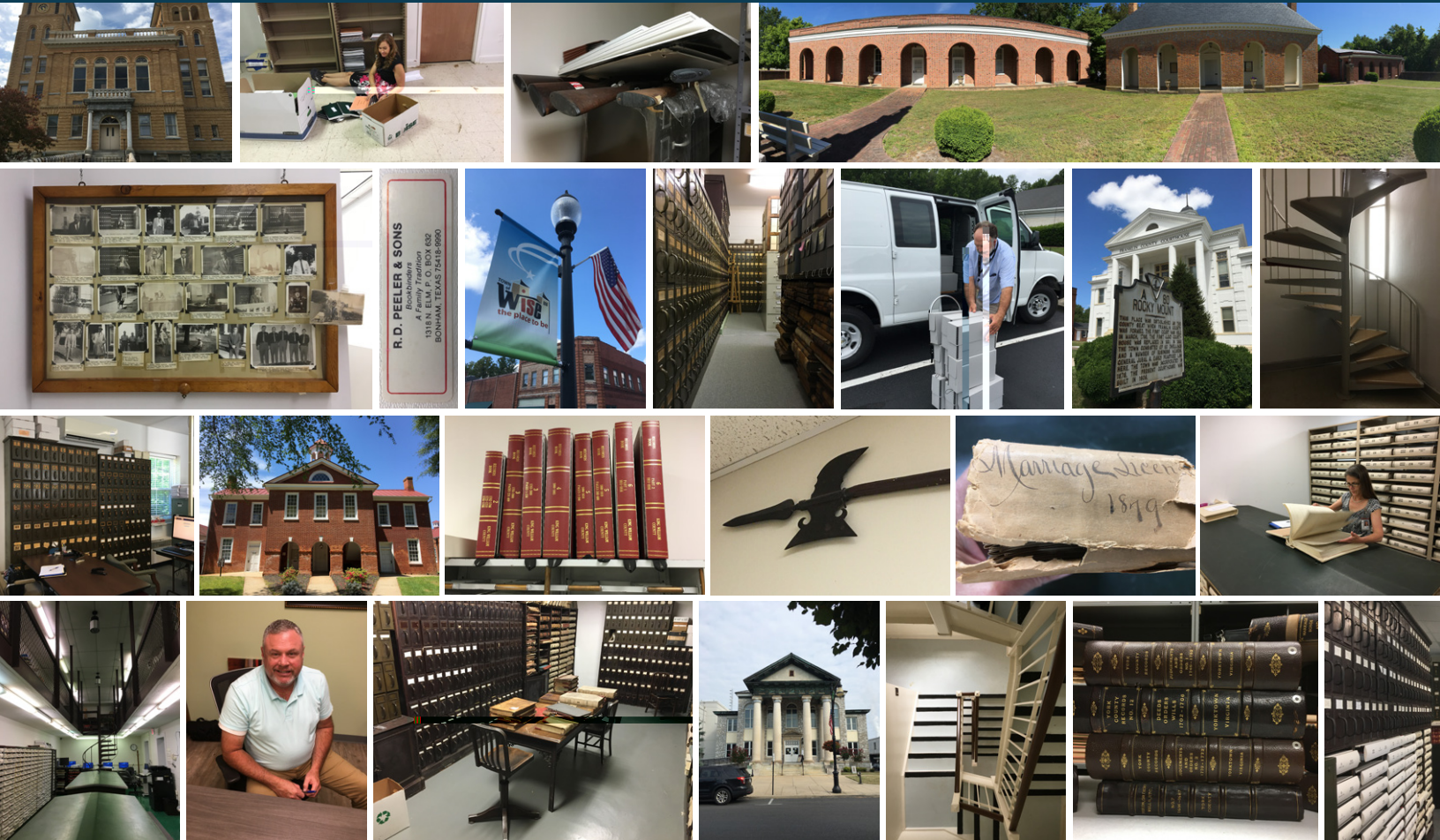


The Newsletter of Virginia's Circuit Court Records Preservation Program ■ No. 11 ■ Winter 2021

CCRP NEWS



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA



Changes with CCRP Grants and the Hectic COVID-Era Travel Experience — PAGE 11



CCRP NEWS

No. 11 ■ Winter 2021

This newsletter is published twice a year

to keep circuit court clerks informed about the court records preservation program for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Reader participation is invited.

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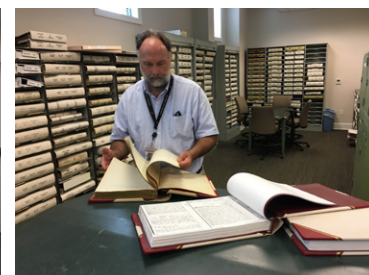
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The Bedford County Courthouse, Court Records, and the Library of Virginia

Bedford County was created in 1753 from part of Lunenburg County. The following year, trustees for the new county began making arrangements for the establishment of a courthouse near the town of New London, Virginia, and a November 25, 1854, entry in the Bedford County Order Book, 1754–1761, acknowledges a courthouse, “lately erected in the said county.”

County officials must have been unhappy with that first courthouse, because a July 1766 entry in the same volume offers a very detailed description of a new courthouse to be constructed (also in New London). This rendering of the 1766 courthouse (below) is from the 1845 edition of Henry Howe’s *Historical Collections of Virginia*. In 1782 the portion of the county where the courthouse was located was carved out for the creation of Campbell County, so the courthouse had to be moved, and by the end of the summer, courts were in session. (Just to make tracing its history even more difficult, in 1787, the old Bedford County Courthouse in New London was refurbished and converted into the district courthouse.)

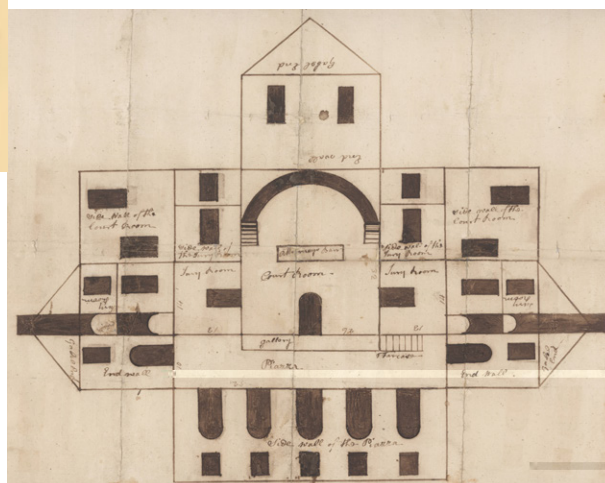


In 1772, one of Bedford County’s most famous clerks, James Steptoe, was appointed to the clerkship, a position he would hold for the next 54 years. A Bedford County clerkship would remain in the Steptoe family lineage (and collateral branches) from 1772 until 1893. In 1809,



James C. Steptoe, the son of James Steptoe, was elected as the first clerk of the Superior Courts of Law, which were sometimes referred to as the first “Circuit Courts,” a position that he held until his death in 1827. This portrait of James Steptoe (above) hangs in the circuit court clerk’s office and was photographed by a CCRP consulting archivist on a July 26, 2016, visit to the courthouse.

In 1789, a new brick courthouse was constructed in Liberty, Virginia, which would last until an 1834 building took its place. The original plans called for “well burnt brick laid in well tempered lime mortar,” with the outside walls to be “two and a half bricks thick,” and the interior ceiling to be 18 feet in height. The roof was to be “shingled with good chestnut or heart of pine,” with the



“eave to be neat Modillion Cornice.” The plans prescribed, “Twenty one windows with frames, sashes, glass and folding shutters to the ten lower windows with hooks & eyes and spring bolts.” “The roof to be painted with Spanish brown lighten[ed] with white lead. The varge boards, cornice, window shutters, sashes, frames & door cases to be painted with white lead.” The “clerk’s writing desk,” was to be “neatly finished.” In 1828 a stand-alone 44-by-21-foot clerk’s office was constructed, with one end for “the use of the county clerk” and “the other end for use of the clerk of Superior Court.” The floor plan and building specifications for the courthouse (bottom) are a part of the Library of Virginia’s Bedford County (Va.) Public Buildings and Grounds, 1764–1840, and undated collection.

Unhappy with the noise and traffic from the road in the growing village and having outgrown the 1789 courthouse, Liberty’s leaders tore it down to make way for another courthouse, which was constructed in 1834 on the same site, but set back about 30 feet from the main road. In 1890, Liberty changed its name to Bedford and eventually Bedford City (although it was not incorporated until 1968). This undated, early 20th-century postcard of the 1789 courthouse (above) is a part of

BEDFORD'S CLERK.

The Old Reliable Goes into Harness. Sketch of His Career.

From the Lynchburg Advance.

Mr. Rowland D. Buford was on yesterday appointed by Judge Brown clerk of Bedford county court, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the lamented death of Robert S. Quarles. Mr. Buford is one of the most accomplished clerks in the State, and a little history of his career in that capacity may not be without interest:

Forty-eight years ago, yesterday, the 9th day of August, Mr. Buford entered the clerk's offices of the circuit and county courts of Rockbridge, as deputy. He was then in his eighteenth year, and Colonel Samuel McDowell Reid was at that time clerk of both courts. On the 9th day of August, 1854, he left Lexington on account of impaired health, and in January, 1855, on the death of Joseph Wilson, the veteran clerk of Bedford circuit court, the members of the bar of Lynchburg and Liberty (now Bedford City) united in a petition to Judge George H. Gilmer to appoint Mr. Buford clerk *pro tem.*,

the Visual Studies Collection at the Library of Virginia.

In 1893, Rowland D. Buford was appointed to fill the vacancy after the death of Bedford County clerk Robert S. Quarles. By this time, Buford was nearly 80 years old and had spent a lifetime in public service, having begun his career in 1850 as a deputy in the clerk's office in Rockbridge County. After the death of Bedford County circuit court clerk Joseph Wilson, Buford was appointed clerk *pro tem* in 1855 before winning election. He would hold that position until 1881. During his tenure as circuit court clerk, Buford trained a number of clerks, including the deceased Quarles, who served as clerk from 1870 to 1893. This article in the August 17, 1893, edition of the *Bedford Democrat* (above) described Buford as "one of the most accomplished clerks in the State." Another source indicated that he was "frequently called upon to examine clerks' offices and report their condition." He continued to remain active, running for state senate 1903, taking a lawsuit to the United States Supreme Court in 1905, and transcribing court records for publication up until his death in 1921 at the age of 93. The *Bedford Democrat* (1892-1922) and

other Virginia newspapers are available in the Library of Virginia's Virginia Chronicle online database.

The first documented interaction related to court records preservation between the Virginia State Library (now the Library of Virginia) and the Bedford County circuit court clerk's office occurred in 1915 when the State Archivist, Morgan P. Robinson, visited and surveyed the circuit court records and their condition at the Bedford County Courthouse. According to Robinson, the clerk's office was located in the right wing of the courthouse and had a small fireproof vault and was heated by a stove. Robinson noted that "the records [were in] good condition" but were divided up between county and circuit courts, and the marriage bonds were not kept in the vault (where one might suppose Robinson thought they should be). The "old deputy," according to the archivist was, "well informed & helpful, but overworked."

Two years later, Robinson returned to inventory the collection, noting the record type, volume number, date range, and number of pages for each item. These items (right) are a part of the Collection of Materials Concerning County Courthouses, Records, and Clerks of Court, 1916-1929, at the Library of Virginia.

In response to a 1929 questionnaire by the Virginia State Bar Association and the State Library Board regarding the court record storage conditions in the clerks' offices across the state, the Bedford County circuit court clerk provided a brief description of the situation in that office. The clerk indicated that the courthouse had been erected in 1830 and that their office had electricity, hot air or water heat, and

was located in the courthouse. The survey also indicated that a fireproof vault had been added in 1886 and that it was equipped with metal furniture, shelving, and "filecases." The clerk's responses concluded with: "A new building; working on plans now—expect to build in 193_."

On Monday, April 28, 1930, at 3:00 PM the local Masons and a delegation of Knights Templar from Lynchburg laid the cornerstone for the New Bedford County Courthouse in Bedford City, Virginia, and on November 29 of that same year the new courthouse opened. This undated postcard of the 1930 courthouse (top of next page) is a part of the Visual Studies Collection at the Library of Virginia.

When Connis Brown, archivist with the Local Records Services Department at the State Library, visited the Bedford County circuit court clerk, Page Scott, at the courthouse





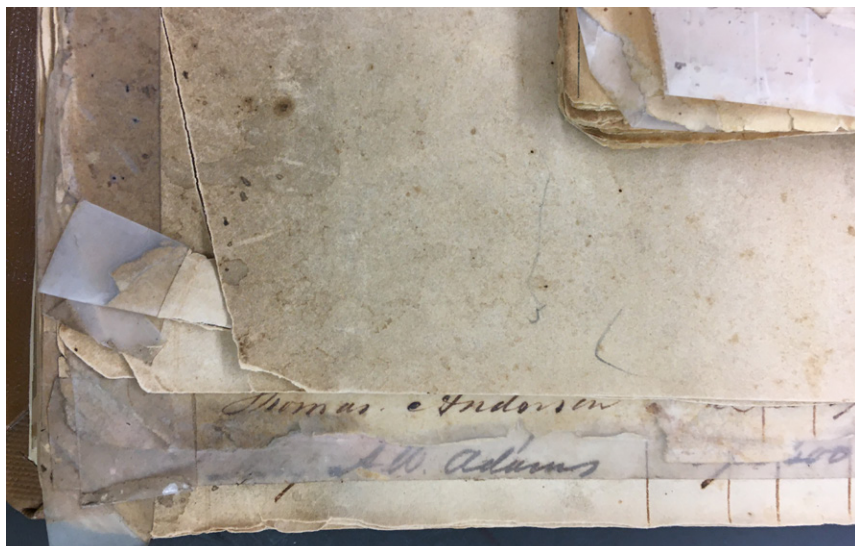
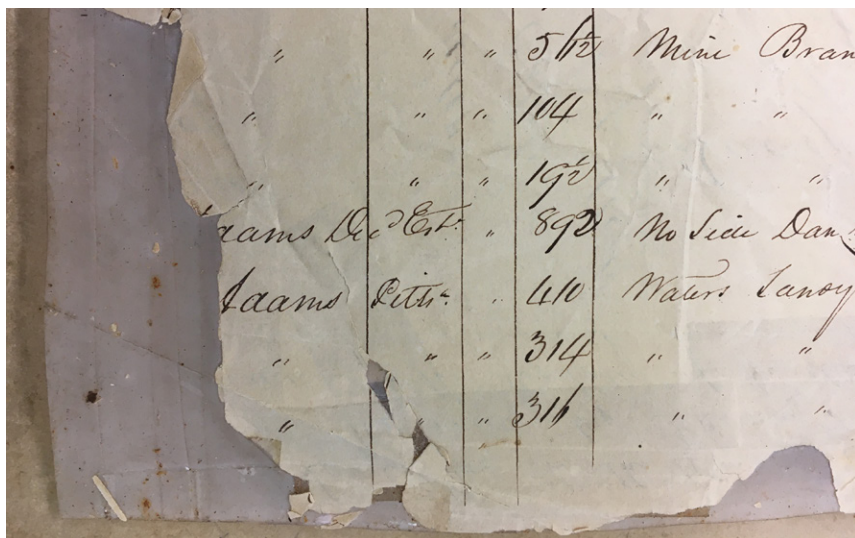
The Library of Virginia's Local Records archives document numerous interactions between the Bedford County clerk's office and the Local Records archivists that continue to this day through the collaborations of the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program. This photograph is from a July 26, 2016 (bottom right), visit to the clerk's office. The photograph of the courthouse at twilight is from a December 5, 2017, visit (top right).



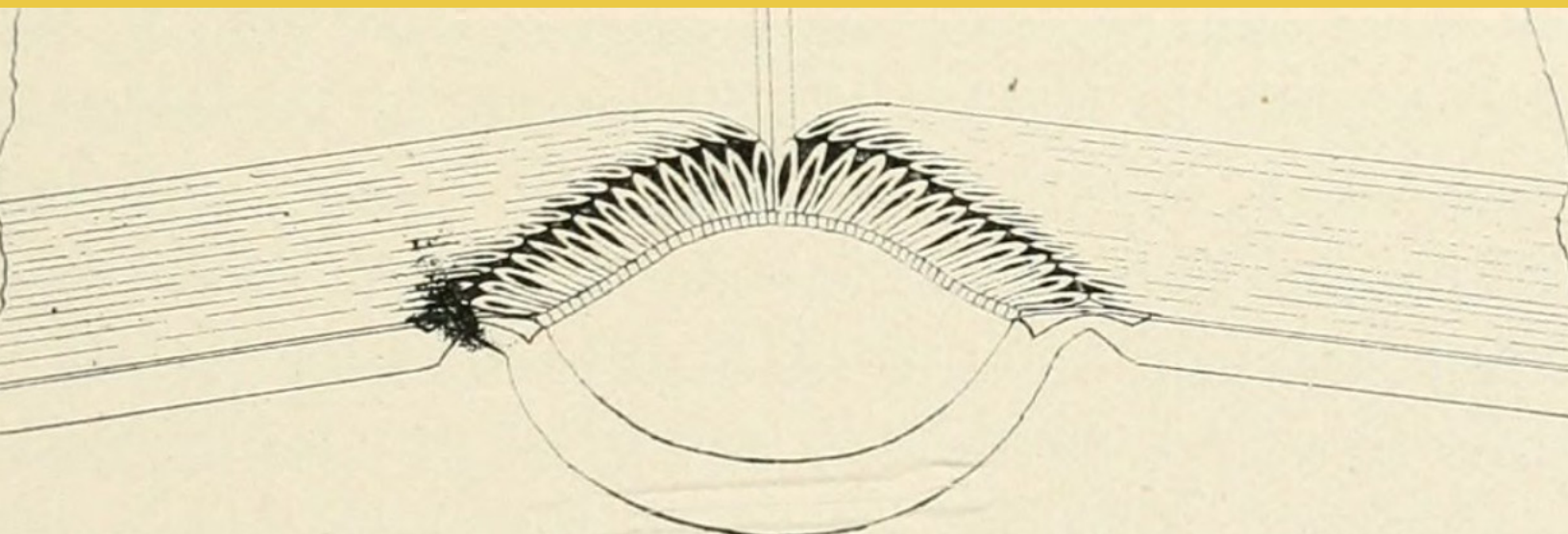
Pro Tip: If You Don't Know Anything About Book or Document Conservation, Do Not Attempt Book or Document Conservation

We often talk about conservation methods that were at one time considered standards, best practices, or “the final solution” that were later found to be detrimental to the long-term preservation of the items. For example, we have frequently mentioned items that were laminated, stored in degrading plat sleeves, or tape stripped and the harmful effects that these processes had on the records they were supposed to preserve. These various conservation treatments sometimes have a regional characteristic. For example, we find a preponderance of cellulose acetate lamination in the eastern part of the state. Generally speaking, this was because the labs that were laminating were located in Newport News and Richmond. Modern lamination and tape stripping trended toward the western portion of the state. This might be because many of the “conservators” marketing these two treatments were itinerant vendors working out of the trunks of their automobiles. Occasionally, however, we find a “conservation” method or process that is totally unique to a particular clerk’s office. That is the case with some of the older records in the Pittsylvania County circuit court clerk’s office.

There we have found a number of items that were “conserved” by someone who obviously had no training in document and book conservation. A good example is this 1986 conservation attempt on Pittsylvania County Land Book, 1843–1844. This misguided effort included attempting to creatively “bind” various sized books into one and “mending” the pages with pressure-sensitive (or Scotch) tape. As a matter of fact, it could be said that this “wannabe conservator/bookbinder” had a passion for pressure-sensitive tape repairs—sometimes reconstructing entire portions of missing page sections with nothing but pressure-sensitive tape. To undo this, the book will be sent to a conservation lab where the pages will have tape and tape adhesives removed before they are surface cleaned, mended (with the losses filled), and then deacidified, encapsulated, and bound in a new post binder. Fortunately, this particular “conservator” appears to have plied his or her trade on nothing but Pittsylvania County court records, as we have not encountered any this handiwork at any other courthouse.



Problems with Binding Repair and Rebinding for Court Record Volumes



Traditional rebinding of court record books has always been something of a tricky issue because rebinding solutions often resulted in a conversion to a post binder instead. When it comes to court record book conservation, over the years, some clerks had become accustomed to having the pages in the volume encapsulated and then bound in a post binder. Encapsulation involves a book's pages being removed or cut out (often guillotined) at the signatures or gutter, before they were conserved (usually deacidified and mended) and encapsulated in archival polyester sleeves and bound in a post binder. For many items, this form of conservation is appropriate. For example, if the pages have a lot of tape repairs, show evidence of old water damage, or are extremely brittle, encapsulation is the most cost-effective treatment.

In some instances, such as with volumes that have had their pages stripped with tape, the individual pages are already detached from the binding so the post binder is the best option. This also holds true for many volumes with pages that were laminated and formatted for a post binder. It makes sense to encapsulate those already detached individual pages rather than trying to recreate signatures and rebind, which is cost prohibitive.

Tab sewing was another option for clerks (if they were aware of it). Tab sewing, or sewn-on tabs, requires that the signatures (or sections) of the book remain relatively intact. Tab sewing the signatures is an option when the pages are strong and the text block is in good condition. Additionally, with a little extra work, tab sewing can easily accommodate a few detached pages by mending the page(s) (and reconstructing the signatures if needed) or tipping in an errant page or two. However, tab sewing will only work (or more appropriately, is only cost effective) when the bulk of the signatures are intact. If all of the pages are already separated, for whatever reason, then encapsulation and post binding is probably the only way to go.

Unfortunately, in the past, minor book conservation issues such as detached spines, detached boards, or random loose or detached pages or signatures would sometimes end up with one of these post-bound (encapsulation or tab sewn) solutions, when all that they really needed was reattachment or a resewn binding. For these items that only needed light book repair work, encapsulation or tab sewing as conservation remedies could be seen as overtreatment of the volume. As a result, we have sometimes steered clear of court record books with these simple repair issues, waiting for a time when these small problems might be appropriately addressed.

There are other factors that figure into how we approach rebinding. The oldest and most common conservation technique that we see with courthouse records is "rebinding." If a well-worn volume was falling apart 150 years ago, the natural (and essentially only) conservation remedy available then was to send it to a bookbinder to put it back together or have it rebound. Today, unfortunately, we sometimes find older volumes that were rebound too tightly. When this happens, the text from the pages runs down into the gutter where it is lost, sometimes obliterating words from the pages (which is never good). It can get even worse, however, when the old rebound volumes have been stored in unstable or subpar environmental conditions. If the pages of a tightly rebound volume have become brittle, they will begin to tear, split, and even break when the pages are turned, especially at or along the gutter. The problems are caused not only by the tightness of the rebind, but also by the type of binding that was used to replace the original.

Many of the older original volumes that we find in courthouses have a springback binding. This was a highly specialized form of binding

Above: With springback binding, signatures are sewn onto the guard for a true flat opening. The image above is from *Bookbinding and its Auxiliary Branches* (Chicago, Illinois: The Inland Printer Company, 1914), page 57.

that was used almost exclusively for ledgers and court record books. The springback binding permitted the volume to lay flat so that it could be written in, as opposed to the more familiar case binding, which will not lay flat (especially if one is trying to photocopy it). Whether as a result of the conversion from springback to case binding or not, rebinding old record books with a new case binding creates the bowed pages with the binding crevice where the text sometimes drops off into the gutter. We see tears, splits, and breaks along this bend/bow in the page if the paper has become too brittle (sometime followed by amateurish tape repairs).

Unfortunately, if an older “rebound” volume has been bound too tightly and the pages are brittle (tearing, splitting, and breaking at the bend or gutter), there is little to do other than remove and encapsulate the pages and bind in a new post binder. If the pages, signatures, and text block are strong and relatively complete, however, there is an alternative that is appropriate for books with minor conservation issues: resewing and rebinding.

When books have slight or small conservation issues, rebinding is an appropriate and cost-effective option. However, the “level” of resewing and rebinding is dependent on the overall condition of the volume, its age, and how much of the original binding remains. When an old court record book still has its original binding with a detached board, spine, a few detached pages, or other minor issues, then it is recommended that the conservation lab rebind the volume, retaining as much of the original binding as possible and, if/where necessary, matching (or recreating) the original binding as closely as possible. This includes retaining the original flyleaves, pastedowns, and, in some instances, the blank pages. In this way, the intrinsic historical integrity of the original volume can be maintained as much as possible.

Sometimes this is not possible, however, such as when not enough remains of the old bookbinding or when it’s not in good enough condition to salvage. When this happens, there are two options, depending on the age and historical nature of the volume. If the book has historical significance and the character of the binding should reflect that importance, the book can be rebound in what might be termed a “period binding.” This type of binding will appear more handcrafted and might emulate the original binding.

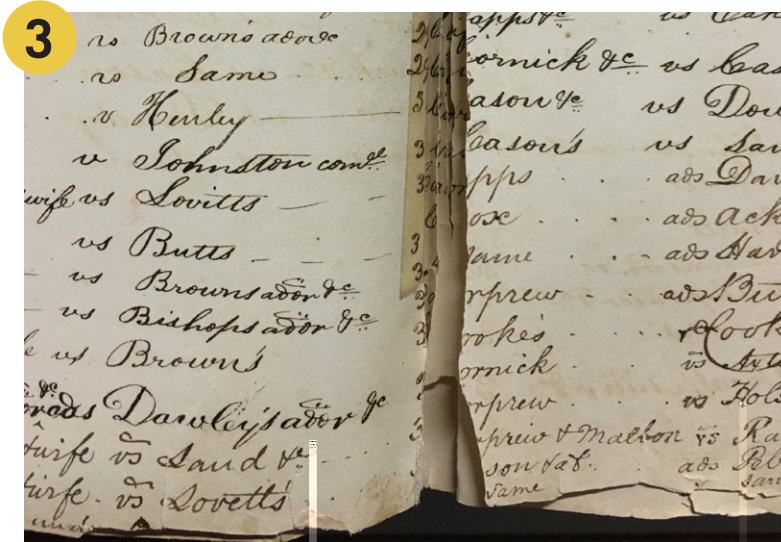
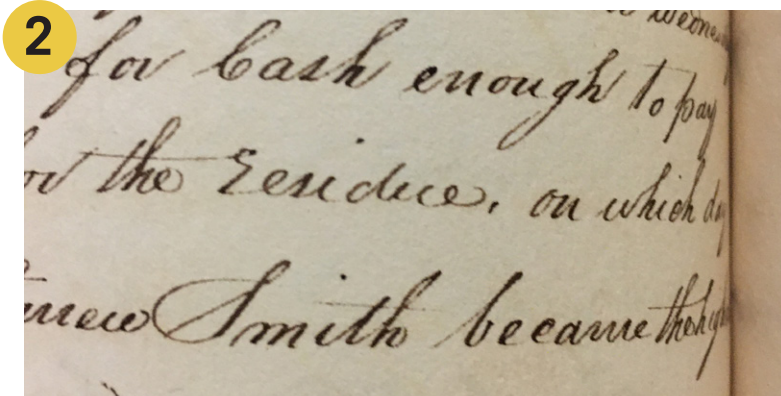
Finally, if little or nothing remains of the old binding, and/or the historical significance would not match or warrant the financial investment necessary to craft a period binding, then a standard springback binding might be more appropriate. This would be the most basic binding available.

As long as the pages and text block are strong, and the signatures won’t require much repair or reconstruction, resewing and rebinding should be considered the most desirable option. One of the most popular benefits of these (non-post binding) rebinds is that the court record books that are sent out for conservation as one volume return as one volume. In this way, the return of books sent out for conservation will not require the shifting of volumes on the roller shelving to make room for the extra volume (if that is even possible).

Because so many of the original bindings have been lost, perhaps unnecessarily through overtreatment, the most desirable option, when possible, is to retain the original binding (or as much of the original bindings) as possible.



In the past, volumes like Cumberland County Deed Book 49, 1912–1913 (image no. 1), were passed over for conservation consideration because of the simple nature of their problems, in this case, a detached spine. This item was examined as a potential candidate for an item conservation grant on June 22, 2016.



Princess Anne County Reports in Chancery 2, 1829–1849 was at some point rebound. Unfortunately, however, it was rebound too tightly and as a result, some of the text is lost in the gutter (image no. 2). Additionally, along the way it was stored in unsound environmental conditions causing the pages to turn extremely brittle (image no. 3).

Cellulose Acetate Lamination: The City of Virginia Beach Vault

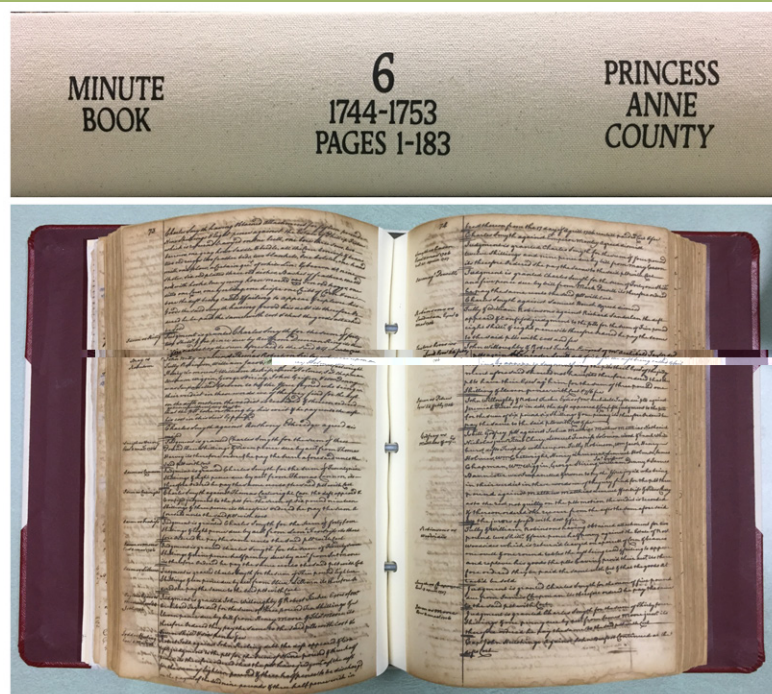
In 2014, the Heritage Science for Conservation program at the Sheridan Libraries at Johns Hopkins University conducted a survey of 89 institutions to try to get a handle on the number of cellulose acetate laminated documents in existence across the country. These institutions included federal, state, county, local, and private libraries, archives, museums, and other collections. Of the 52 respondents, 74% acknowledged that they had laminated documents in their collections, 65% of which were confirmed to be cellulose acetate laminated. Two of the institutions surveyed indicated that they each had over one million cellulose acetate laminated documents. In the survey's final analysis, the resulting report estimated that somewhere between 2.9 and 3.5 million documents were conserved using the now-discredited conservation method. The same survey found that of the millions of laminated documents reported, only 16,100 or 0.6% had been delaminated.

The Library of Virginia did not participate in the Johns Hopkins survey, but it's likely that Virginia's state archives contains millions of cellulose acetate laminated documents (especially if we consider each page of a laminated volume to be a "document"). We also know that none of the 120 circuit court clerks' offices across the commonwealth of Virginia, many of which are burdened with scores of cellulose acetate laminate volumes, participated in the survey (adding many, many more pages/documents).

Cellulose acetate lamination was at one time (1930s–1980s) considered a highly desirable and reliable conservation standard by conservators, some of whom considered it "the final answer" to the problem of strengthening and conserving documents. The earliest records of the commonwealth were identified to undergo this process. As a result, today many of the Virginia's circuit court clerks' offices with large numbers of laminated records include some of the state's oldest and most historic localities. Virginia counties and cities with an unusually large number of cellulose acetate laminated volumes include Accomack, Amelia, Augusta, Cumberland, Essex, Franklin, Halifax, Isle of Wight, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Northampton, Northumberland, Richmond, Southampton, Surry, and York Counties, and the City of Virginia Beach (Princess Anne County), to name just a few.

Removing lamination from documents is time consuming and expensive, and in some circumstances documents have deteriorated too much to be saved. In other words, the cellulose acetate laminate cannot be removed without damaging the document even more. The process of removing the laminate is complicated because of the various dynamics that contribute to the deterioration of the documents.

When cellulose acetate lamination began in 1936, conservators were not deacidifying paper prior to lamination. As we have mentioned on



Minute Book No. 6, 1744–1753 was cellulose acetate laminated in 1936. In 2017 it was sent in for delamination, but unfortunately, the laminate could not be removed. As a result, the pages were fitted for a post binder and it was returned, still laminated, in a new post binder.

numerous occasions, lamination without deacidification seals the harmful naturally occurring acids *into the paper* without any means of off gassing, thereby hastening its destruction. It was later learned that acidic paper degrades faster from the heat used during the lamination process. Additionally, the highly acidic iron gall ink in older documents would influence the degradation of the laminated paper, as did the type of laminate film that was used (some was acidic), and later, a layer of tissue that was added to strengthen the paper (which was also acidic). Eventually, plasticizers were added to the cellulose acetate film to provide more strength and flexibility. However, conservators later learned that over time the plasticizers in the laminate were evaporating, leaving the laminate dryer, shriveled, less flexible, and prone to breaking, especially along the gutter. Another important factor is the environmental conditions in which the laminated documents and volumes were stored, which could accelerate the cellulose acetate lamination deterioration rate.

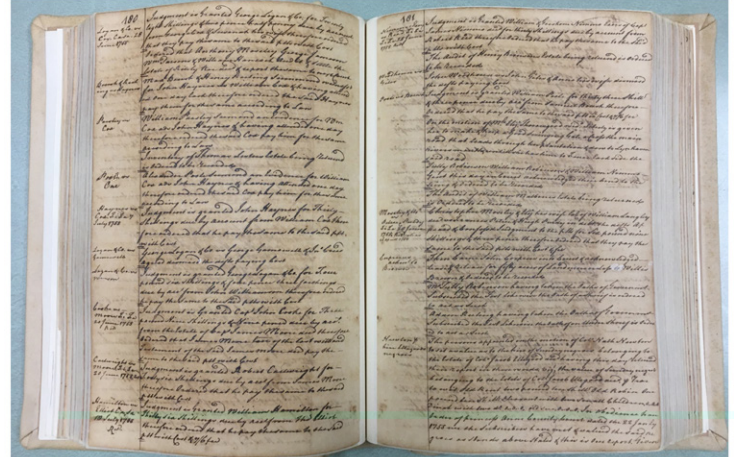
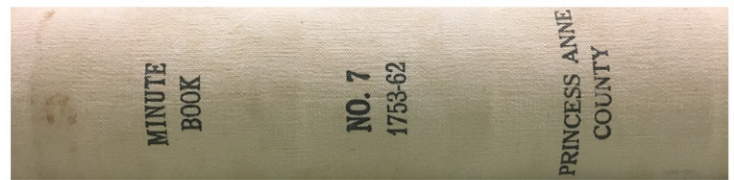
The Johns Hopkins survey indicated that the most prevalent forms of cellulose acetate lamination deterioration were cracking (58.8%) and darkening of the paper (58.8%), followed by bubbling of the film (47.1%), delamination of the film and/or tissue (47.1%), breaking (35.3%), discoloration (35.3%), paper curling or changing shape (35.3%), and vinegar odor (29.4%). Each cellulose acetate laminated

item must be judged (or triaged) on a case-by-case basis. However, we cannot figure out where to begin until we know what we have.

In February 2018, a comprehensive inventory was taken of the cellulose acetate laminated volumes in the vault in the City of Virginia Beach circuit court clerk's office, indicating that that locality held over 80 laminated record books. All of these deterioration variables factor into the range of cellulose acetate laminated volumes in the clerk's office.

The oldest cellulose acetate laminated volume there appears to have been treated in 1936. It is easy to determine when a volume was laminated. Usually, the conservation work can be dated by either a dedication, especially in the older volumes, or the embossed stamp of the conservation lab, which can usually be found on the last page (an end sheet) of the book. The inventory indicates that the last known year that a record book was treated was 1989. The rest of the 80-plus volumes fall somewhere in between, with the bulk laminated in the 1960s and 1980s. When there is no date stamp available, one can date the post binders by the color of the flyleaves, with beige covering the 1960s and into the 1970s, and yellow after and up until 1990. Volumes that are bound (not post bound), with no dedication, can be dated to the 1940s and earlier.

As indicated in the Johns Hopkins survey, one of the most common deteriorating effects is the darkening of the laminated paper, from white to yellow to dark brown, and everything in between. It can also cause stiffness, shriveling, bubbling, cracking, and splitting. Another common affect is a noticeable warping, probably as a result of the plasticizer shriveling. Ink can begin to bleed through from the other side of the page, and sometimes during the deterioration process the pages begin to take on a translucent affect, which enhances the ink bleed through. The addition of the tissue, mentioned earlier, can sometimes add a hazy or frosted look to the pages. It may cause a vinegar odor,



Minute Book No. 7, 1753-1762 (above) is undated, but judging from its binding was probably laminated in the 1940s. With its stiff, translucent pages with ink bleed through, it is exhibiting some of the characteristics of deteriorating laminated pages.

much like the vinegar syndrome that we become accustomed to with improperly stored acetate-based microfilm.

The first known mention of cellulose acetate deterioration in the City of Virginia Beach circuit court clerk's office was in a 1990 survey of the collection by a conservator from the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts. The survey was performed through a preservation grant provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Although she did not conduct a comprehensive inventory, the CCAHA conservator noted that a number of volumes "should be considered for conservation treatment to remove the damaging lamination." Among the "severely deteriorated" volumes that she mentions is the Princess Anne County Minute Book No. 8, 1762-1769. This volume has a number of critical issues working against it that make it particularly difficult to treat. Cellulose acetate laminated in 1938, the volume was bound with wood boards, which off-gas harmful acids that hasten the deterioration of the book's pages. That combined with the laminate itself, which hermetically seals the acidic pages' own harmful gases into the paper, actually quickens the deterioration even more. Today the pages are browning and almost translucent, with ink bleeding through to the next pages. Another noticeable affect is the obvious stiffness and inflexibility of the paper. In time the pages will begin to break at the gutter, separating the pages from the binding (and the book).

Cellulose acetate lamination deteriorates at a variety of rates, accelerated or slowed by a number of variables, and these Princess Anne County minute books are pretty severe examples. The Library of Virginia is currently making plans to visit clerks' offices that have cellulose acetate laminated court records to perform a survey similar to the one performed by Johns Hopkins. We will perform an inventory, assess and prioritize the conditions of the items, and determine a starting place as Library staff members and circuit court clerks move forward to save them.



Princess Anne County Minute Book No. 8, 1762-1769 (below) was laminated and bound with wood boards in 1938. The stiff and severely yellow-browning pages are also exhibiting the translucent bleed through.

Changes with CCRP Grants and the Hectic COVID-Era Travel Experience

The pandemic has had a drastic effect on the courthouse adventures of the Library of Virginia's CCRP consulting archivists. Staff members travel to circuit court clerks' offices across the Commonwealth of Virginia offering assistance with the conservation and preservation of their records. Some of our responsibilities include transferring records to and from the courthouses, conducting inventories of circuit court clerks' offices, training student interns, conducting environmental assessments, and providing other archival and preservation-related consultations. Generally speaking, however, when Library of Virginia archivists hit the road, our main purpose is the examination of court records as potential candidates for CCRP item conservation grants.

In the spring of 2020, as COVID became more pervasive, CCRP archivists' travels began to shrivel up. State regulations implemented as a result of the pandemic made it more difficult to travel, while many courthouses went into a lockdown or began to restrict access, so by the middle of the summer, except in rare instances, travel for CCRP archivists was shut down. Fortunately, by the fall of 2020, in almost all instances each locality had four items that had been examined by a CCRP archivist, the number

required for a clerk to apply for a Fiscal Year 2021 CCRP conservation grant. (The CCRP archivists examine the items in need of conservation before creating the Statement of Work that is submitted with CCRP conservation grant applications.)

At the end of 2020, the Virginia General Assembly increased the recording fee that funds the CCRP program from \$1.50 to \$3.50. Because of this increase in funding, some of the grant guidelines were revised. For example, going forward, backscanning/digitization projects for permanent records and those of historical significance would be funded at 100% (as opposed to the previous 50%). Additionally, environmental monitoring/controls would be eligible for funding as a part of an essential equipment and storage grant. The most significant and impactful change, however, was the increase from four to eight in the number of items that could be applied for as a part of a CCRP conservation grant.

That increase in the number of items meant that each locality would now need to have at least eight items that had been examined by CCRP consulting archivists for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant cycle. After the 2021 grant cycle, and with the lack of travel, the backlog of examined items for many localities was

at zero or nearly depleted, meaning that before we could proceed with the upcoming grant cycle, CCRP archivists would have to visit nearly every locality to make sure that each had enough items in the queue to meet the eight-item minimum for the revised conservation grants. As soon as the Library of Virginia's field archivists were fully vaccinated, we had to hit the road again beginning the first week in May 2021.

For the CCRP archivists, the intensity of this shortened travel schedule was unlike any previous year. Normally, we spread out our visits over the course of an entire year, but this year all of the trips had to be condensed into a five-month period to be ready for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant cycle in the fall. In some cases this meant multiple weeks on the road, especially in the western regions away from Richmond.

Total Sites Visited: 78

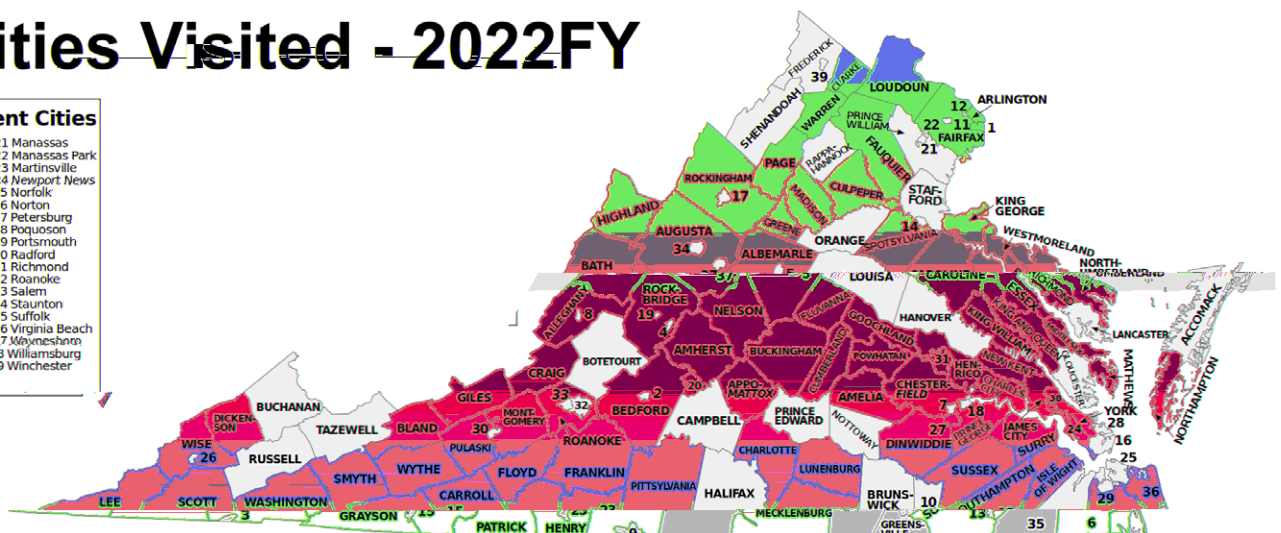
Total Items examined: 789

Total Condition Reports: 693

Kofile Examinations: 466

Localities Visited - 2022FY

Independent Cities	
1 Alexandria	21 Manassas
2 Bedford	22 Manassas Park
3 Bristol	23 Martinsville
4 Buena Vista	24 Newport News
5 Charlottesville	25 Norfolk
6 Chesapeake	26 Norton
7 Colonial Heights	27 Petersburg
8 Covington	28 Poquoson
9 Danville	29 Portsmouth
10 Emporia	30 Radford
11 Fairfax	31 Richmond
12 Falls Church	32 Roanoke
13 Franklin	33 Salem
14 Fredericksburg	34 Staunton
15 Galax	35 Suffolk
16 Hampton	36 Virginia Beach
17 Harrisonburg	37 Waynesboro
18 Hopewell	38 Williamsburg
19 Lexington	39 Winchester
20 Lynchburg	



MAY



JUNE



JUNE (CONT.)



JULY



JULY (CONT.)



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



The CCRP program manager, Greg Crawford, and the two consulting/field archivists, Tracy Harter and Eddie Woodward wish to thank the clerks and staff members of all the localities who permitted us to visit with them during the past summer. We look forward to visiting with you again in the new year! Please have a safe and happy holiday season!

Virginia Vaccination Vacillation

By Tracy Harter, Senior Local Records Archivist

Reprinted from the Library of Virginia's blog "The UncommonWealth," June 16, 2021

To vaccinate, or not to vaccinate? That has always been the question. It is particularly timely these days as people seek, or seek to avoid, vaccinations against COVID-19. Back in 2014, local records archivist Callie Freed highlighted the timeliness of smallpox epidemic outbreaks documented in local records collections. She noted that contemporary scientists around the country had been studying smallpox scabs found in these types of collections in their efforts to develop a new vaccine to thwart potential future outbreaks or biological terrorism. Little did we know that in 2020 the world would be plagued with a new kind of epidemic, for which there were no hundred-year-old scabs to study.

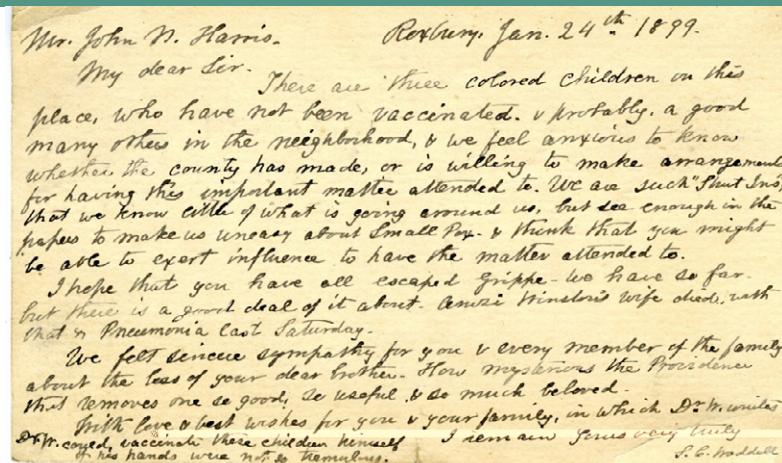
During the early months of 2021, widespread availability of and access to one of the COVID-19 vaccines has varied depending upon a number of factors, including the locality in which one lives. This was also the case over 100 years ago in Virginia. Indeed, a small collection of New Kent County Smallpox Epidemic Records from 1895 to 1912 reveals interesting parallels to today.

In January 1895, Dr. John D. Turner and Dr. James Gregory were responsible for personally vaccinating hundreds of individuals throughout New Kent County. According to their handwritten records, together the two doctors reported vaccinating 1,635 men, women, and children in the county. In addition, 396 people were not vaccinated because they either were not at home, or claimed underlying medical conditions preventing vaccination, or had already been vaccinated, and 36 people refused outright to be vaccinated.

That means that of the 2,607 total number of people with whom they made contact or made efforts to contact, almost 80% received the smallpox vaccine, about 19% had reasons not to be vaccinated other than refusal, and about 1% refused. Not a bad local vaccination rate by today's standards.

In fact, Dr. Gregory was tasked with one particular area: St. Peters District, which, according to U.S. Census records, had a population between 1,424 in 1890 and 1,212 in 1900. Depending on which census figure one uses, his 13-page list of names from 1895 indicated he had interacted with at least 90% of the population in his district, which means most, if not all, residents had the opportunity to receive a vaccination.

Dr. Turner's list, on the other hand, did not specify a particular district, but was divided into "whites" and "colored" (hereafter referred to as Black). This differentiation provides interesting statistical insights. Of the Black population with whom he made contact or made efforts to contact, 76% received vaccinations from him, as opposed to just over 50% of the white population. As with Dr. Gregory's list, it is not clear whether some people had been vaccinated previously, or whether they had underlying conditions that discouraged vaccination, but the records illustrate the seriousness of the effort to vaccinate as many residents as possible.



Mr. John N. Harris. Roxbury, Jan. 24th 1899.
My dear Sir. There are three colored children on this place, who have not been vaccinated. & probably, a good many others in the neighborhood, & we feel anxious to know whether the county has made, or is willing to make arrangements for having this important matter attended to. We are such "Shut Ins", that we know little of what is going around us, but see enough in the papers to make us uneasy about Small Pox. & think that you might be able to exert influence to have the matter attended to. I hope that you have all escaped Grippe - we have so far. But there is a good deal of it about. Annie Winslow's wife died, with that in Pneumonia last Saturday. We felt sincere sympathy for you & every member of the family about the loss of your dear brother. How mysterious the Providence that removes one so good, so useful, & so much beloved. With love & best wishes for you & your family, in which Dr. Waddell Dr. W. could vaccinate these children himself if his hands were not so tremulous. I remain Yours very truly S. C. Waddell.

In a January 24, 1899, postcard to New Kent County clerk John N. Harris, resident S. C. Waddell's thoughts might parallel those of some folks today regarding vaccination efforts. As the threat of smallpox still loomed, Waddell was concerned about local folks living in remote areas, without convenient access to vaccinations.

"My dear Sir, There are three colored children on this place, who have not been vaccinated, & probably a good many others in the neighborhood, & we feel anxious to know whether the county has made, or is willing to make arrangements for having this important matter attended to. We are such "Shut Ins" that we know little of what is going (on) around us, but see enough in the papers to make us uneasy about Small Pox & think that you might be able to exert influence to have the matter attended to . . . Dr. W. could vaccinate these children himself if his hands were not so tremulous."

Whether the vaccinations were administered is unclear, but an invoice to the county by Dr. H. U. Stephenson 15 months later in April 1900 listed 31 people vaccinated and one person treated for smallpox.

Smallpox was not eradicated, however. Another hefty vaccination effort took place over a decade later, in August 1912, according to invoices from two doctors. Dr. C. L. Bailey vaccinated 440 individuals, and submitted his list of names and his expenses to the county for reimbursement. Another doctor submitted an invoice for 450 people, although a list of names was not among the paperwork.

While the success of COVID-19 vaccination drives or the future of variant strains and/or booster vaccinations is uncertain in these unprecedented times, there is much to be learned from extant records of vaccination efforts such as these from over a hundred years ago. Accurate electronic recordkeeping and data archiving regarding COVID-19 vaccinations continues to be a serious matter, and many people who receive their vaccinations value their paper vaccination cards, even posting photos of them on social media. One can only imagine what today's vaccination records might mean for scientists, historians, and archivists a hundred years from now.