



## 2019 Jack and Jeannie Thompson Humanities Internship

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*"From my personal perspective, due to the Jack and Jeannie Thompson Humanities Internship, I was able to engage in productive and rewarding work that supports expanded education opportunities."*

**M**y research is focused on the early America, mainly exploring the histories of slavery, gender, and medicine through material culture. My dissertation is on the cultural history of teeth in the eighteenth century Atlantic World. For example, George Washington's dentures were designed in France, made in England, maintained and improved upon in New York, and contained ivory from Africa, domesticated animal teeth, and human teeth probably extracted from Washington's enslaved community. In other words, Washington is holding the Atlantic world in his mouth.

The Jack and Jeannie Thompson Humanities Internship allowed me to further develop skills outside the traditional academic arena through working at the MATRIX Digital Humanities Lab at Michigan State University. This internship allowed me to develop skills in connecting public history and outreach with traditional academic communities through creating a public history review of the Enslaved.org database that aims to create life narratives of enslaved people.

This past summer spent at the MATRIX Digital Humanities Lab at Michigan State University allowed me to test out and develop skills within the digital humanities world. Prior to coming to graduate school, I worked within the museum field and I am passionate about connecting academic ideas to the public. This award allowed me to get a sense of the digital humanities field and determine if it is the right professional fit for the future. During my time at MATRIX, I primarily worked on developing a public outreach plan for the Enslaved.org database that aims to create the live narrative of enslaved people. In the past, this database has targeted a traditional academic audience to provide and use data. Thanks to this generous funding, I was able to connect the MATRIX team with a wide range of non-traditional academic communities like curators, archivists, genealogists, K-12 educators, and public historians. Based on the public history review and outreach, the Enslaved.org platform will be able to connect to a larger audience shining light on the history of slavery and support expanded learning efforts. From my personal perspective, due to the Jack and Jeannie Thompson Humanities Internship, I was able to engage in productive and rewarding work that supports expanded education opportunities.



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