

THE CLAMSHELL

A Quarterly Newsletter of the Maryland State Archives

Box 4, Folder 4

Fall 2023

In this Issue:

[Letter from the Assistant State Archivist](#)

[Staff Updates](#)

[New Staff & Service Year Maryland Corps Program](#)

[In Memoriam: Tim Brooks Celebration of Life](#)

[Activities](#)

[Awards](#)

[Events and Outreach](#)

[News from Baltimore City Archives](#)

[Research Reflections:](#)

[“Adventures In Fun”: A Tale of Nomadic Government Records](#)

[Maryland at the Chicago World’s Fair](#)

[History of Maryland’s Flag](#)



Caption: 2023-2024 Maryland State Archives Service Year Members (left to right): Kemani Burton, Ben Lewis, Caroline Ritter, Kendall Hahn

Civil Servant - A Definition

A civil servant is an individual who works in the government sector, but not in the military branch. Further, a civil servant is a public employee who serves the government as a whole, rather than a specific political party, and is generally hired rather than appointed or elected. Employees of the Maryland State Archives are civil servants.

Letter from the Assistant State Archivist

**“Service isn’t a vision we claim, it’s a tradition we inherit. Service will save us.”
- Governor Wes Moore, October 25, 2023**

Public service is always at the forefront of operations here at the Archives. Our collections are preserved, not simply for their vast historical significance, but more importantly for people’s use. Coupled with preservation, public accessibility is our top priority to ensure that information gets into the hands of those who need it. On a daily basis, our staff across departments embody the mission of service. Our Appraisal, Special Collections, and Library teams all engage in the work of ensuring that we are permanently retaining the right materials and that our collections are completely cataloged and well described on our public website. Our Digital Acquisitions and Information Technology staff members provide online access to images and digital records, and they securely maintain our vast electronic archival repository. Staff of the Reference and Constituent Services departments assist customers with quality of life issues by connecting them with documents for legal needs such confirming identity, estate settlement, citizenship, and pension/retirement beneficiary claims. Our outreach programming is deeply focused on welcoming all communities warmly into the Archives and also inviting groups to contribute their knowledge and personal collections to create a true, inclusive and holistic representation of our shared heritage. Further, our executive team strives to model a culture of servant leadership for the entire agency focusing on both the needs of the community stakeholders and staff. In short, we are all proud civil servants.

In addition to staff, we are fortunate to have many other associates who also provide service to the agency, and by extension to the public. We have a large cohort of year-round volunteers generously giving their time and talent to projects throughout the Archives, including scanning record series, organizing and describing collections, transcribing records to create searchable online indexes, and assisting guests with their research in the search room. We also are thrilled to host students conducting their field studies, community service credit hours, or co-op assignments with us. These individuals, including high school, undergraduate, graduate and even international students, receive academic credit for their volunteer hours with us as they contribute directly to our core mission. And of course we have our Friends of the Maryland State Archives members whose monetary donations directly support our agency goals by funding staff training, collection acquisition, and educational programming. As an agency, we are definitely the beneficiaries of the service of others.

Our strong, universal commitment to service is why we are especially honored to be a host site during the founding year of Governor Wes Moore’s Service Year Maryland Corps Program. On October 25th, the governor kicked off this initiative’s pilot year administered through the new Department of Service and Civic Innovation. We are delighted to announce that, out of the total 280 participants, four program members will serve with us full time for ten months learning archival practice hands-on, as well as gaining professional experience in a civil service career path. As a host site, we will provide professional development and mentorship to these program members as they begin their journey into the workforce. We believe that during their time with us the Service Year Participants will inherit the respect for a tradition of service which they will carry forth in all their future endeavors, and it is indeed that public spirit which will save us all.

Emily Oland Squires
Assistant State Archivist

Staff Updates

Welcoming New Staff to the Archives Team



Christian Adams has joined the Digital Acquisition, Processing, and Publications department as an imaging archivist. Christian attended the University of Baltimore Maryland County (UMBC) and received a bachelor's in History. He volunteered in the DAPP Department and assisted on several large projects before working at MSA through iScan. Christian has worked as the primary scanner for the Scharf project and the processing of images MSA receives as part of the Family Search project. He plans to apply in the future to the University of Maryland, College Park's Online Library and Information Sciences Graduate Program.

Rhys Burns is a recent graduate from the University of Maryland, earning a degree in architecture with a minor in art history. He worked as an intern this summer at the Archives, researching and cataloging the Blacks of the Chesapeake collection. Rhys was hired as an archivist trainee in Reference. Professionally, Rhys is interested in the intersection of art and history; specifically the untold stories of the African American diaspora around the Washington DC region. His interest has only grown around recent research on North Brentwood and Carr's Beach; two examples of thriving, rich centers of African American culture and history. Outside of work, Rhys enjoys reading, hiking, painting, and relaxing with family and friends.



Robert Gasperino has joined the Digital Acquisition, Processing, and Publications department as an imaging archivist. He has a bachelor's in Linguistics and Japanese from the University of South Florida. Robert began his work at MSA volunteering in the DAPP Department and took part in this past summer's internship program, assisting with the receipt and processing of plat records. Robert has recently applied to University of Maryland's MLIS program and will hopefully be attending in the spring of 2024.

Robin Gower joins the Archives staff as curator of Artistic Property directly from her most recent position as curator of collections at Historic Annapolis (HA) bringing a great deal of experience in local and Maryland history to the Commission on Artistic Property. Robin holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a master's in Museum Studies from Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). In addition to her work at HA, she has worked at the Baltimore Museum of Industry and the Homestead National Historic Park in Beatrice, Nebraska.





Ame Schimminger is an intern for the Mayis Indigenous records program. Ame earned her Bachelor's degree in History at Towson University. In her senior year of college, she was awarded the Douglas D. Martin, Sr., Award for her scholarship on the critical role of the Navajo (Diné) Code Talkers in World War II. She has also studied Indigenous Peoples during the pre-colonial and colonial eras. She brings a year of experience as a circulation staff person at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Hamilton branch. Her role with our grant-funded project is to transcribe oral history interviews with Indigenous leaders and to research land records to expand our Mayis research database of personal names, Tribal names, and geographic references.

Alex Trabold worked on the rainbow books processing project over the Summer with the Research Department, and graduated from Washington College in Spring 2023 with a bachelor's degree in history. He previously interned with the American Philosophical Society and worked with their African American history resources. Alex also worked with the CV Starr Center in Chestertown Maryland on their Chesapeake Heartlands project, where he helped to develop their digital archive of local Kent and Queen Anne's county history materials. He is now working as an archivist trainee in Reference.



Service Year Maryland Corps Program

We are grateful to the Department of Service and Civic Innovation for selecting us as a host partner and providing us with the grant funding to sponsor four participants! During their year at the Archives, the Service Year Members will be rotating throughout the Archives learning basic core mission functions such as record processing, imaging, record rehousing, retrievals and returns, general research and customer service.



Kemani Burton is a recent graduate from Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School and is enthusiastic to learn all about the Archives through his participation in the Service Year Program which he was introduced to by a good friend. He is a Maryland native from Upper Marlboro who enjoys watching documentaries and anime and recently started following Real Madrid. Kemani has a Rottweiler named Ember.

Kendall Hahn is a graduate of Old Mill High School and a native Marylander whose family has a long history of public service. She is looking forward to following in their footsteps. In her spare time, she enjoys practicing martial arts, specifically Taekwondo. Kendall shares that, "I am a sponge and excited to learn all the different aspects of the Archives."





Benjamin Lewis is an Annapolis native and recently earned an Associates degree from Anne Arundel Community College. His grandfather worked at the National Archives and was even a volunteer here at MSA! Ben likes to travel, and Italy was his favorite place so far. He has three cats, Oswald, Lucy, and Lilly.

Caroline Ritter is a recent graduate of St. John's College and wrote her senior thesis on Leo Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. While in college, Caroline interned at the library of the National Museum for Women in the Arts. She lives in Annapolis with her dog, Bruno.



In Memoriam: Tim Brooks Celebration of Life

Many current and former Archives' staff members attended a celebration of life ceremony for retired information technology staff member Tim Brooks, who passed away on June 25, 2023. The ceremony was held on October 14th in honor of what would have been Tim's 70th birthday and included family, friends, and former co-workers sharing remembrances of Tim and performing music that he wrote during his time as a musician in multiple bands throughout his life. It was a lovely program and a reminder of how much Tim is missed here at the Archives.

Staff Activities

Oral History Conference

Hannah Lane, Research Archivist with the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland Program, attended the Oral History Association Annual Conference from October 18 - 21, 2023 held in Baltimore Maryland this year. At this conference she had the opportunity to attend a great deal of relevant programming including sessions on *Reckoning with the Afterlife of Slavery: Studentled Oral Histories with Descendant Communities*; *African American History and Activism: Oral History Considerations, Questions, and Conundrums*; *the Black Oral Historian Network*; *Oral History is Education is Reparations: The Black Broad Branch Project in Washington, D.C.*; *Learning in Chorus: Highlighting Practitioners of Color to Expand Project Designs, Methodologies, and Approaches*; *Diaspora Histories* and *Anti-racism in Oral History Organizations*. Hannah is excited to share what she learned at the conference with colleagues and bring the training to bear on our own oral history work at the Archives.

Fall Community Preservation Day

The Archives hosted its second Community Preservation Day on October 21, 2023. While the summer program was held in Annapolis, the fall program was conducted at the Rolling Run facility to expand the reach of this public event series. Members of the local community were invited to preserve their documents, photos, and letters using imaging services at the Archives. During the event, archivists worked with community members to describe and scan their items, providing them with free digital copies and archival storage containers for their original materials. In return, participants were asked to share digital copies of their items with the Archives to collaboratively create a permanent electronic collection that allows everyone to see themselves in the Archives. These images have been included in a publicly-accessible digital series ([MSA SC 6229](#)) within Special Collections to document and share community history. We look forward to planning future events, and are working to establish partnerships throughout the state so that we may bring this program to other areas outside of central Maryland.



Posthumous Bar Admission Ceremony for Edward Garrison Draper

Assistant State Archivists Corey Lewis and Emily Oland Squires were honored to attend the Special Session of the Supreme Court of Maryland held on October 26, 2023 that posthumously admitted Mr. Edward Garrison Draper to the Maryland Bar. On October 29, 1857, Mr. Draper, who was a graduate of Dartmouth having studied the law for more than two years under the guidance of a Maryland attorney, presented himself for examination for admission to the Maryland Bar before Baltimore Superior Court Judge Zachaeus Collins Lee. After the examination, Judge Lee found Mr. Draper to be “qualified in all respects to be admitted to the Bar in Maryland,” except that he was not white. The Justices of the Supreme Court held the Special Session to formally admit Mr. Draper to the Bar to address this past injustice and acknowledge this act of racism. During the ceremony, Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland, E. Gregory Wells, thanked the Maryland State Archives and Senior Research Archivist Owen Lourie for their research support for the ceremony.

Annearrundell County Free School 300th Anniversary

On October 26, 2023, the Annearrundell County Free School celebrated its 300th anniversary with a public ceremony and plaque unveiling. The Free School is the only surviving school house built by the Maryland Free School Act of 1723 and believed to be one of the oldest one room school houses in the nation. It was attended by Johns Hopkins as a youth and currently operates as a living history museum focused on the development of public education in Maryland. Assistant State Archivist Emily Oland Squires and Director of Research, Education and Outreach Chris Haley attended the

ceremony where the Archives was acknowledged for their support and documentation of the museum.

MHCC Fall Meeting

On Friday, October 27, 2023, Maria Day, Director of Special Collections, Conservation, Library and Government Reports and Publications co-hosted the Fall Virtual Meeting of the Maryland History Cultural Collaborative on behalf of the Archives. The keynote speaker of the meeting was Michele W. Johnson, Executive Director of Maryland 250, a commission dedicated to commemorating diverse aspects of American life and culture in honor of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. Ms. Johnson spoke about how museums, libraries, and archives across Maryland can receive the Commission's support for telling their communities' stories, including grant opportunities that are forthcoming. The MHCC is an informal gathering of individuals from throughout the state of Maryland whose personal and professional interests include the acquisition, preservation, management of and public access to collections and sites related to Maryland history and culture.

Port Marker Unveiling

November 1 is Emancipation Day in Maryland, commemorating the date when slavery was abolished by the 1864 state constitution. To mark this occasion, Archives staff (including Assistant State Archivists Corey Lewis and Emily Oland Squires, Director of Research Chris Haley, and Research Archivist with the Study of the Legacy of Slavery Program Hannah Lane) were honored to attend the UNESCO Routes of Enslaved Peoples Project Site of Memory Middle Passage Port Marker unveiling ceremony at Historic London Town and Gardens. The Archives' staff was recognized by Delegate Shaneka T. Henson for their research support for the event.

Staff Awards

National Parks Service Network to Freedom Awards



On September 28, 2023, Director of Research, Education, and Outreach Chris Haley received two prestigious awards from the National Parks Service for his dedication and decades of work on the Study of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program. He received the Wilbur Henry Siebert Award for pioneering work in researching and preserving the history of the Underground Railroad and in recognition of outstanding contributions to this field of knowledge. This award is named after Siebert who was an esteemed educator and historian who published *The Underground Railroad from Slavery to Freedom* in 1898. He also received the Robert G. Stanton Award for outstanding support to the National Park Service Network to Freedom program. Mr. Haley was responsible for the application that successfully added the Archives to the Network to Freedom as a research facility over 20 years ago when the NPS program first began. The designation was awarded due to the

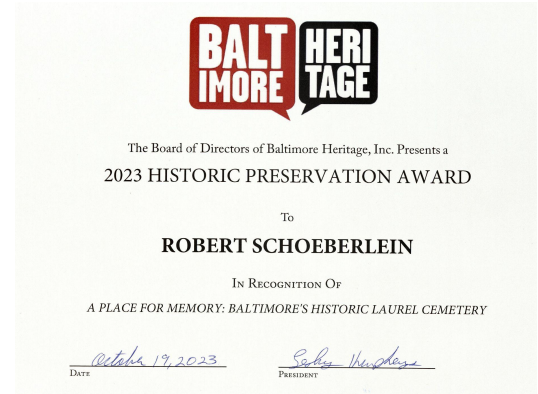
importance of the Archives' holdings in the study of the Underground Railroad and individuals involved with the flight from slavery. The award's namesake, Robert G. Stanton, was the first African American to be appointed as the Director of the Park Service and served with dedication for 40 years.

SAA Scholarship

This fall Drew Shuptar-Rayvis of the Special Collections Department received a full scholarship to the prestigious Indigenous Archival Training Program of the Society of American Archivists, which he attended in September representing the Mayis project and the Maryland State Archives. Drew, a member of the Pocomoke Indian Nation, is currently working as an oral historian and research consultant for the Mayis project under a state grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Baltimore Heritage, Inc., Preservation Award

On October 19, 2023, Dr. Rob Schoeberlein, Baltimore City Archivist, received a 2023 Preservation Award from Baltimore Heritage, Inc., a nonprofit historic and architectural preservation organization. The award was given in recognition of his contribution to *A Place for Memory: Baltimore's Historic Laurel Cemetery*, a recently released team-authored book on the now defunct burial ground. Dr. Schoeberlein authored a chapter entitled "Gather around Their Sacred Remains": An Overview of the Laurel National Cemetery, which focuses upon Civil War soldier burials, but also details the 1863 recruitment of U.S. Colored Troops and the many supportive efforts of Baltimore's African American community on behalf of the men. The Laurel Cemetery (1852-1957) was founded as a non-denominational cemetery for African Americans of Baltimore. In 1958, the cemetery was leveled to make room for the development of a shopping center. More than 20,000 graves are estimated to still lie under the asphalt parking lot.



Chesapeake Crossroads Gertrude Mackell DEIA in Programming Award



On November 2, 2023, Assistant State Archivist Corey Lewis was awarded the Gertrude Mackell DEIA in Programming Award by the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area. This was the first year this award was given to recognize new programming initiatives in the Anne Arundel County heritage area that demonstrates an outstanding example of diversity, equity, accessibility, and/or inclusivity. The award is named after Ms. Gertrude Mackell, a longtime powerhouse in the Anne Arundel County preservation community and head of the Galesville Heritage Society, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Corey was nominated by Dr. Eric Elston, Director of Diversity and Development for Telegraph Creative, for this honor in recognition for his outreach work on behalf of the Archives with the Blacks of the Chesapeake Foundation, Afro Charities, the *Highway to Nowhere* Project, the Crownsville Project and the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center.

Events and Outreach

Upcoming Virtual Lunch and Learn events

The Patuxent Watershed: Maryland's Natural Wonder

Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 1:00pm — Presented by Ralph Eshelman

[Online Event](#)

This illustrated talk by resource expert Ralph Eshelman highlights some of the lesser-known facts about Maryland's longest intrastate river, the Patuxent, an underappreciated Maryland natural and cultural resource. Explore this true treasure of Maryland on a virtual field trip.

The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of Senator Daniel B. Brewster

Thursday, January 11, 2023 at 1:00pm — Presented by John W. Frece

[Online Event](#)

Author John W. Frece will talk about his new biography, ***Self-Destruction: The Rise, Fall, and Redemption of U.S. Senator Daniel B. Brewster***, highlighting the story of the one-time “Golden Boy of Maryland Politics.” The program will feature discussion of the events of Brewster's life, and detail how the author conducted and organized his research, including interviews and records from the Brewster family.

Visit of Korean Military Archivist

On July 19, the Archives staff provided a tour to Captain Mihye of the Army Archives Management Group from the Republic of Korea. In addition to viewing our facility, Captain Mihye was interested in learning more about the way that Maryland manages, appraises, and provides access to records. She reported that the visit was a great opportunity for her and would aid her in her own work with records appraisal and public information in the Republic of Korea, which is also known as South Korea. We appreciated this opportunity to share best practices internationally with another archival repository.

Expanding Partnerships with Tribal Peoples on the Eastern Shore

A generous grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) gave our Indigenous Peoples Program team the resources to recruit an Indigenous oral historian and research consultant to join our team. Drew Shuptar-Rayvis is the Northern Cultural Ambassador of the Pocomoke Indian Nation. His combined background in anthropology and personal connections within Indigenous communities enabled him to immediately begin to work with Tribal Councils throughout the Eastern Shore to identify Knowledge Keepers who could be interviewed for oral histories. He has interviewed nine leaders so far. Each of the interviewees will receive an honorarium from the grant for their time and work in sharing their perspectives. We are currently in the transcription and processing stage with audio recordings, and anticipate their debut on the [Mayis](#) website next year.

The same grant also supported a pilot workshop aimed to connect educators with our Tribal partners, in order to provide teachers with direct-from-source information about Indigenous lifeways and culture. We convened the Indigenous Education on the Lower Eastern Shore workshop from August 1-4, 2023 at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center, Salisbury University. A cohort of 18 educators

participated, representing K-12 teachers, librarians, and museum educators. Eleven educators came from the Lower Eastern Shore counties. Visiting Tribal Homelands was key to acquainting the educators with the cultural heritage of these communities. Field trips were planned to include interactions between Tribal leaders and participants at the Chicone Village at Handsell, Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, the Nause-Waiwash Long House, and Delmarva Discovery Museum which helped the educators see and experience the Indigenous communities' perspectives on "Homeland." In their evaluation, one educator commended the program for its total immersion and inclusion of Tribal Community members. They further commented that, "these encounters will challenge your preconceived perspectives and enhance your understanding of America's history."



Many of the teachers expressed that they had never visited these heritage sites before the workshop. One of them wrote that the workshop "exceeded my expectations with the genuine passion for the topic that translated into meaningful and high quality activities and experiences. The on-site visits and interactions with the tribal representatives made a tremendous impact on this material. All of the facilitators made me and I believe, everyone, feel valued and appreciated. One of my best weeks this summer!" The librarian and museum educators have been keeping us up to date with programming that they are developing relating to Indigenous Peoples, resulting from their experiences at the workshop. Lesson plans submitted by the classroom teachers will be reviewed by MSA staff and our Tribal partners, before linking them as resources on the Mayis website.

Secretary of State Lee Visit



In honor of American Archives Month, we were pleased to host Maryland Secretary of State Susan C. Lee, Deputy Secretary of State Michael W. Lore, and Chief of Staff Alexandria P. Liu for a tour and display of collections on October 11th. During their visit, in addition to taking a behind the scenes look at our operations, the group viewed the test book from the Maryland Supreme Court that contains Thurgood Marshall's signature from his admission to the bar, as well as the original 1837 constitutional amendment that created the office of Secretary of State (MSA S966-250). Our Special Collections staff also displayed several gifts from foreign delegations to former Secretary of the State John McDonough including a Japanese Tenba Pottery jug, Chinese silk scroll, and accordion book from Anhui Province, China (MSA SC 5983). We enjoyed their visit and look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the Secretary of State's Office.

News from Baltimore City Archives

The Baltimore City Archives (BCA) has operated under an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Maryland State Archives (MSA) for the past fifteen years. In 2023, the agreement was successfully renegotiated for another five-year term, ensuring that MSA staff may continue to assist in the administration and development of this longstanding City program. In light of this renewal, we would like to highlight some other news and developments from the past year.

- Collaboration with S.J. Martenet & Co. Inc. has resulted in full-color digitization and optical character recognition (OCR) of 28 Baltimore City Directories ranging from 1800 to 1911, which were previously unavailable online, at no cost to MSA. They are collections [BRG29-10](#) and [BMS31](#).
 - Negotiation on a new lease for our facility which intends to build in the cost of installing an HVAC system in our large records storage warehouse for the first time, as well as expanding work space.
 - Hosted a summer intern resulting in the creation of a comprehensive guide to published City departments' annual reports.
 - Visitation of several City agencies to review historical records stored on site, notably Department of Recreation and Parks and Department of Public Works.
 - Hosted an individual from the City's YouthWorks program who scanned a series of Recreation and Parks photographs.
 - Collaboration with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Moving Image Archive (MARMIA) led to a BCA appearance on the ["Where's Marty?" segment](#) of WJZ News!
 - Acquisition of a BookEye Scanner, increasing BCA's on-site capacity for oversized and delicate on-demand digitization.
-

Research Reflections

"Adventures In Fun": A Tale of Nomadic Government Records

By Robert W. Schoeberlein, Ph.D., City Archivist, Baltimore City Archives

In a perfect world, older and disused records would be transferred from government agencies to the archives in a timely and efficient manner. However, this is not always the case because extenuating circumstances often prevent it. Sometimes record-keepers improperly give them to private institutions or, worse, mistakenly throw them away, as nothing more than "just old paper." On rare occasions, the material is then retrieved by entrepreneurial-minded "dumpster divers," individuals who might derive personal profit from selling these historical records or images. The Baltimore City Archives (BCA), is

always appreciative when records of significance, whatever their source, sometimes end up on its doorstep. Here is one such case highlighting our recent good fortune.



This past August, the BCA was contacted by the University of Baltimore (UB) Special Collections Department with an interesting offer. They had an unprocessed “Digital Harbor Recreation Center Photographs” collection of photographs that they wished to transfer to the City. The mystifyingly named collection consisted of 30 boxes (17 linear feet) of material, all allegedly pertaining to activities at the South Baltimore Recreation Center. UB had done the yeoman's work of rehousing almost everything into quality archival boxes. The BCA gladly accepted UB's offer and the transfer was made in late August.

The question remained: How did the University come to possess this collection of City government records? Research during the accessioning process revealed some clues. The vast majority of photographs were related to the “Mayor's Office of Adventures in Fun” (1973-1996), the brainchild of its administrator Virginia S. Baker (1921-1998) under Mayor William Donald Schaefer. Baker, who held several roles in her 53-year career at Recreation and Parks, coordinated this unique program, organizing free events and activities at the War Memorial Plaza outside City Hall. Baker was known by a number of nicknames, such as Queenie, Queen of Fun, or Baltimore's First Lady of Fun, according to the *Sun* newspaper.



Captions Left to Right: Doll Contest, 1976; Doll Show; Hog Calling, 1982. [BRG51-3-2]

What were the activities considered “Adventures in Fun”? A sampling includes bike rodeos, dance arts ensembles, musical performances, magic and puppets shows; plus annual events such as a doll show, hula hoop contest, pogo stick contest, and at Preakness time, the turtle derby. Let's not forget

the yearly “Salute to Elvis Day,” with its troop of flamboyantly coiffed, crooning Elvis look-alikes, and of course, everybody’s favorite, the hog calling contest.



Captions Left to Right: Elvis Day, 1983; Frog Hop Champ, 1985; Virginia S. Baker at the Turtle Derby, 1976. [BRG51-3-2]

In 1987, the office was relocated to the Recreation Pier in East Baltimore and from that point forward Broadway Square served as its main activities venue. The reason for the move was likely a change of priorities of the then Mayor Schmoke. The “Fun” still continued, but downtown workers and nearby City employees could no longer easily stop by on lunch break. Adventures in Fun finally came to an end in 1996, one year after the retirement of Virginia Baker. The office was abolished and its doors closed permanently. Somehow, at some point, the boxes were moved from the Recreation Pier to the South Baltimore Recreation Center at 106 E. Cross Street, where they sat and were subsequently forgotten.

When the Rec Center closed in 2011 or 2012, the photographs remained within the City-owned building. In 2013, the nonprofit Digital Harbor Foundation took over the space, to be used for after-school programming and workforce training for City public school students. That same year someone at Digital Harbor reached out to the University of Baltimore about the boxes. Why UB? Perhaps it had something to do with former Mayor Kurt Schmoke serving as UB’s president. Nearly ten years later, the photographs have finally come to reside permanently at the City Archives, where they should have been transferred in the first place. We are happy to report that the public can now access the images by appointment at BCA.

In the end, we discovered that only a small portion of photographs actually pertained to the South Baltimore Recreation Center. These were photo scrapbooks of the South Baltimore Golden Age Club (1948-1999), initiated by the Recreation Center administrators. The Center served as its primary event venue. Retiree social clubs like this one, were present at many City neighborhood rec centers. We also made some other very nice discoveries during our preliminary processing. Photographs of Druid Hill Park, and Fort Howard, taken during the early twentieth century, and several of Baltimore scenes, possibly by A. Aubrey Bodine or some other photojournalist, were tucked away within the boxes.

One final discovery of note within this accession relates to the Playground Athletic League (PAL), a predecessor of the Department of Public Recreation. The administrative archives of PAL had never been located among City records; but, squirreled away into a modest file folder without any labeling whatsoever, we discovered a cache of PAL Board of Manager minutes from 1925 to 1926, along with related publications. Definitely not “just old paper.” So ends this tale of the nomadic path of government records - for now!

Note: The Maryland State Archives works in partnership with the Maryland Department of General Services to prevent this fate for permanent government records of Maryland by providing training and communications with records officers in each agency. Similarly, the Baltimore City Archives works with City Records Management to ensure that wherever possible permanent records are appropriately transferred through the retention schedule process.

Maryland at the Chicago World’s Fair

By Rachel Frazier, Director of Reference Services, Maryland State Archives

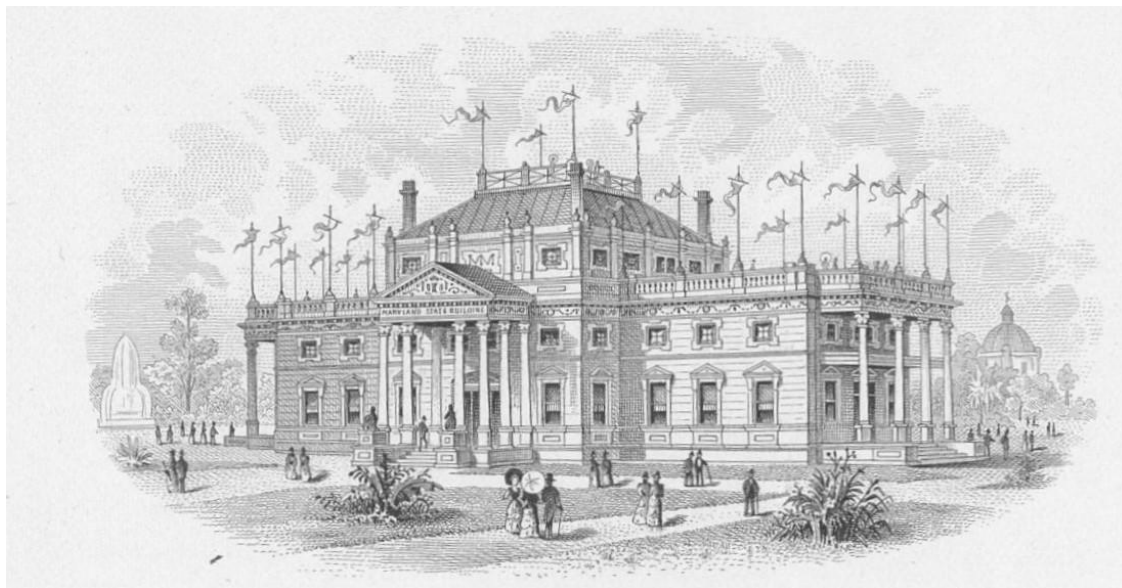


Figure 1: World's Fair Records, A. Hoen & Co. Lithographers, Nov. 4, 1892, folder 10 [MSA T68-42].

The Maryland State Archives holds many fascinating collections, but one of our most mysterious is MSA T68, “Accession Problems and Miscellaneous.” When we moved from our original Hall of Records building to our newly-constructed building in 1986, a number of miscellaneous records still required further organization and description. Archivists assigned these to a single collection to track them carefully during the move, and our staff have been gradually researching, identifying, and accessioning collection T68 ever since. Among the records in this collection, we find a small clamshell box marked “World’s Fair.”¹

Eric Larson’s gripping read *Devil in the White City* helped rekindle interest in the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair, yet it may be less commonly known that Maryland joined thirty-nine states and territories

¹ Maryland State Archives (Accession Problems and Miscellaneous) 1892-1897, World's Fair Records [02/04/02/042, Box: 48, T68-42].

in constructing its own building at the fair. This building included exhibitions on our "natural resources, industrial development, and general progress of the State of Maryland."²

In 1890, the U. S. Congress had passed an act authorizing a World's Columbian Exposition in the United States to mark the 400-year anniversary from 1492. However, many were well aware that this only was a nominal reason, for it was also the nation's answer to the 1889 Exposition Universelle in Paris. Showcasing similar themes, the exposition had famously marked the debut of the Eiffel Tower. The Maryland General Assembly followed suit in 1892, establishing the Maryland Board of World's Fair Managers to oversee the Maryland Building's construction and exhibitions, giving the Board just about a year before the May 1893 opening in Chicago.³

This was neither the first nor the last international exposition in the United States, but it was one of the most influential. As Robert W. Rydell notes in *All the World's a Fair*, "between 1876 and 1916, nearly one hundred million people visited the international expositions held [in the United States]. The promoters of these extravaganzas attempted to boost the economic development of the cities and regions in which they were held as well as to advance the material growth of the country at large."⁴

Advocacy for Representation

Marylanders followed their state's planning for the Maryland Building closely through both newspapers and word of mouth, with some reaching out to advocate for representation for all Marylanders. In 1892, Mrs. Emily McKim Reed wrote to Governor Brown, the chair of the Board of World's Fair Managers, saying "I feel sure we are safe in your hands, & that you will not allow womens' interests to suffer, in our state."⁵ Emily McKim Reed herself was a member of the Board of Ladies Managers for the fair, and also was the only woman on the Maryland Board of World's Fair Managers.

Other Marylanders wondered if they would be represented at all. Among the administrative records preserved is a letter dated April 25th, 1892, from Joseph Seldon Davis to Governor Brown (Figure 2).

"I have felt very great interest in regard to what display Maryland would make at Chicago," writes Davis, adding that he expects planning will start for a state exhibition soon. He advocates for "equitable recognition"

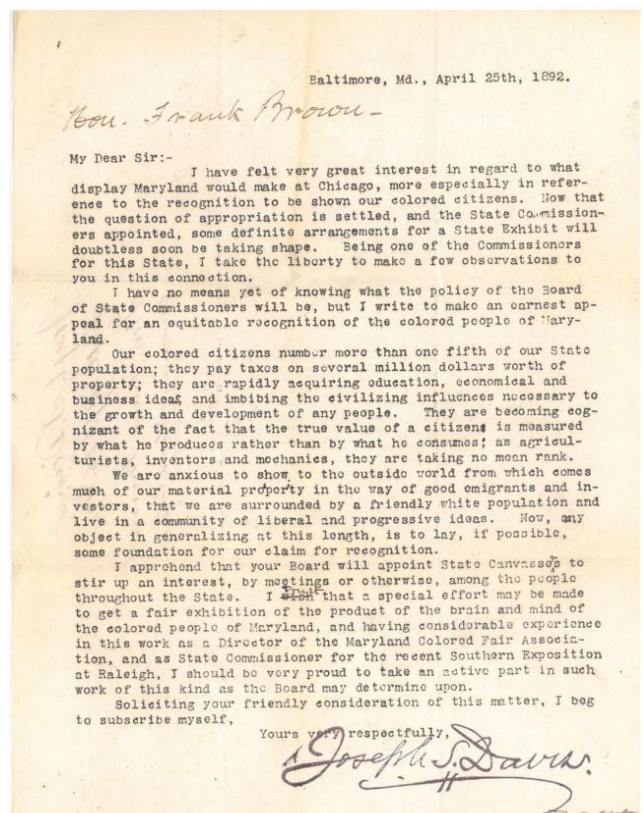


Figure 2: World's Fair Records, Letter from Joseph S. Davis to Gov. Frank Brown, April 25, 1892 [MSA T68-42].

² [Session Laws of 1892, Chapter 212. Archives of Maryland Online Volume 397, pg. 290.](#)

³ Lewis Russell, *Remember the Chicago World's Fair* (Nashville, TN: Turner, 2011), pg. 39.

⁴ Robert W. Rydell, *All the World's a Fair: Visions of Empire at American International Expositions, 1876-1916*. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press; Reprint edition, 1987), pg. 2.

⁵ Maryland State Archives (Accession Problems and Miscellaneous) 1892-1897, World's Fair Records 902/04/02/042, Box: 48, T68-42)

for the contributions of African American Marylanders who are excelling in business and education, who "number more than one fifth of our State population; ... who pay taxes on several million dollars worth of property;" and "as agriculturists, inventors, and mechanics, they are taking no mean rank."⁶

An African American lawyer and activist from Baltimore, Davis's accomplishments and advocacy appear throughout newspapers in the 1880s and into the 1890s, with his constant work in furthering education. In 1887, he cowrote a report on the condition of the segregated schools for African American children in Baltimore, finding that the school capacity of 6,000 students fell far short of the actual student population of 14,000 students.⁷ Then, in 1888, he signed a petition along with other members of the Baltimore City School Board, "asking for the establishment of a manual training school" so that African American boys would "have all the same advantages now possessed by white pupils."

Tragically, less than nine months after writing to Governor Brown, advocating for more diverse inclusion in the World's Fair, Joseph Seldon Davis passed away at the age of only thirty-two. What would he have accomplished had he lived longer? With Davis gone, the fair still would have the powerful presences of Frederick Douglass and Ida B. Wells. Frederick Douglass, having previously served as the U.S. minister and general consul to Haiti, spoke to fairgoers at the Haiti Pavilion, and contributed to the pamphlet written by Ida B. Wells, expressing concerns over the lack of representation planned for the Chicago World's Fair. Wells wrote:

The exhibit of the progress made ... in 25 years of freedom as against 250 years of slavery, *would* have been the greatest tribute to the greatness and progressiveness of American institutions which could have been shown the world.⁸

In his contributions to the pamphlet, Douglass himself wrote that what was "gained by the war they have partly lost by peace."

In spite of these monumental challenges, the manual training school for African American boys, for which Davis had advocated, still became a reality. The list of Marylanders' awards at the fair shows the school as receiving an award. However, most exhibitions involving participants of color centered on reinforcing propaganda that minorities were less advanced. This was a bias that is not only observed by modern historians, but also by contemporaries of the fair. Emma Sickes, a staff member of the fair's ethnology department was fired after protesting the department's biased representation of minorities.⁹

Creating the Maryland Building

According to an 1893 article in the *Scientific American*, the fair would mainly take over Jackson Park, Chicago, including a mile-long midway, as well as boulevards, artificial lagoons, and canals. Visitors would be able to access the park by cable car, railroad, and water. Buildings would be dedicated to

⁶ Maryland State Archives (Accession Problems and Miscellaneous) 1892-1897, World's Fair Records 902/04/02/042, Box: 48, T68-42)

⁷ BALTIMORE COLORED SCHOOLS: Report on Their Condition and Need of Further Facilities Reported for the Baltimore Sun. 25 May 1887: 6

⁸ [Ida B. Wells, Frederick Douglass, Irvine Garland Penn, and Ferdinand Barnett. "The Reason Why the Colored American Is Not in the World's Columbian Exposition." Pamphlet. \(Chicago: privately printed, 1893\).](#)

⁹ Lewis Russell, Remember the Chicago World's Fair (Nashville, TN: Turner, 2011), pg. 63.

the arts, horticulture, transportation, machinery, and more, with buildings for the states and foreign government being built in the area of the north section of Jackson Park.¹⁰

Of the many bids Maryland received from builders throughout the state, the winning bid for the Maryland Building went to F. Merten & Sons of Allegany County.¹¹ The board heard many ideas for the building's appearance. Major J.G. Pangborn suggested constructing it as a gigantic oyster to draw greater crowds, and it is either a relief or a travesty that he was ignored. The *Baltimore Sun* later described the beautiful finished building as "a combination of the Maryland State House at Annapolis and a colonial mansion. It is imposing, of graceful proportions and just the kind of place that Marylanders like."¹² Thanks to collection T68, we have an original print of the design of the finished building (Figure 1), which had a footprint of approximately 116' x 230'. What the *Baltimore Sun* called a "belvedere" graced the top, giving "a fine point of vantage for viewing the World's Fair grounds."¹³ According to letters between the Board and the contractors, the lights were electric, which fit with the fair's showcasing of modern advancements.¹⁴ Along with our state seal, banners bearing the seals of Maryland's existing counties flew from the rooftop.¹⁵ The front portico sported an ornamental gable with the Maryland Coat of Arms in relief, designed as a deliberate tribute to the Maryland State House.



Figure 3: World's Fair Records, F. Mertens & Sons, August 26, 1892, folder 6 [MSA T68-42].

The Color Department of the World's Fair suggested a palette for the Maryland Building to ensure aesthetic cohesion with the park, which match up with these well-preserved paint samples in collection T68 (Figure 3). From left to right, the porch steps and parapets were drab, the body of the building was buff, the canvas roofs were olive green, and the metal roofs were red brown.¹⁶

These are just a few details from hundreds of pages of correspondence, and a good reminder that while historical photographs and etchings may be black-and-white, the world around people

¹⁰ "Opening of the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, May 1, 1893." (May 6, 1893), 274

¹¹ F. Mertens & Sons to Mr. Jno. L. Thomas, May 13, 1892. T58-42-6.

¹² "The State Buildings: Delightful Home Spots on the World's Fair Grounds." Special Correspondence of Baltimore Sun. Baltimore, Md. 21 June 1893: pg. 1.

¹³ "Maryland Building: One of the Most Attractive Structures on World's Fair Grounds." The Sun, Baltimore, Md. 01 Dec 1892: 6.

¹⁴ D.H. Burnham to J. Olney Norris, July 18, 1892. Letter regarding wiring the Maryland Building for electric lights.

¹⁵ Frank B. Mayer to J. Olney Norris, Annapolis, October 28, 1892.

¹⁶ Maryland State Archives (Accession Problems and Miscellaneous) World's Fair Records, F. Mertens & Sons, August 26, 1892, folder 6 [02/04/02/042, Box: 48, T68-42].

throughout history was often full of color.

Exhibitions

Receipts for purchases give us some clues to the exhibitions within the Maryland Building. For example, we find receipts for museum jars for displaying soil samples,¹⁷ as well as bills from the Maryland Agricultural College, now the University of Maryland, for Maryland tobacco to display.¹⁸

According to several reports from the *Baltimore Sun*, we also learn more about the exhibitions that visitors experienced:

"The largest single exhibit is of the oyster industry. The catching and canning of the bivalve is shown in miniature in a large tank, in which there are dredge boats and a police steamer, with a packing-house on the wharf. In this tank are also diamond-back terrapin, which, by the way, are having a hard time of it in fresh water...

Needlework, paintings, relics of the revolutionary period and artistic furniture are the other principal objects of the various rooms."¹⁹

The Maryland Building also included a book visitors could browse on the State's resources, which the Board commissioned from Johns Hopkins University. It was akin to an encyclopedia of Maryland's history, geography, natural resources, main cities, etc., and the Maryland State Archives is fortunate to have a copy in our collections that you can view when visiting our on-site library (Figure 4).²⁰ In an era before the internet, Maryland was providing a reference book to visitors unfamiliar with our State. In a true representation of Maryland weather, the book notes that the "great diversity in the physical features of Maryland, with its consequent effort upon the climate, renders a characterization of the temperature of the State, as a whole, quite impossible."²¹

The volume includes detailed illustrations of Maryland oysters and their anatomy. One of the main focuses of the Maryland pavilion was oystering in Maryland. This was Maryland in the 1890s, when oystering was such a booming industry that we not only were harvesting oysters from the

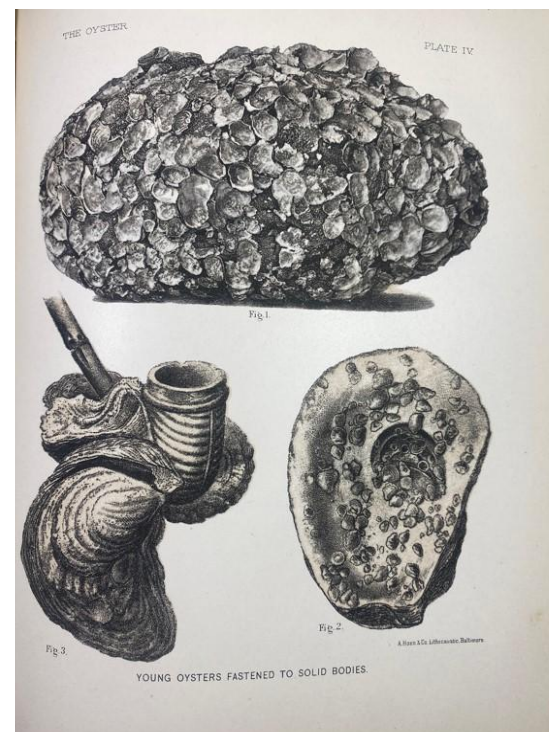


Figure 4: "Plate IV: Young Oysters Fastened to Solid Bodies." Members of Johns Hopkins University, *Maryland: Its Resources, Industries and Institutions*. (Baltimore, MD: The Sun Job Printing Office). Pg. 296.

¹⁷ Maryland State Archives (Accession Problems and Miscellaneous) World's Fair Records, payment from Maryland Agricultural College to Muth Brothers & Co. for museum jars, April 18, 1893, folder 9 [02/04/02/042, Box: 48, T68-42].

¹⁸ Bill, Professor R. W. Silvester, Maryland Agricultural College, July 13, 1892, Folder 9 [02/04/02/042, Box: 48, T68-42].

¹⁹ "The State Buildings: Delightful Home Spots on the World's Fair Grounds." Special Correspondence of *Baltimore Sun*. Baltimore, Md. 21 June 1893: pg. 1.

²⁰ Members of Johns Hopkins University, *Maryland: Its Resources, Industries and Institutions*. (Baltimore, MD: The Sun Job Printing Office).

²¹ *Ibid*, pg. 19.

bay for ourselves without replenishing them, but also, according to the book, exporting them to other states.

Many Marylanders traveled from our State to visit the Chicago World's Fair. The *Afro-American* reported from Baltimore that "Miss Emma Jones left the city on Wednesday for Chicago, where she will spend the World's Fair season."²² A newspaper in our collections, *American Sentinel* (MSA SC 2900), reported that "It is estimated that 150,000 to 175,000 people gathered" for the inauguration ceremony with President Grover Cleveland present. This event was captured in an image found in stereographic views donated to our own Special Collections.²³

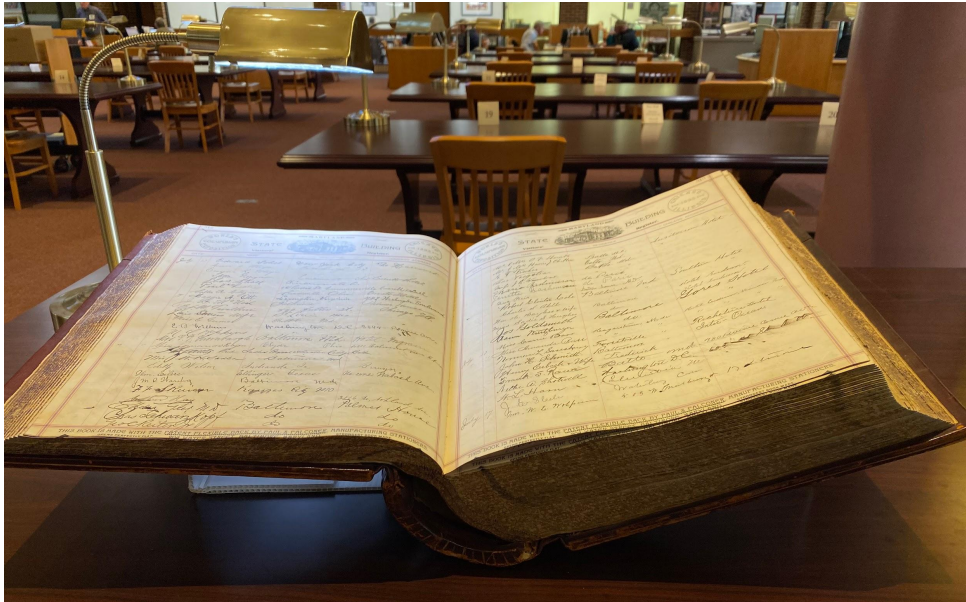


Figure 5: Board of World's Fair Managers (Register) 1893-1906 [MSA S1125-1].

The Maryland Building kept a register of all visitors to it, which is in the Maryland State Archives collections (Figure 5).²⁴ Remember Major J.G. Pangborn, who insisted that unless we make the Maryland State Building in the shape of a giant oyster, no one aside from Marylanders would visit? This visitor's log allays that concern. While Marylanders were the majority of visitors, just a cursory glance reveals visitors from Alabama, California, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio, as well as Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, and Sweden (Figure 6).

Maryland, like much of history, experienced both a bright and dark side to their participation in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. It highlighted real triumphs of industry, art, and agriculture, while also revealing the darker sides of biases and prejudices. Through our collection, one can follow the challenges and triumphs of creating the Maryland Building, see Marylanders presence in the fair as exhibitors and participants, and observe the advocacy for representation as compellingly voiced by top activists and lecturers of the era. The lone "World's Fair" clamshell box in T68 is one example of how archival collections can change the way we view the people, places, and things of the past and therefore change the way we view ourselves.

²² "Personals." *Afro-American*. Volume 1, no. 32, pg. 1. April 29, 1893.

²³ Special Collections (Stereograph Views Collection) Columbian Exposition -- crowds at the opening [MSA SC 1951-2-207].

²⁴ Board of World's Fair Managers (Register) 1893-1906 [02/27/03/013, S1125-1].



Figure 6: Columbian Exposition -- crowds at the opening [MSA SC 1951-2-207].

Note: Thanks to Morgan Miller in Reference Services for her assistance in reviewing and editing this article.

History of Maryland's Flag

By Owen Lourie, Senior Research Archivist, Maryland State Archives

Maryland's flag, seal, and motto are all derived from the coat of arms of the Calvert family, who were the colonial proprietors of the colony of Maryland. Although the use of the Calvert symbols ended after the American Revolution, by the middle of the nineteenth century the state began to readopt them. This reflects a desire to remember Maryland's historical roots.

The Maryland state flag, one of the most recognizable flags in the country, depicts the heraldic markings from the Calvert family's coat of arms. The black and gold portion represents the family of George Calvert, first proprietor of Maryland, while the red and white crosses represent the family of his wife, Anne Mynne.

Maryland State Flag



The flag was officially adopted in 1904. However, flags with this design, or at least very similar ones, were in use much earlier than that, by the 1880s if not before. Prior to this design, beginning in the

1850s, blue banners featuring the Maryland seal were used; the state seal at that time was the Calvert seal, which includes this design.

Very little is known about what sorts of flags were used during the colonial period. In 1755, Maryland ordered a flag for the troops it was raising to serve in the French and Indian War. The flag was described as “a Black & Yellow Flagg 24 feet long and 16 feet broad with the Union in One Corner” [[Archives of Maryland, Vol. 31, p. 46](#)]. The flag’s actual design is unknown, although speculative images of the flag have been produced.

The yellow and black portion of the Calvert coat of arms was used in banners before the Civil War, and came to represent the state's Unionist government during the war. Probably as a reaction to this, Confederate units from Maryland flew a flag featuring the red and white cross.

In the 1880s and 1890s, the modern-day flag design gained popularity and it was officially adopted in 1904. The design is often interpreted as a symbol of reconciliation and unity between Maryland's Union and Confederate supporters. Since the origins of the design are unknown, it is not clear if that was the initial intent of the design.

While the legislature in 1904 may have intended the adoption of the flag as a gesture of unity, the flag’s imagery had been in use for many years. It is possible that the flag’s use in the 1880s stemmed from the same interest in Maryland's historical origins that prompted the return to the Calvert coat of arms on the state’s seal, part of a broader late-nineteenth century pattern of antiquarianism.

For a more detailed discussion of the history of the state flag, see this essay on the Maryland Secretary of State’s website, which was written by former Assistant Archivist Gregory Stiverson as part of the work of the Governor's Commission on Protocol for the Maryland State Flag in 1990: <http://sos.maryland.gov/Pages/Services/Flag-History.aspx>.



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, Assistant State Archivist
Megan Craynon, Director, Special Collections & Library Services
V. Joyce Phelps II, Appraisal Archivist