April 22, 2013

Genealogy Resources at the St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives and Library

Kent Randell

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/kent_randell/19/
“Hunting down information”
St. Mary’s College of Maryland

- Founded as a “living monument” to the ideals of Religious Tolerance of the colonial settlers of St. Mary’s City
- 1840 act of legislation, 1846 opening, 1927-1968 junior college, 1964 St. Mary’s College of Maryland formed
- Not sectarian and public.
Calvert Hall

- Site of original St. Mary's Seminary
- Burned in 1924 – lost records
- Home of St. Mary's College of Maryland Archives: Tue-Thur, 9a-12p, 1p-5p and by appointment
St. Mary’s Seminary / JC alumni

- Free, online, alphabetical list of St. Mary’s Seminary and Junior College alumni through 1940
- Ongoing project to fill in information – records missing from 1924 Calvert Hall fire. Not a complete run of commencement programs
- Volunteer / Intern / Student project – go through St. Mary’s Beacon and other resources to find names and complete the registry. Marriage records necessary
- Last names may be Given Surname or Married
- Here is the website...
  http://www.smcm.edu/archives/knownalumni.html
SMCM Archive, Archival Papers

- Grace Gibson letter of 1898 from “St. Mary’s Prison,” “Cell No. 12”
- Graduated in 1901 – happy ending.
- Also words of encouragement from a fellow student.
Don't let Grace come home she will be alright in a few days she has the blues now I'll take care of her. Her schoolmate.

Ella Rodger  

St. Mary's Prison  
Cell No. 12  
Sept. 24, 1898

Dear Mama,

Please let me come home I could not stay here until Christmas if I was paid $10 per day.

I cried myself to sleep last night and cried so much today that Miss Palmer (the nice teacher I told you about) had to make a baby of me and take me to see her pictures.

but it did not do much good for I could cry as easy as anything right now. The tear are in the corner of my eyes ready to drop at a moment's notice. You would not of thought this time a few days before I left home you would go We did have an examination and I did fairly well but I can't get through in two years and that is really all I have some scholarships gave three yrs but Queen Anne only gave two this time.

All you have to eat is
fish + I don't love it much as you know, + the coffee is strong enough to walk at the door at 10 miles per minute.

Mable Bryan is sitting here now with tears ready to flow, we are all three going to run away from here + go home on the next boat + Ella Perry is going with us.

Now you might know when Ella Perry is home-sick it is time to let me come. Ella says the school is nothing to what it was last year. anyhow the fare.

I like most of the teachers very much, but they are so strict we have 50 rules to keep what do you think most of them are to keep you from talking + you can't go from one room to another only at certain hours + indeed mama I can't stay here with the girls I don't know of course I know them but I don't care much for them they are not from home mama.
boat coming but you
can't go to it, you go
in sight of the store but
you can't go to it. you
can't go outside the school
circles without a teacher+
than you plow a country
road.
When you write me
a note saying I can come
home + don't date it I
will do that when smart
to come for really + truly
I can't stay here. Oh mama
you know I can't bear
such lonesome solitude
as this, you let me come
+ I will never say I dis-
like Centrewill Again.
I stumped this letter at 6 o'clock
to go down to supper, it is
now 8:30.
We had warm rolls for supper
the first, we have had them
were about the size of an apple.
Then after supper the girls
danced them there was
to recital in which the teacher
only taken a part we enjoyed
it very much though.
Tell Papa if his boat only
run here + I could see him
once awhile I might
like it better.
I have been thinking
the matter over + I guess
but she said yes for just this once & just to think
I said & I can't do it again.

We had chicken or rather a tough rooster & gravy
that resembled slopes & rice
without either sugar or milk
or little sweet potatoes that
nearly broke my heart for.
mama you know how
I love them. (that is all)

for dinner today. & milk

Then I get home. I won't
have any tears for I have
shad a gallon of water al-
ready. I go to bed crying
& make up crying & go
all day. I want

some money for boat fare &

a dollar also for a berth
for I will be on the boat
from 6 P.M. until early
the next morning, mind
you might not think &

I mean this but truly I
do. I can't stay here. So
there

You send the money &
I won't spend it unless I

Tell Papa please to let
me come for boarding

school is not what I picture
it. Tell him I will know how to appreciate my home now. I know he would let May come if it were not down here in the woods.

Mama answer this the minute you get it and send the dollar. I pray you take do this and I will do without a winter dress I mean the one I use to get Christmas. I will do without any thing at all for a year. This is Sunday and I write to you Wednesday morning and have not received an answer.

dear daughter, Grace S. Gilson

Give my love to everybody in Centreville but tell them I am coming for maybe when you say I can come I will want to stay kiss Helen Rafael and May, for me and give my love to Nellie if you see her. Grace, poor hungry home-sick Grace.
Grace (Gibson) Meredith letter outlines the importance of Archival collections for research.

Wouldn’t you love to see letters from your ancestors?

SMCM Archives is a home for any SMCM-related archival material

In the case of SMCM student letters or diaries – archives could accept photocopies, provided others could use them in their research.
ARCHIVES

The St. Mary’s College of Maryland Archives provide for the acquisition, organization, description, preservation, and availability of unique materials documenting the history of the school as well as the history of Southern Maryland, particularly St. Mary’s County. The archives are located in Calvert Hall, Room B 20.

NEW!

St. Mary’s student newspapers from 1952 through 2002 are now available online!

List of Known St. Mary’s Seminary and Junior College Alumni through 1940, available online!

Other online archival collections include:

St. Mary’s yearbooks. School yearbooks from 1948 through 1999 available at the Internet Archive, and the only pre-1948 yearbook, from 1925.

Monument school of the people: a sesquicentennial history of St. Mary’s College of Maryland, 1840-1990 / by J. Frederick Fausz. The definitive history of the school, available at the Internet Archive.

St. Mary’s: a "when-did" timeline / by Janet Butler Haugaard. An illustrated, descriptive timeline of the history of the school and city, from 1838 to 2007, published by the College’s Office of Publications.

Historic campus photographs. Most of the photographs in this collection originate from St. Mary’s Female Seminary (1840-1926), St. Mary’s Female Seminary Junior College (1926-1949), St. Mary’s Seminary Junior College (1949-1964), and St. Mary’s College of Maryland (1964- ). These photographs document St. Mary’s people (students, faculty, staff), places (buildings, grounds) and events (commencement, Governor’s Cup, etc.).

Mulberry Tree Papers archive. Published by St. Mary’s College of Maryland since 1972, MTP is a general-interest magazine intended for the entire St. Mary’s community: alumni, faculty, staff, students, parents, friends, and others. This site includes issues from 1972 through 2001; more recent issues can be found at the Office of Publications.

SlackWater archive. This collection consists of oral history interviews relating to the history, culture and folklore of Southern Maryland, primarily St. Mary’s County in the 20th century.
SMCM Archive – SlackWater

- Oral history interviews relating to the history, culture and folklore of Southern Maryland, primarily St. Mary's County in the 20th century.
- 435 **Searchable** Oral History transcripts.
- Audio held at SMCM Archives
- Let’s search a couple of County names...
Recently digitized student newspapers 1952-2002
Can perform a search of all newspapers at once!!
Web example.... Mattingly
SMCM Archive – Yearbooks

- SMCM and St. Mary’s Junior College annuals existed in 1925 (*The Pepper Pot*), 1948-1999
- Can search within the individual yearbook
- Web example....
SMCM Library
Open to the public. Residents of St. Mary’s County can obtain SMCM library cards.

Library has book collection, including Maryland Collection, and anyone can use Interlibrary Loan. (Also Special Collections library in Maryland Room.)

Reference Librarian for help with databases / book requests.

See Archivist for genealogy questions.

DATABASES are available to the general public.

Check website for hours – change in the summer.
Many small print-run genealogy books
Maybe another researcher has done some work for you.
Online search for Hammett family
May get lucky with an eBook (in-library only)
SMCM college -- or – WorldCat !!!
John and Millicent Higdon query
Can use WorldCat from home!
[Also have The Beacon on a public computer]
America’s Historical Newspapers: Early American Newspapers Series 1, 1690-1876

710 Newspapers

“Thomas Blackistone, Esq.” was an agent for Baltimore’s Federal Republican & Commercial Gazette for St. Mary’s County, March 1809

Hammett, “St. Mary’s” search

SEARCH TRIVIA: What does putting things in quotes do?
SMCM Library databases

- Baltimore Sun
- Newspaper Archive
- First hit for Blackistone is Daily Journal of London, 1730. 1,607 overall results!
- Tricky database – does not work like google
- Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers
- Interesting Higdon legal dispute
- Times of London – pre-colonial leads? 1785-2006
SMCM Library databases

- Accessible Archives
  - Multi-format (newspapers, periodicals)
  - 18th and 19th Century, includes African-American newspapers
- Let’s try a search for Leonardtown....
- American Periodicals
- Blackistone - St. Mary’s County Senator
Thank You! Any questions?
ST. MARY’S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

Genealogy Resources

SMCM Archives

- Over 70,000 images. Some traditional archival holdings. Moving image collection concerning events at St. Mary’s College of Maryland
- Website: http://www.smcm.edu/archives (or go to http://www.smcm.edu → Library → Archive)
  - SlackWater Archive (Oral History Transcripts)
  - List of Known St. Mary’s Seminary and St. Mary’s Junior College Alumni to 1940
  - St. Mary’s Student Newspapers 1952-2002
  - St. Mary’s Yearbooks 1925, 1948-1999
  - Historic Campus Photographs

SMCM Library

- (240) 895-4272. Check website, http://www.smcm.edu/library, for hours.
- St. Mary’s County residents can obtain a library card
- Book collection, including Maryland Collection. County residents can utilize interlibrary loan services
- The catalog for SMCM’s Book Collection, as well as the WorldCat resource, are available online for free at http://www.smcm.edu/library
- Reference Librarians during many normal business hours – available for book or database assistance (see Archivist for specific genealogy assistance)

- **Database Resources only available at the library** (County residents can ask a member of the circulation staff to log them in):

  Databases can be found on the library’s main page, click DATABASES on left-hand tab:

  - *Newspaper*: America’s Historical Newspapers: Early, Series 1 (1690-1876)
  - *Newspaper*: Newspaper Archive (1607-present)
  - *Newspaper*: Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers
  - *Newspaper*: Times of London (1785-2006)
  - *Newspaper, Magazines, Periodicals, Pamphlets*, etc.: Accessible Archives 1700-1900
  - *Periodicals*: American Periodicals (1740-1940)

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