



# The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR LIBRARY

SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 3, NO. 4

LIBRARY EXHIBITS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Colonial Williamsburg

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## Library Exhibits

*The John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library maintains an exhibition space located in its main lobby that highlights the broad scope of its fascinating collections of rare books, manuscripts, newspapers, drawings, photographs, corporate archives, oral histories, and multimedia. Exhibits focus on a variety of topics ranging from eighteenth-century Williamsburg and colonial America to the history of the Restoration, major institutional anniversaries, and film and audio productions.*

[Learn More](#)



**A-Z Archives. An alphabetical approach to discovering the treasures of the Corporate Archives.**

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The Rockefeller Library regularly offers exhibits on colonial history, the buildings and trades in our historic area, and the history of the town and the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, all of which highlight the broad scope of our rare book, manuscript, newspaper, drawing, photographic, archival, and multimedia collections. To make these more accessible to those who are not able to visit in person, we have been working to make digital versions of recent exhibits available online. We are pleased to announce that these are now live on our website at: [John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Exhibits](#).

Currently you can browse through digital versions of our most recent exhibit, "An Elegant Seat: Building and Rebuilding

## LIBRARY EXHIBITS AVAILABLE ONLINE

(continued)



<https://spark.adobe.com/page/kjftPFgPkCwrr/>

**An Elegant Seat**

Building and Rebuilding the Governor's Palace

***Landing page for the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library's exhibit on the building and history of the Governor's Palace.***

the Governor's Palace," as well as "Colonial Williamsburg Celebrates 90 Years" and "A-Z Archives." This is a great opportunity to see images and read about the objects and history we have had on view from the comfort of your home - or wherever you may be! We are currently in the process of preparing our next exhibit, "Hollywood Comes to Williamsburg," and hope to have a digital version of that available soon as well.

### **DID YOU KNOW? THE COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG LAUNDRY**

In late 1940, construction on a laundry facility within the warehouse of Colonial Williamsburg that sits at the intersection of Botetourt and Lafayette streets. Intended to handle bed and table laundry from the Williamsburg Inn, Lodge, and Guest Houses, the facility would also clean hotel staff uniforms. The most up to date laundry equipment included three washers, two extractors, a flat work ironer, a tumbler, two general pressing units, and a coat pressing unit. The plan was for the laundry to handle over 13,000 pounds of laundry a week or around 52,000 pounds per month. Opened in March 1941, the laundry capacity was soon unable to keep up with the increasing demand and was struggling to process 200,000 pieces of incoming laundry per month. A new facility was designed across Botetourt St. from the former one that incorporated a more efficient straight-line production method: dirty laundry was delivered to the upper level of the building off Botetourt St. behind Franklin House dormitory (now the Franklin Street office building), proceeded through the cleaning and pressing processes, and was picked up to return to the hotels on the lower Lafayette St. level. The new laundry building and improved production process was intended to handle 300,000 pieces of laundry per month from the hotels, in addition to providing laundry and dry-cleaning services for employees' personal laundry. This new "ultra-modern" laundry opened in June 1949 and was managed by Armond D. Campbell who came to Colonial Williamsburg in 1941 to run the first laundry and retired in 1979 after thirty-nine years of service. Laundry services continue today in the same building, now managed by contractor Crothall Laundry Services.

To read more about the 1949 laundry in an interview with manager Armond D. Campbell titled "CW's Laundromat," please see pages 5 and 6 in the [August 1949 CW News](#).

**DID YOU KNOW? COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG LAUNDRY**

**(continued)**



***Landgon (Jimmy) Gonden (left) and Daniel Roberts (right) work in the Colonial Williamsburg laundry, March 1950.  
Photographer: Thomas Williams.***



***Second row, middle: Alease Bankston and other unidentified employees in the Colonial Williamsburg laundry, 1950  
Photographer: Thomas Williams.***

## PEYTON RANDOLPH SITE 360° TOUR

(continued)



***Filming Deirdre Jones Cardwell with the 360° camera (center image) for the tour.***

Much of the work we do as historians, including researching in archives and in the stacks of the library, is hidden to the average guest to Colonial Williamsburg's historic area. One way we can make this research more visible is to provide new ways to engage with the research that has been undertaken. Under President Fleet's leadership and guidance to produce more digital work that can be accessed in the wider world, we set out to tell the story of the enslaved individuals at the Peyton Randolph House. Our aim is to expand Colonial Williamsburg's reach to the many people that would not be able to visit the site, providing them with online tours, accessibility, and contextualization. The Peyton Randolph 360° tour is intended to be the first of many such explorations to come, exploring new ways and opportunities to focus in on and contextualize the enslaved experience. New audiences like to engage in new ways, and so this is a real opportunity to explore educational experiences in a dynamic way.

We have now produced four very different 360° tours. In each of them we focused on slightly different aspects of the buildings they explore. For our fifth tour we wanted to take a somewhat different approach again, taking the lives of the individuals as the main theme of the tour, by telling their stories as much as we could. This was a real opportunity to examine the lives of the people of the Peyton Randolph House, using new technology to explore the historic research we have undertaken on the story of the enslaved inhabitants of Williamsburg.

Initially, we worked with Peyton Randolph's inventory of property made on his death in 1775. It is a distressing fact that enslaved human beings were considered property, but this also meant that the names of twenty-seven individuals enslaved by the Randolphs were recorded for posterity. Over many years Colonial Williamsburg historians have used this document as a jumping off point to scour other historical resources, especially those in our collection. This has allowed us to uncover more information about each of the people named, their lives, and their humanity. The 360° tour allowed us to situate their stories

## PETYON RANDOLPH SITE 360° TOUR

(continued)

stories where they lived and worked and show just how much of the site could be considered a 'slave space.' By placing the names and biographies of these enslaved individuals in the tour, we were able to contextualize the spaces with the lives of these twenty-seven people. As you move through the tour you will see that Black hands were at work in every room, in every space.

To provide some reality to what can sometimes be seen as abstract historical texts, we employed the wonderfully talented group of actors in the Museum Theatre department. These women and men provide first person portrayals of some of the individuals documented in the Randolph inventory. Our actors have developed personas and monologues based on evidence derived from historical research. This includes the circumstances of the household, recollections and writings of other enslaved people, and primary source writings about enslaved people—their attitudes and feelings. While the words the actors speak are not literal, they do reflect the feelings that those who lived here likely would have had. This goes some way towards ensuring their voices and thoughts can be heard, a simple human right not accorded to them during their lives. Along



*Margarette Joyner performs as 'Mama Succordia' for 360° video camera (left) and a standard 2D camera (right).*

with this glimpse into the people of the house, we also had the indispensable knowledge of Janice Canaday, the Randolph site manager, who guided us through the site and provides a voice and context to these human stories.

Adding these personifications of enslaved individuals to the Randolph House was a technical challenge that we met using new software to embed the actors into the 360° environment. This was done using a tripod mounted Insta360° One X2 camera and developed into a 360° tour using 3D Vista software. This software brings photographs and film together, connecting them in a seamless experience that flows as if you are moving through the building.

The still images from the 360° camera result in what at first seems like an oddly distorted image (above). The images are called equirectangular and are basically spherical images unfolded onto a 2D rectangular plane. The image looks warped in 2D, but when seen through the 360° 3D Vista software it turns into a sphere. This means you can look all around the room 360° degrees like you were standing where the camera was.

For everyone involved this was an exciting project. Being able to capture a glimpse of the people who lived at the Randolph site was fulfilling for all of us. For

## PEYTON RANDOLPH SITE 360° TOUR

(continued)

probably the first time, all twenty-seven enslaved people at the Randolph site have had their stories told simultaneously. It is also a great opportunity for you to experience just a small sampling of the work our highly skilled actors and interpreters do for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The result should be seen not as a tour of a building, but rather a tour of people's lives. It enables us to connect with people's humanity, their lives, and their lived experiences for which the house was simply a backdrop.

If you would like to find out more about this and other 360° tours, go to our blog posts page. It can be found on the CW Blog tab of the Learn menu on Colonial Williamsburg's landing page.



*Equirectangular (360°) photo of the Peyton Randolph Hall*

## ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The staff of the Rockefeller Library is pleased to announce that we will be reopening to the public on Thursday July 1st. The Library began welcoming Colonial Williamsburg staff researchers back onsite on June 14th.

During the COVID closure, Library staff introduced new services to meet the demands of researchers, including curbside circulation of books and “scan on demand” services for those unable to visit the library in person. We also greatly increased our outreach activities through our Facebook group Rockefeller Library & Historical Research Facebook, providing regular updates from the library and behind-the-scenes peeks into the archive.

Staff also took the opportunity to greatly increase digitization of our collections so that more of our materials will be available remotely via our [website](#) and under [Digital Resources](#) on the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation website.

## ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC

(continued)

We are eager to begin welcoming researchers back to the “Rock” and very appreciative of all the support we received from our users during closure. Please note that research in Special Collections, Archives, and Visual Resources will continue to be by appointment only. Please contact [rocklibrary@cwf.org](mailto:rocklibrary@cwf.org) for additional information.



***Daniel Moore, site supervisor of the Governor’s Palace, was the first Colonial Williamsburg staffer to visit the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library following the lifting of pandemic restrictions.***

## LEARN ABOUT OUR NEW EXHIBIT

### *Hollywood Comes to Williamsburg: A Century of Movie and Media Productions*

Presentation by Jenna Simpson and Marianne Martin, John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in association with the Williamsburg Regional Library. July 27th at 2:00 pm

Since the birth of the motion picture industry, Colonial Williamsburg has served as the setting for numerous television programs and movies, while also producing many of its own educational films that bring aspects of the eighteenth-century to life on the screen. Take a journey through the history of movies, television shows, and media productions filmed in Williamsburg through an illustrated lecture featuring still images, objects, and archival materials from the collections of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at Colonial Williamsburg.

Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Letters	Scholarly Articles	Wikipedia
Diaries	Newspaper Articles	Encyclopedias
Novels	Books	Textbooks
Objects	TV Shows	Almanacs
Buildings	Movies	Manuals
Newspapers*	Newspapers*	Newspapers*

*A classification table of research resources.*

The Historical Research and Digital History Department’s Dr. Kelly Brennan and Dr. Cathy Hellier have produced training materials for the Bob and Marion Wilson Teacher Institute of Colonial Williamsburg, “Building Inquiry and Analysis Skills by Engaging with Primary Sources.” This week-long online course is designed to help primary and secondary teachers identify, engage with, and use historical sources in their classrooms.

Primary sources, documents created during an era or around the time of an event, make it easier for students to understand the past and connect to the humanity of its people. Teachers often have little background in working with these kinds of documents, especially elementary education educators. Cathy and Kelly’s short video and additional materials focus on identifying primary sources, free collections of primary sources online, and some of the difficulties working with these sources. There is also a brief discussion of historical handwriting and learning to read it.

The two historians also did a video on secondary sources, tertiary sources, and citations. Secondary sources, produced later and often by someone who was not present, are still valuable to a researcher doing in-depth analysis of the past. Cathy included identifying, locating, and evaluating secondary sources in this section. Most teachers are already familiar with tertiary sources because they use textbooks and almanacs in their classrooms, but often don’t know how they are categorized. Kelly discussed different kinds of tertiary sources. She also gave an example of why it is difficult sometimes to tell the difference between a primary, secondary, and tertiary source. The last segment of this video examined the importance of citing sources and gave some concrete examples of how to do it.

Colonial Williamsburg’s Teacher Institute’s “Building Inquiry and Analysis Skills by Engaging with Primary Sources” program runs July 12-16.



NEW ADDITIONS



*The first Cleveland Bay foal of 2021: A filly named Williamsburg Starlight or Star.  
Photo courtesy of Wayne Reynolds.*



*The second new Cleveland Bay foal of 2021: A colt named Williamsburg Windmill Point or Windy.  
Photo Courtesy of Wayne Reynolds.*

## NEW ADDITIONS

(continued)

As of June 2, 2021, Colonial Williamsburg's Coach & Livestock team has been blessed with 7 new Cleveland Bay foals - 4 fillies and 3 colts. Their names are as follows:

Williamsburg Starlight, "Star", a filly.

Williamsburg Windmill Point, "Windy", a colt.

Williamsburg First Lady, "Lady", a filly.

Williamsburg Shakespeare in Love, "Luvie", a filly.

Williamsburg W.A.R Goodwin's Victory, "Vic", a colt.

Williamsburg Bryhn's Patriot Heart, "Bryhn", a filly.

Williamsburg Freedom's Flame, "Flame", a colt.

Media Collections not only preserves media from the past but also visually documents the institutional history of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for the future. And these new additions are no exception. They are also not finished! Coach & Livestock is expecting more foals soon. Volunteer photographer Wayne Reynolds has been photographing the newbies for us and we include a few here for your enjoyment. These images, plus thousands more, are in our media database called "The Source." The Source is a digital asset management system that serves as the central repository of official Colonial Williamsburg media and accessible by employees and volunteers of the Foundation.



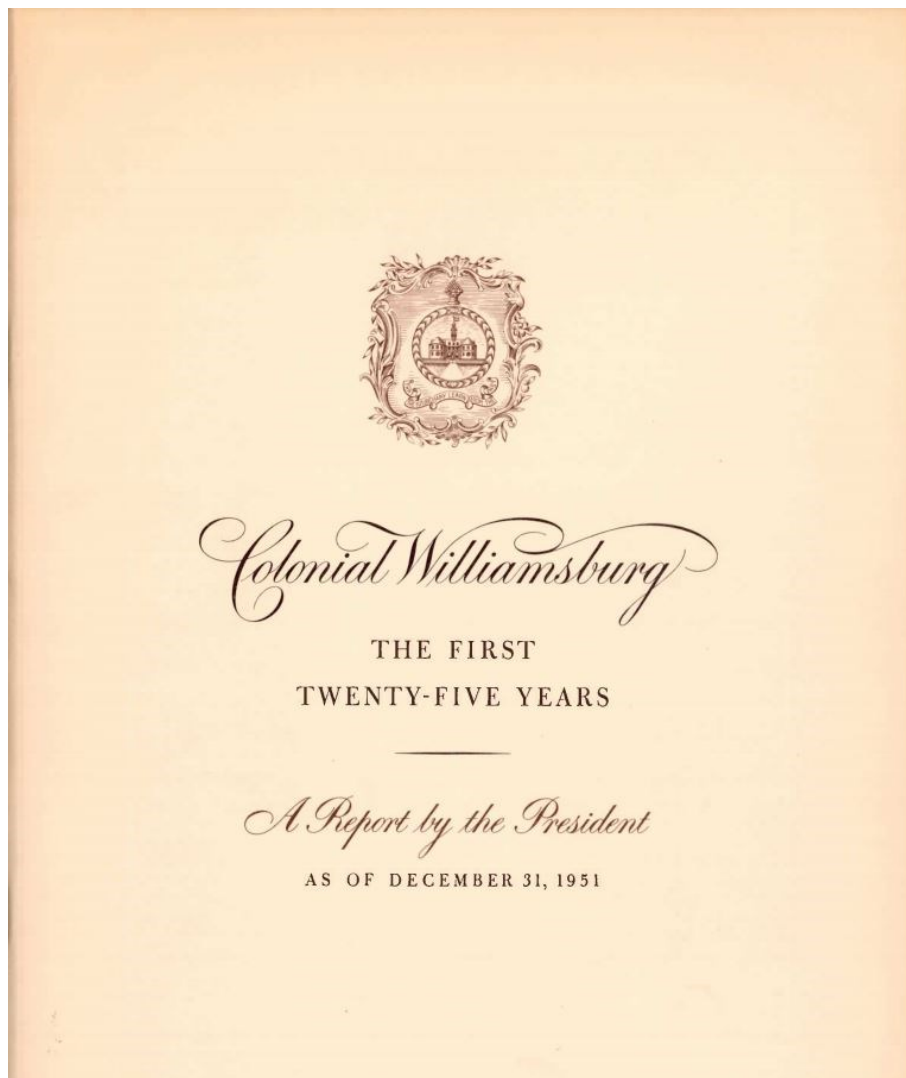
***The third new Cleveland Bay foal of 2021: A filly named Williamsburg First Lady, or Lady.***

***Photo courtesy of Wayne Reynolds.***

## ANNUAL REPORTS

The staff of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library is digitizing the annual reports of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and its predecessor organizations. The reports are being placed online for ease of access and are freely available to the public. They may be viewed on our [Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Publications](#) website under the “[Colonial Williamsburg Annual Reports](#)” collection page.

The *Colonial Williamsburg Annual Report* is issued annually to the public in printed (and now also digital on the website) form. Beginning publication in 1951 and continuing to the present day, the Annual Report was first titled *Report by the President*. The reports always contain a message from the President of Colonial Williamsburg summarizing the year’s achievements and challenges, descriptions of notable events and completed projects, and a financial statement. The reports sometimes also contain a message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and lists of donors to the Foundation. The earlier reports also contain lists of all the administrative officers in addition to the members of the Board of Trustees.



***Title page of the first annual report of Colonial Williamsburg, Incorporated.***

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

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