



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR LIBRARY

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NEWSLETTER

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FRIENDS OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR. LIBRARY

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library. The John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library is the research center of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and advances knowledge of colonial British America, the American Revolution, the early United States, American decorative arts and folk art, and the Restoration and continuing story of Colonial Williamsburg.

The new library Friends group will bring together those with a personal commitment to strengthening the library's research collections and directly support the library's mission of supporting research and scholarship. Annual membership fees of \$1,000 or more are tax deductible and will be used solely to acquire, digitize, and conserve library research collections.

More information on this exciting new venture can be found on the [Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library page](#).

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The Virginia Gazette for May 5, 1774, published by Clementina Rind.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: JULIA LENEY, NIAHD INTERN



NIAHD intern Julia Leney at work inventorying architectural drawings in the Special Collections Department of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.

Along with the Rockefeller Library's dedicated team of volunteers, college interns also play a critical role in helping to move various projects forward. Colonial Williamsburg's partnership with the National Institute of American History and Democracy at William & Mary, known by the acronym NIAHD, enables William & Mary students to obtain hands-on museum experience working in a variety of departments across the Foundation while providing Colonial Williamsburg with much needed extra assistance. This fall Special Collections welcomed Julia Leney, a junior double majoring in history and French who is also pursuing a NIAHD certificate in Material Culture and Public History. Julia spent ten hours per week working with materials in the manuscript, visual resources, and architectural drawings collections while expanding her knowledge of museum and library collection management and descriptive practices.

INTERN SPOTLIGHT: JULIA LENEY, NIAHD INTERN

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A native of Annapolis, Maryland, Julia commenced her internship with some strong experience already on her resume having worked over the summer as an Orlando Ridout Fellow through the Vernacular Architecture Forum. Under the supervision of former Colonial Williamsburg Architectural Historian Willie Graham, Julia conducted field surveys of brick buildings around Historic Annapolis. In addition, her student job cataloging specimens at William & Mary's Herbarium provided her with a background in examining objects and recording details in a database.

Julia began the semester by working on a project to transcribe the Deneufville Family Papers, MS1941.2, half of which were in French. This involved not only transcribing the original French but also translating it into English to assist researchers. The process proved to be painstaking with several of the letters due to the differences between the modern French language and eighteenth-century French. Even Julia's French advisor remained stumped by several small sections of the documents that Julia found challenging due to a combination of the handwriting and the eighteenth-century variations of the French language. Julia persevered and managed to finish the transcription and translation of all eighteen documents comprising the collection.

The second phase of Julia's internship involved assisting with the processing, re-housing, and preparation of preliminary finding aids for four donated slide collections. Julia reviewed the slides and organized them into subject series, housed them in archival sleeves and folders, and researched and wrote brief biographical sketches about the photographers and scope and content notes for the collections. Visual Resources Librarian Marianne Martin then prepared MARC catalog records for each collection and gave Julia an overview of the cataloging process. With the four collections arranged, properly housed, cataloged in the library catalog, and preliminary finding aids ready to be encoded for publication on the website, they are very close to being ready for research access thanks to Julia's diligent assistance.

During her final weeks, Julia's architectural field study background is proving to be beneficial as she works on preparing a preliminary inventory of a series of architectural drawings of Bassett Hall that will soon be sent out for digitization. She is learning to recognize a variety of drawings ranging from landscape plot plans to measured architectural elevations, full-scale details, and floor plans. The inventory process involves recording many different details about each drawing in a spreadsheet, identifying the support and medium, and assessing the item's condition. Her cataloging work at the Herbarium has enabled her to be quite efficient at inventorying up to one hundred drawings per shift.

When asked about her favorite experience during the internship, Julia chose the process of transcribing and translating the will of Peter Robert Deneufville. She found it contained an interesting section illustrating the moral dilemma faced by owners of the enslaved. The will contained four paragraphs listing the conditions under which an enslaved woman, Betty, and her children, would be freed upon his death. The will included a provision for fifty pounds and lodging, plus the guarantee of freedom to the enslaved family. Julia has found her internship to be very stimulating and is now leaning towards possibly applying to a graduate program at the University of Maryland that combines a Master's in History with a Master's in Library Science. Whichever path she ultimately chooses, her enthusiasm and work ethic will enable her to make important contributions to the museum, library, and archives profession.

NEW 360 TOURS OF THE ART MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES



Rob Cloutier (center) and Peter Inker (right) record Ron Hurst, Vice President—Museums, Preservation, & Historic Resources, for addition to the 360 tour of ‘A Rich and Varied Culture’ gallery.

Photo by Francis Burroughs & Peter Inker.

During the Fall months we took the opportunity to develop upon the 360 tours we have already established. Using new techniques we developed in the 360 tour of the Peyton Randolph house, we incorporated film of Colonial Williamsburg’s senior curators directly into the tour of the museum and art galleries. The tour added three major exhibitions to the [existing museums tour](#), namely: The Art of the Quilter, To Arm against the Enemy, and A Rich and Varied Culture. This brings the number of virtual tours of the museums and art galleries to a total of six exhibitions.

The 360 camera was set up around the exhibitions, adding thirty new locations to the existing sixteen. We also added four new overviews of the collections given by our curators Erik Goldstein (Senior Curator of Mechanical Arts & Numismatics), and Kim Ivey (senior curator of textiles), as well as Ron Hurst, Vice President—Museums, Preservation, & Historic Resources.

The new galleries of the museums and galleries now expand on the five virtual tours of Colonial Williamsburg. You can find them all on the [virtual tours page](#) of our website, or by using the street view option in [Google maps](#).

NEW 360 TOURS OF THE ART MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

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Equiangular (360°) photo of the 'Art of the Quilter gallery' of the type used to create the 360 tours.

Photo by Rob Cloutier.

LIBRARY ACQUIRES NEW DATABASES

Rockefeller Library staff are always eager to hear about new resources that will support our colleagues' research projects. When the collections below came to our attention, we knew the Foundation's historians, curators, and interpreters would be thrilled to gain access to the troves of primary documents they contain. Trial subscriptions confirmed this, and we're delighted to add these tools to our database collection. We can't wait to see how they will be used to inform and inspire educational experiences in the historic area, art museums, and online.

'Bray Schools' in Canada, America and the Bahamas, 1645-1900

This collection from British Online Archives contains correspondence files, minute books, and financial reports compiled by the Associates of Dr. Bray during the period 1724-1900. The Associates was a group of English clergymen and philanthropists who created and funded schools for Black, and to a lesser extent, Indigenous North American, children in the American colonies between 1758 and 1776. Their aim in founding these schools was not only to educate, but also to Christianize, the students. Yet while Bray's schools had a substantial impact, the effects of the education they provided were not always what he and his Associates intended.

The recent discovery of the eighteenth-century building that housed Williamsburg's own Bray School is making national news, and Colonial Williamsburg has embarked on an exciting partnership with William & Mary to interpret its complex history. This collection of primary documents from the Associates will be invaluable as we seek to learn as much as possible about

LIBRARY ACQUIRES NEW DATABASES

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the school and its students. Read more about the [Bray School Initiative](#).

Colonial Caribbean

Having completed publication of its “Colonial America” database in 2020, in 2021 Adam Matthew Digital introduced a new collection of primary records from Britain’s Colonial Office. This new resource contains files for British colonies in the Caribbean over the period 1624 – 1832. Given the interconnectedness of the eighteenth-century world, these documents will be of great interest to our community. Topics covered include: interactions with indigenous inhabitants; the establishment of colonies; legislation, legal proceedings and court records; trade and shipping; the management of plantations and agriculture, including growing concern about absentee landlords; the slave trade and interactions with enslaved people.

Though December is a busy month at Colonial Williamsburg, we know our researchers will appreciate these holiday gifts – and that they’ll dive in with alacrity in January!

MASS DIGITIZATION OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG’S ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS BEGINS



Marianne Martin, Donna Cooke and Carl Childs move the first batch of architectural drawings from Special Collections for shipment to Backstage Library Works.

MASS DIGITIZATION OF COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG'S ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS BEGINS

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On December 9, 2021, Library staff carefully packed and loaded the first batch of architectural drawings to be sent to Backstage Library Works in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for digital imaging. This first grouping, which includes 137 pencil sketches of Historic Area gardens by landscape architect Arthur A. Shurcliff and 41 architectural drawings by Restoration architects Percy, Shaw, and Hepburn, will serve as a pilot project to determine the efficacy of scanning a collection of nearly 50,000 drawings. This project is supported by a gift from a generous donor.



Carl Childs, Marianne Martin, Donna Cooke and the driver from Backstage Library Works load our architectural drawings into the van.



Marianne Martin, the driver, Carl Childs and Sarah Nerney pose happy in the knowledge that a new era has begun for our invaluable collection of architectural drawings.

The *John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Newsletter* is a publication of Colonial Williamsburg's John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.

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