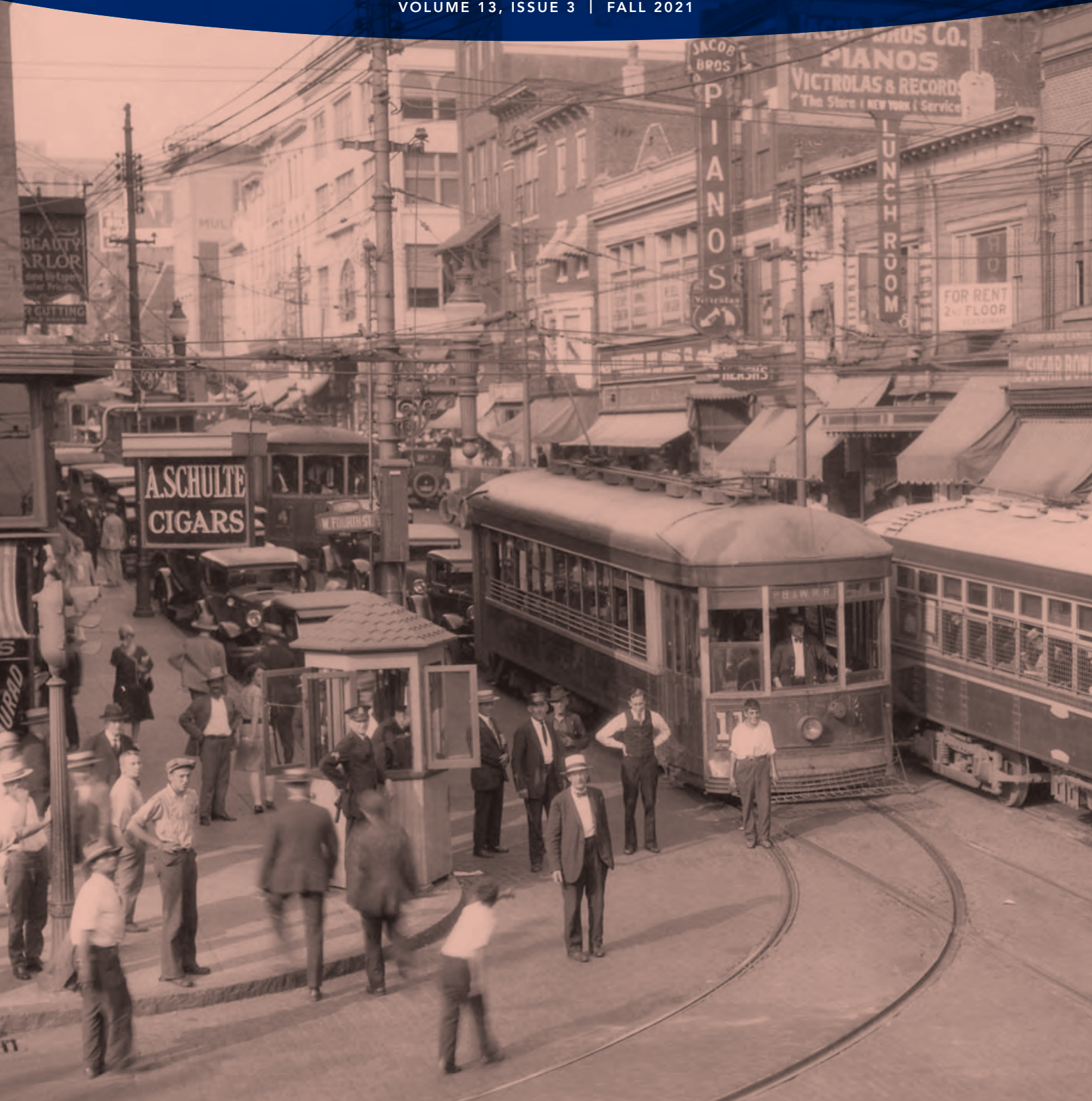


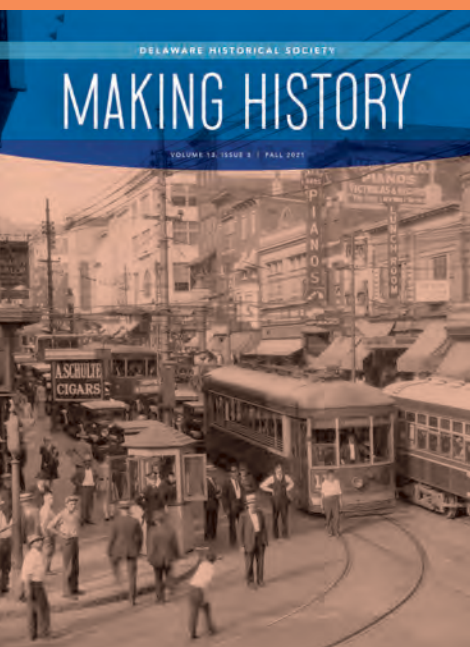
DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# MAKING HISTORY

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3 | FALL 2021



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Cover: A 1928 image of 4th and Market Sts. in Wilmington from The Sanborn Collection of Prints from Nitrate Negatives. This collection will soon be featured in our new Digital Asset Management System (DAMS).

Delaware History Museum  
Mitchell Center for African American Heritage  
Old Town Hall  
Research Library  
Willingtown Square  
Read House & Gardens

[dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org)

David W. Young, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) made substantial progress on numerous building projects and public programs. Less visible work, but no less important, has been investing in greater access to collections of DHS and awareness of Delaware history. DHS has long understood how “access” is the key to our core values of equity, inclusion, diversity, and ultimately inspiration and empowerment. For instance, DHS collections are managed by the department of “Collections & Access,” which means that inviting people to their own journey to discover over 3 million documents, artifacts, and records has been a core value for the department’s renaming over two decades ago. Making access easy and meaningful, however, has recently received greater attention. During the last several months, DHS has invested in greater access to its collections in numerous ways.

In this magazine you’ll read about our commitment to expanding our digital capacity through the implementation of new archival and library public access platforms that are integrated into the DHS website. Our new digital asset

management system (DAMS) provides secure storage and easy access to digitized items.

The article on Liberty in Our Grasp details DHS’ response to the demand for archival documents and curricula that contextualize Delaware’s history of slavery and the resistance to it. This innovative program brought these important stories out of the archives and into the hands of teachers.

Read the article about how a past National History Day participant turned the Delaware History Museum’s store windows into a display on LGBTQ history in Delaware. Make it a point to visit the storefront regularly, where each month new information is revealed—along with a special artifact from our collections in the “Wonder Window,” which hundreds of passersby enjoy each week.

Opening the Thomas Coxe House as the Delaware Center for Jewish History in October 2021 brings researchers to explore the collections of the Jewish Historical Society because the move of its



The Coxe House renovation was awarded the 2021 Construction Excellence Award for Historic Preservation Award from the Delaware Contractors Association. Dr. Gerry Resnick, past president of the Jewish Historical Society of Delaware and Martha White of EDiS join Delaware Historical Society’s Director of Building and Grounds Martha Moffat and Executive Director David Young at the award ceremony on October 28 at the Chase Center.

# UPCOMING PROGRAMS

collections from the library basement to Willingtown Square has been successfully completed. (And people will learn more about the buildings of Willingtown Square, which are some of the oldest buildings in town!)

Now that the building project at the Read House is completed, more information and research about the people behind the gardens and landscape history are revealed through workshops like the fascinating Complicated Cultural Landscapes in New Castle program, events like *LIT for the Holidays*, community gardening, and simply by opening the garden gates. The whole-place interpretation and preservation of this National Historic Landmark continually reveals research and histories in new ways.

Finally, we are helping the Delaware Hispanic Commission publish a history of the commission through oral histories with its leaders.

Fuller access to Delaware history is ongoing and creative work and brings us into exciting partnerships and opens up new paths of discovery. Please find yourself in the collections of the Delaware Historical Society, now with greater access to the diverse resources we preserve and share in ways that inspire and empower our communities.

## DECEMBER

### 11 | *LIT for the Holidays*

Saturday, 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Purchase tickets via  
[readhouseandgardens.org](http://readhouseandgardens.org)

Enjoy festive drinks, local food, candlelit gardens, and more!  
Featuring window displays and installations by artists from Wilmington, Philadelphia, New York, and San Diego.

## JANUARY

### 5 | Blood Drive

Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Register online via  
[https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/7773](https://donate.bbd.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/7773)

Give Blood, Make History.  
In partnership with the Blood Bank of Delmarva, we will be hosting a blood drive in Old Town Hall. During WWI, Old Town Hall became a Red Cross Headquarters and throughout the influenza pandemic of 1918, it served as a primary supply center for emergency hospitals and temporary hospitals throughout the state.



## NEW! DELAWARE, ONE STATE, MANY STORIES: A CLOSER LOOK

### TOUR TESTERS NEEDED!

The Delaware History Museum is launching a new series of brief guided tours. We want your input! Sign up to participate in a tour and provide feedback. As a thank you, you will receive free admission to the Delaware History Museum and Mitchell Center for African American Heritage immediately after your tour. Themes include Delaware Women, Delaware Moves, Children and Families, and Work and Play.

#### Tour testing dates:

Saturday, November 27, 2021  
Saturday, December 4, 2021  
Saturday, December 11, 2021  
Saturday, December 18, 2021

Registration required. To sign up to test a tour contact Visitor Services Manager, Siri Nesheim at [snesheim@dehistory.org](mailto:snesheim@dehistory.org).

The Delaware History Museum, Mitchell Center for African American Heritage, and Research Library are open for timed entry. Reserve your ticket online by visiting [dehistory.org](http://dehistory.org).

Delaware History Museum & Mitchell Center for African American Heritage hours:  
Wed. - Sun. 12, 1:30, & 3 pm

Research Library hours:  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9 am - 1 pm  
Open 3rd Saturday of the month  
10 am - 4 pm (except Dec.)



# NEW HIRES AT DHS!

**Shenise Hairston** joined DHS in March, taking on the dual role of finance and human resources director. Shenise has a business degree in management and is currently enrolled in a master's program at Wilmington University. Her diverse background includes more than 20 years of human resources work with for-profit and non-profit organizations. Shenise is a native of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, relocating to Delaware more than a decade ago to join the Hockessin Community Center, whose mission is to provide programs and resources to low-income families throughout New Castle County. She is passionate about helping others reach their goals and is a licensed and ordained minister.



**Kathleen Butler**, who joined DHS as the director of institutional advancement in late September, brings a wealth of experience to the role. She has worked for decades in higher education communication and advancement, at Delaware Technical Community College and most recently as director of strategic communication in the Advancement Office at Widener University. A lifelong Wilmingtonian, Kathleen has many connections in the city and the state. DHS is very excited to have Kathleen's knowledge and creative talents to help us move our historical society and all it does to the next level.

**Kayla Martell** joined the DHS staff as Read House & Gardens marketing and events coordinator in early October. In her new role, Kayla coordinates with others at DHS to develop the Read House and Gardens brand, grow new audiences, and manage media, merchandising, and the logistics for programming at the Read House, starting with LIT for the Holidays. She comes to us by way of digital marketing work in the University of Delaware's Development and Alumni Relations Office. Kayla has also served as a national spokesperson at Hairloss.com and the Miss Delaware and Miss America organizations. She was Miss Delaware in 2010.



# 

On October 7th, the Delaware Historical Society was proud to honor Dr. Velma Scantlebury-White with the 2021 Delaware History Makers Award. Friends, family, and members of the medical community came together to celebrate Dr. Scantlebury's storied career and her impact on Delaware. Dr. Scantlebury-White became the nation's first African American woman specializing in transplant surgery in 1989 and has performed more than 2,000 kidney transplants. She was the Associate Director of the Kidney Transplant Program at Christiana Care, retiring in 2020. In 2020 and 2021, Dr. Velma Scantlebury-White was active in educating the African American community about the coronavirus and providing COVID-19 testing and vaccinations in Philadelphia and the surrounding region.



Special thanks to the following sponsors for allowing the Delaware Historical Society to make this an especially memorable evening for Dr. Scantlebury-White:

## Benefactors

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 Christiana Care  
 Wilmington Trust, a member  
 of the M&T Family  
 CSC

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Delaware Today

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McBride Sisters Collection  
 Break Thru Beverage

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 Wilmington University

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 University of Delaware



# Digital Collections

COLLECTIONS & ACCESS

A sneak peak at the new DAMS interface

## GOING DIGITAL: Initiatives Increase Access to DHS Collections

by Leigh Rifenburg

If pandemic life has taught collections professionals anything, it's that the need to access collections does not diminish when in-person library and museum visits are restricted. As months of remote work, school, and pajama-clad research wore on, the need to meet public demand for digital access took on a new urgency for many organizations, including the Delaware Historical Society (DHS). With the doors temporarily closed, our collections staff pivoted to a robust online reference service as requests flooded our inboxes. A local scholar needed images for a forthcoming book. A German television network required material for a feature on Joe Biden. A Welsh genealogist sought information on a family surname he'd traced to Delaware. Staff members needed collections to develop educational content and virtual programs. We welcomed this broad engagement, but remote reference services were infinitely complicated by two factors: 1) an outdated online catalog that made collections searches unnecessarily difficult and 2) the lack of a formal mechanism to store and share the digitized materials that patrons and staff requested.

With other projects in COVID limbo and a new website under development, it was time for DHS to address these challenges. We needed scalable solutions that would be sustainable for the future while meeting the immediate needs of our user communities in the present. These solutions included an updated online public access catalog (OPAC) for searching the collection and a digital asset management system (DAMS) to preserve and provide easy access to digitized items. By investing in these integrated, intuitive digital initiatives, DHS would empower visitors to discover Delaware's rich historical record from their classrooms, couches, and anywhere in between. As luck would have it, two perfectly timed opportunities set us on the right path.

We began with the unwelcome news that the platform supporting our existing online catalog would soon be phased out. Suddenly a catalog upgrade was no longer optional, but a glaring imperative. Fortunately, DHS received a significant upgrade opportunity from our longtime vendor without a corresponding cost increase. By late 2020, collections staff began working with two remote project teams to configure the new catalog and make it easier to search.

The issue of digital collections access was more complex. While we knew that we needed to create a digital asset management system (DAMS) for secure storage and remote access and download of collections—regardless of a researcher's location—we lacked the necessary systems expertise to make it happen.



Bill Robinson test drives the search features of the new library OPAC

## OPAC VS. DAMS: *What's the difference?*

### OPAC: Online Public Access Catalog

- A standard online library catalog-if you've searched for items in a school or public library (or the Research Library at DHS), you've used an OPAC!
- Allows for the in-house or remote discovery of a repository's holdings
- Includes catalog entries for all collections, whether they are digitized or not

### DAMS: Digital Asset Management System

- A single storage and easy access point specifically for digitized collections
- Does not contain the same degree of detailed description as an OPAC
- Allows researchers to access, view, and download digital photos, letters, pamphlets, maps, and other materials as they are scanned and uploaded- a DAMS is one-stop shopping for digital collections resources!

**THE BOTTOM LINE:** An OPAC and a DAMS are complementary tools for research and access, but they serve different purposes, and one cannot replace the other. Explore both at **dehistory.org** and contact [research@dehistory.org](mailto:research@dehistory.org) with any questions. We're happy to help!

◀◀ The Sanborn Collection of Prints from Nitrate Negatives will soon be a featured collection in the DAMS. Wilmington, 4th and Market Sts, 1928

That changed in September 2020, when DHS was one of three Delaware organizations accepted into the J.P. Morgan Chase Force for Good program, which pairs nonprofits with teams of tech specialists to address a specific tech project or challenge.

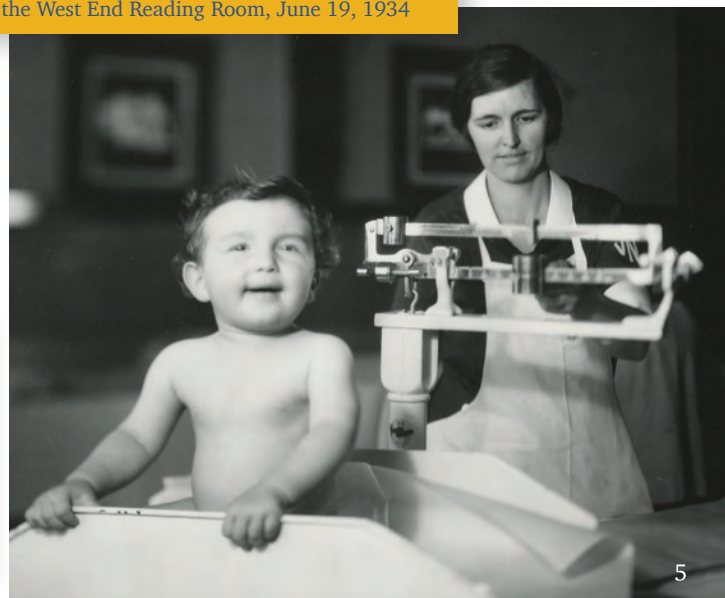
Over the next ten months, DHS staff worked with a wonderful group of tech professionals to define the parameters of the DAMS, create a program for uploading collections images and data, and select a vendor to host and maintain the system. Outsourcing those responsibilities will enable collections staff to focus on digitizing and uploading new materials to the DAMS that reflect the true diversity of life in Delaware. The benefits? Simple, streamlined access to these collections via portals on the DHS website will provide collections to support staff projects across departments while allowing broader audiences to research, discover, and share stories from multiple perspectives.

The challenges that the OPAC and DAMS projects are intended to solve underscore an important fact: digital initiatives like these are no longer a luxury but a vital part of DHS' mission and commitment to equitable and inclusive access to its resources. While work on both systems continues, a preliminary launch at the end of 2021 will ensure that anyone with an internet connection can search the online catalog and explore the digital collections in the DAMS. For DHS, this is a fitting way to usher in a new era of progress and possibilities for digital access at a time when we need it most.

Visiting Nurses Association, Nurse weighing baby at the West End Reading Room, June 19, 1934



Images from our popular Szymanski Collection, like this one featuring St. Michael's Day Nursery, will be among the first added to the DAMS.



# WAYS OF KNOWING

by Brenton Grom

High-schoolers from four states and a wide array of subject backgrounds have converged in the Harry N. Baetjer III Junior Fellows Program over the past four years. Each cohort uses DHS as a laboratory for historical thought and contemporary action. Fellows ultimately become part of an extended DHS family stretching to the University of Delaware, Swarthmore, Brown, Yale, Stanford, St. Andrews (UK), the University of Virginia, and beyond. Many later give back to the Society in time and money.

The program carves out a safe space for reflection each summer. The fellows' individual projects across the Society get woven together in a seminar, where all bets are off. Provocative readings question how we know what we think we know about history. One, by the Haitian anthropologist Michel-Rolph Trouillot, examines how voices can intentionally or accidentally get silenced in the historical record—a warning to historians and curators whose rules and conventions have the power to shape future narratives.

Staff and fellows work through these issues together. We rallied around Maya Levine when she discovered an 1879 playbill from Wilmington's Grand Opera House announcing an all-Black theatrical troupe. Its language was disturbing to modern sensibilities but progressive for its time, when performers of color were breaking into a market dominated by racist blackface. Worried about how to frame this for the Grand's sesquicentennial exhibition, Maya found her footing through the writings of Sam Wineburg, who recognizes the past as both familiar and foreign and encourages us to keep zigzagging between the two in order to make sense of difficult material.



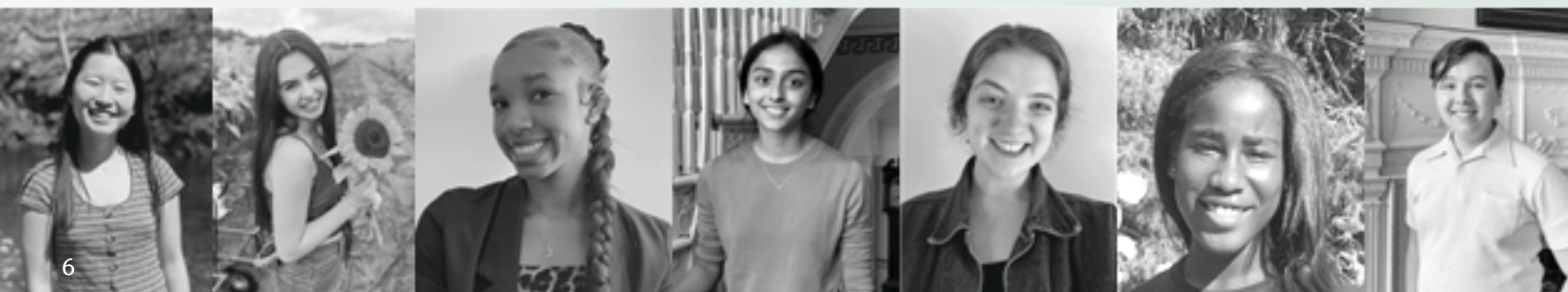
At the Read House, Olivia Perry used art to overcome the Trouillot's historical silences. The lives of people in service roles have always been obscure to us because surviving records show only what mattered to the Reads' bottom line. Through a watercolor painting, she explored a new way of knowing them, speculating about feelings of confinement, liberation, and Black identity within the architectural space of a white household. The painting will be displayed for visitors and distributed on postcards.

In 2021, as in past years, we have Michelle and David Shepherd to thank for the lead support that has made this important work possible.

Watercolor by Olivia Perry confronting the limitations of the Read House archives. Courtesy of Olivia Perry.

**2021 FELLOWS:** Ashley Bao, Mia Carini

Madison Cephas, Mili Kher, Maya Levine, Olivia Perry, Alex Tóth



## MITCHELL CENTER for AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE

The Mitchell Center is pleased to partner with the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® (AKA), Zeta Omega Chapter, to celebrate their 100th anniversary. The chapter was chartered on April 28, 1922, in Wilmington, Delaware as the sorority's seventh graduate chapter. The charter members were Anna Frances Broadnax, Ella Smith Elbert, Sadie L. Jones, Nellie Blythe Nicholson (Taylor), and F. Marian Reed.

The Zeta Omega Chapter kicked off a year-long celebration of their 100-year anniversary with an unveiling ceremony of a temporary exhibit at the Delaware Historical Society on October 15. Housed in the Journey to Freedom's amphitheater, attendees got the first look at the display celebrating Zeta Omega Chapter's 100-year history of providing service to the Wilmington community and "all of mankind." The exhibit features several objects, displays, and photographs that emphasize the organization's mission and history.

The centennial exhibit will be available for viewing until November 28. Although the exhibit will be up for a limited time, it will live permanently on the Mitchell Center's Journey to Freedom blog. To view this exhibit, please visit <https://journeytofreedomblog.com/>

*by Kobe Baker*

Images from the  
Alpha Kappa  
Alpha Sorority,  
Zeta Omega  
Chapter Exhibit  
Unveiling  
Ceremony



## EDUCATION &amp; INSPIRATION

# NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INSPIRES DELAWARE STUDENTS

by Rebecca Fay & Kristin Mikles



“As the state coordinator for National History Day in Delaware, I enjoy working with students and inspiring a love of history. Sometimes I am contacted by former National History Day students interested in making a career out of history. Kristin Mikles is one of those students,” said Delaware Historical Society (DHS) Director of Education, Rebecca Fay.

In her junior and senior years at Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Kristin Mikles participated in National History Day in Delaware, sponsored by DHS. After graduation, Kristin contacted DHS expressing a desire to research LGBTQ+ history in Delaware and curate a display for the historical society. While closed for the pandemic, DHS used our large front windows to engage with the public and highlight diversity in Delaware, creating an opportunity for Kristin to research and present her findings to celebrate Pride month last June.

Kristin recalls her journey:

I started by conducting oral histories of prominent queer Delawareans - people like Sarah McBride, Ivo Dominguez Jr, and Jim Welch - to tell their life stories and talk about their work. Each of them pointed me in the direction of other queer people I should speak to. Soon I had amassed over three dozen oral histories.

Queer people from up and down the state graciously gave their time, objects, and stories to DHS and from them, the history began to emerge. AIDS Delaware lent us a section of the AIDS Quilt, Reverend Elder Diane Fisher donated her rainbow stole, and Sarah McBride, Marie Pinkney, and Eric Morrison all donated yard signs from the historic 2020 election, to name just a few objects. DHS also engaged in a public photograph collection initiative, asking the public to submit any photos of queer life in Delaware. From that, we acquired hundreds of photographs.



A portion of the window display, showcasing books written by transgender Delawareans, white carnations, and Barclaycard Our Night Out wristbands

Trinity Neal, the first transgender minor in Delaware to have Medicaid cover her gender affirming medical care, wearing her Rainbow wig (2017)  
Photo Courtesy of DeShanna and Trinity Neal



View from Market Street of the Queer History Window, displaying a section of the AIDS Quilt as the focal point

I was joined by fellow DHS employee, **Carolanne Deal**, who researched queer history at University of Delaware and helped transcribe the oral histories. We created a timeline of Delaware's queer history from the 1970s forward and posters were designed depicting different aspects of queer life. With the help of DHS staff, the displays were installed in the front windows of the museum.



Inside the Delaware History Museum there is a wall of faces and mirrors. The faces represent the diversity of Delawareans and the mirrors have the words “See Yourself in History” on them. Because of this window display, I finally could. My heart warmed every time I saw someone with a rainbow pin look through the window at the display. This project wasn't just about history, however; it was a statement to queer Delawareans that their stories matter and that they are welcome in this museum and in this state.

While working on this project, Kristin was a freshman at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and received college credit for her efforts. Kristin will continue at DHS as a Museum Ambassador on her breaks from school.



Use the QR code to see the results of Kristin's passion, dedication, and hard work.

**About National History Day in Delaware:** National History Day in Delaware is a year-long history education program that challenges students in grades 6 through 12 to engage in historical research, analysis and interpretation, and creative expression through project-based learning. National History Day in Delaware promotes civic, career, and college ready skills necessary for the 21st century. National History Day Delaware has been sponsored by the Delaware Historical Society for more than 20 years.

Photo Courtesy of Carolanne Deal



# In Search of Labor: The Case for a New Tour, Part I

by Brenton Grom

The butcher, baker, and candlestick-maker of Mother Goose lore have been squatting in our imaginations for a long time. Medieval versions of the “Rub-a-dub-dub” rhyme were about a peepshow at the fair—three *maids* in a tub, in fact—and went on to call out respectable townsfolk, three tradesmen, for ogling them. The guilty characters represented no particular individuals, just types cast in a moralizing tale.

Fast-forward to the end of the nineteenth century, when skilled trades became stand-ins for more than just good morals. A morality play was unfolding about the production of goods themselves. Across Britain and America, especially in utopian villages like Arden, Delaware, handcrafts offered an escape from the industrial world, if not a remedy to it. Things produced by hand felt honest, made in plain sight by time-honored methods. They also said something about community: everyone had a straightforward role to play, in contrast to the smoke and mirrors of modern commerce.



*Country Life* magazine leaned on that civic daydream to describe New Castle’s historic charms in 1920, the year Philip and Lydia Laird bought the Read House. Here in the “town that time forgot,” the romance of labor leaped from craftsman to gentleman. This latter-day folklore dispatches “powdered gentry” like the Reads to “take the bright clear air, whilst they walk the shaded pavement in their leisurely journey down the Strand to their appointed tasks.” All is in perfect order, with nary a blacksmith or cooper in sight. Absent too are the multiracial communities of dock workers and ship crews that were once a fixture of the New Castle waterfront.

Where have all the workers gone? To Colonial Williamsburg, so to speak, where the playfulness of the colonial revival mutated into scientific scholarship over the course of the twentieth century. The historic trade shops there became laboratories for understanding material culture from the ground up. Complemented by academic programs at Winterthur and the University of Delaware, this same studious ethic informed DHS’s state-of-the-art “restoration” of the Read House in the early

Margaret Hughes (left) and Heidi Benson (center) lead guests on *The New Tour*

1980s, which reconstructed paint schemes and furniture settings based on evidence from its early years. Only at the dawn of the twenty-first century did labor creep back into visitors' experience, guided by archival and archaeological research. By the 2010s we could say the names of people employed, borrowed, or owned outright by the Reads in those early years, and former servants' quarters joined the tour as historically-furnished period rooms in their own right.

Still, the feeling of caricature has been hard to shake. Is it fair to equate labor with identity? Does knowing the name and employment status of Sylvia Rice, a free African American woman and longtime cook, give us the right to invoke her as the face of servitude?

There are ways to celebrate African American legacies at the Read House that have nothing to do with the service wing. In fact, Wilmington artists Nataki Oliver and James Wyatt are once again transforming the facade in honor of Ms. Rice and others as part of our *LIT for the Holidays* exhibition.

But for visitors who want a historical tour of the interior, Curator of Education Rebecca Duffy has worked with our interpretive staff to reframe the core experience around materials and relationships. It's called, simply, *The New Tour* and remains a work in progress. When Ms. Rice's name does enter the conversation, it's because her mastery of the craft of cooking seems to have left an important mark on the design of the kitchen—a legacy that was not incorporated into the 1980s DHS restoration, which focused on George Read's own design agenda.

Read Part II of *The New Tour* in our next issue. Meanwhile, member tickets for *The New Tour* (free) and *LIT for the Holidays* (\$5–\$30) are available at [readhouseandgardens.org](http://readhouseandgardens.org).



**The RH&G Advisory Council held its inaugural meeting in July and lends an impressive array of expertise to Read House matters.**

Back row: Dr. David Young (DHS), Anna Wik (UD), Bob Davis (ret., Winterthur), Carol Quigley (Patterhnn Ives restoration architects), Leigh Rifenburg (DHS), Hon. Richard Cooch (ret., Superior Court of Delaware), Dr. Margaret Laird (UD).  
Front row: Dr. Neepta Acharya (Stanford University), Alexandra Deutsch (Winterthur), Brenton Grom (DHS).  
Not pictured: Kelly Koczak McCurdy (HMP Global healthcare communications), Rebecca Duffy (DHS).

# LIBERTY IN OUR GRASP:

## DELAWARE'S FREEDOM-SEEKERS DATABASE, 1759-1864

### LAUNCHING WINTER 2022

by Rebecca Fay

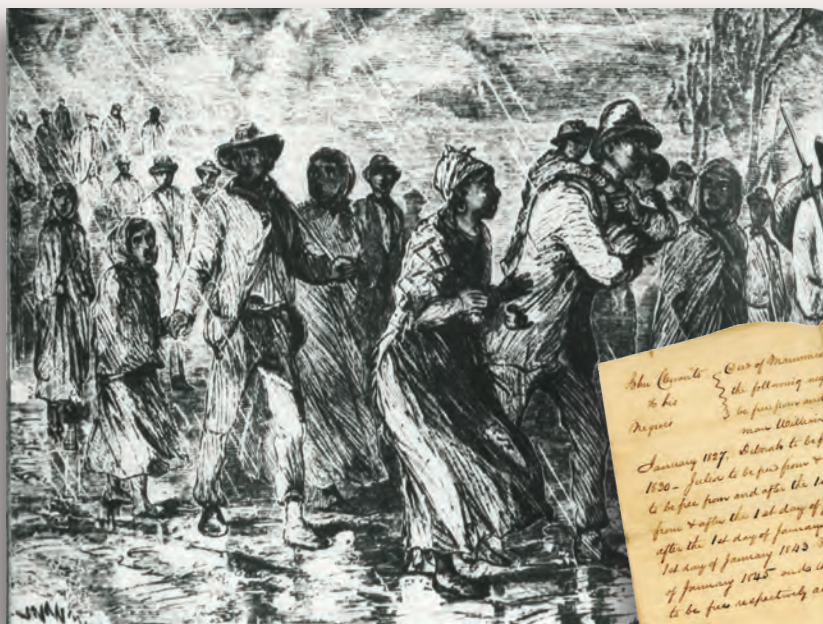
In the spring and early summer of 2020, the world turned upside down. The COVID 19 pandemic forced businesses to close and people to quarantine for public health. Then came the senseless murders of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd and the public clamored for better understanding. Antiracist books were bought and read, webinars were attended, and people flocked to social media groups where they could learn more about diverse history.

Delaware Historical Society (DHS) Education and Inspiration staff received requests from teachers and members of the community asking for resources, lessons, and programs that could help them contextualize these tragic events. They sought materials that could shine a light on the often-ignored history of the African American experience in Delaware and the nation. DHS has long been committed to sharing this history with the public.

We knew we had resources that could help but getting those resources into people's hands during a pandemic was a challenge. The early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic forced our facilities to close not only to the public, but to staff as well. Finding the solution in the middle of a global health crisis required an outside-the-box solution. Throughout the balance of 2020 and 2021, the Education and Inspiration team developed and implemented Phase 1 of an exciting project to bring important resources related to freedom seekers out of the DHS Research Library and Museum and put them in the hands of Delaware teachers, students, and the public.

The main goals of the project include:

- Increasing access to and awareness of DHS collections that document Delaware's African American history housed at the Delaware Historical Society by making them easily accessible online.
- Strengthening relationships between DHS and Delaware educators by recruiting Delaware teachers from diverse schools to develop and pilot lesson plans, including assessment activities and student tasks, for grades 3 through 5, 6 through 8, and 9 through 12.
- Providing resources and historical context that focuses on the humanity and agency of enslaved individuals in early Delaware history.



[illegible]

**HARPER'S WEEKLY.**  
*A*  
**JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION**

Vol. XI.—No. 566. NEW YORK, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1872. [LATEST NEWS BY PRESS.]  
Entered according to Act of Congress, in 1857, by Harper & Brothers. A Second-Class Matter, under Post Office No. 353, Post Office at New York.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE—Officers of U. S. Marine Corps (1864-1865).

[illegible][illegible]

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Stephen Kingsberry  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

I joined the board of the Delaware Historical Society (DHS) to help in the effort to preserve the rich history and culture of Delaware's past and because of the creation of the Mitchell Center for African American Heritage. I was impressed with the professionalism and beauty of the center and the commitment to the community it serves. I enjoyed learning about the significant contributions of Delaware's sons and daughters. I thought that others would also be inspired if they had the opportunity to view the center and enjoy the pictures, artifacts, videos and information about our ancestors.

In my time on the board, DHS has increased the diversity of our board and is diligently working to create a culture of fairness, inclusion, and equity for all. In 2020, the board and staff, like many other organizations, participated in United Way's 21-day Racial Equity Challenge to better understand the needs and challenges of the communities we serve. This year the

board created the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Longevity Task Force (IDEAL) to improve corporate practices and policies. We also welcomed the Delaware Center for Jewish History to our Wilmington campus and created an LGBTQ exhibit in our museum display window. Although we have done much, we have more to do. We are, nevertheless, moving in the right direction.

My goal, as Board Chair, is to inspire others to get involved in telling their stories about the history of Delaware in innovative ways. I seek to open wide the doors of history; marry the past with the present and allow people to benefit in the future. The mission of DHS is to preserve, promote, and share the history of Delaware.

Bringing the gifts that my ancestor gave, I represent the hope and dreams of a better tomorrow for all Delawareans.

# THANK YOU

for supporting the Delaware Historical Society. We are emboldened by our mission to preserve, promote, and share Delaware history in a welcoming environment to educate, inspire, and empower people and communities. We are grateful to our loyal donors who support our work with the generous contributions listed below made between July 1, 2020 to November 1, 2021.

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