Colonial Williamsburg
JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER JR. LIBRARY

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From the Director

Greetings from the Rock!

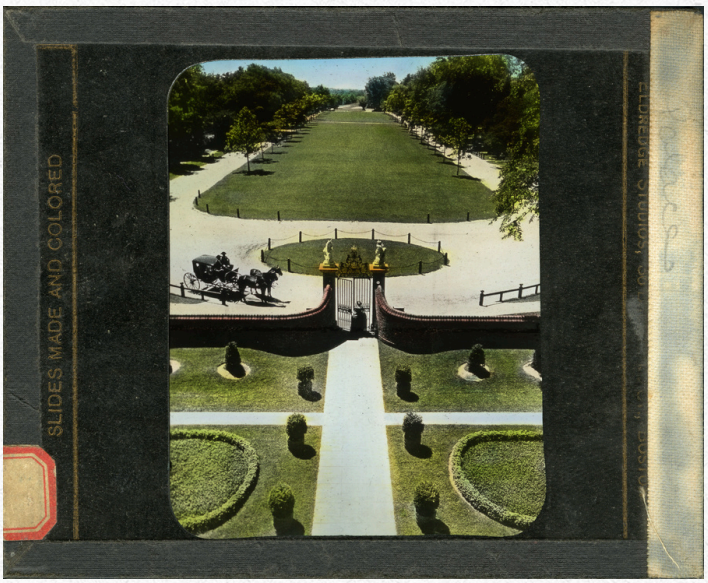
This fall, the Rockefeller Library invites you to explore the many ways our collections, exhibitions, and staff bring the past into clearer view. In this issue, we highlight our new *Garden Detective* exhibition, a digital exhibit tracing the history of *Williamsburg: The Story of a Patriot*, and a remarkable illustrated book of trades acquired with support from the Friends of the Library. We also celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues, welcome a new team member, and share upcoming programs and events. I hope you enjoy these updates and will join us at the library in the months ahead.

Emily Guthrie
Executive Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library

NEW LIBRARY EXHIBIT: *GARDEN DETECTIVE: ARTHUR A. SHURCLIFF'S RESTORATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S PALACE LANDSCAPE*

By Emily Guthrie and Marianne Martin





The Garden Detective, open from November 12 through spring 2027 in the Rockefeller Library, retraces the steps of Colonial Williamsburg landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff as he researched and designed the Governor's Palace gardens between 1931 and 1934.

To Shurcliff, the Governor's Palace was "the culminating place design in Williamsburg," the clues to which "were found either by documentary evidence or excavations or by ground forms." Originally constructed in phases between 1706 and 1752, the Palace was destroyed by fire in 1781, and its luxurious gardens were lost to time. Throughout the reconstruction period of 1931 through 1934, Shurcliff relied on sources that ranged from archaeological discoveries and historic plans of 18th-century gardens to extant gardens in England and North America and the expertise of his restoration colleagues.

Through historic photographs, drawings, research reports, and other documentation, the exhibition explores Shurcliff's efforts to understand 18th-century Colonial-era gardens through site visits and design sources; the role of archaeology in understanding the original layout of the grounds; his ambitious initiative to acquire mature boxwood shrubs; and the culmination of his efforts in the installation and completion of the gardens.

NEW DIGITAL EXHIBIT ON *STORY OF A PATRIOT*

By Jenna Simpson

While 2026 marks the celebration of Colonial Williamsburg's centennial as an institution, another major milestone is coming up in 2027: the seventieth anniversary of the debut of the film *Williamsburg: The Story of a Patriot*. This film was created as a collaboration between Colonial Williamsburg's in-house production department and Paramount Studios, and was originally intended to be the centerpiece of the (then-new) Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center, introducing audiences to both the history of the Revolution in Williamsburg and to the sites to be seen in the Historic Area. Winning many fans (and its share of detractors) over the years, the film is now a historic landmark in its own right. Now considered a part of the Foundation's archival film series, *Williamsburg: The Story of a Patriot* is a gem in the care of the Rockefeller Library's Media Collections.



In commemoration of its upcoming anniversary, Media Collections has put together a new digital exhibit telling the story of the film's creation and reception. While the text comes largely from the research of Media Collections Assistant Manager Jenna Simpson, much work on the exhibit, including image curation, was done by William & Mary Woody Intern Nora Birchett. Birchett also worked to digitize several postcards related to the film which had not previously been digitized. The exhibit is now live and available for viewing, along with many other interesting Library exhibits, at https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/research/john-d-rockefeller-jr-library/online-exhibits/ .

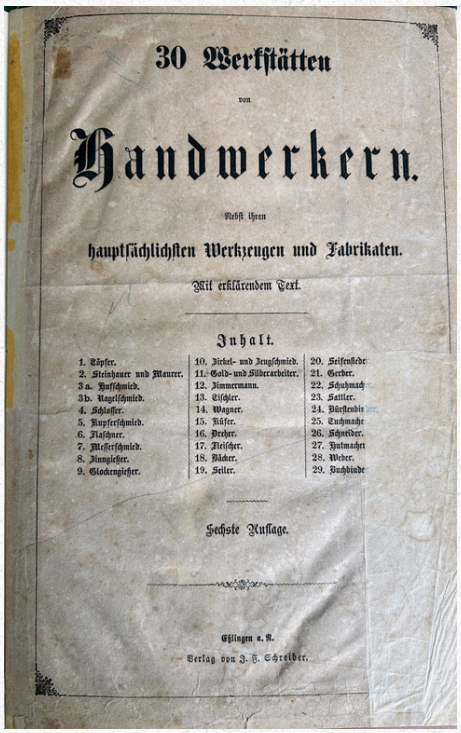
As of autumn 2026, the film Williamsburg: The Story of a Patriot can be seen several days a week in the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center's Patriot Theaters; check the website at https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/events/williamsburg-the-story-of-a-patriot/ for current showtimes.

FRIENDS FEATURE: *30 WERKSTÄTTEN VON HANDWERKERN*

By Emily Guthrie

The *Friends of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library* provide essential support for the acquisition of rare books and manuscripts while also enabling efforts to expand access to the library's world-class collections through digitization and conservation. As special opportunities arise, Friends funds make it possible for the library to actively acquire materials that enhance understanding of everyday life in early America.

Schreiber, J.F. [Jakob Ferdinand Schreiber]. 30 Werkstätten von Handwerkern. Esslingen am Neckar [Germany]: Verlag von J.F. Schreiber, ca. 1860.


30 Werkstätten

von

Handwerkern.

Nebst ihren

hauptsächlichsten Werkzeugen und Fabrikaten.

Mit erklärendem Text.

Inhalt.

1. Töpfer.
2. Steinhauer und Maurer.
3a. Hufschmied.
3b. Nagelschmied.
4. Schlosser.
5. Kupferschmied.
6. Flaschner.
7. Messerschmied.
8. Zinngießer.
9. Glockengießer.
10. Zirkel- und Zeugschmied.
11. Gold- und Silberarbeiter.
12. Zimmermann.
13. Tischler.
14. Wagner.
15. Küfer.
16. Dreher.
17. Metzger.
18. Bäcker.
19. Seiler.
20. Seifensieder.
21. Gerber.
22. Schuhmacher.
23. Sattler.
24. Bürstenbinder.
25. Tuchmacher.
26. Schneider.
27. Hutmacher.
28. Weber.
29. Buchbinder.

Sechste Auflage.

Eßlingen a. N.

Verlag von J. F. Schreiber.





Published in Germany around 1860 and acquired by the library in May 2026, this large-format book was originally intended to teach children about skilled trades. Today, *30 Werkstätten von Handwerkern* offers readers of all ages detailed insight into the production of handmade goods. Reflecting its English title -- *30 Craftsperson's Workshops* -- the book pairs full-page, hand-colored illustrations of thirty tradespeople's workshops with a booklet describing each trade. Several resemble historic trades practiced in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, including blacksmithing, coopering, joinery, and weaving. Shown here are the baker's and shoemaker's workshops.

30 Werkstätten was produced by the publishing house of J.F. Schreiber, established in Esslingen am Neckar, Germany, in 1831. First published in the 1840s by the firm's founder, Jakob Ferdinand Schreiber (1809–1867), the book was reprinted several times during the nineteenth century. Capitalizing on the growing use of lithography, the firm produced numerous large-format illustrated educational books for children. Its catalog included works on natural history, alphabet books, biblical illustrations, and other subjects, meeting Germany's strong demand for teaching materials.

We are grateful to the Friends for making this acquisition possible.

PERSONNEL UPDATES



Kelly Brennan Promoted to Senior Historian

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Kelly Brennan to Senior Historian of Historical Research. Kelly is an eight-and-a-half-year veteran of Colonial Williamsburg's Research Department and has been with the Foundation for over twenty years. Presently, her fields of expertise include death; magic; insanity; crime and punishment; and ghosts, making her a cultural, legal, and medical historian. She received her PhD from William and Mary in 2014, and is currently turning her dissertation, "Men of Sorrow, Markets of Grief: A history of the American Funeral Industry" into a book, *Fetch the Undertaker: A History of Nineteenth-Century America's Most Hated Occupation.*

Please join us in congratulating Kelly on a well-deserved promotion, recognizing her excellence in the field of Early American History.



Welcome, Heather Young, Digital Asset Specialist!

We are pleased to welcome Heather Young to the staff as our new Digital Asset Specialist. Heather received her Bachelor of Science from Kent State University, where she majored in Photo Illustration with a minor in Graphic Design. Since 2011, Heather has been a professional freelance photographer specializing in food and lifestyle photography. With over a decade of experience in the digital photography sphere, she feels at home working with the Foundation's Digital Asset Management system. Heather values digital preservation and digitization, and she aims to expand access to Colonial Williamsburg's media collections.

HAPPY FALL!



The spooktacular results of the Rockefeller Library's first annual pumpkin carving party. Thank you to the curatorial and conservation staff, as well as the historians, for helping the library scare the guts out of these magnificent pumpkins!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Talks:

"We Shall Carry On": Colonial Williamsburg's Participation in the War Effort, 1941-1945**,** with Marianne Martin and Sarah Nerney. November 13, 4:00 at the Hennage Auditorium in the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 301 S. Nassau St., Williamsburg.

Colonial Williamsburg's Holiday Traditions through the Decades**,** with Marianne Martin and Sarah Nerney.
·November 22, 2:00 p.m., Kimball Theatre, 428 W. Duke of Gloucester St., Williamsburg
·November 30, December 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1:30 p.m. Hennage Auditorium in the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 301 S. Nassau St., Williamsburg

Library Pop-Up Displays at the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, 3:00-4:00 p.m.
·November 20
·December 4 and 18

November 12, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Library Open House and "Garden Detective" Exhibition Opening

Genealogy Office Hours with the Williamsburg Area Genealogical Society (WAGS)
Tuesdays from 9:00-12:00 p.m. in the Rockefeller Library
In need of assistance researching your family history? Let the experts assist you! Certified genealogists from WAGS are on site every Tuesday to offer their assistance free of charge.

LIBRARY STAFF & LIBRARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Kelly Brennan, *Historian*

Aisha Downs, *Administrative Assistant*

Rivi Feinsilber, *Associate Archivist*

Brenda Grow, *Records Management Program Manager*

Tracey Gulden, *Media Collections Manager*

Emily Guthrie, *Abby and George O'Neill Executive Director*

Peter Inker, *Director of Historical Research*

Marianne Martin, *Visual Resources Librarian*

Doug Mayo, *Associate Librarian*

Felicity Meza-Luna, *Library & Archival Assistant*

Sarah Nerney, *Archivist*

Mitch Oxford, *Historian for 250 Years of Religious Liberty*

Emily Petermann, *Reference & Outreach Librarian*

Kira Quintin, *Gamage Democracy Fellow, 2026-2027*

Melissa Schutt, *Content & Access Services Librarian*

Jenna Simpson, *Assistant Media Collections Manager*

Brendan Sostak, *Photographer & Digital Imaging Specialist*

Heather Young, *Digital Asset Specialist*

The Rockefeller Library Newsletter is a publication of Colonial Williamsburg's John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library. Please visit Friends of John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library for information on how you can support the library, and don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook: Rockefeller Library at CW.

General Queries

Phone: 757.565.8510
E-mail: rocklibrary@cwf.org
Website: https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/locations/john-d-rockefeller-jr-library/

Marbled paper: Robert Furber, *Flower Garden Displayed*, London: J. Hazard and R. Montagu…,1732. SB406 .F8. John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library Special Collections.