



The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR LIBRARY

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NEWSLETTER

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RECENT VIRGINIA GAZETTE ACQUISITIONS



Recently purchased Virginia Gazettes with news concerning the aftermath of the Boston Tea Party.

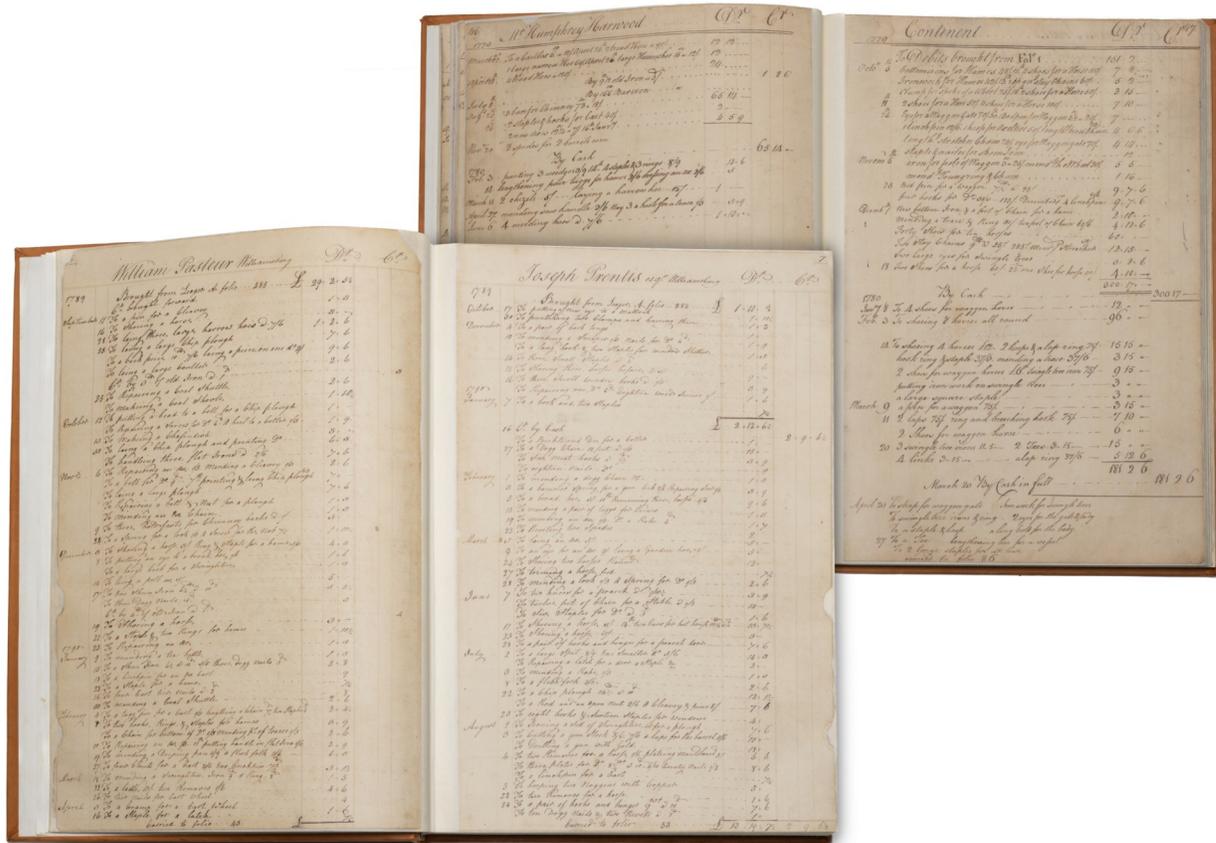
Photo by Brendan Sostak.

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Special Collections recently acquired 12 issues of the *Virginia Gazette* published by Purdie and Dixon, Clementina Rind, and John Pinkney in 1774. The purchase of these issues, each containing news concerning events in the wake of the Boston Tea Party, was made possible by the generous support of the Friends of Collections, Friends of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library and anonymous donors. Following conservation and digitization, the issues will be made available for viewing online. There are now 40 remaining issues of the *Virginia Gazette* we wish to acquire. If you would like to help purchase additional issues, please contact Carl Childs, the Abby and George O'Neill Executive Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at cchilds@cwf.org.

URGENT CONSERVATION PRIORITIES



The 18th-century account books of Williamsburg blacksmith James Anderson.

Photo by Brendan Sostak.

The Rockefeller Library needs your help to preserve James Anderson's account books. James Anderson was a blacksmith in Williamsburg who served as public armorer before the American Revolution. During the Revolution, Anderson was appointed public smith and Captain of Artificers. His business relationship with the government necessitated his move to Richmond when the Capitol relocated to that place. His account books document the public and private work he did in Williamsburg and Richmond from 1778 to 1798. These volumes serve as a reminder of Williamsburg's crucial role in the Revolution not just as a place where political decisions were made but also where troops were raised, trained, and outfitted and where skilled and unskilled workers built the barracks and made and repaired the tools of war used by those troops. Anderson's books also document the goods and services he provided to Williamsburg residents, including Governor Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Everard, John Galt, Colonel James Innes, and William Pasteur.

To protect the books from handling, conservators in the 1950s laminated the pages of the ledgers and rebound them in a modern binding. Current conservation staff have determined that the laminate is causing the pages to deteriorate, and we need to reverse the lamination process, which is expensive and time consuming. Conservation estimates for delamination, treating and rebinding of the ledgers range from \$25,000 – \$38,000. If you would like to aid us in our efforts to preserve James Anderson's account books, please contact Carl Childs the Abby and George O'Neill Executive Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at cchilds@cwf.org.

VISIT FROM MATTHEW WHALEY STUDENTS



Janice Canaday, Supervisor of Historical Interpretation and Bray School descendant, speaking to Matthew Whaley students in the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.

On June 13, the Rockefeller Library hosted eighty-four 4th grade students and teachers from Matthew Whaley Elementary School for a presentation on the Williamsburg Bray School with Colonial Williamsburg interpreters Adam Canaday, Janice Canaday, and Nicole Brown. Adam and Janice, descendants of Bray School students, spoke to the students and answered questions about the school. Nicole Brown, who interprets Bray School teacher Ann Wager, engaged with the students about what they hoped to see and experience when they visited the school upon its reconstruction and opening to the public for interpretation.

Earlier in the year, the students became directly involved in the Bray Project themselves, researching the Bray School students and creating handwritten signs bearing their names. They joined the crowd on February 10 to watch the Bray School move from William & Mary's campus to its new home in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area holding up their signs and honoring the Bray School students. In collaboration with Matthew Whaley 4th grade teacher Christine Mcbee, the students donated their signs to the Rockefeller Library to ensure they will be preserved as part of the project's legacy. Library staff members Tracey Gulden, Jenna Simpson, and Brendan Sostak then created both a physical and digital exhibit highlighting the signs and the student's unexpected but significant role in marking the importance of the Bray School move. The digital exhibit may be found online at [Telling Their Stories: The Williamsburg Bray School Student Sign Project](#).

WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA VISITS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



Special guests from the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra, Rockefeller Library volunteers, and staff pose by the table of eighteenth-century music that the group viewed during their visit on May 23, 2023. Pictured are: R-L: Michael Buttermann, Music Director, violinist Jennifer Carillo; Jon Nakamatsu, pianist and guest artist; Carolyn Keurajian, President and CEO; Dennis and Eloise Branden, Colonial Williamsburg volunteers; Doug Mayo, Head of Special Collections, and Marianne Martin, Visual Resources Librarian.
Photo by Donna Cooke.

On May 23, the Special Collections staff welcomed special guests from the Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra to view eighteenth and early nineteenth century music held by the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library. They included Michael Buttermann, Music Director, Jon Nakamatsu, pianist and guest artist, Jennifer Carillo, violinist, and Carolyn Keurajian, President and CEO. Colonial Williamsburg volunteers, Dennis and Eloise Branden, who were serving as hosts for the musicians while they were in town preparing for the symphony's concert on May 25th, organized the tour to introduce them to the extensive collection of historic music manuscripts and printed sheet music housed in Special Collections. Among the items the group examined were an original music manuscript that belonged to Peter Pelham, first organist for Bruton Parish Church, a score for "The Beggar's Opera," and instrumental parts for chamber music known to have been available in eighteenth-century Williamsburg. They also viewed Robert Bremner's *The Harpsichord or spinnet miscellany being a gradation of proper lessons from the beginner to the tollerable performer chiefly intended to save masters the trouble of writing for their pupils*, 1763, and listened to a piece performed from the rare edition by Joyce Lindorff, who was an invited scholar in residence at the Rockefeller Library in 2013. Lindorff recorded a CD, *Music of the Harpsichord Miscellany* (2013), featuring herself playing the music on the 1758 Jacob Kirckman harpsichord from the musical instrument collection of the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. A variety of letters, invoices, diaries, play-bills, and newspaper excerpts rounded out the display and offered the group insight into the role that music played in the daily lives of colonial Virginians.

HOLLYWOOD COMES TO WILLIAMSBURG: A CENTURY OF MOVIE AND MEDIA PRODUCTIONS



Jenna Simpson, Assistant Media Collections Manager, gives a talk at the Williamsburg Regional Library.

On May 11, Jenna Simpson, Assistant Media Collections Manager, and Marianne Martin, Visual Resources Librarian, gave an in-person version of their presentation, "Hollywood Comes to Williamsburg: A Century of Movie and Media Productions," to a crowd of over fifty attendees at Williamsburg Regional Library. A digital version of [Hollywood Comes to Williamsburg: A Century of Movie and Media Productions](#) is available as is the physical exhibit by the same name in the lobby entrance of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library through the end of the summer. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY HOSTS DURANT PHOTO I.D. SESSION IN CONJUNCTION WITH BLESSING OF REVERENCE EVENT



Marianne Martin, Visual Resources Librarian, hosts guests in Special Collections following the Blessing of Reverence ceremony.

On May 5, in partnership with First Baptist Church and the Williamsburg DAR Chapter, the Rockefeller Library offered a special opportunity for participants in the Blessing of Reverence ceremony held at Cedar Grove Cemetery to visit the library afterwards for a reception and to assist with review and identification of individuals pictured in photos in the Albert Durant Photography Collection. The Blessing of Reverence commemoration focused upon remembering those buried in the southeast portion of Cedar Grove Cemetery that formerly served as a segregated area for the gravesites of Black residents. Several participants found family members and school friends amongst the photos by Albert Durant that they reviewed in Special Collections. The project continues to benefit both the library and community members by leading to these important discoveries and connections, helping fill in the blanks in the historical record.

JUNETEENTH EVENT HOSTED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR LIBRARY



During the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library's Juneteenth program, visitors watched a slide show featuring the photography of Albert Durant.

Photo by Brendan Sostak.

On June 19, the Rockefeller Library invited Colonial Williamsburg visitors and residents to celebrate Juneteenth through a special event held at Bruton Heights School. Participants watched a short vodcast providing biographical and contextual information about Albert Durant, whose collection of close to 10,000 images is preserved at the library. They then proceeded to a classroom where they could view a small display about the collection's acquisition and significance and see a slideshow offering highlights of the subject matter represented in the collection. After these short introductions to Mr. Durant and his photographs, participants sat down at various stations throughout the classroom to review notebooks with copies of photos from the collection needing further identification. As a result of the event, many new names, places, and dates can be associated with previously undocumented photographs.

JUNETEENTH EVENT HOSTED BY JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR.

(continued)



During the Library's Juneteenth program, visitors helped to identify photographs and read reproductions of the old school newspaper The Brutonian.

Photo by Brendan Sostak.

The event also served as a celebration of the generous gift of the Frank K. Webb Charitable Trust to fund the conservation and digitization of over 5,000 negatives in the collection that have vinegar syndrome, a form of deterioration that causes the base of cellulose acetate negatives to shrink and buckle, eventually rendering a negative unprintable or scannable. Chicago Albumen Works, a specialized vendor located in Housatonic, Massachusetts, will carry out the work of preserving and digitizing the negatives. As a result of this project, many more significant images documenting Black life in Williamsburg between the 1940s and early 1960s will be available online and will enhance projects underway to highlight the contributions of Williamsburg's Black community during the era of segregation.

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

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Please visit [Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library](#) for information on how you can help support the Library and don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook: [Rockefeller Library at CW](#).

To contact the library directly, please call 757-220-7249; 757-565-8510 or email us at rocklibrary@cwf.org.