials you wish to view in advance. Original materials will be pulled prior to your arrival, so that all visitors can make the most of their assigned appointment window. The Archives' search room is currently available by appointment only. Unfortunately, we cannot accept walk-in visits at this time. However, we look forward to receiving your [appointment request](#) whenever you would like to plan a visit.

The Archives continues to be available to serve you remotely as well. We encourage you to [place copy orders online](#). You can order certified copies of any unrestricted record type, and the fee includes a search for the record. Certified copies are required for legal needs such as social security, court appearances, drivers' licences, passports, dual citizenship, apostilles, estate settlement, pensions, and most legal transactions. You can also order uncertified copies of digitized birth, death or marriage records. You must have full citation and index

information to order an uncertified vital record, as the fee does not include a search. The digital image will be emailed to you directly. Uncertified copies can be used for reference, genealogical and research purposes.

We continue to expand access to digital records accessible from home on our website. Please regularly check [What's New Online](#) for the latest additions, as well as our [training videos](#) and [research guides](#) which provide details on how to find our most searched record types. For more information on our imaging progress and priorities, see the Digitization Report featured in this issue.

Please contact us at msa.helpdesk@maryland.gov or 410-260-6487 with any questions. We look forward to assisting you and thank you again for your support.

Digitization Priorities

The Archives is happy to share with you future and current digitization efforts. Recently, we asked the public for suggestions and input on Maryland State Archives digitization priorities. Your feedback helped us to complete our 2021-2023 digitization priority list. These priorities will, in part, guide the work of the Imaging Services over the next couple of years.



Your input provided guidance and directed us to include records of genealogical interest. When specific records are requested, we assess the feasibility of digitizing those records and adding them to the list. In some cases, records that were suggested have already been digitized and will be made accessible. These records will be available through the Maryland State Archives, Guide to Government Records in a few months, if not earlier.

Outside of public input our selection of series to digitize has been guided by the following criteria:

- Is there enough public demand interested in this series?
- Does having digital access to this collection improve our ability to provide service to the public?
- *Can they be digitized? Does the condition of the records require conservation?*
- Can we capture the content according to our standards without damaging the original?

- Does digitization provide access to materials that can no longer be circulated to the public due to condition?
- Is there a legal need to preserve the materials and make them widely accessible?

After taking all of these factors into consideration we are excited to share with you our Digitization Priorities for 2021-2023. These projects will be our primary focus over the next two years. [2021-2023 Digitization Priorities List](#)

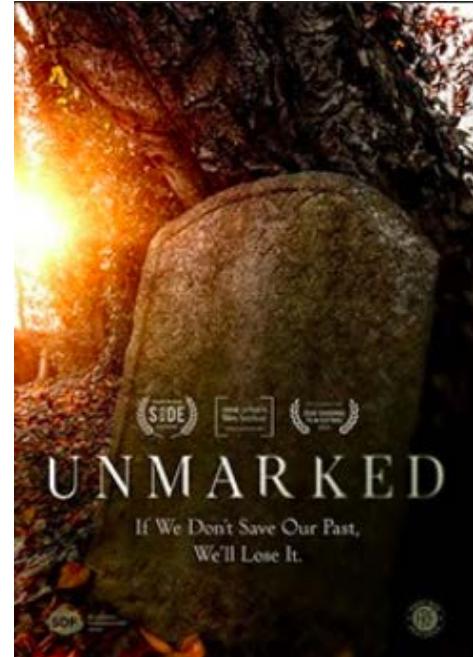
From 2018-2020 over six million images have been digitized and added to our Guide to Government records site. [2018-2020 Digitized Series List](#) Of these images over 158 series have been made publicly accessible. As these series are made available they are added to a new section of the Archives' homepage called, "[What's New Online](#)".

Staff Activities

Chris Haley Receives Emmy Nomination

We are proud to recognize Chris Haley, MSA's Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, on his recent Emmy nomination. Chris served as the co-director of the new film, *Unmarked*, which explores the tragic loss of African American burial sites due to lack of preservation and the movement underway to rediscover and maintain them. *Unmarked* was an honored participant in the Pan African, Savannah, Richmond, Carrboro, Annapolis, New Orleans, and Oxford Film Festivals and was recently nominated for a capital region Emmy for Best Documentary. The Archives' staff extends sincere congratulations to Chris for this amazing film and well-deserved honors. For more information on the film, including where to view, please see:

<https://www.unmarkedfilm.com/>



Conference Participation

During the week of April 12, 2021, several Maryland State Archives staff participated in the first ever virtual Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. The first day of sessions included a panel assembled, moderated, and presented by members of the State Archives team. The

focus of the session was on education and outreach as a means of promoting and highlighting diversity within archival records, as well as State Archives efforts in building relationships with various community organizations. Maria Day, Director of Special Collections and Conservation, moderated the panel which included Corey Lewis, Senior Director of Digitization at the State Archives, and two members of the Native American community--Mr. Mario Harley (Piscataway Conoy) and Dr. Gabrielle Tayac (Piscataway Indian Nation). Mr. Harley and Dr. Tayac spoke about the challenges of researching indigenous communities within archival records, as well as offering a general introduction to their communities histories, which are complex and often misrepresented, or simply left out of mainstream narratives. Corey Lewis wrapped up the panel discussing collaborations he has engaged in with community organizations, many of whom represent African American stakeholders.

The State Archives staff have offered basic training in inventory control, preservation, and digitization, as well as beginning conversations about how the Archives can best serve the goals of these communities. While the panel presentations centered on communities in Maryland, the attendees represented institutions all over the Mid-Atlantic region, and the last half hour of the session was spent engaging with audience questions about building relationships with communities and highlighting the histories of Native American and other underrepresented communities.

State Archivist Tim Baker also participated in a panel discussion which explored how the Public Information Act and Freedom of Information Act laws and procedures vary from state to state. The panel also talked about recent trends in PIA / FOIA requests.

You can access these, and other conference sessions through the University of Maryland Digital Repository: <https://drum.lib.umd.edu/handle/1903/25333>

The State Archives managers also had the opportunity to reflect about the dramatic shifts in business practices required of our agency during the pandemic at the Best Practices Exchange (BPE) virtual event on May 18, 2021. The BPE is an “unconference” designed to engage conversation between archivists, librarians, information professionals, and others involved in digital preservation and management with a goal towards sharing lessons learned. James Watson, Rachel Frazier, and Maria Day presented talks around the topic: “Response in a Time of Need: Models of Creative Thinking and Customer Service during the Pandemic.” Following the presentations, the panelists responded to questions from the 65 attendees, who were curious about MSA’s digital access strategies and quality-control workflows.

Joint Statement of the MCAAHC and the MLTRC on Racial Injustice & Social Equity

The Maryland State Archives serves on the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission (MLTRC). The Commission was established by House Bill 307 in the 2019 legislative session and is authorized to research cases of racially motivated lynchings and to hold public meetings and regional hearings where a lynching of an African American by a white mob has been documented.

Chris Haley, Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland represents the Archives on the Commission. In March 2021, the MLTRC issued a joint statement with the Maryland Commission on African American History & Culture (MCAAHC) to condemn racial injustice, to denounce racially motivated violence and to promote social equity.

The statement calls for an end to systemic racism and provides concrete steps that the state can take towards equity and healing. The Maryland State Archives' staff is proud to be a part of this important effort and to support the vital work of the Commission.

To read the full statement, please see:

<https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/pdf/mcaahc-mltrcstatement.pdf>

To get more details about the Commission and attend one of its meetings, please see:

<https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/>

Governor Larry Hogan and Historian Louis Diggs at the May 8, 2021 historic marker unveiling ceremony in remembrance of Howard Cooper. Cooper, a fifteen year old Black child, was lynched by a white mob in July 1885 at the Baltimore County Jail. The complete marker unveiling is available on [YouTube](#) through the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project.



[Photo courtesy of the Governor's Press Office.](#)

Lawyers' Mall Rededication

On April 5, the newly redesigned Lawyers' Mall, including the Thurgood Marshall Memorial, was rededicated after over two years of closure for infrastructure repairs to underground utilities. Deputy State Archivist Elaine Rice Bachmann joined Governor Hogan, First Lady



Yumi Hogan, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Senate President Bill Ferguson, Speaker Adrienne Jones, and DGS Secretary Ellington Churchill, in making remarks to commemorate the event. Antonio Tobias (Toby) Mendez, the sculptor of the Marshall Memorial, originally installed in 1996, was also present. To redesign the plaza, following the necessary demolition and reconstruction, DGS engaged the Baltimore architectural firm Ziger/Snead, which worked closely in consultation with Mendez to ensure that all the elements of the

Marshall Memorial were reinstalled in their original configuration, preserving its artistic integrity. To facilitate the construction, Artistic Property staff Catherine Rogers Arthur and Chris Kintzel oversaw the safe removal, transport, and storage of the sculptural figures and architectural elements of the Marshall Memorial which remained at the Archives Rolling Run facility for the duration of the project, with the exception of the central statue of Marshall which was temporarily installed in front of the Murphy Courts of Appeal building in Annapolis.

The opportunity to redesign Lawyers' Mall allowed for the installation of additional lighting, improved access by adding more ramps, and enhanced landscaping including trees and planting beds designed as rain gardens. The total square footage of assembly space has been increased from 2,000 sq. ft. to 6,000 sq. ft., making it more accommodating for public demonstrations and events which are traditionally held here. The new design also includes an elevated 'stage' for speakers and additional seating areas throughout the plaza.



First Citizen Awards



The First Citizen Award as displayed by the casket of Senate President Emeritus Mike Miller in the State House, January 22, 2021.

In 1992, the Maryland Senate, working with the State Archives, established the First Citizen Award, to be given to “Marylanders who have been dedicated and effective participants in the process of making government work for the benefit of all.” The award is named for Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who wrote a series of influential letters to Daniel Dulany, published in 1773 in the *Maryland Gazette* using the name “First Citizen,” in which he strongly defended the idea of an independent legislature and argued that government must work for the benefit of all.

Since then, the award has been conferred upon sixty recipients including former legislators, academicians, and public servants. Presented annually by the state archivist or deputy state archivist, along with the president of the Senate, the award originally consisted of a copy of the book, *Maryland and the Empire, 1773: The Antilon-First Citizen Letters*, edited

by Peter Onuf and published in 1974. In 1993, State Archivist Dr. Edward Papenfuse and then Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., designed a medallion featuring the profile of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, as a prototype for a new iteration of the First Citizen Award. The medallion was not commissioned, however, until earlier this year when, fittingly, it was posthumously presented to Miller by Senate President Bill Ferguson. On January 22, 2021, Ferguson presented the First Citizen Award medallion to the family of the late Senate president emeritus, where it was displayed alongside his casket while lying in state in the rotunda of the State House.

On March 24, President Ferguson conferred the award on three former members of the Maryland Senate in a virtual ceremony streamed from the Senate Chamber. David Craig, Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, and Jamie Raskin, along with all First Citizen recipients going forward, will receive the new medallion, struck in sterling silver and created by Recognition Concepts of Annapolis.

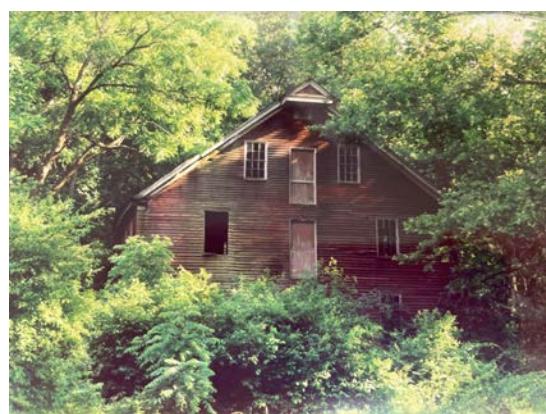
In Appreciation

The Maryland State Archives was saddened to learn of the passing of John W. McGrain, Jr., former Baltimore County historian, in early May 2021. Mr. McGrain dedicated his career to preserving and interpreting the history of Baltimore County, as well as being a foremost expert in millinography--the history and study of mills. Those who worked or interacted with him were regularly impressed with his encyclopedic knowledge, and the enthusiasm and good will with which he shared his research. Over the years Mr. McGrain donated much of his research and photography relating to Maryland mills to the Maryland State Archives Special Collections. We are grateful for John McGrain's contributions to understanding the history of Maryland and are pleased to preserve his research legacy.

White Hall Mill, 1966



Hunter Mill, 1999



McGrain Collection, MSA SC 4300-6-107



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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