Connections Across Collections
January 22, 2022
Digital Archives Staff Recommendations

Lydia’s Pick

**Reminiscences: Rebecca T. Miller**

Rebecca T. Miller (1864-1838) was seldom no further than a notebook away from her acquaintances and friends. As a most gifted wordsmith, she kept a remarkable catalog of penned descriptions and reminiscences for all who played a part in her life’s story. Such was her gift for prose that even today’s readers will smile and feel a familiar connection to the varied personalities who populated her social calendar.

Photograph, 1982.0009.0053

Sara’s Pick

**Photograph: Deborah J. Iddings at Sandy Spring**

A quintessential part of the Sandy Spring community is the spring itself, which can be accessed by a short walk down Meeting House Road. The archives team recently made the trek to pay homage to the community’s namesake. This was my first time to see it in person. It felt like a moment of history coming alive for me since the spring is mentioned or shown in so many of the documents I work with.

Take this photo of Deborah J. Iddings for example. The spring’s concrete surroundings look a bit different today and the trees have changed over time too. The photo truly captures an enduring and significant place at a very specific moment in time. As the archives team posts more photos of the spring on Digital Maryland, it will be interesting to how it has changed as well as how it has remained the same.
One of my favorite entries is for the Bryan family from Texas who stayed for a time at her home, Mt. Airy. Rebecca described Hallie Bryan as most charming and clever yet also as someone who “labored under the most amazing necessity of speech as anyone I have ever known.” Does this not paint a most multi-dimensional image of Hallie beyond simple chattiness? Definitely worth a read is Rebecca’s description on the next page of sleigh fashioned from a soapbox, ladder, and bell. Whether the bell was included for announcement or warning is anyone’s guess!

New to the Collection

**Receipts: Hawlings River Market Wagon, 1880s**

Collections storage is abuzz with activity these days! With the support of a [grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services](#), the Museum is in the midst of a wall-to-wall inventory of the entire three-dimensional artifact collection.

Occurring on the heels of the archive’s inventory and the completion of the digitization project, staff is quick to see fascinating relationships across collections media. In fact, one of the first inventoried boxes of artifacts had a printing plate used to create receipts to the Hawlings River Market Wagon, several of which had just been digitized and posted to Digital Maryland!

The market wagon was associated with [Brighton General Store](#) under the proprietorship of Edward R. Stabler and his partner William Gilpin. The receipts show a long-standing trade of goods with Philip T. Stabler who supplied the enterprise with eggs in exchange for butter and occasional sundries. The barter of goods between farmer and merchant was common in the 19th century. During this period most prices were negotiated and items were typically procured through barter or credit. As such financial activities were largely considered the purview of men, they typically

**On this day in 1887**

On this day in 1887, Henry H. Miller wrote a letter of introduction for his tenant, William Leizear, to the renowned ornithologist, Albert Kenrick Fisher. At the time, Fisher was working for the United States Department of Agriculture in the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy.

Not only does the Division’s moniker ring obsolete to our ears but the purpose of the introduction is somewhat jaw-dropping to contemporary sensibilities. Upon arrival at the USDA offices, Leizear was to have in his possession the bodies of two hawks and a Bald Eagle. The eagle, having been bagged by Leizear during a hunt in the days prior, was brought for a consult on the cost of its mounting.

Setting aside the affront to our current notions of nature conservancy and stewardship, can you just imagine the presence a taxidermied Bald Eagle would have in a modest tenant house?
did most household shopping. General stores served the multiple purposes of trade, socialization, and exchange of important community information.

Love being transported to Sandy Spring of yesteryear?

The digital archive is your portal, but to keep it open we need your support.

Make a tax-deductible gift!

Transcribe-a-Thon

Monday, February 21, 11am-3pm

Explore the history of Sandy Spring through transcription. For more than 300 years, the Sandy Spring area has been home to generations of African and African American families. In honor of Black History Month, we seek your help in uncovering some of these family stories awaiting discovery by transcribing historic documents.

Details and registration

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