

Virginia Research Facilities—Tidewater Region—Williamsburg



John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library

John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
313 First Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Phone: 757-565-8510

Web:

<http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary.cfm>

E-mail: libref@cwf.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/John-D-Rockefeller-Jr-Library-Colonial-Williamsburg-Foundation>

Open Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (except major holidays)

The Repository

The John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library is located in Colonial Williamsburg and serves scholars, advanced students, the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation staff, and the general public. The library promotes knowledge of colonial British America, the American Revolution, and early United States.

Be Prepared

Be sure to visit http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary/Visit_The_Library.cfm before you visit. To schedule an appointment with Special Collections, call 757-565-8520 or e-mail speccoll@cwf.org.

Self-service copiers (with free e-mail option) and printers are located on the main level and upper level. Patrons will be charged 25¢ per page, payable at the circulation desk. Bring your flash drives and cameras to save copies.

The Special Collections staff on a case-by-case basis must approve use of the microfilm printers. Patrons will be charged 25¢ per page. Unfortunately, our scanner is no longer working and we have not been able to replace it yet.

A small portion of the manuscripts has been digitized and can be viewed online: http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary/Special_Collections/SCFindMS.cfm

The On-Line Resource Website provides a listing of the various resources either available only at the Library or online, including: Search the Library Catalog (which includes the holdings of the Swem Library at William and Mary), online access to the Virginia Gazette 1736–1780; finding aids and more.
http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary/Online_Resources.cfm

Holdings

Their specialized collections of books, journals, manuscripts, and visual and online resources support and encourage research in 17th- and 18th-century colonial British America, the Chesapeake, African American studies, the decorative arts and material culture through 1830, and historical preservation.

Favorite historical topics include animals, Civil War, Christmas, 18th-century Christmas customs, food and drink from Colonial Virginia, Jamestown, the workaday world, pirates of Virginia, money and its value, health, and medicine.

Collections

The Library staff has developed special resources on individuals who lived in Williamsburg in the 18th century. Staff will do no genealogical research, but you can get an idea of our resources by looking at the bibliographies on the following page: http://research.history.org/JDRLibrary/Online_Resources/Genealogical_Research.cfm.

A unique resource available at the Library is the York County Records Project, which was undertaken in the 1960s to index and abstract York County Records 1633-1815, by surname. This project is a great resource for those researching individuals and families in Williamsburg, York County, and James City County during the colonial period. Part of Williamsburg was in York County during the 18th century. Many Inhabitants of Williamsburg were involved in York County court cases or filed their wills and inventories in York County. The legal papers of James City County and the City of Williamsburg were burned during the Civil War.

The project includes wills, deeds, inventories, and court orders (civil suits and criminal cases). There is also a computer-generated plat map of York County that locates families on the land with which they are historically associated. The master biographical file is organized alphabetically, then chronologically. The file includes slave first names and surnames. The Library owns microfilmed copies of the biographical file, original York County records, and the plat/map in Special Collections.

The Library owns more than 50,000 manuscript pages. They are available by appointment only in Special Collections. To schedule an appointment call 757-565-8520 or e-mail: speccoll@cwf.org.

So, if you are planning a visit to Colonial Williamsburg, Yorktown, Busch Gardens, Virginia Beach, make sure that you add a visit to the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library.

Juleigh Muirhead Clark, Public Services Librarian
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library
Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

Updated: 4 June 2014