



Robert Frederick Smith Fund Summer 2018 Internships

The Robert Frederick Smith Fund

ORAL HISTORY AND DIGITIZATION (1 POSITION) **Stagville State Historic Site – Durham, North Carolina**

Stagville is the former site of one of the largest plantations in North Carolina. Today the site is dedicated to teaching and sharing the history of the thousands of people who experienced slavery on this property. The site is in the process of broadening its interpretation to include the history of sharecropping and the legacy of slavery, using oral histories and descendants of enslaved people.

Position Description: Join Stagville's small, tight-knit office and dive deeply into its work. Immerse yourself in the day-to-day operations of a small public history site dedicated to community African-American history. Work will focus on preserving and expanding the oral history archive at Stagville, to build our body of knowledge about the families who are descended from enslaved people from this plantation. With guidance from site staff and from documentary artist Phyllis Dooney, help transcribe, index, research, prepare for, and possibly conduct oral histories with descendants. The selected intern will be comfortable meeting new people, ready to listen closely, and have the ability to think creatively about preserving and sharing stories. Successful interns will have the ability to talk candidly and sensitively with different audiences about the difficult, emotional history of slavery.

Sample of Intern Duties:

- Transcribe descendant interviews
- Creating finding aids for existing oral histories
- Research family trees or community information for future interviews
- Update existing genealogy database to reconcile with new research
- Shadow experienced interviewer during visit with descendant and recording
- Train in how Stagville interprets the lives of enslaved people
- Conduct additional individual oral history interviews, based on experience and time

Learning Outcomes:

- Know how to write a finding aid, transcribe, and prepare for oral history interviews
- Understand how to use public history to interpret the lives of enslaved people and their descendants
- Understand how to best create an archive for oral history audio, transcripts, and photographs at a small historic site

Time Frame (flexible): May 15 – August 7. Typical work week is Tuesday through Saturday, requiring occasional work outside typical Tue-Sat, 9-5 schedule

Prerequisites: Interest and background in African American history and culture studies. Preference for Durham or North Carolina background or history knowledge. Preference for prior experience with interviews, audio recording, or oral history work.

Eligibility: Must be a United States citizen