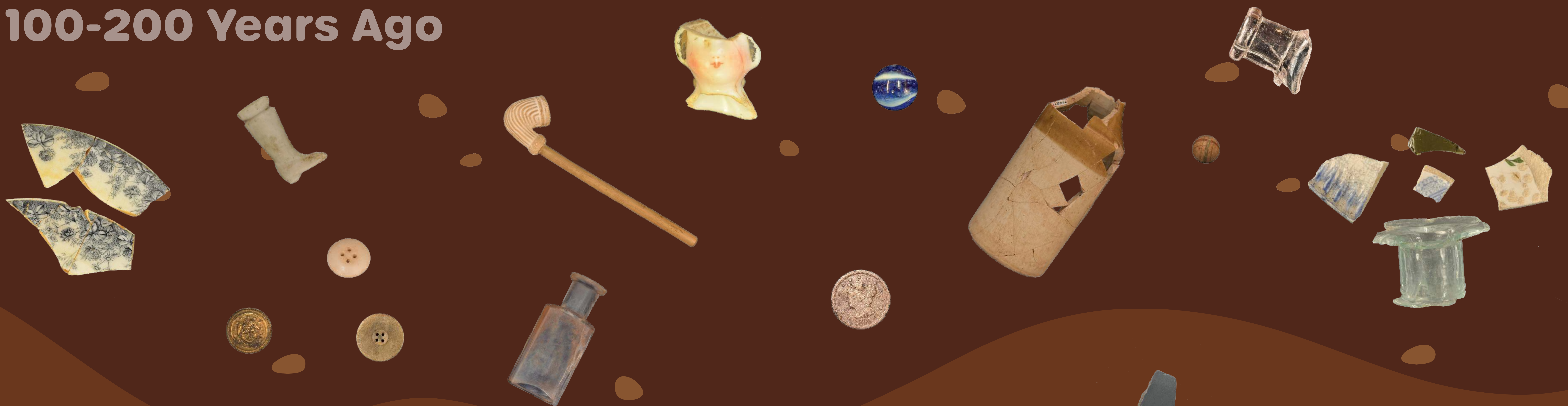




0-100 Years Ago



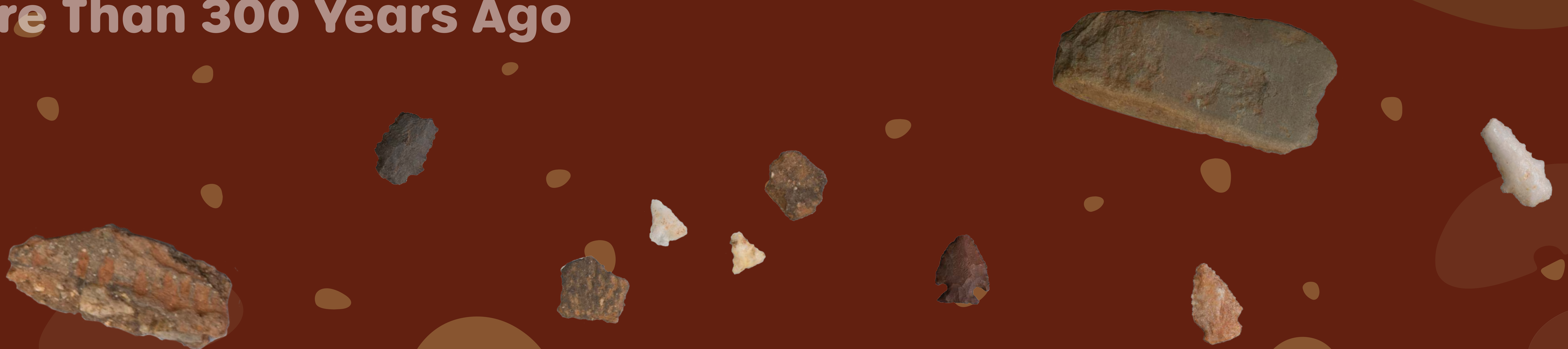
100-200 Years Ago



200-300 Years Ago



More Than 300 Years Ago



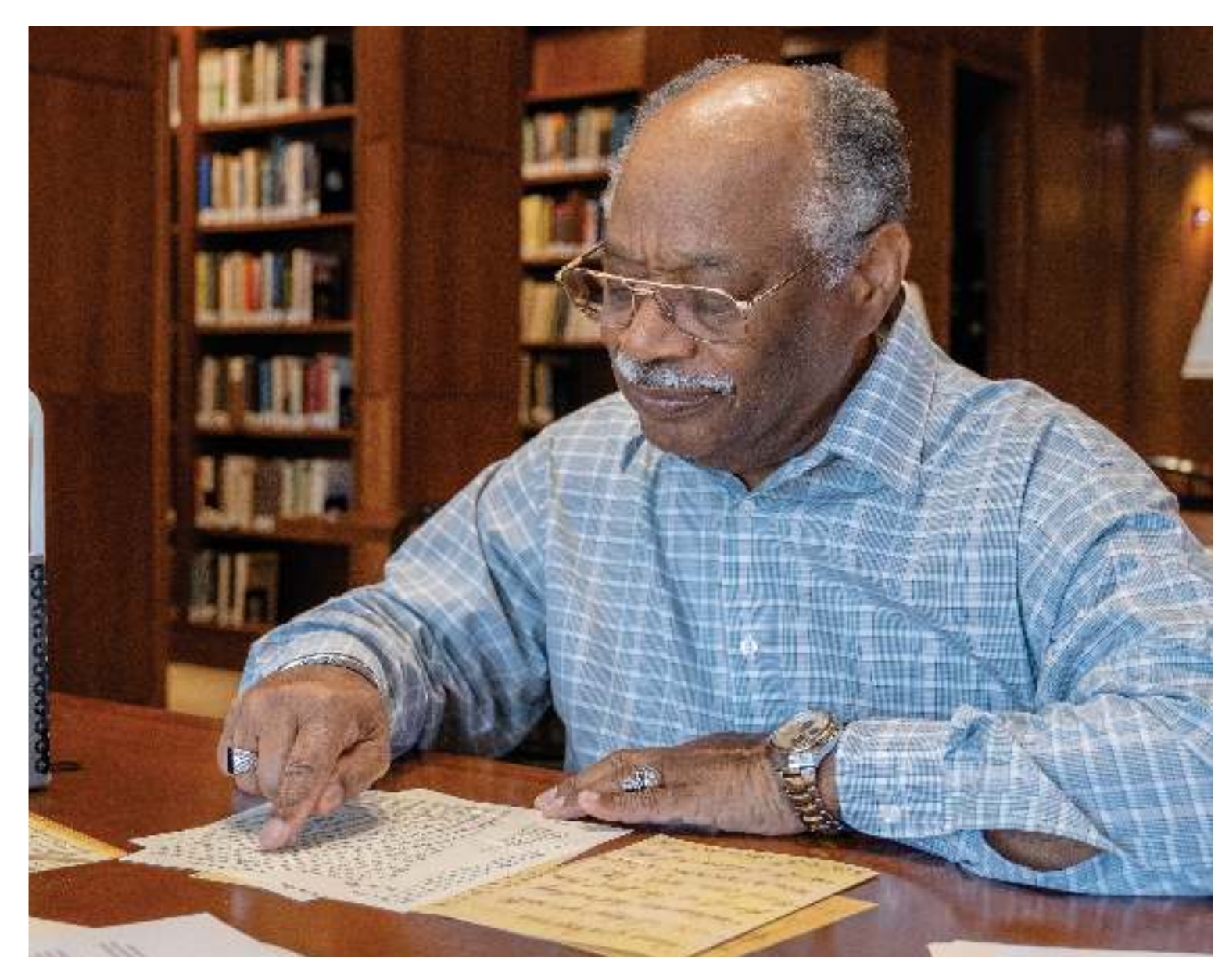
What Can We Learn from Really Old Papers?

Old letters, drawings, diaries, and lists can tell us what people in the past did, thought, and felt. Reading these primary documents is like talking to someone from long ago.

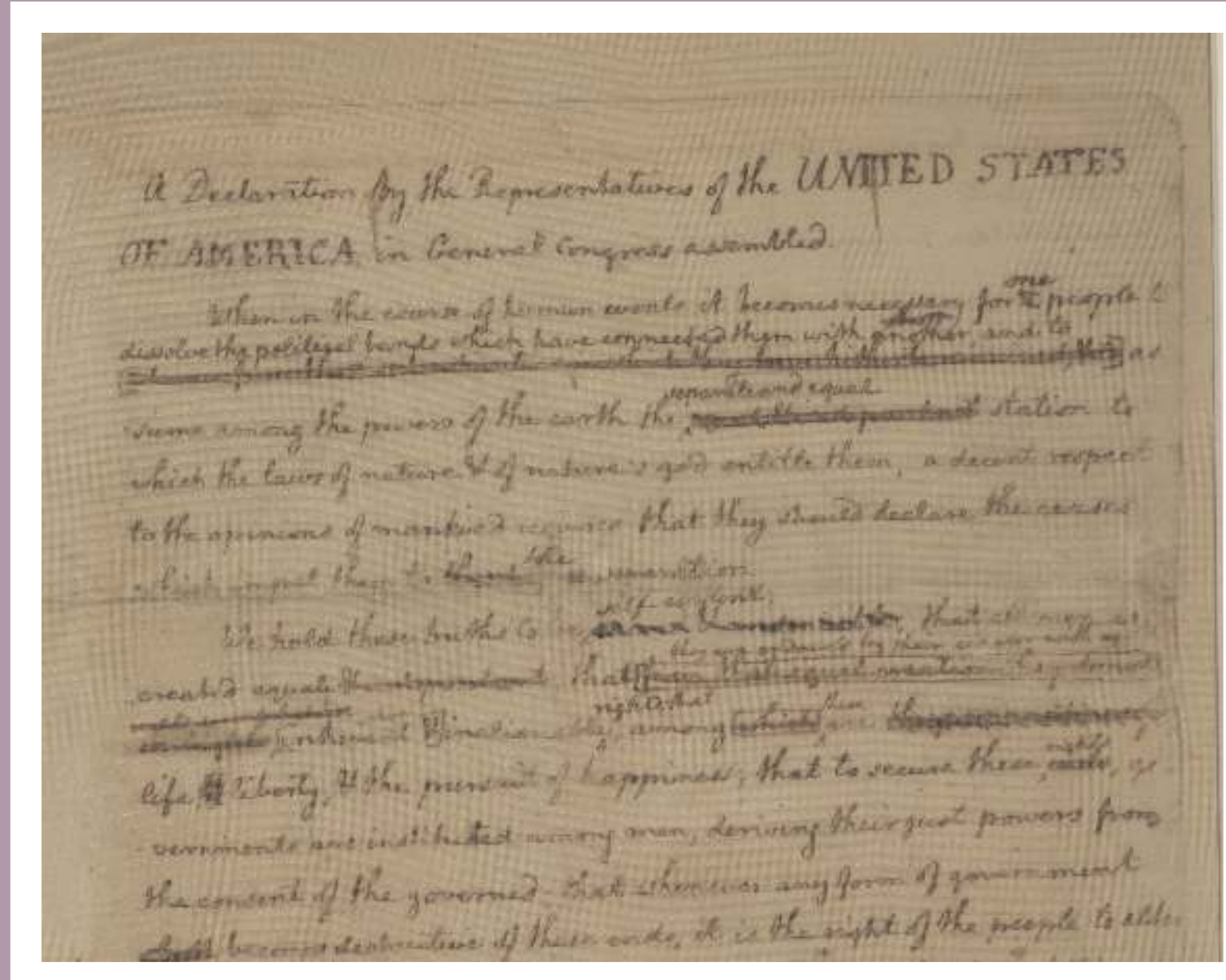
The Declaration of Independence stated that America was its own country, founded on the ideas of liberty and equality.



Archaeologists, oral historians, curators, and archivists all use primary documents in their jobs.

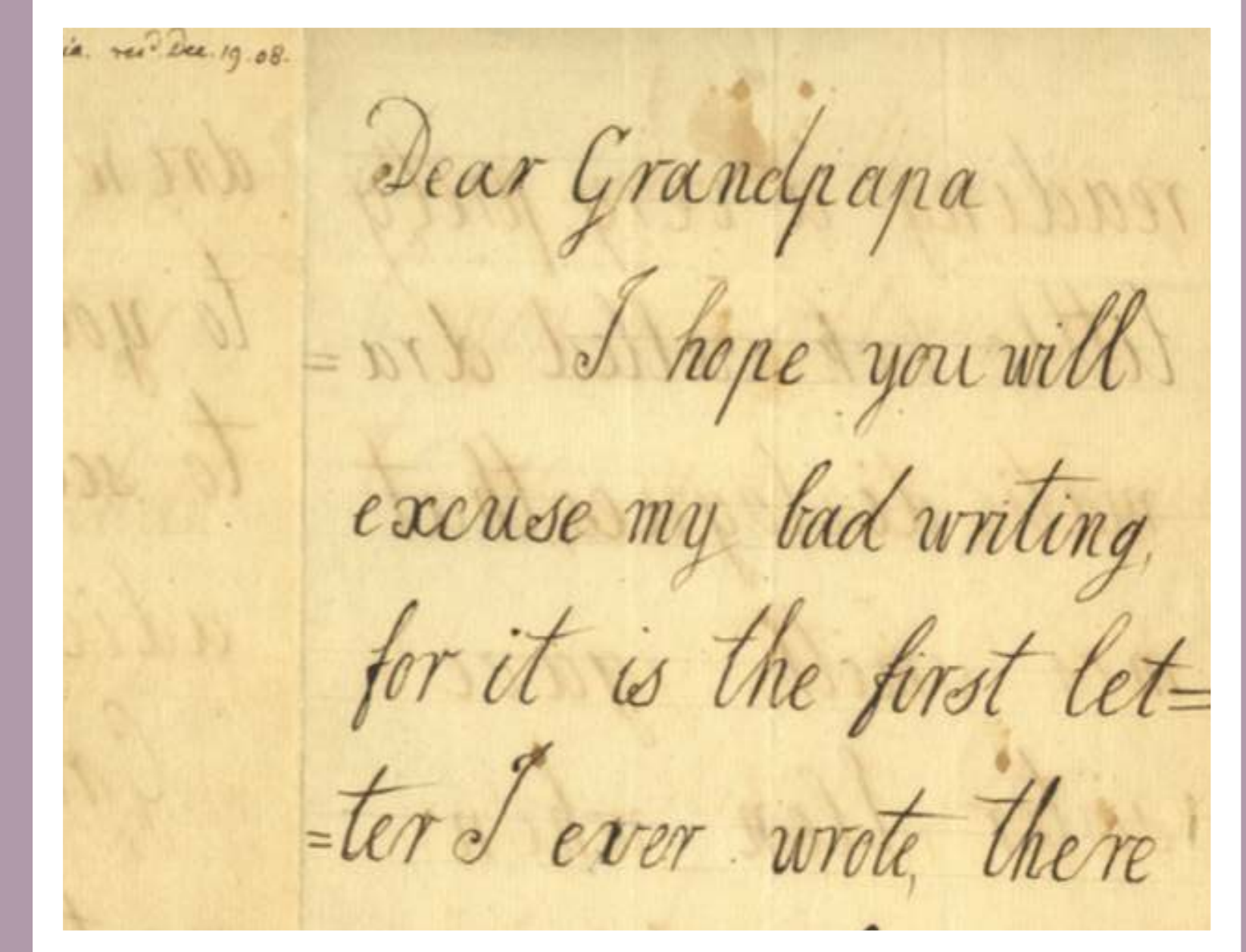


Rough drafts show us that it can take many tries to get your ideas right.



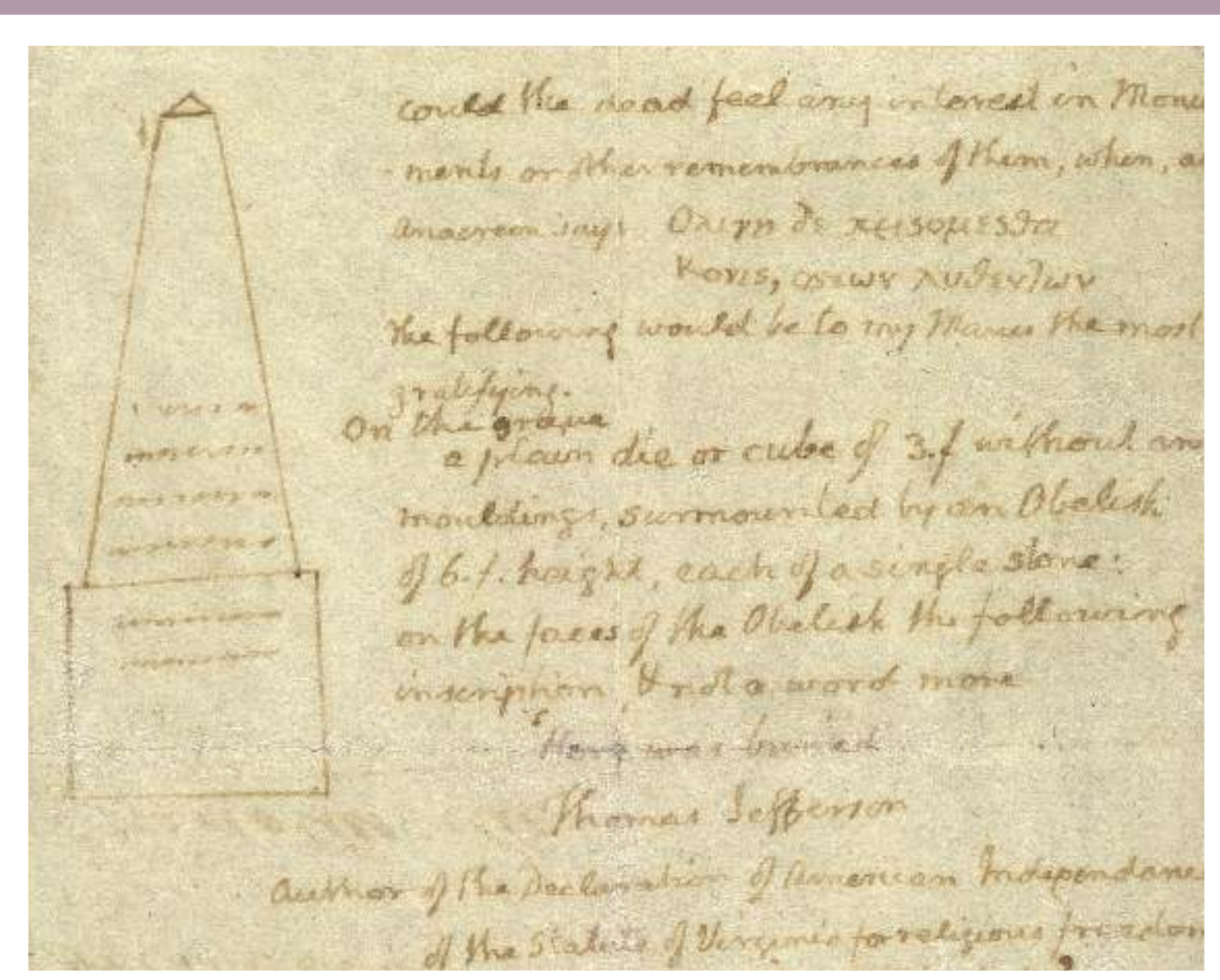
Rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

Kids tell us a lot about daily life. Jefferson's granddaughter Cornelia Randolph wrote this when she was 8 years old.



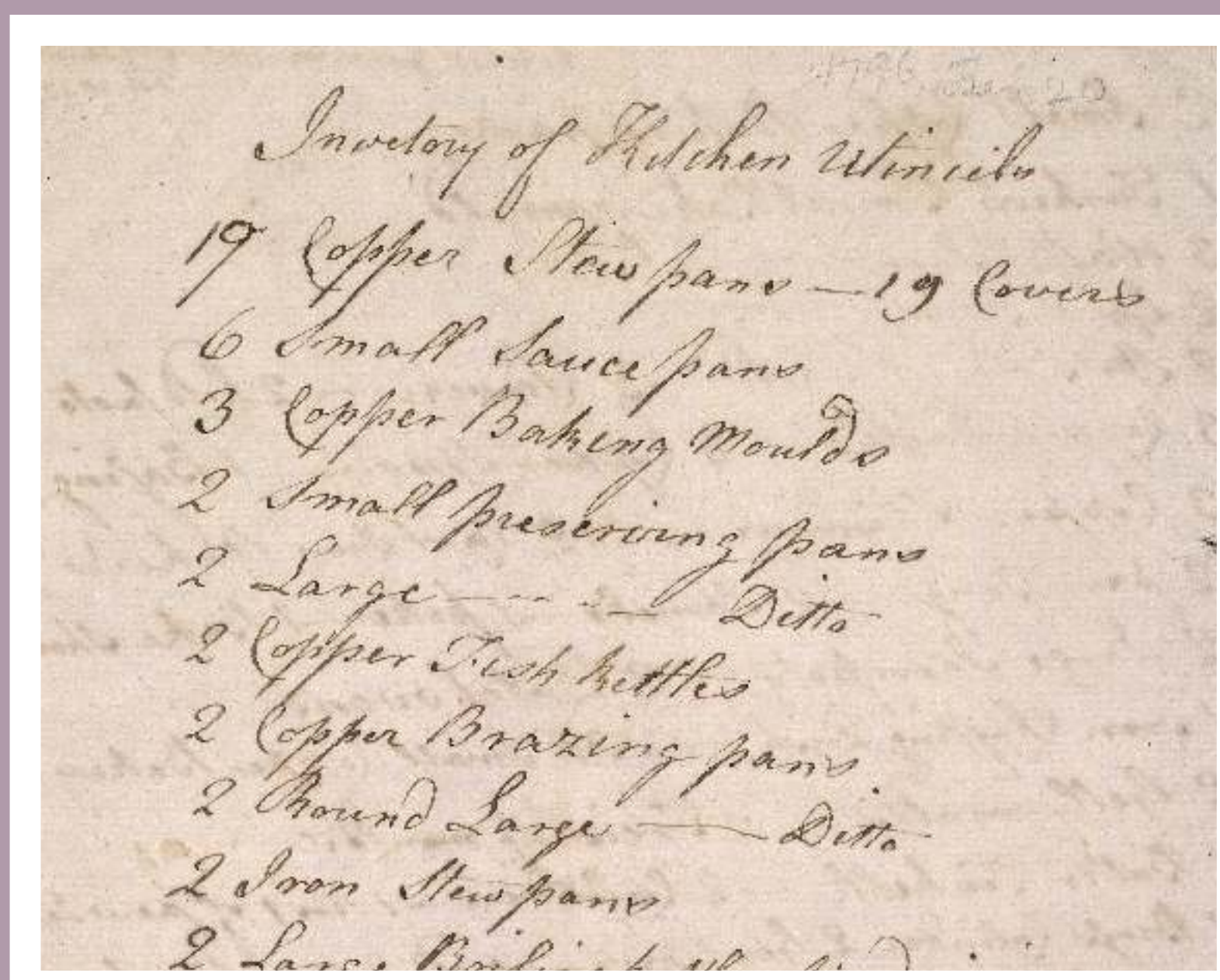
Papers of the Randolph Family of Edgehill, Tracy W. McGregor Library of American History, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia

Thomas Jefferson's design for his gravestone tells us what he thought were his most important contributions.



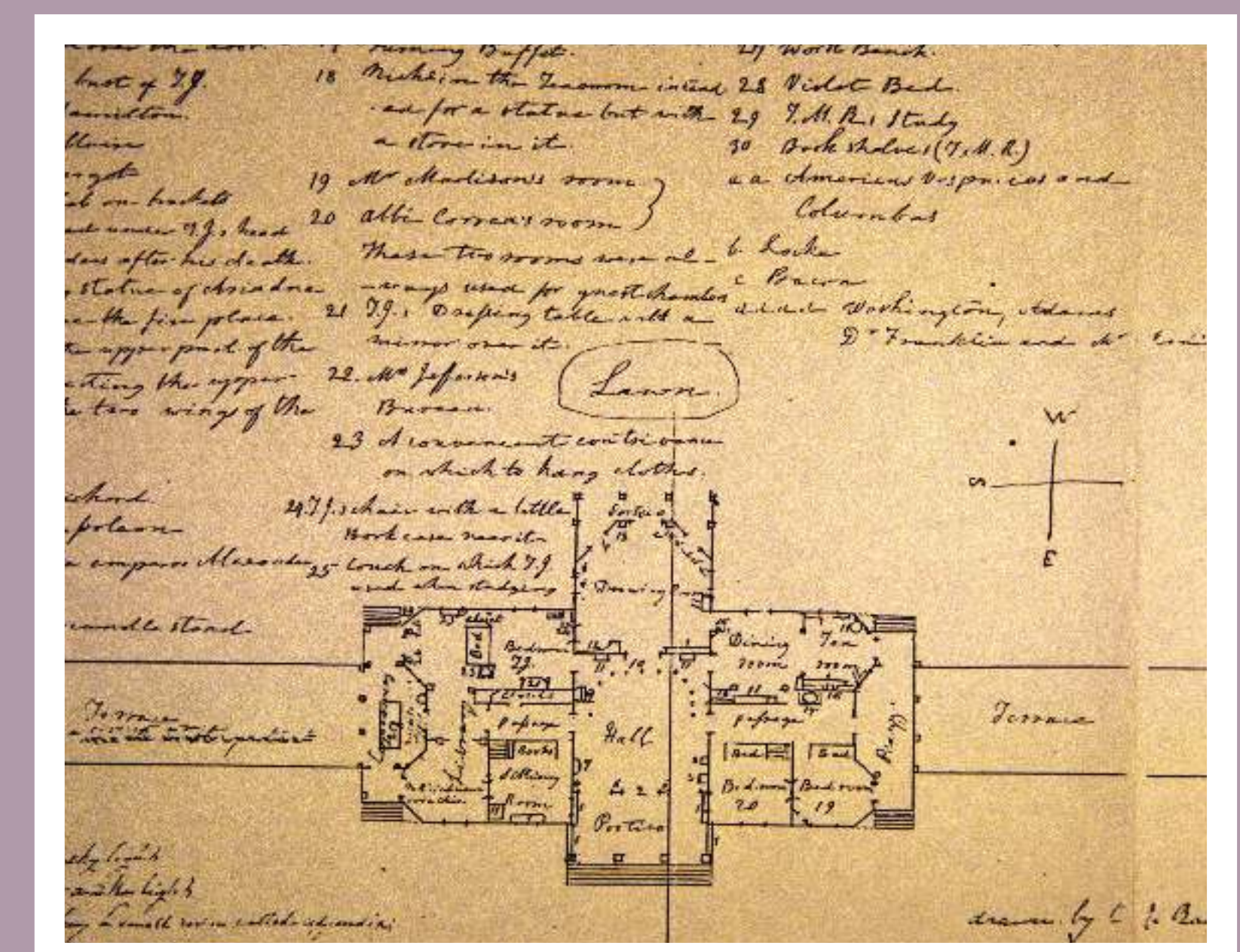
Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

Enslaved chef James Hemings wrote this list of kitchen equipment, which gives us clues about his skills and training.

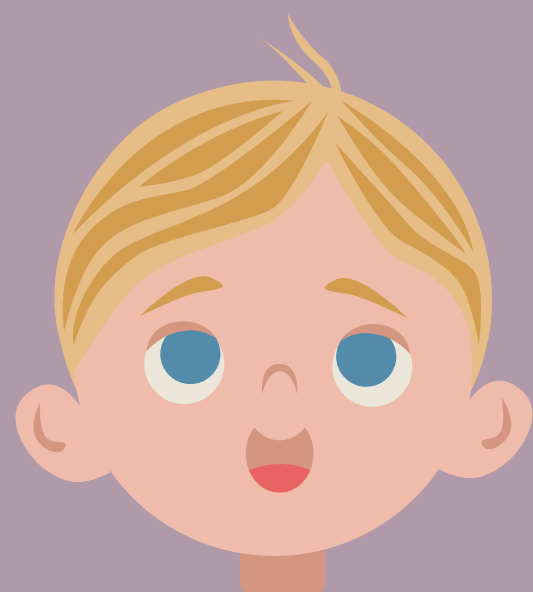


Library of Congress, Manuscript Division

When she grew up, Cornelia Randolph drew a map of Monticello, showing where art, furniture, and gadgets were located.



Jefferson, Randolph, and Trist Family Papers, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia



How do we know what Thomas Jefferson thought?

He wrote things down! In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson told us who he thought should be in charge of America: the people, not a king!



Buildings Are About People

Buildings can tell us how people lived in the past. We can study old buildings to learn about the people who designed, built, and used them. We can take care of old buildings for people in the future.

What can we learn from YOUR building design?



Kids replace mud and blocks between the logs to keep out the wind from the Hemmings Cabin.



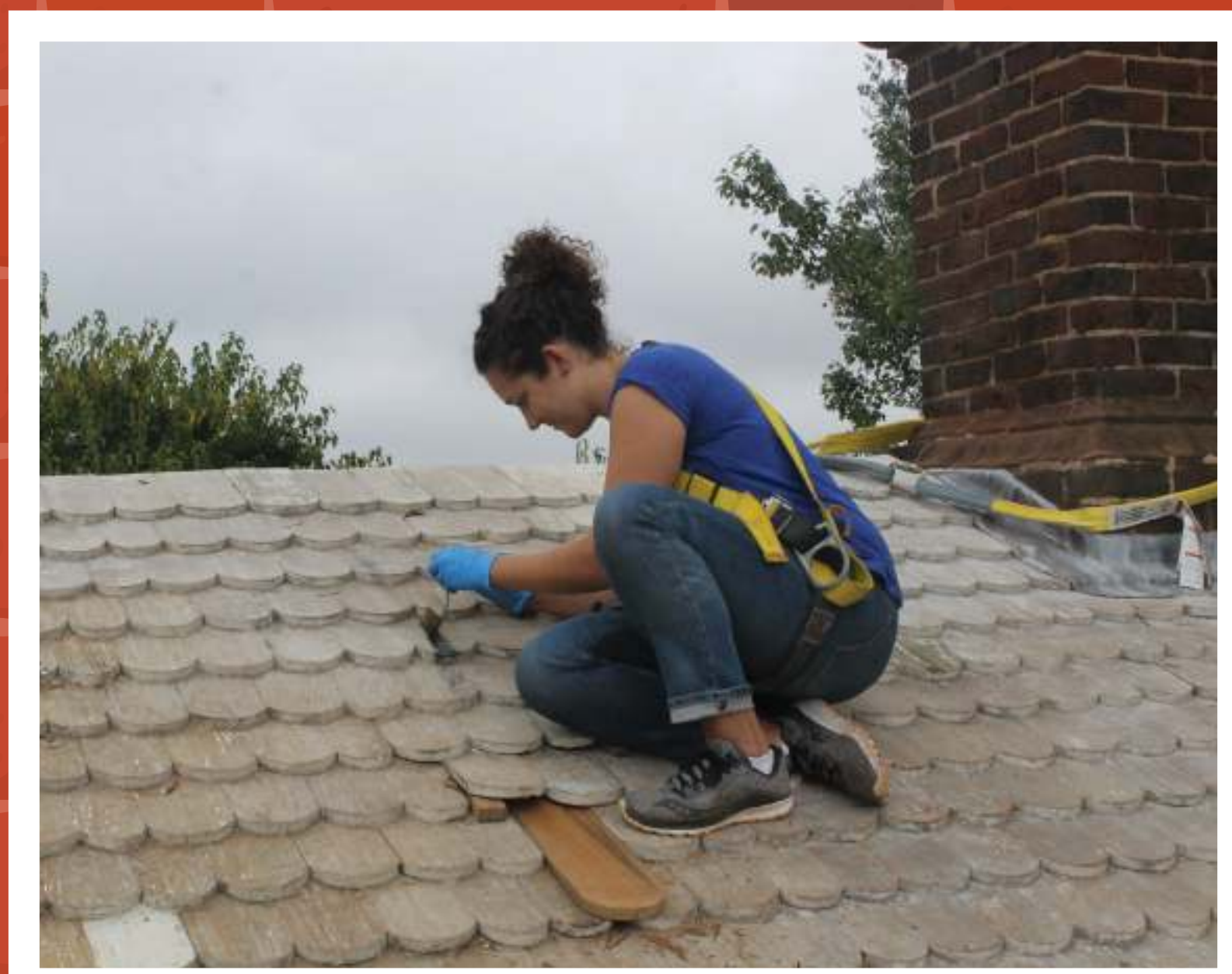
Sometimes we uncover decorations in rooms by scraping off layers of old paint.



Old buildings have cracks in the walls and ceilings, which we patch and repaint.



Roofs keep out the rain. We replace a shingle so this roof won't leak.



Stone walls are strong but need mortar, which works like glue to paste the stones together.



This roof is made from wood. We spray it with oil so the shingles don't crack.



Why do we take care of old buildings?

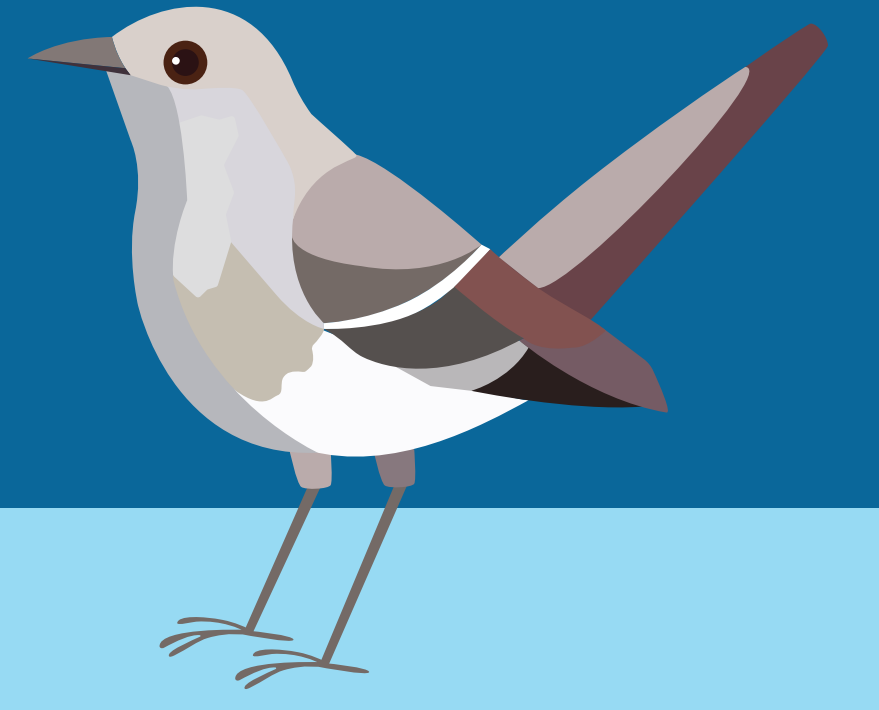
Because they can show us things like how people lived, worked, and stayed safe from bad weather.



Telling Your Story is History

Oral history is a way to learn about people, values, and lessons of the past through spoken stories.

YOU can do oral history! Ask questions, listen closely, and record the answers.



Descendants of Peter Hemings share stories about their ancestors - family members from long ago.

Where did you grow up? What was it like?

What adventures did you have?

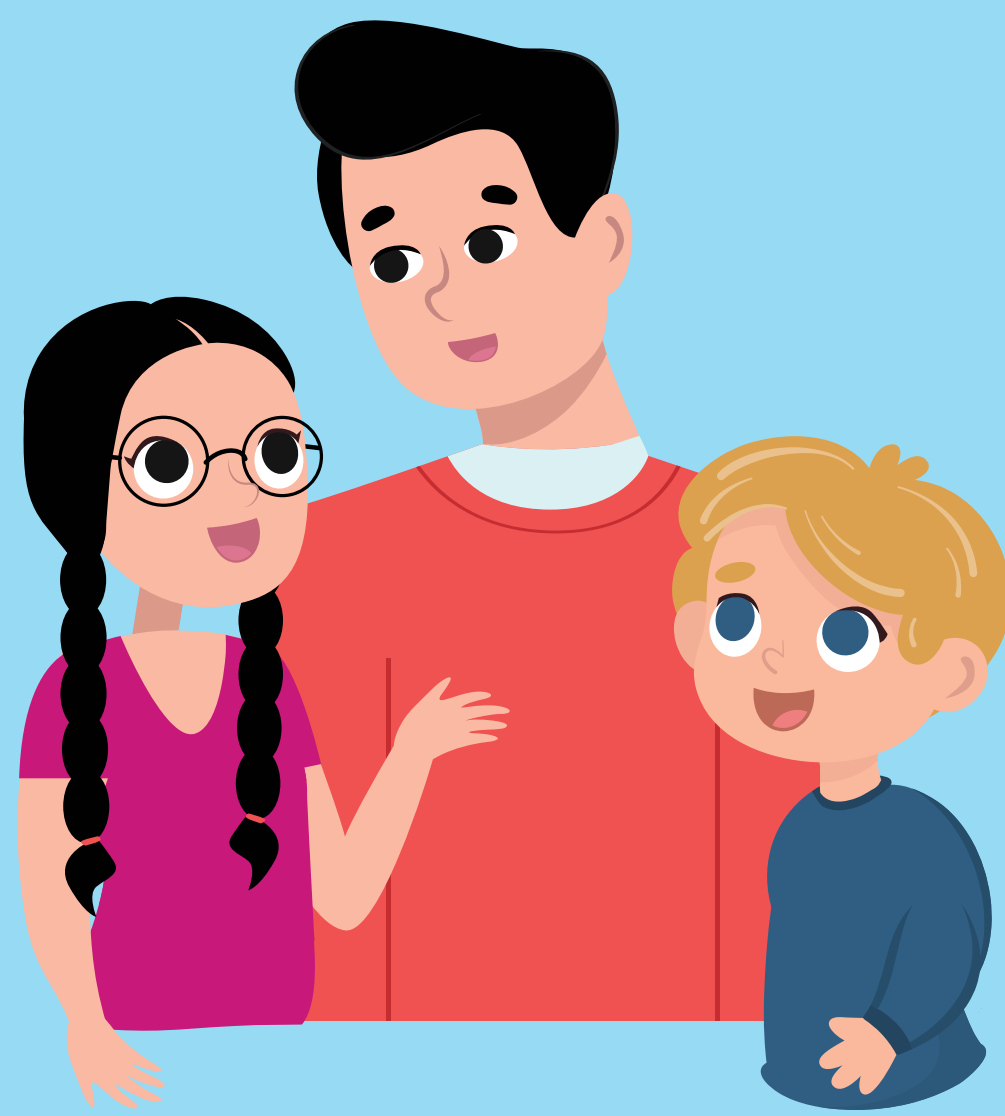
What toys did you play with when you were little?



What did you do for fun as a kid?

What was your favorite holiday?

What foods did you like?



Oral historians use a camera and microphone to record oral history from the Granger family.

"Families pour their stories into their children. Children become a vessel for their elders' stories."

Dr. Dianne Swann-Wright
Co-founder of Monticello's Getting Word
African American Oral History Project

What Do Archaeologists Do?

Archaeologists are scientists who learn how people lived in the past by studying the objects they left behind.

What will future archaeologists learn about you from the objects you use every day?



Archaeologists excavate (dig) for artifacts - things left behind by people long ago.



In the lab, archaeologists record information like what the artifact is, where it was found, and how big it is.



Artifacts are often small, broken pieces of something larger.



Sometimes those pieces show us what people's things, like this plate, looked like.



What happened to things that people threw away back then?

People threw things away outside, out of the way. Archaeologists dig these things up from the ground!

