

1 February 2024

Greetings from the William & Mary Bray School Lab and happy Black History Month! We have **three** exciting updates to share with you today!

Williamsburg Bray School on The TODAY Show

We started Black History Month with an incredible opportunity: appearing on NBC's TODAY show! Craig Melvin and a team from TODAY came to Williamsburg last month to learn more about the work happening from the Williamsburg Bray School Initiative – the partnership between The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the William & Mary Bray School Lab!



William & Mary Bray School Lab Oral Historian Tonia Merideth (right), herself a member of the Williamsburg Bray School descendant community, spoke with Melvin about the impact of learning her connection to this legacy and the opportunity to be involved in the research identifying and connecting other descendants. (Photo by Sean Ryan)

They interviewed the director of the W&M Bray School Lab, Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee and Bray School Lab Oral Historian Tonia Merideth, as well as lifelong Williamsburg resident and descendant community member Mrs. Janice Canaday to learn about the work being done to restore the physical building, and the history of the children who studied there.

Watch the segments here!

[Historic building dedicated to educating Black children restored](#)

[Discover Black Heritage: The Williamsburg Bray School](#)

Read more about the Williamsburg Bray School Initiative and the visit from the TODAY show team [here](#).

Williamsburg Bray School Community Event

We also wanted to remind you about our upcoming Williamsburg Bray School Community Event, happening Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.



The flyer is divided into several sections. On the left, a dark green box contains the event title, date, and time. Below this, a white box lists the location. A brown box at the bottom left provides registration information and a QR code. On the right, a black and white photograph of a wooden building is shown. Below the photo, text indicates sponsorship by the Williamsburg Bray School Initiative, followed by the logos for The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the William & Mary Bray School Lab.

Williamsburg Bray School
Community Event
Saturday, February 17, 2024
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lane Auditorium
Bruton Heights School
301 First Street
Williamsburg, VA

Descendant Community Members Encouraged to Attend!

For more information and to register
Or visit
<https://go.wm.edu/nsDgtT>

Sponsored by the
Williamsburg Bray School Initiative

The Colonial
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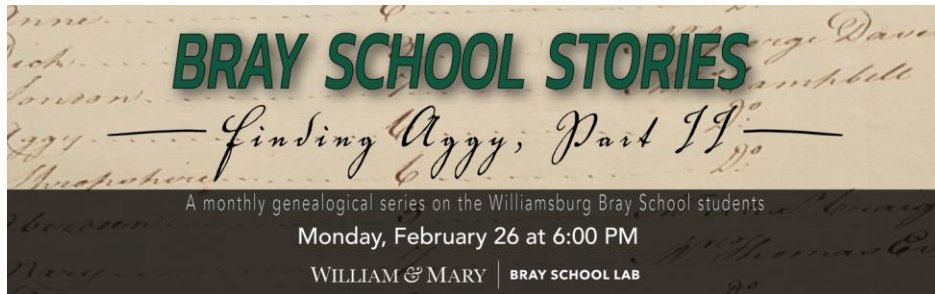
WILLIAM & MARY
BRAY SCHOOL LAB

Join us as we will share Bray School research and interpretation developments with the community, learn about our on-going research, and discover how you can join the work in 2024. Food and refreshments will be served. All are welcome to join; descendant community members are strongly encouraged to attend!

Register here! [Registration is strongly recommended.](#)

Bray School Stories: Finding Aggy, Part II

The next episode of our monthly Zoom genealogy series by W&M Bray School Lab Genealogist Elizabeth Drembus will be Monday, February 26 at 6:00 PM! We will be returning to Bray School scholar Aggy, and her daughter Kitty. The event is free, but registration is required. [Learn more and register here.](#)



Thanks for all your continued support as we continue on in The Year of the Bray – marking 250 years since the Williamsburg Bray School closed in 1774. We have so many more exciting things coming and hope you will follow our [Facebook page](#) to stay connected.

Sincerely yours,

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