

WILLIAM & MARY

BRAY SCHOOL LAB

"The William & Mary Bray School Lab uncovers, documents, preserves, and share broadly the history and legacies of the Williamsburg Bray School (1760-1774) and its students."

29 March 2024

Greetings from the William & Mary Bray School Lab! We're very pleased to share our latest news with you!

In this Email:

- One Tribe One Day Thank You!
- Williamsburg Bray School featured in Essence Magazine
- (Re)making the Past: Sewing at the Williamsburg Bray School and Our Thanks...
- Register now for Bray School Stories: Seeking Sylvia
- Descendants Week 2024 Registration is Open!

One Tribe One Day Thank You!



Our sincere **thanks** to everyone who generously gave to celebrate One Tribe One Day with us this week. We are so appreciative of your partnership with us on this extraordinary journey to tell the story of the scholars who studied at the Williamsburg Bray School. If you missed the opportunity to celebrate One Tribe One Day and want to support the work of the W&M Bray School Lab, [we invite you to click here](#).

Williamsburg Bray School featured in Essence Magazine

The Oldest Black School In America Is Reopening To The Public

2024 marks the 250th anniversary of when Williamsburg's Bray School initially closed. It now has a permanent home as the newest historic site in Colonial Williamsburg. It reopens in September.



This week, we were very excited to see coverage of the partnership between The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the W&M Bray School in *ESSENCE*. We are so grateful to our partners at [Colonial Williamsburg](#), to our colleagues at [W&M](#), and to our community, who is journeying with us as we continue to uncover, document, preserve and share broadly the history and legacies of the Williamsburg Bray School and its students.

(Re)making the Past: Sewing at the Williamsburg Bray School and Our Thanks...

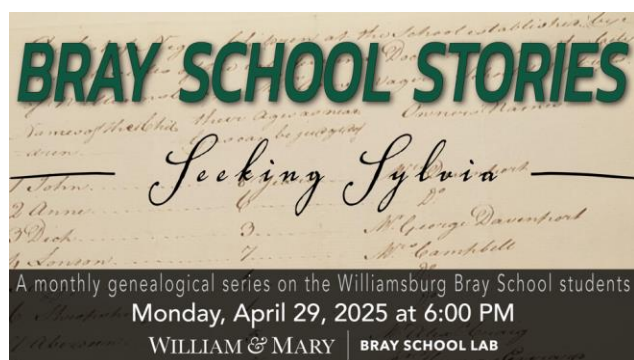


Thank you to all who attended *(Re)making the Past: Sewing at the Williamsburg Bray School* this week. We had a terrific turn out and it was a great learning opportunity. Our particular thanks to W&M Bray School Lab student thought partner Rachel Hogue, and our partners from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, including W&M Bray School Lab Graduate Assistant Nicole Brown, Rebecca Godzik, Janea Whitacre, and Kate Hargrove.

[Check out the Story Map created for this event.](#)

[Read more about the historic trade of being a milliner and mantua-maker.](#)

Register now for Bray School Stories: Seeking Sylvia

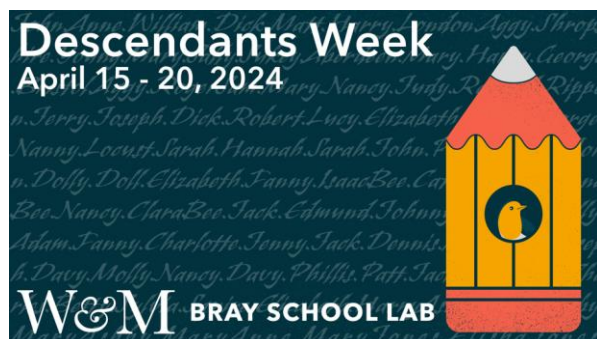


We are pleased to announce the upcoming April edition of our monthly Zoom genealogy series *Bray School Stories: Finding the Bray School Students*. On Monday, April 29, 2024, at 6:00 PM, we will present *Seeking Sylvia*. Led by W&M Bray School Lab Genealogist Elizabeth Drembus, *Seeking Sylvia* will focus on the search for Bray School scholar Sylvia -- and elucidate the process of engaging in genealogical work at the same time.

The event is free and open to all members of the public, but registration is required:

<https://go.wm.edu/gfFdNH>

Descendants Week 2024 Registration is Open!



Mark your calendars: Our third annual [Descendants Week 2024](#) is happening April 15-20, 2024. Read below to learn about the week of events and, when you are ready, [click here to register](#).

Third Annual Descendants Week | April 15-20, 2024

All events are free and open to the public, [but registration is required](#).

Monday, April 15, 2024 | 6:30—7:30 PM

Williamsburg Bray School Descendants Virtual Town Hall

[Register for this event on Zoom](#)

An update on Williamsburg Bray School research and an appeal to help us uncover the hidden histories of the Williamsburg Bray School students.

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 | 10:00—11:00 AM

Williamsburg Bray School Walking Tour

Colonial Williamsburg Historic Area | Corner of Nassau and Francis Streets

Meet us at the Williamsburg Bray School site, at the corner of Nassau and Francis Streets, to experience and provide feedback on Colonial Williamsburg's new Bray School walking tour. Comfortable walking shoes are a must!

Friday, April 19, 2024 | 5:00—7:00 PM

Descendants Week Reception

W&M Bray School Lab/Strategic Cultural Partnerships

Join us at Travis House and Barrett House, at the corner of Francis and S. Henry Streets, for our annual Descendants Week reception. This is a beloved opportunity to connect with other community members.

Saturday, April 20, 2024 | 10:00 AM—12:30 PM

Family History Celebration

Bruton Heights School, 301 First Street

Family history is exciting and so important! With something for learners of all ages, this family-friendly event will provide hands-on orientation to genealogy, oral history, preservation practices, while continuing to share the Williamsburg Bray School story.

As always, we are so happy to have you join us on this journey. We hope to see you at one of our many upcoming events!

Sincerely yours,

William & Mary Bray School Lab

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