



# Smithsonian Institution Libraries

Special Collections Department

To: Referees for applicants for the Smithsonian Libraries' Margaret Henry Dabney Penick Resident Scholar Program: <http://library.si.edu/fellowships/penick-resident-scholar-program>

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Smithsonian Libraries offers awards to post-doctoral scholars to conduct research on the history of colonial America and the Early National Period. You are being asked by an applicant for this award to serve as a referee and to evaluate the enclosed proposal.

In your letter of support, please describe your relationship to the applicant and provide an evaluation of the proposal, considering the scholarly merit of the proposed research, and the likelihood the applicant would conduct it successfully at the Smithsonian. We also solicit your comments regarding the applicant's ability and his or her potential contribution to the field.

You will be receiving via email an automated solicitation to submit your letter of reference to the [Smithsonian Online Academic Appointment](#) system (SOLAA). Please be aware that the deadline for submission of all application materials, including your letter of reference, is **January 15, 2015**. Questions about the SOLAA system may be directed to the help desk at the Smithsonian's Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO) by emailing [OCIOHelpDesk@si.edu](mailto:OCIOHelpDesk@si.edu) or calling 202-633-4000.

The application, consisting of the proposal and two supporting letters, will be reviewed by a selection committee composed of Smithsonian research and library staff. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the proposal's merit, the ability of the applicant to carry out the proposed research and study, and the extent to which the Smithsonian Libraries' resources can contribute to the proposed research.

We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Lilla Vekerdy  
Head of Special Collections  
Smithsonian Libraries

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