



# The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR LIBRARY

FALL 2018

NEWSLETTER

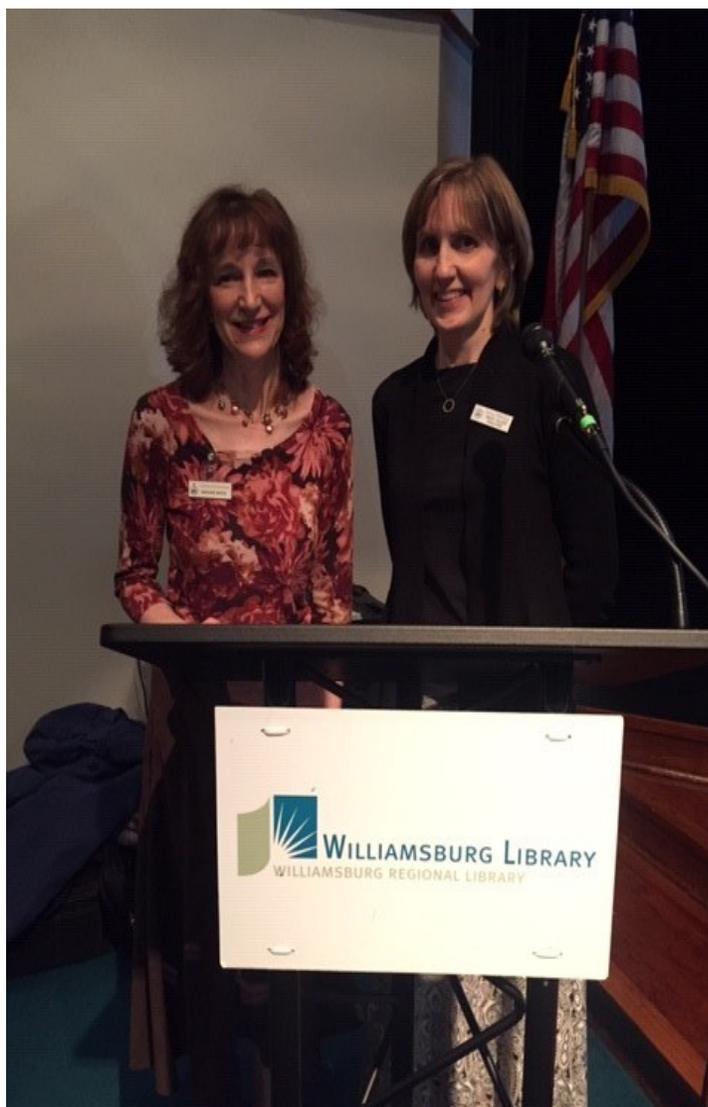
VOL. 1, NO. 2

## LIBRARIES COLLABORATE ON LOCAL HISTORY

On October 29th Visual Resources Librarian Marianne Martin and Collections Manager Tracey Gulden presented a joint lecture at the Williamsburg Regional Library (WRL) on the visual evolution of Colonial Williamsburg's Merchants Square. The pair used photographs, architectural drawings and other objects from Rockefeller Library collections to illustrate the hour long talk. Rockefeller Library volunteer and WRL adult services reference librarian Becky Michaels developed the idea for the collaboration after assisting Marianne with the early black and white photographs in visual resources. Over 268 people attended the standing room only event and both libraries are extremely pleased with the attendance and interest generated in the local community. Could similar public events be coming soon? Perhaps. Until plans are finalized, Marianne and Tracey will be presenting their program again at 4:00 p.m., December 5th in the Lane Auditorium at Bruton Heights School as part of Colonial Williamsburg's monthly volunteer enrichment series. Arrive early to get a good seat – or you might have to stand!

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**Marianne Martin and Tracey Gulden take center stage at the Williamsburg Regional Library.**

## W.A.R. GOODWIN SOCIETY PROGRAMMING



***Colonial Williamsburg architectural historian, Jeff Klee, shares architectural drawings from the library's collection with members of the Goodwin Society during their visit to the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.***

***Image by Wayne Reynolds***

The Rockefeller Library welcomed members of the W.A.R. Goodwin Society for an afternoon of presentations and tours on Friday November 11. Visitors were treated to a variety of presentations on research resources from library staff and subject area specialists, in addition to seeing a vast array of treasures from the library's Corporate Archives, Media Collections and Special Collections.

Nation Builders Nicole Brown (Ann Wager) and Joseph Feaster (Gowan Pamphlet) discussed the vital role the library plays in making their characters come alive. Senior Paper Conservator Pam Young discussed the process and challenges faced in conserving library materials for use by future generations. Attendees also received an overview of the Foundation's oral history program, which comprises over 150 formal transcripts related to the history and programs of Colonial Williamsburg.

On display were such items as a rare William Stone 1823 engraving of the Declaration of Independence from the Pat and Jerry Epstein American History Document Collection and the December 7, 1926 "David's Father" telegram from Mr. John D. Rockefeller Jr. authorizing the purchase of the Ludwell-Paradise House that marked the beginning of the Restoration. Visitors also learned more about the Visual Resources and Architectural Drawing collections, which include the original drawings of the firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn, the architectural firm selected by Rev. W.A.R. Goodwin and John D. Rockefeller Jr., to carry out the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg.

## TOWN AND GOWN PARTNERSHIP

What's better than access to a world-class library with collections tailored to your research interests? A partnership that provides access to two more excellent library collections! Continuing a tradition of "town and gown" cooperation, Rockefeller Library partners with Swem Library and the Wolf Law Library at William and Mary to form the Williamsburg Research Library Consortium. The participating libraries share an online catalog, so that when researchers look for materials through our website (<http://research.history.org/library>), they will also find books held by William & Mary. A "request" function allows Foundation staff to have these materials conveniently delivered to Rockefeller Library. In turn, William & Mary students and faculty may (and often do!) request materials from our specialized collection. A distinctive van staffed by friendly William & Mary student workers makes the rounds between libraries several times a week, ensuring that researchers never have to wait long to get their hands on the books they are yearning for. A win-win for students of Early American history and culture at both institutions!



*The William & Mary van and student workers on the Rockefeller Library leg of their deliveries.*



***Donna Cooke (left) and Marianne Martin (right) at the Archives Fair held at the Virginia Commonwealth University.***

### **LIBRARY STAFF PARTICIPATES IN ARCHIVES FAIR**

Associate Archivist Donna Cooke and Visual Resources Librarian Marianne Martin represented the Rockefeller Library at an Archives Fair held at Virginia Commonwealth University on October 5th. Organized in conjunction with the statewide celebration of Archives Month, the event highlighted libraries and archives in the region, including the Library of Virginia, Virginia Historical Society, William & Mary, University of Richmond, the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Old Dominion University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Norfolk Southern, Randolph-Macon University, and Colonial Williamsburg. Each institution set up a table with displays and hand-outs to encourage students and faculty to learn more about their unique holdings and research services.

The event attracted approximately one hundred twenty-five students and faculty members, including former Colonial Williamsburg staff member Ywone Edwards-Ingram, Assistant Professor in the Department of Focused Inquiry, who brought her class to tour the Archives Fair to learn more about archival research. Edwards-Ingram’s daughter, now a student at VCU, shared her recollections of spending hours absorbed in reading books in the Rockefeller Library’s Janice McCoy Collection for Youth while waiting for her mother to finish work.

The Rockefeller Library’s table included an opportunity for participants to enter a raffle for two free tickets to Colonial Williamsburg and proved to be quite popular with students. This year’s Archives Month theme, “Archival Oddities,” inspired a very popular “remix” activity table where students could create artwork based upon copies of archival materials featured in the Archives Month poster. Participation in the highly successful Archives Fair will hopefully bring more Richmond area students to the Rockefeller Library in the near future.

## JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE EXHIBIT



“The Final Campaign: John Graves Simcoe and the Queen’s Rangers in Virginia,” an exhibit of materials from Special Collections will open in January at the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library. The materials consist of maps, plans and illustrations related to Simcoe’s account of his experience as commander of the Queen’s Rangers during the American Revolution. The illustrations show battles not typically depicted in books about the war, such as the destruction of Virginia’s navy on the James River, the engagement at Spencer’s plantation just outside of Williamsburg, and the loss of American military stores at Point of Fork. Also included in the exhibit are original uniform buttons from soldiers of the Queen’s Rangers and a watercolor illustration of one of the unit’s riflemen executed by Captain James Murray.

## MACOMBER PAPERS PROJECT

Thanks to many hours of assistance from volunteer Carol Kozek and summer intern Anthony Freeman, the Walter M. Macomber drawings, correspondence and photographs are finally cleaned, processed, and ready for research use.

### *Drawing showing the destruction of Virginia’s navy at Osborne’s on the James River.*

Received as a gift in 2000, the collection encompasses architectural drawings, textual records, and photographs which document a large span of the career of Walter M. Macomber, who was appointed in 1928 by architects Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn of Boston to serve as resident architect at their Williamsburg office. During his seven years in Williamsburg, Macomber oversaw the reconstruction of the Capitol and the Governor’s Palace, as well as the restoration of the Wren Building. He later moved to Washington, D.C. and restored national landmarks such as Patrick Henry’s Birthplace and Ford’s Theater. He then accepted a position as resident architect at Mount Vernon, where he stayed for three decades, and at Stratford Hall, where he worked for another decade as an architectural consultant.

## MACOMBER PAPERS PROJECT (continued)

Preparing the collection for research use involved many steps and several years of effort on the part of Special Collections staff members. Since it had been stored for years by family members in an outbuilding, the drawings were fairly dirty, with layers of dust, insect debris, and even patches of mold and mildew. Paper Conservator Pam Young recommended that each drawing, sheet of correspondence, and photograph be carefully and thoroughly cleaned before being organized. Colonial Williamsburg's Conservation Department kindly allowed librarian Marianne Martin and volunteer Carol Kozek to spend three hours per week in the Preventative Conservation Lab slowly cleaning each individual item in the collection. The process involved using special dusting brushes to gently sweep dirt off the surfaces, a vulcanized rubber sponge to carefully rub off stains, and a Miele vacuum with variable suction control and a HEPA filter to remove heavy dirt and insect debris gently brushed towards the nozzle. Cleaned items were then placed in acid-free folders and boxes to await arrangement and description. Conservation intern Sophie Barbisan offered valuable tips, removed more stubborn stains, and performed several small repairs during the process. After six months, Marianne and Carol celebrated the cleaning of the final drawing and prepared the collection for its next step.

Anthony Freeman, a graduate of Hampton University who served as the Rockefeller Library's 2018 summer intern, eagerly took on the task of sorting and foldering the cleaned drawings and documents. He divided the materials by architectural project and then sorted them by drawing or document type. He divided the materials by architectural project and then sorted them by drawing or document type. After placing them in acid-free folders and boxes, Anthony began the lengthy task of creating a container list for the collection. He also wrote



*Special Collections volunteer, Carol Kozek, cleaning an architectural drawing from the Macomber collection*

a biographical sketch about Walter Macomber for the collection guide which will eventually be accessible via the Virginia Heritage site at [vaheritage.org](http://vaheritage.org). A final step involved creation of the finding aid and catalog record by Marianne Martin. Anthony, Marianne, and Carol derived a great deal of satisfaction from placing the processed collection on shelves in the Special Collections vault and envisioning how the part they played in the project would contribute to future research and study of the architects who undertook Williamsburg's restoration.

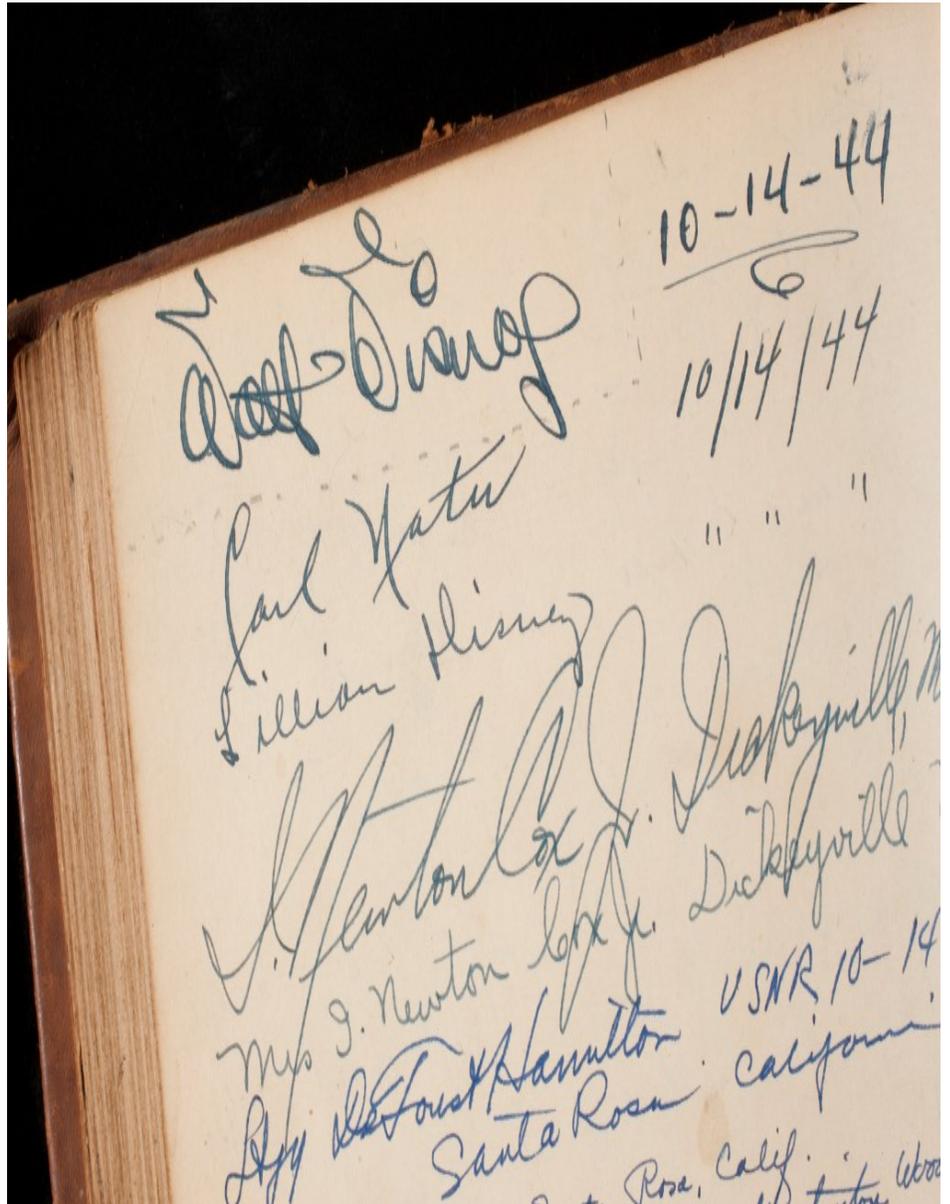
## SAVING OUR HISTORY

Over the last 90 years, the Library and Archives of Colonial Williamsburg have been collecting rare books, manuscripts, newspapers, architectural drawings, photographs and ephemera, which tell the story of Williamsburg and its restoration. These materials are invaluable to our staff and outside researchers who work to make that story known. Many of these items require conservation to insure their long-term survival and future availability for researchers, exhibition and our programming needs.

### **We can't do this alone!**

There is simply too much material in need of conservation to do the work onsite. Therefore, we are working with outside conservators to assess our conservation needs, develop priorities and get cost estimates for the care of our materials. The Saving Our History program allows you to be part of our efforts by adopting individual items in need of conservation or through donations to our general conservation fund in any amount. We will acknowledge your adoption of an item with a note in the catalog record and in any publication or exhibition labels.

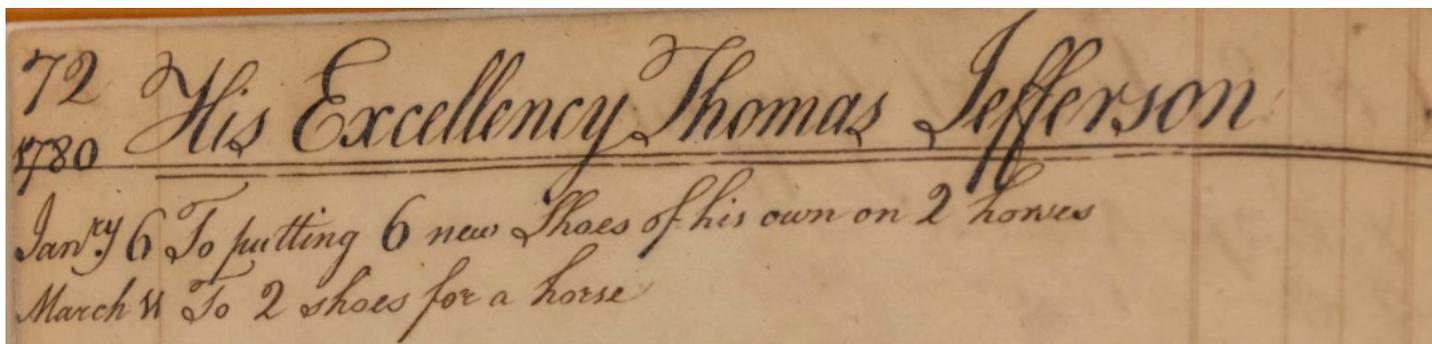
For more information about the program, please contact Carl Childs, Abby and George O'Neill Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library, at 757-220-7248 or [cchilds@cwf.org](mailto:cchilds@cwf.org).



***Corporate Archives has a collection of approximately 24 guest registers dating from the 1930s through the 1950s primarily for the Governor's Palace but also for the Court House Museum, Raleigh Tavern and Travis House Restaurant that need conservation. Some of them were signed by well-known people including Clark Gable, Walt Disney and Frank Lloyd Wright.***

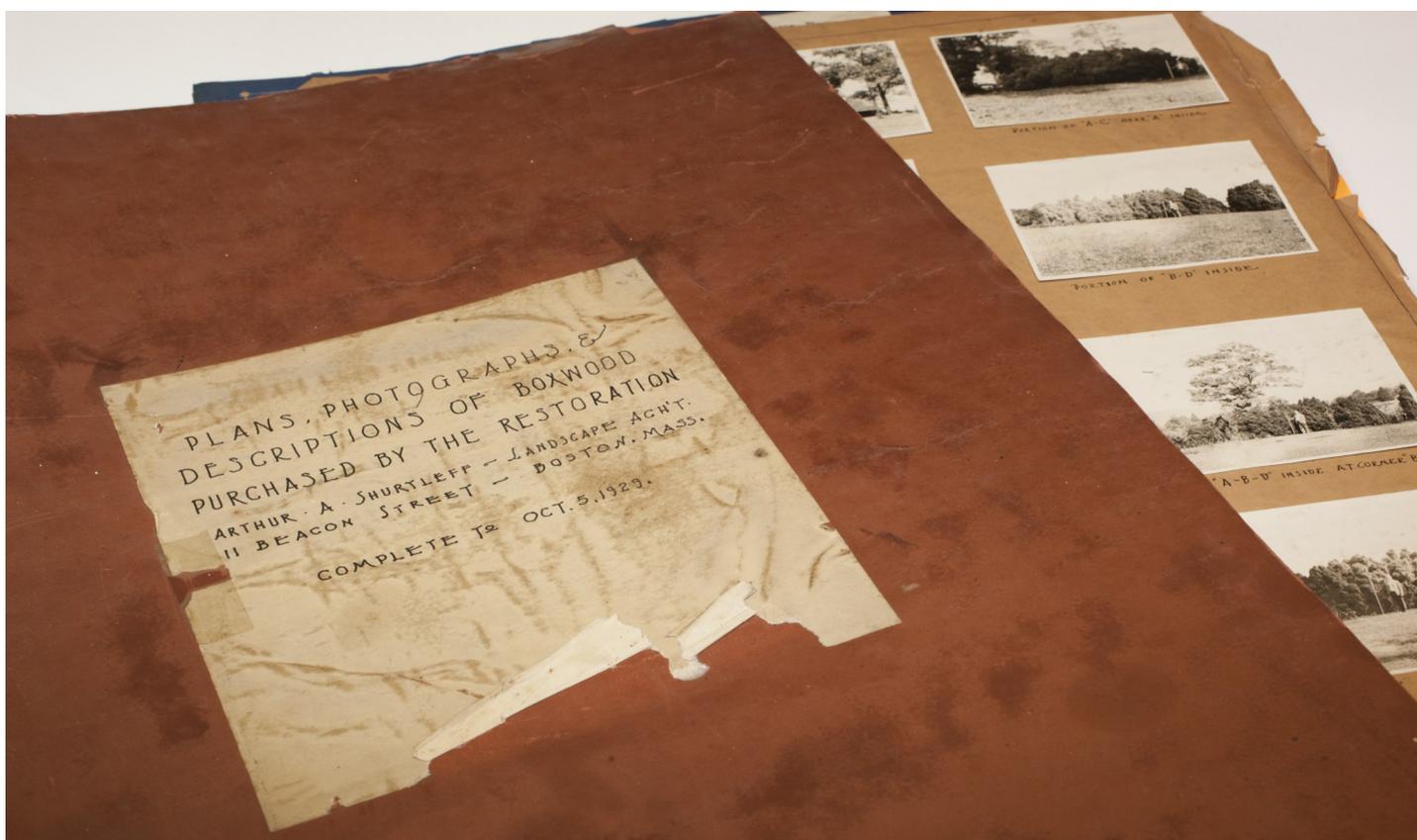
## SAVING OUR HISTORY

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A page from the ledger of 18th-century Williamsburg blacksmith James Anderson. The ledger is endangered by the iron gall ink and in need of conservation.

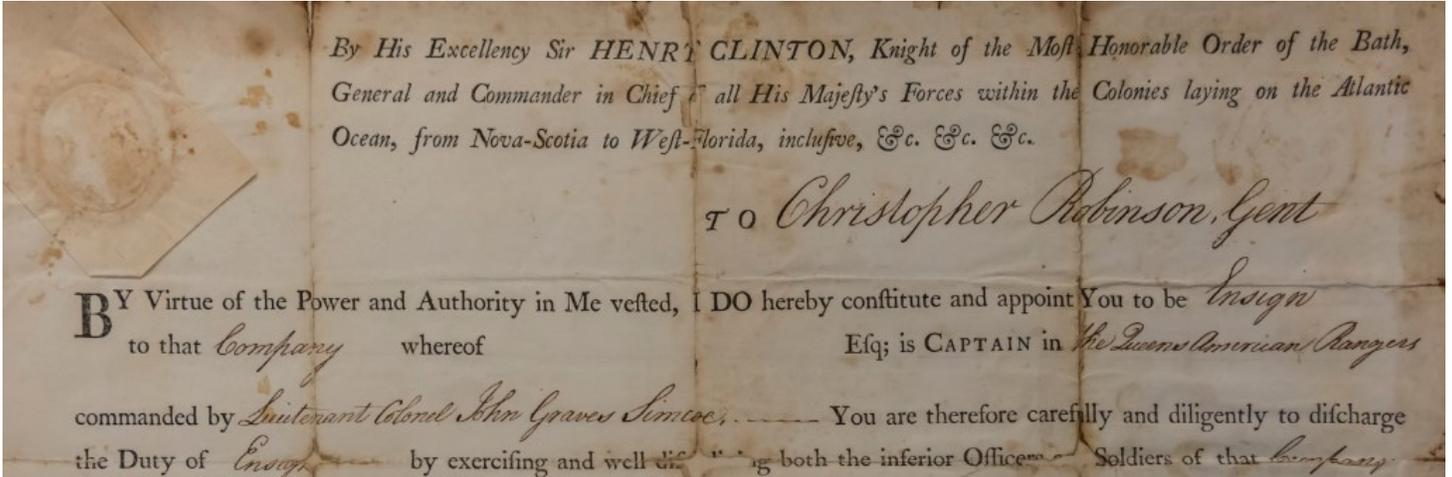
Image by Wayne Reynolds



The Restoration began buying boxwoods in the 1920s from private homes in Virginia and other states in the Southeast for use in landscaping the Historic Area. They often arrived on flatbed rail cars and landscape designer Arthur Shurcliff [Shurtleff] created a "Boxwood Book" with plans, photographs and descriptions of the boxwoods – both in their native setting and for planned planting locations within the Historic Area.

## SAVING OUR HISTORY

(continued)



**Detail of a commission from the Robinson family papers. The papers, of this prominent 18th-century Virginia family, consist of two scrapbooks. Many original documents have been glued in and are in need of conservation.**

*Image by Wayne Reynolds*

## NEW LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE



New display! The library has added a new display area with seasonally-changing exhibits particularly highlighting materials from our photographic and media collections, Special Collections, and Colonial Williamsburg publications. Our inaugural exhibit had a Halloween and harvest theme, including photos from Haunting on DoG Street, creepy crawlers and strutting turkeys from 17th and 18th-century natural histories, and a variety of ghost stories and recipe books. You'll find related materials atop the case available for checkout! Come by today and see our new display! It can be found to the left of the circulation desk near the reference area.

## ROCKEFELLER LIBRARY VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHERS

The Rockefeller Library is proud to have two very talented volunteer photographers working with us: Wayne Reynolds and Jerry McCoy. They help document the Library's collection, historic area programming, and everything else in between! While it's difficult to choose just one image from their excellent body of work, we'll continue to highlight their images in upcoming newsletter editions.



***Blacksmith Carl Hirner at work in his shop in the maintenance area.***

***Image by Jerry McCoy***

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

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