HIDDEN NO MORE
LAFAYETTE WOMEN IN STEM

In the 1850's, Lafayette Professor James Coffin was mathematical head of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project, the first settler-operated weather data collection project in the US. The data processing associated with Lafayette's contributions to the project was largely performed by (white) women Easton school teachers, who copied and calculated multi-year data.

These fifteen teachers, who taught in Easton's public schools for $15 a month while their male counterparts earned $30, were never credited in published materials. Their identities remain unknown. In recognizing the contributions of these women, we acknowledge their rightful place in the story of Lafayette College. We also celebrate their intelligence, curiosity, and dedicated effort, a legacy carried forward by the many Lafayette women who continue to make STEM history.

LIZ BOURGAULT (COLE) '12

Liz (Cole) Bourgault graduated with a double major in Environmental Studies and International Affairs, earning Lafayette's first Environmental Studies degree. She received MAs in International Affairs and Natural Resources Management & Sustainable Development from American University.

Liz began her career at Global Forest Watch, harnessing open data and geospatial technology to improve transparency in forest conservation. Today, she is an Engineering Product Manager at Enveritas, a nonprofit dedicated to ending poverty for coffee farmers, where she fosters partnerships and strategies that encourage coffee roasters to reinvest directly into farming communities. Connecting global brands with farmers, Liz ensures sustainability commitments translate into tangible improvements in livelihoods at origin.

LAFAYETTE
WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

LAFAYETTE
HANSON CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE STEM EDUCATION

The "Hidden No More" project is indebted to the work of Professor Sarah J. Grossman, Bryn Mawr College. See "Gendering Nineteenth-Century Data: The Women of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project." Journal of Women's History 33.1 (2021): 85-109.

Meteorological data image courtesy of Special Collections & College Archives, Skillman Library, Lafayette College.

Photo of 1863 Moravian Female Seminary student, left, is courtesy of the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem.

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