

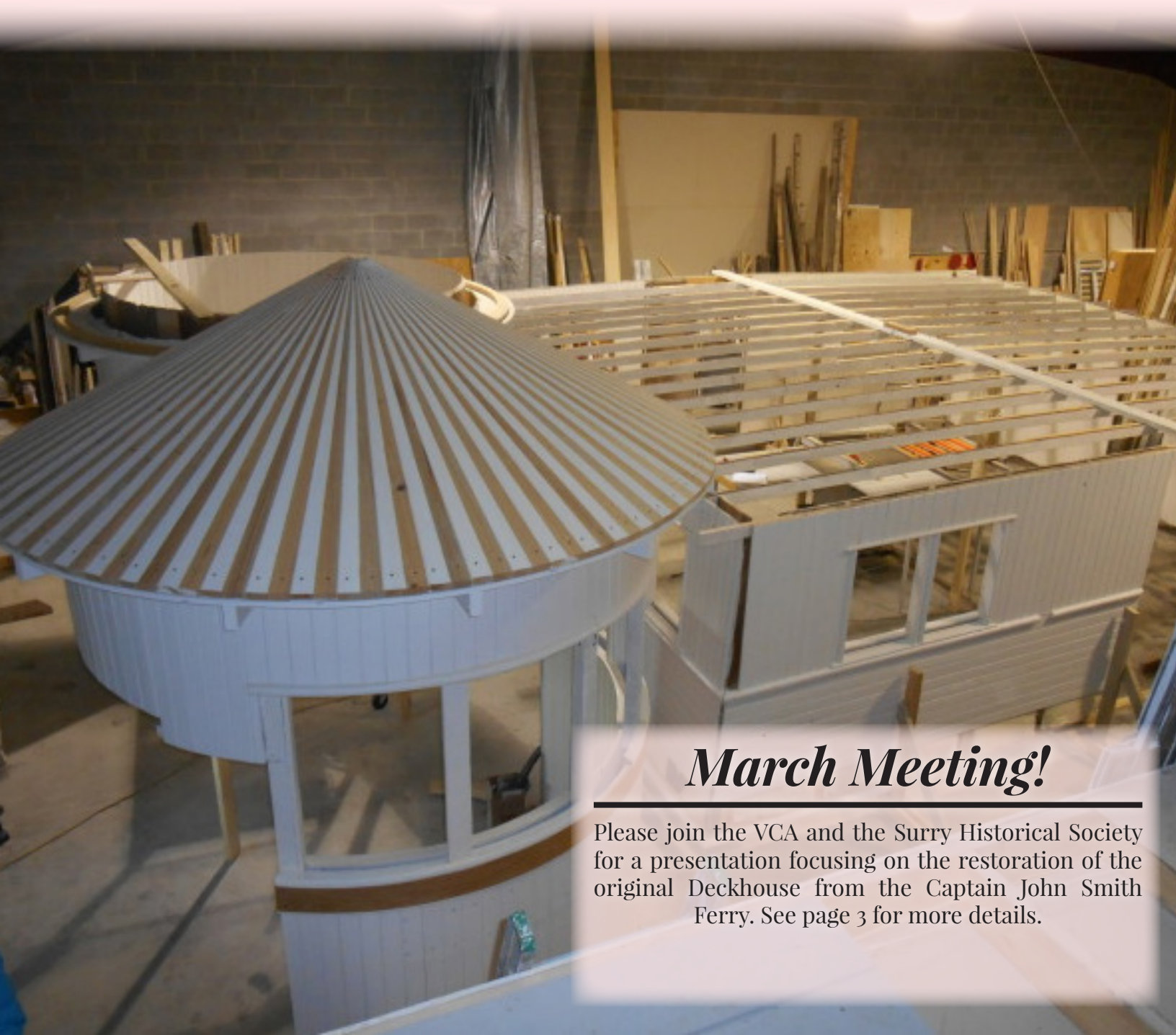
Virginia



CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

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The Virginia Conservation Association promotes the care and preservation of cultural materials. The VCA offers education and training for those involved in conservation and provides a forum for discussion of pertinent issues and new developments in the field.



March Meeting!

Please join the VCA and the Surry Historical Society for a presentation focusing on the restoration of the original Deckhouse from the Captain John Smith Ferry. See page 3 for more details.

Letter from the President



KATE RIDGWAY, VCA PRESIDENT

I just want to take this moment to thank everyone who has participated in our Town Hall Meeting and Salons that we have organized with our colleagues at VAM these past few months. I think that they have been a success and represent something of value that VCA should continue in the future. By that, I mean VCA should continue to help bring museum and preservation professionals together at least once a year to talk about issues that we all have in common. It helps us remember that despite our differences, we are really all in this for the same reasons. However, none of this would have happened without the support of Jennifer Thomas and Christina Newton at VAM and all the members and officers of VCA who attended the meetings and helped to organize or support them in one way or another. Thank you all so much!

If you have new ideas, a ton of energy, or just want to help VCA become a better, more relevant organization, please consider joining the board, joining a committee, speaking up at a meeting, or anything else that involves you in a way that you think can be of benefit. I can assure you that the board is a very nice group of people and we are all very approachable, even if some of us are a little sarcastic sometimes. We are also happy to have all the help we can get!



March Program

*Wednesday, March 28th at 5:30 p.m. at the Surry County VA
Historical Society & Museums, 281 Bank St, Surry, VA 23883*

Please join the VCA and the Surry Historical Society for a presentation focusing on the restoration of the original Deckhouse from the Captain John Smith Ferry given by the Project Architect William (Bill) A. Fox.

The ferryboat Captain John Smith was the first motorized ferry to connect Jamestown to Scotland Wharf and made the first automobile-ferry crossing of the James River on February 26, 1925. The ferry was 60 feet long and could carry 16 "Model-T" Fords. The privately owned business was founded by Captain Albert F. Jester. After the Captain John Smith was retired in the early 1950s, the deckhouse was put into adaptive use and fell into disrepair. In 2013 following many years of planning and with the aid of a grant from VDOT, the restoration was begun to return the deckhouse to its 1925 appearance. The work was carried out by Black Creek Workshop LLC and completed in 2015.

William A. Fox was born in Newport News during World War II. After working as a naval architect in Newport News, New York, Spain, Italy, and Iran, he retired in 2006. He is the author of 'Always Good Ships: Histories of Newport News Ships', 'The James River' and 'Downtown Newport News' for Arcadia's Series 'Images of America', as well as many articles on local and maritime history.

The presentation will begin at 5:30pm and will include a reception with refreshments provided by VCA. For more information on the ferry time table, visit:

<http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/travel/ferry-jamestown.asp>



Gels Conference

Southeast Regional Conservation Association (SERCA) will be hosting their annual meeting March 9-11, 2018 in Charleston, SC. The theme of our conference will focus on use of Gels and Poultices across conservation disciplines. Though this event is not hosted in Virginia, VCA hopes some of its members will be able to attend this meeting. Members benefit from the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge at a cost often less than those held at the annual AIC meeting or at other regional sites. A short business meeting is held during the workshop for members to elect new officers and vote on organization activities.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://sercaconservation.org/annual-meeting/>



Helping Hands

VCA is in the early stages of developing an AIC-inspired Angel's Project to occur at some point next year. The goal of the project would be to assist a small or under-funded institution with a conservation or preservation-minded project. The project would ideally be more preventive than interventive, so that a wide-range of colleagues and conservators of any specialty could participate. For more information about Angel's projects, visit this website for a list of past AIC hosted projects: www.conservation-us.org/annual-meeting/angels-project#.WZbiVz594dU.

Anyone interested in participating or with ideas of deserving institutions or projects can email Kate McEnroe, katelmckenroe@gmail.com, or speak to her at the next meeting.



Internship Position

The University of Virginia Library is pleased to offer the opportunity of a six-week internship for the summer of 2018 in their Preservation Services Department, working with the two book conservators on staff. The purpose of the internship is to perform conservation treatment on a selection of plates from the "Moon Atlas" and also a possible rehousing project involving the Virginia Gazette. The Library is offering a \$4000 stipend to support the internship. The internship can be scheduled for any consecutive six-week period between June 11, 2018 and August 24, 2018. We will be accepting applications until the position is filled but priority will be given to applications received prior to March 9th. The ideal candidate will have some prior treatment experience and be working toward a career in library conservation.

For more information and application requirements, visit <http://cool.conservation-us.org/byform/mailling-lists/cdl>



U.S. Cloth Map: A Tale of Speedy Conservation

A speedy conservation is as great as a speedy recovery, if not better. In 2016, the MacArthur Memorial nominated a 1941 cloth map of the United States to compete as one of Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts.

The map was created by Helen Angeny, a missionary and art teacher, working in the Philippines at Brent School in Baguio. In December of 1941, Japanese forces invaded the Philippines. After the invasion, Helen Angeny ended up becoming an intern in a Japanese-controlled camp. Mrs. Angeny was forbidden to teach any subject matter of western influence. However, she did not allow that to stop her from enlightening her students with a diverse education. Angeny wanted to educate her students while also keeping their spirits up by providing a distraction from their imprisonment. She secretly created a class project to teach her students the principles of art, social studies, and geography by creating a cloth map of the United States. The camp was liberated in 1945 by General Douglas MacArthur's forces. When she returned to the United States, Angeny brought home the map that she concealed for three years from Japanese forces.

The cloth map received the nomination and was named one of Virginia's Top 10 Endangered Artifacts. Two months after receiving recognition in September of 2016, the U.S. Cloth Map has since been conserved. The map is now on exhibition and looks as good as new. I had the wonderful opportunity to speak with MacArthur Memorial curator, Corey Thornton to learn more about the map's conservation process. The map's previous state showed signs of fading, wear-and-tear, and displayed pieces of

cards coming away from the cloth. The goal of the MacArthur Memorial was to be able to conserve and stabilize the map and have it placed in an ideal archival encasement to protect it but also still be able to use it as a tool to educate future generations.

Thornton walked me through the conservation process done by Textile Preservation and Associations (TPA). The goal was to stabilize and restore the cloth back to its original glory. The first step in the stabilization process was to vacuum clean both sides of the cloth map to remove airborne particles. Next, the fabrics, sewing threads, and adhesives were tested for color-fastness and solubility. In addition, stains on the cloth were tested for solubility as well. The map was then humidified by misting distilled water onto the cloth. The misting was meant to relax the fabrics to remove the creases and release soluble components to reduce soiling. The map was blotted with paper towels to remove excess water which allows the fibers to align. A layer of paper toweling was left in place on the map to act as an absorption layer for the release of soluble components. The map was then covered with glass weights and allowed to air dry. The final step of the stabilization process was to re-adhere the photos. Using starch, the loose paper cards were reattached to the cloth. In preparation for exhibition, the cloth had to undergo specific steps to sustain the longevity of the artifact. A buffered, acid-free panel was prepared and covered with non-woven polyester batting and a previously washed, unbleached, fine cotton fabric. Following that, the map was attached to the padded panel with one row of stitching across the top using an appropriately colored silk thread, and then photographed on the panel. Next, an ultraviolet filtering glazing was laid over the map, applying a light pressure to the fabric for protection. The entire unit was placed in a custom-made frame with an aluminum back for support and an outer frame of plain angle aluminum with a 2" by 3" powder coated brown covering, requested by the MacArthur Memorial. Lastly, the map was packaged in bubble wrap for transit back to the museum. In this case, Thornton picked up the piece from TPA along with MacArthur Museum attendant, Emery Odango on October 19, 2017.

This story was originally published on January 29, 2018 on vamuseums.org and was written by Crystal Douglas.



January Program

For our January meeting we assembled in the James Branch Cabell Library on the campus of VCU in Richmond. In the first half of the meeting, we heard a presentation by Sophie Barbisan about her work in treating a collection of Virginia Gazettes belonging to the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at Colonial Williamsburg. Sophie began with a discussion of the history of the Virginia Gazette and its three iterations. The editions housed in special collections were laminated at some point during the 1950s or 60s using cellulose acetate. This method was in use from the 1930s to 90s and was at first considered to be a stable and reversible means of preserving documents, but later studies proved this to be inaccurate.

The editions of the Gazette that Sophie treated were likely laminated using the “Barrow” method developed by William Barrow, a scientist working in Virginia in the 1950s and 60s. The individual folios were cut apart and reassembled during lamination. The lamination technique involved “sandwiching” the documents between layers cellulose acetate. Though the editions remain in relatively good condition, the risk of future damage required delamination a treatment the documents. The final treatment protocol is still being determined, but Sophie presented her current practices. The folios are cut in half and the leafs are placed in an acetone bath. The Japanese tissue lining is removed after the first few minutes and the leafs are bathed in multiple baths until it appears the majority of cellulose acetate has been removed. This is followed by an aqueous treatment in pH adjusted water to remove the degradation products. After bathing, the folios are reassembled with Japanese tissue. Once finalized, Sophie’s protocol will be used to treat the entire collection of Virginia Gazettes. A good discussion about treatment decisions and suggestions for further research followed the presentation.

We were then treated to a tour of the library’s special collections storage including a viewing of some of James Cabell’s letters that were most likely laminated using Barrow’s technique. Yuki Hibben, Assistant Head and Curator of Books and Art in Special Collections and Archives, showed us their storage facilities, newly renovated in 2015. The collection focuses on art books and illustrations, to include original cartoon panels from major cartoonists and comic book artists.

VCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES Tuckahoe Area Library February 15, 2018

ATTENDEES: Kate Ridgway, Dotty Robinson, Bob Self, Kate McEnroe, Emily Wroczynski, Deborah Pellmann

CALL TO ORDER: President Kate Ridgway called our meeting to order at 5:48 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kate Ridgway reported on the 3rd Salon, the last in the series, for conservators and museum professionals on the response to the controversy over Confederate monuments. Jane Klinger of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum gave the presentation on conservation of politically and/or emotionally powerful materials. Topics for the future were discussed that might serve to better connect the VCA with museums.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Kate McEnroe reported several ideas for a Helping Hands Project. Kate Ridgway is following up on one for a local cemetery and will report back.

Suggestions were made for members of the nominating committee. The positions to be filled are Treasurer, Webmaster, Membership and two Program Committee Chairs. It was suggested that at the end of his/her term the President stay on for an additional year in an advisory role. Kate is also going to work on clarifying the confusing one and two year terms of several of the positions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Programs: Emily Wroczynski reported that the March Members meeting is scheduled to be on Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 PM at the Surry Historical Society. The program will be on the Restoration of the Capt. John Smith Ferry Deck House and be given by Architect Bill Fox and Ben Bristow.

Andrew Baxter will present the May program at Hollywood Cemetery at a date to be announced. Dottie made a motion that Mr. Baxter be presented with a stipend of \$250.00 to cover lodging and related expenses. Emily seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

There was discussion about possible field trip locations and topics. Consideration was given to a possible weekend event about which members would be surveyed.

Education: Bob Self reported that there were not enough people signed up for the decorative painting workshop to move forward with it, therefore, it is being canceled. There was discussion about advertising beyond our membership in the future. Members would be given the first opportunity to sign up at a slightly lower cost than non-members.

There will be Metal Patination workshop in May with Andrew Baxter. Date to be announced.

Membership: Dotty Robinson reported that a small number of directories have been printed and will be sent to those who request them. The cost is \$3.00 each. There are a few remaining copies if anyone is interested in purchasing one.

Contact membership@virginiaconservationassociation.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The April Board Meeting will be held at the James City County Library in Croaker at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Kate Ridgway adjourned the meeting at 7:15

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Pellmann, Secretary
