

MARY SNYDER, MLIS

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OVERVIEW

Ph.D. student focused on the historic preservation and interpretation of 19th-century United States historic sites, specifically spaces tied to the African American experience. Her concentration largely derives from her museum work in the American South, where she assisted in analyzing architectural and material culture alongside historical research to better understand the spaces and histories of those enslaved at the sites. Her decade of field experience ultimately inspired her interdisciplinary research, which seeks to expand the interpretation of US historic sites and race and gender dynamics in the 19th-century United States.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. American Studies Boston University, Boston, MA	2023 – PRESENT
MLIS, Library and Information Science, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI	2018- 2020
Archival Administration Certification Wayne State University, Detroit, MI	2018- 2020
BA, History (graduated with Distinction) University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Minor in Anthropological Archaeology and Museum Studies	2012-2016

EXPERIENCE

FIRST CHURCH IN ROXBURY SLAVERY RESEARCH PROJECT UU URBAN MINISTRY FUNDED BY HARVARD & THE LEGACY OF SLAVERY INITIATIVE BOSTON, MA	NOV 2024 – PRESENT
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Research Fellow

Advance research on the lives of 58 named enslaved persons connected to the historic First Church in Roxbury, building upon previously published research completed in the spring of 2023, "[Race & Slavery at the First Church in Roxbury \(The Colonial Period 1631-1775\)](#)". Research historic and archival materials tracing the lineage of these enslaved persons and seeking sufficient details about their lives to allow the research to be shared and interpreted in exhibitions, story-telling, and other accessible modes. The Roxbury History Project was selected for funding by the Harvard & the Legacy of Slavery initiative as part of the inaugural Reparative Partnership Grant Program "for its potential to address systemic inequities affecting individuals impacted by the legacies of slavery."

WHITNEY PLANTATION NEW ORLEANS, LA	MAY 2024 – PRESENT
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Archival Consultant

Completed the construction of Whitney Institute Plantation Store's archives, by solidifying a taxonomy, implementing an arrangement, and processing the collection accordingly. I finished the physical arrangement and developed the digital database to access and research the archive, which vitally documents the evolution of the plantation slavery system in the 20th century through the plantation's financial, payroll, agricultural, and store records from 1930 to 1970.

HISTORY FACTORY

JAN 2023 – SEPT 2023

WASHINGTON, DC

Consulting Archivist

Subject matter expert providing specialized knowledge in a diverse project environment that offers multiple opportunities for company heritage preservation and cultivation. Collaborated with corporation clients to guide establishment and management of their company archives with a deep understanding of clients' information landscape and archival strategy options in the context of industry, technology, and cultural trends.

The Information Warrior Journal

SEPT 2022- DEC 2022

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF INFORMATION, DETROIT, MI

Editor and Author

HISTORIC COLUMBIA

JUL 2022 - SEPT 2022

COLUMBIA, SC

Director of Outreach & Engagement

Managed and developed the strategic vision, communication, and workflow of the Outreach & Engagement department. Oversaw all operations of the Outreach & Engagement Department, including the workloads of the research, interpretation, collections, programs, visitor experience, and marketing teams to drive the core mission to preserve places and share complex stories that connect us in the present and inspire our future. Managed staff involved in the interpretation, stewardship, and research of the 6,500 objects collection and six sites: Robert Mills, Hampton-Preston, Mann-Simmons, Siebels, Museum of Reconstruction, and Modjeska Simkins.

RICHARD JENRETTE FOUNDATION

2020 - 2022

(FORMERLY CLASSICAL AMERICAN HOMES PRESERVATION TRUST))

CHARLESTON, SC

Director of Digital Experience

MAY 2021- JUN 2022

Oversaw the lifecycle of online engagement to build and reach new audiences including digitization of collections, interpretation of sites and collections, strategy and creation of social media content, development and maintenance of website and public-facing systems, cultivation of partnership programs, and capturing engagement data to Board.

Director of Operations

AUG 2020 – APR 2021

Oversaw operations and IT infrastructure of a historic preservation organization with historic sites and staff located throughout the eastern US seaboard. Supervised Operations Associate and onboarded all employees.

HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION (HCF)**2018- 2020**

CHARLESTON, SC

Manager of Museum Programming

JAN 2020 – AUG 2020

Museums Coordinator

SEPT 2018 – DEC 2019

THE HENRY FORD**2016-2018**

DEARBORN, MI

Learning & Engagement Program Coordinator

SEPT 2017 – AUG 2018

NEH Project Coordinator

OCT 2016- AUG 2017

**PUBLICATIONS &
PRODUCTIONS**

"Craftspeople of Charleston." PBS, Public Broadcasting Service,
<https://www.pbs.org/show/craftspeople-of-charleston/>, Co-producer and
project manager. Apr. 2024 release.

"Museum Preparedness in the Digital Age" (2024). *School of Information Sciences
Student Scholarship*. 4. https://digitalcommons.wayne.edu/sis_student_papers/4

CONFERENCES

"A Church by the Water: Tracing Black Baptist freedom-seeking networks in
Southwest Michigan," American Culture Association National Conference, New
Orleans, LA. Apr. 2025

"Stormy Waters, Steadfast Souls: The Role of Waterways in Underground Railroad
Imagery," Yale University American Art Symposium, New Haven, CT, Apr. 2025.

"Engaging the World from Your Classroom Symposium," Global Engagement &
Interdisciplinary Academic Affairs, University of Michigan, 2017.

"Reconstructing Narratives on Chief Powhatan's Rule and His Interactions with
Jamestown: History Senior Symposium, University of Michigan, 2015

**ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
& ACHIEVEMENTS**

Editor, Ampersand: An American Journal, Boston University, 2023- Present
Secretary, Graduate Student Association, Boston University, 2024- Present
Recipient, Wayne State University Dean's Merit Scholarship, 2019

PROJECTS*Black History Bibliography Project***2018-2019**

ARCHIVES OF LABOR AND URBAN AFFAIRS, REUTHER LIBRARY, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

*Digital Archive: University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology**Hopi Plant Collection***2014**

DR. LISA YOUNG, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF)

Society of American Archivists (SAA)

Association of Records Manager & Administrators International (ARMA)