

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 2, Folder 3

Summer 2021

Letter from the State Archivist



It is a pleasure to have my ‘inaugural’ letter as state archivist appear in an edition of *The Clamshell* devoted to intern research and summer projects at the Archives. Although I cannot claim ‘former Archives intern’ status like several of my colleagues, I did begin working here very shortly after graduate school, and my early career was shaped by the guidance I received from senior staff with a great deal of ‘learning on the job.’ A hallmark of every

calendar year is the appearance of a new cohort of young people--from high school age through post-graduate--who join us in our daily work, supporting the agency’s core operations and also helping us accomplish projects that are only possible through their knowledge, assistance, and dedication.

And while for the past couple of summers, due to COVID, these ‘fresh faces’ are mostly seen on our computer monitors, having this infusion of students who are pursuing a variety of majors and career paths is energizing for our staff. Formal academic study is far in the rearview mirror for many of us, and interns bring a fresh perspective that reflects current curricula and philosophies, helping us all keep apace with the archival field.

All the while, Archives staff is providing mentorship that may change the course of a student’s life. In that regard, we have a responsibility to make the field of archival study welcoming and open to all. As we collectively strive to make history reflective of the truth of all those who have come before us, so must we have historians and archivists who know how to preserve and make that truth accessible. The diversity of public history can only be documented through a diversity of perspectives. Every year we have the opportunity to introduce new people to the work of our agency. In turn, it is a privilege to share the work of this year’s interns with all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ERB".

Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist

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MSA Intern - A definition

Our interns are typically students that reside in Maryland and/or attend an in-state school who also have an interest in archives, library science, museum studies, history, conservation, art history, information studies or computer science. They can be high school, undergraduate or graduate level students who apply to the Archives to gain hands-on work experience in the profession. Often, the interns are students who believe they may want to pursue a career in archives, but want to try it out first to be sure of their choice. We agree and emphasize that it is just as important to find out what you *do* want to do, as it is to find out what you *do not*. Our interns consistently bring enthusiasm, flexibility and new perspectives to their assignments, and we are always honored to mentor these up-and-coming professionals who want to explore job possibilities in the field.

Fall Reference Services Update

Beginning September 1, 2021, the Maryland State Archives will welcome walk-in guests, in addition to continuing to host scheduled appointments. In October, we will resume the first Saturday of the month search room hours. Our staff will continue to wear masks for your protection, and we ask that all visitors continue to do so as well when in the search room. We strongly encourage all guests to make an appointment in advance for the most efficient service.

Scheduled & confirmed appointments guarantee that we have a desk and computer reserved for you and that the collections you need will be immediately available upon arrival. We offer advance retrieval service of collection items for confirmed appointments, so that all request slips are completed on your behalf and the collections are pre-pulled, waiting on a cart for you.

To schedule your appointment with us, please complete the following [form](#). Appointments are available Tuesday through Friday in half day (8:30am-12:30pm or 12:30pm -4:30pm) or full day (8:30am-4:30pm) blocks. First Saturday hours are

8:30am to 12:00pm and 1:00-4:30pm, with a closure from 12:00-1:00pm for the lunch hour beginning on October 2nd.

Walk-in guests, or those without an appointment may need to wait for a desk, computer or an archivist to become available to assist them. Walk-in guests will have to write up pull slips and wait for a designated retrieval time throughout the day to view original materials. It is possible that records may be stored offsite, and will not be immediately accessible on a walk-in basis. To be certain the records and services that you need are available before you come to Annapolis, we recommend that you request an appointment.

Placing an order is the most expedient, direct way to receive a copy from us, particularly one needed for a legal purpose such as REAL ID, social security, remarriage, passport, estate settlement, pensions, etc. If you need a copy of any record or collection item, please first consult our detailed online order [forms](#). We also offer email delivery of digital uncertified copies of select birth, death and marriage certificates, if you have the required index information and do not require a search or certification. All orders can be placed [online](#), by [mail](#), or by phone at 410-260-6487. We encourage you to visit our website for important updates, including [What's New Online](#), our [training videos](#) and [research guides](#) providing step-by-step instructions on how to find our most searched record types. For more information on directions and hours, as well as any inclement weather closure notices, please see our [website](#).

We are grateful for all our patrons who have visited us in person, placed an order or corresponded with us via email, mail or phone over the past 18 months. Despite the difficult circumstances of the pandemic, our dedicated team has served exponentially more customers than ever before during this time. We have attempted to develop new modes of streamlined communication and service, incorporate time-saving processes for our guests and provide more digitized materials for direct, remote access online to keep up with the increased demands. We will continue to seek ways to provide the most efficient, outstanding service to our customers whether that be in-person or remotely as we move ahead. We sincerely thank you all for your patience and support and look forward to serving you in the coming months.

Staff News

Appointment of State Archivist

On July 1, 2021 Tim Baker officially retired from state service and Elaine Rice Bachmann began her tenure as State Archivist. Governor Hogan, in his [press release](#) announcing her appointment as State Archivist noted that Elaine is not a stranger to the Archives saying that, “[she is] well-respected and admired for her decades of work at the State Archives.”

Ms. Rice Bachmann started at the State Archives as Curator of Artistic Property in 1994, later becoming director of that department and going on to serve as Deputy State Archivist alongside Tim Baker. She earned her M.A. from the Winterthur Program in Early American Material Culture at the University of Delaware, and brings a wealth of experience working in public history to her leadership of the State Archives.



Tim Baker passes on the historic key to the front door of the original Hall of Records, built in 1932, to the next State Archivist, Elaine Rice Bachmann.

Alex Haley Day in Annapolis

In a ceremony commemorating Alex Haley's 100th Birthday on August 14, 2021, Chris Haley, Director of the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland, accepted the key to the city of Annapolis on behalf of the Haley family. The ceremony in downtown Annapolis allowed Mayor Gavin Buckley to announce “Alex Haley Day” and marked the beginning of a year of events celebrating the centennial of Alex Haley’s birth. The research for Alex Haley’s 1976 Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, brought him to the Maryland State Archives where he was able to connect the oral history of his ancestor, Kunta Kinte, to an advertisement in the *Maryland Gazette* documenting the arrival of a ship in Annapolis carrying a cargo of enslaved people from The Gambia, West Africa, in 1767. The key to the city, along with other commemorative items, will become part of the Alex Haley Centennial Collection to be established at the Archives.

Paul Goddard celebrates 30 Years at MSA

On August 12, staff celebrated with our colleague Paul Goddard, in marking his 30th year at the Maryland State Archives. Paul began volunteering at the Archives in 1991, and went on to join the staff. Paul has spent the majority of his time at the Archives working with government records. He is integral to the critical work of alphabetizing records so that they can be indexed and digitized. Without the upfront work of correcting or imposing alphabetical order, access to digitized records would be difficult at best. While the pandemic sparked a year of mandatory telework, Paul returned to work at the Archives as soon as he could safely do so. We are grateful for Paul's years of service and dedication to his work at the Archives!

Class of 2021 Summer Interns

Our staff was honored to continue our forty plus year tradition of hosting interns this summer. Although the program was slightly non-traditional, given that many students completed their assignments either partially or completely remotely, it was an incredibly productive ten weeks.

This year's talented cohort included 32 students from Maryland high schools, undergraduate, and graduate level programs, including McDaniel College, St. John's College, Washington College, University of Maryland College Park, University of Maryland Baltimore County, and the United States Naval Academy as well as Damascus and Old Mill High Schools . Many students fulfilled graduation requirements, earned stipends from their institutions, completed field studies or gained academic or community service credit as a result of their participation. We are deeply grateful to all the students and staff mentors for their hard work, and to our funding partners St. John's College, the United States Naval Academy and the Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience who provided additional opportunities for students placed with us.

Please enjoy the following articles submitted by our students and their staff mentors. We hope these reports give a glimpse into our longstanding summer program and the many projects to which the students contributed. If you know a student who would be a good fit in next summer's internship, please have them watch our website for an announcement about the 2022 summer program in January.

Project Reports

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RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



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.



Editorial Staff:

Elaine Rice Bachmann, State Archivist

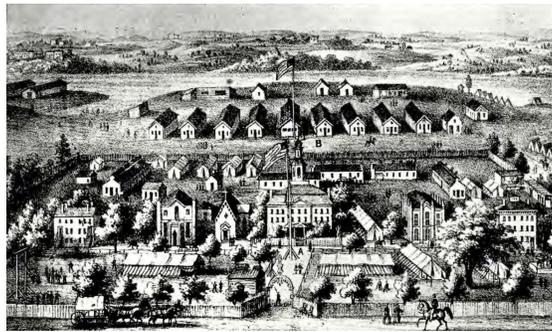
Emily Oland Squires, Director of Research, Reference, Education and Outreach

Megan Craynon, Deputy Director, Special Collections

Joyce Phelps, Outreach & Appraisal Archivist

Collection Highlights St. John's College Civil War Connections

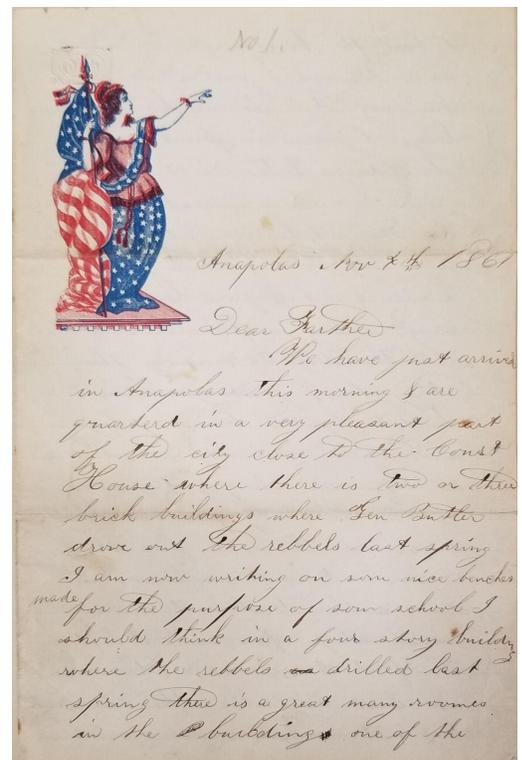
Ava Lehrman from St. John's College



From the 1906 Rat-Tat (SJC Yearbook), re-published in Emily A. Murphy, *"A Complete & Generous Education": 300 Years of Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis.*

St. John's College has been a fixture of Annapolis ever since it was founded as King William's School in 1696. It has seen many changes since then, including in October of 1861, when the college was claimed by the Union Army as part of a campaign to secure Maryland. Rechristened as "the College Green Barracks," St. John's became a parole camp where Union soldiers recovered from Confederate prisoner-of-war camps could receive medical attention, food, and combat pay. This arrangement lasted for almost two years, at which point the camp became inundated with soldiers, who were relocated to Camp Parole, just outside of Annapolis. The campus then became the site of U.S. General Hospital, Division 2 until the end of the war.

As part of her summer internship at the Maryland State Archives Special Collections & Conservation Department, college student Ava Lehrman has been doing an inventory on Willard Mumford's collection of Civil War letters sent from soldiers in Annapolis. She is a rising junior at St. John's College and was particularly interested in her school's history, especially firsthand accounts from soldiers stationed there. One soldier, Corporal William L. Norton of the 10th Connecticut Infantry, described St. John's College while sitting on a bench writing to his father: "One of the buildings is used as a hospital and a nice building it is. We have a nice large green in front of the buildings and a river in the rear. I wish we could stay here while we stay in the city... If we do, we shall have the best of quarters and a beautiful place, too. It looks as much in front [like] the Boston Common as anything I can think of." (MSA SC 6244-2-18, pictured to the



right.) These features can be clearly seen in the 1864 lithograph by E. Sachse & Co., when the campus had been converted into a hospital.

SPECIAL PROJECTS GROUP

***FromThePage* Transcription Project**

Ellen Goodman from University of Maryland iSchool

For my project at the Maryland State Archives I worked on indexing marriage records through a website called *FromThePage*. The work was primarily independent and self-directed. *FromThePage* is a site that allows any organization to enable volunteers to make archival material accessible by transcribing scanned files. In the case of the Maryland marriage records, we transcribed information from scanned marriage records into a form to create a database. The site can be accessed via the web from any computer, so the work was completely remote and we could work at any time that fit with our schedules.

I also edited existing digital files that might have typographical errors or are missing information. All of the marriage records that I processed were from 1983. The Archives is going year by year and entering all the records for a given year before going to the next year. *FromThePage* allows anyone to volunteer to transcribe records. In the case of the Maryland State Archives, anyone can contribute to the transcribing of the marriage records. All volunteers need to do is contact the archives and let them know they want to contribute to this project, and the staff will give them access to the site. My understanding is that you don't even need to let the archives know—the site is truly accessible by the public. But I believe the Archives would want to know how many people are working on the project so they can plan accordingly.

One thing that stands out about the Maryland State Archives marriage records project in contrast to other *FromThePage* projects is that the original documents are mostly typed rather than handwritten. This makes them much easier to read and confidently transcribe. Many other institutions' projects are handwritten documents from the 1800's, some of which have legibility issues. So I was happy to work on the marriage records project just for ease of reading.

In addition to transcribing and reviewing marriage records for the *FromThePage* project, I and my fellow interns had the opportunity to attend Lunch & Learn sessions where we met the staff of the different Archives departments via zoom. This was an excellent opportunity to talk about the career path to working at the Archives, what the various departments do, and make connections. It also enabled us to meet our fellow interns, since the majority of us were working from home.

This was an interesting experience. I enjoyed learning about *FromThePage* and the many organizations that are using it for remote transcription projects. It was exciting to meet the staff of the different departments and learn what their backgrounds are and how they got interested in this field. I really enjoy transcribing, so it was fun to edit the records that needed corrections and make them easier to read. I also enjoyed following along the progress of the 1983 marriage records project. What seemed daunting at first was much more manageable by the end. This is an excellent pandemic field study. No travel, no meetings in person, no risk of double scheduling, it can be done 24/7 for maximum flexibility. I learned a lot about how the Maryland State Archives operates and all the records that it holds.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

Searching for the Enslaved: Research on Those Held by Maryland's Governors

Erica Quinones (Washington College), Isa Kiedrowski (St. John's College), and Kate Kennedy (St. John's College)



Owen Lourie's research interns—Isa Kiedrowski, Kate Kennedy, and Erica Quinones—spent their summer surveying enslaved people held by the governors of Maryland. They worked through land and chattel records, slave statistics, tax assessments, censuses, and probate documents to track the buying, selling, transfer, and reporting of enslaved people as the first step in a wider project to identify them and tell their stories.

When we first received our assignment, the heavy subject matter occasionally elicited surprise or concern from acquaintances who worried that the research would be “so hard on you” or “make you feel bad.” However, Isa phrased it well when she said that, “I didn't really understand that vein of questioning—if anything, I'd feel worse if I wasn't involved.”

As Isa later said, we've spent the summer researching some uncomfortable topics, but the discomfort this topic can elicit will—and has—changed how we interns view the country's founding and early eras.

Our work with early governors showed us the foundations of our state and our country being laid, and in those foundations was a truth which we already knew. Primarily that the same men who preached about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness also held enslaved people.

While that revelation wasn't necessarily novel, we found new insights and surprises in unsuspecting places throughout our work.

Perhaps one of the strangest sources of excitement was finding comprehensive wills and inventories. We often find wills that refer to "the entire estate, real and personal," but neglect to name the enslaved people that encompasses. Kate, who worked on Governor William Paca, found record of over ninety enslaved people but only around eight names. She remarked that the loss of information was heartbreaking because we don't only lose the ability to identify these individuals, but it's also a loss of their identities as people.

The relationship between the names of enslaved people and documentation was impressed on us throughout our research.

Erica's attention was caught by the invalidation of chosen names, especially on fugitive slave advertisements published in newspapers. She often found advertisements which would—for example—announce a search for a Black "man named John, who calls himself John Doe." The enslaved man's name was John Doe, but she saw the prefacing of his name with "who calls himself" as delegitimizing the enslaved person's identity and reasserting the owner's influence over their personhood.

Kate said she was struck by a similar situation when scrolling through miscellaneous documents. She stumbled across a probate which listed enslaved people, including five women all named Kate. She said that seeing her own name appear in the list of enslaved people refocused her understanding of the history we were handling.

But our time at MSA hasn't only shifted our views on history but on our next steps. We won't be here to see how the project develops; however, our time with the Archives has certainly given us renewed insight into our futures.

Kate said the experience that this internship has given her is huge, and she'd love to pursue a career which deals with research and historic documents.

Erica came to the Archives with an interest in library science. She said her work with the MSA emphasized the ability to apply research to public history, and it's only increased her interest in the field.

Isa said that while she was surprised by how much she loves the pure research process—and she's found herself even more enamored with history than she already was—she isn't sure this love will translate into a career in archives. But she does know she'll likely stick to history in some form or another in the future.

So, while we go off to continue our educations—some staying in Annapolis and another hopping the Bridge—we hope future interns will receive the same great experiences that we have and that they will hopefully succeed in telling the stories of the enslaved people we've identified.

THE STUDY OF THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

1870 Allegany County Federal Census Data Input of Post Slavery African Americans

Jessia Avila from McDaniel College

Over the past two months, I have mined record entries from Allegany County's districts in the 1870 U.S. Federal Census to expand the *Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland's* online searchable database. It entailed a meticulous review of primary source documents to locate and transfer the information recorded for freed Black and Mulatto individuals six years after the abolishment of slavery through Maryland's third constitution. The impact of this work, however, transcends temporal or geographic boundaries. I have been part of an evolving team that promotes healing from current and intergenerational traumas, unpacks marginalized histories, and equips communities with the knowledge to pursue their own interests. Our research has sought to celebrate the lived experiences of African Americans and counter patterns of muted agency.

Such an effort, however, has been replete with unanswered queries and peculiarities. At the start of my research, a few Assistant Marshals appeared to arbitrarily use slashes and dashes to indicate whether an individual could read or write, despite the former being the only accepted affirmative mark. Upon consulting Ancestry and FamilySearch as well as the 1870 instruction manual for Assistant Marshals, I was unable to determine a different meaning for the dashes and began interpreting them as an additional affirmative mark. As such, numerous Black and Mulatto individuals with dashes in the "Cannot read" and "Cannot write" columns were deemed to be unable to read or write. While the simultaneous use of slashes and dashes was only characteristic of a few districts, most Black and Mulatto individuals in Allegany County

could not read or write in 1870, a product of systemic deprivation, exclusion, and oppression.

These disparities were further magnified in the professions, occupations, or trades accessible to Black and Mulatto individuals. Farmer, laborer, and farmhand were the most prevalent among Black or Mulatto men. Barber, blacksmith, schoolteacher, carpenter, ostler, and dealer in bones, on the contrary, appeared less frequently. For women, roles as a laundress, midwife, servant, cook, and “keeping house” reaffirmed the centrality of the home and family in 1870. Children either attended school or remained at home.

In District 5, pages 21 through 23 exemplify one of the few concentrations of Black and Mulatto households in Allegany County. Among these families, however, the Assistant Marshall placed a checkmark in the column “Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic” for 34 individuals. The Assistant Marshall may have ascertained whether these Black or Mulatto individuals were “deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic” but chose not to include the term in the record, as was expected in the slave schedules that preceded the 1870 U.S. Federal Census. This column was left blank in other districts and compels one to wonder if this community of Black and Mulatto families established community support mechanisms for these individuals.

Given that the 1870 U.S. Federal Census was the first to record the names of all African Americans, several discrepancies also became apparent. On page 112 of Allegany County’s District 5, Jamima E. Twigg had both a “W” and an “M” in the Color column. Ancestry and FamilySearch’s indexes indicated that Twigg was White, and further research in future census records did not yield any results. On page 59 of District 5 records, three Black and Mulatto servants in a White household did not have a last name, and additional research in future census records failed to confirm their identities. This lack of information is emblematic of the ongoing erasure and invisibility of narratives among historically marginalized groups. Another finding also revealed the high potential for errors. On page 144 in Allegany County’s District 5, the Assistant Marshall listed Hester A. Stevey as a White Female with a Mulatto spouse named Alexander Stevey and two Mulatto children. While she could not be found in the 1860 U.S. Federal Census, the 1880 records listed Hester A. as Mulatto with a surname of Alexander rather than Stevey. The U.S. Federal Census records document these changes in interpretation but also of movement. Dolly King, a Black Female in Allegany County’s District 6, was listed twice, once in page 99 and again on page 111, with the same occupation. King’s change in age from 29 to 30 between both entries indicates that she celebrated a birthday between July 14 and July 20 in 1870. She also pursued employment with another family in Allegany County.

As noted above, the details embedded in U.S. Federal Census records aid in the construction of individual stories, but they also contribute to an understanding of broader race relations. District 2 and District 16, for example, did not have any Black or Mulatto individuals. A dearth of maps that demarcated district borders posed a challenge in researching whether Black and Mulatto individuals migrated to the area in subsequent years or if a crisis of representation remained. A comparative analysis between past and present would have equipped us with knowledge of movement patterns within and across these districts in Allegany County as well as the historical context that undergirded these changes. It takes a community, however, to unearth and weave together layers of truth, to uncover the roots of our shared histories and heal from egregious abuses that dehumanized our neighbors.

IMAGING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Access through Digitization

Claire Lattin from University of Maryland College Park

As a new MLIS graduate student, this internship helped me to learn a lot about what work goes on behind the scenes to make records accessible for research. I was excited to be able to work in the Imaging Services department of the Archives this summer. My work was primarily focused on digitizing records, but also included pulling and returning records in the stacks. I worked on the card catalog and Legislative Services scanning projects, as well as completing order fulfillment requests. Order requests came from patrons and staff members, and ranged from single pages to full volumes.

The preparation and digitization of records utilized a variety of tools and scanners. Typically, records arrive at the department ready for scanning. However, I occasionally had to perform some prep work, which came in the form of removing staples or flattening paper. The records needed to be prepared for scanning in a way that would best preserve them, and would be safe for the machines being used. Staples and other fasteners were carefully removed with a micro spatula to minimize further mechanical damage to the paper, and to ensure that there weren't any metal parts present that could scratch the glass of the scanners. In order to flatten paper that was too delicate to be simply unfolded and placed on the scanning bed, a weight was used to distribute pressure across the document and flatten it over time. I used two scanners in my work this



summer. The Scanmaster is a large scanner used for documents and volumes that cannot be put through a normal feed scanner due to their size or fragility. The Kodak scanners were used for smaller items, such as index cards from the card catalog project, that were stable enough to be fed through the machines. I digitized a variety of record types including naturalization records, judicial dockets, marriage licenses, case files, equity papers, artworks, and more.

I learned so much from handling and digitizing this array of records. The care and quality of work that goes into digitizing records make research possible for a wider range of people, especially in a time where online research is so prevalent. Digitization preserves the information contained in records through new digital forms, and through the fact that the original records don't need to be moved around and opened as often due to their new online availability. Every record will have its own digitization needs, and having the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to meet those needs is critical.

THE STUDY OF THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY IN MARYLAND

Maryland Penitentiary Records

Matthew Novick from University of Maryland Baltimore County

This summer I have been working with the Maryland State Archives Legacy of Slavery Program to decipher, transcribe, and analyze the names and information of people detained in the Maryland Penitentiary from 1811-1818. I am working with Mr. Chris Haley to put this information into greater context and to examine the observable trends within the documents. A person's birthplace, legal status, complexion, sentence discrepancy, and occupation in prison are but a few of the many details we examined which are incredibly important to telling the story of these prisoners.

Birthplace told us which persons were immigrants or native born among those imprisoned in the Maryland State Penitentiary. This information was exceptionally intriguing as it revealed the identity of one person directly from Africa named Keybow, who was only fifteen and listed as an apprentice. The legal status' located in the documents were apprentice, slave, free, and servant. Each status provides researchers more context into the lives of the imprisoned people in the early 1800s. Complexion was the way in which race was identified and was essential to comparing the inequities in sentences, with the listed identifiers being fair, black, negro, mulatto, yellow, and Indian.

The sentences of prisoners were of interest as they did not always match up to other prisoners, often with a difference in race. Two examples that clearly demonstrate this point are the sentencing of an enslaved man, listed as Negro Aaron, who was convicted of rape and sentenced to twenty-one years in prison. In contrast, a white

man named Michael Gorrell received only one year in prison for committing the same crime. Other examples demonstrate similar trends in most of the forms of prosecuted crimes, though there are always persons who fall in between the two extremes listed. Although not always the case, it seems many of the sentences of African American prisoners in the early 1800s were much harsher than those of many other prisoners. In terms of occupation, most of those imprisoned were typically assigned jobs in their previous line of work during their time at the Penitentiary. Blacksmiths smithed, cordwainers made shoes, weavers weaved. More often than not, this was the case for those at the Maryland Penitentiary with the exception of those who were too old, too young, or had a less applicable position in which case they were often stuck with cordwaining or sawing stone for men or weaving, sewing, and spinning for women.

Of all the entries transcribed and examined, the most fascinating were the arrests of three African American men during the War of 1812 for conspiring to raise insurrection. They were convicted in Frederick County on September 16, 1814, which correlates to around the time of the Battle of Baltimore. Unfortunately, I have been unable to obtain further information from newspaper records of the time on these three men, two of whom died in prison and the third pardoned in December of the same year. This internship has been of great interest to me over the summer and I have enjoyed getting to know the people in the Maryland State Archives through their virtual meetings during this pandemic. I am especially thankful to Mr. Haley for being a great mentor and suggesting this project for my internship this summer. I look forward to continuing working with Mr. Haley on this project in the fall.

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ARTISTIC PROPERTY

Collections Management and Research

Elsa Risgin from St. John's College

This summer at the Maryland State Archives, I had the pleasure of assisting Chris Kintzel, Associate Curator and Collections Manager, begin a project of filling out biographical sheets for each artist whose work is housed in the collection. While most had a modest Wikipedia page, I discovered some artists who were wildly popular during their time, gained celebrity status, and then faded into obscurity after their deaths. Even more frustrating was attempting to research artists who have no writings about their lives at all, the only proof of their existence being the signature in the corner of a single painting or sketch. Though my time as an archival intern draws to a close, I hope future researchers are able to unearth some knowledge about these artists and craftsmen whose pieces survived the test of time.



Growing up homeschooled with two English major parents, it was no surprise that I became obsessed with history from an early age. I grew up going to museums, reenacting the Revolutionary War, and reading as much as I could about whichever topic I was fixated on at the moment. Though this internship was mainly remote, the hands-on experience I did get inside the Maryland State House and Government House scratched an itch I've been harboring for most of my life: to step beyond the "Do Not Touch" line and get up close and personal with history. At these historic buildings, Chris and I cleaned the artifacts and exhibits to maximize the experience for visitors. In addition, I also helped to catalog and process fourteen framed prints into the Archives' Circulating Art Collection (MSA SC 3665).

In the State Archives itself, I had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at how the artwork is stored, cared for, and catalogued. I worked with spreadsheets to organize incoming artworks so they'll be easier to find if needed, as well as measuring and photographing them for an online visual collection. Altogether, my time here has been a summer well spent, and I hope this experience will help me to pursue a related career in the future. Although the artist biography project remains unfinished, I hope that the consistency of my work makes it easy for the next intern to pick up where I left off, and that this information becomes accessible to the public as soon as possible.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

Maryland Women's Hall of Fame

Emily Juncker from the United States Naval Academy

This past month, I worked on researching and writing two biographies of women inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. Due to the pandemic, I have worked primarily in my dorm room and at the library. Most of my research is online

through the Maryland State Archives and Gale Databases, and I also checked out several books for more information. Additionally, I visited the Archives to see the records and the various jobs people performed to preserve records and assist the public in finding the records they needed.

I learned about writing biographies correctly by spending time on the Women's Hall of Fame website and reading the biographies written by previous interns. Writing a footnoted biography was challenging for me because I lacked much experience in this format of writing prior to this internship. However, it had gotten easier and I began to feel more confident writing citations. I also learned a significant amount of history about various accomplished women in the state of Maryland.

Writing multiple biographies about different women has been rewarding and interesting because although the two women I wrote about are from different time periods, their accomplishments affected one another. For example, I wrote a biography about Rosalie Silber Abrams, a state senator who made numerous contributions to women's rights in Maryland. I learned she earned her master's degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University during the 1950's. After writing her biography, I began researching Dr. Lilian Welsh for my next biography. I learned that Dr. Welsh was a part of the committee that fought for women to be able to enter graduate school programs at Johns Hopkins University, which occurred in 1908.

It has been inspiring to learn about these women and how they handled challenges as pioneers in their fields. For my own future, I would like to be a nuclear submarine officer after I graduate, which has only allowed women into the field since 2013. Knowing these amazing stories showed me not only that we, as women, can do anything, but also how we can do it.
